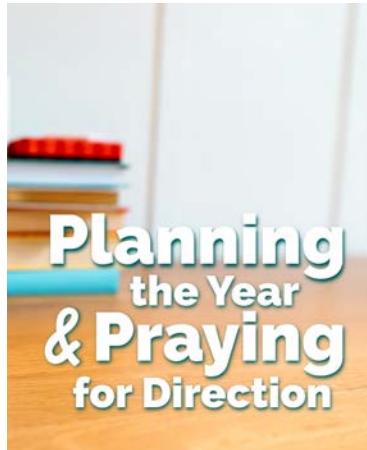


# The **Beacon**

WISHING YOU A  
**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

## **Office Closed**

Office is closed  
Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> .  
We hope you have a  
Happy New Year and  
we are in prayer for our  
church family as they  
start planning and  
making goals for 2026.



## **Quarterly Business Meeting**

Members, join us on  
January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM  
in the Fellowship Hall to  
stay informed and make  
decisions for the church's  
future.

QUARTERLY  
BUSINESS  
MEETING

## **Worship Schedule**

### **Wednesdays**

5:00PM Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:00PM 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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Greetings,

Happy, Happy New Year! We've made it through 2025, and it's had its challenges as well as its victories. We're anticipating more of the same challenges and victories, in the New Year, 2026. God continues to work in all of our ministries as we reach out to our community.

We have been blessed in calling Pastor Ben as our Associate Pastor of Student Ministries and he's hit the ground running. We welcome him and his wife Jerri, and their three children. Please be in prayer for him and his family as they make this transition and for the success and continued growth of our youth ministry. The building process is moving along slowly as we're dealing now with the county for approval of permits to begin work. There have been some minor changes in the site plan but at no additional cost as we're still on budget. Hopefully, we will break ground sometime in early spring. At that point we will be making some additional changes to our parking and activities that take place outside. The parking space will be addressed before the lower lot is disturbed. You will receive more information about that as the process continues. We have several ideas as to how all of that is going to work. The completion date of the building has been updated to early 2027 but that depends upon the permit phase and of course the weather. So, pray for good weather all of next year and especially for no snow.

Our giving to the building stewardship campaign, thus far, has been very good and all are honoring their commitments to it and others who did not make a commitment during that campaign have joined in the giving and we're off to a great start. Now we have to continue on to the finish line. This building will open many, many doors of ministry opportunities for our church to reach out to this community. We will also need additional volunteers for some of these new opportunities so get ready to step up.

Please continue to pray for this process as it takes a lot of my time and many meetings of which I attend. Continue to pray as well for our Long Term and Short Term evaluation Teams as we will be looking at the New Year as well, in moving forward. Our Lord continues to challenge and call us out in many ways, and we don't want to miss any opportunities of ministry He presents to us.

As the President of our country gives his annual State of the Union Address to inform the people of how things are progressing on all fronts, I believe the state of Ramoth Baptist Church in all areas in very good condition - spiritually and financially. We are attempting to follow the direction of the early new church in Acts 2:42-47. As we first grow spiritually, we will grow in all other areas in ministry. All of our ministries are extremely important, and I ask you to pray about where our Lord could use you in one of those ministries. He wants all of us on the playing field and not just sitting in the stands. We have many ongoing ministries that are growing and others that will begin in the New Year and there is always a need for additional help. Our new schedule is working, and new Sunday School classes will start at the beginning of the year. If you have any interest in teaching a new class or in leading a new ministry, please let me and the Sunday School Director know.

As we begin the New Year let's continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our state, our county, and our church. Pray for our ministry to expand where needed under the direction of our Lord Jesus. Pray that we are aware of the needs around us and help us to work to fulfill those needs. Pray for those who will be on mission trips this coming year that we will continue to see great results of those receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Pray for all of our outreach ministries in the community as we speak Jesus in every event in many different ways. Pray for all of our volunteers, deacons and their families, and our staff and families as we lead all of these ministries. Pray that we will look for Your guidance and direction and not our own. Pray that we will be obedient to Your calling.

