



Rockfish Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 278, Nellysford, VA 22958  
Office: 434-361-1221 Office Email: rockfishpcus@gmail.com  
Interim Pastor: Jewell-Ann Parton  
Cell: 434 987-1255; Interim Pastor E:mail: jewellannp@aol.com  
www.rockfishpresbyterian.org  
Office Hours 9-1 Tuesday through Thursday  
Worship Service on Sunday Mornings in the Sanctuary at 10:00

Volume 22 Issue 12

## Spreading the Word

December 2021

### Christmas Eve Services

4:00 - A Service of Songs, Stories, and Communion designed for the Young at Heart.  
6:00 - Christmas Candlelight Service will be Lessons and Carols.

Communion will be served.

Dear Rockfish Friends,

With the wider opening up of our community and our church, we are currently finalizing plans for resuming our adult Sunday School class on Sunday mornings prior to the church service. We plan to hold these in one of the Sunday School rooms at the church from 9:00 – 9:45 on December 5, 12 and 19. We will start with a three-week Advent series, which will be led by Jewell-Ann and will use as our source material a series of devotional writings, which are going to be shared with the entire congregation. Following the Christmas and New Year's holidays, we will resume with our second series, which will last about six to eight weeks. This series will focus on writings by James Moore, entitled "If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat!" This series will have shared leadership of the facilitated discussion. The Christian Education committee hopes as many of you as possible will join us for both of these initial Sunday School series and for the ones to follow! Please watch this space and announcements in church for further information on exact times.

*Your Christian Education Committee*

### **Covid-19 Special Guidance Pertaining to the use of RPC Facilities** (as of November 2021)

Some aspects of how we handle the use of our facilities must continue in order to ensure safety for our staff, congregants, and visitors now that we have reopened the Sanctuary for worship services. Outside groups will once again be able to request meeting at RPC but we request such groups ensure that they turn away any participant who is not vaccinated, or any person who has COVID symptoms or has been exposed to someone testing positive for COVID within the past ten days must not attend. All aspects of the Facilities Use Policy remain in effect. Overnight stays will not be approved. This is an exceptional time and we appreciate your cooperation with these changes to keep us all as safe as possible.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Cynthia Schablein   | 02 |
| Al Simpson          | 04 |
| Jane Elliott        | 12 |
| Marlene Howard      | 13 |
| Arlie Saunders      | 13 |
| Jill Averitt        | 14 |
| Ann Mische          | 14 |
| Mary Beth Schillaci | 14 |
| Chuck Thornsvard    | 14 |
| Jeff Wilk           | 14 |
| Taylor Madison      | 15 |
| Savannah Averitt    | 16 |
| Carol Lampert       | 16 |
| Kathleen Rosenberg  | 17 |
| Bob Rose            | 17 |
| Nathan Manthey      | 18 |
| Shirley McGatha     | 21 |
| Alice Murphy        | 21 |
| Bev Lacey           | 24 |
| Peggy Watts Gup     | 25 |
| Dale Smith          | 26 |
| Ron Culberson       | 28 |
| Nancy Nevill        | 28 |

## The History of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath can be traced back to an old Scandinavian custom celebrating the coming of light after a season of Darkness. The Christian Church has used it to symbolize the coming of Christ as the Light of the World. As the Advent candles are lighted, this truth is symbolized anew in the lives of the worshipers. The circle of evergreen reminds us of the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

The candles are usually three purple and one pink, although royal blue is now becoming quite popular. The pink candle is to be lighted on the third Sunday of Advent and symbolizes joy. This is the base on the Latin word **Gaudete** which means **rejoice**. In the ancient tradition of the Church when fasting was observed throughout Advent, Gaudete Sunday was the one day when a break in this custom could be observed. It also symbolized rejoicing because the coming of the Lord was near at hand. In some churches large white candles are used and a small purple ribbon is tied on each one. On Christmas Day, these ribbons are changed to red and left until Epiphany.

