



Rectortown Reporter

September 2021

From the Pastor

Attachments—Good or Bad

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

I had the opportunity a few years ago to attend the *Upper Room Five Day Spiritual Academy* that was conducted at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond. The scenery was breathtaking, and the meals were to die for! And, as luck would have it—the retreat was just what my spirit needed!



Elaine Heath, a former Dean of the Duke Divinity school, spoke about being present to the invitations God extends to us to participate in God’s salvific work in creation through both praying *to* God, AND *listening* for God’s response. Seminary professor Roger Owens spoke about the obstacles that inhibit, or even derail, our efforts to answer those invitations to participate in the *missio dei* (God’s mission in the world). Specifically, he spoke about the negative effects of *attachments* and *agendas*.

During both my undergraduate and seminary training, I studied *attachments* concerning human emotional development. Basically, *attachment* theory states that as we face needs during our early developmental years—such as hunger, comfort, security, etc.—we form positive attachments that promote healthy growth when those needs are met. However, if those needs go unmet and those attachments do not form, then we suffer. Used in this context, *attachments* are both necessary and good!

The *attachments* Roger spoke about, however, have an opposite effect. These attachments are to things, or programs, or ideas, or ways of doing things, that often obfuscate God’s call in our personal and church lives. These attachments often confuse us with regard to what God wants as opposed to what we want. These *attachments* make change difficult, because change always means something is going to be different than it was before. We could talk for a long time about change, and why humanity in general finds it difficult and sometimes (often?) even scary. But, suffice it to say that *nothing* stays the same—things *always* change. The attachments we cling to in our spiritual lives will not prevent change—but they certainly do effect the type of change we will experience.

Through the next few months as we move towards Advent, I ask you to join me in reflecting on our attachments—personally and as a church. Are those attachments good—or not? Do they promote spiritual growth and deepening faith—or impede them? Do they allow for the *new things* that God may be doing in our lives, in our church, and in our community—or are they obstacles? Are they worth hanging on too—or would it be better to let them go?

Grace and peace to each and everyone of you!

Pastor Steve

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JOIN US

10 a.m. Sundays for In-person
or Livestream Worship at
www.rectortownumc.org

Scripture of the month

“This is why you must make every effort to add moral excellence to your faith; and to moral excellence, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, godliness; and to godliness, affection for others; and to affection for others, love. If all these are yours and they are growing in you, they’ll keep you from becoming inactive and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brothers and sisters, be eager to confirm your call and election. Do this and you will never ever be lost.”

2 Peter 1:5-8 and 10, CEB

Serving God through
Prayer, Action, and
Love through Service

Snapshots From Summer 2021

On July 25, RUMC was going to enjoy a catered lunch to follow the in-person service. Much to our dismay, at the last minute, the caterer who prepared the food tested positive for COVID and had to turn their truck around. First we prayed for healing and health of the caterer and thanks that it was caught in time so no one at RUMC was affected. Then we all indulged in the delicious cupcakes Tammy had brought and got to spend a nice morning catching up with each other.



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Congratulations!



Ward Ponn and Carrie Glasgow were married July 14, 2021. The Brady-bunch-style family of 8 held a small ceremony in Hamilton, VA officiated by Ward's father, Rev. Bill Ponn, followed by a COVID-friendly-sized gathering for friends and family.



September Birthdays

2 Emma Symanski
18 . . . Joseph Pisarcik
30 Jim Harrington

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From the Outreach Committee

Thanks so much to everyone for their donations of school supplies and money to buy supplies. RUMC dropped off more than \$500 worth of supplies to Claude Thompson Elementary School. Fauquier County schools began in-person/hybrid school on Aug 11.

Cell Phone Request

Do you have a fairly new cell phone that you're not using? If so, the RUMC office can put it to good use!

Although we are grateful to our church members who helped us establish accounts using their personal cell phone numbers and credit cards, this is not ideal for maintaining continuity and access to our business accounts.

To solve these issues, the Trustees have decided to use the church debit card for online subscription accounts and acquire a cell phone for vendors that use two-step password verification via text.

Please contact the church office at secretaryRUMC@gmail.com or 540-364-1066 if you have a cell phone to donate. Thank you!



RUMC/MUMC 2021 Charge Conference

Prior to the conference, there will be a **Charge Conference Orientation via ZOOM at 10 AM Thursday, September 2**. To find the Orientation, go to WWW.ZOOM.US and click on join meeting at the right top. Meeting ID: 8349449378 and no Password is needed. *Please check the Rectortown UMC web site (www.rectortownumc.org) for more information.*

RUMC/MUMC Charge Conference will be held at **7 PM on October 21**. Pastor Steve Weedling will be presiding at this years Conference. All Charge Conferences will be held via ZOOM. RUMC will offer viewing in the Educations Building (White House) also. **Charge Conference documents are due to the District office by October 12.**



Our Mission Statement

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

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thurs	Sept 2	10am	Charge Conference Orientation
Thurs	Sept 2	7 pm	Admin Council
Mon	Sept 6	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
Wed	Sept 8	6 pm	Trustees
Tues	Sept 14	10 am	Worship Committee
Thurs	Sept 16	7 pm	SPPRC
Tues	Oct 21	7 pm	Charge Conference

Help Needed~

Rectortown United Methodist Church is seeking...

A Videographer for our weekly live-stream service. This is a paid, part-time position for a few hours per week. It takes a person who is willing to learn the ropes of live-stream worship and to be available each Sunday. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary at secretaryRUMC@gmail.com

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 by the 15th.

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