

March 2024

Volume 43, Issue 3

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

AWANA Grand Prix March 3, 2024 5:00pm Support our AWANA Clubbers and Youth!

F.I.T. Workshops March 5, 2024 9:30am

Check out the Women's Ministry page. Workshops are on a new day!

Ministry Fair March 24, 2024 10:00am

Learn about our ministries and opportunities!

Table of Contents Worship Ministry 4 Refuge Ministry......5 Women's Ministry 7 Love God, Love People, Prime Timers Ministry 10 Integritas Men's Ministry 11 Rise-Up Children's Ministry 17 Change Our World Weekend to Remember...... 18 Wednesday Night Dinners 19 Birthdays 20 Bible Reading Plan21 Church Stewardship22 Adult Sunday School23

Senior Pastor

Greetings,

I read a story sometime ago that is so very true even more so today. An older couple that had finished their lunch and made their way into the living room to prepare themselves for an afternoon nap in their matching recliners. This was their daily routine. They were both about to doze off when the grandfather clock began to chime signifying the new hour that was beginning. It began with one chime, two chimes, three chimes, and all the way up to thirteen chimes. The husband looked at his wife and asked, "What time is it?" She replied, "I'm not sure, but it's later than it's ever been before."

I'm convinced more and more today that perhaps the last hour is drawing near upon the church, and its opportunity to proclaim the Gospel message. As we look around at the climate of our nation, we have to admit it's not all that good. There's corporate greed on Wall Street, political bi-partisan struggles in our political parties, child abuse in families, drugs are a problem all around our country, violence in the streets, terrorist's threats, problems in churches, and on and on that list goes. We live in a chaotic world.

Some years ago someone asked Dr. Billy Graham why he was trying to set the church back 100 years with his evangelistic crusades. To which he replies, "One hundred years, well excuse me, I was trying to set it back 2,000 years." What he was saying is that we need to be more like the early church of Acts 2:42-47 than we are of the church of today.

It just seems to me that if we're going to be individuals, or churches, that are on mission, we've got to realize that it's later than it's ever been before, and we've got to look back 2,000 years to when Jesus gave us the Great Commission to be on mission with Him. This is a command, not merely a suggestion, for every believer. The book of Acts in its entirety is a testimony of men and women who took that command seriously and began to share the news of a Risen Savior. It's an incredible account of the beginning of the Church that Jesus established and of its tremendous growth. Being on mission made the early church, and makes the church of today, unique. We can have that same uniqueness today it we choose to accept it. Jesus says in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." This includes Stafford and its surrounding areas. We have the same potential to reach people for Jesus that the early church had if we choose to be on mission. And being on mission doesn't mean that you just show up occasionally on a Sunday morning but that your life is a living testimony of the Gospel message.

You see, the child of God, the church of God, has the same power of God in winning souls, changing lives, and making an impact on this community as the early church had. And when we do that, we're talking about being a dynamic church. And when we become a dynamic church, we become a church that can move mountains so new roads can be built throughout the community. The child of God, the church of God, with the power of God in their lives can do unbelievable things. So, the question for every believer and for every church is this: "Do we want the power of God in our lives?" Do we want to be a unique, powerful church filled with the power of God, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people He places under our watch care? I pray that we do.



Deacons Can You Help a Brother or Sister?

I hope this March edition of the Beacon finds you blessed and thankful for the grace that God has gifted us through his son Jesus. This month, I would like to encourage you to support your Church staff and Deacons through service to the Church. I know many of you are shouldering a heavy load because you understand how important the work of the Church is. For those of you who may be relatively new, or just shy, or don't know the best way to plug-in, but want to help, please consider the following comments.

I routinely find myself walking the hallways of the Pentagon, amused by the expansive egos and personas of self-importance. On those days, I make it a habit to find one of the custodial staff, walking the hallway, wearing their smocks, and performing their assigned tasks. They are the unsung heroes of the organization, as they keep facilities clean and help prevent the spread of germs and other unpleasantries in the work environment. Without them, everything would come to a standstill. More importantly, a simple smile, and a "hello", or "how is your day going?" will often yield the most heartfelt response and appreciation for being recognized. They are unquestionably the nicest people in that building.