All of our staff thank you for allowing us to serve here at Ramoth and look forward to a spiritually prosperous and successful year. I proclaim to you the Apostle Paul's work to the Philippians believers in Philippians 1:3-6, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Dr. Richard Harrell



I am humbled and honored that I have been entrusted by your Deacons to serve as the Deacon Chairman this year. I am filled with gratitude and excitement for all God is doing in our church. My name is Tim Eicher, and I am blessed to walk this journey alongside my wife, Shayna, and our two daughters, Everleigh (7) and Eloise (4). Ramoth holds a special place in our hearts, as it's where Shayna and I first met and where our family has grown—both in number and in faith.

This year is especially exciting as we look forward to the building of our new Family Life Center. This project is more than bricks and mortar—it's a symbol of our unity and shared vision to create a space where generations can worship, fellowship, and grow together in Christ. I encourage each of us to take part in this journey, using the gifts God has given us to serve and strengthen our church family.

As we move forward, I want to lovingly challenge us all to make the church a true priority in our lives. We live in a world that constantly pulls our attention in many directions—sports, recreation, and busy schedules often compete for our time and energy. But we must remember that nothing should come before our worship and service to the Lord. Our families, and especially our children, need to see that faith and church are not optional—they are foundational. When we put God first, everything else finds its proper place.

Serving on the Deacon Body again is a privilege, giving me another opportunity to deepen relationships and support our church through both challenges and joys. My prayer is that we will build not only a new facility, but also a lasting legacy of faith—for our children, and for those who will come after us.

Please know that my family and I, along with the entire Deacon Body, are here to pray for you, listen to you, and walk beside you. Let's face this year with joy, unity, and expectation—trusting that God is faithful and His promises never fail.

Below is your Deacon Body for 2026! We are here to love God, love people, and change our world!

Chris Adams	Jeff Johnson	Andy Robeson
Shawn Blake	Kerry Knowles	Matt Sarkissian-Vice Chairman
Tim Eicher-Chairman	Flavius Lungoccia	Sean Springer
Nate Ewoldt	Dan Mehochko	Sean Truax
Matt Giles	Jacob Nimeth	Chris Turman
Chris Hudson	Joe Pearson	Darrin Whaley
Heath Hunter	Bob Peoples-Secretary	Jon White

In His Service,

**Tim Eicher, Deacon Chair**

## Deacons of the Week

### **January 4**

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

### **January 18**

Jeff Johnson (540) 836-7535  
Tim Eicher (540) 907-1545

### **January 11**

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

### **January 25**

Nate Ewoldt (540) 273-5549  
Chris Adams (540) 426-6722

## Growth in the New Year

As we begin a new year, many people set intentions for self-improvement. While resolutions often focus on physical health or financial goals, Christians recognize an even more profound pursuit: growth in faith. This is not merely a suggestion but a vital aspect of the Christian life, a journey of becoming more like Christ (Romans 8:29).

Our spiritual lives are not meant to remain stagnant. Just as a tree needs nourishment to grow and bear fruit, believers also need to actively pursue deeper roots in their faith. Peter encourages us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). This growth allows us to better understand God's character, to discern His will, and to live in a way that honors Him. It equips us to stand firm against the temptations of sin, which is any thought, word, or deed that goes against God's word (Romans 3:23). Thankfully, for those who repent and turn to Christ, there is grace and forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

Committing to spiritual growth is a worthy New Year's resolution. Here are several practical steps, grounded in scripture, to help you draw closer to God in the coming year:

- 1. Engage with God's Word Daily:** The Bible is God's revealed truth, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). Make a habit of reading and meditating on Scripture. Consider a Bible reading plan or focus on a specific book of the Bible. Through His Word, God speaks to us, corrects us, and trains us in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17). When you arrive at a scripture that causes you to wonder, pause and dig deeper. Ask questions and enjoy this time of growth.
- 2. Cultivate a Vibrant Prayer Life:** Prayer is our direct line of communication with God. It's how we express our adoration, confess our sins, offer thanks, and bring our requests before Him. Jesus Himself modeled a life of prayer (Luke 5:16). Resolve to spend intentional time in prayer each day, not just talking to God, but also listening for His leading. "Pray without ceasing," Paul instructs us (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Try to start and end each day in prayer.
- 3. Prioritize Christian Community:** God designed us for relationship, not isolation. Gathering with other believers for worship, teaching, and fellowship is crucial for spiritual growth (Hebrews 10:24-25). In Christian community, we encourage one another, bear each other's burdens, and spur each other on toward love and good deeds. Try to be here each time the doors open. Don't miss a Sunday, be involved on Wednesdays, and join a class with others who are also being discipled.
- 4. Live in Obedience to Christ:** True faith is demonstrated by obedience. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). As you read God's Word, ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas where you can apply its truths more fully in your life. This includes turning away from sin and striving to live in a way that reflects Christ's character in your daily interactions, your work, and your choices. In other words, reflect Jesus. To walk in His will is to serve Him in obedience.
- 5. Share Your Faith with Others:** Part of growing in faith is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those around you. The Great Commission calls all believers to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Look for opportunities to share how God has worked in your life, to explain the hope you have in Christ, and to invite others to know Him personally. Tell your story. As a Christian, you have a salvation experience to share. As you share, your own understanding and conviction will often deepen.

This new year offers a fresh opportunity to prioritize what truly matters: a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. By committing to these biblical practices, you can confidently anticipate a year of profound spiritual growth, experiencing more of God's grace and drawing ever closer to His heart. Let us grow in our faith this year!

## The Refuge Ministry

Happy New Year everyone. The blessings of our Lord have allowed us to see another year. There should be much rejoicing and praising going on. However, the beginning of the new year is not always filled with many glad tidings. Sometimes the uncertainty about what the new year will bring puts pressure on people that they are not ready to assume. That's just one way some people are starting the new year off.

For some, the return to the hectic nature of work, school, and social responsibilities comes as a surprise, after several days or weeks of leisure. The return of the crowded schedule can bring stress, where there were just peace and calm. The return of the chore of managing time and priorities brings with it overcommitments, frustrations, and some disappointment. And for some, this is only the beginning of the trouble.

Yet, others will be dealing with the aftermath of the holiday season. Some will be resorting to diets to address the few extra pounds that came with all the meals, snacks, and yummy delights. Many will be repairing budgets that went bust after gifts were given, trips were traveled, and that one emergency happened that no one wants to talk about. And still there will be countless other ways that people will be bringing in the new year.

There will be new births, and some losses. There will be weddings and separations. There will be new adventures taken and some tough decisions made. Through it all though, there will be one that remains constant, unchanging, unwavering...that is God. He has something that He would have us consider as we start the new year. It is where our relationship with Him is and how much time are we spending in His word?

God might direct your attention to the words of **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, "Rejoice always,<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing,<sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Or God might have you to consider the words of **Matthew 6:25, 27, 31-34**, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?<sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'<sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.<sup>34</sup> "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Or yet still, God might just remind you subtly about the words of **Isaiah 41:9b-10**, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off";<sup>10</sup> fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Whatever message God decides to send you, just know that He has your best interest in mind. And just like God is there to help in difficult times, He has called us at the Refuge Ministry Center to be here in your time of need. Whether you are dealing with stress, loss, or family matters; we want to come alongside you and direct you to biblical solutions. We are available, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8:00AM to 5:00PM, and Friday 8:00AM to 12:00PM. We can be reached by via 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 and 6:30PM in Room 307. For more information contact: Sergio "Woody" Wooden: [counseling@rbccstafford.org](mailto:counseling@rbccstafford.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.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. For more information, or to sign up for this group, please contact Pattie Foster at [pattiecakes84@comcast.net](mailto:pattiecakes84@comcast.net) January 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM in Rm 306.

## Happy New Year Ramoth family!

We wanted to share the devotional that Chris Morales gave at the Ornament exchange in December. Not only is this a beautiful reminder during the Christmas season, but it is also a wonderful way to enter into the New Year. May God continue to bless you and may we give Him praise and thanks for all He's going to do in 2026!

