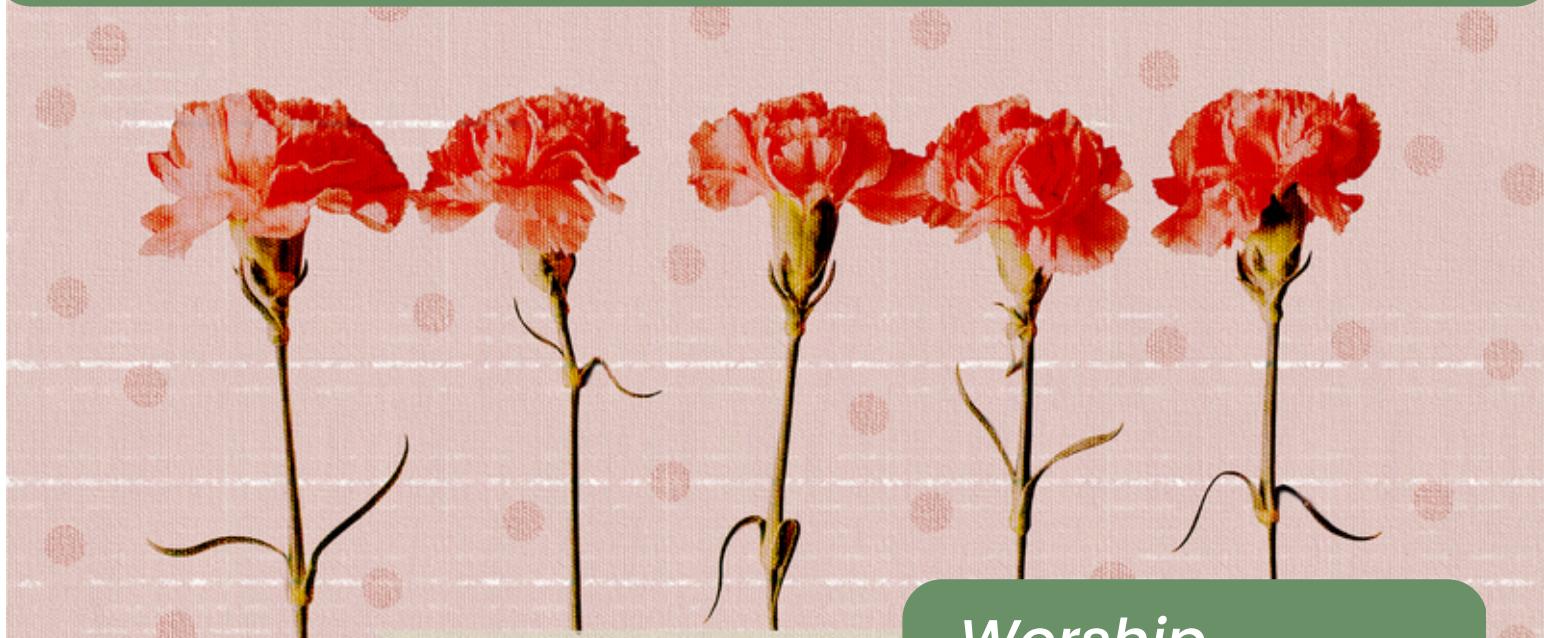


The Beacon



VBS Planning Meeting

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to help plan for VBS. Help us bless children and parents in the community. We will see you February 8th after the Second Worship Service.



Family Skate Night

Families, join us at Cavalier Family Skating Center in Stafford. It will be on February 21st at 5:30PM.



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,

Here is a message that many haven't heard and those that have may need to remember. This is our beginning and we are charged with its continuation:

Today, it is difficult for us to even imagine the hardships faced by Virginians during the months and years following the Civil War. During the war, Union troops had occupied Stafford County for many months on several occasions. Soldiers encamped here had foraged for food and supplies leaving a host of raided farms, destroyed homes, and burned churches in their wake. Many of Stafford's strong, young men had either been killed in battle or imprisoned in war camps.

Those men fortunate enough to return home, and those who had suffered through the ravages of war on the home front, had to begin the difficult task of rebuilding their lives, their homes, and this community. In such times, when faith in God is all that is left, God's people are often drawn closer to Him. It was in the midst of these desperate times that Ramoth Baptist Church was born. The Old Testament identifies "Ramoth-Gilead" as a city of refuge and certainly RBC's founders desired to honor that name especially as they sought to minister to those who had lost so much in Virginia.