Our Church is no different, there are so many functions that are required in the background, that do not seem important, are not associated with a leadership role, but are critically vital to the maintenance and growth of our Church. Currently, we have a few members who are carrying very heavy loads with multiple roles. Any one of these tasks may only involve initial coordination and follow-up, requiring a relatively small amount of time. But when you combine all of the functions that they perform and have to deconflict on their own time, the investment becomes much more complicated. One specific role that I am thinking of is the greeter and usher coordinator. This requires the recruitment and assignment of church members to fill those roles, and then a weekly follow-up to ensure that the assigned people can fulfill that task. This is but one of many opportunities to help your brothers and sisters. There are many other opportunities. The overall investment of time for these types of roles is fairly small. But the return to God is multiplied when there is a smiling face and a warm reception to visitors coming through our door. I leave you with the words of the Apostle Peter, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (NIV 1 Peter 4:10). If you have a few moments a week to help and would like to

Deacons of the Week

March 3

Kerry Knowles (540) 834-6631

Pete Johnson (562) 234-0107

March 10

Brock Lennon (979) 575-5627

Chris Adams (540) 426-6722

March 17

Chris Hudson (703) 350-1934

Heath Hunter (912) 596-8294

March 24

Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689

Jon White (540) 623-3184

March 31

Joe Pearson (540) 300-0311

Randy Colson (703) 864-9058

plug in, please reach out to the staff, Deacons or other members to point you in the right direction. YOU are the Church, and God rejoices in your service!

Your Brother, Dr. Randy Colson

Exalted Worship Ministry

A Sacrifice of Praise

¹⁵ Therefore, through him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Hebrews 13:15

What is a sacrifice of praise? We praise God at church each Sunday by singing songs and hymns to Him. We praise Him with the reading of His word and by praying together. But this doesn't seem like much of a sacrifice. In fact, for most of us, it is quite easy to praise God.

We look at our blessings and we instantly have a desire to praise Him and thank Him for what He has given. We thank Him for our homes, our families, our church, our country, and our community. We thank Him for the salvation we know through our faith in Jesus Christ.

So, we praise Him for the blessings we enjoy. But what happens when the blessings fade, and we are faced with a difficult time in our lives? What happens when we lose someone we love, or we struggle with financial problems, or we find ourselves persecuted at work for our faith, or our country views our Christian faith as hate? What happens when we go to church and find we just don't want to praise due to a problem at home?

This is when we make a sacrifice. We give ourselves to Him and trust He will see us through the valley of despair and lift us up on His strength and give us peace. We find ourselves praising him despite our emotional state and He promises to use that praise to bless us or someone else as we make public our dependance on Him. Our lips bear fruit. Not only do we praise God with our lips, but others see how we praise Him in the storm. Others see how we live our faith even when life is hard.



God doesn't promise to make our lives free from difficulties. He does promise to prepare us for those challenging times, and when those times strike, we must remember where our strength lies. We must remember the source of our peace. We must never forget that we are commanded to praise. And one day, the trials of life will be gone, but the praise will last for all eternity.

Pastor Chuck Hite



Refuge Ministry

Blessings, brothers and sisters in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Is anyone else surprised at how quickly we have arrived at Spring? When I think of this time of year, I cannot help but think about things being restored, rejuvenated, and reconciled. I think about how things can be made better than they once were. How things can be made new again. I think about how things can be made right when they may have gone wrong.

These thoughts are not limited to the weather that we may have been experiencing. Nor is it limited to the contemplations that we are having about taxes, investments, or retirement. We are actually talking about the aspects of our lives that impact our place, our purpose, and relationships. Each of these areas can be illustrated with accounts of real people, living real lives throughout the Bible. And the one glaring term in each illustration is the power of God to affect a change.

We should all be familiar with Peter's denial of Jesus Christ, just after His arrest. But how many of us are familiar with how Jesus, after His resurrection, restored Peter to right fellowship and life. The account of this is found in John 21:1-19. In it, we can see how Jesus forgives Peter of his wrongdoing. We see Jesus extend to Peter grace and mercy. And we see Jesus provide a way for Peter to have a place back with his fellow believers and back into the body of Christ. Peter was allowed back into the fellowship because Jesus knew the power of hope and the impact that it can have on the kingdom.

The second account is another that we all should be familiar with, it is the story of Lazarus. Lazarus was a dear friend to Jesus. And it happened that Lazarus became sick and died. The account of Lazarus' death and resurrection are found in John 11. Here we see death take hold of someone who was very much alive in Christ. And while Lazarus may have laid dead and been buried, Jesus had the ability to resurrect him, to rejuvenate Lazarus' body. Sometimes the passion and abilities that we have leave our bodies. It is then on us, to turn to Jesus so that He can revive them in us. This is where we have genuine evidence that Jesus Christ has the power and authority to give us new life and purpose that helps grow the kingdom of God.

