

## Worship Ministry

**Choir Chime Ringer, Today:** Nathan Spickard

**Worship Assistant Today:** Gigi Hunnicutt

**Ushers, Today:** Chip Wells, Steve Jewett, Joey Dulin, Joe Novobilski,

**Next Week:** Reggie Hunnicutt, Chris Bechtol, Dave Miller, Traci Bird, Jim Stafford, King McCachren

**A Time for Children, Today:** Jerry Clark

**Next Week:** James Ide

**Next Week:** Emma Wakeman

**Next Week:** Neal Carter

**Nursery Volunteers, Today:** Janet Little; Krista Eason

**Next Week:** Rose Baczewski (for Mandy), Rebecca Murray

**Bread Ministry Baker, This Week:** Laura Carriker

**Next Week:** Priscilla Giuliano

**Godly Play:** Ashley/Rex Carriker; Robin Hartsell/Niki Schneider

**Next Week:** Erica Heavey/Kathy Linker (for Mandy); Janet Little/Joey Dulin



**Morning Worship**  
**Sunday, January 21, 2018**  
**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**11:00 a.m.**

## Gathering

PRELUDE

*(Let us prepare our hearts for worship • Please silence your cell phones)*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Nathan Spickard

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

**One:** Jesus has called us to leave our comfortable ways and venture forward with him.

**All:** **Lord Jesus, we are so often afraid, it is easier for us to remain bound to our habits.**

*Choir: Will You Come and Follow Me (verse 1)*

**One:** Jesus knows your fears and offers you healing.

**All:** **Lord Jesus, open our hearts and teach us your ways.**

*Choir: Will You Come and Follow Me (verse 5)*

† HYMN #150

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

† CALL TO CONFESSION

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,**

**We listen to the stories of the call of the disciples. When we look at our own lives, we believe that we could not leave everything to follow you. We have confusion and doubts. Yet, You continue to call us to be in ministry and mission in this world. We want to place conditions on service: "if we have time", "if we have energy"; " if we can just try serving God for a little while to see how it all works out". Forgive us, merciful Lord, for the very many times we turn our backs on serving you and focus on our own comforts. Forgive us when we look the other way when people are in need. Forgive us our angry attitudes and actions which hurt rather than heal. Wrap your arms around us, healing our wounds, binding us to you. Gently move us into service in your name. Amen.**

*Time of Silent Confession*

## Our Session

CLASS of 2018	CLASS OF 2019	CLASS OF 2020
Steve Jewett <i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>	Shawnee Wakeman <i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>	Glenn Jones <i>Finance &amp; Administration</i>
Nancy Thomas <i>Worship</i>	Marie Morrison <i>Worship</i>	Scott Jones <i>Worship</i>
Candice Shepard <i>Congregational Connections</i>	Ben Schneider <i>Congregational Connections</i>	Reggie Hunnicutt <i>Congregational Connections</i>
Jim Rockel <i>Building &amp; Grounds</i>	Billy Carriker <i>Building &amp; Grounds</i>	Jim Pharr <i>Building and Grounds</i>
Dave Mowery <i>Christian Education</i>	Thomas Heavey <i>Christian Education</i>	Kathy Dulin <i>Christian Education</i>

Worship Team meeting rescheduled for January 25 at 7:00pm

Congregational Connections meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm

Building and Grounds meets the 1st Monday of each month at 6:30pm

Contact any church elder listed above if you want to join their committee or have questions about meeting times.

**Rocky River Presbyterian Church • 7940 Rocky River Road • Concord NC 28025**

www.rockyriver.org • 704-455-2479 • fax: 704-455-2489

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Neal Carter • 704-455-2479 or 910-280-9688 • nealcarter64@gmail.com

Church Administrator: Cyndi Conway • 704-455-2479 • churchadmin@rockyriver.org

Director of Christian Education: Sharon Vanpelt • 704-455-2479 • dce@rockyriver.org

Youth Director: JD McNutt • 704-455-2479 • youthrrpc@gmail.com

**Office Hours: Mon. thru Thurs. 9:00 to 4:00 and Friday 9:00 to 12:00**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON & PASSING THE PEACE

One: Friends believe the good news of the gospel.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*Let us exchange a word of peace with our neighbors and remain standing for our Response to Forgiveness*

† RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS *Gloria Patri* #579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

**The Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear the story of the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow Jesus on whatever path he leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts, and teach us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Psalm 62:5-12 (page 526)*

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN *Jerry Clark*

ANTHEM

THE GOSPEL LESSON *Mark 1: 14-20 (page 35)*

One: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Worthy of Our Lives* Neal Carter

**Responding to the Word**

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Declaration of Faith)

**We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved; gift to each of us. It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us. Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life. Amen.**

For example, you may have noticed/participated with our youth who are doing more fundraising to help support their endeavors such as the summer mission trip. We have many members who donate their time and talents to help us avoid additional costs when projects are needed.

All of these efforts are deeply appreciated. Additionally, we do not plan at this time to replace the organist as a means to keep costs down.

