



Rectortown Reporter

August 2020

From the Pastor

Memories and New Things...

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

August is always a month of fond remembering for me. This year as I reflect on my life thus far, I find myself in a tumultuous time of protests, division, and worldwide pandemic. I'll also turn 62 on August 11th. Ugh. But, I will also celebrate the 35th anniversary of the day I married the love of my life on August 17th. And, as it happens every year, it comes to me that one of God's greatest gifts to humanity is our ability to remember. Without memory, yesterday wouldn't exist, and all of the things we cherish from all of our yesterdays would be gone. Simply gone — *"as if they never happened in the first place"* gone.



But, you know, as wonderful as our memories of events, places, friends, and family are, I think there's a bigger purpose for this gift of memory. You see, without the ability to remember, how could we ever learn from past experiences, successes, and — more importantly — mistakes? How could we imagine a better tomorrow if we couldn't remember what happened yesterday? How could we know God better every day if we had to meet God for the very first time every day?

As much of a gift as memory is, it is also one of our biggest temptations. It's always a temptation to want to keep things the way we remember them best from yesterday rather than daring to risk imagining a different tomorrow. But, that's not what God wants. God wants us to grow — and growth involves change. Staying the same isn't abundant life — it's stunted life. It's a life that falls short of the glory that God intended for us from the very beginning. You see, God isn't interested in our yesterdays — God seeks us in our tomorrows.

Isaiah tells us that God said, *"Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness"* (43:19, CEB). If we always look back, then our path will always lie in the wilderness. To move out of the wilderness into the blessed and joyous life God wants for us — each and every one of us — requires us to look forwards. Let's begin our fifth year in life and ministry together by remembering our yesterdays even as we dare to imagine how amazing tomorrow could be!

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

Pastor Steve

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JOIN US

11a.m. Sundays for
Livestream Worship at
www.rectortownumc.org

Scripture of the month

Isaiah 43:1, 19-21

'But now, says the Lord — the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine... ¹⁹Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.

²⁰The beasts of the field, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me, because I have put water in the desert and streams in the wilderness to give water to my people, my chosen ones,

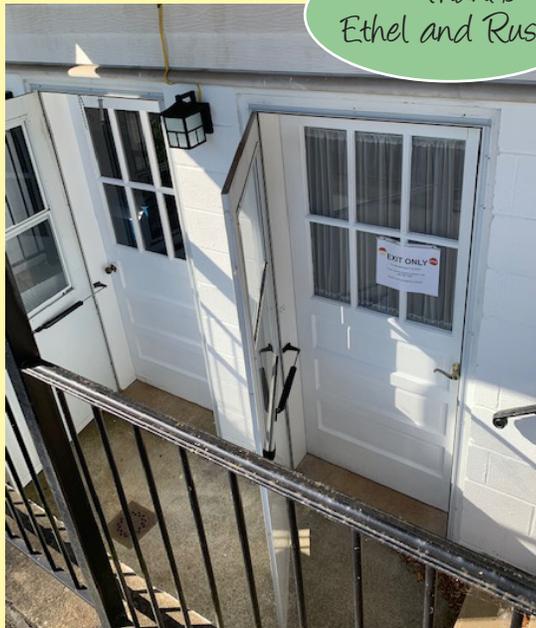
²¹this people whom I formed for myself, who will recount my praise.

Notes from the Board of Trustees

Sometimes Good Deeds Go Unnoticed

Rectortown United Methodist Church has for decades tried to keep a low profile for good deeds that have been done. Not that they weren't or aren't important, but the idea was to call attention to God, and what we should do to bring glory and honor to Him. So, the grass gets cut, the flowers get weeded, the linens get washed and the carpets get cleaned. All manner of things get done without being asked or without asking to be paid for.

For the past months, RUMC has been blessed by that type of service that has made our facilities better, clean, safe and welcoming. Russ and Ethel Muter have attended RUMC in-person and now online, since 2019. Russ has been a frequent sight around RUMC, early in the morning—scraping, sanding, power



Thanks
Ethel and Russ!

washing and painting. The picture you see shows the basement level at the rear of the Social Hall. They have recently been cleaned, prepped and painted. Not that many of us may have noticed with COVID-19, and being somewhat “out of sight”. Well, that is what Russ does. He asks if there are any projects that need to be done, and then does them.

I know there are others who have taken time to keep our facilities in good working order, for safety and to be welcoming.

So, if you see Russ out there with a sprayer, a brush or another tool, stop and say thanks, or how nice it looks. We are blessed to have our wonderful congregants keep vigil on God's House, here in Rectortown, VA.

