

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

RBC Women’s Ministry Conference

February 1, 2025

9:00AM

Women, join us to be REVIVED and blessed at the conference.

Family Skate Night

February 1, 2025

5:30PM

Families, join us at Cavalier Family Skating Center for a night of fun!

Youth Ski Retreat

February 14, 2025

Youth, sign up for the Ski Retreat at Massanutten Resort.

Table of Contents

Senior Pastor.....	2
Deacon Ministry.....	3
Worship Ministry	5
Refuge Ministry.....	6
Women’s Ministry	8
Integritas Men’s Ministry.....	11
Prime Timers Ministry.....	14
Revolution Youth	15
Children’s Ministry.....	18
Wednesday Night Dinner.....	21
Birthdays.....	22
Church Stewardship.....	23
Contact Us.....	24

*Love God,
 Love People,
 Change Our World*

Senior Pastor

We continue on a fast-moving pace in the New Year. You have heard from the Short Term and Long Term planning groups on proposed changes and challenges in attempting to move forward as a church to continue to reach our community for Jesus. I encourage you as you look at the material presented to pray and to attend one of the Town Hall Meetings in the Chapel after the 11AM Worship Service. These Town Hall meetings will continue for the next four weeks. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of our Deacon Body are leading these meetings presenting additional information as to the direction the two groups have suggested we need to move towards. They will answer or at least attempt to answer any questions you might have, and some questions we may not know the answer to or have not been determined as of yet. The purpose of these meetings is to give clarity as to the direction these two groups have presented for our continued growth. We are simply asking you to ask your questions, pray about the proposals, and then vote at a later date in a called Business Meeting as the Lord leads you. The key, here, is to pray. We may have individual opinions of doing things our way or changes we’d like to see, but our goal is to look at the big picture and to do things God’s way and that’s what we’re seeking and why we’re asking you to pray about these issues.

Again, it’s exciting to be a part of an active body of believers using their giftedness to “speak Jesus” to those we encounter on a daily basis. Many of you are speaking Jesus and have stepped up to serve in the New Year and this is a blessing. There are still many additional opportunities to serve, and more volunteers are needed, so we ask you to pray about where you can serve and use your giftedness as well. Remember, in serving, you receive the blessing. We are looking at expanding some of our ministries that will require additional volunteers which will enable us to reach more people and not have anyone on a waiting list for certain ministries. We put the information of our ministries on our Facebook page and on our website and invite and encourage people to come and join with us, but it’s sad when we have to tell them when they come, “well yes, we have this great ministry, and we’d love to have you and your family involved, but we will have to put you on a waiting list because all of our classes are either full or we don’t have enough volunteers to staff all of the classes and ministries. Pray with us that we can eliminate that from continuing to happen.

God is blessing us, calling us out, and giving us tremendous opportunities to serve, and we need to be where He wants us to be and not just where we think we can be. God does not call us to fail. He calls us to succeed. His call is often very challenging: well I think I will say it is always challenging and calls for sacrifice and for change and for commitment and for obedience, but if we’re honest, that’s when we grow stronger as a believer. God knows that we need to be challenged to do what we think is impossible for us to do to bring glory and honor and praise to Him.

So, continue to pray in the New Year for God’s direction in your life and in the life of our church family.

God Bless,

Dr. Richard Harrell

Deacon Ministry

In Luke 12:48, Jesus tells us, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

For 158 years, God has blessed Ramoth Baptist Church with much. We are blessed with people and ministries that we have a responsibility to shepherd and steward (1 Corinthians 4:1-2, “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.”). Because of the faithful stewardship of those who have gone before us, and God’s faithfulness, we stand here today (Psalms 119:90, “Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.”).

We are a growing congregation with growing ministries that has reached a decision point of how best to steward what God has given, loving and serving those who are here, and those who have yet to walk through these doors. (1 Peter 4:10-11 - “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”).

Jesus commands us in Matthew 28:18-20 to make disciples of all nations and to teach them to obey. Our current Sunday morning schedule and our current facilities are not meeting the discipleship needs of our Children’s Ministry, Sunday School classes, Home School ministry, VBS, and our church-wide events ministries. Our ministry facilities are strained in both capacity and appropriateness. Here are several examples:

- The women’s class had to be moved to accommodate their size.
- Adult 8 had to move because they could not hear due to the noise of the substantially larger Adult 5 in the fellowship hall.
- Adult 5 is meeting in the sanctuary, which is a space that presents auditory challenges, and does not facilitate interaction and participation that is crucial for discipleship.
- Adult 7, Senior Men, and Adult 2 are at capacity in their current spaces.
- We have seen growth in our Sunday School ministries in the last few years. We are one of the few churches in the area that provides a robust Sunday School ministry people need and are hungry for.
- Our homeschool ministry is growing rapidly, and we are at capacity.
- We have waiting lists for AWANA, VBS, and Home School.
- The whole church cannot meet in the fellowship hall for a meal or event, such as Homecoming.

