

# The Beacon

## Merry Christmas

May you experience  
God's presence and  
peace as you celebrate  
this Christmas season  
and throughout the New  
year.

Merry Christmas  
Jim Colson

Merry Christmas  
one and all. May  
God bless you richly  
with His love and care.  
Gus "Woody" Wood

MERRY CHRISTMAS FAMILY!  
MAY GOD SHOWER BLESSINGS  
UPON YOU AS WE REMEMBER  
HIS GREATEST BLESSING OF ALL!  
Jenny Tomaster

Merry Christmas!  
Happy New Year!  
-Kati

Merry Christmas  
One and all!  
Praying your  
Christmas is blessed  
beyond measure!

Jim Garrison

Merry Christmas to all!  
May God Bless each  
one of you. Hope that  
next year is better  
than this past year.

Jimmy

Merry Christmas to all!  
What a great time to "speak Jesus"  
and to share His love through the  
Gospel message. Looking forward  
to how God will use our church  
in the New Year in ministry to our  
community and beyond.

Richard

Merry Christmas everyone!  
Worship Jesus in this  
Christmas season and  
celebrate the birth of our  
Savior and King!  
God Bless  
Pastor Chuck  
and Carol

### Worship Schedule

#### Wednesdays

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

#### Sundays

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

Bible Studies and Activities are  
scheduled throughout the week.

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There are no Wednesday Night Dinner events in December. It will resume on January 7, 2026. More information will be available in the January 2026 issue of the Beacon.



Dear Church Family,

As we approach the New Year there is always the question, "How is the church doing?" And in that thought we look at many things that are happening but many churches are looking in the opposite direction. Thankfully we are not. But in doing so they miss where they are and where they need to be and where they need to go. So, I just recently read this article by Carey Nieuwhof that addresses an issue that many churches are facing today, which is declining, and in which they don't grasp why this is happening. He presented this article entitled, "11 Signs Your Church Is Going Extinct." I want to share this article with you so that we won't be caught unaware of where we're going. He writes:

"In all the conversation among church leaders about the future of the church and declining attendance, the question remains, how's your church doing? Sometimes that can be difficult to discern. Unless you're in a free fall right now, it can be hard to know whether your congregation will thrive, survive or take a dive in the next decade. But like most things in life, there are signs right now that will point to the direction in which you're headed. And if you can know now, why wait? I am a believer that The Church will survive and even thrive, but it will look different than it does now. But in the meantime, amidst a rapidly changing culture, many individual congregations are endangered species. They could easily become extinct. Change always brings dislocation, death, and renewal. Personally, I want as many churches as possible to be on the side of renewal. And that starts with an honest assessment of where you are as a church today. I believe there are quick gut checks that you can assess easily that will hopefully lead to deeper conversation and change:

### 11 Signs Your Church Is Going Extinct

If your church is showing one or two of these signs, some change is in order to optimally position your congregation for the future. If it's showing more than half of the signs, then in my view there's some serious work to be done. If it's showing most or all of the signs, it's time for some prayerful and radical repentance and reinvention before it's too late.

1. No sense of urgency. Growing churches have an exceptional sense of urgency. Stagnant and declining churches don't. If every Sunday is just another Sunday and you don't have a burning sense that lives and eternity hangs in the balance, then you've lost the edge that all great churches, preachers and movements share.

2. Urgency about the wrong things. It's not that dying churches don't have any sense of urgency. In fact, they will often feel urgency about two things: the budget and survival. If your motive for growth is financial, you should probably close your doors or open your heart. Unchurched people can smell it a mile away when you see them as simply a means to an end. Resources and people follow vision. If your only vision is to stay afloat, the end is near.

3. Decline has made you cautious. Growing churches take risks. Stagnant or declining churches don't. Churches that aren't growing often end up in preservation mode – they try to conserve what little they already have rather than risk it to grow again. This is a critical mistake. Ask yourself, when was the last time you took a real risk? If you can't answer that, you're far too cautious.

4. Success has made you cautious. It's not just stagnation or decline that makes leaders cautious, success does it too. Sometimes you become so successful you become afraid to break the formula. So you become cautious. You stop innovating. You risk little. The greatest enemy of your future success is your current success.

5. Your affection for the past is greater than your excitement for the future. Stuck or declining churches are nostalgic churches. They remember when everything was amazing, which clearly isn't today. To figure this out, listen to the way people talk. Is there an excitement for what's next, or mostly a longing for what was? When your affection for the past is greater than your excitement for the future, you're in trouble.

6. You don't understand the changing culture. Stagnant and declining churches often see a gap develop between them and the culture. Because nothing has changed in a decade or several decades the world is seen at best as something they don't understand, or at worst, as an enemy. Outsiders who come in see a church like that as, at best, quaint, and more likely as irrelevant and misguided. Jesus loves the world enough to die for it. The church should love the world enough to reach it.