The last account we have is surely one that we all know. It is the account of the Prodigal Son. This is a telling account of a son wanting his inheritance before its time. The son overlooked customs and traditions, in asking for what he was not actually in line to ask for from his father. This account is covered in Luke 15:11-32. The young son, having received what he asked for, squanders all he has and is left to the world. But he remembers that even those who work for his father live better than he does in the world. So, the son decides to return to the father. Now, upon the son's return the Father, lovingly welcomes the son home. Reconciling the differences between them. The Father dismisses the rebellious behavior of the son and makes the relationship right, again. In healing the broken relationship, the father showed the son just how great a power love is and what it can do to enable us all to have good relationships inside the kingdom.

With each of these illustrations we see just how God works and how He expects us to work. We are given these accounts, not just so that we can marvel at the abilities of God, but so that we can learn them and live by them as heirs to God's kingdom. In building God's kingdom on earth, we will see how we can help one another be restored, rejuvenated, and reconciled. We will also see how we can share hope, give help, and aid in healing. It is just a matter of putting what we know into practice. If there is any way that we at the Refuge Ministry Center can be of assistance to you or someone you know, just contact us. We are available, Monday through Friday, via email or by phone. Our emails are counseling@rbcstafford.org and counseling2@rbcstafford.org and our phone number is 540-602-7986. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

March 12th and 26th at 10am in Room 306.

COUPLE'S BIBLE STUDY

Couple's Bible Study is restarted in January. Come join our group!

When: Thursdays 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



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

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
Elaina Johnson and Stephanie Wheeler for
more information.

FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE

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's Ministry

Hello RBC Family,

The Women's Ministry has a lot going on in the coming months, keep reading and sign up to be a part of what God is doing at Ramoth!

Upcoming Events

March-May- F.I.T Workshops are back! We are offering Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening workshops now through May! See the next page for class schedule, and workshop descriptions. You can sign up online or in the church foyer



Sunday, Mar 3rd: 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!

Church-wide Ministry Fair Sunday March 24th, 2024

Location: Ramoth Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Time: 10:00-10:45 am

Come check out all of the many ministries RBC has to offer. There is something for everyone! We will have breakfast finger foods, drinks, and representatives from multiple ministry areas that you can learn more about, ask questions, and sign up to serve in.

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

Location: Ramoth Baptist Church

Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

This year's Mission Tea Party will focus on the El Salvador Missions Team. We will have a special guest speaker from the team, a Victorian Fashion Show, a vintage purse silent auction to raise funds for the missions team, and of course all of the yummy tea party treats we all love to indulge in! You can get involved by signing up to decorate your own table showing your unique style and creativity, displaying your favorite tea set, or just come and bring your own tea cup for an afternoon of fellowship and learning about missions.

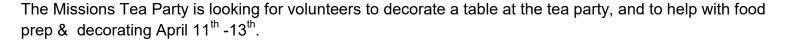


Location: Ramoth Baptist Church Look for sign-up sheets coming soon!

Needs and Thank You's!

F.I.T. Workshop's is looking for an administrative helper for 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.



Thank you to all of the women that came out to our first Quiet Time Workshop. We appreciate you and look forward to having another one in early summer!





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

Denise Johnson (703) 283-5957

pachessu@yahoo.com

d09johnson@gmail.com

F.I.T. WORKSHOPS - Spring 2024

Come join us for Faith-focused, Inclusive Training (F.I.T.) Workshops

Register in the foyer, online or text/call Pam Null at 540-645-1674

* See schedule on back *

(If your Ministry or Group would like to schedule a class on a particular day or time please contact Pam Null. We would love to minister to your groups' needs for fellowship & fun!)

PLEASE bring your Bibles to each workshop*

Proactive Health Leader: Rebecca White (beckyricks44@yahoo.com) Location: RBC - Chapel

If you would like to learn about being proactive in your overall health through nutrition and exercise, then this class is for you! This class is for all ages and fitness levels and will focus on exercise and nutrition by meeting you where you are and working together to make healthier choices for your daily life. The exercise portion will be tailored to your physical needs, so that anyone can participate. This will include cardio, strength and flexibility exercises that can be done seated or standing. We will learn how to choose nutrient dense foods, read and understand nutrition labels, limit sugar and inflammatory foods, and choose healthier alternatives to feel better and stronger!

"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

Creating Cards Leader: Kelley Skowronek (pkskow4@msn.com) Location: RBC – Room 307

Material Fee: \$5 fee per packet of cards



Share the Word and encourage others with homemade cards! During the classes, you will be provided with the materials to make at least 6 cards - with a variety of occasion sentiments. Making cards and crafting should be fun and not stressful! Come and share in good company and leave with a variety of cards ready to sign and mail.