Walter R.D. Moncure, a young man not yet thirty years old became a God-empowered leader who would aid in the rebuilding process. As a chaplain in the 30th Virginia Infantry Regiment (made up predominantly of Stafford locals), he had seen firsthand the hardships of war. Now back home again, and already pastor of nearby Berea Baptist Church, Moncure and members of his family and community, with the backing of the Potomac Baptist Association, met together to organize Ramoth Baptist Church on October 9, 1866. Meetings began at the old Salem Schoolhouse on Mountain View Road. The people of the community responded and soon the congregation began to grow.



According to the records of the Potomac Baptist Association, Ramoth's membership had grown to 44 people by 1869, with a Sunday School enrollment of 135. By this date, the original church building had been erected. According to our traditions and oral history, the oak timbers that served as the first church building's foundation were hand-hewn by James and Stanton Embrey and hauled to the site by Alexander Reid using a team of oxen. Thomas Wine trimmed out the cornerstones. Although many photos and names from those early years have been lost, the foundation and cornerstones that were laid then remain in support of Ramoth's chapel today!

Ramoth continued to grow and reach out to the community. Local newspapers wrote about a "protracted meeting" in September 1866.

Scheduled for one week, it lasted two and crowds were so large that people found it necessary to come early to get a good seat, or any seat at all! Many nights, two-thirds of the people in attendance had to either sit or stand outside and listen through the windows! Over forty professions of faith were reported during those two weeks alone. But even in 1888, RBC was sending and planting body of believers: fourteen members helped organize Hull's Memorial Baptist Church. Again, in 1907, four members of Ramoth were among the group that organized Mt. Ararat Baptist Church.

As Ramoth continued to grow, additions to the original building were built in 1957 and 1975. To meet the needs of our church in modern times, ground was broken for the largest addition to date in 1994. After



moving into new Sunday School rooms and a larger fellowship hall downstairs in 1996. the new sanctuary upstairs was completed thanks to the dedicated work of many church men, who gave selflessly of their time, efforts, and talents. In November 1998, that same sanctuary was dedicated and remains our primary worship center.

Now well into the twenty-first century, our community is constantly growing and changing. A whole new generation of Jesus-followers continues to worship and serve at Ramoth and we work to hold onto the memories of those who led this place of “refuge” for over 150 years. The challenges of today’s world stand in stark contrast to that season following the Civil War but we serve the same Lord and it’s the same Spirit that empowers us now to minister right where we have been planted. “Ramoth” is also a Hebrew term associated with exalted places-literally, the heights of Gilead. As we consider all that God has accomplished since 1866 at RBC, we look ahead with anticipation to all new heights rightin Stafford County. Come and join us to be the ongoing story of Ramoth Baptist Church!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our Faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

Dr. Richard Harrell



great
a part of



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

January seems to have quietly slipped by, and already we find ourselves in February—before we know it, spring will be upon us. While many of us look ahead to warmer days, the work of the Deacon body continues right where we are, focused on serving the needs of our church family.

At the close of January, seven Deacons completed their three-year call of service: Paul Germain, Gary Graham, Pete Johnson, Greg Kolandjian, Brock Lennon, Dan Mehochko, and Matt Wheeler. We are deeply grateful for the faithful service these men have given over the past several years. As they rotate off, six men joined the 2026 Deacon Body: Matt Giles, Andy Robeson, Sean Truax, Sean Springer, Randy Colson, and Matt Sarkissian. Thank you, gentlemen, for your servant's hearts and for stepping in without missing a beat this fall.

Their service began immediately with the annual Widow/Widower Luncheon, which the Deacon body hosts each year. This luncheon was a meaningful time of fellowship and encouragement for members of our church family who have experienced the loss of a spouse. Especially during seasons that can magnify both joy and grief, it served as a reminder of the care and hope we have in Christ. Ministering to widows and widowers is one of the Deacons' mission focuses, rooted in Scripture: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction..." (James 1:27)

While widows and widowers are a specific ministry focus, we want you to know that the Deacons' mission is ultimately you. As servant leaders of the church, we are here to come alongside our church family and serve where needs arise. This calling reflects the model established in the early church, where Deacons were appointed so that the needs of the body would be faithfully met (Acts 6:1-8). In keeping with that biblical foundation, our bylaws describe the Deacon role as one of service and support, and include responsibilities such as:

- Assisting the Senior Pastor, church staff, and church leadership in carrying out the total ministry of the church
- Doing whatever is possible, as servants, to alleviate needs and promote the welfare of the membership
- Faithfully supporting the ministries of the church and remaining active in worship and service

The Deacons serving for the month of February are highlighted here and announced weekly in the bulletin and during Sunday worship.

