

February 2024

Volume 43, Issue 2

Worship Schedule

Wednesdays

5:00pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00pm AWANA

6:30pm Adult Bible Study

6:30pm Worship Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm Worship Team Rehearsal

Sundays

8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 6:30pm Youth Group

Bible Studies and Activities are scheduled throughout the week.

Ramoth Baptist Church 478 Ramoth Church Road Stafford, VA 22554 rbcstafford.org

Events

VBS Decorating Interest Meeting February 4, 2024 12:30pm

All willing hands welcome! Contact children@rbcstafford.org.

Ramoth Family Skate Night February 10, 2024 5:30pm

Join us at Cavalier Family Skating Center.

Virginia March For Life February 21, 2024

Contact worship@rbcstafford.org to join us in Richmond, VA.

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Love God, Love People, vange Our World

Senior Pastor

Greetings,

I shared this article with you about a year ago and in preparing the message for this article, I thought I should share it again. This is an article from The Christian Post of a question and answer interview with Dr. Michael L. Brown about his book entitled WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE LEFT THE FAITH. The reason I want to share this article again is that it seems to still be true today and many people, as I shared with you in last week's message, are very critical when it comes to identifying the church or identifying with the church. Criticism comes from that, sad to say, from inside the church as well as from outside the church. If we could only identify with the description of the early New Testament Church in Acts 2:42-47 what a difference the church would be, both inside and outside.

The article begins by stating that in recent years, a large number of believers in the United States and many prominent Christian leaders have left Christianity and no longer have any religious affiliation. From that first statement we see that it's only gotten worse. Just last week I read another article that was also very disturbing. It stated that "42 percent of the pastors serving today and considering retiring or leaving ministry completely. The reasons were about all the same. And to put those reasons in common good ol' country boy terms, which that's what I am, they said they were tired of trying to work with disobedience, critical people who were claiming to be Christians but showed no visible evidence in the way they lived their lives. Dr. Brown in his book addresses this issue by reaching out to many of those who have left and also seeking their reasons for leaving and to show them why they should return. He states that this is something he hasn't seen before in his 51 years knowing the Lord.

Here is one question that was asked in this interview.

"You listed numerous factors that you believe are creating this falling away in American Christianity. They included the rise of New Atheist writers, the politicizing of the Gospel, public scandals of Church leaders, and so forth. Which of these factors do you believe contributes the most to the falling away of American Christians?"

He follows with this answer. "Honestly, I don't think there's any one factor. When I talk to different people who are on the front lines of answering questions that strugglers have and others who are doing youth ministry, each one will tell me something different.

I've watched how the objections that became very popular with the New Atheists about 16 or 17 years ago with the rise of Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens and others, that those trickle their way down to the culture so that there's more of a skepticism toward the Bible and more of an antagonism toward God. I've seen that unmistakably.

I've seen the arguments of agnostic scholars like Bart Ehrman and how that's trickles down to people thinking that the New Testament is not trustworthy. I've seen how many – especially younger people – have been driven away from the church, because they have associated the church as an appendage to a particular political party and associated the Gospel with being rightwing or something like that.

I've seen how leadership scandals have made people wonder, 'Who can I really trust?' I've seen how the abundance of iniquity, as Jesus said, 'because iniquity will abound, the love of many will wax cold.' I've seen how that's hurt people. Porn being so ubiquitous and how many people have struggled with

Deacons of the Week

February 4

Matt Canter (540) 845-3185 Danny Null

(540) 720-3739

February 11

Max Waugh (540) 295-3306

Greg Kolandjian (540) 286-2575

February 18

Dan Mehochko (540) 272-8137

Paul Germain (540) 216-1250

February 25

Matt Wheeler (760) 401-4708

Brian Doerr (540) 429-8379

it, then fall under guilt, condemnation and fall away.

So, in that sense, it's a bit of a perfect storm. And then also, I list the effects of a compromised Gospel, that our failure to preach a clear call to discipleship and a clear message of the cross for a whole generation has produced a lot of Christians who really aren't Christians at all. They heard a form of the Gospel, which is kind of a positive life coach approach, but haven't really been transformed. So, all these factors coming together have created the situation in which we find ourselves."

This is a great article and paints a pretty bleak picture of Christianity and the Church, but it goes along with what I have shared with you several times before and that is, "God's church is not in trouble. It's man's church that's in trouble." For me, as I prepare each week, I want to make sure that what I give you is the truth of God's Word. It's every believer's responsibility to stand against the false teachings as the Apostle John has told us in 1 John 1-5 and to "speak Jesus." (Read 1 John to get the picture.)

Dr. Richard Harrell

Exalted Worship Ministry

Love

Love! When we think of February, we always think of love. We think of Valentine's Day and the love in our lives. We think of our true love, our children, our families. We think of the things we love to do, places we love to go, and things we love to eat.

Christians think of the One who loved us before we loved Him. In 1 John 4:19 we read, "We love because He first loved us." I don't know why He loves us. I know we are His creation, but at some point, you would think He would just wash His hands of all humanity and start again. But He didn't. He doesn't. He continues to love us.

We all know the verse. John 3:16 says, "For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." I still can't imagine that kind of love

I am grateful for it. I accept it. I rejoice in it. But I don't understand it.