All supplies (paper, adhesive, stamps, ink, and envelopes) will be provided. If you are interested in doing more cards at home, there will be card kits available to take with you as you leave. Bless someone through the mail! □

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." I Thessalonians 5:11*

Watercolor His Word Leader: Sarah Fraley (natasha25461@gmail.com) Location: RBC - Room 307

Material Fee: \$5 fee per class

Watercolors only look intimidating! Learn the basics in a "Paint By Number" setting as we fellowship together and meditate on God's Word and the beauty of His creations! All supplies are provided. Every class will leave you with a completed 8"x10" work of art made by your hands. The paintings offered in the Tuesday morning classes are different than the ones offered in the Wednesday evening classes.

"The Lord's works are great, studied by all who delight in them. All He does is majestic and splendid; His righteousness endures forever.". Psalm 111:2-3

Canvas & Acrylic Painting

Leader: Pam Null (pamelanull@gmail.com)

Location: RBC - Room 307

Material Fee: \$5 fee per class

Come and join the canvas and acrylic class and enjoy Christian fellowship as we enjoy painting together! We will go step by step in creating a canvas you will want to share with others!

"He bought me to the banquet house; and his banner over me is love." Song of Solomon 2: 4

March 2024

Tuesday March 5 th	(10:30am-12:00pm)	- Proactive Health: Becky White
Wednesday March 6 th	(6:00pm-7:30pm)	- Creating Cards: Kelley Skowronek
Tuesday March 12 th	(10:30am-12:30pm)	- <u>Watercolor His Word</u> : Sarah Fraley
Tuesday March 19 th	(10:30am-12:00pm)	- Proactive Health: Becky White
Wednesday March 20 th	(6:00pm-7:30pm)	- <u>Watercolor His Word</u> : Sarah Fraley
Tuesday March 26 th	(10:30am-12:30pm)	- Creating Cards: Kelley Skowronek

April 2024

Wednesday April 3 rd	(6:00pm-7:30pm)	 Watercolor His Word: Sarah Fraley
Tuesday April 9 th	(10:30am-12:30pm)	- <u>Watercolor His Word</u> : Sarah Fraley
Tuesday April 16 th	(10:30am-12:00pm)	- Proactive Health: Becky White
Wednesday April 17 th	(6:00pm-7:30pm)	- Creating Cards: Kelley Skowronek
Tuesday April 23 rd	(10:30am-12:30pm)	- Creating Cards: Kelley Skowronek
Tuesday April 30 th	(10:30am-12:00pm)	- Proactive Health: Becky White

May 2024

Tuesday May 7 th	(10:30am-12:30pm)	- Canvas & Acrylic Painting: Pam Null
Tuesday May 14 th	(10:30am-12:30pm)	- Canvas & Acrylic Painting: Pam Null
Tuesday May 21st	(10:30am-12:00pm)	- Proactive Health: Becky White

Prime Timers Ministry

We are so thrilled Spring just arrived!! Welcome Spring!

We had a great meeting February 15th. It was a beautiful Italian luncheon with all the wonderful food and it looked like we just stepped right into Italy. Thank you crew for all you do each month making this third Thursday of each month very special. The décor to match the months menu is only a small part of what really happens at our Prime Timers Meetings.

It's a place of fellowship, spending time with our friends and having a good meal each month. It's very important for us to assemble ourselves together to encourage one another. If you know of someone who may need a ride or a little encouragement to come, that could be your ministry.

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25





Needs and Thank yous

We have so many that volunteer each month and would like you to be involved in this ministry as well. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the kitchen, cleanup after our meetings and for decorators and speakers. If you would like to be more involved in this ministry, please contact Margaret Canter. (540) 845-4222 mlcanter@hotmail.com

Our next meeting is March 21, 2024— Please come out and bring a side dish to go with our POTATO BAR. If you need an idea of what to bring, please contact any one of us. We have a "sign-up" sheet at all our meetings, for your convenience. If in question, you may just put your name and a question mark and call one of us. It is sometimes hard to make a quick decision as to what to bring.

Our Calendar of Events speaker for March is Kim Colson. Our April Speaker will be Mrs. Terry Harrell. (They switched due to a calendar conflict).

Please be in prayer for our Spring Prime Timers revival, May 6th, 7th, and 8th. Pastor Jonathan is our speaker. You don't want to miss out on this event.