The Deacon Body seeks to love and serve Ramoth Baptist Church, and to be the best stewards of everything God has given us, today and in the future. After much prayer, deliberation, and discussion over the course of almost two years, the Deacon Body has unanimously agreed to address our ministry challenges in two

Deacons of the Week

February 2

Gary Graham
(540) 446-8814

Joe Pearson
(540) 940-1762

February 9

Chris Hudson
(703) 350-1934

Jacob Nimeth
(540) 408-3887

February 16

Heath Hunter
(912) 596-8294

Dan Mehochko
(540) 272-8137

February 23

Jeff Johnson
(540) 836-7535

Flavius Lungoccia
(540) 840-5689

ways. First, we will change our Sunday morning scheduling format in the fall. We will move to a two service/two Sunday School hour format. This will have the immediate effect of doubling our Sunday School capacity, relieving the current stress, and creating opportunity for future growth. We believe this is the best way to be good stewards of our current resources, using them the best we can for the Kingdom, and facilitating discipleship.

Second, we will seek congregational approval at a special called business meeting to build a new 9,400 square feet family ministry center composed of classrooms and a full-size fellowship hall. Over the next couple of months, we are calling on the church to engage in a time of prayer and fasting to seek God’s will. We will frequently communicate about this building plan to the congregation in a variety of formats. You will be hearing from ministry leaders during our announcement time about the impact this building would have on their respective ministries. You will be hearing from the Deacons in your Sunday School classes. You will have the opportunity to attend a town-hall style meeting after the 11:00 service for several weeks to hear more details about the plan, how the Deacons arrived at their recommendation, and to answer questions you may have. There will be information in the bulletin, Beacon, and on-line. There are booklets describing the new building in the lobby. We ask that you take one per family.

The point of all of these is to ensure, as best as we can, that we have given the information to everyone who seeks it, we have answered questions to the best of our ability, and we have fostered input from the congregation. This will only be successful if God’s hand is on it (Proverbs 19:21 – “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”). This will only be successful if we are unified (1 Peter 3:8 - “Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”).

Unity does not mean we all think the same way. It does mean that we are willing to love and sacrifice for each other, pray about it, be informed, ask questions, vote as we feel led, and respect and participate in the ultimate decision of the congregation. We will need to sacrifice preferences, comforts, and routines. We will need to bear with one another. (Ephesians 4:2 - “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”).

There will be sacrifice. There will be loss. There are no perfect solutions. There are no perfect times. Some of us may have to change the service we prefer to attend. Some of us may have to change the Sunday School hour or class we prefer. Some of us may have to step up and serve in ministries we hadn’t considered before as we continue to grow. Why endure this sacrifice? Why put up with the inevitable loss? Why put up with the inconvenience and risk? Because in 1866, 1957, 1975, and 1991, people we didn’t know did it for us reflecting what Christ did for everyone.

We will not have the answers to all of your questions. Some of your questions may be unanswerable, but we have thoughtfully and prayerfully examined the challenges facing our church and believe God has led us to step out in faith. I encourage you to attend our town halls where Tim Eicher and I will share how the Deacons arrived at our recommendation, other options we considered, and the specifics of the building plan. I encourage you to engage with your deacons, and ask them questions. I encourage you to pray, ask yourself how you can serve, be informed, and vote as you feel led.

Pete Johnson

Exalted Worship Ministry

The Tongue

Harsh words. Hurtful words. Words that cut to the quick. Words that stand against our faith. Jokes that demean. Jokes that cause sinful thoughts. Our tongue is a powerful tool that too often is used to convey the wrong message. Listen to what Jesus said about what comes from our mouth.

[Mark 7:20](#) And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him."