7. You haven't got any new leaders around the table. I'm not advocating for high turnover in staff and leaders, but in far too many churches there is no plan to renew leadership. Churches who position themselves for future impact intentionally integrate new voices and new leaders around the table. I try to keep a balance of established, trusted voices and new voices around our table.

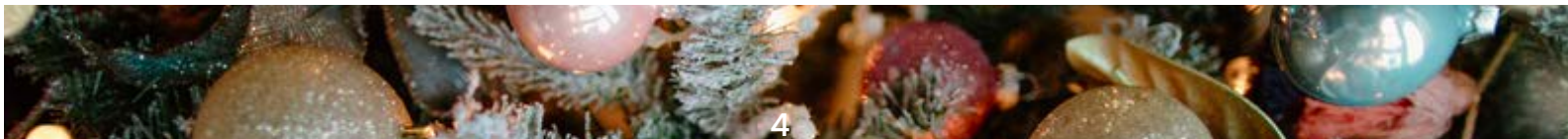
8. You mostly listen to the voices of current members. (MY WORDS HERE - I understand what he is saying here but want to give clarification as to where we are. He states that "too often, the voice of current church members drowns out the voice of the unchurched people you're trying to reach." Here, we listen to and seek to find the needs of our community and then attempt to put the ministries we're led by the Lord to offer. We go to Scripture, prayer, our members, and listen to our Lord's direction prior to starting any ministry. The unchurched are the ones we're trying to reach but we do not bring them to the table in decision making. To me church membership is extremely important and that gives you the opportunity to express your views to the body.)

9. Your conflict is about all the wrong things. There will always be some level of conflict whenever human beings gather, so what's your conflict about? Dying churches spend their energy fighting each other and fighting change. Growing churches spend their energy fighting for new opportunities to reach unchurched people and speaking up for the change that will impact their lives.

10. Any growth you have is transfer growth. That's awesome. But who are you reaching? If your growth is mostly transfer growth, you're pulling from an ever-smaller pool of people. If you're reaching unchurched people with little or no church background, the future is much brighter.

11. The core team is not fundamentally healthy. How does your leadership get along? Do you like hanging out with each other? Do you resolve conflict directly, quickly and effectively? Are you growing in your faith and in your skill set? Are you living in a way today physically, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally, that will help you thrive tomorrow? Are you aligned around a common mission, vision, and strategy." (end of article)

In looking at all of this, if you answer yes to most of these questions, you're healthy. If not, there's some work to do. What we know to be true in our convention and churches is that health at the top is health at the bottom. On the other hand, dysfunction at the top is dysfunction at the bottom. We





are striving to train up new leaders and we have seen many of those in the last several years now leading our ministries. We are continuing to train our children and youth as the future leaders of our church but realizing that, right now, each of us, as members, are the future of the church as we respond to God's calling on our lives. This is a great time to be a part of the ministries of Ramoth Baptist Church.

Just a quick update on our building program - we are moving along a little slower than anticipated but hope to pick up speed quickly. We have met in a preliminary site plan meeting with the county and are working on some additional things that we weren't expecting but the process is going well and we are still on budget even with the additional issues the county has stated that we need. We are still looking at breaking ground mid-spring 2026 but hopefully sooner and the completion date of the building in early 2027 (Jan -Feb). The giving to our stewardship campaign continues to be strong as well as the giving to our annual budget and I commend you for your faithfulness. Continue to pray for our church and our expanded ministries as we prepare to be able to accomplish much more in the work of our Lord.

Oh, I almost forgot to ask, "Are you ready for Christmas?"

Dr. Richard

# Letter from Dr. Richard Harrell



# Letter from the Deacons

2025 has been a momentous year for Ramoth Baptist Church. I think we will look back on this year as one of significance and lasting impact for God's Kingdom. We are boldly moving forward in the direction God has called us. At the beginning of the year, we voted overwhelmingly to construct the Family Life Center, a nearly 10,000 square foot building with classrooms and fellowship space that will meet our growing church's needs and allow us to minister more effectively to our community. A few short months after that consequential vote, we faithfully gave the money to make it a reality, with groundbreaking scheduled early next year. Our church continues to faithfully give to the project and our general fund, and we approved one of our largest faith-based budgets. In faith, we changed our Sunday morning schedule to be the best stewards of our current facilities, and we have witnessed people attending Sunday School for the first time. Ramoth is faithfully discipling the flock. After much hard work by our Personnel Committee, and prayer by members of this church, God brought us Pastor Ben LoPresti to be our Associate Pastor of Students. We saw children come to faith in VBS. We saw children and adults baptized. We saw amazing volunteers throughout the year using their God-given gifts in all sorts of ministries.

2025 was indeed a momentous year. One that saw our church make incredible, faith-based decisions that are setting the stage for amazing years to come if we continue to follow God's leading.