If you have a spiritual need, a practical need, or simply need someone to walk alongside you during a challenging season, please know that we are here—and it would be our privilege

to serve you.



Deacons of the Week

February 1

Jon White (540) 623-6184
Andy Robeson (769) 234-0079

February 15

Joe Pearson (540) 940-1762
Matt Giles (864) 207-0787

February 8

Shawn Blake (540) 226-2308
Jacob Nimeth (540) 408-3887

February 22

Kerry Knowles (540) 834-6631
Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689

Matt Sarkissian
Vice Chairman

Valentine's Day

This month we celebrate Valentine's Day where romantic gestures, heartfelt cards, and expression of love for each other are on grand display. But our human love pales in regard to the love Jesus shared with us. Comparing Jesus' love to the love celebrated on Valentine's Day reveals not only the unique nature of divine love but also its enduring power and transformative impact.

Human love, as often experienced on Valentine's Day, can be characterized by its emotional depth, reciprocal nature, and sometimes, its conditionality. It thrives on feelings, shared experiences, and mutual admiration. While this love can be a powerful force for good, it is limited by human frailty, imperfections, and the changing tides of emotion. This love, though cherished, can fade, falter, or be withdrawn when expectations are unmet or circumstances change. It is a love that seeks, desires, and often depends on the loveliness of the one loved.

In stark contrast, the love of Jesus Christ—which is truly the love of God—is an "agape" love, a selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional love. It is a love that originates from God Himself, not as a response to our merit, but from His very nature. The Bible teaches us that "God is love" (1 John 4:8, ESV). This divine love was not merely expressed in words but was powerfully demonstrated through action. "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, CSB). This act of God the Father giving God the Son, Jesus, to die for humanity, was the ultimate display of love, a love that willingly sacrificed for the undeserving.

Unlike human love that often seeks out the good in another, Jesus' love reached out to us in our brokenness. "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, NIV). This means that even before we recognized our need for Him, even while we were actively rebelling against Him through our sin, His love was already at work, making a way for reconciliation. Our sin created an insurmountable chasm between us and a holy God, but His love bridged that gap through the cross.

In addition, Jesus' love is not fleeting or dependent on our performance. It is eternal and unwavering. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35, 37-39, NIV). This love provides an eternal security and an anchor for our souls that no earthly affection can rival.

The transformative power of Jesus' love is also a key to His love. It does not simply observe or appreciate; it actively changes. When we encounter this divine love and respond to it with faith, it brings salvation, forgiveness of sins, and a new life. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4-5, ESV). This love restores, heals, and empowers believers to live a life that honors God, reflecting His love to others.

So, while Valentine's Day celebrates the wonder of human affection, Jesus' love transcends it in every conceivable way. It is a divine love, sacrificial, unconditional, eternal, and transformative. It is not merely an emotion but an action, freely given, costly to Him, and life-giving to us. It is the perfect love that all human love strive to emulate but can never fully replicate, offering hope, redemption, and eternal life to all who will receive it.

Pastor Chuck Hite

The Refuge Ministry

Greetings once again, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope that all of you are doing well. We have a probing question for everyone in this month's article. How would you assist someone who was going through a storm in life, both literally and figuratively? We will follow that question up with one that is just as important, how would you want someone to assist you? This is something that we, as believers, as spoken to throughout Scripture. We are going to explore three actions that can be seen in God's word, as to how we assist others. The three actions are as follows: 1) show compassion, 2) give encouragement, and 3) provide help.

First let us be clear about a few things up front. The nature of the issue does not drive whether or not we show compassion to someone. If there is a need that we see, we are to do our best to address it. So, if we see someone who is hungry we should feed them. If we see someone that is in the middle of an addiction, we are to also see them as a child of God. And if we see someone that is lost in this world, wondering...we are to remember that we too were once lost and in need of assistance. Being able to show compassion to others is remembering a time when someone showed compassion towards you. This not a novel idea, but a biblical mandate given by God. It is illustrated in Matthew 25:35-40, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?'³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" This is how we begin to assist those who are in need. We see them, we see their need, we meet that need.

