

the BEACON

January 2025

Volume 44, Issue 1

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

8:45AM Worship Service

10:00AM Sunday School

11:00AM Worship Service

6:30PM Youth Group

Bible Studies and Activities are scheduled throughout the week.

Ramoth Baptist Church
478 Ramoth Church Road
Stafford, VA 22554

rbcstafford.org

Events

Youth Evangelism Conference

January 17-18, 2025

Pray for our youth and chaperones as they travel to the conference.

Quarterly Business Meeting

January 22, 2025

6:30PM

Members, stay updated and participate in church business.

Worship Night

January 24, 2025

6:30PM

Join us for a night of worship and fellowship!

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Love God,

Love People,

Change Our World

Senior Pastor

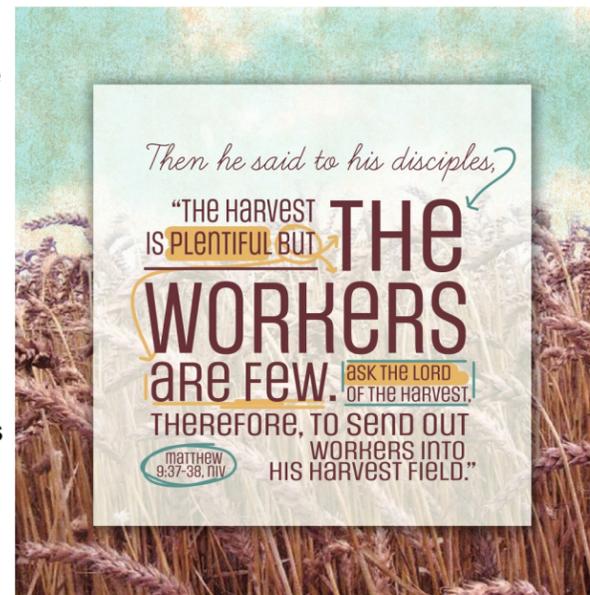
Another year has come and almost gone. A new year is on the horizon and it, I'm sure, will bring many blessings and many challenges to us as individuals, as families and as a church. Our church family continues to grow in every ministry, and this is good but also challenging because of space issues. Many churches today would love to have the issues we're facing in this area. Along with these challenges we have seen Satan lurking in the wings waiting to attack in any way he possibly can to divert the continued growth of the ministry of Ramoth Baptist.

Not only do we have space issues, but we also need more volunteers to meet the demands of the ministries the Lord is presenting to us. We must guard against complacency and the desire to keep things as they are because we know that we are either moving forward or falling back. A church that is falling back is also not walking in obedience to the Lord. And I might also add that a believer that is falling back is also not walking in obedience to the Lord. So, I think we all need to begin the new year by asking our Lord a very personal question: "What do you want me to do in service for You?" We should not be waiting for someone to ask us to volunteer but we should be the one asking to serve. We know our giftedness and what we can and can't do and there's a ministry here that needs your giftedness. I ask you to pray about your part in Ramoth Baptist as our Lord has not called anyone here to do nothing. We are not a "sitting on the sidelines" church but an "on the playing field" church.

In the next couple of months you will be hearing reports from the Short Term and Long Term planning groups established several months ago to determine ways our church can and needs to move forward. Both of these groups have done a fantastic job in looking at where we are as a church, the challenges we face, the changes that we need to make (and a known "change" is a fearful word in the church) and will be presenting their reports beginning January 12th in both morning services. You don't want to miss this service! It's exciting to be a part of a growing, alive, active body of believers attempting to follow God's direction and to, as I've stated consistently, "to go and tell." We're to speak Jesus to all who will listen, and we do this in the many ways God has gifted us. We will even use words if necessary.

I ask that you pray daily as we seek God's direction in the new year. He has much in store for us and we may say as He calls us out, that's impossible, but know that if God calls us to do something it's not impossible. The only way it won't be accomplished is by our disobedience. God does not call us to fail. He challenges us, what He calls us to do may not be easy, it might be costly, but the results will be overwhelming, and we'll stand in awe if we walk in obedience to His call. God bless as we continue to share the Gospel message around the world.

Dr. Richard Harrell



Deacon Ministry

Deacons of the Week

January 5

Chris Adams
(540) 426-6722
Jon White
(540) 623-6184

January 12

Shawn Blake
(540) 226-2308
Matt Wheeler
(760) 401-4708

January 19

Tim Eicher
(540) 907-1545
Chris Turman
(540) 272-1914

January 26

Paul Germain
(540) 216-1250
Bob Peoples
(540) 226-7083

I'm honored to serve as your Deacon Chairman for 2025 as Ramoth Baptist Church enters its 159th year of service to God and our community. 2025 will certainly prove to be a time of challenge and change for this church. Challenge is nothing new to this body of believers, born out of the ashes of the Civil War, who has faithfully faced challenges over the decades. For 159 years, God has blessed Ramoth Baptist Church with people and ministries that we have a responsibility to shepherd and steward. I Corinthians 4:1-2 says, "This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." My prayer is that we would prove faithful with that trust over the coming year.