I love my wife and would give my life for her, but she is not the rotten, evil, undeserving, hating person that I was when God loved me before I loved Him. His love is unimaginable. His love is far greater than any love we can ever give in return.

Isn't that something we should share? Love. Burt Bacharach said, "What the world needs now is love sweet love." The beetles sang, "All you need is love." Most of the songs written are written about love. If the world knows that love is so important, shouldn't we share the greatest love of all?

You say, "I'll be rejected." Yes, you are probably right, but isn't it worth the risk? Besides, you are not the one being rejected. They are rejecting the love of God not the love of man. Still, they need a chance. They don't deserve it, but they need it. We didn't deserve it either and we certainly needed it.

I spend a lot of time talking about my life verses. Here they are again. Mark 12:30-31 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."

We are to love. If we love, we will share. If we do not, we have broken a command from God. In fact, we have broken His greatest command.

Love God. Love People. Everything we do starts with a love for God. Worship. Giving. Prayer. Growth. It continues with the love for people. We don't love the sin in their lives. We love the value they have as Imago Dei. They are created in the image of God and have value to God. We should value them as well. That is a real problem in today's society. We no longer value all human life. We think some people are disposable. Whether they are so evil that we think they cannot be saved or whether they have chosen to rebel against God and like Pharoah have hardened their hearts to Him or whether they simply haven't been born yet. We do not have the right to give up on or throw anyone away.

We must love the way God does. We must see them beyond creation and see them as believers. As children. God's children. A brother and sister in Christ. God's family. No one is excluded. There is room for all who believe, but how can they believe unless we tell them?

Love for people is shown in our actions. Missions. Prayer. Outreach. Friendship. Relationship. What we do shows people how we love.

February is the month we celebrate love. Take time and share love with people this February and put your love into action. Share the gospel with someone. God will do the rest.





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Refuge Ministry

Brothers and sisters, in the name of Jesus Christ, we greet you once more. We pray that this reading finds you well and blessed by our Lord and Savior. We are moving right along in this new year, and we are wanting to tackle new challenges as we do so. In last month's article we talked about being bold in the things that God has called us to do and in the people that God has called us to be. However, when we choose to be bold, we must also deal with some of the inevitable distractions and detractors that come with living in a fallen world.

One of the greatest distractions that we can face in life as believers are myths or lies about things that we might need. The myths are often rooted in misinformation or are formed by lack of trust. Lies are inventions by those who are afraid of the things that are being offered as solutions or just plain nonsense. In either case, it is always best to evaluate the myths or lies from the perspective of what is real versus what is a perception of reality.

So, today we are going to address three of the top myths/lies related to Christian counseling. We hope that this will be helpful and informative, as we believe it is always necessary to combat falsehoods with truth. This speaks to the heart of why so many do not seek the assistance that is available through Christian counseling. This speaks to why so many continue to struggle in life, lacking the help they so desperately need. Let us now speak truth, hope, and life against these damaging myths and lies. Myth #1. Christian counselors will judge and condemn me for the things that I have done. First things first, God is the only one capable of judging any of us. He is the only one righteous or just enough to do so. Second, judging or condemning you is not the role that a Christian counselor is to take. They instead are to help you see the need for God's assistance to address the issues or struggles that a person is facing. They are also to be encouragers to the person that is going through God's corrective plan for their lives. This is the nature of the Christian counselor's role, and they would be doing a disservice to their calling, if they did anything contrary to this.

Myth #2. Christian counselors cannot or will not understand me and all of my problems. This is an improperly presented statement. Only God knows and fully understands you and all the things that you are going through in life. However, He has gifted and equipped some of His people with an extra degree of sympathy, an extra measure of empathy, and an extra helping of understanding and discernment. God's counselors will readily use these gifts and equipping to ensure that people in need will get the help that they deserve. We should also consider that counselors are people too, who might have been delivered from things that gives them a level of experience and understanding that might be helpful as well. This would serve as a blessing being passed on, so that someone else could be blessed by it.

Myth #3. Christian counselors only want to preach to you, not help you. Preaching is not what a Christian counselor is called to do. Any Christian counselor worth their salt, knows this and does not operate in a preaching manner. Instead, they should be directing you to what God's word says about your specific situation. They should be encouraging you to change with the assistance of God's word. They should be sincere accountability partners, honest and faithful confidants, and trustworthy and dependable helpers. If they are focused on being these things, they surely cannot have time to preach to you. But they can share with you God's truth, with grace and mercy, so that you can find the hope, help, and healing that you need.

Today, we covered the top three myths/lies about Christian counseling. There are plenty more misconceptions, misunderstandings, and misrepresentations of Christian counselors. And hopefully, we will at another time be able to address them. Should any of you, have questions or concerns regarding Christian counseling, we would love to hear from you. We would love to potentially address them in an article if that is God's desire. We want those of you reading, to just know that God is in the midst of this ministry effort.

As always, if you or someone you know needs our assistance, please let us know. If there is a way that you would like to be involved in what we are doing, just ask how you can help. Someone is available through the Refuge Ministry Center, Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm, and from 8am to noon on Fridays. If you want to reach us via email you can at counseling@rbcstafford.org or counseling2@rbcstafford.org. We are also available by phone at 540-602-7986. Until next time, God bless and be well.

Your Brother In Christ,

Sergio "Woody" Wooden

Refuge Ministry

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 February 13th and 27th at 10am in Room 306.

