

The **Beacon**

Giving Thanks

Worship Schedule

Wednesdays

5:00 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 PM AWANA Clubs
6:30PM Adult Bible Study
6:30PM Worship Choir Rehearsal
7:30PM Worship Team Rehearsal

Sundays

9:00AM Worship Service
9:00AM Sunday School
10:30AM Worship Service
10:30AM Sunday School
6:30PM Youth Group

Bible Studies and Activities are scheduled throughout the week.

Fall Festival

Don't forget to volunteer for the Fall Festival. It is November 1st at 11AM. This is a great community event for families. It includes an Art Contest, Chili Contest, Cake walk and more!



Office Closed

On November 27th and 28th the church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The church staff is thankful for this wonderful church family.



Table of Contents

Senior Pastor.....	3
Deacon Ministry.....	4
Worship Ministry.....	5
Refuge Ministry.....	6
Women's Ministry.....	8
Men's Ministry.....	12
Prime Timers Ministry.....	16
Children's Ministry.....	17
Wednesday Night Dinner.....	20
Birthdays.....	21
Stewardship.....	22
Sunday School Schedule.....	23
Contact Us.....	24



Greetings,

We have visitors joining with us in most all of our services and activities. Some are what we call "church shoppers" or those searching for a new church home, some are new to the area, others are concerned about what's being taught in their current church that they are opposed to, others are family members or friends of our current members, oftentimes visitors of some of our regular attenders, others who are seeking something they're missing in their lives and have tried everything else and are discouraged and are visiting the church as a last resort, and many are coming because they're not sure what to believe because of so many false promises being proclaimed in churches of today. In many situations, people are being taught what we would call "half-truths." Many are accepting these half-truths but eventually realize that they are receiving only false messages and these messages are now becoming very confusing to them as they are not seeing that the messages they are hearing are making any differences in their lives. These false messages seem to be flooding the churches of today and it's having a negative impact on the Christian faith. Here are just a few that are confusing many new Christians as well as those who have been a believer for a long time. Four of these really stand out and they are simply messages to make you feel good and not realize that there are responsibilities and accountability in being a believer. Here are some views of what's being taught in many churches: (1) Faith is just a feeling. It kind of comes and goes so don't be alarmed or too worried about not having enough faith. (2) The next statement simply follows the first statement. Faith doesn't need nurturing. We either have it or we don't. This is a failure of seeking the truth of God's Word to grow as a believer, which would increase your faith in the Lord. (3) Faith can survive without roots. These roots, they say, will not enable you to grow in your faith. That's one of the biggest issues of why people say they don't attend church. They will often say, "I can be a Christian without going to church." To me, that's a half-truth. My response to that is to say, "Yes you can but why would you want to?" And, "what are you doing for the Lord now?" If you love the Lord it stands to reason, at least to me, that you would want to worship in the church that He established. (4) Faith doesn't require pruning. In creation, itself, pruning occurs for future growth. It's no different in our relationship with our Lord. This thought, though, produces many "baby Christians" like the Apostle Paul refers to in his writings in 1 Corinthians 3:1-2, "Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed you are still not ready." And with these half-truths listed, as well as many others that are being proclaimed, it's no wonder believers are struggling to grow in their relationship with Jesus. In a world, in churches, filled with half-truths you need to be rooted in the full truth in God's Word so that your faith can grow. Our plea is to get rooted right now. Invite others to do so as well.

Letter from Dr. Richard Harrell

Letter from the Deacons

At this time of year, I have always found President George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1789 to be one of the finest articulations of thankfulness I have read, to which nothing needs be added:

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions-- to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually--to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord-- To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us--and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.
Go: Washington

Deacons of the Week

November 2

Chris Hudson (703) 350-1934
Bob Peoples (540) 226-7083

November 9

Heath Hunter (912) 596-8294
Chris Turman (540) 272-1914

November 16

Jeff Johnson (540) 836-7535
Matt Wheeler (760) 401-4708

November 23

Pete Johnson (562) 234-0107
Chris Adams (540) 426-6722

November 30

Jon White (540) 623-6184
Greg Kolandjian (617) 799-1391

Is God Calling You to A New Direction?

In Revelation 1:12, the Apostle John writes, “Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands.” This moment is not just a detail in John’s vision; it is a powerful picture of how God often calls His people to turn, to change direction, and to see what He is doing in a new way.

God’s call to a different direction is rooted in His desire for us to experience His presence and purpose. John was already in the Spirit, worshiping on the Lord’s Day, but he still needed to turn to see what God wanted to show him. This turning is symbolic of repentance and openness to God’s leading. Throughout Scripture, God calls people to turn from their own ways and follow Him (Isaiah 55:7; Acts 3:19). The act of turning is a response to God’s voice and a willingness to leave behind what is familiar and step into where God is working and seeing things from His perspective. Has God ever called you to a new direction? Has He pulled you from one profession to another? God seldom speaks to affirm what we are already doing, but instead, calls us to join Him in a new work. Is God calling you to a new work right now?