We hope that through prayerful consideration of your giving to RRPC, we will continue to support all the wonderful things we are able to do for our members and our community in 2018. When asked what we can do to help address this situation, several session members quickly answered "Prayer". We are asking the same of you.

Yours in prayer,  
Rocky River Presbyterian Session Members

Neal Carter, Steve Jewett, Nancy Thomas, Candice Shepard, Jim Rockel, Dave Mowery, Shawnee Wakeman, Marie Morrison, Ben Schneider, Billy Carriker, Thomas Heavey, Glenn Jones, Scott Jones, Reggie Hunnicutt, Jim Pharr, Kathy Dulin

Loan Status	
Education Building Loan as of:	
12/30/2017	<b>\$450,731</b>
Minimum Monthly Payment	\$5,110
<i>Contributions to the Capital Campaign are still being accepted. Please prayerfully consider giving to help reduce this debt.</i>	

Stewardship Report	
2018 Budget	\$379,548
Total given YTD	\$ 12,579
Amt. needed per month:	\$ 31,629
Total for January	\$ 12,579
Amount needed Weekly	\$ 7,299
Total for January 14	\$ 5,303
<i>Thank you for your faithful giving.</i>	

**Capital Campaign Established** – The Session has taken action to create a Capital Campaign to retire our debt on the Fellowship Hall addition within two years. The team that will be working on this campaign is presently being formed and more information will be forthcoming in the coming days. We are excited about this action and look forward to the results of a successful campaign.

**Rocky River Readers - Monday, January 22nd at 7pm**

We are reading ***The King of Lies*** by John Hart for our meeting on January 22nd. John Hart is a former district attorney and stockbroker from Salisbury. His books have received great acclaim. This book is a mystery about an attorney who has disappeared. Once his body is discovered, there are several suspects who would gain from his death: his son, his wife, and his daughter Jean.

Who killed Ezra Pickens?

Rocky River Readers meets in the church parlor on the 4th Monday of the month.

We hope you will join us!

Questions? Please contact Marie Morrison at 704-455-2487/ [morrison1960@windstream.net](mailto:morrison1960@windstream.net)

## Financial Updates: This letter was sent to the entire congregation

To the Members of Rocky River Presbyterian:

As we begin a new year, the members of the Session wanted to share information regarding our current state of financial affairs. We are working to be more transparent with the status of our weekly and monthly giving as it pertains to our needs as well as our balance for the mortgage on the educational building as you see each week in the bulletin. This letter serves two purposes:

1. To share the difference in our current level of giving with our current level of needs.
2. To outline the difference between our upcoming capital campaign (its purpose and targets) and our monthly needs.

We would like to start by saying that we as a congregation are currently giving more than we have in years! Our average weekly giving for 2017 was \$5,941.

Some important highlights for 2017:

Our giving in December 2017 exceeded December 2016 by \$10,262 (40.5%)

Our overall giving for 2017 was \$33,382 less than budget needs (-9.5%)

Our overall giving for 2017 exceeded 2016 giving by \$22,563 (7.1%)

We had 5 months this past year that were the highest giving for that month in the past 7 years! In contrast we had 2 months that were the lowest giving for that month in the past 7 years. We are expecting our average weekly budget for 2018 to be \$7,299. Using the average for weekly giving in 2017, that is a difference of **-\$1,358**. We have only met our projected 2018 monthly budget once in October of 2016 & 2017, and came really close in December 2017 in the past 7 years. While our giving is up, it is not up enough to meet the demands of running the day to day expenses of the church. In 2017 we had to draw the interest off the endowment to pay our monthly bills. Our endowment is used to meet capital expenses (e.g., building repairs like the roof replacement). Your faithful giving each week can help to ensure we do not have to continue that practice.

**The capital campaign has a different purpose than our weekly giving.** Our weekly giving is intended to keep the church running day to day. The capital campaign will target paying off the mortgage on the educational building and the new (Town of Harrisburg approved) electronic sign. Your giving to each endeavor will be used to meet different needs. More information on the capital campaign will be coming in the upcoming weeks.

As stewards of the finances of the church, the session has carefully reviewed the budget as well as the outcomes of the completed mission study (e.g., attention to outreach like the community meal, Griefshare, healing touch, etc.) and is working with others to help address needs in a variety of ways. Our budget is as tight as possible. We need to continue to look for opportunities to increase income to meet our cash flow needs.

† HYMN #393

*Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY (performed by our Hand Bell Choir - Betsy Biggers, Traci Bird, Linda Clark, Susan Jones, Amy Krieger, Kathy Linker, Shirley Rockel, Elaine Tankersley, and Stephanie Campbell)

† DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy**

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**God of Grace, we pause during this time of worship to return to you some of the monetary riches that you have given to us. We are reminded to set our hearts and minds on your steadfast love. You alone are our rock, our fortress, and our salvation. We experience comforting solace in your refuge. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## Sending

† HYMN# 434

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep us forever; Grant us peace, perfect peace, strength in every endeavor; Lift up your eyes and see His face, love will leave you never; May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep us forever.**

POSTLUDE

† Please stand if you are able

# Rocky River Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Welcome, guests and friends!

What a blessing that God led you to worship with us today!