GRIEF SHARE

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 and 6:30pm in the Ramoth Chapel. For more information contact:

Sergio "Woody" Wooden counseling@rbcstafford.org

A Place of Hope, Help, and Healing

Couple's Bible Study

Couple's Bible Study is restarting in January. More information to come.

When: Thursday's at 6:30-8:15pm

Where: Chapel

What: The focus will be on a book in the Bible.

Questions: Contact Woody at 540-602-7986

FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE

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

There are multiple days/times to

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's Ministry

Hello RBC Family,



What a great start to the new year we had at the Women's Kick-Off Conference in January! Praise God for working out all the details as it was such a blessed day! We will be featuring articles in the Beacon throughout the year from the speakers at the conference, so make sure to check it out as we continue to deepen our relationship with God and remain "In Christ". We will also be posting a recording of the conference, so make sure to visit the Ramoth YouTube channel or check out the Women's Ministry page online for the link.

Trusting In Christ

"Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge." Psalms 62:8

How do we trust in Christ in the way that Psalms 62:8 states, to "trust in Him at all times?" Well, to be able to trust in someone, we must know that person and know their character, spend time with them and build a relationship together. Relationships take time, effort, and sacrifice and so, we must decide which relationships in our lives we are going to pursue and pour into. According to God's word and by His actions we know that He wants a deep and personal relationship with us, I mean, He *is* offering us to be with Him for eternity! God sent His One and Only Son to live a perfect and holy life, suffer and die for our sins on



the cross and defeat death, rising three days later, so that we may be forgiven, made new and live in eternity with Him. (John 3:16).

God wants to be the most important relationship we pursue in our lives. He wants us to seek Him with all our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13) and to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37-38). When we make time to communicate with God and build on our relationship with Him through prayer, worship, meditating and memorizing His word, we begin to learn who He is and learn of His character. When we spend time with Him daily we start to understand and know that He is trustworthy,

faithful, loving, always on time, forgiving, gracious, our Comforter, strength and so much more! When we choose to surrender to Christ, He makes us a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), praise God!

As we continue to pursue this beautiful and special relationship with Christ as a new creation, surrendering to Him daily, we grow in faith, not only learning of His character, but also of who we are In Christ. As our relationship with God deepens we grow in our desire to submit to His Authority in our lives, trusting in Him with all our heart as He makes our paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6). Our perspectives change when we focus on Him and His word and not on ourselves or our circumstances. When we start to truly believe and see that God IS working in all the details of our lives we strive to obey His word and live according to His will. We



learn to trust and know that we are His beloved children (Ephesians 5:1) and that He will never leave or forsake us! (Deuteronomy 31:6).

I know that life can get tough, that all of this is easier when things are going right and the way we want. I know when we get pushed out of our comfort zones, when the anxious thoughts come, when the fear sets in, when the circumstances around us change so quickly that we start to lose hope and we

might say, "Lord, I can't do this." But God, who is so loving, kind and gracious will respond in the perfect way that He does, in His perfect timing and say, "You can't, but I can. I am the Lord your God; I am the only One who has the Authority to forgive you and wash you white as snow, to make you a new creation. I am the only One who has the Authority to call you my beloved child. I am the only One who can equip you with the power of my Holy Spirit to do what I am calling you to do. Keep your eyes focused on Me



and trust in Me with all your heart." (John 14:14-17; Isaiah 1:18; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 5:1; Proverbs 4:20-22)

So let go, pour out your hearts to God and trust in the only One who did, who can and who does work all things out for your good and His glory! (Romans 8:28) You are priceless, treasured and known by our Father in Heaven and He wants a deep and personal relationship with you, so that you may "trust in Him at all times!"

Upcoming Events

IMGNLife Baby Bottle Campaign From January 21st – February 25th

Baby bottle campaigns help fund the pregnancy center's daily operations and meet the needs of those that want to choose life! In the past, churches have funded one and a half months of the center's operations through baby bottle campaign gifts! IMGN-Life serves Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties with a vision of a community that values all human life from the moment of conception. They are a resource center for those in crisis and want to empower those facing unplanned pregnancy with hope and life-affirming choices by providing free and confidential pregnancy tests, ultrasound confirmations, and medical consultations. IMGN Life educates the clients and their families on subjects such as healthy lifestyles, marriage, relationships and parenting.

How can you get involved? Prayerfully consider how you can help our community choose LIFE in 2024! Pick up a bottle in the foyer and fill it with cash, coin, or a check (made payable to IMGN Life). Donations can also be made online at (https://page.fundeasy.com/6491645). If you would like to donate diapers, wipes, or formula to the center, those are welcome, as well.

Quiet Time Class Tuesdays starting January 30th Location: Ramoth Baptist Church Room 305

Time: 6:30pm

Ladies - come sign-up and join us for a 4-week class on How to Have a Quiet Time with the Lord. This class will discuss the importance of having a daily quiet time and teach the skills to deepen this daily routine and grow in your relationship with God, using the Cultivating Holy Beauty method. Sign up online or in the foyer. If you have any questions please see Melody Hunter: melodyhunter35@gmail.com (912) 604-6448.

Sunday, Feb 4th: Hat Sunday- every first Sunday of the month. 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!

Panel & Potluck

Sunday February 25th, 2024

Location: Ramoth Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Ladies - come join us after church to fellowship, eat and hear more from the ladies that were on the Women's Conference Panel.