In John’s vision, turning led him to see the seven golden lampstands, which represent the seven churches (Revelation 1:20). God wanted John to see the reality of the church from His perspective. Sometimes, God calls us to a different direction so we can see things as He sees them. Our own plans and perspectives are limited, but God’s vision is perfect. When we respond to His call, we gain insight, purpose, and a deeper understanding of His will.

The problem we have is that we too often desire to continue with our limited view and resist following God in something new. We create excuses that seem reasonable to us, but without God’s perspective, we are simply being disobedient. When God calls, we are to turn and follow in His direction, even if it seems impossible.

God’s call to a new direction is also an invitation to participate in His mission. John’s turning was the beginning of a revelation that would encourage, correct, and strengthen the churches. In the same way, when God redirects our lives, it is often so we can be used for His glory and the good of His kingdom. He may call us away from comfort, routine, or even success, so that we can be part of something greater. He may call us to participate in His redemptive work in the world (Matthew 28:19–20).

Ultimately, God calls us to a different direction because He loves us and desires what is best for us. He knows the plans He has for us (Jeremiah 29:11), and His ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8–9). Like John, we are called to listen, turn, and follow wherever He leads, trusting that His direction is always good. It may not be comfortable. It may not be easy. It may not be safe. We sing, “Where He leads me, I will follow.” Do we mean what we sing? I encourage you to be willing to follow Him anywhere. What brings Him glory is for our good.

Letter from Pastor Chuck

Letter from Sergio Wooden

Blessings one and all. We pray that our Lord and Savior has kept you and is enabling you to make a difference in our world today. Whether you are doing so with a kind and compassionate word, make a difference. Or if you are intentionally doing the work of God's kingdom, make a difference. Whether you are making a difference in your home, at your job, within the community, or while at church, be a difference maker.

Why is it important for us to be difference makers? There are several reasons, which we will get to, but we are called as God's people to make a difference in the world. It is important for us to be this, because God has entrusted us to show the world all the different options there are to living life well. We have been given the task of showing what obedience, submission, and righteous living looks like to those who do not believe that such things lead to a good life.

Let us look at 1 Samuel 15:22 which declares, "And Samuel said, 'Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.'" It is clear that obedience to the Lord is what He wants from His people. In our obedience we demonstrate our ability to hear and understand what God wants from us and what desires us to do for His kingdom. Sometimes it is the simple things, like praying for others in their time of need. Other times, it is doing the difficult things, like extending forgiveness so that the church can be whole and effective. In either case, when we are obedient to the will of God, we are difference makers.

Let us next consider what it looks to submit. James 4:7-10 gives clear instructions on what submission entails. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up." We are to present ourselves in light of the goodness of God. That we are to forego the things that are inherently us and take on what God directs us. In doing so, we will surely be lifted up, because the letting go of our will is following the example of Jesus Christ and displays reverence to God.

Let us lastly ponder what it means to be righteous. In the following three passages of Scripture, we are told what it means to be righteous. Look for yourselves at what Hebrews 10:38, Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11 all have in common. They remind us that the righteous live by Faith. Not faith in ourselves or our limited abilities, but faith in God, His ultimate power and authority over all things. It is through faith in Him that things are possible. It is faith in Him that we have the strength to make it through each day. It is faith in Him that provides answers, makes a way, and gives hope. When we live a life that is righteous, no matter what happens we know that God is with us.

In each of the above situations, it is important for us to understand that this is how God would have all of His people to act, always. By acting in this way, we become difference makers. Not because we, ourselves are doing anything spectacular, but because we are willing to allow God to work through us. This is what the world needs to see as the only real option. A life that is clear in its purpose and definitive in its impact on others. When we act as God's people, we are difference makers and have the ability to change the world around us. And sometimes, we need difference makers in our personal lives, and that is why God called us to the Refuge Ministry Center. If you need help or assistance of any kind, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are available Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 5pm, and Friday 8 am to 12pm. We can be reached by via phone at 540-602-7986 or by email at counseling@rbcstafford.org or counseling2@rbcstafford.org. We stand ready to be a difference maker in your life.



GriefShare is an ongoing grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the loss of a loved one. The group meets every Monday at 10:00AM in Room 307. For more information contact:

Sergio "Woody" Wooden: counseling@rbcstafford.org

In The Wildflowers

Survivors of Sexual Abuse Support Group: This is a 10 week DVD driven series for women only, presented by the American Association of Christian Counselors. Contact Elena Johnson and Stephanie Wheeler for more information.

