



Rectortown Reporter

April 2022

From the Pastor

Grace Upon Grace



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

The Gospel of John says that John the Baptist testified about the 'Word who became flesh' saying, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" The Gospel then says, "from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace..." (from John 1:14-16).

In our Wesleyan tradition, grace is defined as "the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit" (www.umc.org). *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* adds that the purpose of God's "loving action" is our *regeneration* or *sanctification*. Putting the two together, I believe grace is God's love at work in us to restore us to the full image of God in which, and for which, we are created. Essentially, while sin harms our relationships with God and with others; it is grace that heals those relationships and allows love to flourish.

United Methodists understand grace to be God's active presence in our lives whether or not we know or respond to it. God's grace is a divine gift that is always available to us, but never forced upon us. While there is only one grace, we understand grace at work in our lives in three distinctive ways. First, there is prevenient grace — the grace that comes before we're aware of God. God extends grace into our unknowing so that we can come to know. I like to think of this as a divine invitation into relationship! Then there is justifying grace — the grace that redeems us and restores our relationship with God. In this grace we're regenerated in new life in Christ and made "just-as-if" we'd never sinned. Finally, there is sanctifying grace — the grace in which we grow and mature as we learn to live and to love more like Christ lived and loved. In the perfection of our love we become fully whole.

We cannot earn or buy grace — but we are expected to accept and respond to it. These forty days of Lent are an appropriate time to reflect on the obstacles (anything that prioritizes people or things higher than God) in our spiritual lives that keep us from the fullness of God's grace. What are the obstacles in your spiritual life? Why not ask God to help you overcome your obstacles so you can live more grace-fully!

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

Scripture of the month

"This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace; as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

John 1:15b-18, CEB

Notes from The History Committee

In an effort to learn all we can about the history of Rectortown United Methodist Church, History Committee Chair Diane Harrington and Laura Symanski are hearing from longtime members of the congregation, getting firsthand stories about their time in Rectortown. These two remembrances are excerpts from Eileen Miller and Muggie Grice.

Life and Times of Eileen Miller

I was born in the old Warrenton Hospital on April 18, 1946 to Curtis and Mollie Payne. The old hospital is the big white house next to Red Truck Bakery in Warrenton. I had a sister (Charlotte) and 2 brothers (Ronny and Wayne). They are deceased and miss them every day. I lived in Rectortown in the same house until I graduated high school and went to work for Virginia Power.

We had big snow storms and we used the road to sleigh. Judy and her family lived across street and a lot of kids would gather and go sleigh riding. I remember on Christmas the kids that lived next to me would meet really early (around 2AM) and go to each other's house to see what Santa left them for Christmas. Also Rectortown every year would have a parade sponsored by the black community. Eddie Brooks would play drums using spoons and pans. He was loved by everyone. Hack Thompson played the saxophone. There were 3 stores (Slacks store, Dollie Mays store, and Ashby store). Dollie May was Muggie's mother). This is a little history on Rectortown.

Mom started taking us to Sunday School and Church. I joined church and was baptized on May 12, 1956 by Pastor Jack Hampton Arnold.

Judy Scheuble, Bill Rose and myself received a plaque for 50 years of membership.

We had a choir which I was a part of and we had such a good time. Hunter Payne was our organist and director. He was a great person.

We had coffee hour after church, had homecoming in May, had men and women's groups. Women's group would fix dinners for Lions Club and serve them at Emmanuel Church or fire house.

Forward on: After Tammy was born I started taking her to church. Judy had Kristen and Tammy and Kristen were best of friends. We had picnics, hunt for Easter eggs, Christmas pageants, Easter pageants, had MYF and youth group, Sunday school, Bible school and would walk for UNICEF. I remember we walked on Crenshaw Rd and ran into Paul Mellon riding his horse and he stopped and talked with us, had fairs and carnivals. They talked Shirley Embrey into the dunking booth. We would throw balls and hit target and down in the water Shirley would go.

Judy and I were first cousins and great friends growing up and as adults. Miss her everyday.

Tammy had Yvie and Kristen had Parker. They are the best of friends. They also attended Rectortown Church.

On April 10, 1999 I married my childhood sweetheart Pete Miller. We had some wonderful years together before he passed.

Life and Times of Paula "Muggie" Grice

Where were you born and raised? Born in Aldie, VA (in an apartment over the Aldie Store), on August 27, 1947, moved at 2 months old to Rectortown.

Were you baptized or received confirmation at RUMC? I was baptized

at the home of my paternal grandparents in Shenandoah, VA by Rev Burlington Latshaw, Lutheran Pastor. I was confirmed at RUMC on February 9, 2014 by Pastor John Martin.

>>>

>>>Muggie continued

When were you married and to whom?