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Look for sign-ups coming soon to bring a dish to share! We hope to see you there!

Save the Date! Saturday, Apr 13: Missions Tea Party

Location: Ramoth Baptist Church

Time: TBD

Save the Date! Saturday, Apr 27th: RBC Men's Conference Volunteer Opportunities

Location: Ramoth Baptist Church Look for sign-up sheets coming soon!

Needs and Thank You's!

We will be starting F.I.T Workshops back in the spring, so please consider how you can get involved!

We are looking for workshop leaders and administrative help using Microsoft Office, planning, behind the scenes type work. Please contact Pam Null at pamelanull@gmail.com or 540-645-1674 for more information.

We are looking for volunteers to help with possible child-care needs during fellowship events, FIT workshops, evening bible studies, etc. Daytime and nighttime are needed if you are willing and able. Volunteers must have child protection training & background checks through Ramoth.

Other upcoming events....

Bi-weekly prayer groups

Ministry Fair

Quarterly service projects

Quarterly fellowship opportunities.

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 Denise Johnson

(207) 632-7334 (703) 283-5957

pachessu@yahoo.com d09johnson@gmail.com

Prime Timers Ministry

We enjoyed a Prime Timers Day out in January to Vinny's Restaurant. Lots of good food, lots of fellowship. We had a large number in attendance and a very enjoyable time. If you haven't joined us in one of our outings, you missed out. It's a fun time to get to know each other and fellowship. The food at Vinny's was really good and we got great service. We had a very nice meeting with speaker Brian Doerr, who did a wonderful job. Please watch our announcements and sign-up to join us.

Prime Timers Luncheon at Vinny's Italian Restaurant:



Old Rugged Cross

February 15, 2024

Prime Timers Ministry



"On a hill Far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross, where the dearest and best, For a world of lost sinners was slain.

"So I'll cherish the old rugged cross I will will ever be true, cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown."

Written by George Bennard, 1913

Our Menu is potluck Italian, please come and bring your special Italian dish. There will be a "sign-up" sheet in the foyer. Please stop by and sign-up to bring a side dish of your choice.

Our guest speaker is Randy Colson. Guest performer is our own Brian Justice. This will be a special one you don't want to miss. Invite a friend, come and be blessed.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next Prime Timers meeting February 15, 2024, 12:00 noon.

Margaret Canter

Integritas Men's Ministry

Content:

- 1. Quarterly Men's Breakfast—0800 27Jan24
- 2. Men cooking Wed Nite Dinner 22 Feb 24
- 3. Men's Conf./Redneck Olympics—27 Apr
- 4. The Lion Of Judah

1. Qrtly Men's Breakfast @ Golden Corral

As we depleted the breakfast buffet, the men of Ramoth, Young and Seasoned, member & guest, Saved and pursuing, got to know each other a little better and appreciate the diversity of our brothers in Christ. And of course, once again, we celebrated the every day birthday of Bob Peoples. He's so old now, I've lost count. Heath Hunter and Gary Graham gave us some inspirational nuggets of wisdom. And, three blessed winners got to take prizes home. With them.

2. Men cooking Wed Nite Dinner -

The Men's Ministry will be cooking up a special Wed night meal on 22 February 2024 Wednesday night dinner. We can use all the help we can get. If you're willing to help, contact Rod Montgomery (info below).

3. Men's Conf./Redneck Olympics—27 Apr

Yes, what you've been waiting for is finally here, **The Redneck Olympics**. In conjunction with a morning **Men's conference** in the morning titled **Be Not Conformed** followed by a **Mission BBQ lunch** leading into an afternoon **of** competition of ten challenging events making up the **Redneck Olympics**. The Swag Bag will be one to remember and the events will test your skills and patience as we enjoy fellowship.

Men's ministry doesn't just stop with a men's event or a Bible study. Men serve throughout the church in many places and in many ways. Come alongside us. Get to know the other men of the church and have some fun in fellowship at Ramoth while we reach out to witness for Christ.

If you'd like to get involved and join the fun and fellowship, you can get more information by contacting the church office, or Rod Montgomery, (540) 623-7651 or 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 our Christian foundations and heritage for family, church & country.

Come enjoy some breakfast with us, too.

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

Feb 2024—Join us as we continue in Genesis. We'll be moving thru Chap 6 and study the Flood as we highlighting the essential foundations of the Faith.

Mar 2024— Continuing in Genesis 1-11



Iron Sharpens Iron

Monday, February 5th and 19th at 7 PM

Kerry Knowles

Join with men of Ramoth in **Fellowship Hall** as we walk through the Book of Acts. As we study the ministries of Peter & Paul, we'll follow the beginnings and growth of the early church.

The reading is Acts 23. Light supper provided.

Every Man a Warrior

Sunday 5pm - 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.

For more information, contact the church office or Heath Hunter (912) 596-8294 philliphhunter38@gmail.com

Integritas Men's Ministry Continued

The Lion of Judah

Jesus is often referred to as the **Lion of Judah**. Let's take a look at where this title came from and what it means for us and how the lion is used in Scriptural imagery.

Lion symbolizes royalty, courage, strength, and power. The Biblical lion, mentioned in almost half of the Bible books, is smaller than African lion. In the Old Testament, there are eight Hebrew words for lion for various ages and gender. And, as many words are used for lion, there are many comparisons to a lion throughout Scripture.