DivorceCare

The Refuge Ministry Center is offering DivorceCare on Tuesdays. DivorceCare is a thirteen-week Christ-centered support group for those who have experienced the devastating breakup of a marriage. For more information, please contact Kim Colson at counseling2@rbcstafford.org or Sergio Wooden at counseling@rbcstafford.org. This support group is on Tuesdays at 6:00PM.

Food Pantry

Want to volunteer in the church food pantry and make a difference in our community?

There are multiple days/times to help:

Monday: Shopping/Box Prep

Tuesday: Pantry 8:30AM-10:00AM

Fridays: Donation Pickup/Sorting

Saturday/Sunday: Donation Pickup

Women Overcoming Depression

Perhaps you have felt down, lethargic, or out of sorts for a few weeks, or maybe this heaviness has smothered you for months...even years. THINGS ARE NOT HOPELESS...YOU ARE NOT HELPLESS...YOU ARE NOT WORTHLESS. If you feel you are experiencing defeat in any area of your life, you are welcome to join this group of overcomers as we meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. For more information, or to sign up for this group, please contact Pattie Foster at pattiecakes84@comcast.net

November 11th and 25th at 1:00PM in Rm 306.

Updates from the Women's Ministry

Hello Ramoth Church Family,

As we near the end of the year and busyness seems to ramp up, let's remind each other to just breathe, slow down and soak in the little moments, because it's the little moments that tend to make us smile and that we treasure most. But how do we find balance in such busy times to enjoy the little moments, when the world is telling us to go, go, go, but our minds and sometimes even our bodies just can't keep up?



First and foremost, we must spend time with our Heavenly Father daily, whether we are in His word, in prayer, worship or quiet time.

When we align our thoughts and hearts with His, He will align our steps and straighten our paths (Proverbs 3:5-6). God will guide, equip and strengthen us to do the things that He desires us to do (Isaiah 58:11) for His Kingdom and His glory. He will give us wisdom and discernment to know when to say yes, when to step out in faith even though we're afraid, and even when to say no and slow down. (Psalm 32:8).

Second, we have to trust that Our Creator knows what is best, then actually listen and obey. That usually is the tricky part when we get stuck in the cycle of busyness, when we think that if we don't do it, no one else will or something will fall through the cracks. While sometimes that can be the case, we simply cannot carry or do it all on our own. I am reminded of the story of the man and the wheelbarrow. God gave this man a rock and asked him to carry it up the hill to a certain destination. The man was thrilled, honored and excited to take on the task, singing and worshiping God



along the way, but as he continued up the hill, he kept running into friends and neighbors, each asking if he could take their rocks up the hill because they were just too busy. As the man is trudging along, getting more tired, frustrated and eventually resentful towards God, he started to complain, saying, "Why am I stuck doing this all by myself?!" God met the man along the way and asked him, "Why is your wheelbarrow so full, where did all of the other rocks come from?" The man explained what happened, frustrated at His Lord for the task that He gave him and God responded so gently and lovingly saying, "But I didn't ask you to take the extra weight, I asked you to only take this one", handing the man the original rock He gave. I think some of us tend to do that in our own lives. We say yes and start piling it all on, but are we listening to God and what He is asking us to



do? Or have we even become the neighbor or friend, expecting those around us to carry the load, causing those that we say we care about, to become overwhelmed, tired, and burnt out?

Lastly, although this is something we should continually do first, is surrender to God; surrender our hearts, minds, thoughts and lives to Him (Matthew 22:36-38).



When we live in surrender connected to the Vine, which is Christ, then we will be willing to trust and obey immediately, not after we've tried our way(s) first. We will learn to live in the abundance of love, joy and peace that only our Savior can give and accept only the tasks that He asks and equips us to take with continued excitement and joy (Ephesians 3). We will be able to work together in unity as children of the One True King, pulling our own wheelbarrows along the way and actually having the energy, time and mindset to slow down and enjoy the little moments, not letting them pass us by. For it is the little moments that matter, the ones we reflect on and smile about, the ones that become treasures in our hearts of past times that we cannot get back. So slow down, breathe, and know that God has a plan and purpose specifically for you, for you were wonderfully and fearfully made to be woven into His story for His glory (Psalms 139:14).

Upcoming Events:

Sat, Nov 1st RBC Fall Festival Volunteer Opportunities

Location: RBC

Time: 11:00am-3:00pm

We are looking for volunteers to work in various stations throughout the day, please check out the Women's Ministry table to sign up for the Registration Table or the Fall Festival Table for all other opportunities!

Sun, Nov 2nd: Every first Sunday of the month is hat Sunday, and all ladies who want to participate are encouraged to wear a hat to church. Any questions just ask, but it's that simple, you just need to wear a hat!