I also pray for unity for our congregation throughout this year and that we would have an attitude of love, joy, and service to others in all we face in the coming year. 1 Peter 3:8 says, "Finally, all of you have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart and a humble mind." Of course, unity does not mean we all think the same way. It does mean that we are willing to love and sacrifice for each other, approach decisions prayerfully and humbly, be informed, ask questions, and respect and participate in all the ultimate decisions of this congregation. In this year, we will need to sacrifice preferences, comforts, and routines, but most importantly, we will need to bear with one another. Ephesians 4:2 says, "We should be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

2025 will be an exciting year for Ramoth Baptist Church, and I'm thankful to be a part of it!

Pete Johnson



Exalted Worship Ministry

A New Heart

We are in the new year of 2025, and this is the time of year when everyone begins to make resolutions. We want this new year to be different or should I say we want to be different? We are not pleased with certain aspects of ourselves. We feel the need to be better. We can easily identify things about ourselves that are less than perfect. But how do we become a better version of ourselves?

Look at Psalm 51:10:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

David is coming before God full of guilt and ready for confession. There is no doubt he has sinned. He has been called out. He committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband, Uriah. God knows. He knows. The world knows.

He has run long enough and now is backed into a corner. He can pretend innocence no longer. But instead of simply confessing his sin and asking for forgiveness, David asks to be remade. He wants his heart to be recreated perfectly. His sinful self needs to be made new so he will no longer be a slave to sin.

A sacrifice would be a temporary fix. His next sin would place him right back in the same position. Not measuring up. Missing the mark. Forgiveness without change leaves one wanting. David cannot just confess and be forgiven; he needs to be renewed. He needs to be recreated. He needs to be purified.

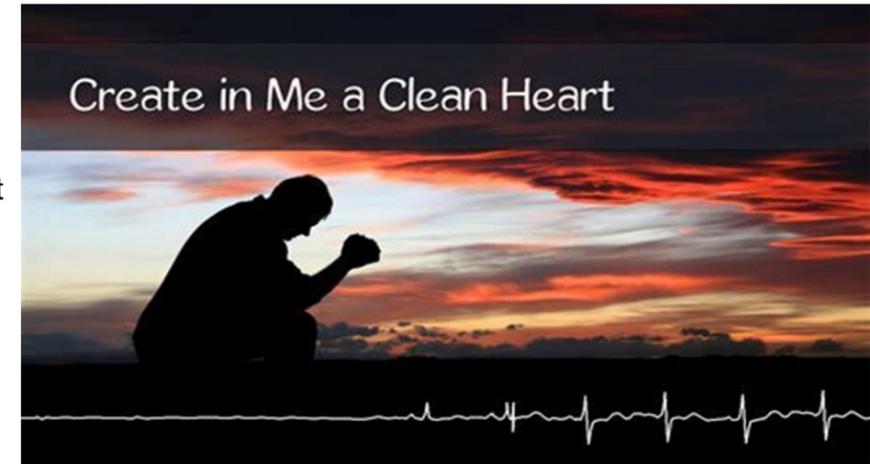
This is what we do when we ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. We ask to be made new. We must desire to take every thought captive for Christ. (2 Cor 10:5) We must desire to be clean, pure, and holy. Set apart for God. Change doesn't just come from confession. It comes from purging all that is within. As Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me."

Jesus paid our debt of sin with His sacrifice and now we must undergo the change required to be His. Too many believe they can follow Christ without undergoing an inner change, but that implies they are fine the way they are. Why would we follow Christ if this were true?

As we look at this New Year and vow to change our diet, our exercise habits, our attitude, or charity; why not look at giving ourselves to Jesus and allowing Him to make real changes. We not only need to change the way we behave but we need to be changed by God Himself. He has given us a way to do this through Jesus, God the Son.

Will you ask God to create in you a clean heart? Confess your sin. Accept Christ as Lord. Submit to His authority. Be adopted into God's family. Be completely changed.

This year could be a New Year, a changed year. This could be a year like no other.



Pastor Chuck Hite

Refuge Ministry

Brothers and sisters, God bless you and Happy New Year!!! We have made it to yet another year and how amazing it is to do so. We were blessed with an awesome end to our year, being able to worship and praise God for all of His love and provision for us. We hopefully were able to share in our blessings with one another and made some incredible memories. And hopefully, we did not overindulge in the food and festivities of the holiday season.