Of course, we are not just talking about what is said but also what is written. Our heart is expressed through the words we say and through the words we write. That post on social media is our testimony in the same way as the precious moment we share the story of Christ or the moment we offer prayer or wise counsel. The one cannot be separated from the other. Look at our national leadership. In one breath we hear how God is revered and in another we hear a disparaging word or a word that is vulgar. Maybe we cringe or maybe we emulate. Our politicians have a lot to learn about the tongue. We have a lot to learn as well.

The tongue must be controlled. But how do we do that? Do we pause and carefully consider the words we are about to speak? Yes, sometimes we do just that, but we must be honest, for often we allow the words to flow from our mouths like poison and only regret them once they have been released, if we regret them at all.

Paul tells us in [Romans 2:12](#) Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Did you get that? We must be renewed! We must be transformed! How does that happen? How do we find God's will? How do we speak words that are good, pleasing, and perfect? How do we truly reflect God throughout every minute of the day.

The very first step is to surrender your life to Christ. Accept Him as your Savior and Lord! But it doesn't stop there. You must then begin the journey of sanctification. What does sanctify mean? It means to become more like Christ! Through prayer (and I don't mean superficial prayer) and study (and I don't mean just reading a chapter a day) and obedience (and I don't just mean going to church) we become more like Christ every day. We must understand what we believe. We must answer the challenging questions of our faith. Will everyone be saved? What purpose does baptism serve? Why did Jesus have to die? What is the Trinity? Why do we worship? How is the new Heaven and Earth like the original Garden of Eden?

Can you answer those questions? Have you studied? Are you allowing the Spirit to guide your life or are you keeping Him in a box and ignoring God's will?

To control the tongue, we must grow toward Christ for He is the only One who can control the tongue. What we say and what we write tells the world who we are. Are we reflecting Him today? Are we a witness or are we a hindrance?

James talks about the tongue. [James 3:8](#) but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

You and I cannot control the tongue, but we can reflect Jesus. As we become more like Him, we will find sweet words flowing from our mouths. We will say what He says. That doesn't mean there is never a time for rebuke or a time for standing bold for the gospel. It doesn't mean we will never say anything that is hurtful for we are striving toward perfection. We will not be glorified until we reach glory.

As John Newton said, "I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am."

I pray you, like me, will continue your journey of sanctification and as we grow more like Christ, will one day see control of the rebel tongue!

Pastor Chuck Hite

Refuge Ministry

Blessings brothers and sisters in Christ. We have been enduring some wintry weather as of late, but it is so good to know that the SON is always shining on us. The month of January has come and gone, so quickly, but that does not mean there has not been time to think about the things of God. There are many great and wonderful things that are taking place in our church, in our community, and in our country. As these things take place, we must consider how they are all a part of God's ultimate plan.

It is with that thought in mind that I would have you consider the following passage of scripture. **Leviticus 26:1-13** declares, "Do not make idols or set up carved images, or sacred pillars, or sculptured stones in your land so you may worship them. I am the Lord your God. ²You must keep my Sabbath days of rest and show reverence for my sanctuary. I am the Lord.

³"If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, ⁴I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. ⁵Your threshing season will overlap with the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land.

⁶"I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to sleep with no cause for fear. I will rid the land of wild animals and keep your enemies out of your land. ⁷In fact, you will chase down your enemies and slaughter them with your swords. ⁸Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall beneath your sword.

⁹"I will look favorably upon you, making you fertile and multiplying your people. And I will fulfill my covenant with you. ¹⁰You will have such a surplus of crops that you will need to clear out the old grain to make room for the new harvest! ¹¹I will live among you, and I will not despise you. ¹²I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people. ¹³I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high."

The words of the Lord are clear. His desire is to bless each and every one of us for our obedience to His word. That word sometimes comes through sermons. Other times that word comes in Sunday School lessons or weekly Bible Studies. And even still, sometimes that word comes in articles or conversation had been like-minded believers. However, no matter how the word goes out from the Lord, it is intended for it to be heeded and acted upon.

So, if there is a need for repentance, so that you can be in right relationship with God; do it now. If you need forgiveness, seek it from the Lord and make right between you and those you might have offended; do it now. If you need to get your priorities right and show how important the Lord is to your life; then do not delay doing the things that the Lord has made clear to you to do. This also includes being in harmony with your brothers and sisters as they go about ministering to those in need, serving throughout the church and community, and being a part of the unified voice that moves, as God is directing them to move.