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances." I Thessalonians 5:16 Blessings,

Margaret Canter

Integritas Men's Ministry

Content:

- 1. Quarterly Men's Breakfast 0800 06Apr24
- 2. Men cooking Wed Nite Dinner 20 Mar24 & 27 Mar 24
- 3. Men's Conf./Redneck Olympics—27 Apr
- 4. What is a Covenant?

1. Qrtly Men's Potluck Breakfast -Fellowship Hall - 0800 06Apr24

MEN Join us each quarter for a meal and fellowship. While we don't always get to study together, this provides a time of getting to know other men who are actively pursuing a deeper knowledge and relationship with Jesus and each other.

Whether or not you attend one of the studies, we welcome any and all others who would like to come enjoy a bounty of guy grub everyone brings in to share. There is a real mix of from talented chefs, food shoppers and donut dippers that provides more than enough to answer the call of growling stomachs and expanding waistlines. But most of all, it's the shared time of fellowship bringing men of the church together in a closer walk. And maybe a witness to a friend you can bring along with you, too.

2. Men Cooking Wed Night Dinner - The Men's Ministry will be cooking up a special Wed night meal on 20 March 2024 and 27 March. 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

11



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.

Mar2024—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.

Apr 2024— Continuing in Genesis 1-11



Iron Sharpens Iron

Monday, March 4th and 18th 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 25-26:11. Light supper provided.

Every Man a Warrior

Sunday 6:30pm - 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

What's a Covenant?

The Men's Sat morning study is working their way thru Genesis 1-11. The first time we see the word *covenant* (Hebrew – briyth) used in Scripture is Gen 6:18. God tells Noah He will make a *covenant* with him. *Covenant* is often used with the Hebrew word karath in the sense of cutting. *Covenant*, used 280 times in the OT & 35 in the NT, can be defined as a compact, a treaty, an alliance, an agreement, or a partnership. Often a *covenant* is between two people or two parties.

A **covenant** is a relationship between two partners who make binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal. These promises are often accompanied by oaths, signs, and ceremonies.

A *covenant* is the basic structure of the relationship God has established with His people. Think of marriage. A man and woman choose to enter into a formal relationship, binding themselves to one another in a lifelong faithfulness and devotion as husband and wife. They make *covenant* oaths before God.

A **covenant** is often thought of as a contract. There are similarities between **covenants** and contracts as well as very important differences. Both are binding agreements. Contracts are negotiated from somewhat equal bargaining positions. Both parties are free not to sign the contract. However, later, after contracts are signed, some look for the loopholes.

Covenants are also an agreement. However, **covenants** in the Bible are not usually between equals. **Covenants** define obligations and commitments. They are different from a contract because they are relational and personal. There are no loopholes in a **covenant**. God lays out the terms of the relationship. **If you do this**, **I will do this**. – and – **If you don't do this**, **I will do this**. There was no negotiation between the parties. Finally, God **NEVER** breaks His **covenants**!

A **covenant** has four sections: 1) The preamble lists the respective parties. 2) An historical prologue describes what God has done. In theological terms, this is the section of grace. 3) The terms of the relationship. God lists what He will do or require. And, 4) The final part of a covenant lists blessings and cursings.

This basic *covenant* pattern is evident in 5 irrevocable, unconditional *covenants* made by God in the OT. God's *covenants* with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David and a reference in Jermiah 31 to a future New Covenant. With each of the five *covenants*, God's promises and plans to save the world through the seed of a woman (see Gen 3:15) become clearer and clearer until we finally see that redemption can only come through King Jesus. Within each of these *covenants*, the requirements and consequences increase. Let's look at these covenants.

<u>Noahic Covenant</u>: In Gen 6:18, we find the first time a covenant is mentioned in the Bible. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

God's covenants with eight people for their safety, redemption, a rebirth, a way thru the flood, a path ultimately for the lineage of their Savior. Ultimately, His full covenant comes after the flood with a rainbow promising His faithfulness. Gen 9: 8;16-17 ⁸Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, "Now behold, I Myself am establishing My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; ¹⁶When the rainbow is in the cloud, then I will look at it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

Integritas Men's Ministry Continued

Abrahamic Covenant Gen 17:1-2 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. I will make My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."

In Gen 17, eleven times, God uses the word *covenant*. He promises Abraham a huge family that will inherit land in Canaan and bring universal blessing to all humanity. God tells Abraham to leave his land and follow wherever He leads, training his family to do what is right and just, and practice circumcision in every generation.