Sat, Nov 8th: FIT Workshop – Real Talk: Women's Health & Wellness

Location: RBC Fellowship Hall

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Leader: Becky White (beckyricks44@yahoo.com)

Join us for an open and engaging "Real Talk" designed specifically for women navigating the many stages of health and well-being. This interactive discussion will cover key topics that impact our daily lives—from staying active and managing weight in a realistic, sustainable way, to reducing stress and supporting mental balance. We'll also explore the role of vitamins, supplements, and herbal remedies in overall wellness, and take a deeper dive into the unique challenges of perimenopause and menopause.

This is a safe, supportive space where women can share experiences, ask questions, and learn practical strategies for creating balance and vitality at every stage of life. Whether you're curious about how to tailor exercise to your changing body, searching for natural ways to support hormone health, or simply want to connect with others on a similar journey, this talk shop will leave you informed, inspired, and empowered.

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price, therefore honor God with your bodies." 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20

Tuesdays, Nov 11th & 25th: Prayer Group

Location: RBC Prayer Room (located in the Sanctuary to the Left of the stage)

Time: 6:30pm

Join with other women for a bi-weekly prayer group. Contact Lidia Lungoccia for more info (540-840-5729).

Wed, Nov 12th Women's Ministry Wednesday Night Dinner

Location: RBC

Time: Dinner starts at 5pm

We are looking for volunteers to make 3 croc-pots of sausage gravy to be dropped off sometime on Wednesday by 4pm. We are also looking for food prep help on Tuesday the 11th and set-up/serving/clean-up on Wednesday the 12th. See the WM table in the foyer to sign-up and come join us for a few days of fun and fellowship as we prepare breakfast for dinner!

Sat, Nov 15th & Dec 13th: FIT Workshop – Fiber & Fellowship

Location: RBC Fellowship Hall on Nov 15th / Chapel on Dec 13th

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Leader: Sarah Fraley (natasha25461@gmail.com)

The Knitting and Crochet group offers fiber and fellowship as we use our talents for the good of our church and our community. Each season we will tackle a new project for ministry. Join us this fall as we create baby items for IMGNLife and adult hats and wash cloths with soap for Micah Ministries and the Thurman Brisben Center. The Goal is 40 adult hats, 100 washcloths and 15 baby blankets. If you are new to knitting and crochet please join us and you will be taught starting on an easy project. Everyone at all levels is welcome!

Save the Date

Sat, Dec 6th: Christmas Ornament Exchange

Location: RBC Fellowship Hall

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Bring a brunch dish to share and a wrapped ornament as we fellowship, exchange ornaments and reflect on this beautiful season of celebrating our Savior's birth!

Save the Date

Sat, Jan 31st: RBC Women's Conference 2026

Location: RBC

Time: TBD

Save the Date

Sat, Mar 14th: RBC Mission's Tea 2026

Location: RBC Fellowship Hall

Time: TBD

Needs and Thank You's!

Thank you to all of you who participated in the October FIT Workshops and the Grave's Mountain Apple Harvest Day! These were beautiful days of fellowship, service and fun as we continued to grow together in unity as a church. Thank you so much to those of you who give your talents, time and efforts to coordinate and lead these events, you are truly appreciated and such a treasure!

Thank you to all of you who showed your love, support and appreciation to our Pastor's during Pastor Appreciation month!

Needs:

We are always looking for new ideas for F.I.T. Workshops to add to our schedule. If you have a talent you would like to share with our ladies, or lead a workshop of any kind (crafty, fitness, educational, cooking, etc.) please reach out to the Women's Ministry. Any and all ideas are welcome!

We are looking for ladies that enjoy sewing (by hand or with machine) because there is interest in starting a sewing group for the women of our church. If you would like to share your talent of sewing, or would like to learn, please reach out.

If you are interested in helping with any of these upcoming events, please reach out to Denise Johnson or Pachess Wooden. Their contact information is below:

Pachess Wooden
(207) 632-7334
pachessu@yahoo.com

Denise Johnson
(703) 283-5957
d09johnson@gmail.com



1. Taking care of your family (Part 5). Power outages.

Generators – these come as standalone plug in systems or pigtail connection into the home power fuse box. Gas powered generators require refuel. Consider safe fuel storage. PL requires propane tanks either portable or a direct connect home tank.

Grills – use gas or charcoal grills for cooking outside only.

Kerosene heaters – can be used for indoor heating. Beware. Read all instructions. Safety concerns for elderly & kids. This has a distinct smell.

LP Heaters – Research & read before use. These need ventilation for many.

Camp stoves – Use these outside only.

Auto power outlets – You can plug appliances into Your truck or auto outlet.