As the New Year begins, let us dismiss any notions that we might have about making New Year Resolutions and let us just be real with what we can do in the time that God is giving us. Let us be mindful to spend more time in God's word than we did last year. Let us make a plan, let us execute that plan, and let us be consistent with said plan. And let us be that intentional about all the things that God gives us the time, opportunity, and ability to do.

In this New Year, let us be practical in the things that we give the gift of time to. Let us make sure that God gets our first and our best and not just what we have to spare. Let us also make time to spend with our family and let us not be distracted in that time. Let us be engaging, and loving, sacrificial and compassionate in that time, because it is so precious, and it makes all the difference in the world to our families when we can show them how much they really mean to us when they are a priority and when we make time for them.

Also in the New Year, let us remember that each and every one of us is a vital part of the ministries of God's kingdom. Each of us has had a call placed on our lives, to do our part to help grow the kingdom of God. For some it will be teaching, for others it will be helping, and still others will be in planning and organizing for the greater purpose of fellowship and growth. Whatever the case may be, let us be active for God's sake because we are all a part of the body, and each part must do the work that it was designed to do.

Now, if you will please be in prayer for these new things that the Refuge Ministry Center will be taking on in the New Year. Starting Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30pm, we will be providing the Divorce Care Support group for those who have unfortunately experienced the impact of a divorce. Please register online through the church website or contact us if you have any questions. On the opposite end of the spectrum, we will be hosting the first annual marriage conference on March 28th and 29th. The conference is titled, "A Biblical Marriage Is..." Registration for the event will open up in the middle of January, so be looking for those details.

As always, we will continue to provide encouragement and support to those in need. If you need our assistance or know someone who does, just reach out and let us know the need. We are available Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to noon. We can also be reached via email at counseling@rbcstafford.org or counseling2@rbcstafford.org. We pray God's continued protection, provision, and presence in all of our lives in 2025.

Your Brother in Christ,

Sergio "Woody" Wooden

Refuge Ministry

WOMEN OVERCOMING DEPRESSION

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

THINGS ARE NOT HOPELESS... YOU ARE NOT HELPLESS... YOU ARE NOT WORTHLESS.

If you feel you are experiencing defeat in any area of your life, you are welcome to join this group of overcomers as we meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday.

For more information, or to sign up for this group, please contact Pattie Foster at

pattiecakes84@comcast.net

January 14th and 28th at 1PM in Room 306.



GriefShare is an ongoing grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the loss of a loved one. The group meets every Monday at 10:00AM and 6:30PM in the Ramoth Chapel. For more information contact:

Sergio "Woody" Wooden
counseling@rbcstafford.org

IN THE WILDFLOWERS

Survivors of Sexual Abuse Support Group
This is a 10 week DVD driven series for women only, presented by the American Association of Christian Counselors. Contact 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

DIVORCECARE

The Refuge Ministry Center will offer DivorceCare beginning Tuesday, January 14, 2025. 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 or Sergio Wooden at counseling@rbcstafford.org.

*A Place of
Hope, Help, and
Healing*

Women's Ministry

Happy New Year Ramoth family!

We are looking forward to all that God is going to do in 2025! Please join us in prayer as we pray about planning the year ahead and moving in the direction God is leading us in.

Save the Dates:

RBC Women's Conference
Saturday February 1st, 2025
Ramoth Baptist Church

RBC Women's Missions Tea
Saturday March 15th, 2025
Ramoth Baptist Church: Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, January 5th: Hat Sunday

It is every first Sunday of the month. All ladies who want to participate are encouraged to wear a hat to church. Any questions just ask, but it's that simple, you just need to wear a hat!



Sunday, Jan 19th: Sanctity of Life Sunday

We will start our baby bottle campaign to support IMGNI Life on this day with a guest speaker at both services. Last year the RBC family raised \$5,243.25! This year let us pray and come together to exceed that goal! The concept of the Baby Bottle Campaign is simple. We will have baby bottles that members can pick up in the foyer to take home and fill them with coins, cash, or checks made payable to IMGNI Life, or you can



donate online at imgnlife.org. The proceeds help families CHOOSE LIFE through free education and services offered at their center in our local area.

Sunday Night Women's Bible Study: Study of Revelation

Ramoth Baptist Church: Chapel

6:30-8:00pm

Ladies, join us as we delve deep into a study through the Book of Revelation from Verse by Verse Ministry. We will watch a video presentation and then have weekly discussion questions followed by group prayer. The study book can be purchased on Amazon (<https://a.co/d/8SmUkJi>) or it is available as a free pdf online through the app or website. Sign up online or at the Women's Ministry table in the foyer. For more information or any questions contact Racquel Balsavich (c) 540-226-6646.



There shall be no more death,
neither sorrow, nor crying,
neither shall there be
any more pain:
for the former things
are passed away.