The Israelites were very familiar with the imagery of lions in Scripture. This first mention of lion imagery is in Genesis 49:9. As the patriarch Jacob ("Israel") is reaching the end of his life, he is passing on his blessing to his 12 sons. Judah was the fourth of his twelve sons. The descendants of these sons formed the twelve tribes of Israel.

Genesis 49:8-12 ⁸ Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. ⁹ Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. ¹¹ Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: ¹² His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

Thus Jacob's blessing became a symbol to the tribe of Judah when he refers to his son Judah as "Young Lion", a whelp.

A reference to the tribe of Judah becomes a reference to the human or natural lineage of Christ through the patriarch Jacob as listed in Matt 1:1-2 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren:

The Israelites knew lions from the pastoralists – those herding sheep – those out in the pastures protected flocks from lions, shepherds such as David protected flocks.

1 Sam 17:34,36 But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a **lion** or a bear came and took a sheep from the flock,...your servant has killed both the **lion** and the bear; While lions stalked hills and thickets of Palestine and had lairs in the thickets of the Jordan River, they were no real threat to the general population. But they were fearsome. Their roar can be heard for miles. This added to the fear factor. Thus, lions were often a symbol of dread.

Psalm 57:4 My soul is among **lion**s; I must lie among those who devour, Among sons of mankind whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue is a sharp sword.

But a lion was also used as a symbol of our Enemy, Satan.

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring **lion**, seeking someone to devour.

Today, the lion is still traditionally regarded as the symbol of the tribe of Judah (in Hebrew: *Yehuda*). The **Lion of Judah** is still used as a Jewish national and cultural symbol. The municipality's "seal of the city of Jerusalem" incorporates it into their coat of arms. The seal's design consists of a shield with the Lion of Judah flanked on either side by olive branches and superimposed on a stylized background representing the Western Wall. Above the main display is the Hebrew-language word for Jerusalem.

Many Christian organizations and ministries today use the lion of Judah as their emblem or even as their names.

Even in culture, we see the lion used to represent Christ. Aslan, a lion, is a major character in C. S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. C.S. Lewis often capitalizes the word *lion* in reference to Aslan since he parallels Jesus as the "Lion of Judah" in Christian theology. The word *aslan* means "*lion*" in Turkish.

Integritas Men's Ministry Continued

In one of his last letters, Lewis wrote, "Since Narnia is a world of Talking Beasts, I thought He [Christ] would become a Talking Beast there, as He became a man here. I pictured Him becoming a lion there because (a) the lion is supposed to be the king of beasts; (b) Christ is called "The Lion of Judah" in the Bible; (c) I'd been having strange dreams about lions when I began writing the work."

Finally, The Lion of Judah is mentioned in the Book of Revelation of the New Testament as a term representing Jesus of Nazareth. Many Christians interpret this as a reference to the Second Coming. Rev 5:3-8 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. 4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to be able to open the scroll and its seven seals." 6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

As history comes to a close, with the second coming of Christ, we see Christ represented as a Lion and a Lamb.

These seem to conflict. Aren't these two animals diametrically opposed? Yes, diametrically is a big word for a Marine but, this really seems to be a perplexing combination. Yet it demonstrates combination of God as a Warrior overcoming His (and our) enemies and God as a Suffering Servant when he died on the cross – our Sacrificial Lamb.

This is strength through obedience and sacrifice. Christ went willingly to the Cross but he still held and holds power beyond measure.

The righteous can be lions. Have you been made righteous in Christ? Are you a lion for Christ? Are you counted among those belonging to Christ, The Lion of Judah?

The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a **lion**. Prov 28:1 We live in a world that is calling "good evil, and evil good" Isa 5:20 We need to be as bold as our Savior, The Lion of Judah. We need to address evil and turn it around. And by turning it around we go from "evil" to "live". And as Christians we live a new life in Christ for: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20.

Be like "The lion, which is mighty among animals, And does not retreat from anything," Prov 30:30. Speak Jesus!



Revolution Youth Ministry

Hello Ramoth Baptist Church family!

Whether you enjoyed the winter weather or not, I hope you all had a good start to 2024! I know I enjoyed it, and from what I heard so did many of the youth! It gave us some kind of practice before our Ski Retreat!

I don't know about you all, but when I enter February, I think of Valentine's Day, heart boxes full of chocolate, and the celebration of love. My prayer for us is that when we see all the hearts, candies, and roses around us, we will remember to rest and rejoice in the greatest love we can ever know: God's love for us, which He has



shown in giving us His Son Jesus Christ! "Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10). Now here's the highlight from the youth ministry last month, and what we have coming up!

LAST MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

Gaga Ball Tournament

At the time of this writing, I had not gone on the Ski Retreat with the youth. I think it's going to be a memorable and fun trip, so maybe I'll highlight it in the next beacon. From what we have done so far, the Gaga Ball Tournament on January 8th was a lot of fun! Gaga Ball (also known as Bacon Ball) is when players get in a ring and try to get other players out by smacking the ball to hit their knees or below. It is an active, fun, and lively game to watch! After 6 rounds, we had the winners face off to determine the night's champion! It was a great way to start back in the New Year!





WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT

SA February 10th 5:30-7:30pm – Family Skate Night @ Cavalier Family Skating Center

The youth, children, and their families from our church, Awana, and the home-school co-op are invited to join us for a Family Skate Night at Cavalier Family Skating Center! The admissions costs are covered by our church. Each participant must pay for skate rentals or bring their own skates. Skate rentals are \$3-\$4/pair. I hope you can join us!



SU February 18th 6:00-8:00pm - Who's the Sweetest?! Bake Off!

Some youth will sign up to make and enter desserts into a competition. Students will then taste the desserts and vote for their favorite dessert. The top 3 will win ribbons and gift cards to some sweet places! We'll also have games, worship, and Bible devotion on why loving others is the best way to see and show that we love God.

SU March 3rd 5:00pm – Awana Grand Prix and Youth Concession Stand

On the first Sunday of March, the Awana will host their Grand Prix and the youth will run a concession stand! This year, the youth will be serving to raise donations to go to the Annie Armstrong offering! For a donation of any amount, individuals and families can get hot dogs, and a bag of chips and drink per person. While 100% of donations will go to the Annie Armstrong offering, the youth will receive funding towards the costs of camp for their service. We hope to see you there!



MO-FR July 15th-19th – Centrifuge Camp at Liberty University

Circle your calendars and start praying and planning accordingly!

WHAT WE'RE TEACHING

Sunday School:

ANSWERS BIBLE CURRICULUM: Unit 4 - Chosen: God's Promises to Abraham and Isaac

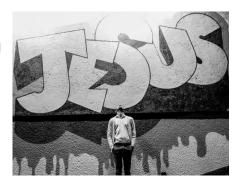
In February, we are splitting back up the High School and Middle School classes and starting a rotational teaching team! We will finish Unit 4 of Answers Bible Curriculum and start Unit 5. This month, we will learn about God's testing of Abraham, God's providence in a bride for Isaac, and Esau's sin in despising his birthright. We'll have our Unit 4 Jeopardy Review Game and donuts too! Through our study we'll discover the importance of making sure our values are shaped by faith in God, the connection of Abraham's test and Jesus' sacrifice, and why this all matters for us today!



Youth Group:

How to Speak Jesus: A Practical Study on How to Share the Good News about Jesus to Others

In January, the youth shared a lot of real and challenging reasons why they don't share Jesus with others. Fear showed up in 79% of the responses with many specifying a fear of what others will think or losing a friend. Other common reasons included "not knowing what to say," "not wanting to come off too strong," and "it being a hard topic to talk about." As a result, our practical series on How to Speak Jesus has expanded to consider and address those reasons. Last month, we illustrated the difference living on mission can make, tackled how Jesus' followers can overcome the fear of what others might think, and balanced that with Paul's instructions for how Jesus' followers are to interact with unbelievers. This month, we will learn about God's job and our job when we share Jesus, what we need to say to speak Jesus, and how to have an intentional conversation with others to share Jesus. We



also will have a panel discuss saving faith, common misconceptions, and how they discerned what kind of faith they had.

Small Group:

Passport Bible Study Group: A Bible Study for Your Journey with God

From February 19th to March 18th, youth will be invited to take part in a Bible study focused on grounding and growing them in their walk with God! We'll learn about how we can know we are saved, how to read the Bible, how to pray, and how to know God's will! Jonathan and Hannah Newberry will be leading, and Jaynie Hudson and I will be assisting them. The study will require students to make a month's commitment to follow the Passport reading plan and take part in the weekly meetings. We'll meet on Mondays. (During this time our teen small groups will not meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays.) The time is TBD. Those who complete the study will get to go on a surprise trip at the end!



Sincerely,



Rise-up Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry



Sunday

8:45 Nursery Toddler Care

10:00 Sunday School - all ages

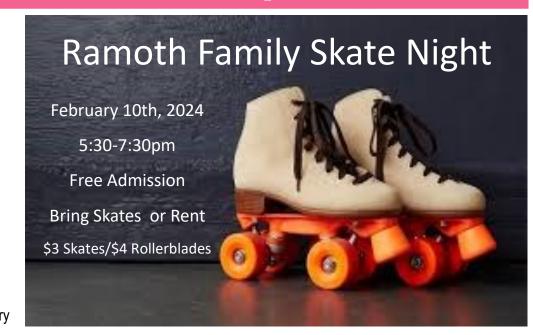
11:00 Children's Church

Wednesday

6:00 Awana Clubs

Thursday

9:15 Rise Up Homeschool Ministry



The children's ministry weekday programming is off to a great start in 2024. Ramoth is blessed beyond measure with God's provision of amazing volunteers to share the love of Jesus with the kids that come through our doors. We have held our first Awana Club night of the year and God provided us with the volunteers needed and prayed for! Praise HIM! Please save the date: our Awana club will host its annual Grand Prix on March 3rd, 2024 at 5pm. Rise Up Homeschool Ministry also started strong on January 11th with sixty families participating (156 children). Ramoth's Rise Up Homeschool Ministry is providing a place of refuge and fellowship for this amazing group of home educating families.