2. Thanksgiving and the 10th Commandment. If you followed the Commandment series, you'll remember each commandment carries a positive & negative side. The 10th commandment contrasted Coveting vs. Contentment. Contentment yields gratitude. This is the underlying intent of celebrating Thanksgiving. Grateful hearts acknowledge the many blessings we received throughout the year. Here's an anonymous poem to helps us consider what we are grateful for during the last year.

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
 Count your gains instead of your losses.
 Count your joys instead of your woes;
 Count your friends instead of your foes.
 Count your smiles instead of your tears;
 Count your courage instead of your fears.
 Count your full years instead of your lean;
 Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
 Count your health instead of your wealth;
 Count on God instead of yourself.

--Anonymous

Men's Ministry: If you'd like to get involved, join the fun & fellowship. Contact the church office for more info. Rod Montgomery @ (540) 623-7651 e-mail at SitNChip@gmail.com

7 AM Saturday Study

Fellowship Hall – Rod Montgomery

Integritas Weekly Men's Bible Study & Prayer is focused on many aspects of the Bible undergirding Christian foundations & heritage for family, church & country, as well as our need for obedience to it.

Come enjoy some breakfast with us, too.

Read & Study His Love Story to you—the Bible.

Nov 25—We will be continuing to study Isaiah. There is much to learn about Israel, their future & our own future—The Millenium and The Kingdom.



Iron Sharpens Iron

7 PM - 3rd & 17th - Nov 25

Kerry Knowles

Join with men of Iron Sharpens Iron as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. We meet the first and third Mondays of the month. Join for fellowship and Biblical studies.

Every Man a Warrior

Sunday 5:30 PM - Led by Heath Hunter, many men are finding this is to be an exciting new discipleship study. This Bible study gives men the tools to sharpen their spiritual battle skills. Dropping a teen off for church activities? - It's a perfect time to join the study while you wait.

There are new study groups developing. Why not see if you might be able to fit in one of them.

For more information, contact the church office or

Heath Hunter (912) 596-8294
 philliphhunter38@gmail.com

Tim Eicher (540) 907-1545
 teicher93@gmail.com

Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689
 fllungoccia@gmail.com

BEING GRATEFUL AND CONTENT FOR OUR NATION'S GODLY HERITAGE

Remember in our 10 Commandments series when we spoke about contentment rather than coveting. Thanksgiving is a time for us to practice that contentment through gratitude for what God Has provided for us.

Our nation was conceived as a place of promise to *display* and *advance* the Christian Faith. Do not let anyone try to tell you anything different. While there are times of chaos and confusion all around us that give us pause as to wonder, we know that God is in control who, in His perfect timing, will bring all things into a just and righteous state. In the meantime, we are here to bring the Good News to those who have not heard it.

Thanksgiving is a time we can share the Gospel. People are open to hearing the Good News There are documents and writings throughout our History that substantiate the intent of those who came here and many who followed. The May Flower Compact is one of our first written here,

May Flower Compact. IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King *James*, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, King, *Defender of the Faith*, &c. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of *Virginia*; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. **IN WITNESS** whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at *Cape-Cod* the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *James*, of *England, France, and Ireland*, the eighteenth, and of *Scotland* the fifty-fourth, *Anno Domini*; 1620

Governor John Winthrop's Vision for New England

Indeed, those who first came to the shores of our great nation knew that God had guided them and was leading them in every step of their journey. One such leader was Governor John Winthrop who came to New England aboard the *Arabella* in 1630. Pursuing his passion to honor God and serve Him faithfully, Winthrop worked to found the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Settling in Boston, just to the north of the first settlement at Plymouth Colony, Winthrop and his fellow Puritans wanted to create the perfect society of people in fellowship with one another and with God. His vision is summed up in these words: *For we must consider that we shall be as a City upon a Hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. So that if we shall deal falsely with our God in this*



work we have undertaken, and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword the throughout the world. --John Winthrop, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1630

On Being Grateful

Thomas á Kempis, 16th century priest and writer: *Be thankful for the smallest blessing, and you will deserve to receive greater. Value the least gifts no less than the greatest and simple graces as especial favors. If you remember the dignity of the Giver, no gift will seem small or mean, for nothing can be valueless that is given by the Most High God. --*

William Law, 18th century pastor and theologian: *Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world? It is not he who prays most or fasts most; it is not he who gives most alms, or is most eminent for temperance, chastity, or justice; but it is he who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that God willeth, who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness, and has a heart always ready to praise God for it.*

R.T Kendall, 20th century pastor and writer: *Gratitude is a feeling, but it is more than a feeling. Gratitude is also demonstrated by what we do; it may be a sacrifice in that we don't have an overwhelming feeling. Sometimes we feel grateful, sometimes we do not. But we must always be grateful, whether or not we feel it. We must do it, that is, demonstrate gratitude not only by words but also by deeds.*

Candy Corn Season – Another story of Gratitude

Yup, it's that time of year again. But let's take a different look at how we might use Candy Corn to celebrate Thanksgiving with your family in a story that goes back to the Pilgrims first winters in Plymouth.