Revelation 21:4, KJV

Needs and Thank You's!

Thank you to all of the ladies who participated in the IMGNI Life service project and thank you so much to Sarah Fraley for leading this wonderful mission! You are all very much appreciated, and may God bless each family and baby who receives a blanket and hat made from your hands of beautiful love.



We are looking for more ladies to get involved in planning activities, so that we can reach all ladies of RBC and our community. If you have ideas for activities, bible studies, service opportunities, or anything else please reach out.

If you are interested in helping with any of these upcoming events or have any questions or ideas, 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

Pachess & Denise

Integritas Men's Ministry

Content:

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

If you'd like to get involved and join the fun and fellowship, you can get more information by contacting the church office, or Rod Montgomery, (540) 623-7651 or e-mail at SitNChip@gmail.com

2. Back to Basics :

The 10 COMANDMENTS

Can you recite the 10 Commandments? How many can you recall. Many of us can give you some of them. But, how many of us can recall all 10—and—in proper order. Our public schools no longer allow them to be posted — Lest they learn them. But the Supreme Court has them posted on the very doors you enter into the court.

Well, we've taught our 4-6 year olds in Sunday School the 10 commandments. By the end of their 2 years in our class, they can tell you what they are. Of course, we've condensed them to 2 or 3 words each (see article insert next).

But they know them and they understand the concept as we repeat them each week. Maybe Tim Eicher can, too.

Over the next 10 months, we are taking a deeper look into each of the 10 Commandments. Come read and learn why they are just as relevant to your life today as they were when Moses brought them down the mountain.



7 AM Saturday Study

Fellowship Hall – Rod Montgomery

Integritas Weekly Men's Bible Study & Prayer is focused on many aspects of the Bible undergirding our Christian foundations and heritage for family, church & country.

Come enjoy some breakfast with us, too.

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

Jan 24—We will be starting a study on Isaiah. There is much to learn about Israel, their future and our own future



Iron Sharpens Iron

Monday, January 6th & 20th at 7:00PM

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. Our next meetings will be on January 6th and 20th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a dessert with us!

Every Man a Warrior

Sunday 5:00PM - 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

philliphunter38@gmail.com

Tim Eicher (540) 907-1545

teicher93@gmail.com

Flavius Lungoccia (540) 840-5689

flungoccia@gmail.com

Integritas Men's Ministry

Back to the Basics: The First Commandment

While the Commandments Moses brought down were intended to demonstrate that man cannot live up to them, they also aren't intended to be a rulebook that determines our destiny. However, they are a healthy guidance of protection God has laid down for us to focus on Him as well as create homes and society morally and spiritually focused. They are not obsolete, they are absolutely true and absolutely necessary.

While the Commandments are not a Salvation methodology, they become desired behavior we seek to emulate upon our commitment as a Christian. A real love for God means that we will want to obey the Commandments. Our obedience to them demonstrates our true love for God. At the Last Supper Jesus said, ¹⁵ *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

John 14:15

John wrote in **1 John 5:2-3** *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and follow His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. John also wrote, And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you are to walk in it. 2 John 1:6*

When we move away from the commandments, it undermines the individual, which undermines the family, which undermines the community, which undermines the state, which undermines our nation. Moving away from or neglecting the Ten Commandments is a moral and spiritual spiral into chaos. In obeying God, we will prosper. We are not to leave the responsibility of teaching the commandments to those outside our home. We are responsible, *mothers and fathers*, for teaching them.

Many believe that **Deuteronomy 6:1-9** to be the key verse to the Old Testament and a guide for how we, the parents, the family, are to live and teach the Commandments. This section of Scripture also contains what the Israelites call the great *Shema* of Israel (**Duet 6:4-9**). This section of Scripture was repeated each day, worn in phylacteries (boxes worn on the body), and posted in a mezuzah on the doorpost of the house.

Deut 6 *"Now this is the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may do them in the land where you are going over to take possession of it, ² so that you, your son, and your grandson will fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Now Israel, you shall listen and be careful to do them, so that it may go well for you and that you may increase greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.*

⁴ *"Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ And you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. ⁸ You shall also tie them as a sign to your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead. ⁹ You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

So, now let's look a little deeper into the First Commandment



Integritas Men's Ministry

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:2-3 NKJV

In the First Commandment, God is asking us to put Him first in our/your life. Like the children of Israel living in Egypt, we live in a secular society that has many gods and places many things above God. God has revealed himself to us and invited us to have a relationship with Him. The very start of Scripture proclaims one God. **Genesis 1:1** says *In the beginning God...* There's no discussion of other gods or even other options. There's only one. And, all the Scriptures following Genesis 1:1 show Him to be an all-powerful, all knowing and all present God. Omnipotent. Omniscient. Omnipresent.