Pete Johnson

## Deacons of the Week

### **December 7**

Shawn Blake (540) 226-2308

Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689

### **December 21**

Paul Germain (540) 216-1250

Jacob Nimeth (540) 408-3887

### **December 14**

Nate Ewoldt (540) 273-5549

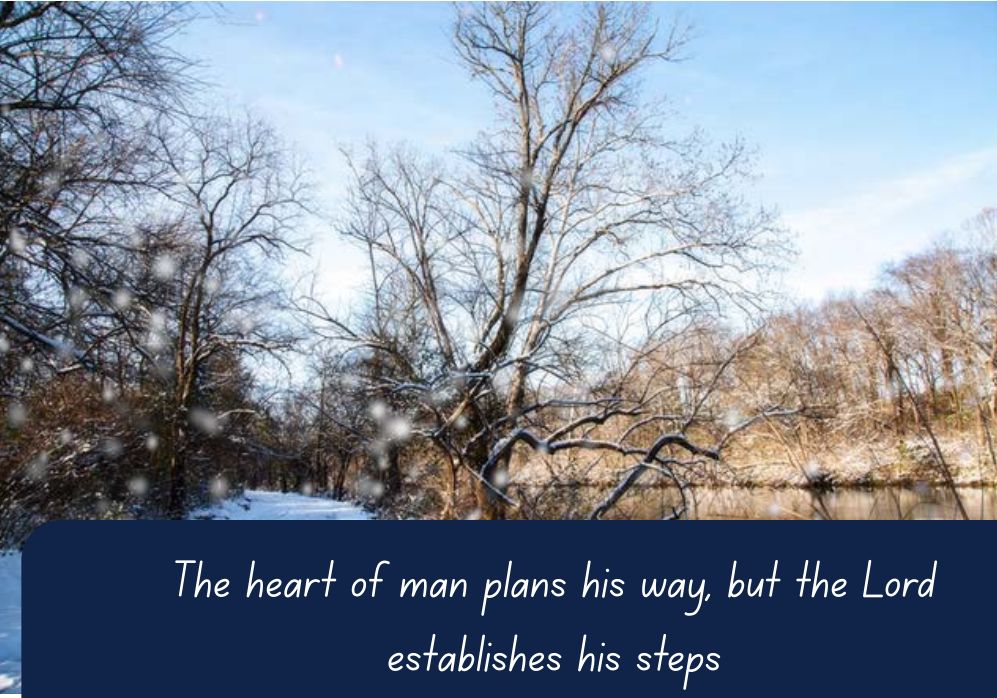
Dan Mehochko (540) 272-8137

### **December 28**

Gary Graham (540) 446-8814

Joe Pearson (540) 940-1762

# Christmas Plans and God's Surprising Path: Finding Hope in Proverbs 16:9



*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord  
establishes his steps  
Proverbs 16:9 ESV*

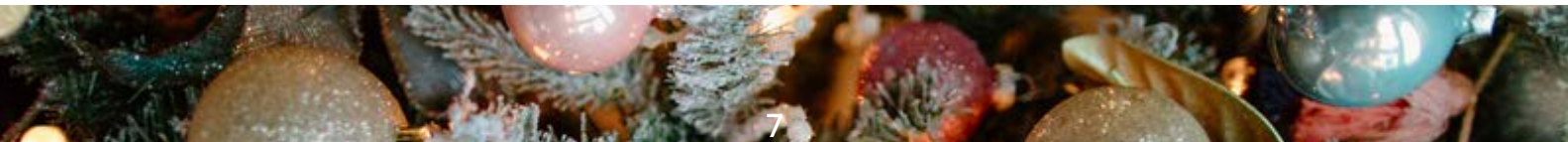
Every Christmas, we make plans. We schedule family gatherings, shop for gifts, decorate our homes, and look forward to special traditions. But sometimes, despite our best efforts, things don't go as we expect. Maybe a snowstorm changes travel plans, a loved one can't make it, economic challenges mean we can't do as much as in years past, maybe you can't be surrounded by family and friends, or in my house, a loved one is unable to do the things she usually does at Christmas. In moments like these, Proverbs 16:9 speaks right into our Christmas experience:

"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." (ESV) The very first Christmas was full of surprises and changed plans. Mary and Joseph had their own ideas about what life would look like. They were engaged to be married, likely planning a quiet life in Nazareth, beginning with a very public wedding. But God had a different path for them. An angel appeared to Mary, telling her she would give birth to the Savior, Jesus (Luke 1:26-38). Joseph, too, had to change his plans when he learned of Mary's pregnancy, but God reassured him through a dream (Matthew 1:18-25).

Can you imagine looking to God and saying, "I trust you, Father," Instead of lashing out in anger because things didn't go our way? We all feel betrayed until we realize that God is absolutely in control of all things and the things that bring Him glory bring us good (Romans 8:28).

