



Rectortown Reporter

November 2021

From the Pastor

Thanksgiving Through Thanks Living

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

November is always associated with Thanksgiving. But in this day and age it's often hard to find things to be thankful for. The news and social media are full of stuff that assaults the soul with a storm of negativity that makes giving thanks seem out of place. But, is it? Well, it depends on what you're thankful for, and to whom you're being thankful.

I read a book by Ann Voskamp several years ago called, *One Thousand Gifts*. In the book, the author asks, "What does it mean to live full of grace? *To live fully alive?*" Her answer came through writing down 1,000 things — big or small — that she was truly thankful for. Why? Because sin, she says, comes from ingratitude towards God. Thus, gratitude leads away from sin and towards God. So, rather than merely existing in ingratitude, she decided to *live fully* in purposeful gratitude. With that in mind, here are some things I'm thankful for:

- I'm thankful for a gracious and loving God who cared enough to create me in God's own image.
- I'm thankful for God's love for me that makes it possible for me to love others, and to know their love for me.
- I'm thankful for family — the family I grew up in; the family my wife and I have made together; the family of friends I've made over the years; and for my church family.
- I'm thankful for living in a democratic republic where every voice deserves to be heard, even those I strongly disagree with; and dialogue and compromise ensure the well-being of all citizens.
- I'm thankful for health, for a roof over my head, and for clean water and good food to satisfy my physical needs.
- I'm thankful for the many women and men who have served, who are serving, and who will serve to preserve the constitutional ideal of America.
- I'm thankful that this list is just a short beginning to the fuller list of all the things I'm truly thankful for!

What are you thankful for? What are the things in your life that you have failed to be thankful for? How might you know God better through your gratitude for the things, friends, family, and love you have? This is November — the month of Thanksgiving. Let's go a step beyond and make it a month... a year... a life... of thanks living!

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

Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

Serving God through
Prayer, Action, and
Love through Service

Laity Sunday at RUMC

On October 17, 2021, Rectortown United Methodist members celebrated Laity Sunday with readings, music, messages and a delicious barbecue meal. A blessed day!



more photos on next page>>

RUMC2021 Laity Sunday cont.



IN MEMORIAM **Jean Payne**

November 10, 1923 - October 12, 2021

The following is the obituary posted by Moser Funeral Home of our dear friend and longest-time member. We're working on one about Jean and her connection with us at RUMC. Jean and Hunter will always be in our hearts.

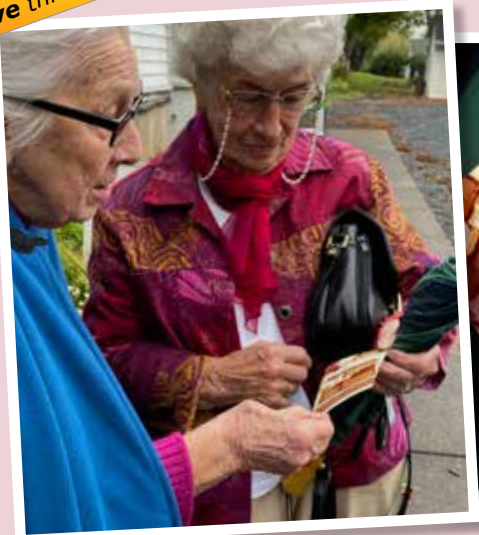
Jeannette (Jean) Woolf (Heflin) Payne died peacefully in her sleep at her home on October 12, 2021, at the age of almost 98. She was born in Gainesville, VA, November 10, 1923 and was married for almost 72 years to the love of her life, Hunter F. Payne, who predeceased her.

Mrs. Payne is survived by two daughters, Paula Constantini (Stanley) and Patsy Stonestreet (Jim), Grandchildren, Michael Pearson (Sierra), Shelly Clegg (Jeff), Suzi Borg (Darren), Paul Pearson, Joy White (Dave), Jeffrey Pearson (Lisa) and John Stonestreet (Sarah). She was blessed with 19 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Payne worked for a number of years for the Marshall Water Company, taught elementary school, and organized Vacation Bible Schools thru out the area. She was active in a number of churches as a leader and a teacher. She was known for her wedding cakes and delicious food when she owned Sunshine Catering. Among her customers were politicians, doctors, ambassadors and Willard Scott. She also attended clown school and played the role of "Sunny," the clown at many community activities.

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Snapshots After Worship Service



Shirley and Roxie try to figure out who's in the old photo taken at RUMC years ago that Carl shared with them.



Annual Shoe Box Event

It is time for Shoe Boxes! Each year, we have the opportunity for an outreach ministry to children around the world. These boxes are important to children in parts of the world that they either can't afford, have no access to or don't know about. The Outreach Committee is providing shoe boxes (at RUMC) with a list of suggested items inside. Call Linda Daniels at 540-364-3776 if you have any questions. **Boxes are due by Sunday, November 21.**



November Birthdays

Tyler Willis 11/6
Jean Payne 11/10
Diane Harrington 11/13
Tara Wegdam 11/14

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thursday Nov 4 7 pm Admin Council
Tuesday Nov 9 10 am Worship Comm.
Wednesday Nov 10 6 pm Trustees
Thursday Nov 18 7 pm SPPRC
Sunday Nov 21 4 pm Winchester District Annual Conference
Thursday Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day



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.

