

Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church

Church Office 828 295-7675
Mailing Address:
Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church
PO Box 393
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Watch for your January 2019 *Slate and Stone* around January 6 or 7. It will be mailed a little later than usual so staff can enjoy the Christmas Holiday.



We have many modes of communication here at Rumple. Every week, we have "This Week at Rumple" on our Facebook page providing a schedule for the week. On Fridays, our eNews is emailed for upcoming information. To stay up-to-date on upcoming events, please check our website and Facebook page.



www.rumplechurch.org
www.facebook.com/rumplememorialpresbyterianchurch/



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Rumple Presbyterian Church
PO Box 393
Blowing Rock, NC 28605



Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church
SLATE and STONE
DECEMBER 2019

A Missional Church
Called to Worship Empowered to Serve
Inspiring Disciples, Creating Community

Dear Rumple Family,

It seems nearly impossible for me to believe but it is almost Advent and December (and this year they begin together!) The air certainly feels like December is approaching and few have had a few dustings of snow. There are trees on a third of the cars out on the road and decorations are up in town, so I know the season is upon us. Again this year, we will be building up to Christmas with our Advent season decorations in the sanctuary and around our campus. We will prepare for the birth of Jesus by gradually adding decorations and color to our worship space until it is replete with Christmas Eve splendor. While around us it seems that we just jump from Thanksgiving to Christmas, we will be intentional about the season of Advent in our worship and in our worship space. I firmly believe that an intentional season of Advent can really help us to prepare our hearts to receive the greatest Christmas gift, Jesus our Savior. We will have weekly devotional emails again this year that I hope you will enjoy those as part of your Advent preparations.(If you don't receive Rumple's weekly emails, please let Jessica know and she can add you to this list.) I also encourage you to participate in the many different Advent mission opportunities through Rumple. In addition to the Angel Tree and Elderberry Tree this year we are collecting diapers for the Children's Council and a "reverse advent calendar" to collect food for Blowing Rock CARES.

As I look ahead to Advent and Christmas I am also looking to 2020 and I am excited for all the mission and ministry that lies ahead of us at Rumple. I continue to be very grateful for the remarkable way that Rumple members, affiliate members, and friends have stepped up to contribute time, talent, and treasure to our ministry and mission of worship, education, mission, and community, our four cornerstones.. We have great opportunities to continue to make an impact in the name of Jesus Christ because of the generosity of so many. The budget the Finance Committee is recommending to the Session is the largest in 10 years. Estimates of giving cards and time and talent sheets have been returned in greater numbers than years past as well. I am truly grateful for such generosity and excited to see where the Spirit leads us in a new year.

If you are not here on the mountain, so I won't see you in person this Advent or Christmas, I wish you a very blessed season. For all of you who are here, I look forward to celebrating this special season with you.

Every blessing.
Kathy

Children's Ministry

Wednesday After School Program at Rumble has been so busy this fall! We've added some Godly Play teaching materials to the classroom and recently used them for our lessons on the Ten Commandments and the season of Advent. By using this method, we are able to tell Bible stories with kid friendly three-dimensional materials. Godly Play engages the children in the lessons and encourages them to think creatively.

Along with our Bible stories, the children have created heart themed watercolor paintings, heart chains and completed two service projects. One project was making Christmas cards for the Elderberry Tree and the other was making banners to be carried in the Blowing Rock Christmas Parade. We also recently added music with Mary Jane Keathley to our weekly schedule!

Coming up for the month of December, we will finish our study on the season of Advent, go Christmas caroling at the Foley Center and wrap up with a Christmas party! We will take a small break over the holidays and start back Wednesday, January 8th.

Pics from Project Advent with children



Youth Ministry

YOUTH CALENDAR

Dec 7 Lock in in at the Church

Dec. 15 Christmas Movie Dinner at the manse (Kathy's House)

January 12, 2020 Deadline for Montreat Youth Conference \$100 deposit for summer 2020

YOUTH ENJOYING PROJECT ADVENT



LETTER FROM OUR MISSIONARIES IN EASTERN EUROPE

Dear friends and family,

Al and I are woefully behind in our updates, but we are trying to catch up. The last six months have been more challenging than usual, but also full of that community which carries us through.