Honor the true meaning of Thanksgiving with this charming history & legend of the first Thanksgiving as your families gather in gratitude to celebrate and recognize God's Blessings -- *The Legend of the 5 Kernels of Corn*

In September 1620, approximately 100 English men and women, the Pilgrims, a group in search of religious freedom, set sail for the New World aboard the Mayflower. On November 11, 1620, the Mayflower landed on what we now know as the northern tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts and anchored at Plymouth Rock. It was there that they would form the first permanent settlement in New England.

Settling in a new land proved to be immensely difficult, and the Pilgrims faced unimaginable hardships. As winter set in, they endured bitter cold and severe food shortages. More than half of the original settlers died during the first winter.

The harvest of 1621 was abundant thanks to the help of their friend, an Indian named Squanto, who had helped them plant crops and grow and store food. He also taught them how and where to fish. Were it not for his help, many, including Gov. Bradford, believed they would have starved to death. Governor William Bradford declared a Day of Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims celebrated with 90 Indians, enjoying a three-day-long feast.

Then came the harsh winter of 1621, their food supply dwindled to the point that sometimes only five kernels of corn were rationed per person. Yet, even in such scarcity, those five kernels symbolized gratitude. When something is seen as a blessing, however small, it can be immense in its significance.

Later on, the new colony's food supply was greatly depleted after 35 British travelers arrived on a ship. Many colonists died that winter from sickness and starvation. The winter of 1621-1622 they were reduced to daily rations of five kernels of corn per person. Just barely two years after their arrival, by the spring of 1622, the Pilgrims were starving.

Twelve weeks of drought dried up their crops in April 1623. Desperate and crying out to God they gathered as a group and fasted and prayed for eight hours straight. The next morning they reported that a gentle rain fell on their land and continued for 14 days. Their crops were saved, and what they thought was lost was now abundant. They even had a surplus of corn, which only a few months earlier had seemed unimaginable. By Thanksgiving 1623, the Pilgrims had an abundance of food to eat but began their celebration differently. Before their meal they placed five kernels of corn on their plates to remind them of how much God had provided for them, "lest anyone should forget."

At your Thanksgiving meal, place 5 kernels of corn on each plate. You can use Candy Corn, too. Sergio "Woody" Wooden would. The five kernels of corn help us to remember five things for which we are thankful.

"Give thanks in all things, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

- **Kernel 1:** I am thankful that **God loves me.**
- **Kernel 2:** I am thankful that **God provides for my needs.**
- **Kernel 3:** I am thankful for my **friends.**
- **Kernel 4:** I am thankful for my **family.**
- **Kernel 5:** I am thankful that **God hears and answers prayers.**

Take turns going around the table each Thanksgiving, with everyone sharing five things they're grateful for. There will be stories remembered, family history, laughter, tears, acknowledgements and warm memories shared in gratitude. God's presence will be felt. Our gratitude will be a praise raised before the Throne.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving & his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Ps 100:4.



Prime Timers' Updates

November 20, 2025

Theme:

Give Thanks

Menu:

Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, and Dressing
Please Bring Sides and/or Desserts

Host/Hostess:

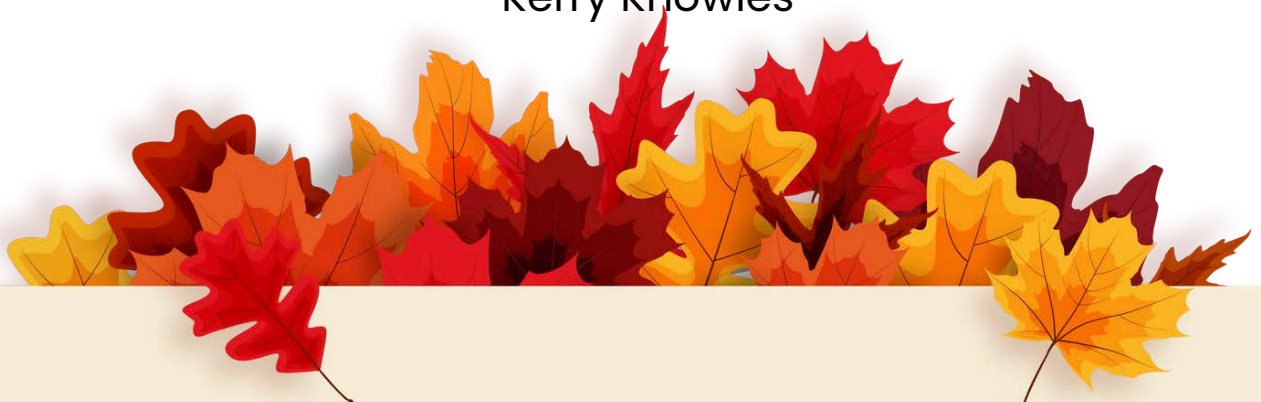
Margaret Canter, Virginia Armstrong, Paul Germain

Decorator:

Brenda Weaver

Guest Speaker/ Testimony:

Kerry Knowles



1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

3 For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

From the desk of the Director

Making sense of this broken world.
There is one question that children and adults alike ask when trying to understand life.