Remember, we talked about the Hebrew word, karath, used in the sense of cutting. In biblical times, *covenants* were ratified in blood. It was customary for both parties to the *covenant* to pass between dismembered animals, signifying their agreement to the terms of the *covenant*.

We have an example of this kind of *covenant* in <u>Gen 15:7-21</u>. Here, God made certain promises to Abraham, which were ratified by the sacrificing of animals.

However in this case, God alone passes through the animals, indicating that He is binding Himself by a solemn blood oath to fulfill the *covenant*.

<u>Mosaic Covenant</u> – In Exodus 24 – 31, God establishes the nation of Israel through Moses who meets with God on Mt Sinai. There God revisits the promises mad to Abraham. God promises to make Israel a holy kingdom of priests that will spread His blessing and glory to all the nations. Moses brings God's Law, the Ten Commandments, to God's people and makes a Sabbath Covenant as well.

Davidic Covenant In II Sam 7:1-17, God promises an eternal shepherd-king through the lineage of David. ⁹ I will also make a great name for you, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. ¹⁰ And I will establish a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will malicious people oppress them anymore as previously, ¹¹ even from the day that I appointed judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

While living, David sees three promises fulfilled: a great name, a place for Israel, and "rest" from enemies. After David's death God provided a son (Solomon) on his national throne. God would oversee this son as a father who would provide the necessary chastening, discipline and mercy. The immediacy of this is Solomon to the temporal kingdom. But this promise extends into David's greater Son – Jesus Christ who would rule a kingdom that would be established forever, the Messiah.

<u>The New Covenant</u> – Jer 31:31-34 This *covenant* is different from all the others. It fulfilled the other four *covenants* providing redemption of man through Jesus.

Jer 31:31"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My **covenant** which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "For this is the **covenant** which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD: "I will put My law within them and write it on their heart; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ They will not teach again, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their wrongdoing, and their sin I will no longer remember."

13

Integritas Men's Ministry Continued

For generations, Israel ignored the terms of their *covenants* with God. They broke His commands and lived by their own definitions of good and evil. In the midst of rebellion and exile, the Hebrew prophets spoke of a *New Covenant*. This *New Covenant* is to be everlasting. God would one day fulfill His promises repairing His relationship with His people blessing the nations through them. God will write His law on the hearts of His people, bring complete forgiveness of sin, and raise up a faithful king from the line of David who will restore all that has been broken. The previous *covenants* progressively, thematically built on one another, forming a complete redemptive story. After God's *covenant* with David, we are left waiting for the great Deliverer, the Messiah, from David's line, who would make right the fractured relationship that began in the garden. The anticipation of this *New Covenant* pushes the story forward into the pages of the New Testament, where we are introduced to King Jesus sent for our redemption.

Jesus is the one who fulfills all of these covenant relationships.

From the family of Abraham, Jesus brings the family blessings to the whole world.

Jesus is the faithful Israelite who is able to truly obey Mosaic the law.

Jesus is the king from the line of David.

Jesus will extend God's Kingdom of justice and peace to all.

Jesus announces the New Covenant in Luke 22:20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup, which is poured out for you, is the **new covenant** in My blood.

The **New Covenant**, the covenant of grace, was ratified by the shed blood of Christ upon the cross, a blood sacrifice. At the heart of this **New Covenant** is God's promise of redemption. God has not only promised to redeem all who put their trust in Christ, but has sealed and confirmed that promise with a most holy vow and His blood.

We serve and worship a God who has pledged Himself to our full redemption.

God preserved the world through Noah.

God initiated redemption through Abraham.

God established the Nation of Israel and the Priesthood through Moses.

God promised an Eternal Shepherd-King through David.

With each covenant, God promise and plan to save the world through the seed of a woman become clearer and clearer until we see that redemption can only come through King Jesus.

All God's *covenant* promises are fulfilled in Jesus.

And the millennial kingdom will be the final fulfillment of God's covenant promises.

Heb 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a **new covenant**, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the violations that were committed under the first **covenant**, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Have you been redeemed by Jesus under the **New Covenant?**



14

Revolution Youth Ministry

Hello Ramoth Baptist Church family!

Happy March! It's time for some crazy Virginia weather as we transition from Winter to Spring. I don't know about you, but I can remember more snowy Easter Days in March than Christmas Days and Valentine's Days. Regardless of the weather, may we all gratefully remember and celebrate Jesus' death for our sins and resurrection!