"There is no other way because there is no other God There is one God there is no God but God, and there is no rest for any who rely on any god but God." - Os Guinness & John Seel

If we are to teach our children that there is an absolute Truth, they must know that we believe in the one true God and He holds a prime place of importance in our own lives. It can't be a sometimes effort. We need to be all in if we expect our children to follow our example.

"If you will teach God's Ten Commandments convincingly, consistently, creatively, conversationally, and conspicuously, your children will know that you really believe what you say you believe and they'll believe it, too." Adrian Rogers

Fathers, it's your responsibility to teach your children to love and obey God. Obedience of the 10 Commandments is basic training. As the family goes, so will go the Nation.

10 COMMANDMENTS Simplified

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall make no idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Keep the Sabbath day holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

10 COMMANDMENTS for Kids

1. No other god.
2. No idols.
3. Respect God's Name.
4. Keep the Sabbath.
5. Honor your father & mother.
6. No murder.
7. Respect your spouse.
8. No stealing.
9. No lying.
10. No coveting (wanting others things).

Rod Montgomery

Prime Timers Ministry

Prime Timers have had an absolutely Blessed and wonderful year of monthly meetings with special guest speakers, good food and great fun and fellowship.

We would love for you to join us in this new year of blessings. Some of the things we do is day trips and sometime overnight trips such as sight and Sound. Some of the months we eat out at a local restaurant. Linda Buckles plans all of our outings and does a wonderful job. We have several planned for this year. Please contact any of us for more information.

Our January outing is Olive Garden, Fredericksburg. Please contact Linda Buckles to register. She will need to know early to make our reservations. The date is January 16 at 12:00PM.

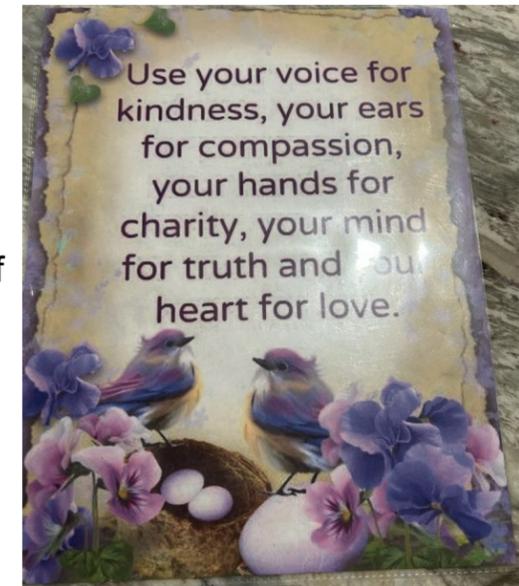
As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God conscious way.

"I will praise thee O Lord, with my whole heart: I will shew forth all thy marvelous works."

~Psalms 9:1 KJV

Blessings,

Margaret Canter



Revolution Youth Ministry

Happy New Year Ramoth Baptist Church family!



I hope you and your family had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! If you're like me, it's bittersweet to take down the Christmas lights. I enjoy seeing the different light displays around the neighborhoods. As I think about parting with them, it reminds me of a future, greater light display we can all choose to partake in. An angel of God told Daniel that *"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."* (Dan. 12:3 NIV).

Surely, that end-of-the-age light show will make our Christmas lights look like cheap, 4th-of-July sparklers compared to the big, illegal-in-Virginia fireworks. This new year may we all continue to serve God and lead many to the righteousness found in Christ. May we pour into our church and help her be that bright shining light on a hill in Stafford County. If we do, we can be assured of a brilliantly beautiful light display forever! Now here's what our youth ministry has been up to and what we plan to do!

LAST MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

Lots of Christmas Fun and Ministry!

We had lots of Christmas fun and ministry this month! On December 1st, we made Christmas cards for two local nursing homes and had an ugly sweater contest. We delivered the cards along with chocolates and carols on Sunday December 22nd to Falls Run Nursing Home and Harmony Nursing Home. December 8th, we hosted a Wrap Party where we wrapped gifts while listening to Christmas music and enjoying a hot chocolate bar and delicious cookies! We also had a small group Bible study on Isaiah 9:1-7, and our Word-Perfect raffle with 24 students memorizing Isaiah 9:6 and several reciting verse 7 too.

December 15th, we went caroling with a group from our church and enjoyed some soup and sandwiches. Afterwards, we had our Youth Christmas Party! We played a White Elephant Gift Exchange where a burrito blanket and Legos were stolen several times. Then we split up the 43 students into 4 teams of elves and reindeers and had them compete in festive games, such as a marshmallow-toothpick building competition, Christmas charades, balloon battles, and dodge ball! (I also popped a lesson on Jesus' kingdom from Daniel 2:31-45 after a surprise demolition of their marshmallow buildings!) Congratulations to the red hat elves for securing the win!



WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT

January



1st 6:30-8pm – Gaga Ball Tournament! Many will play. One will be crowned the champion!
12th 6:30-8pm – Mystery & Monsters Night! We'll play Monster Tag and other mystery games. Everyone is encouraged to wear an undercover or detective outfit or a monster shirt or costume.

Fri-Sat 17th-18th – Youth Evangelism Conference @ Virginia Beach! The conference aims to inspire students to repentance, to renew their commitment to Christ, and to obedience to the calling on their lives, as we train them to make Jesus known now! It includes preaching from Mark Turner, a family pastor and church planter from Redemption Heights Church, worship by the Museum, and entertainment from the Skit Guys, a comedy duo! There'll also be a gigantic Silent Disco party!

19th 6:30-8pm – YEC Testimony Night: We'll give students the chance to reflect on and share their experiences and convictions from YEC over the weekend. Then we'll finish up with games and fellowship.

26th 6:30-8pm – Escape Room Night! Youth will be split up into 3 teams and 3 rooms to solve riddles and find clues to escape the church. The team with the best time wins!



February

Sat. 1st 5:30-7:30pm – Family Skate Night at Cavalier! The youth, children, and their families from our church, Awana, and the home-school co-op are invited to join us for a Family Skate Night at Cavalier Family Skating Center! The admissions costs are covered by our church. Each participant must pay for skate rentals or bring their own skates. Skate rentals are \$4/pair. I hope you can join us!



2nd 6:30-8pm – Jersey Night: Everyone is encouraged to wear a jersey or shirt of their favorite sports team.

9th – No Youth Group due to Super Bowl Sunday

16th 6:30-8pm – Presidents' Night: Everyone is encouraged to dress up to look like a president. For example, you may wear formal attire, a president's costume, or a t-shirt with your favorite president.



We'll play a jeopardy game testing their knowledge on US presidents and history.

23rd 6-8pm – Youth Baking Competition! Some youth will sign up to make and enter desserts into a baking competition. Students will then taste the desserts and vote for their favorite dessert. The top 3 will win ribbons and gift cards to some sweet places! We'll also have games, worship, and a small group Bible study.

WHAT WE'RE TEACHING

Sunday School:

Explore the Bible: Exodus & Leviticus



We are continuing on our journey through Exodus in January by going into the wilderness with Moses and the newly freed Israelites. Repeatedly, the New Testament portrays Jesus as our new and greater Moses (John 1:17; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 3:1-3). In this study, we'll explore the story of God calling and forming a nation through Moses and consider how this practically applies to our story of God calling and forming a kingdom through Jesus Christ now! This month, we'll learn about God's provision for His people in the wilderness (Exodus 16:11-20; 17:1-6), God's gift of the 10 commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), God's instructions about protecting the vulnerable (Exodus 22:21-27; Leviticus 19:9-10), and God's great mercy to Isarel despite their idolatry (Exodus 32:1-4; 34:1-9).

Youth Group:

FOCUS: A 3-week study on spiritual disciplines from the Psalms & the Gospels.

It's not easy to stay focused. Especially these days, when we're connected to a never-ending stream of new notifications, ads, messages, videos, posts, and entertainment, it makes sense if we feel a little distracted sometimes. It's estimated that 14 billion images are shared daily on social media (Photutorial), and the average U.S. teen spends 4.8 hours of screen time per day (Gallup)! Maybe you've struggled recently to stay focused on your work, or on the story your friend was telling you, or even on the movie you were watching — but have you ever struggled to stay focused when you were spending time with God? In this series, we're going to get honest about how difficult it can be to stay focused when we're trying to pray, read the Bible, or grow in our faith. Each week, we'll explore passages from Psalms and the Gospels as we challenge ourselves to focus on practicing the spiritual disciplines that can help us grow in our faith. Together, we'll try focusing on what God has said, on giving something up, and on resting in God.



Sincerely,

Pastor Jonathan James



RISE-UP

Upcoming Events & Reminders

MEMORY VERSES:

"For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does"
(Psalm 33:4)

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves"
(Philippians 2:3)

Memory Verse Treasure Chest Dates:

January 5th & 12th (Psalm 33:4)

AWANA

January 8 Regular Club Night

January 15 Club in the Dark (Bring a flashlight)

January 22 **NO CLUB** - Quarterly Business Meeting

January 29 Regular Club Night

Save the Date:

February 1, 2025

Family Skate Night at

The Cavalier Family Skating Center





Volunteer Spotlight

Our first volunteer spotlight is a family who serves the Lord with such a joyful spirit! Read the responses and see if you can correctly guess who!? (First correct answer gets a chocolate bar!)

Why do you volunteer?