Regardless of the size of the Advent wreath or the colors of the candles in it, its item of central importance is the Christ candle. This is a large white candle placed in the center of the wreath and lighted on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



**Reminder:** The office is closed the last week in December. The January STW will not be published until the first week in January. Please send to the church office by December 23 any announcements for the first week in January.

**STW NEWSLETTER :**

**JAMIE HEARD**

The deadline for submitting articles **electronically** for the **January** newsletter is **Monday, December 22**.

**Email:** rockfishpcus@gmail.com **Phone:** (434) 361-1221

### Care Bear Gifts



Thank you to everyone who has selected tags from our Care Bear tree or made a donation. We will be providing Christmas joy to 60 children in Nelson County this year.

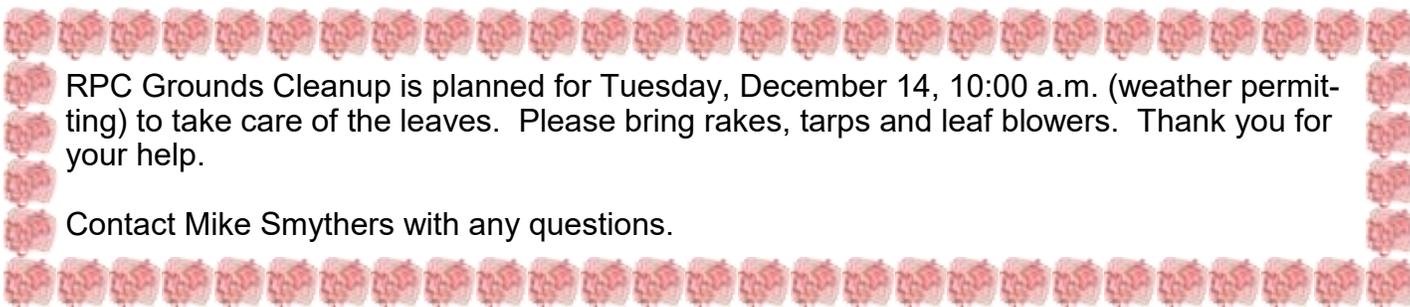
Here are a few reminders:

Not all items listed need to be purchased. Please limit purchases to \$50 - 60 and include clothing and a book. Do not wrap gifts. Place them in a sturdy gift bag with the Care Bear tag securely attached. Please return to the church by December 8 at 11 a.m.

The gifts will be delivered to the elementary schools on Dec 9th for distribution to the families.

Please contact Wendy Culberson at (703) 307-6382 or by email at [wendy@ronculberson.com](mailto:wendy@ronculberson.com) if you have any questions.

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Care Bear program. You can be assured that your gifts will make the holidays much happier for these children and their families.



RPC Grounds Cleanup is planned for Tuesday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. (weather permitting) to take care of the leaves. Please bring rakes, tarps and leaf blowers. Thank you for your help.

Contact Mike Smythers with any questions.

### Youth News

Thank you to the Manthey and Averitt families for filling the Children's Food Pantry bag for November. Each month, the youth continue to fill bags with food for the children of Nelson County. Let Dana Ogilvie know if your family would like to help fill the bags.

The youth have cards for sell to help International Neighbors in Charlottesville. The cards are made from artwork that refugee children created. The cards are 6 for \$10 or \$2 per card.

Sophie Ogilvie helps deliver welcome baskets and knitted dolls (thanks to the knitting group) to International Neighbors.

Thank you,  
Dana Ogilvie



## Session Highlights 11/16/2021

Moderator Rev. Jewell-Ann Parton called the Session Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Elder Greg Frahm presented the Opening Prayer and Devotions. Joys and Concerns were shared. Prayers were asked for Sam and Kelley Alexander, Katy Jo and Al Gale, Abby Carr, the Zirkle family, and our PNC.

### Clerk's Report:

- Approved Amended Minutes of the Stated Meeting 10/19/21.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Jewell-Ann Parton reported that the Brunswick Stew Gathering on 11/14/21 went very well and folks enjoyed both the stew and the fellowship. It was a perfect part of our stewardship season. She also announced she will be leading an adult Sunday School class at 9:00 during Advent.