These actions, through obedience, bring forth the blessings that God has in store for us. Let us be clear though, this should not be considered "prosperity preaching," because it is not that. It is, as the word declares, obedience brings about a measure of blessing in some form or fashion. And therefore, we should be inclined to be

doers of the word, and not just hearers of the word (**James 1:22-25**). This is the good and perfect will of God on full display, as we seek His will and not our own.

If you are struggling to walk in obedience in various areas of your life, you are not alone. And you do not have to go it alone, either. If you need assistance, support, or encouragement then we are here for you. We, at the Refuge Ministry Center, are in place to provide these things and so much more. If you or someone you know needs our help, please feel free to contact us at 540-602-7986 or via email at counseling@rbstafford.org or counseling2@rbstafford.org. Our office is open Monday through Thursday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Friday 8:00AM to noon. May we see many of God's blessings in 2025, as we walk and live in obedience.

Your Brother in Christ,

Sergio "Woody" Wooden

DIVORCECARE

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



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@rbstafford.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 2nd

and 4th Tuesday. For more information, or to sign up

for this group, please contact Pattie Foster at

pattiecakes84@comcast.net

February 11th and 25th at 1PM in Room 306.

Women's Ministry

Love One Another

Happy February, the month of love. If you've been to the store lately, you have seen the aisles are inundated with heart-shaped boxes of chocolate, cheesy Valentine's cards, and cutesy stuffed animals, all to celebrate one of the most commercialized holidays in our culture. My daughter even has a Valentine's Day shirt that reads "Love One Another". But what does it really mean to love one another? The world's definition of love has skewed away from what we as Christians know to be true love in recent years. The world teaches that we can and should love anyone or anything our hearts desire. Interestingly, however, loving someone who challenges or disagrees with our views does not apply to the worldly definition of love. The secular world simply can't fathom loving those who disagree with them, labeling those who disagree as intolerant, difficult, or even as an enemy.

But what does the Bible teach us about love? First and foremost, the Bible teaches us that our first love and the ruler of our heart should be the Lord. As Matthew 22:36-38 states, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law? Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." This is where love starts, but certainly not where it ends. Jesus goes on to say in Matthew 22:39, "And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Who do you think of when you think of your neighbor? Maybe you have a "good" neighbor, someone who is willing to lend a helping hand or a recipe ingredient when you are in need, someone you can simultaneously call a friend. Such people are easy to love, pray for, and extend a helping hand to in return. But what if your neighbor isn't so friendly? Maybe they cause you trouble, lodge baseless complaints against you, or dump trash in your yard...someone that is perhaps a bit harder to love. The secular world has a posture of believing that those who cause them trouble are not worthy of love or respect. But the Lord, in his infinite wisdom, calls His people to love differently than the secular world. In Romans 12:9-21 we read about the marks of a true Christian, among them: doing what is good, rejoicing in hope, being patient in tribulation, showing hospitality, and – here is the real kicker – blessing those who persecute you and loving your enemies by meeting their needs! Jesus Himself tells us, "Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the cheek, turn to him the other cheek also" (Matthew 5:39). As followers of Christ, we should go out of our way to extend the love, grace, and hope of Jesus to those around us, even those who are hard to love. And although the world labels people who disagree as "enemies," we must remember who the real enemy is. In Ephesians 6:12 we read, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." As the world continues to reject Christ, it is imperative that we keep this eternal mindset as it becomes more and more challenging to love those around us.

Before we started saying "Speak Jesus" here at Ramoth, we used to have a sign that hung in the sanctuary – another sort of slogan, if you will – that read "Love God, Love People, Change Our World." Some of you may remember it. While it no longer hangs in the sanctuary, the message parallels "Speak Jesus" and is still as true today as it has ever been. As believers, we must purpose to love the Lord our God first and secondly love our neighbors as ourselves, even and especially those who are hard to love. By so doing, we can and will be a light for Jesus in a dark world and point others to the perfect love of the One who defines what love truly is. As you walk through this month

of love, and beyond, consider how you can love your neighbors and enemies alike just as the Lord has called us out to do. Remember to “Speak Jesus” and to “Love God, Love People, Change Our World.”

Shayna Eicher

Hello RBC Family,

Upcoming Events

**IMGNLife Baby Bottle Campaign
From January 19th – February 23rd**

Baby bottle campaigns help fund the pregnancy center's daily operations and meet the needs of those that want to choose life! Last year RBC raised over \$5,000 through baby bottle campaign gifts to support our local center! IMGNLife serves Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties with a vision of a community that values all human life from the moment of conception. They are a resource center for those in crisis and want to empower those facing unplanned pregnancy with hope and life-affirming choices by providing free and confidential pregnancy tests, ultrasound confirmations, and medical consultations. IMGN Life educates the clients and their families on subjects such as healthy lifestyles, marriage, relationships and parenting.