Well, I think if you asked each of us individually the answers might vary slightly, but at the end of the day we'd probably all end up saying the same thing: we love being a part of the family of God. We love doing what we do, whether it's serving with the children, being a part of the safety or worship team, washing dishes, stacking chairs, mopping floors, but it's the fellowship that we love being a part of the most. Even when some of the tasks might seem like "work", we tend to leave refreshed and filled up when we're serving with the love and heart of God with our brothers and sisters in Christ and that's why we do it.

What is one thing that your family loves to do together?

That's a toss up between family movie night or the game of questions. We love popping homemade popcorn, curling up on the couch in our pj's and watching movies together, but we also love shutting down the electronics and playing the game of questions, talking and laughing at each other's answers or trying to guess what each of us would say. It's these moments in time that we can just settle, relax and enjoy each other's company without all of the distractions of the world tugging at us.

If your family could choose anywhere to go to take a vacation, where would you go?

Easy answer: Outer Banks. That's been our family summer vacation spot and each year we look forward to it, counting down the days in anticipation, ready to unplug, catch each sunrise and rest with no plans or obligations for the week.

Family Spotlight



What is your family's favorite outing?

Our favorite family outings are nights where we get to go out to eat! Chick-fil-A is the most exciting in our house!

What is your family's favorite game to play together?

We actually play games almost every night before bed. Our favorites are Uno, Memory Card Games, Shut the Box, and Hungry Hungry Hippo. Who knew Hippos can be so aggressive :)

What do you love about the children's ministry at Ramoth Baptist Church?

What we love most about the Children's Ministry at Ramoth is the impact of the volunteers- everyone genuinely works to disciple our girls and build relationships with them. For that we are extremely blessed and grateful!

What happened in December?

December 8th:

We held a Family Christmas Party and Wrapping Event! Families painted ornaments together, played human tic-tac-toe, Pinned the Noses on the Snowman, and we attempted to play Family Feud. After all the fun, we watched "Charlie Brown Christmas". During that time, the youth group wrapped gifts for the families and the AWANA families!

Thank you to our Youth Group and Volunteers!

December 15th:

Pre-K thru 5th grade presented a Christmas program before the congregation during the 11am worship hour! What a wonderful performance!

Thank you to Jennifer & Matt Giles for heading up and planning that program with our children!



December 18th:

We held a Children's Ministry Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for the 2024 Volunteers! We ate Olive Garden, played games, and fellowshiped with one another!

Thank you, Volunteers!



Wednesday Night Dinner

Dinners are back starting January 8, 2025! There is no dinner on January 22, 2025 due to the Quarterly Business Meeting. Register online or by phone every week by Monday at 5:00PM. Dinners are on Wednesdays at 5:00PM. Dinner costs \$5 per person. Max cost for families is \$25.

Monthly Menu!