I was driving home from work earlier this week. Like many of us often experience, it had been a busy day. I was tired, and I wanted some peace before arriving home; before feeding animals, starting dinner, and getting ready for the next day. I was also thinking about what God wanted me to say for this devotional. I had been considering a different topic, when...in that moment...I realized how much I needed to be still...so I could hear what God wanted to say to me. Psalm 46:10 kept coming to mind. As I was driving, I prayed for guidance, and then I continued driving in silence.

**Psalm 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God.” This verse continued playing over and over in my head.**

The season that we are in can be quite the juxtaposition. When we should be reflecting on the **Gift** that is Christ the Savior, we are often busied with **buying gifts**, holiday preparations, hosting, cooking, baking, traveling, wrapping... “all the things”. But often in life, we can allow “all the things...to keep us busy, preoccupied, and removed from God... and also the peace He offers each of us if we only were to take the time to listen... and acknowledge His authority in our lives.

We need to find the **stillness** and **create quiet moments** in which we can **hear God**. Foster your relationship with Jesus... and **anchor yourself in God**. We do this by recognizing God's divinity, authority, reading his Word, through prayer and **listening**.

God is in control, and **we are not**. So let go! Listen to how freeing that is....LET GO!! You can even physically feel that in your body if you allow yourself. LET GO! Put your trust in Him, in His power, and surrender to His plan for your life.

Be still in God's presence...Stop struggling...and find peace. Acknowledge God's lordship in your life. When we let go... and allow God to work...we experience HIS PEACE.

God invites us to **release our burdens** and **trust** that *He will* take care of the outcome. The latter part of the scripture is **“I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

Exalted- to lift up. Lifting up our Lord and Savior is so empowering. We have a glorious God ...who is elevated above all. Our God is **worthy** of exaltation. I don't know about you... but just saying that gives me **peace**! He is telling us... BE STILL...**KNOW** that I am God. Action words... which should give us security because he is Adonai (Lord/Master), Elohim (Creator God), El Shaddai (God Almighty), and Immanuel (God with us) to name a few. And in Him... our **true identity** can be found... which starts with **intimacy** with Jesus. Putting **faith into action**. **Challenging** your faith and **growing** with an **intentional relationship** with God our Father.

Psalm 107:29 says, “He stilled the storm to a whisper, the waves of the sea were hushed”...and of course we all know how Jesus calmed the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee...**God calmed the water...**, He can calm our spirit... and give **harmony** to our lives if we only STOP/BE STILL/ and TRUST GOD.



Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you Lord, for the peace and stillness you offer us daily. Your love and your offer of salvation are true freedom! Knowing that you love us so much you will take care of us is so freeing if we allow ourselves to explore and accept that gift in its entirety. Help us God, to grow where we give ourselves completely to you, allowing the peace that is your Holy Spirit to fill us each and every day. Help us STOP/BE STILL/and HEAR you. - AMEN

**- Chris Morales**

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Tuesday, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>: 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, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>: FIT Workshop – Fiber & Fellowship**

**Location:** RBC

**Time:** 10:00AM-12:00PM

**Leader:** Sarah Fraley ([natasha25461@gmail.com](mailto: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 in this new year as we continue to create baby items for IMGNLife and adult hats and wash cloths with soap for Micah Ministries and the Thurman Brisben Center. If you are new to knitting and/or crochet please join us and you will be taught starting on an easy project. Everyone at all levels is welcome!

#### **Save the Date – Registration Opening Soon!**

#### **Sat, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>: RBC Women's Conference 2026**

**Location:** RBC

**Time:** TBD

#### **Save the Date**

#### **Sat, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>: SBCV Women's Conference – Refresh**

**Location:** First Baptist Church Woodbridge

**Time:** TBD

#### **Save the Date**

#### **Sat, Mar 14<sup>th</sup>: RBC Mission's Tea 2026**

**Location:** RBC Fellowship Hall

**Time:** TBD

#### **Save the Date and/or Register on the SBCV Website**

#### **Sat, April 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>: In the Word with Jen Wilkin**

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

**Time:** TBD

## **Needs and Thank You's!**

Thank you to the ladies who put together and ran another great event and wonderful CHB Ornament Exchange! It truly is a blessing to come together in fellowship, fun and devotion in this Christmas season.