How can you get involved? Prayerfully consider how you can help our community choose LIFE in 2025! Pick up a bottle in the foyer and fill it with cash, coin, or a check (**made payable to IMGN Life**). Donations can also be made online at (<https://app.dvforms.net/api/dv/y15kp7>). If you would like to donate diapers, wipes, or formula to the center, those are welcome, as well.

Saturday, Feb 1st: RBC Women’s Conference-REVIVE 2025

Join the ladies for a day of worship, learning, and fellowship focusing on Psalm 51:10, “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Will you allow God to REVIVE you in this new year? We will have speakers from within our church body speaking, leading us in worship, and breakout sessions. Registration is \$10 and with the option to add-on lunch and conference shirts or a tote bag. Please register online <https://form.123formbuilder.com/6789687/women-s-conference-2025>.

Location: Ramoth Baptist Church

Time: 9:00AM-2:00PM, doors open at 8:30AM



Sunday, Feb 2nd: Hat Sunday

It’s 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!

Saturday, Feb 15th:

The Knitting and Crochet group is asking for yarn donations for their upcoming Winter Project starting on February 15th and continuing on March 8th and April 19th. We will be working on Prayer Shawls for members of our community. All are welcome to participate, and any yarn donations would be gratefully accepted. Please place yarn donations in the box in the foyer in front of the Women’s Ministry table.



Save the Date! Saturday, Mar 15th: Missions Tea Party

We are looking for ladies to decorate tables, and young men to serve during the event.

Location: Ramoth Baptist Church

Time: TBD

Save the Date! Friday-Saturday, Mar 28-29th: RBC Marriage Conference

Location: Ramoth Baptist Church

Time: TBD

Needs and Thank You’s!

We will be starting F.I.T Workshops back in the spring, so please consider how you can get involved! We are looking for workshop leaders and ideas for what kind of workshops you would like to attend. Please contact Pam Null at pamelanull@gmail.com or 540-645-1674 for more information.

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 COMMANDMENTS — #2

After reading the January Beacon, how are you doing with the 10 Commandments? Can you name them all yet? Here's a quick review of what we learned on the 1st Commandment last month.

The Commandments are not a Salvation methodology. They are a 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. And, our obedience to them demonstrates our true love for God.

In the First Commandment, God is asking us to put Him first in our/your life. God has revealed himself to us and invited us to have a relationship with Him. There's only one God.

Teach your children there is an absolute Truth. Show them you believe in the one true God and He holds a prime place of importance in our own lives. Be consistent. Let them see you're all in. They will follow your lead.



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.

Feb 25—We will be continuing to study Isaiah. There is much to learn about Israel, their future and our own future in God's Eternal Kingdom.



Iron Sharpens Iron

Monday, February 3rd & 17th 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 February 3rd and 17th at 7:00PM 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

The Ten Commandments – 2nd Commandment – No Idols!

The Second Commandment can be found in **Exodus 20:4-6** *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My Commandments.*

Wow, that's a long Commandment, eh? How about we use the Kids version for simplicity – **No Idols!** Having recognized God in the 1st Commandment, here in the 2nd Commandment, we are now confronted with understanding that nothing, absolutely nothing, can take His place in someone's life. Jesus said, *"I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me."* **John 14:6.** The difference between these two Commandments is in the one of the perspective of worship. The 1st Commandment deals with the *who* of worship. While the 2nd Commandment deals with the *how* of worship.

You may remember these 10 Commandments were also a focal point in the Aug 2022 Beacon when we learned about the National Monument to our Forefathers. In her left hand of the statue **Morality** is a stone tablet of the *Decalogue*, or the *Ten Commandments* that express a principle known as the *Law of Nature*, a term also used in the *Declaration of Independence*. *The Law of Nature* is the idea that God has implanted morality – the innate sense of right and wrong – in the heart of every person in the form of a conscience with the need to worship.

So, how would you define an Idol? The dictionary defines it like this: an object of extreme devotion, or a representation, or symbol of an object of worship. As a Christian, this goes well beyond objects as an Idol. We're going to go right to the heart of the matter! (yes, I know that's a pun) Anything that takes the place of God in our heart, life & belief. It's anything pushing God off the throne of our life where he belongs. In the Old Testament, Idols were handmade gods that people kept in their homes on an altar that was the focal point of the home worship.