Then, just as Mary was about to give birth, a government order forced them to travel to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7). There was no room in the inn, so Jesus was born in a humble stable. None of this was in Mary and Joseph's original plans, but God was guiding every step. No one would ever imagine the Messiah would be born in such humble beginnings. Some could never see Him for who He really was. God the Son who stepped out of the universe and stepped into the body of a tiny baby. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us that while we make our plans, God is the one who directs our steps. The Christmas story shows us that God's ways are often different—and better—than our own. He uses unexpected circumstances to accomplish His good purposes. This is how it always is. We look back on all the moments of our lives to see how God has directed every step. He did this even before we knew Him.

He directed us to new relationships, families, new jobs, new places to live and worship, new friends,





and new callings. He directed our steps through dark valleys where we were not sure we could ever endure, and He has directed our steps into ways of serving Him that we would never have imagined ourselves doing. He still directs our steps. No matter our plans, God is directing our steps in a way we can bring Him incredible glory!

This Christmas, if your plans change or things feel uncertain, remember that God is still at work. Just as He guided Mary and Joseph, He is guiding you. The birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior, showing that even when life feels out of control, God's love and purpose remain steady.

How Can We Respond?

We can hold Plans Loosely. It's good to plan and prepare but be willing to trust God when things change. He may have something better in store.

Always look for God's Hand. In the middle of changed plans or disappointments, ask God to help you see how He is working. Sometimes, the most meaningful moments come in unexpected ways. Remember to Celebrate God's Faithfulness. Christmas is proof that God keeps His promises. Even when the path is different than we imagined, His love never fails.

As you celebrate Christmas this year, let Proverbs 16:9 remind you that God is lovingly directing your steps. The first Christmas was full of surprises, but it brought the greatest gift of all—Jesus, our Savior. No matter what your plans look like, you can trust that God's purpose will stand, and His love will guide you every step of the way.

# Letter from Pastor Chuck

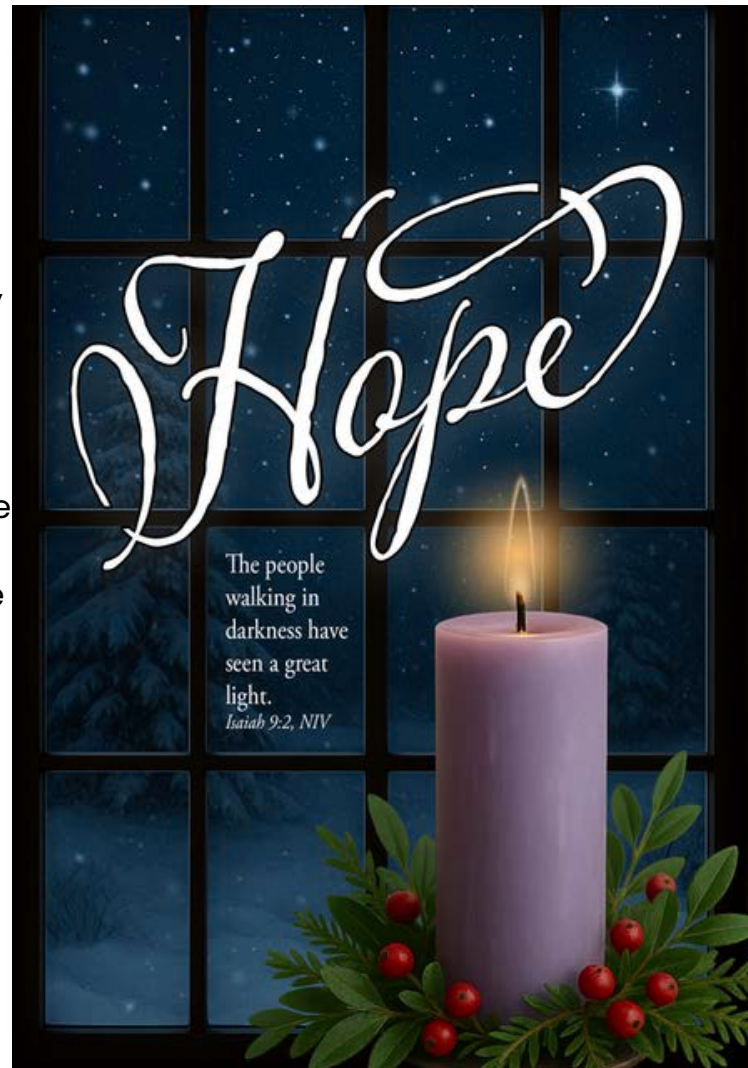
# Letter from the Refuge Ministry

Merry Christmas and happy holidays, one and all. Oh, what a time to be in the favor of the Lord. His goodness and faithfulness towards His people, it endures the test of all times. Coming from a season of thanksgiving into the season where we give the greatest of thanks for the greatest of gifts. We enter now, into the season when we acknowledge the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The greatest gift to all of humanity.