The second thing for us to be clear on is the power that resides in our words. Our words can provide the encouragement needed to face the next day or it can be the thing that drives a person away in further despair. We were cautioned of this in Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits." We are to provide kind words of hope and resolve, so that those who are in need can endure and then overcome that which is troubling them. We can share the comforting words that God has spoken to us through Isaiah 41:10, "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." Sharing how these words and countless others like it, helped you when you were at your lowest point in life. Share with them how God made a way for you. This is how our words can be more than just words; they can be encouragement and comfort.

The last thing for us to be clear on is that help is to be given without regard for who it is given to, if it is something that will be repaid in the future, or even what can be gotten out of it for those who are providing the help. Help should just be help. Whether it is physically lending a hand on a chore. Or it is providing a resource that would otherwise be lacking. Help should be given from a place of love and sacrifice because it has been given to us from God. And we should never stop trying to help. Galatians 6:9-10 puts it to us this way, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." By helping others, we show the love of God in us, and we grow His kingdom for our efforts. This is something that all believers should be a part of doing, no matter how great or small their part.

These three things mentioned are the good work that God has called us, His people, to do. So, when you are given the opportunity to show compassion, do so as if you were doing so for God, Himself. When the chance presents itself to provide encouragement, do so remembering how the Holy Spirit did so for you in the past. And when you hear the call for help, answer it with all that you have, knowing this is what God expects of you, for His people will be known by the fruit they bare... compassion, encouragement, and help are some incredible ways to show we are God's people.

Should any of you, find yourself in need of assistance trust in the Lord and remember that is why He established the Refuge Ministry Center. We are here to demonstrate to those in need of assistance all that has been mentioned above. And we are here to do so, however God equips us to engage. We are available Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8AM to 5PM, and Friday 8AM to 12PM. We can be reached by phone at 540-602-7986 or by email at counseling@rbcstafford.org or 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@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

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.

Women Overcoming Depression

Perhaps you have felt down, lethargic, or out of sorts for a few weeks, or maybe this heaviness has smothered you for months...even years.

THINGS ARE NOT HOPELESS...YOU ARE NOT HELPLESS...YOU ARE NOT WORTHLESS. If you feel you are experiencing defeat in any area of your life, you are welcome to join this group of overcomers as we meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. For more information, or to sign up for this group, please contact Pattie Foster at pattiecakes84@comcast.net February 10th and 24th at 1:00PM in Rm 306.

Women's Ministry Update

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, Feb 3rd and 17th: 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).

Fri, Feb 13th (Mar 27th, May 15th): FIT Workshop – Canvas & Acrylic

Location: RBC

Time: 10:00AM-12:00PM

Leader: Pam Null (pamelanull@gmail.com)

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!

Sat, Feb 14th (Mar 21st, Apr 11th, May 16th): FIT Workshop – Fiber & Fellowship & Creating Cards

Location: RBC

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 as we continue to create baby items for IMGNLife, washcloths and adult hats for the homeless, and hats for backpacks for Appalachia. 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! Any questions, please contact Sarah Fraley.

Creating Cards Leader: Kelley Skowronek (pkskow4@msn.com)

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 purchase & take with you as you leave. Bless someone through the mail! 😊

Sat, Feb 21st: FIT Workshop- Real Talk: Women's Health & Wellness

Location: RBC Fellowship Hall

Time: 10:00AM-12:00PM

Leader: Becky White (beckyricks44@yahoo.com)

Supplements for Women: What's Helpful, What's Hype, and What Your Body Really Needs?

In this workshop, we'll take a grounded, practical look at supplements for women of all ages. We'll discuss the basics of vitamins and minerals, why our needs change through different stages of life, and how to tell the difference between what may truly support your health and what your body likely doesn't need. We'll also talk about food-first nutrition, common deficiencies, quality and sourcing, and why more is not always better when it comes to supplementation. This is not about



chasing trends or quick fixes—it's about understanding your body, simplifying the noise, and feeling empowered to make informed, thoughtful choices that support long-term wellness.



