



# Rectortown Reporter

January 2021

## From the Pastor

### Something Old... Something New



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

“Happy New Year!” As 2020 is being wrapped up and relegated to the history books, 2021 looms large before us! There is little doubt that 2020 was a year unlike any other any of us have experienced in our lifetimes! And, hopefully, 2021 will offer something completely different for all of us. Hopefully, it will bring a new normal full of new possibilities and new opportunities. Change isn’t always a comfortable or enjoyable thing; but regardless of how hard we work to keep things the same as they’ve always been, things change anyway. Seems to me that the best way to deal with change then, is welcoming it rather than fighting it.

Just as a bride traditionally needs “something old” and “something new” with her at her wedding; our Bibles reveal “something old” and “something new” through the Testaments. Some believe that the new Testament supersedes the old; and some sense that the God of the old Testament can’t be the same God as the one of the new because one seems to be a God of violence and judgment while the other appears to be a God of love and redemption. But these two testaments aren’t opposed to one another and should not be thought of as “either-or”. They are one continuous story of humanity’s experience of a God of grace—a God who acts out of love for the benefit of humanity and, indeed, for all of creation. Hence these two testaments should be thought of as “both-and”.

So, here’s the thing: while there is continuity between old and new in the Scriptures; there is a shift in how God is experienced and described. It isn’t God who has changed—it is humanity. We grow and mature individually, and as a people. We learn. And our understanding of things natural and supernatural changes with our growing understanding. We talk about the Bible as the “living word of God” and yet we demand that it remain stagnant and unchanging from generation to generation—which is exactly the opposite of what happens with every living thing in nature. Perhaps, “change” isn’t antithetical to our understanding of the nature and being of God—perhaps it is necessary if we are to truly experience the fullness of the greatness and goodness of God.

Grace and peace to each and every one of you!

*Pastor Steve*

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## JOIN US

10 a.m. Sundays for In-person  
or Livestream Worship at  
[www.rectortownumc.org](http://www.rectortownumc.org)

## Scripture of the month

Our mouths were suddenly  
filled with laughter;  
our tongues were filled  
with joyful shouts...

Yes, the LORD has done  
great things for us,  
and we are overjoyed.

(Psalm 126: 2a, 3 CEB)

# RUMC Holds first In-Person Worship Service

As most of you are well aware, since the start of the Pandemic in early 2020, businesses, schools, churches and other activities have been closed or limited to what can be done. RUMC began live streaming early in the year and continues to do so. On 6 December 2020, based on the advice of the Healthy Church Team (HCT), the Administrative Council approved moving to In-Person worship. Fourteen members and friends attended; Pastor Steve Weedling, Pianist Karen Chase, Lay Leader Larry Scheuble, S/PPRC Chair Laura Symanski, Greeter Paula Grice, Usher Eileen Miller, Videographer Paris Wegdam, Reader Tara Wegdam, Multimedia Operator Carl Carter, HCT Medical Advisor Linda Rose, Senior Member Larry Underwood, Trustee and Parking Lot Welcomer Russ Muter, Finance Committee Chair and HCT member Tammy Frazier, and Chuck Welch visiting from Bethel UMC.

If you are looking for a place to worship in-person, the RUMC HCT has worked with all the required Committees to understand and implement all Federal, State, Local and VAUMC guidelines, to create and insure a safe and welcoming place to do so.

*Larry Scheuble, HCT Chair*



Muggie (left) greets all visitors then Eileen (right) directs them to their seats



Carl (standing at left) manages the powerpoint, Tara (right) waits to read.



Pastor Steve speaks to the visitors and the camera



Paris (right) records the worship for the online audience.

# Notes from the Outreach Committee

## Community Christmas Tree Getting Some Final Touches

Amy and Skyler Riggio finish putting the decorations on the RUMC Community Christmas Tree on 13 December. Although we were not able to have the usually larger group and activities, the 4th year of this tradition, continues. Also, thanks to the Trustees for putting on the lights and the Nativity scene in place!



## Pastor Is Not Santa Clause

I know that many of you think Pastor Steve may also be Santa, but I have proof he isn't. This photo shows Pastor Steve, taking a photo and (I think) trying to get around his mother's review, by hand delivering his Christmas list to Santa! Marshall First Responders and friends made a seven vehicle parade with lights, music, Santa, Elves and lots of waves and warm smiles to every corner of Marshall. What a treat for our young and young at heart. THANKS to the FIRST RESPONDERS and their ELVES!!!

God Bless you Every One!!!

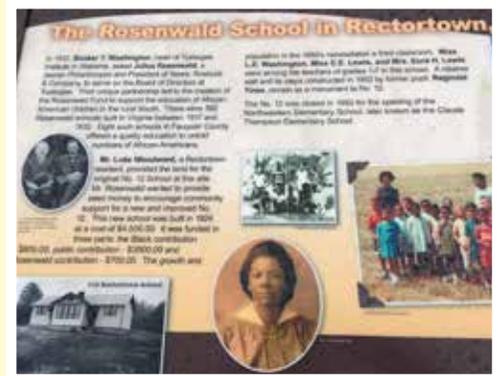
*Larry Scheuble*



## RUMC and Claude Thompson Elementary

Above: Christmas gifts donated by our members for this year's angel tree children—a boy and a girl who attend Claude Thompson Elementary—filled the doorway.

Below: A new historical marker was placed at Claude Thompson Elementary thanks to the support of many sponsors including the Friends of Rectortown.



*Editor's Note: After receiving the following article, I thought, it'd be fun to share Nativity scenes that other members put out at Christmas. Thanks to Larry for all his articles through the years and hopefully starting a new annual tradition of sharing these special memories.*

### **A Nativity's Nativity**

**S**ometimes Christmas decorations have a mind of their own. I recently put up the Nativity scene that our children made years ago for us. When I stopped to drop offering money off at Mac and Tommy's, she asked if I knew that the Nativity's shadow was on the side of our house. When I went to look, this is what I saw. Thought I would share, as the Nativity seemed to want to shout the message out a little louder!!! Jesus Christ is born. Amen.

*~Larry Schueble*



Here is mine, minus baby Jesus—my dad started the tradition of adding him to the scene on Christmas Eve. —Sarah Smarrelli



My Aunt Peggy (mom's sister) gave to me some 40 years ago. —Jeff Sisk



I got this Nativity scene at the Royal Penny store in Aldie which was on my route when I worked at the pharmacy in Marshall. — Shirley Embrey

*continued>>*

*Nativities continued>>*



This nativity was a gift from Dad and it's one of my favorites! –Amy Riggio



We bought the olive wood one in Bethlehem during our Holy Land trip in 2018. The other was a gift to Faith from a friend –Pastor Steve



I bought this when I attended Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Arlington years ago. The parishioners at their sister church in Haiti made this and other items to raise funds for their church. –Laura Symanski



The one on the bookcase was my mom's and she used to put it in the glass oak cabinet I donated to the church. She made the stained glass trees and angel. The small one (at left) was a gift from my mom. –Diane Harrington



# Help Needed! Now Hiring!

**Rectortown United Methodist Church is seeking...**

## **An Administrative and Communications Specialist.**

This 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



## **January Birthdays**

- 9 ..... Kristen Hylton
- 29 ..... Mac Kirkpatrick
- 31..... Paris Wegdam

## **Anniversary**

- 10..... Carl & Ann Carter

## **RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events**

January 5	7 pm	HCT (tentative)
January 7	7 pm	Administrative Council
January 12	10 am	Worship Committee
January 13	6 pm	Trustees



### **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](mailto:Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com).