Why does God let bad things happen?

When we try to answer this question without the right foundation, we lack a sufficient solution. The right foundation will give us a solid answer and point us to our comfort.

God's Word should be the foundation for our answer. In the beginning, God created the world in six days and said it was "very good" (Genesis 1). Man disobeyed God, which is called sin. Man's sin brought death, suffering, pain, disease, and brokenness into the world.

That isn't the end. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus Christ, His only Son, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, was buried, and rose again, defeating death.

So, man is the cause of the brokenness, but Jesus is the solution.

Our hope in Jesus is eternal and can help us through the pain and suffering that we will face in our lives. We are not promised a life without pain and suffering.

Jesus tells us in John 16:33, that we will have tribulation in this world.

The next time you hear someone ask this question, point them to a solid foundation. Go, comfort and encourage one another through the hard times knowing that our hope in Jesus is eternal.



An article for kids:

<https://kidsanswers.org/why-does-god-let-bad-things-happen/>

An article for adults:

<https://answersingenesis.org/suffering/why-does-god-allow-bad-things-to-happen/>

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

AWANA

November

- 5 Regular Club Night
- 12 Patriotic Night **Red, White, & Blue
- 19 Round Up Night **Wild West/Cowboy
- 26 NO CLUB "HAPPY THANKSGIVING!"

December

- 3 Christmas Wear Night
- 10 AWANA Christmas Store
- Winter Break

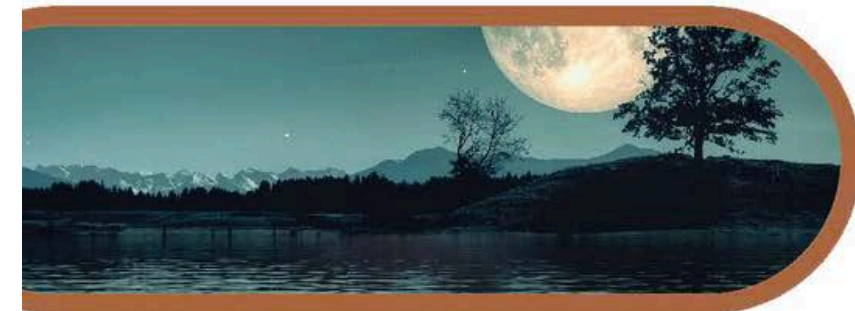


Creation

Children's Church Lessons

November

- 2 Creation: Days and Kinds
- 9 Creation: Animals and Man
- 16 Creation: Adam and Eve
- 23 God Made Dinosaurs
- 30 The Age of the Earth



Memory Verses

Psalms 8:3-4

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Psalms 8:5-6

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Kids Answers:

<https://kidsanswers.org/>

October RUHM Happenings



Rise Up Homeschool Ministry (RUHM) filled October with learning, fun, praise, and fellowship!

Fall is in the air! Our youngest students met at a local park for pumpkin painting, while our older kids enjoyed a fall bonfire. Like many public and private schools, RUHM celebrates "spirit days" to show school spirit. This month's spirit day was all about fall! Lots of cozy sweaters, fuzzy socks, and pumpkins. Speaking of festive fall attire, students dressed in their back-to-school best for fall photos!

Classes taught students about famous people contributing to American history, ancient engineering techniques such as the post and lintel system, the names of animals and other vocabulary in Spanish, how to make several Spanish recipes such as made-from-scratch guacamole, multiplication tables, and more! Students learned five new scripture verses and worship songs, one each week we met in October.



As part of RUHM's continuing effort to give back to the wonderful church that gives our ministry a home, RUHM provided the Wednesday night dinner on October 15th. We loved the opportunity to meet and serve Ramoth families and feel a part of the RBC community. Additionally, RUHM built twelve baskets for the Fall Festival!

RUHM will wrap up the fall semester on November 20th. We have so much fun, fellowship, and learning to pack into a few short weeks!

For us to prepare enough food for you and/or your family make sure to register for the dinner the Monday right before it by 5:00 PM on the church website or by calling the office.