—Larry Scheuble
RUMC Lay Leader

From the Outreach Committee

Local churches are encouraged to continue the collection of **KITS FOR CONFERENCE**. *Specific collection details still underway, but will very likely include the organization of regional, or district-wide, drop-off locations.* More information will be forthcoming as the new plan is created and finalized.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is currently focusing efforts on **Cleaning Kits** (aka Flood Buckets), **Hygiene Kits**, and **School Kits**. Cleaning kits provide supplies to help individuals and families clean up after flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. Hygiene kits replace basic necessity items lost in a disaster such as toothbrushes, hand towels, and soap to help people stay clean and healthy. School kits include school supplies for children as they return to the classroom. Click on the kit name above to see item lists and assembly instructions.

If you prefer to make a financial contribution to enable UMCOR to purchase relief kits, you can contribute \$75 for each cleaning kit; \$12 for each health kit; and \$11 for each school kit. Additionally, UMCOR asks for \$1 per kit (\$3 for cleaning buckets) to cover processing and shipping and \$1 for toothpaste for each health kit. Please do NOT bring checks to Annual Conference. All checks (for processing and shipping, for toothpaste, and in lieu of providing kits) should be made payable to “Virginia Conference UMC,” earmarked for “kits” and mailed to Treasurer, Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA, 23058 any time prior to Annual Conference.

The following information is also posted and will be updated on the conference website at www.vaumc.org/ac2020



Betty on her way in to the 2019 Homecoming Service at RUMC

IN MEMORIAM

Betty Underwood

1926 - 2020

On July 8, 2020 Rectortown United Methodist Church lost a long time dedicated member. Betty Underwood passed away at home. Her funeral service was held at RUMC at 4 PM on July 14, 2020, followed by a burial at Culpeper National Cemetery at 11 AM on July 15.

To all who knew Betty, she was a staunch member, officer and faithful christian. Her passion was one of her most demonstrative characteristics. Whether it was her belief in healing miracles, singing in the choir, engaging the congregation to be joyful and sing out, you knew where Betty stood. Betty was on the Team that managed the

building of the parsonage in 2000, she constantly pushed to reach out to others and invite them to worship services, she was a front row christian (never saw her in the back row!), she was well traveled

and took many of her grand children with to see the world, and, if you look at her bio, you would see an amazing life of giving, serving and helping others. And, a tremendously well known and succesful professional in Washington, DC sports management. I am thankful to have known Betty, and Larry, for so many years. I know many of you are also.

And as she left us, it wasn't an ending, as Betty's funeral was the beginning, the first in-person service to be held at RUMC since the COVID-19 pandemic began. We have live-streamed for months, but we had not tried in-person. So, again, our Betty is right out there, leading the very challenging way ahead, of getting us back into church, together, safe and joyful. We will miss her in so many ways, but are so thankful for our time together. May she rest in peace.

-Larry Scheuble

August Birthdays



9 Amy Riggio	18 Yeshi Pisarcik
9 Jimmy Willis	19 Kate Ponn
11 Carl Carter	27 Avis Kessler
11 . Courtney Harrington	28 Dave Hall
11 . . . Steve Weedling	29 . . . Laura Symanski
15 Gladys Willis	

Anniversaries

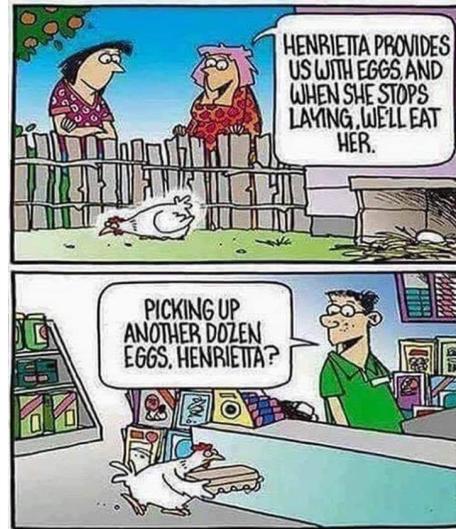
11 Dave & Debbie Hall
17 . . Steve & Faith Weedling
23 Ben & Tara Wegdam
25 . . . Alan & Susan Barbour
30 John & Cindy Stolte

Now Hiring!

Rectortown United Methodist Church is seeking an Administrative and Communications Specialist.

The Administrative and Communications Specialist is a paid, part-time position for 16 - 20 hours per week. Interviews will be conducted based on resume evaluation. Salary commensurate with experience.

If interested please send cover letter and resume to: Secretaryrumc@gmail.com



Thanks to Muggie for sending in this cartoon.

... and that is WHY the chicken crossed the road.

Our Mission Statement

® *Serving God through
Prayer, Action, and Love
through Service.*

RUMC wants to know...

If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, please e-mail Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com. Please send **by the 15th of the month.**

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Healthy Church Team	7:00pm	Tues, Aug 4
Administrative Council	7:00pm	Thurs, Aug 6
Worship Committee	10:00am	Tues, Aug 11
Trustees	6:00pm	Wed, Aug 12
Nominations/ Leadership	7:00pm	Thurs, Aug 13
Healthy Church Team	7:00pm	Tues, Aug 18
S/PPRC	7:00pm	Thurs, Aug 20