In June, we had a unique partner visit. First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, SC brought a large intergenerational group for a visit. It was the first visit in many years and many wanted to participate – 17 people made the journey. Their partner church, a Baptist congregation just outside of Moscow, was not prepared to handle so many, so with FPC's pastor, Jeri Perkins, we decided to split the group (something we don't usually do). Pastor Jeri had been to Russia the year before in preparation for the visit. In addition to visiting the partner church, she had also visited Davydovo, the Orthodox community in the Yaroslavl region. Impressed with the ministry there, she was ready to have half of her group engage with their Baptist partner for an English language camp, while the other half traveled to Davydovo for the first session of the camp for families with handicapped children. The two groups had very different experiences (see photos). Al accompanied one half, while I accompanied the other. Both churches knew that the larger group was split, both knew that we were crossing denominational lines. The leaders of the two churches actually know each other, having met about four years ago when the daughter of one of the Baptist pastors was helping me as a translator in Davydovo. She called her dad to see if he would come up and meet Father Vladimir and get to know the community. That led to other pastors coming on another weekend. Impressed with the English camp experience, members of the Baptist church made the effort to come to the Russia Mission Network this fall to understand these Presbyterians a little better.

In September, for the first time in its 15-year history, the Russia Mission Network gathered in Russia – at Rodnik, the camp of Smolensk Baptist Church. We understand how daunting it is to think about traveling so far for the network meeting and are thankful for all those who made the effort. Even for Russians, it took extra effort to get to Smolensk. We had a diverse group – Russian, American, Cameroonian, Brazilian, South African, Malagasi, and each participant contributed to the outcome. Six different partnerships were represented. Victor Ignatenkov, pastor in Smolensk, invited Father Vladimir from Davydovo to join us, having heard about the ministry in that village, and Father Vladimir sincerely tried, but he had a conflict. Andre Bezkorovaniy, the Roma pastor, was also invited and had planned to come, but his brother died a few days before. Al and I filled in for both Father Vladimir and for Pastor Andre as best we could. Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy was well represented, with the director of Social Ministry, a young intern and the church council chair. We had a lay preacher from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia as well. After many years of hearing comments such as, “you can't work with the Orthodox” and “Roma, what for?” our hearts are warmed by the efforts our Russian colleagues are making to get to know one another across the lines. Our friends do not necessarily agree, but they engage in friendly, interesting conversations that whittle away at prejudices.

In sharing about the ministry with the handicapped in Davydovo, many questions arose from our Russian colleagues. One pastor shared about a family that has come to their church with an autistic child. The child can become overstimulated and is often emotional. The grandmothers of the church were giving inappropriate, even harsh advice to the parents. The church realized that they needed a congregational meeting, to teach people about this family's needs. It has changed the atmosphere there. Colleagues who are engaged in orphanage ministry had many questions. They know of orphanages for children with special needs, but they have not known how to engage. The conversation sparked their interest and they asked if we might organize a seminar for them, so that they might better understand the needs of these special children and find good ways of working with them.

As the director of Social Ministry at MPC shared about their work with refugees, more questions arose. These were doors that our Russian brothers and sisters did not know about. It is a blessing to gather together and hear how God is at work in new ways. We are convinced that He wants us to join in community across the lines to find common ground and common purpose.

We are now in need of a church that will host the Russia Mission Network next year. I hope that we will begin to find a pattern that gathers us in Russia on a regular basis, but for 2020, the plan is to be back in the U.S. Would your congregation be interested? You don't have to be a part of the Twinning Program or already engaged in Russia in another way. You can do a new thing.

As we approach Thanksgiving, may we wish you all the blessings of gathering together.

Grace and peace,

Ellen & Al



Around Rumple

Presbyterian Women Circle News and Meetings

Moderator Linda Mauldin 295-3327
Co-Moderator Lynn Henderson 289-9938

All women who are church members, visitors and friends are invited to join other women at our circle meetings and mission experiences throughout the year. Specific information about when and where the circles meet is detailed below, on the website and a flyer in the information tray in the lobby. A directory of women attending Rumple is in a pink booklet also in the tray. See more information in the article 'Around Rumple'. We look forward to having 'girl time' together as we continue to live a loving and compassionate life with God's grace.

Circle I—meets the first Monday of the month August through May at 6:00 in the Rumple House.
Teresa Lentz (295-3276 or lentzt@gmail.com)

Circle II meets the second Monday of each month at 2pm in the home of Mary Lentz (295-7289 or marylentz41@gmail.com)

Circle III meets the third Monday each month May through October at 10:00 in the Rumple House or at members house please contact Jean Baskin (295-0901) or genieb37@yahoo.com)

Circle IV meets the second Monday of the month April through December at 1:00 in the Rumple House.
Mary Holstein(828-295-4561) or marybholstein@gmail.com

Circle V meets the first Wednesday of the month April through December at 9:30 in the Rumple House.
Kathy Earley (263-0255 or kathyearley50@gmail.com)



BE PRESENT: SLOW DOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Join us for a moment to relax and take a deep breath during the craziness of the holidays. Enjoy some tips on how to care for yourself as a caregiver and use meditation as a relaxation technique.