We know the account of His birth, life, death, and resurrection. We know what all of that does for us. We know what it means to have faith in what was done in each of those situations. In Jesus' birth we all were given hope. Hope for a better, brighter tomorrow. A tomorrow that was made possible because the Son of God was fulfilling the prophecies about His birth and what He had come to earth to do. He was and is the answer to how humanity gets reconciled to God. Given a new chance to live, life fully without the shame and bondage of sin forever being a part of their lives. The birth of Jesus changed the trajectory of all humanity forever. And it all started in a lowly place, in an old barn, inside of a little manger.

In the life of Jesus, we received the blessings of His love, compassion, and care. We see His love through the grace that He extended to those in sin, even when there were witnesses to that sin. Jesus, did not condemn, but sought to forgive and restore. We see His compassion in the healing those were sick or disabled, in the feeding of those physically and spiritually who were in need. Jesus, did not care about the nature of the need or the magnitude of the need, He just met the need. We see His care in the way that He redeems those who have gone astray or those who have lost their way. Jesus, did not care about why they struggled or how they came to struggle, He just reminded them that He cared about them and the future He wanted for them.

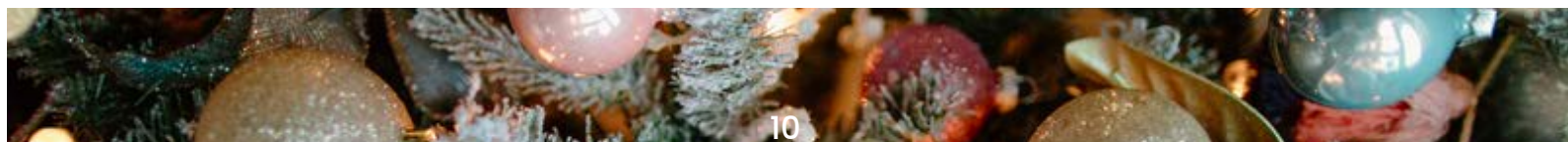
As painful as Jesus' death was, it was necessary. While His betrayal is difficult to read, it was necessary. Even the denial as unbelievable as it was, it too was necessary. His death was necessary, because it in the weight of all sin was placed on the one person who could manage it, Jesus. The betrayal was necessary because it showed us that sometimes we can be aligned with the wrong people or things, but it does not mean the end of us. The denial was necessary to illustrate how easy it can be for us to lose sight of the truths that we have encountered when we are facing things that we are fearful of facing. Through it all we are being taught about the lengths that Jesus was willing to go through for each of us. It was all necessary, so that we could see the fullness of Jesus' sacrificial love.



In the resurrection of Jesus...death was defeated, sin was dealt with once and all, and shame was made an afterthought to those who no longer lived in it. The resurrection fulfilled the prophecies of Jesus' victory of death and showed once more the power and authority of Jesus Christ. Through the resurrection and our belief in Jesus, we are raised anew in Him to life. We are given the opportunity to live lives greater than we could have ever imagined. We are given this incredible gift, the moment that we choose to accept, believe, and confuse that He is Lord. The only thing left for us to do, besides sharing the Gospel, is for us to wait for His return or His calling of us home. If you have struggled, thought yourself dead to sin. If you have been lost and weary of all of your burdens. Remember now, that as difficult as these things may have been or even that they are, if they brought you to Jesus they were necessary. Necessary so that you could share in the greatest gift of all, Life through Jesus Christ. If you need help with anything right now, know that He created the Refuge Ministry Center with you in mind. We are here for you, no matter the need. Just reach out to us, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8 am to 5pm, and Friday 8 am to 12pm. We can be reached by phone at 540-602-7986 or by email at [counseling@rbcstafford.org](mailto:counseling@rbcstafford.org) or [counseling2@rbcstafford.org](mailto:counseling2@rbcstafford.org). We are here to make a difference in your life, and we are here to remind you that there is always help.

Your Brother in Christ,

Sergio "Woody" Wooden





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

Sergio "Woody" Wooden: [counseling@rbcstafford.org](mailto:counseling@rbcstafford.org)

### **In The Wildflowers**

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

### **DivorceCare**

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

### **Food Pantry**

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

There are multiple days/times to help:

Monday: Shopping/Box Prep

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

Fridays: Donation Pickup/Sorting

Saturday/Sunday: Donation Pickup

### **Women Overcoming Depression**

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

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



# *Updates from the Women's Ministry*

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday, Nov 25th: Prayer Group**

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

**Time:** 6:30pm

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

**Sat, Dec 6th: Christmas Ornament Exchange**

**Location:** RBC Fellowship Hall

**Time:** 10:00am-12:00pm

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

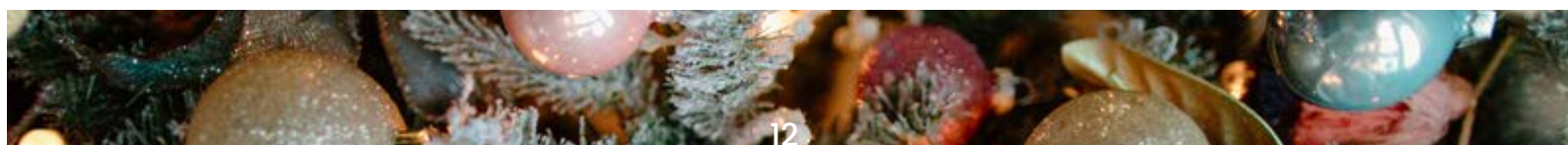
**Sat, Dec 13th: FIT Workshop – Fiber & Fellowship**