I was first married to Otto Koch, at RUMC on May 20, 1972 by Pastor Weldon White. I was second married to Bobby Grice, at Annandale UMC, April 21, 1984.

When did you first come to RUMC?

Approximately when I was 6-years-old, Rev James Brumfield was the Pastor.

What or who brought you to RUMC?

I was raised in RUMC, and attended until I left home in June 1965, and then off and on during my married life, while living in Arlington, VA. When I retired, I moved back closer and became active again in January 2013. I have been an active member of the RUMC Administrative Council as the Recording Secretary since January 2014.

What is your earliest memory of being at RUMC?

I remember attending church with my maternal grandmother every Sunday. I have several Sunday School pins which was given to us for perfect attendance.

What are your favorite memories of worship, event, or holiday at the church... and how have things changed?

Bible School was not my favorite because it was always soon after school was dismissed by the Summer and I didn't want any more regimented school days. But as a child, my mother made us kids go, so of course I went. I also remember RUMC had Revival services in the Summer evenings, which was only for a week, but it was very hot in the church, and again we were made to attend.

Were you ever a part of youth group, Sunday school, VBS, choir, or church committees?

I remember so many fun



times being part of the MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship). There were many of us in the same age group. We would have Christmas pageants and we would recite versus....which was very scary for us kids. So many memories from my childhood.

Do you have a favorite potluck meal that you have shared during meals at RUMC?

All the potlucks were great with so many delicious casseroles and desserts. None that I can remember as being my favorite. There were so many wonderful cooks in our church.

What type of employment have you held?

I am retired from the U.S. Federal Government. I worked for the Department of the Navy and also for the Department of the Army from 1965-1997.

I am also retired from Northrop Grumman Corporation (a Government Contractor) where I was employed from 1997-2013.

What fun activities did you do as a child or youth?

All of us kids in town would go sleigh riding in the field across from my house. We would play softball in that field too. We would go trick or treating in town and at Christmas we would go caroling.

What is your favorite or 1st movie or TV show that you remember?

Old Yeller

>>>History Notes continued



Miss Cordelia Rawlings

- Row 2: Ron Poston, Sharon Oliver, VJ Johnson, Dale Heflin
- Row 3: Linda Wright, Linda Wines*, William Ryan, Linda Wines*
- Row 4: Mac Kirkpatrick, Agnes Ott, Susan Thompson, Muggie
- Row 5: Ronnie Payne, Betty Kirk, Mary Ellen Embrey, Francis Kirkpatrick



Dale Heflin and her daughter LeeLee returned to visit RUMC during worship service in March. Dale can also be seen in the class photo above and remembered everyone's names.

*Note: You're not seeing double, Dale said they put 2 of Linda to fill in the space!

NEWS from The SPPRC

After 6 years of serving Rectortown UMC, **Pastor Steve will be moving** this summer. Here is his appointment as of July: Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church
1000 Snow Creek Road
Martinsville, VA 24112

Faith has been appointed to:
First United Methodist Church
146 East Main Street, Martinsville

Many thanks to both of them and best wishes in their new appointments. We don't know who our new pastor will be but should hear soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any member of the SPPR Committee.

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



Volunteers and Donations Needed

Volunteers are needed immediately to set up the clothes closet. Please contact the church office at 540-364-1066 or FigLeafAtRUMC@gmail.com to help.

Opening date is **Saturday, April 2.** Tuesdays 3-5 pm, Wednesdays 10:30 am-12:30 pm, and 9:30 am-12:30 pm on the 1st Saturday of the month.

To donate, drop off clothing at the storage building in the church parking lot Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm and Saturday, 9 am-3 pm.

THANK YOU to Pam for creating this amazing bulletin board!



April Birthdays



Ben Pisarcik4/12
 Henry Symanski4/17
 Eileen Miller4/18
 Linda Rose4/20

Anniversary

Gary & Joann Garrett . .4/10

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.

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thurs, April 7	7p	Admin Council
Sun, April 10	9:50a	Palm Sunday
Tues, April 12	10a	Worship Committee
Wed, April 13	6p	Trustees
Thurs, April 14	630p	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, April 15	630p	Good Friday Service*
Sun, April 17	630a	Sunrise Service
	10a	Easter Service
Thurs, April 21	7 pm	SPPRC

**This event takes place at Middleburg UMC. All other events take place at Rectortown UMC*

Mark Your Calendars

May 15

Rectortown United Methodist Church HOMECOMING

We'll also seal our **Time Capsule** that day. If you have any memorabilia that you think would be meaningful in 2047, please contact Diane Harrington.

More details about Homecoming and the Time Capsule can be found online and the next newsletter. *For now, tell all your friends and family to save the date: May 15!*



Rectortown United Methodist Mission Statement

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