Thank you to all who have participated in the Fiber and Fellowship ministry for 2025 and we look forward to seeing what you do in 2026! Thank you so much to Sarah Fraley for running this wonderful ministry!

In 2025 this amazing group made the following items and blessed our community greatly: IMGNLife – Jan 2025: 19 blankets and 25 hats; Ramoth Grief Share Groups – Spring 2025: 24 shawls; Appalachian Backpacks – Summer 2025: 146 hats varying sizes; For the Homeless – Winter 2025: we are still collecting washcloths with a bar of soap to add to the 70+ and adult hats 20+.

We also want to say a special thank you to all the ladies that have come together to support our church families in need these last few months. You truly represent the love and heart of Christ and it is such a blessing to call you family. It is no wonder that even families that have moved still consider Ramoth their home. It is because of you, your hearts, your efforts to be there for these families, no matter what is going on in your own lives, and your example that you embody what Matthew 25:35-40 says. Thank you to each of you. You are truly loved and appreciated.

### **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!



**Pachess Wooden and Denise Johnson**

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 7).** Well, winter weather is upon us again! We get snow, freezing rain, sleet, ice, and frigid temp. While trying to avoid it, you may have to take a trip somewhere in the car during some of the winter nastiness. Consider keeping some of these things in your family cars to deal with any unexpected winter surprises. Having a well-stocked winter emergency kit can make a significant difference in your safety during winter travel.

### If you are Stranded

Stay with your vehicle for safety.

Run the engine for heat, but keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow.

Use your emergency kit items (see below) to stay warm & signal for help.

### Preparing a winter emergency kit for your car.

Include items like a first aid kit, a shovel, ice scraper, jumper cables, and a tire inflator, a blanket, flashlight, extra batteries, non-perishable snacks, and water.

Additionally, consider including warm clothing, a whistle, and a portable phone charger for safety. If you want to get real fancy, there's this: <https://www.mypatriotsupply.com/products/survival-car-kit>

**2. The basics of the Christian Faith.** For the month for January, we'll look at our 2<sup>nd</sup> basic, Assurance. As the year continues, we'll look at a total of 7 terms key to the Christian faith and dig into them: Salvation, Assurance, Lordship, The Bible, Prayer, The Holy Spirit's Indwelling, and Witness. I don't know if it was intended this way, but 7 is the number of perfection, often represents God in Scripture and Holiness. These 7 studies have a key verse to study and memorize. You may already know a number of these. I'm not going to test you. But these are great foundational Scriptures to help with your personal growth, witnessing and worship. Why not find a new or young Christian to mentor & bring them along this journey.

**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](mailto: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.

Jan 2026—**Isaiah 40-66** Continuing the study of Isaiah, we'll see four major themes: 1) It acts like a miniature Bible, 2) A rebellious heart reaps God's Judgement, 3) The vision of God's mercy and restoration, 4) It reveals the Messiah, Jesus. All of these will lead us to the Millennium and The Kingdom.



### Iron Sharpens Iron

7:00PM - 5th - January 2026

### 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 5:30PM** - Led by Heath Hunter, many men are finding this 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](mailto:philliphhunter38@gmail.com)

**Tim Eicher** (540) 907-1545

[teicher93@gmail.com](mailto:teicher93@gmail.com)

**Flavius Lungoccia** (540) 840-5689

[fllungoccia@gmail.com](mailto:fllungoccia@gmail.com)

## Assurance – Do You Have It?

### How can we be sure of our Salvation and our Eternal destiny?

Why do we doubt? Can we really be sure where we'll spend eternity? What makes us doubt? We were sure when we made the decision to accept Christ and when we stepped down into that baptismal pool. The real question is: Who makes us doubt? Satan! Our enemy! He does not want to see anyone come to Christ for their salvation. But, when they do, he will do all he can to cause doubt and disruption in any believer's mind. He will bring up the past. He will point at your life and suggest that isn't worthy of a so-called Christian. He will do all he can to disrupt your worship and relationships that will make you an ineffective witness for Christ. What do we do? How can we be sure? Scripture is our answer. Lean into what God's Word has for your assurance. God has given us the Bible as our Instruction Manual. And, yes, many men don't want to read the instruction manual until we find our own way doesn't work.