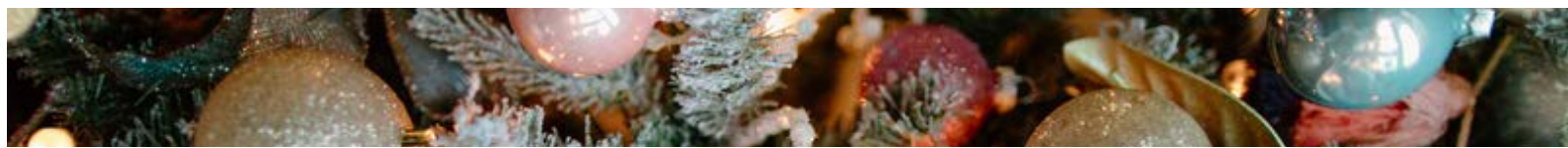
**Location:** RBC Chapel on Dec 13th

**Time:** 10:00am-12:00pm

**Leader:** Sarah Fraley (natasha25461@gmail.com)

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





**Save the Date**

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

**Location:** RBC

**Time:** TBD

**Save the Date**

**Sat, Feb 28th: SBCV Women's Conference-Refresh**

**Location:** First Baptist Church Woodbridge

**Time:** TBD

**Save the Date**

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

**Location:** RBC Fellowship Hall

**Time:** TBD

**Save the Date**

**Sat, April 17th-18th: In the Word with Jen Wilkin**

**Location:** London Bridge Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA

**Time:** TBD

**Needs and Thank You's!**

Thank you to all of you who helped at the registration table for the Fall Festival and with the Wednesday Night Dinner, we couldn't have done it without you ladies! Also thank you to all of the leaders and participants in our November FIT Workshops, which included a new Women's Health workshop. We look forward to engaging in more service and fellowship opportunities in 2026!

**Needs:**

We are always looking for others to share their talents with our Women's Ministry, church and community. If you have a talent to share, an idea for an event/F.I.T. Workshop, or would like to help coordinate/lead any events please reach out to the Women's Ministry. Any and all ideas are welcome!

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

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

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



**1. Taking care of your family (Part 6). Prep for a Frigid Winter** (Dr. Harrell, snow is coming!) (No, it's not-Dr. H) Prevent winter catastrophes. Keep home & homies safe, warm, & healthy as temperatures dip. Consider these tips before deep winter arrives!

**Survival supplies:** many of these items you'll find listed in Beacons from July thru November. If you missed these, email a request to me.

**Trees & Shrubs:** Check for overhanging branches that need trimming. Wrap or protect shrubs needing it.

**Outdoor Spigots:** Avoid frozen pipes. Assure they are turned off inside. Disconnect & drain hoses.

**Gutters:** Make sure gutters are clear to help run off.

**Exposed pipes:** Protect pipes from freezing & heat loss. Wrap insulation sleeves around pipes running thru unheated areas, i.e. attics & crawl spaces.

**Seal the gaps:** Caulk or weatherstripping of drafty windows & doors keeps cold out & heat in while saving 5 to 10% in energy costs.

**Fireplace:** Clean & inspect the Chimney. Keep damper closed when not in use. Stockpile firewood & starter.

**2. The basics of the Christian Faith.** During the last year, we reviewed the 10 Commandments as a way to lean into our obedience to God & help our children grow into a Christlike character. This coming year, we'll be looking into the Basics of Christian life. What are the basics? Well, consider how Vince Lombardi started one of his football practices after losing one game so badly. At the next practice, he told his team they were going to start with the basics. Then, he held up a ball and said, "*Gentlemen, this is a football.*" This month, "Salvation" is one of the basics to the Christian faith we'll review. In coming months, we'll look at six more terms with supporting verses. Some you know already, but they will be good ones to memorize, share with our family, or use to witness as we speak Jesus to others.

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

## 7 AM Saturday Study

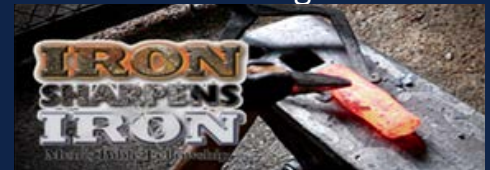
### Fellowship Hall – Rod Montgomery

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

Come enjoy some breakfast with us, too.

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

Dec 2025—We will be continuing to study *Isaiah*. There is much to learn about Israel, their future & our own future—The Millenium and The Kingdom.