Stewardship/Finance: Elder Phyllis Savides presented a positive Stewardship Report. As requested by Stewardship, regarding the Solar Share program: Elder Ken Engebretson did a basic analysis back in 2018 looking at solar panels following a request by Bill Howard and there were two arguments against it back then. The panels cannot go on our roof as there is too much shade from the large trees for the panels to be effective. The only other site would be on the church "yard" between the pavilion and the woodpile and the aesthetics of placing a solar farm, even a small one, would break up the spectacular openness of that field. Also, the cost to install that type of framework for the panels and the cost for trenching required (under the driveway/parking lot) and avoiding the graveyard to bring the electrical cable back to the breaker panel in the basement would be considerable. If RPC put in panels in the open field to generate 1000 KWh the cost could far exceed a conservative estimate of \$40,000 for a roof panel system and the payback would be at least 30 years. Warranty on the panels is only 20-25 years, depending on the company, so it doesn't seem to be a viable way to proceed.

CVEC confirmed that the church is listed as a residential account so we are eligible for the Solar Share Program. The charge per block is \$4.50, so the 20-block maximum will be \$90 per month. That would take 1000 KWh off our charges each month; we have averaged 2987 KWh/month from Jan 2019 to the end of October this year. The energy charge is running \$.07849/KWh compared with the 1000KWh Solar Block costing \$90 (resulting in a charge of \$.09/KWh). That will be an increase in cost for us of \$11.51/mo, based on our average utilization. The Building team doesn't set the budget amount for electricity, gas, or phones/data lines, so it really doesn't need any formal consideration by them. (The solar panel proposition would be because it is a "structure".)

The resulting discussion ended with a recommendation (motion) to proceed with applying to CVEC for the 20-Block Solar Share maximum amount, which Session approved.

### New Business:

- Elder Mike Smythers (Grounds Committee) reported he would set a date for a mid-December weekday to clear the Church property of leaves.
- Elder Lee Goodrich (Personnel Committee) reported that Rev. Jewell-Ann's contract expires 12/31/21. Session approved extending her contract month to month until such time as a new Pastor is hired and can arrive.

### Ministry Team Reports and Motions:

Elder Phyllis Savides (Worship Ministry Team) reported the following Advent planning:

- Committee agreed to have 2 services on Christmas Eve – 6 p.m. and a children's service at 4 p.m.
- The Advent Wreath Candles will be set up and Ute will recruit readers for each Sunday.
- We will also have poinsettias and congregation members will have the opportunity to purchase one in honor or in memory of someone(s).
- The Committee voted to have a church service on December 26. Gordon Lindsay has agreed to fill the pulpit.
- Gary Hatter will be the substitute pastor on November 28, 2021.

## Session Highlights (Cont'd)

Elder Bob Alpers (Mission Ministry Team) reported the following:

- All Blessings Flow asked if RPC's parking lot might be available as a Nelson County site for their storage site.
- Thanksgiving basket packing will occur on the weekend of November 18 to 20.
- Our 2022 Budget was discussed in terms of a more Matthew 25 initiative approach.
- The Care Bear Christmas Tree will be set up in the narthex for the November 14 service.
- The Committee canceled the Head Start Christmas Party again this year due continuing pandemic concerns.

Elder Ken Engebretson (Building Ministry Team) reported that following discussion during the stated Session meeting, the Building Ministry Team changed and was granted approval for the Special Guidance addition to the current Facilities Use Policy (FUP), to read:

*Covid-19 Special Guidance Pertaining to the use of RPC Facilities (as of November 2021)*  
*Some aspects of how we handle the use of our facilities must continue in order to ensure safety for our staff, congregants, and visitors now that we have reopened the Sanctuary for worship services. Outside groups will once again be able to request meeting at RPC but we request such groups ensure that they turn away any participant who is not vaccinated, or any person who has COVID symptoms or has been exposed to someone testing positive for COVID within the past ten days must not attend. All aspects of the Facilities Use Policy remain in effect. Overnight stays will not be approved. This is an exceptional time and we appreciate your cooperation with these changes to keep us all as safe as possible.*

