



Waterin' Hole



"Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation...drank." Numbers 20:11

Rocky River Presbyterian Church

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My Dear Friends,



*Ecclesia Reformata,
Semper Reformanda*

"The Church Reformed and Always Being Reformed"

The above statement has been central to Presbyterian theology and

practice since its founding. Following the protest from the Roman Catholic Church by Martin Luther and others in the 15th century, there were a series of "reforms" that took place including those of John Calvin, John Knox and the like. *Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda* was a statement used to emphasize that the Church, the people of God, is ever changing and God is continually doing new things in the world. Our creeds reflect these movements as we have made statements from the Apostle's Creed to a response to the Holocaust in Germany and Adolf Hitler, a statement regarding the civil rights movement in the 60's in the United States and, most recently, a proposed creed in response to Apartheid in South America.

In addition to these foundational statements, we also have a second part of our constitution in the Presbyterian Church (USA), our Book of Order. This document governs how we operate as a denomination. The Book of Order has been a source of controversy since its inception and especially since the joining together of several Presbyterian denominations in the 80's to make up PCUSA. Because we now make up a wide array of theologically and socially diverse people, we are often faced with amendments and statements by other churches and presbyteries that are unsettling for us personally. At our General Assembly, which meets every other year, there are many positions taken that may or may not reflect the will of the denomination as a whole. This year is no exception to that statement.

Many have seen the press coverage of issues addressed by the General Assembly a couple of weeks ago and are concerned that those opinions now reflect their personal beliefs. I wish to address this valid concern. First, amendments made by the General Assembly do not take effect until two thirds of the presbyteries vote to do so, then the amendment returns to the next General Assembly for enactment. So the decisions made by the recent General Assembly stated in the newspapers have not been admitted into our Book of Order. When I was entering seminary in 1996 the press ran the exact same inflammatory heading regarding ordination standards and 14 years later the denomination is no closer to passing this amendment than they were then.

Second, as stated above, we make up a very diverse group of people and our present way of making amendments is for a slight majority to win and the other 49 percent "lose". This is not helpful in our mission to join together with our neighbors who are like or different from ourselves. Though there is a statement that is made by General Assembly, rest assured that there is opposition.

Third, the reason I have chosen to clarify these procedural issues in the newsletter and not on Sunday mornings in worship is because I believe we are called to a higher order. I believe our commission is the "make disciples of Jesus Christ" and not go to battle over controversial issues, though important to some, create division and discord. That said, as our denomination continues to flounder and argue, Rocky River Presbyterian Church is about the work of the Gospel. We continue to develop the faith of people in our community. We are a strong congregation that is doing amazing things. As our denomination loses members, we are busting at the seams with 40 children coming up front each week for the Time With Children, we have a new adult ministry that is taking off in a great way, we are in desperate need for larger spaces for fellowship, offices and classes. All of this is because we proclaim Jesus Christ and about His work in our community and world. This is the message that you will hear on Sunday mornings.



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Thank you for a great VBS! We had a wonderful time in Egypt, learning about Joseph and how God was with him (and with us) in good times and in bad. We learned that God gives us **hope**, that we can ask God for **wisdom**, and that God gives us **for-**

giveness. We had over 60 children and family members participating (church members and visitors) and at least 40 people pitching in to make it all happen. We ended with an ice cream celebration and family cheers. This year our Decorating Committee went above and beyond the call of duty. Special thanks to Theresa and Ed Watson, Niki and Ben Schneider, Traci and Darren Bird, Rebecca and Greg Krypel, and David and Linda Murray. Our Supper Team of Harriette Jakiela, Libby Coble and Kathy Linker and their very willing family members (Baxter and Earl!) helped keep the food coming. Our Shopkeepers, as always, did a great job. Fantastic Family Leaders brought home the message. Our actors, Eric Linker and Tony Cresenzi, brought Joseph and his guard Rameses to life. Music with Stephanie Campbell, Elaine Tankersley, and a cheerful and willing new staff member John Troutman, was great! Numerous other people helped out in large and small ways. Thanks to all of you for another special year of Vacation Bible School. In addition, we have raised over \$350 for the Mothers

and Children Housing Ministry in Concord. Through your giving, we will be able to share our hope and faith and blessings with those in need.



MEET JOHN TROUTMAN



John Troutman, a native of Concord, North Carolina, has been on stage ever since he could walk, and has been singing ever since he could talk. He was born in Greenville, SC, but quickly moved to the Charlotte area to be closer to family. John graduated from Central Cabarrus High School in 2005, and just

finished his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has spent much of his life in church ministry and, he looks forward to continued growth and fellowship at Rocky River Presbyterian Church.