7 Potato Pet Night

- ** Grand Prix Cars for Sale
- 14 Regular Club Night
 **Grand Prix Cars for Sale
- 21 Crazy Hair Night
 - **Grand Prix Cars for Sale
 - ** Car Cutting Help
- 28 **Make-Up: Furry Friend Night**Bring a Stuffed Animal Friend!
 - ** Grand Prix Cars for Sale
 - ** Car Cutting Help

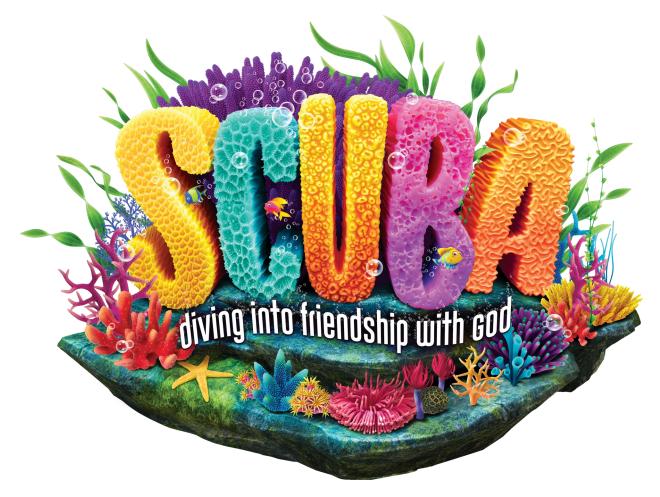


March 3, 2024



Children's Ministry

VBS 2024



June 17-21

Decorating Supplies

Would you please consider saving and donating these items for our VBS decorating projects?



Plastic Bottle Caps of Different Sizes

Packing Peanuts

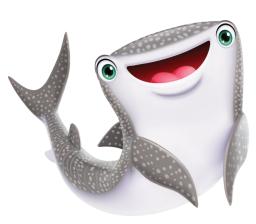
Lots of Pool Noodles

Quilt batting

Mesh ribbon (bright colors)

Carpet Tubes

Large Appliance Boxes (2)



Wednesday Night Dinners

Remember to register by 5pm Monday before the dinner. You can either call the office or go to the church website to register.

After dinners the Fellowship Hall needs to be ready for AWANA by 6pm. Please let us know if you can help with putting away the chairs and tables.



February 7

Pre-Super Bowl Wednesday Night Fun Dinner

Pizza, Chicken Wings, Queso and Chips, Pigs in a Blanket, Veggies and Dip, Cookies and Rice Krispy Treats

Prepared by Sharon Kolandjian and Team

February 14

Pork Tenderloin, Mashed Potato Bar, Green Beans, and Assorted **Valentine's Day Desserts**

Prepared by Jaynie Hudson and Team

February 21

Chili Mac and all the Fixin's, Hot dogs and Chips (for Kids), Cookies and Dessert

Prepared by the Men's Ministry

February 28

Chili Bar, with Red or White Beans, cornbread, and Rice Krispy Treats

Prepared by the Nate Ewoldt and Team

Happy Birthday!

February 1

Joe Foster

February 4 Sergio Wooden

February 5 Andie Hall

February 6 Ellie James

February 7 Grayson Ewoldt

February 8 **Shane Carter**

February 9 **Becca Marples** Aubrie Robertson

February 10 Shelva Young

February 11

Thomas Etner Sebastian Martin Charlotte Martoncik Jaden Woodruff

February 12

Austin Castillo-Fernandez Joshua White Camille Zook

February 13 Jeremiah Murton Jean Skidmore

February 14 Donald Balsavich Jocelyne Micke Karen Theiss

February 15

Jennifer Garrison Anaya Jimenez Melissa Newton Derik Williams

February 16 Chris Bowman

February 17 John Martoncik Rachel McMorris

February 18 Samantha Blake

February 20 Doris Denson Roman Downing **Grae Womack**

February 21 Samuel Perez-Borroto

February 22 Lorraina Balsavich

February 24 Patricia Bobin **Brian Groves Audrey Limbrock**

February 25 Walker Miller

February 26 **Aaron Boswell**

February 28 Rosalie Bianca **Hughes Home**

Regina Fitzgerald February 6

James Larry Alexander February 17

Mark Stephen Mock February 24

Esther Leitch February 27

Mail a Card!

Name of Person

c/o Hughes Home 100 Caroline Street Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Donations

The Hughes Home Ministry is always accepting Depends, in all sizes. You may place them in the bins in the right hallway on the outside of the Chapel.