I am the Lord, and there is no one else;

There is no God except Me.

I will arm you, though you have not known Me,

⁶So that people may know from the rising to the setting of the sun

That there is no one besides Me.

I am the Lord, and there is no one else **Isa 45:5-6**

Here in modern day life, most of us don't have a home altar with a handmade god sitting on it. So, what do we see in our lives that can become idols – other gods? Money. Nature. Sex. Drugs. A job. A career. Other people. Sports heroes. Entertainment personalities. Current culture. Fads. Movies. TV. Book characters. Comic characters. Or even cars. Who doesn't want to drive a yellow Corvette? But it can't become our focus. We can't take it with us.

Because he is the only God, there can only be Salvation through Him, no other God. God is separate standing alone from any and all other gods. There is nothing else that is or can be "like" Him. He is above everything and everyone. He is all knowing, always with us, and all powerful. **Malachi 3:6** *For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, the sons of Jacob, have not come to an end.* This is why only God is the one to be worshiped. Anything you "worship" or "value" more than God is an idol. This is not an easy task. We need to hold ourselves and our families accountable. We need to keep God first, ahead of anything or anyone else. We are teaching our children how to worship by what we hold as the god in our life. They must come to an understanding that the monotheism of Scripture leads us to proclaim that the one God is the God revealed in Scripture as the hymn says: "worthy of worship, worthy of praise, worthy of honor and glory."



We become like the object of our worship. The Bible teaches us that when we worship an idol, we become like that idol. First, the family molds the idol and then the idol molds the family.

Everybody is going to worship something. Man has an innate need to be religious. Where there is a vacuum, something will come to fill it. Nature abhors a vacuum. This is the reason it is important for us to have the right object of worship in place. When we worship God, the one true and Scriptural God of the Bible, we will become more like him.

*For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
He also is to be feared above all gods.
²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the Lord made the heavens. 1 Chr 16:25-26*

Fathers, who is on the altar or your home. It will become the focus of what your children worship in their lives. Lead with authority and intentionality.

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

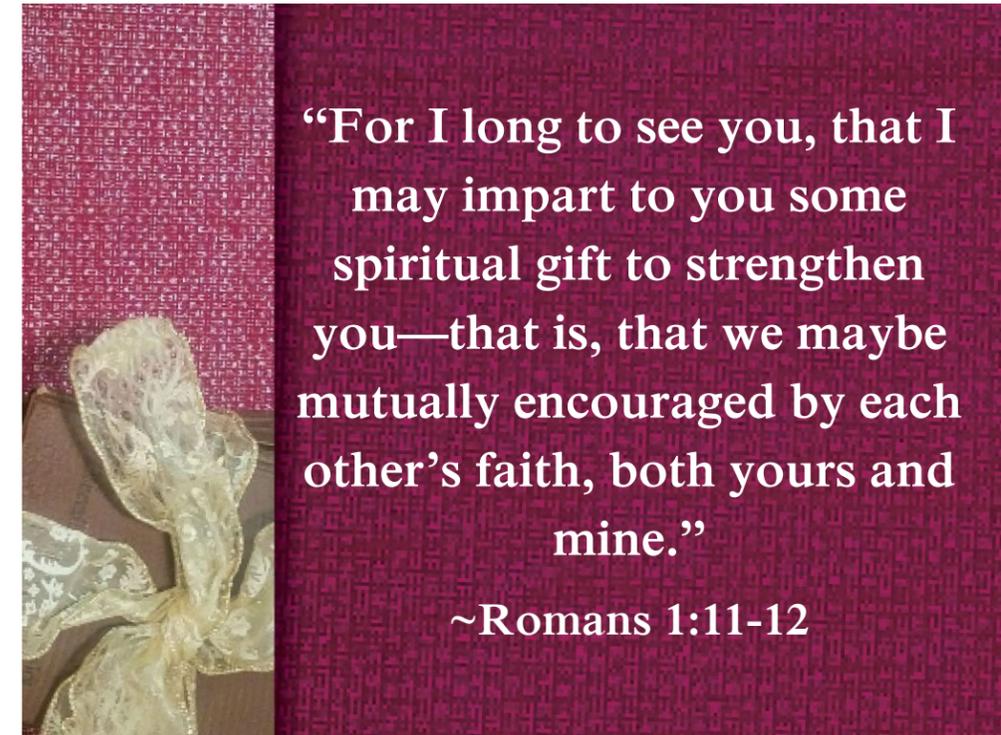
1. No other god.
2. No idols.
3. Respect God's Name.
4. Keep the Sabbath.
5. Honor your father & mother.
6. No murder.
7. Respect your spouse.
8. No stealing.
9. No lying.
10. No coveting (wanting others things).