Dinners are \$5 per person or \$25 per family of 5 or more.

If you have questions or need help registering, contact Tammy Snyder at bookkeeper@rbcstafford.org or by calling the church office.

Wednesday Night Dinner

November 5

Nate Ewoldt's Team—Ham, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans and Chocolate Cake for Dessert

November 12

Women's Ministry— Breakfast Casseroles, Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Bacon, Chicken Biscuits, Fruit and Breakfast Pastry.

November 19

Jaynie Hudson's Team— Pork Tenderloin, Fall Veggies and Dessert



November Birthdays

November 1

Sylvia Sullivan

November 2

Matthew Ngalla
David Shelton
Darrin Whaley

November 6

Nora Sheleva
Beau Williams

November 7

Judy Stanback

November 8

Linda Buckles
Jenny Forrester
David Jett

November 9

Trinity Herencia
Pete Johnson

November 12

Seth Taah

November 13

Jaynie Hudson
Kerry Knowles

November 15

John Treida

November 16

Sharon Kolandjian



November 17

Vera Dickerson

November 18

Suzanne France

November 21

Seraphine Mehochko

November 23

Kristie Hooke
Judy Sokolowski

November 24

Gabriela Morales

November 27

Randy Colson
Alexander Kolandjian
James Sheleva
MacKenize Turner

November 29

Pattie Foster
Elena Johnson
Brianna Scott

Hughes Home Riverhouse

Cheryl Krupka

November 2

Brenda Lawson

November 5

Michael "Mike" Wilson

November 8

Virginia Garrett

November 8

Fran Boczon

November 9

Gertrude "Trudy" Critcher

November 19

Thomas "Tom" Purtell

November 20

Jerry Hunt

November 24

Mary Thompson

November 26

Stewardship

Offerings

GENERAL FUND

DESIGNATED FUND

EXPENSES

Cemetery Fund

MOWING

DONATED



Average Attendance

SUNDAY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS

Welcome New Member

Hughes Home Riverhouse

DONATIONS

The Hughes Home Riverhouse Ministry is always accepting Depends, in all sizes, but need more larger sizes.

MAIL A CARD!

NAME OF PERSON C/O HUGHES HOME 100 CAROLINE STREET
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22401

Worship Service & Sunday School Schedule

Early Service & Sunday School 9:00–10:00AM Adult Schedule

Location	Class	Teachers	Curriculum
301	Adult 7	P. Bowman & R. Colson	Explore/Gospel Project
305	Adult 3	G. Graham	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life
306	Senior Men	K. Knowles	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life
Chapel	Ladies' Class	T. Harrell & K. Colson	Gospel of Mark
Fellowship Hall	Adult 5	C. Adams & H. Hunter	Journey thru Scripture: Book of Revelation

Late Service & Sunday School 10:30–11:30AM Adult Schedule

Location	Class	Teachers	Curriculum
301	Adult 2	G. Bennett	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life
305	Adult 1	P. Johnson & M. Wheeler	Book of Revelation
306	Adult 4	P. Mentee & M. Canter	Lifeway Bible Studies for Life
307	Adult 8	C. Turman & S. Springer	OT Survey: Ezra & Nehemiah
Chapel	Young Adults	M. Sarkissian & N. Ewoldt	Life Change Bible Studies: Job

Contact Us

Senior Pastor
Dr. Richard Harrell
(540) 659-4588 ext. 3
(540) 484-3948
docharrell@gmail.com

Associate Pastor of Worship
Chuck Hite
(540) 659-4588 ext. 5
(540) 429-4291
worship@rbcstafford.org

Director of Refuge Ministry
Sergio Wooden
(540) 602-7986 ext. 1
(207) 632-8876
counseling@rbcstafford.org

Financial Ministry Assistant
Tammy Snyder
(540) 659-4588 ext. 7
bookkeeper@rbcstafford.org

Associate Pastor of Students
Position Open
(540) 659-4588 ext. 4
(703) 935-9485
students@rbcstafford.org

Director of Media and Communication
Jessica Kelley
(540) 659-4588
media@rbcstafford.org

Facilities Manager
Jim Garrison
(540) 659-4588 ext. 8
facilities@rbcstafford.org

Children's Ministry Director
Jenny Forrester
(540) 659-4588 ext. 6
children@rbcstafford.org

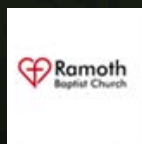
Administrative Assistant
Kati Justice
(540) 659-4588 ext. 2
admin@rbcstafford.org

Associate Counselor
Kim Colson
(540) 602-7986 ext. 2
counseling2@rbcstafford.org

Ways to Give

Online: rbcstafford.org

Download our App:



Mail: 478 Ramoth Church Road,
Stafford, VA 22554