DECEMBER 13, 2019
1:00-2:30 PM

RUMPLE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1218 MAIN ST. BLOWING ROCK, NC 28605
TO RSVP PLEASE CALL AMBER CHAPMAN AT 828-265-5434 x. 113

Are you caring for a loved one, friend, or family member? They are welcome to attend to enjoy music and Tai Chi.

Featuring: Sophia Ohja



Sophia is a long-time meditator and writer on topics of training the mind and creating inner-peace through meditation and introspection practices. She founded reflectionpond.com, a website that teaches meditation and mindfulness and offers audio-visual material along with articles on the topic of cultivating a more peaceful mind and a more compassionate heart.



AROUND THE COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERY YOUTH SPONSOR POTATO DROP FOR HUNGER

Hello all, I am Molly Kirkland, your PYC representative! I am excited to invite youth and adults to take part in our fall Mission Project "Potato Drop" for Hunger on Saturday, December 7 at 2 pm. It will take place at Clemmons Presbyterian Church in the back parking lot. Each participant is asked to bring a \$10 donation and each group should plan on bringing a vehicle that can transport potatoes back to your community for you to donate to local food pantries or soup kitchens. You may wish to wear old clothes, as sorting produce can be a dirty task. We will be sorting 40,000 pounds of potatoes and need all the volunteer help we can get. Many hands will make light work. Please register your group by November 30 with Taylor Barner at FPC, Burlington. His contact is 412-613-0835 or you may email him at tbarner@fpcburlington.org. Please find more information on the Presbytery website or facebook page. Thank you so much for your help! We are looking forward to seeing you at the "Potato Drop" for Hunger. Blessings, Molly Kirkland



SIP-N-SHOP FUNDRAISING EVENT SATURDAY, 12/14

from 1-4pm, at JMcLaughlin in Blowing Rock. Event benefits Blowing Rock CARES food pantry - 15% of sales during the event plus food donations. Your support of this event (tell your friends and participate) will be very much appreciated.

Rumple on a Mission

MISSIONS NEWS FOR DECEMBER

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors; Thank you, God. – from A Litany of Thanksgiving PC (USA) Book of Common Worship

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

Food4Families

Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. and Rumple will provide food for some Blowing Rock children and their families along with our regular clients during the holidays. They provided a food box for Thanksgiving and will do the same for Christmas Your generosity in donating food and money makes those food gifts possible. If you would like to shop, pack, and/or deliver food, please contact Tim Harris, timharris2@charter.net.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree with the names, ages, and clothing sizes of children needing our help this year is displayed in the church lobby. We hope you will choose an angel, purchase and wrap gifts, and return the gifts to the office beside the workroom by Wednesday, December 11 so that they can be distributed to families. You will also have the opportunity to buy a food/grocery gift card for a family. Please be sure to sign your name and phone number on the clipboards beside the name and number of the child and/or family you choose. Any questions may be directed to Susan Suddreth at 263-0821 or Teresa Lentz at 295-3276. Thank you for your support of this special tradition of giving by our church family!



Elderberry Project

Thanks to all of you who have purchased a gift card for the Elderberry Project which is coordinated by Circle 4. If others would like to participate, you can remove a gift bag from the small tree in the lobby & sign the paper; purchase a \$25.00 gift card to Walmart or Food Lion; return the card to a box in the workroom. We need all cards returned by December 8th.



Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. 1st Sunday Collection

The Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. food pantry is open for clients on Mondays from 9 am to noon right here at Rumple. The most needed items in the pantry this month are: Canned Veggies (preferably no salt added), Canned Diced Tomatoes (preferably no salt added), Boxed Macaroni & Cheese, Boxed Dry Spaghetti, Canned Pasta Sauce (with or without meat), Boxed Pancake/Waffle mix, Syrup, Toilet Paper. If you missed the first Sunday food collection, please bring your items anytime during the month and place them in the shopping cart located in the church office reception area

Diaper Collection

Rumple will collect diapers during the month of December to donate to the Children's Council of Watauga County. Believing that "all children deserve equal care and basic necessities," the Council supplies free diapers to local families in need through their "Who Needs a Change?" program. We will collect diapers of all sizes throughout the month of December and at both Christmas Eve services.