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Bible Reading Plan

WEEK 1: Creation	O Genesis 1 & 2 O Psalm 33:6-9 O Jeremiah 32:17 O John 1:1-5 O Romans 1:20	WEEK 10: Sacrifices	O Hebrews 10:1-23 O Exodus 12:21-28 O Psalm 51:16-17 O Romans 12:1 O Hebrews 4:14-16	WEEK 19: Holy Spirit	O Acts 2:1-21 O Joel 2:28-32 O Romans 8:26-27 O 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 O Galatians 5:16, 22-25
WEEK 2: Sin & Solution	O Genesis 3 O Psalm 51:3-5 O Isaiah 53:5-12 O John 3:16-18 O Romans 6:22-23	WEEK 11: Confession & Forgiveness	 Psalm 51:1-12 Proverbs 28:13 Matthew 9:1-8 Acts 3:19 1 John 1:8-9 	WEEK 20: Worries	O Matthew 6:25-34 O Psalm 94:19 O Matthew 11:28-30 O Philippians 4:6-7 O 1 Peter 5:6-7
WEEK 3: Covenants & Promises	 Psalm 105 Genesis 9:12-17 Genesis 12:1-3 2 Corinthians 1:20 Hebrews 9:15 	WEEK 12: Crucifixion	O Luke 23:26-47 O Numbers 21:4-9 O Isaiah 53:3-10 O 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-23 O Galatians 2:20-21	WEEK 21: Prayer	O Daniel 9 O 2 Chronicles 7:14 O Jeremiah 33:2-3 O Matthew 6:5-13 O James 5:13-16
WEEK 4: God's Calling	O Jeremiah 1:4-19 O Isaiah 6:8 O 1 Corinthians 7:17 O 2 Timothy 1:8-10 O 1 Peter 2:9-10	WEEK 13: Resurrection	 ○ John 20:1-18 ○ Daniel 12:2-3 ○ John 11:25-26 ○ 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 ○ Philippians 3:10-11 	WEEK 22: Friendship	O Ruth 1:1-18 O 1 Samuel 18:1-5 O Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 O Proverbs 18:24 O John 15:12-15
WEEK 5: God's Commands	O Exodus 20:1-17 O Psalm 103:17-18 O Matthew 22:34-40 O John 15:14-15 O James 1:22-25	WEEK 14: Evangelism	O Acts 8:26-40 O Deuteronomy 32:3-4 O Matthew 28:19-20 O Romans 10:10-17 O Colossians 4:2-6	WEEK 23: Salvation	O Acts 16:22-34 O 2 Samuel 22:1-4 O Psalm 37:39-40 O Acts 4:8-12 O 1 Peter 1:8-9
WEEK 6: Love	○ 1 Corinthians 13○ Isaiah 54:10○ Romans 8:35-39○ 1 Peter 4:8○ 1 John 4:7-12	WEEK 15: God's Word	 Psalm 119:9-16, 103-105, 114, 129-131 Isaiah 40:8 Romans 1:16-17 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Hebrews 4:12 	WEEK 24: Baptism	O Matthew 3 O Genesis 7:17-18; O 1 Peter 3:18-22 John 3:3-6 O Acts 2:38-39 O Romans 6:1-4
WEEK 7: Purpose & Plan	O Ephesians 1:3-14 O Job 42:1-2 O Proverbs 19:21 O Jeremiah 29:10-13 O Romans 8:28-30	WEEK 16: One Body	O 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 O Proverbs 27:17 O Acts 2:42-47 O Romans 12:1-8 O Ephesians 4:11-13	WEEK 25: Protection	O Psalm 91 O Psalm 46:1-3, 7 O Isaiah 41:10 O Mark 4:35-41 O 2 Corinthians 4:7-10
WEEK 8: Praise	O Psalm 96 O Exodus 15:2 O Psalm 71:14-16 O Luke 1:46-55 O Hebrews 13:15	WEEK 17: Faith & Faithfulness	O Hebrews 11 O Lamentations 3:22-23 O Mark 11:22-24 O Luke 16:10-12 O 2 Corinthians 5:7	WEEK 26: Honesty & Truth	O Acts 5:1-11 O Proverbs 12:22 O John 14:6 O Colossians 3:9-10 O 3 John 1:3-4
WEEK 9: Temptation	O Luke 4:1-13 O Deuteronomy 8:2 O 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 O Hebrews 2:18 O James 1:2-4, 12-15	WEEK 18: Father & Son	O John 14:6-17, 23-24 O Psalm 2:6-7 O Matthew 11:25-27 O John 17:1-5 O Colossians 1:15-20		

Church Stewardship

Offerings and Attendance January 1-January 22

Offerings

General Fund

Designated Fund

Expenses

Cemetery Fund

Cemetery Fund Donations:

Barbara Self

Lelia Bloxton

Average Attendance

Sunday Events

466

Wednesday Events

119

Other Weekly Events

259

Welcome New Members

Allison Ruiz

Susi Hoshi

In Christian Sympathy

To the family of Libby Edwards after the loss of her father, John Mead.

Adult Sunday School

Young Adult: Genesis

~Room 307~ Dan & Amy Mehochko, Brian & Ree Doerr

Adult 1: "For the Health of the Nation" Video Series

~Fellowship Hall (left)~ Pete Johnson, Matt Wheeler

Adult 2: LifeWay Bible Studies for Life (Senior Adults)

~Chapel-2~ Gary Bennett

Adult 3: LifeWay Bible Studies for Life

~Room 305~ Gary Graham

Adult 4: LifeWay Bible Studies for Life (Senior Adults)

~Room 306~ Matt Canter, Paula Menteer

Adult 5: Chronological Study through the Bible

~Chapel~ Heath Hunter, Chris Adams

Adult 7: Christian Worldview

~Sanctuary~ Ptr. Paige Bowman, Randy Colson

Adult 8: OT Chronological Survey: Kings/Chronicles/Prophets

~Fellowship Hall (right)~ Ken Hill, Chris Turman

Senior Men: LifeWay Bible Studies for Life

~Library~ Kerry Knowles

Ladies Class

~Room 301~ Terry Harrell, Kim Colson

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Director of Refuge Ministry

Sergio Wooden (540) 602-7986 (207) 632-8876 counseling@rbcstafford.org

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Senior Pastor

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Ways to Give

Download our App:



Mail: 478 Ramoth Church Road, Stafford, VA 22554