Celebration and Gratitude:

We give thanks for:

- Tim and Lynne Hess for their great job of organization regarding the Brunswick Stew event. (Jewell-Ann Parton)
- Greg's opening devotion on the value of friendship struck a particularly strong note with me. Today I (Ken Engebretson) received an email informing me of the death of a Navy Captain I had worked with for five years during a construction program to build a new 300 bed Air Force Medical Center at Travis AFB (1984-89). He was one of those exceptional leaders who was able to focus efforts by over 50 Navy and Air Force personnel to bring a complex \$200M+ facility project to completion on-time and within budget (VERY rare). This joint crew developed friendships that have actively remained engaged since that time. Upon hearing of Captain Christenson's passing, the outpouring of fond memories of the impact he made on us was overwhelming. That put an exclamation point on Greg's devotion for me.
- The value of friendship: Twenty-two years ago, Judy won an intense competition for Nelson County Clerk of Court and later became fast friends with her opponent, who was recently killed in an accident. (Mike Smythers)
- The blessing of a Session that works together in a coherent and thoughtful way. (all)

Next Stated Session Meeting: Tuesday, 12/21/21 at 7 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Jewell-Ann Parton.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Sue Fulton, Clerk



### Goodness Grows News

Our garden had a successful season this year with over 2,000 pounds of produce. The bounty was shared with our Nelson County neighbors, wood ministry clients and you, our Rockfish family. Your monetary donations for the vegetables will extend our "growing season" for some time to come.

The money that you gave has been donated to Heifer International to purchase two goats which will be given to a family to provide milk, fertilizer and a means to help make a living selling the goat's offspring. We also bought a large garden of vegetable and fruit tree seeds and four baskets of chickens and rabbits, providing daily eggs, meat, fertilizer and again a means to set up a small business. Seven families will get direct assistance from your donations as well as help from Heifer International. They will teach the families how to raise the animals and care for the gardens in a sustainable manner and to pass the gifts forward. God's Goodness just keeps on growing.





| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                                     | Wed  | Thu                                 | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|  |   |   | <b>1</b><br>10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture  | <b>2</b><br>Noon—Men's Group Lunch  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>5</b><br>9:00 a.m. Sunday School<br>10:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service</b><br>Five Cents a Meal Offering                                     | <b>6</b><br>7:00 p.m. Mission Team Meeting                    | <b>7</b>                                | <b>8</b><br>10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture  | <b>9</b><br>Noon—Men's Group Lunch  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>12</b><br>9:00 a.m. Sunday School<br>9:30 a.m. Pack Pantry Bags for Kids<br>10:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service</b><br>Christmas Joy Offering | <b>13</b><br>5:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting                    | <b>14</b><br>10:00 a.m. Grounds Cleanup | <b>15</b><br>10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture | <b>16</b><br>Noon—Men's Group Lunch | <b>17</b><br>Pantry Bag Packing   | <b>18</b><br>9:00 a.m. Distribution at Food Pantry |
| <b>19</b><br>9:00 a.m. Sunday School<br>10:00 a.m. <b>Second Worship</b>   | <b>20</b><br><b>Spreading The Word</b><br><b>Articles Due</b> | <b>21</b><br>7:00 p.m. Session Meeting  | <b>22</b><br>10:00 a.m. Knitting and Nurture | <b>23</b><br>Noon—Men's Group Lunch | <b>24</b><br>4:00 <b>Family Christmas Service</b><br>6:00 p.m. <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b> | <b>25</b>  |
| <b>26</b><br>10:00 a.m. <b>Worship Service</b><br>Emergency Relief Offering  | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b>                               | <b>29</b>                                    | <b>30</b><br>Noon—Men's Group Lunch | <b>31</b>   |  |