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN HOUSING MINISTRY

Several people have asked what other donations the Mothers and Children's Housing Ministry in Concord (our VBS mission project) can use. Here is the latest info from them:

The Mothers & Children Ministry is in full swing. Our Wish List grows as the ministry does. We need Swiffer WetJet(s) & cleaning pads, mops, mop bucket, brooms, pails (for cleaning), free standing paper towel holders, microwave oven, step stools (for adults), 5 ft. folding tables with adjustable legs, child sized chair...s. Donations gladly accepted at 274 Spring Street. Questions? Call 704-786-4709 x830

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT



Come to the table at the Women's Fall Retreat at William Black Lodge ...It's still hot outside but it isn't too early to think about the Women's Fall Retreat. Rocky River Women will travel to The William Black Lodge in Montreat

for another wonderful weekend of fellowship, food, and fun. Rev. Julie will lead our program entitled "Come to the Table." We'll look at stories in the Bible where people gather around tables, and learn what they can teach us about the radical hospitality of God. At God's table, everyone is welcome! Please mark your calendars for November 12, 13, and 14. A deposit of \$30 is due by Sunday, August 29th, to Stephanie Hite or Cynthia Hancock. Single rooms will cost \$250 and doubles will be \$190. All women are invited to join us! Questions? Contact Stephanie at nykolh@ctc.net or Cynthia at chancock@ctc.net.

The Presbyterian Women's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday August 22 at 5:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.





- August 2 - Debbie Wilson
- August 3 - Nancy McDonald
- August 6 - Jon Dickason
- August 7 - Jacob Murray
- August 7 - Maggie Shepard
- August 8 - Scott Biggers
- August 8 - Will Biggers
- August 8 - Ben Hapeman
- August 9 - Kendale Young
- August 10 - Grace McDonald
- August 12 - Libby Coble
- August 12 - Jennifer Young
- August 13 - Sandy Mott
- August 13 - Ron Smith Jr.
- August 14 - Eric Linker
- August 14 - Janet Jenkins
- August 16 - Wendy McDonald
- August 18 - Jimmy McDonald
- August 19 - Laura Carriker
- August 19 - Blake Childers
- August 19 - Jennifer McDonald
- August 19 - Carter Tankersley
- August 21 - Louise Murray
- August 24 - Cynthia Hancock
- August 29 - Jessie Lee Taylor
- August 30 - Reagan Smith
- August 31 - Shelia Hoots
- August 31 - Elsie Taylor

AUGUST ACTIVITIES

- August 1 - 5¢-A-Meal
- August 3 - Circle Meetings
- August 4 - Potluck Dinner
- August 8 - Session Meeting
- August 11 - Wednesday Night Fellowship
- August 18 - Wednesday Night Fellowship
- August 22 - Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting
- August 25 - Wednesday Night Fellowship

BREAD MINISTRY

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| August 1 - David Graham, baker | Steve Jewett, distributor |
| August 8 - Priscilla Giuliano, baker | Marie Morrison, distributor |
| August 15 - Rebecca Krypel, baker | Chip Wells, distributor |
| August 22 - Carol Lyerly, baker | Daren Bird, distributor |
| August 29 - Harriette Jakiela | Kevin Harris, distributor |

Infant Nursery:

- August 1 - Alice Williams & Linda Clark
- August 8 - Shirley Rockel & Jean Hager
- August 15 - Becky & Gina Graham
- August 22 - Ashley Smith & Ree Abernethy
- August 29 - Rebecca Krypel & Kathy Dulin



Toddler Nursery:

- August 1 - Niki Schneider, Megan Burr & Robin Hancock
- August 8 - Traci Bird, Pam McCachren & Blake Childers
- August 15 - Tony & Melanie Cresenzi
- August 22 - Volunteers Needed
- August 29 - Krista Eason, DeDe Dickason & Lauren Wells

The Toddler Nursery is in need of two adult church members who want to spend one Sunday a month (the fourth) caring for our wonderful preschoolers during worship. If you can serve in this way, please contact Candice Shepard at 704-454-3278

Sunday School Teaching Opportunities

Are you committed to sharing your faith and helping our children and youth develop their own faith? There is a place for you in Sunday School this fall. Speak to Rev. Julie about how you can help.

"TIME FOR CHILDREN"

- August 1 - Krista Eason
- August 8 - Robin Hartsell
- August 15 - Harriette Jakiela
- August 22 - Stephanie Hite
- August 29 - Libby Coble



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Rocky River Presbyterian Women have two circles. The Morning Circle meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Mary Morrison Sunday School classroom at the church. This month the Morning Circle will be having a luncheon on Tuesday, August 3rd 11:30 a.m. at the Harrisburg Family House Restaurant (in lieu of the regularly scheduled meeting for August). The meal is "Dutch treat" and will be a wonderful time of fellowship! We extend a warm welcome to any ladies of the church who would like to join us and find out what our circle is all about! The Evening Circle meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in either the Church Parlor or at a member's home. Their next meeting is Tuesday, August 3rd. They will meet at Frankie's and Louie's at Town Square in Harrisburg at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy a meal together.



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In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please keep in your prayers:
John Byrum, brother of Elaine Tankersley; Louise & Bob Carter; Greg Clark, son of Jerry & Linda Clark, deployed to Afghanistan; Sperry & Kathy Davis; Tom Donnelly family; Janet & Ed Hagler; Alex Jerome, son of Lauren Jerome, deployed to Afghanistan; Lucy Linker; Ruth McCachren; Billy McDonald, Sr.; Allison Murray, Carl Schneider and family, and Teresa Williams. Please call the church office to have your requests updated each month.