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

Location: First Baptist Church
Woodbridge, 13600 Minnieville Rd.,
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Time: 9:00AM-3:00AM

Register: <https://www.sbcv.org/refresh/>

Save the Date

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

Location: RBC Fellowship Hall

Time: 2:00-4:00PM, doors open at 1:30PM for Punch and Parade of Tables

We will celebrate America's 250th at our Mission's Tea focusing on Annie Armstrong as our mission's focus. We are looking for table decorators, male youth servers, and people to help set up, prep food, and cleanup. We will also have a Silent Auction to support our Easter Offering for Annie Armstrong Missions. Look for signups soon!

Save the Date and/or Register on the SBCV Website

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

Location: London Bridge Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA

Time: Friday, 6:00-9:00PM & Saturday (9:00AM-1:00PM)

Register: <https://www.lifeway.com/en/events/in-the-word/virginia-beach>





Needs and Thank You's!

Thank you for all of the help in planning the 2026 Women's Conference-Deeply Rooted! There are a lot of hands and helpers involved and we appreciate every one of you! We expect to have many pictures and testimonies to share on what God did in hearts and lives in our March article. Please be praying over the day and the ladies that will attend!

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 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

Taking care of your family (Part 8). Looks like the winter weather really slammed us in January – snow, freezing rain, sleet, ice, and frigid temps. We got it all. Make sure your home is ready and your family safe and protected before the weather hits.

- Top fuels off: Propane, Oil, Kerosene, & Gas
- Stock firewood for fireplace or woodstoves
- Check your home is properly insulated.
- Check doors & windows weather stripping.
- Learn to shut off water in case of pipe burst.
- Prepare heat sources in case of a power outage.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher accessible.
- Check batteries in carbon monoxide detectors.
- Secure loose items outside in case of high winds.
- Trim branches that could threaten your home.
- Downed trees may require chainsaw. Have one with your other weather tested & ready with fuels .
- Mark drive or road edges for plows.
- Check your shovels and snow removal gear.
- Stock sand and salt for sidewalks & driveways.
- Clear mailbox—the mailman will appreciate this!!

2. **The basics of the Christian Faith.** If someone were to ask you for the basics of the Christian Faith are, would you be able to tell them? Could you point them to Scripture to back it up? For February, our 3rd basic of the Christian Faith is *Lordship*. How do we define what is incomparable, immortal, inexhaustible, unsearchable, inexplicable & Divine? Perhaps Lordship will help us with that. Continuing, with 7 terms key to the Christian faith we are reviewing, these along with great foundational Scriptures can help under-gird your faith, develop 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

7AM 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.

Feb 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 - 2nd - February 2026

Kerry Knowles

Join with men of Iron Sharpens Iron as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. We meet the first Monday 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

Tim Eicher (540) 907-1545

teicher93@gmail.com

Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689

fllungoccia@gmail.com

Lordship – Who's in charge?

Of course He's Savior, but is He our Sovereign Lord and Master?

Our first and ultimate goal as men and fathers is to teach and assure that our families know and understand the basics of the Christian Faith.

We saw in, Salvation, our first basic of the Christian faith, it means that there is deliverance from sin and its consequences. Yet, there is much more we owe the One who gave Himself for our redemption. Often we hear a Christian say, "My Lord and Savior." But what does that mean? We understand the "Savior" term. However, I fear too many of us have set the Lordship portion aside. Maybe it's because it hasn't been explained to us or we haven't heard the concept before.

Taking a look at 3 words may help us get a better understanding of what Lordship means albeit limited due to our humanity: Lord; Master; and King. Whoa, we started with one word. How did we expand to three? Well, this trio of words is used throughout Scripture almost interchangeably in reference to the position of supremacy or authority of God and Jesus Christ.

Remember in the series of the 10 Commandments, there was a duality to each of the Commandments, a negative and a positive? Well, I think some of that same kind of duality can apply here as well. Only the duality is one of responsibility. A melding of definitions would bring this trio together as the following: a male supreme ruler who inherited his position by birthright with servants working for him. *Phil 2:9-11 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

A responsible, loving Lord, (I'll use this word representing the trio), cares and provides for his subjects, his servants. Like a shepherd cares for his flock, the Lord cares for and watches over us assuring our needs are met. What does our Lord provide? Well, there are sustenance and physical needs: water, bread, the vine, light, even life itself. Simplified, God loves His servants, provides for our daily bread, and He sent Christ to provide for our eternity. Best of all, we are adopted into His family. So, He is not an overbearing Lord, He is an everlasting Lord welcoming us into His family as His children.