### Iron Sharpens Iron

7 PM - 1st & 15th - Dec 2025

### Kerry Knowles

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

### Every Man a Warrior

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

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

For more information, contact the church office or

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

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

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

# How Is Your Salvation Linked to Christmas?

Christmas brings to mind a Holy night as a young virgin mother arrives at a stable about to give birth to a child who will bring Salvation to all who will look to Him. The angel had declared to Joseph, “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21). Where did this term “Salvation” come from. It’s one of those Christian speak words we so often use. To the secular world salvation means: preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, or loss. But to the Christian, Salvation means: deliverance from sin and its consequence. Salvation is a rescue from sin. At its heart, the word Salvation comes from the Hebrew word **yshuwah** meaning: something saved. It is the same word used for Jesus. So, as we turn to Jesus, we are turning to our Salvation.

Why do we need Salvation? Because Adam’s sin in the garden brought death and a separation from God. When Adam sinned, God promised a Savior that would redeem us and bridge the chasm between man and God. He would send a second Adam who was perfect. So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. I Cor 15:45 Our Savior, Jesus, fully God and fully man, was born to bring salvation as He would take on the punishment of sin to redeem us and span our separation from God to bring us salvation. Jesus Christ, “who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Phil 2:5-8

At Christmas, God brings us a gift of incalculable worth. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Eph 2:8-10

And so, Christmas links us the hope of salvation as we say, “A Savior is born.” Have you received Him as your Savior? He’s offered His gift for all who will receive it. We have the promise that, “as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13

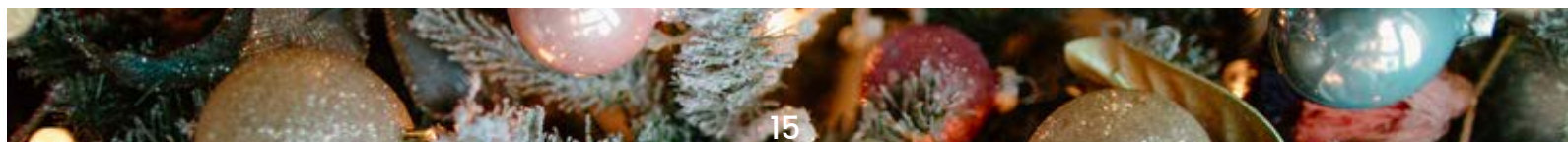
If you haven’t already, won’t you give Him the gift of your heart this Christmas and receive Salvation in **yshuwah**, the Lord Jesus Christ?

I leave you with that verse that has brought so many to the cross for salvation.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16-18

Merry Christmas

## Men’s Ministry Message





# Prime Timers' Updates

**December 18, 2025**

**Theme:**

Joy to the World

**Menu:**

Ham, and sides (Please Bring Sides and/or Desserts)

**Host/Hostess:**

Linda Buckles

**Decorator:**

Deacons: Decor will be from Widow and Widowers Banquet.

**Guest Speaker/ Testimony:**

Dr. Richard Harrell

**Singing Every Month**



**White Elephant Gift Exchange**

Helen Young

Add joy to the luncheon by participating in the gift exchange.  
To participate bring a gift.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*From the desk of the Director*

*Busy*

*Merriam-Webster definition of busy:*

- 1a. engaged in action: occupied*
- b. being in use*
- 2. full of activity: bustling*
- 3. foolishly or intrusively active: meddling*
- 4. full of distracting detail*

*The word busy is used a lot this time of year. As I sit and ponder why this season seems so busy, I decided to look up the word in scripture.*

*A simple search on my ESV Bible app gave me seven verses. So I went to the library at the church and looked in a couple of concordances to compare. Many of the verses that were listed pertained to definition #3 and to busybodies. Another term for busybody is meddler which would be in line with #3.*

*2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 says, "For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living." This passage links idleness to busybodies and not working. Work has a purpose and meaning and therefore is productive.*

*In the hustle and bustle this season, instead of being busy, let us be productive with purpose and meaning. Let us remember the reason for the season, take time to reflect, and be present in the moment.*

*(A fun song to listen to: <https://youtu.be/812LZSmuhco>)*

*Jenny Forrester*

*"Busy." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/busy>. Accessed 17 Nov. 2025.*



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## AWANA

### December

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

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### Memory Verses

#### Luke 2:10-11

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

#### Psalms 8:3-4

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

#### Psalms 8:5-6

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

## RUM

*Season's Greetings! Rise Up Homeschool Ministry (RUM) wrapped up the fall semester just before Thanksgiving. We packed so much into the final month! Students toured the WPER facility and even recorded a message that was broadcast on November 12th. What a unique and educational experience! Families came together for a fall family bonfire for fellowship and smores. Having the RUM community provided valuable support, fellowship, friendship, and prayers during a difficult time for many families amid the Government shutdown. We are so grateful for RUM and the support of the broader Ramoth church community!*

*As we wrap up the fall semester we look toward the spring semester beginning in January. Parents committed to the classes they'll teach, and students registered for their spring classes. The spring semester has a plethora of offerings from Star Spangled Adventures (an American history class geared towards younger students) to Ancient Mysteries (solving ancient mysteries using modern science), and geology to water color arts. Some classes will provide students the opportunity to have hands-on experiences with real world skills such as manners, photography, and auto mechanics.*

*We wish everyone the happiest of holidays over the next two months. We'll catch up with you in the New Year!*

# VOLUNTEER

## SPOTLIGHT

1. *Why do you and your family volunteer?*
2. *What is one thing that your family loves to do together outside of church; hobbies, routines, etc.?*
3. *If your family could choose anywhere to go to take a vacation, where would you go?*

Nathanael

1. *To serve God*
2. *Ski*
3. *Romania or a mountain range resort out of country*

Giana

1. *To serve God*
2. *Ski/Snowboard*
3. *Caribbean Islands/Swiss Alps/Greece*

Flavius

1. *I am second mindset. I serve in order for others to flourish. A verse that comes to mind is Romans 12:10-11 "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."*
2. *I cannot disagree with the kids on this, but skiing would be top of the list we enjoy doing as well as being at the beach.*
3. *Israel and any place that has ancient ruins.*

Lidia

1. *Be obedient to God and give back to the church. Nathanael and Giana grew up in Children's Ministry at Ramoth, AWANA, and VBS. They were poured into the Word of God and now it is our turn to do it for others.*
2. *Skiing, beach, watching football or soccer games at UVA.*
3. *Israel, Romania*



# FAMILY

## SPOTLIGHTS

1. What is your family's favorite outing?
2. What is your family's favorite game to play together?
3. What do you love about the children's ministry at Ramoth Baptist Church?



1. Our favorite family outing is going to the playground or on a walk and enjoying ice cream after!
2. The boys love to play any game that involves them being super heroes! That usually entails us being the "bad guy" and them chasing us around to save the day! We also enjoy doing puzzles together.
3. We love the children's ministry at Ramoth Baptist Church because there are so many activities throughout the year to keep our children involved and plugged in church. We also love how everyone loves and pours into our children each and every week!



1. Our favorite outing is going to the Washington Capitals hockey games. We do not go often, but when we do go, we have a great time watching our favorite hockey players.
2. At home, we love playing Dragonwood. By collecting cards, you can stomp, scream or strike the monsters to defeat them and earn points. After defeating the two dragons, the game is over. The person with the most points is the winner.
3. Our boys have loved the Children's Ministry. The teachers are very nice, and the weekly lessons are fun and interesting. Alexander and James were able to attend their first VBS last year, and had a blast! They especially enjoyed the Bible stories and the science experiments. Timothy has loved volunteering for VBS the last two years.

# December Birthdays

## December 6

Jason Blake  
Jason Forrester  
Becky Raines  
Tara Truax

## December 7

Bill Anderson  
Alicia Scott

## December 8

Pastor Chuck Hite  
Jeff Johnson  
Danielle Sitko  
Steve Skidmore

## December 9

Pamela Lindsey  
Amelia Price

## December 11

James Lies

## December 12

Tina Fielding

## December 13

Luke Gentry  
Matthew Giles

## December 14

Ruby Chapman  
Rob Webster

## December 15

Pastor Paige Bowman  
Caleb Giles

## December 16

Christopher Adams  
Chuck Brown  
Ralph Craiger

## December 19

JoAnn Embrey  
Randy Tydings

## December 20

Grace Pearson

## December 23

Amanda Kolandjian

## December 24

Paul Germain

## December 25

Madison Blake

## December 26

Emmett Williams

## December 29

Danny Leech

## December 30

Mary Hobson

## December 31

Andrew Kolandjian  
Kay Mehochko



## Hughes Home Riverhouse

### Virginia Lovitt

December 5

### Jerrilynn Herfurtner

December 6

### Rosalie Embrey

December 19

### Nelda "Nel" Carlson

December 20

### Freddy DeBernard

December 30

### Walter Nivens

December 30

### Mail a Card!

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

# Stewardship

Offerings and Attendance January 1–November 17

## Offerings

**GENERAL FUND**

**DESIGNATED FUND**

**EXPENSES**

## Cemetery Fund

**UPKEEP**

**DONATED**

## Average Attendance

**SUNDAY EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY EVENTS**

**OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS**

## Welcome New Member

## Hughes Home Riverhouse

### **DONATIONS**

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

# Worship Service & Sunday School Schedule

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

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

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

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

# Contact Us

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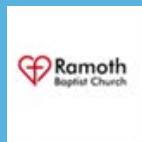
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## Ways to Give

Online: [rbcstafford.org](http://rbcstafford.org)

Download our App:



Mail: 478 Ramoth Church Road,  
Stafford, VA 22554