Rod Montgomery

Prime Timers Ministry

Prime Timers was blessed to have a great turnout for our January luncheon on a very cold Winter day in January at Olive Garden. We had a wonderful lunch and great time of fellowship.

Please join us Thursday, February 20, 2025 for a wonderful luncheon and blessing in our Fellowship Hall. Gary Graham is our guest speaker and words of wisdom to bring blessings to all.



For you are my hope O Lord God –Psalm 71:5

Blessings,

Margaret Canter



Revolution Youth Ministry

Happy February Ramoth Baptist Church Family!

January was a very cold and snowy month. Some of us liked the snow and some of us didn't. Regardless, I hope seeing the snow can remind us of the amazing forgiveness and cleansing we received through Christ. *"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord: 'though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.'*" (Isaiah 1:18). King David after his infamous sin with Bathsheba asks God, *"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow"* (Psalm 51:7). Snow is a beautiful picture of God's complete forgiveness and gift of holiness to us in Christ. *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace"* (Ephesians 1:7). Every time we see the snow, love it or hate it, may it remind us of the great forgiveness and cleansing God has given us in Christ! Lord willing and weather permitting, here's what we plan to do in our youth ministry and what we have been up to!



LAST MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

Youth Evangelism Conference!

On January 17th and 18th, we took 19 youth and 8 adults to the Youth Evangelism Conference in Virginia Beach! We got to laugh with the Skit Guys, a comedy duo who involved the audience in hilarious skits that illustrated spiritual truths, enjoy silly crowd games that engaged youth and embarrassed some youth pastors, and participate in a silent disco, a really big dance party with headphones and different channels to tune into. The preaching was practical, relatable, and Christ-centered. We heard messages challenging us to accept Christ's invitation to take His yoke (Matthew 11:28-30), to make Christ's vision our own (Matthew 9:36-38), and to obey Christ's Great Commission without hesitation (Matthew 28:16-20). The most inspiring part was to sing praises to our Savior and King along with a thousand youth! Many of our youth were always eager to go up front to sing and worship! Several times the worship leaders would slow down where all you could hear were the voices of the teens praising God. It was precious to see and hear. Thank you to all the parents who provided for their youth to go and the youth who joined us. And a big thank you to all my adult volunteers who served on this fast-paced trip to build up the youth and glorify Christ.



WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT

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 admission 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 – Disco/80s Night:** Step back in time to dress like you are from the 80s and ready for a disco!
- 9th – No Youth Group** due to Super Bowl Sunday
- Fri 14th 8:30AM-8:30PM – Youth Ski Trip @ Massanutten Resort!** Transportation will be provided. You must pay for your lunch, dinner, slope ticket and rental equipment or tubing. Slope tickets cannot be guaranteed, so sign up asap. The deadline to sign up is 02/09/2025. See the email for more info.
- 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 6:30-8PM – 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!



March

- 2nd – AWANA Grand Prix & Youth Refreshment Stand:** The youth will run a refreshment stand for families attending the AWANA Grand Prix. We'll be collecting donations which will go towards lowering the cost of summer camp for participating teens!
- 9th 6:30-8:00PM – School Spirit Night:** Represent your school by wearing your school's merch to Youth Group!
- Sat. 15th – Women's Mission Tea Party!** The girls are invited to attend, and the boys are invited to serve. The Tea Party will raise money for missions and participating boys will earn money towards the costs of summer camp!
- 16th 6:30-8PM – Who's the Greenest!** Wear as much green as you can! The greenest High Schooler and Middle Schooler will get a special prize!
- 23rd 6:30-8PM – Nerf Night! Goggles,**
- 30th – No Youth Group** due to Spring Break