What is assurance? It is a positive declaration intended to give confidence or a promise. With God, it is a word of honor, a guarantee he has promised. And He ALWAYS keeps his promise. Having assurance means being certain, with freedom from doubt. So, let's look at some of the Scripture God has provided for our assurance that he will fulfill His promise. I give them here to build your faith and assurance.

*Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace*

*1 Pet 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

*Rom 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*John 10:27-29 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;<sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

*1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

*Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Now, what do we do with these Scriptures. CLAIM THEM. Establish your Eternity if you haven't already done so. Every day souls leave this earth and enter eternity. There are times in the winter when we wake up and see a cold fog over the ground. As the day warms up, that fog rises and disappears. The Bible describes our lives this way. It says our lives are like a vapor. Compared to eternity, it's hardly a vapor. Our God is outside of time; he can see all of history at once. Our lives are fading just as fast. We only have a short time to anchor our faith in what Christ did on the cross for us. But, we can leave a legacy for those in our family, friends, church and community. When other discern the assurance in your life, you either build theirs or show them how they can have it, too.

Happy New Year!

Rod Montgomery



# Prime Timers' Updates

**January 15, 2025**

**Theme:**

Victory in Jesus

**Menu:**

Sandwiches

Bring Your Favorite Soup, Sides, and/or Desserts

**Host/Hostess:**

Virginia Armstrong, Margaret Canter, and Helen Young

**Decorator:**

Linda Rochefort

**Guest Speaker/ Testimony:**

Sergio "Woody" Wooden

**Singing Every Month**

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## VISION FOR 2026

As we move into the new year, may we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and move forward with a vibrant hope for what lies before us. This year will be full of opportunities. We will have opportunities to reach out to our communities and families. We will have the opportunity to try new things. With each day that the Lord grants us life, we have choices to make with the time He has given us. Let us move forward with joy and hope as we experience the gift of life and the blessings that are on the horizon.

## NUMBERS 6:24-25

“The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

This is a well known passage in scripture. It is a blessing that Aaron and his sons were instructed to give to the Israelites.

What does this passage tell you about our LORD?

May God bless you and your family this year!

## NEEDS

The need for volunteers in Children's Ministry is ever present. We have a continually growing group of AWANA clubbers. We have a growing Sunday morning group of children. VBS is now 2 sessions and definitely needs volunteers. Additionally, events are best when we have volunteers to help with them. Please consider being a part of Children's Ministry this year. AWANA, Sundays, VBS, Special Events!

**JANUARY**

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**VBS PLANNING MEETING #1**  
**JANUARY 4**

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**AWANA STARTS BACK**  
**JANUARY 7**

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**RUHM FIRST DAY OF SPRING SEMESTER**  
**JANUARY 15**

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**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
**JANUARY 28**  
**(NO AWANA)**

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# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 2026 TENTATIVE EVENT SCHEDULE

**January:**  
**4: VBS Planning Meeting #1**

**February:**  
**Family Skate Night (February...  
8: VBS Planning Meeting #2**

**March:**  
**1: VBS Planning Meeting #3  
8: AWANA Grand Prix**

**April:**  
**12: VBS Planning Meeting #4  
29: Awana Awards Night**

**May:**  
**3: VBS Planning Meeting #5  
17: VBS Planning Meeting #6  
24: VBS Planning Meeting #7  
31: VBS Planning Meeting #8  
VBS Prep Wednesdays**

**June:**  
**10: VBS CPT & Training  
9, 11, 13: VBS Decorating Days  
14-18: VBS Evening Session  
15-19: VBS Morning Session  
19: VBS Showcase  
20: VBS Volunteer Brunch  
(10am-Noon)  
28: Camp Red Arrow Meeting**

**July:**  
**6-10: Camp Red Arrow  
19: Camp Sunday**

**August:**  
**7: Family Art Night  
9: Fall Festival Planning  
Meeting #1  
19: CPT & AWANA Training  
RUHM Training (August...  
30: Fall Festival Planning  
Meeting #2**