But there's another side to it. Our side. What is it we owe to the Lord? Yes, we've done what many call "giving our heart to Him". However, there's a requirement of loyalty to a Lord – our Lord. That loyalty requires honest work, faithfully acknowledging and seeking to please Him. Yet, there is a deeper commitment and acceptance on our part. It's a hard one. One we struggle with – obedience.

We understand obedience except we have a hard time fulfilling our responsibility. What is obedience – compliance with an order, request, or law or submission to another's authority. Obedience is a fundamental principle in the Bible, emphasizing submission to God's will. It reflects a relationship of trust and faith between believers and God. It is an expression of love for God. *John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*

Obedience is linked to blessings and rewards, both in this life and the next. Disobedience, on the other hand, is associated with sin and separation from God. Scripture says, "...to obey is better than sacrifice..."

Scripture tells us that Jesus has demonstrated singular supremacy. **1 Cor 8:5** *For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.*

Obedience recognizes the Lordship of God and Christ. Are we all ready to jump into obedience without question? I'll leave that for you to answer.

Back to Lordship. Does Scripture support Lordship?!? Of course it does! Many verses undergird rightfully acknowledging God and Christ as Lord, Master and King. He is Lord above all other Lords. Nothing can compare. Nothing else has always existed. **Deut 10:17** *For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.*

If you haven't made Him Lord of your life, lean into Jesus. Seek God's will for your life and your family. Lead from the front!

Blessings,

Rod Montgomery



Youth Ministry Update

Greetings RBC family!

My name is Ben LoPresti, and I am the Associate Pastor of Student Ministry here at Ramoth Baptist Church. I am glad to be here! And I am excited to meet you, and to get to know you better. Our family relocated to Stafford in December from Hampton Roads, VA.

I was born in 1984, and spent most of my childhood in Hampton Roads. My parents were faithful Christians, and taught me the gospel at a young age. In 2002, I went to James Madison University, and began to cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus. I started to practice the spiritual disciplines, and committed myself to a local church. I began to desire to invest my life in vocational ministry.

After graduating college in 2006, I served in vocational ministry in a number of different ministries and churches (Campus Crusade for Christ, Denton Bible Church, Sojourn Community Church, Cherrydale Baptist Church), and went to graduate school at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Eventually, in 2016, the Lord led me back to Hampton Roads, to serve as the lead pastor at James River Community Church for the past 10 years.

It was there where I met my wife, Jeri. We got married in 2018. And since then, we have welcomed three children into our family - Baxter (2019), Theo (2021), and Anna (2023).

We are thrilled to be here! And I am eager to invest my time partnering with the families of Ramoth Baptist Church, to help students follow Christ and worship him, and to help parents lean into their Biblical responsibilities to disciple their children, so that we can seek together to fulfill our mission to love God, love people, and change our world.

Pastor Ben LoPresti



Acts 1:8 Ministry Update

On Missions for God...

Let us formally introduce ourselves, we are the Acts 1:8 Mission Committee. We are comprised of our Chairperson, Deacon Jon White, Co-chairperson, Bro. Sergio Wooden, with members Zak Rice, Janice Peoples, Sue Gammon, Chaz Hickcox, and auxiliary members Melody Hunter, Tammy Snyder, and Kim Colson rounding out the committee. We are excited about all the things that are going on at Ramoth Baptist Church, as we are a church that believes in being on missions for God. We have lots to inform everyone about, starting with the incredible things that our church did in 2025.

Mission's Trips: We were able to send two groups, one in July and the other in November. Between the two groups a total of 21 people went on missions. Those missionaries were able to see a total of 2,903 people, of which 818 people came to God and made Him, Lord of their lives.

Backpacks for Appalachia: Through our continuing efforts, we as a church were able to collect and fill over 140 backpacks for young boys and girls in an impoverished area of southwestern Virginia. This is a blessing that we are a part of through our state convention.

Operation Christmas Child (O.C.C.): Our missionary support of this Samaritan's Purse effort, saw us as a church put together and pay for the postage on 205 shoeboxes. These shoeboxes were distributed around the world to little boys and girls, who have little to call their own.