LAST MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

Ski Retreat



Last month I had not gone on the Ski Retreat at the time of the writing, but it definitely was a major highlight! We had 25 students, and 10 adults go to brave the

slopes of Wintergreen and cabins of Rapidan Baptist Camp! Despite the 70 degrees weather, we all had a great time tubing, skiing, and snowboarding! A big thanks to all the adult chaperones who came on the retreat! Thank you, parents, for sending your youth with us, and thank you to all the youth who came!



Thank you, Nathanael, for doing a fantastic job making the Ski Retreat video to share with the church family!

Youth Baking Competition



February wasn't without excitement! (No, Chief fans I'm not talking about the Super Bowl!) We had a Youth Baking Competition on February 18th! We had 16 delicious desserts entered in the contest ranging from rich chocolate cakes and homemade Oreo bites to scrumptious cupcakes and sea

salt, bacon, chocolate chip cookies (those tasted amazing)! We also had 37 students there to help us eat them all! Thank you to all the youth who invited friends and made something to share! Thank you to all the adults who helped serve and have fun with the youth! Lindsey took 1st place with chocolate chip cookies, Nathanael 2nd with Cremesh rolls, and a 3rd place was a tie between Nate's brownies with nuts and Toby's chocolate



cake! Congratulations to all our winners!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT

15

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

On the first Sunday of March, Awana will host their Grand Prix and the youth will run a concession stand! The youth will be serving to raise donations towards the Annie Armstrong offering! For a donation of any amount, individuals and families can get hot dogs, and a bag of chips and drinks. 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!



SU March 10th 9:30-9:55am - Donuts Church Ministry

Starting on March 10th, the youth will serve donuts to our church family in the chapel between 9:30-9:55am on the second Sunday of each month! We will try this out for at least two months. Youth who serve will lower their cost of summer camp.

SU March 24th 2:00-5:30pm - Youth Easter Outreach

On Palm Sunday, we will mobilize our youth group to speak Jesus in our nearby neighborhoods! We will meet to pack cookies and brownies, invitations to our church's Easter service, and gospel tracts in gift bags, and then hand them out in local neighborhoods. Before we depart, we'll organize into groups, discuss our plans and goals, and pray. Transportation will be provided, but I am asking youth to bake and bring cookies and brownies to distribute.

SA April 13th 1:00-5:00pm - Women's Mission & Tea Servers

On Saturday April 13th from 1-5pm, students can serve as waiters at the Women's Mission and Tea. They must dress in a nice white shirt tucked into black pants with a belt. They will aid the women's ministry in setting up, serving tea and food, and cleaning up. Students will earn money off serving at this event.

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

Circle your calendars and start praying and planning accordingly!

WHAT WE'RE TEACHING

ANSWERS BIBLE CURRICULUM: Unit 5 – Chosen: God's Purpose through Jacob and Joseph

In March, we are in Unit 5 of Answers Bible Curriculum. This month, we will follow God's faithful transformation of conniving Jacob into confident Israel. We'll study Jacob stealing the blessing, enduring the difficult consequences, and wrestling with God to become Israel! We'll find assurance for our stories as we trace God's steadfast mercy working with and on messy people and families to keep His promises. Our greatest assurance comes from God unfolding His plan to redeem humanity through Jesus according to those promises and through those messy people! On Easter Sunday, we'll have a special snack and lesson celebrating Jesus' resurrection! Youth Group:



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

Last month, we learned about God's job and our job when we share Jesus, how our love and unity is proof Jesus is true, and how to have an intentional conversation with others to speak Jesus. This month, we will learn how to share the gospel through the 3 circles and what is saving faith, the right response to the gospel. Then on Palm Sunday we will apply what we learned and go speak Jesus in nearby neighborhoods and invite them to join us on Easter Sunday! Please keep our Easter Outreach in your prayers!



Small Group:



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

From February 19th to March 18th, we are doing the Passport Bible Study! We are learning 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 requires 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 from 6:30-8pm. (During this time our teen small groups will not meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays.) Those who complete the study will get to go on a surprise trip at the end! Please keep the 7 students and the adult leaders in prayer as we go through this foundational study!

Sincerely, Pastor Jonathan James

16

Rise-up Children's Ministry

Monthly Insight

Sundays

8:45 Nursery/Toddler Care

10:00 Sunday School

All Ages

11:00 Worship Classes



What's Happening

March

- 3 <u>Awana Grand Prix</u> 6 Silly Hat Night
- 13 NO CLUB –

Spring Break

20 Regular Club Night27 **Decades Night**

50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, etc. YOUR Choice



The Trinity

Just like the leaves
On each shamrock I see,
There are three parts
To the Holy Trinity.
First is God the Father,
Then Jesus, His Only Son,
And the Holy Spirit
Together as one.