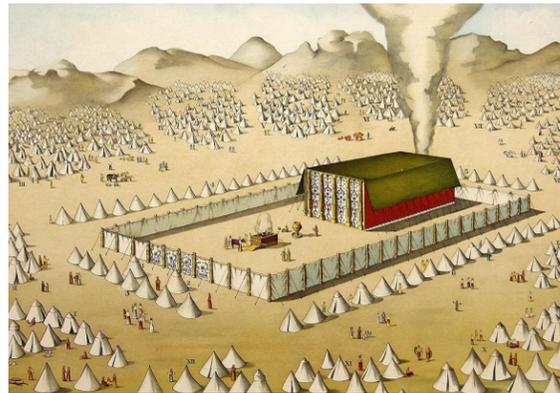


WHAT WE'RE TEACHING

Sunday School:

Explore the Bible: *Exodus & Leviticus*

We are finishing our journey through Exodus in February with Moses and the grumbling Israelites in the wilderness. In this study, we've explored 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 the Tabernacle and God's presence (Exodus 40:16-38), the Priesthood and God's approachability (Leviticus 8:1-13; 9:22-24), the Day of Atonement and God's forgiveness (Leviticus 16:1-10, 29-30), and true freedom and God's instructions (Leviticus 26:1-13).



Youth Group:

FOCUS: A 5-week study on spiritual disciplines from the Psalms & the Gospels.

Due to snow and my decision to add two more lessons to our series on spiritual disciplines, we are continuing Focus through February. It's not easy to stay focused. Especially when we're connected to a never-ending stream of new notifications, ads, messages, videos, posts, and entertainment. In this series, we're being 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 the Psalms and the Gospels as we challenge ourselves to focus on practicing the spiritual disciplines that can help us grow in our faith. This month, we will learn about how to have a quiet time with God, how to pray, and the importance of rest in God!



Sincerely,

Pastor Jonathan James

Rise-up Children's Ministry

RISE-UP Upcoming Events & Reminders

MEMORY VERSE:

"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:
February 15th & 23rd

AWANA

February 5	Potato Pet	**Grand Prix Cars for SALE	
February 12	Regular Club	**Grand Prix Cars for SALE	
February 19	Crazy Hair	**Grand Prix Cars for SALE	**Car Cutting Help
February 26	Regular Club	**Grand Prix Cars for SALE	**Car Cutting Help

Save the Dates:

March 2nd
AWANA GRAND PRIX
June 16-20
Vacation Bible School

July 7-11
Camp Red Arrow (ages 8-12)

Volunteer Spotlight



Why do you volunteer?

We volunteer to show our love to God through obedience to His calling. It is our way of setting the example for our children and teaching and raising them in the ways of the Lord.

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

We love to play card games, board games, and video games together.

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

Amber - Disney World
Wyatt & Paisley - Bahamas
Chris - Hawaii

Family Spotlight



What is your family's favorite outing?

Yearly we go to Nag's Head for the Blake Family Vacation!

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

Our favorite games are Uno and Phase 10.

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

Kids response:

We get to learn about God!

Parents response:

The consistent exposure to God's word, prayer, and fellowship in a safe environment.

Wednesday Night Dinner

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!

February 5

Baked Ziti (One will be Gluten free), Garlic Bread, Salad, and Desserts

Prepared by Rise-up Home School Ministry

February 12

Pizza and Dessert

Prepared by Chris Adam's Team

February 19

Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls and Cake

Prepared by Virginia Armstrong's Team

February 26

Rosemary Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Collard Greens, Pintos, Cornbread, Cake, and Pie

Prepared by Jaynie Hudson's Team



Happy Birthday!

February 1

Joe Foster

February 4

Sergio Wooden

February 7

Grayson Ewoldt

February 10

Shelva Young

February 11

Sebastian Martin

February 12

Joshua White

February 13

Jean Skidmore

February 14

Donald Balsavich
Jocelyne Micke
Karen Theiss

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

Regina Fitzgerald

February 6

Deborah Holden

February 7

Jack Correta

February 8

James Larry Alexander

February 17

Mail a Card!

Name of Person

c/o Hughes Home

100 Caroline Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Donations

The Hughes Home Riverhouse 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- January 20

Offerings

General Fund

Designated Fund

Expenses

Cemetery Fund

Paid out for cemetery upkeep:

Average Attendance

Sunday Events

Wednesday Events

Other Weekly Events

In Christian Sympathy

To the family of
Frances Graninger

To the family of
Roger Boutchyard

Adult Sunday School

Young Adult: Three Truths

~Room 106~ Sergio "Woody" Wooden

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 Ramoth Church Road, Stafford, VA 22554

LOVE IS PATIENT,
LOVE IS KIND.



1 Corinthians 13:4