These were the big highlights of things that this committee discussed and put work into during 2025. Now, we have lots in store for 2026. Here is a quick glimpse of some things to come.

Support Teams: These will spearhead work on Backpacks and O.C.C. Tammy Snyder and Melody Hunter will lead the Backpack Team. While Melody Hunter and Kim Colson will lead the O.C.C. Team. If you are interested in either or both of these, let us know.

Mission's Interest Meetings: These will happen in advance of any mission trip. The meetings will discuss things like how to get passports, what to expect on international trips, how much the trip might cost, and how to fundraise for your trip. The first meeting will take place in February, so be on the lookout for more information.

Missionary Outreach: We are continuing to look for other worthwhile opportunities to impact our local community, state, and nation. We will be offering stateside mission's trips, interaction with community connecting points like Project Belong, Disaster Relief, and others. If you have an idea about things or ways to be on missions for God, let us know.

We are so excited about what God will be doing through us in 2026. We would love for you to be a part of all, some, or any. Just remember that we are all called to be On Missions for God. Keep looking and listening for more announcements in the weeks to come about the numerous opportunities that the Acts 1:8 Mission's Committee will be sponsoring. Until next time...be on missions wherever you are, with those you are with, knowing that you are making a difference.

Jon White, Chairperson Sergio Wooden, Co-Chairperson

Children's Ministry Update

Family Skate Night

At Cavalier Family Skating Center

Families, join us February 21st at 5:30PM for a fun night of skating.

Rental Skates cost \$4 per pair. The location is 1920 Richmond Hwy, Stafford, VA 22554



VBS PLANNING MEETING



If you are interested in helping to plan one of Ramoth's biggest events of the year, join us after Sunday morning worship services on February 8th in the Fellowship Hall.

Young Adults Ministry Update

Grace and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah.

The Way Forward: Guiding Young Adults in Faith

Young adulthood is a season of transition, challenge, and opportunity. Careers begin, relationships deepen, and life's decisions often feel weighty. At *The Way Forward*, our young adult ministry, we believe these years are a critical time for discipleship—helping young adults not simply to know about God, but to **follow Christ faithfully and courageously in every area of life**. Our mission is to create a community where Scripture is studied deeply, faith is lived openly, and young adults are equipped to navigate life with Christ at the center.

Discipling the Next Generation

Discipleship at *The Way Forward* is intentional and grounded in God's Word. Each week, young adults gather for verse-by-verse Bible study, prayer, and discussion, learning not only what Scripture says but how to read, understand, and apply it faithfully. Mentorship, accountability, and genuine Christian community are central to our approach, recognizing that spiritual growth happens best in relationship.

We emphasize that faith is not merely intellectual agreement, but a life of obedience shaped by the gospel. Young adults are encouraged to wrestle honestly with Scripture, ask meaningful questions, and live out biblical convictions at work, in relationships, and within a culture that often challenges Christian belief. This is discipleship that prepares them for lifelong faithfulness, not just participation in a program.

A Journey Through God's Word

Since its beginning, *The Way Forward* has journeyed through two foundational books of the New Testament and Old Testament alike: **Job** and **James**. In Job, young adults encountered the reality of suffering and the sovereignty of God, learning that faithfulness is not dependent on circumstances but on trust in God's character. Through James, they explored what living faith looks like—faith that speaks with wisdom, acts with compassion, and endures with integrity.

These studies laid a critical foundation: perseverance in hardship and obedience in everyday life. They prepared our young adults to face the real challenges of adulthood with spiritual maturity and biblical clarity.

Entering the Promised Land: Joshua

Our current study in the book of **Joshua** builds on that foundation with a clear and timely theme: **standing boldly on God's promises in a hostile world**. Joshua records Israel's entry into the promised land—a land filled with opposition, uncertainty, and battles that required trust in God rather than self-confidence.

For young adults today, the parallels are striking. Many are stepping into new responsibilities, environments, and callings where faith is questioned or even opposed. Through Joshua, they are learning that courage flows from obedience, and boldness is rooted in confidence that God keeps His promises. As the Lord commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous, our young adults are being challenged to stand firm in faith, anchored in God's Word, even when the world around them resists it.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Discipleship at *The Way Forward* extends beyond weekly study. Later this year, our group will attend **Sight & Sound's production of Joshua**, allowing Scripture to come alive through visual storytelling and shared experience. These moments strengthen fellowship and reinforce biblical truths in memorable ways.