RiseUp Children's Ministry













The Ramoth Family Skate Night was a "wheely" good time. We had families attend from all of Ramoth's ministries (277 in attendance) and they showed up ready to ROLL! It was a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, and skating. Until next year's skate night!



Volunteers needed

Please contact Megan Williams: children@rbcstafford.org

Please Save for VBS

Packing Peanuts

Plastic Bottle Caps

Toilet Paper & Paper Towel Rolls

17

VBS Donations Appreciated

Bright colored Pool Noodles

Q-tips

Coffee Filters

Cans of Spray Foam

A Weekend to Remember

You fell in love, but real life wasn't far behind. Take this time to invest in and strengthen your marriage. You're finally getting away—so get back to what matters.

The local Weekend to Remember is just 9 weeks away: Reston April 26, 2024 to April 28, 2024

There is also a
Weekend to
Remember at
Williamsburg, VA

November 22, 2024 to November 24, 2024

Price: \$150 per person

For a discount use Group Name:

RAMOTH for \$250

per couple.

To register go to:
https://www.family
https://www.family







Point of Contact: Pam Null (text 540-645-1674, if you have any questions)

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. March 27, 2024 is the last Wednesday Night Dinner until August.

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.



March 6

Josh Farrar's Team

Philly Cheese Steaks with Onions, Peppers, Mushrooms and Bacon Available on the Side Fries and Side Salad

Dessert

March 13

No Dinner during Spring Break

March 20

Men's Ministry
Chili Mac and all the fixin's
Hotdogs and Chips for Kids
Cookies for Dessert

March 27

Men's Ministry

Meatball Boat with Cole Slaw

Chicken Strips for Kids

Cookies & Ice Cream

Happy Birthday!

March 2

Jeff Robinson

Greg Kolandjian

March 15

March 4

Sheila Alford Alan Deleon March 21

Shannon Turman

March 5

Kenneth Shifflett

March 22
Edis James

March 23

Terry Menteer Joann Jewell

March 8

March 6

James Taah

Carrie Hudson

March 24

Jeff Tyson

March 9

Sonja Edson

March 25

Aaron Hudson

March 10

Logan Garrison

March 26

Rod Montgomery

March 11

Jeff Sullivan Jackie Dawley March 27

Jacob Nimeth

March 12

J Young Tim Eicher Sean Truax March 28

Ryan Price

March 31

Amy Mehochko Margaret Canter 20 **Hughes Home**

Elfriede Brownice

March 9

Norma LaFleur

March 9

Margaret Fowler

March 13

Merritt Miller

March 16

Garvin Walter

March 23

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.

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	O Psalm 51:1-12 O Proverbs 28:13 O Matthew 9:1-8 O Acts 3:19 O 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	O Psalm 105 O Genesis 9:12-17 O Genesis 12:1-3 O 2 Corinthians 1:20 O 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	 O John 20:1-18 O Daniel 12:2-3 O John 11:25-26 O 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 O 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	O Psalm 119:9-16, 103-105, 114, 129-131 O Isaiah 40:8 O Romans 1:16-17 O 2 Timothy 3:16-17 O 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-February 19

Offerings

General Fund

Designated Fund

Expenses

Cemetery Fund

Cemetery Fund Donations:

Claude Byram

Charlotte Stevens

Paid out for cemetery upkeep:

Average Attendance

Sunday Events

Wednesday Events

Other Weekly Events

Welcome New Members

Sue Gammon

Beth Ruiz

In Christian Sympathy

To the Snyder family after the loss of

Tammy's Mother

To the family of Charlotte Stevens

To Polly Dean and the Marshall family

after the loss of Mary's brother—in-law,

Jeff Dean



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: LifeWay X-plore the Bible

~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

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

Associate Pastor of Students

Jonathan James (540) 659-4588 ext. 4 (703) 935-9485 students@rbcstafford.org

Children's Ministry Director

Megan Williams (540) 659-4588 ext. 6 children@rbcstafford.org

Director of Refuge Ministry

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

Director of Media and Communication

Jocelyne Micke (540) 659-4588 media@rbcstafford.org

Administrative Assistant

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

Financial Ministry Assistant

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

Facilities Manager

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

Associate Counselor

Kim Colson (540) 602-7986 counseling2@rbcstafford.org

Ways to Give

Online: rbcstafford.org

Download our App:



Mail: 478 Ramoth Church Road, Stafford, VA 22554