January 8

Meatball Subs, Italian Grinder Salad, French Fries and Rice Krispies for Dessert

Prepared by the Nate Ewoldt's Team

January 15

Tomato Soup, and Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

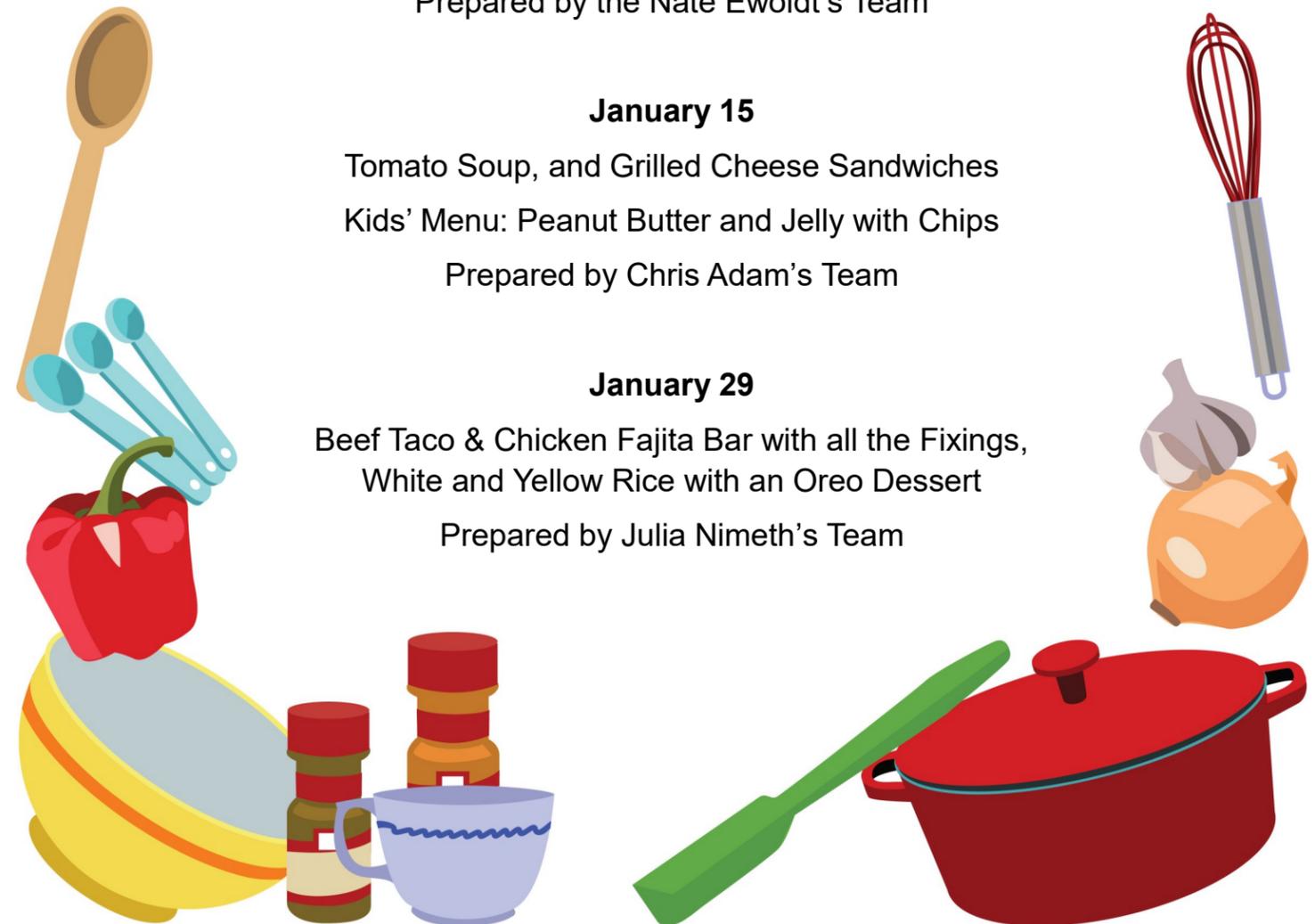
Kids' Menu: Peanut Butter and Jelly with Chips

Prepared by Chris Adam's Team

January 29

Beef Taco & Chicken Fajita Bar with all the Fixings, White and Yellow Rice with an Oreo Dessert

Prepared by Julia Nimeth's Team



Happy Birthday!

January 1

Thomas France
Flavius Lungoccia
Sherrie Treida

January 17

Pam Null
Rowan Spear

January 3

Seth Chambers
Emily Ortega

January 19

Lydia Bloxton

January 4

Abigail Ferguson

January 22

Helen Kearns

January 5

Jacob Foster
Sydney Gallagher
Stefanie Lennon

January 25

Virginia Armstrong
Cindy Johnson
Mary Ann Skidmore

January 9

Carmen Hill

January 26

Linda Blake

January 10

Allison Ruiz

January 28

Joy Shelton
Tammy Truax
Tiffany Truax

January 11

Betty Oakes

January 29

Jarrod Snyder

January 12

Jim Garrison

Hughes Home

Carl Grant

January 4

Ward Wilkerson

January 7

Vertalia Brown

January 10

John Levesque

January 11

Anisia Navarro Torres

January 19

Augustina Bryant

January 22

Shirley Pritchard

January 29

Mail a Card!

Name of Person

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

Donations

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

Church Stewardship

Offerings and Attendance January 1-December 16

Offerings

General Fund

Designated Fund

Expenses

Cemetery Fund

Donated:

Paid out for cemetery upkeep:

Average Attendance

Sunday Events

Wednesday Events

Other Weekly Events

In Christian Sympathy

Adult Sunday School

Young Adult: LifeWay Explore the Bible

~Fellowship Hall (right)~ Dan & Amy Mehochko

Adult 1: Book of James

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

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

~Chapel-2~ Gary Bennett

Adult 3: LifeWay Bible Studies for Life

~Room 305~ Gary Graham

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

~Room 306~ Matt Canter, Paula Menteer

Adult 5: Chronological Study through the Bible

~Sanctuary~ Heath Hunter, Chris Adams

Adult 7: LifeWay Explore the Bible

~Room 301~ Ptr. Paige Bowman, Randy Colson

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

~Room 307~ Chris Turman, Sean Springer

Senior Men: LifeWay Bible Studies for Life

~Library~ Kerry Knowles

Ladies Class: God of Creation

~Chapel~ Terry Harrell, Kim Colson

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Ways to Give

Online: rbcstafford.org

Download our App:



Mail: 478 Ramoith Church Road, Stafford, VA 22554

Happy New Year!

... look, new things
have come into being!

2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV