



Rectortown Reporter

May 2022

From the Pastor

Celebrations and Coming Home

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



May is a month of many things! May 5th is Cinco de Mayo. May 8th is Mother's Day; which, by the way, began at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia in 1908. While Congress initially rejected the idea of making it a national holiday (joking that a "mother's day" would inevitably lead to a "mother's-in-law day") the bill establishing the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day was signed in 1914.

Memorial Day (or, Decoration Day) is observed in America on the last Monday in May to remember those who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Unofficially, it's also considered the beginning of the summer vacation season here in America! Neither of these should be confused with Armed Forces Day, which is observed on the third Saturday in May to honor those who are currently serving in the American military.

The third Sunday in May is Heritage Sunday in the United Methodist Church. This day calls us *"to honor [our] heritage by committing [ourselves] to the continuing call of God known and spread by Charles and John Wesley, along with others the early Methodist movement reached and with whose denominations we are all joined as The United Methodist Church"* (umcdiscipleship.org). The third Sunday of May was chosen for its proximity to May 24th; on which date in 1738 John Wesley experienced a "strangely warmed heart" at a Moravian Chapel on Aldersgate Street in London.

RUMC will celebrate our Annual Homecoming Worship Celebration on May 15th. Doors will open at 10am and worship will begin at 11am. We will "bury" the **Time Capsule** that we've been working on for the past two years during this service! Afterwards, there will be a **catered meal** followed by special music provided by the local **bluegrass group "Hoot 'n Holler."**

Plan to come and stay awhile since this will be a full and exciting day of reconnecting with past members and friends and family — even as we forge new friendships and make new memories with others we meet. Please RSVP if you plan to attend in-person so we can make sure there's plenty of food for everyone — and, as always, don't forget to invite a friend!

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

We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Romans 12:4-6, 18

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. We met with Tommy Ann Kirkpatrick after worship service on March 20, 2022. Here's some of what she told us:

Tommy Ann Russell Kirkpatrick

Tommy Ann (Russell) Kirkpatrick was born at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC, but spent most of her life in Marshall, where her parents owned Russell's Market. She and her sisters; Barbara, Brenda, and Terry, attended the local Fauquier County schools. Tommy Ann was in the first Fauquier High class to graduate after spending all five years in the new building (1968).

A short time after graduating she went to work for Burton and Robinson in Fairfax where she continues to work today doing their accounting and payroll. Back then, the road to their office on Pickett Road was just a two-lane, pot-holed road.

Tommy Ann's life at Rectortown United Methodist Church began with an invitation from her friend Alanna McGuinn whose aunt lived in Rectortown. Tommy Ann went with Alanna and everyone was so loving she stayed. In fact, she and "Mac" Kirkpatrick were married at Rectortown UMC. Mac's son Brian married Joyce there.

Mac always worked with horses—his last job was managing the Flying L for years until it was sold. Mac's faith was shaken during one of the darkest times at Rectortown UMC when his daughter, Kimberly, from his first marriage, was killed in a car accident along with Brenda and Kathy Rose. Bill Rose found strength and love in the church and continued to attend.

Tommy Ann has been very involved in most of the committees. Back in the early days, she and Alanna teamed up to teach Sunday School. Jamie Sue Pauley was one of the youngest ones and cried her first time. Alanna said, "I don't do crying babies." So,

Tommy Ann held her and rocked her and Jamie Sue came back again and again.

One time, when Judy Scheuble taught, she asked the question, "Do you know where Jesus has gone?" A little boy in the class was so excited he could barely wait to tell her and finally he shouted, "Florida!"

Another great teacher was Addie White who gave her Sunday School Guidebook to Tommy Ann. The Whites were an amazing couple who lived next door with no children of their own so all the Rectortown children were theirs and called them Aunt Addie and Uncle Stewart. She'd make coconut cake for Homecoming and on their anniversary they'd hold hands as they walked down the aisle together.

Rectortown UMC would put on Christmas Plays with so many people involved and attending you could barely get through. Another time, Pastor Roberson's wife Theresa (dressed as Mary) walked down the aisle with a wrapped bundle (a loaf of bread) in her arms, then they had communion demonstrating this was the body of Christ.

Vacation Bible schools were a big hit. For one of them, Pastor Roberson erected a makeshift hot air balloon that decorated the corner for the whole week. Another time, school children threw down paper maché boulders from the upper level.

There were Fall Festivals where Pastor Roberson and Shirley took turns in the dunk tank (and the competition was on-- to raise money). One Christmas, Claudine Gasch donated a tree from her farm. Pastor Roberson picked it out and when asked about the size said, "it was only three Therasas tall). Larry, Judy, Pastor Roberson

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>>> Tommy Ann continued

and Tommy Ann brought it into the church and it was so big they had to figure out a way to put it up in the sanctuary. They put it in a wash basin and tied it to walls to hold it up. People from the community would come by just to see the tree.

One of Tommy Ann's greatest pleasures has been seeing all the children grow and then seeing their children grow. She shared a copy of a news article from years ago when Tammy, Kristen, Amy, Pastor Sherrod and others in the youth group participated in a fundraiser called "Let It Grow!" that educated kids about world hunger. They didn't eat for 24 hours and raised about \$1200.

Another of Tommy Ann's favorite memories is being part of the choir. When Pastor Roberson was there, they'd go on road trips with Hunter Payne and sing at other churches. Hunter would accompany them on the piano, never criticizing, always sharing the joy.

She has fond memories of Rectortown



Lighting the Unity Candle at the Kirkpatrick's wedding, July 24, 1999 with Pastor Marc Roberson officiating, Judy Scheuble (Matron of Honor), Brian Kirkpatrick (Best Man), Brandy Leonard (Flower Girl) and Garrett Portela (Ring Bearer).

Homecomings. They'd spend many weekends cleaning—paste waxing and buffing the floors to get ready. Everything shined. One time she came to church to find her name signed up to bring baked beans. It turned out Tammy had signed her up! It seemed wherever Tommy Ann went, people expected her to bring those baked

beans that she made from Nancy Merritt's recipe. "In the summertime I'd get so sick of baked beans. I don't even have to look at the recipe to make them anymore."

Tommy Ann doesn't know where she'd be if it weren't for the love of this church family. She recently lost "Mac" to a rare disease, Guillain-Barre syndrome, but her family, as well as her Rectortown church family and community, all came out to remember his life and support her. She feels truly blessed to have been nurtured at Rectortown United Methodist Church.

Thanks to Tommy Ann, for all your great memories—we hope to make many more together!

We also received photos and answers to our Historical Committee questionnaire from:

Margaret Ernestine (Williams) Hall

Margaret Ernestine (Williams) Hall was born in Warrenton and raised in The Plains on Denton Farm. Her mother, Pearl Margaret (Sisk) Williams brought her there for the first time. In 1951, she was baptized by Rev. Arnold at Rectortown United Methodist Church. Also there, on July 12, 1958, she married Harrison Nelson Hall with Rev. Brumfeld officiating. Their son, Dwayne Nelson Hall, who now lives in Stephens City, was baptized at RUMC in 1961, and their daughter, Andrea Margaret Hall, lives in Raleigh, NC.

Her earliest memory of being at RUMC are the early Sunday School taught by Addie White, Elsie Embrey, Mrs. Sacra and Lucy Pearson. She remembers the Easter egg hunts and being an angel in the Christmas program.

Her favorite memories are when she went with her mom who headed the MYF and they traveled to other churches to worship with the other MYF. Her mom took all to Elizabeth Furnace on picnics and to Glen Echo Park.

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>>> History Notes continued



(Left) Rev Brumfeld with the bride and groom, Ernestine and Nelson Hall; (Center) Father of the bride, Andrew Williams walks Ernestine down the aisle; (Right) The Halls exiting the church.

At Rectortown Church she was in the MYF and attended Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. At the time, RUMC didn't have a separate Sunday school, nor did they have indoor bathrooms—they used an outside John. She remembers going to the Middleburg Community Center swimming

pool, playing hide-n-seek, kick-the-can, and canoeing.

Her favorite TV show was *Capt. Video* and her favorite movie was *White Christmas*.

Ernestine moved to Fairfax County 64 years ago but we're so glad that she kept in touch and sent us all these great memories.



Serving God through Prayer, Action, and Love through Service

fig leaf CLOTHES CLOSET

Now Open!
Volunteers/Donations Needed

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

Please contact the church office if you'd like to volunteer during any of our store hours: Tuesdays 3-5pm, Wednesdays 10:30am-12:30pm, and 9:30am-12:30pm on the first Saturday of the month. Call 540-364-1066 or email FigLeafAtRUMC@gmail.com to help.

Many thanks to the Wegdams for spearheading this much-needed gift to the community! And thanks to all our volunteers.

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Sunrise Service at RUMC

In addition to the regular 10AM service, some early risers met at 6:30AM in the field for the annual Sunrise Service. We heard a great sermon by Pastor Steve Weedling who managed to dodge the firepit smoke. It was a beautiful morning, much warmer than last year and the birds let us know they were happy about it—or maybe it was our joyful singing?



May Birthdays

Olivia Walker 5/7
 Ren Walker5/11
 John Stolte 5/12
 Ben Wegdam 5/13
 Roy Sisk 5/13
 Vicki Willis. 5/16

Susan Haley 5/18
 Gary Garrett.5/19
 Kenny Nalls 5/21
 Kayla Ryder 5/24
 Lori Ponn 5/27



Anniversaries

Roger & Linda Daniels. 5/1
 Joe & Amy Riggio . .5/19
 Tom & Debbie McLaughlin 5/21
 Ben & Yeshi Pisarcik 5/28

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thurs, May 5	7p	Admin Council
Sun, May 8		Mother's Day
Tues, May 10	10a	Worship Committee
Wed, May 11	6p	Trustees
Sun, May 15		RUMC Annual Homecoming
Sun, May 29		Joint Pastor Service and Celebration Party

All events take place at Rectortown UMC.

May 15 Rectortown United Methodist Church **HOMECOMING**

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

Catered lunch, Bluegrass by Hoot 'n Holler, great friends and fellowship! Register by 5/9 online at <https://rectortownumc.org/homecoming-2022>

A Step Back In Time from The History Committee



Rectortown Church in 1938, photo courtesy Library of Virginia



Rectortown United Methodist Mission Statement

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