**September:**  
**2: AWANA Kick-Off  
RUHM First Day (September...  
20: F/F Planning Meeting #3**

**October:**  
**4: F/F Planning Meeting #4  
18: F/F Planning Meeting #5  
25: F/F Planning Meeting #6**

**November:**  
**1: Final F/F Planning Meeting #7  
7: Fall Festival**

**December:**  
**9: AWANA Christmas Store  
19: Volunteer Appreciation  
Dinner**

# Wednesday Night Dinner Are Back!

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

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

If you have questions or need help registering, contact Tammy Snyder at [bookkeeper@rbccstafford.org](mailto:bookkeeper@rbccstafford.org) or by calling the church office.

## Menu:

January 7

Jamie Scott's Team– Chili with Corn Bread, Brownies with Ice Cream

January 14

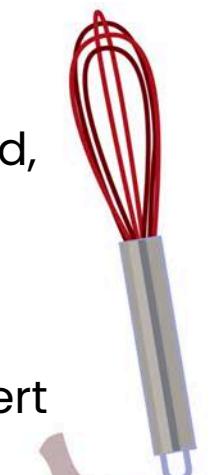
Andrea Romero's Team– Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread,  
Brownies and Tiramisu

January 21

Jayne Hudson's Team– Soup, Salad, Sandwich, Dessert

January 28

Quarterly Business Meeting



# December Birthdays

## January 1

Thomas France  
Flavius Lungoccia  
Sherrie Treida

## January 3

Emily Ortega

## January 4

Nathan Ross

## January 5

Jacob Foster

## January 9

Carmen Hill

## January 10

Allison Ruiz

## January 11

Betty Oakes

## January 12

Jim Garrison

## January 14

Aiden Sitko

## January 17

Pam Null

## January 19

Lydia Bloxton  
Dalton Johnson

## January 22

Helen Kearns

## January 25

Virginia Armstrong  
Cindy Johnson

## January 26

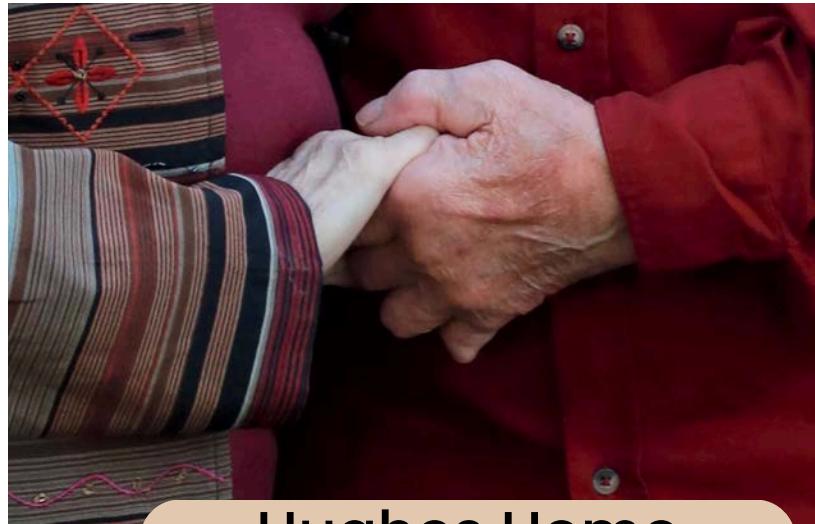
Linda Blake

## January 28

Joy Shelton  
Tammy Truax  
Tiffany Truax

## January 29

Jarrod Snyder



## Hughes Home Riverhouse

### Anna Reed

January 1

### Carl Gant

January 4

### Phillip Duckett Jr.

January 5

### Dan Wilkerson

January 7

### Vertalia Brown

January 10

### John Levesque

January 11

### Ann Torres

January 19

### Shirley Pritchard

January 29

### 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**

Mowing:

**DONATED**

Patrick Caldwell

## Average Attendance

**SUNDAY EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY EVENTS**

**OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS**

## Welcome New Member

## In Christian Sympathy

## 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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## Ways to Give

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

Download our App:



Mail: 478 Ramoth Church Road,  
Stafford, VA 22554