*Visitors—please sign our friendship pad, and let us know if there is anything we can do for you. We invite you to join us for Wednesday Night Fellowship. Dinner is served at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Cost \$5 per person/ Maximum \$15 for family Menu: Honey Glazed Pork Chops. You can RSVP by indicating the number of guests coming when you sign the Friendship Pad.*

*Worship Packets for elementary children are available in the vestibule in red activity bags. These packets are designed to help children participate in worship. Please return the bags to the vestibule as you leave the service.*

*Nursery and childcare services are always available during service for infants through Kindergarten.*

*Interested in membership? Contact our Church Administrator, Cyndi Conway, to arrange a meeting with our Pastor, Neal Carter. 704-455-2479 or churchadmin@rockyriver.org*

## Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Kathleen Baczewski, mother of Joseph Baczewski; Joan Nicholson; Jeff Barbee; Harley and Teresa Veal, friends of Janet Little; Margaret Hale; Bob D'Ameilo, friend of Laura Milliken; Anna Melvin; The David Luther Family, friends of Vance and Brenda Horton; Shorty McCachren; Mandy Ide (recovering from surgery); Clai McNutt; Lavada Freeman; Mary Litteral; Priscilla Clough, friend of Alice Williams; Trina Hadfield Jones; Pat McDonald; Marie Hildreth; Bob Boswell, father of Dori Swaringen; Wes and Ree Abernathy; Benita Schirtzinger, mother of Darren Bird; Sam Peterson, friend of Priscilla Giuliano; Alan Cochran, brother of Neal Cochran; Ann Jones, daughter of Ray and Priscilla Clawson; Karen DeCarlo, co-worker of Alice Williams; Sonya Moorehead, friend of Jerry Clark; Lindy and Helene Linenberger; Kristine Way, co-worker of Alice Williams; Ouida Harman; Jim Busse, friend of Stephanie Campbell; Amy Hicks; Brendan Milliken; Seville Funk; Marlene Howard; Kay Nalbene; Jimmy McDonald; Linda Modzelesky; Bob Brombacher; Teresa Williams; Zackie Moore.

## GriefShare

The Spring session will begin on February 8 and run thru May 10. The meetings are held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00pm. The only cost is \$15 for the workbook. Each week a new topic is addressed. Please invite anyone you know that has experienced the loss of a loved one to join us.

Questions: Contact Julia Alexander at 704-455-9753 or 2jralex@ctc.net



**VISITS FROM THE PASTOR—** Please remember to let us know if someone is in the hospital, is ill, or just needs a visit from the pastor. This ministry is so important to Neal and to our church—knowing that your pastor and church family are here to support you in your time of need is one of the blessings of being a member at RRPC. Call the office at 704-455-2479 or Neal directly on his cell phone **(REALLY—CALL HIS CELL PHONE!) at 910-280-9688.**

# Children's Ministry

Sharon Vanpelt, Director of Christian Education - dce@rockyriver.org

**Sunday School - Sunday morning at 10:00am. Godly Play**

**Kindergarten thru 2nd grade Room 203, 3rd thru 5th grade Room 206.** The Godly Play approach helps children to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Based on Montessori principles and developed using a spiral curriculum, the Godly Play method serves children through early, middle and late childhood and beyond.

Questions? Contact Sharon Vanpelt at 704-455-2479/dce@rockyriver.org

# Youth Ministry

JD McNutt, Youth Director - youthrrpc@gmail.com

**Sunday School—Sunday Morning at 10:00am down in the basement (Room B-6) - Middle School and High School youth gather each week before worship service.**

**Youth Calendar - Bible Study every Wednesday at 6:45pm after dinner**

**January 21** - Carillon and mystery lunch :)

**January 28** - Youth/Parent meeting 6pm

**February 4** - Souper Bowl of Caring and Annual Football game!! 2 pm

Questions? Contact JD McNutt at 704-287-6732/youthrrpc@gmail.com



tacklehunger.org

**Souper Bowl of Caring!** From today thru Sunday, Feb. 4th. Let's tackle hunger in our community! There are two ways to give; Food donations will be collected thru Sunday Feb. 4th—you can drop your items off in any of the wooden collection boxes in the Vestibule or education building. We will donate all of the items to the Harrisburg Food Pantry. Some suggestions are **small jars of jelly, bags of rice, cereal, canned goods of all types, any type of creamy soup, chicken noodle soup, canned potatoes, spaghetti sauce, oatmeal and grits.** On Sunday, February 4th the Youth will collect monetary donations in soup pots. All monies collected will also be donated to the Harrisburg Food Pantry. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



**Scout Sunday - Feb 4th** - Scout Sunday is always held on the Sunday before the birthday of the Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith. We look forward to having Troop 83 and Pack 83 worship with us on Scout Sunday.