We are also looking ahead to our **quarterly young adult gathering in March**, a time of worship, teaching, and community. These gatherings provide space for encouragement, connection, and mutual strengthening as young adults learn to stand boldly together in faith.

Looking Ahead

As we continue our study of Joshua, we invite young adults—whether long-time participants or newcomers—to join *The Way Forward*. Weekly Bible study, fellowship, and service opportunities offer meaningful ways to grow in faith and walk in obedience to Christ.

We also invite the broader church family to pray for and support this ministry. *The Way Forward* is not merely a young adult program; it is an investment in the next generation of disciples who will carry the gospel forward with conviction and courage.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” — Joshua 1:9

The Way Forward exists to help young adults stand boldly on God’s promises, trusting Him fully, and walking faithfully—even in a hostile world.

Nate Ewoldt and Matt Sarkissian

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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 or by calling the church office.

Menu:

February 4

Joshua Farrar's Team– Pulled Pork, Mac N' Cheese, Fries and Hotdogs
for the Kids, and Dessert

February 11

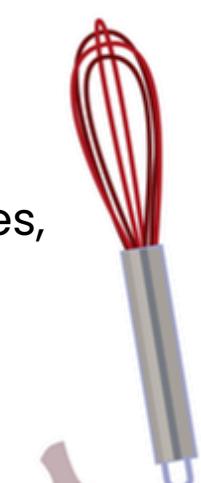
Prime Timers' Ministry– Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes,
Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls and Cupcakes

February 18

Rise-Up Home School Ministry– Pot Pies, Salad,
Garlic Bread and Dessert

February 25

Youth Ministry– Taco Bar, Nachos, Brownies
and Ice Cream



February Birthdays

February 1

Joe Foster

February 4

Sergio Wooden

February 6

Miriam Webster

February 7

Grayson Ewoldt

February 10

Shelva Young

February 11

Sebastian Martin

February 12

Joshua White

February 13

Jean Skidmore

February 14

Karen Theiss

Jocelyne Micke

February 15

Lucas Forrester

Derik Williams

February 16

Chris Bowman

February 18

Samantha Blake

February 20

Doris Denson

February 22

Lorraina Balsavich

February 24

Patricia Bobin

February 26

Aaron Boswell

Mary Smith

February 28

Caleb Barton



Hughes Home Riverhouse

Birthdays were not shared with Ramoth Baptist Church for this month.

Mail a Card!

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

Stewardship

Offerings and Attendance January 1–January 26

Offerings

GENERAL FUND

DESIGNATED FUND

EXPENSES

Cemetery Fund

UPKEEP

In Christian Sympathy

Average Attendance

SUNDAY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENTS

OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS

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 | Demographics |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 301 | Beholding Glory | P. Bowman & R. Colson | Explore/Gospel Project | All Ages |
| 305 | Truth Seekers | D. Mehochko | Lifeway Bible Studies for Life | All Ages |
| 306 | Senior Men | K. Knowles | Lifeway Bible Studies for Life | Senior Men |
| 307 | Chronological Study of the Bible-1 | C. Turman & S. Springer | Survey of the Old Testament (exegetical/expository) | All Ages |
| Chapel | The Ladies' Class | T. Harrell & K. Colson | Gospel of Mark | Ladies |
| Fellowship Hall | Chronological Study of the Bible-2 | C. Adams & H. Hunter | Chronological Study through the Bible | Married Couples |

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

| Location | Class | Teachers | Curriculum | Demographics |
|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| 301 | Overcomers in Christ | G. Bennett | Lifeway Bible Studies for Life | All Ages |
| 307 | Expository Study of the Bible | P. Johnson & M. Wheeler | Genesis | All Ages |
| 306 | Season Saints | P. Menteer & M. Craiger | Lifeway Bible Studies for Life | Seniors |
| Chapel | Young Adults | M. Sarkissian & N. Ewoldt | Life Change Bible Studies | Young Adults |
| Chapel C-3 | Apologetics: Ready to Share | C. Hickcox | Boldly Defending Your Faith with Grace | All Ages |

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Ways to Give

Online: rbcstafford.org

Download our App:



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Stafford, VA 22554