Honor Cards

Artist Bill Mangum has painted beautiful winter landscapes for the past 30 years to raise awareness and funds for the needy and homeless. In Watauga County one hundred percent of the money donated from the sell of seasonal cards goes to Hospitality House. The card and donation envelopes are in the lobby hallway next to the Elderberry Tree.

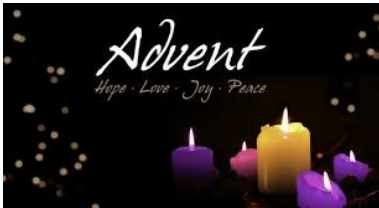
Wilmington Hurricane Relief Trip Pictures are located on back cover.



Around Rumble

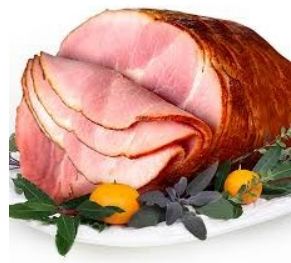
ADVENT DEVOTIONAL EMAILS WILL START IN DECEMBER

sign up in the church office with Jessica if you want to receive but don't already receive our weekly enews.



Second Sunday Lunch

Save the date December 8 Immediately following worship. This is the Sunday the choir will lead us with their Christmas Cantata. Fellowship committee will furnish hams and Christmas cookies. Everyone is invited to bring your favorite side dish to share . All are welcome!!



IT'S TIME FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS! If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, in honor or memory of a loved one, the forms are located in the office reception area and in the fellowship pads. They can be given to Jessica in the church office or left in her mailbox in the workroom. They will be put in the sanctuary on December 16.



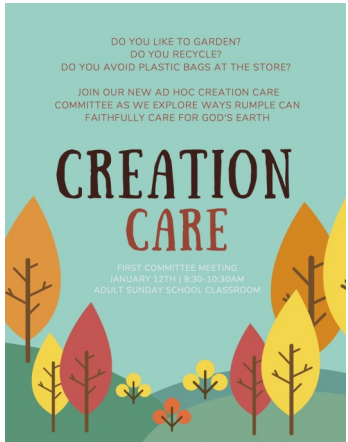
SALT SHAKERS is a group of members and friends that gather monthly January thru May to enjoy a meal and fellowship at a member's home. A leader will be assigned to each dinner group and will host the first dinner in January. The leader will provide the main entree and each person attending can bring a dish to share. It is a great way to enjoy food, meet new friends, and see old friends for dinner and wonderful fellowship. Sign ups will be through December. If you would like to sign up, please contact [Jean Baskin](#) or forms are located in the office reception area and in the fellowship pads in the sanctuary. They can be turned in to Jessica in the church office.

CALL FOR CREATION CARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Do you like to garden? Or does your family recycle? Or maybe you avoid those omnipresent plastic bags at the Food Lion? Does reducing your carbon footprint seem like an admirable goal? Then you would be a valuable asset to our most exciting new group- the Creation Care Ad Hoc Committee, newly approved by the Session.

As a result of conversations with Dr Norman Wirzba about his work, including Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating, there was considerable interest in what we as a congregation can do to be better stewards of the God's world. This committee will brainstorm possible actions from planting a vegetable garden to investigating the use of solar panels.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Stephanie Hankins, (828) 295-7675 or email parishassociate@rumplechurch.org. e Food Lion? Does reducing your carbon footprint seem like an admirable goal? Then you would be a valuable asset to our most exciting new group- the Creation Care Ad Hoc Committee, newly approved by the Session.



Around Rumble

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dale Hamrick, on death of his wife, Cherrie on 11/17; Dottie Watson (recovering from surgery); Jackie Kirkland (recovering from hand surgery); Susan Kirkland (Danny Kirkland's mom) at Watauga Medical Center; Barbara Julien, recovering from surgery; Taylor Aldridge Higdon(Lucy and John's daughter) ; Wes Thompson; Linda Jerger; Oliver Julien; Lucy Aldridge; Barbara Leon's aunt;Adele Dunbar's sister-in-law, Wilkie Pitman; Betty Kearn (Debra Brenner's mother); Jim Ruff; AdaLis Andujar, Sammy Andujar; Leslie Novilla's daughter and friends, Sara, Meg and Barbara; Bob Young; Gus Newton; Vicki Cawthorne; Margaret Townsend; David Bartlett; Ruth George; Byron and Charleen Logan; Jim Burgess; Jim and Barbara Scott; Recie Craig; Bill and Pat Magruder; Erin Tobin, serving in US Army; Drew Taylor, active duty with the Coast Guard; Bettye Johnson,; Gus and Miriam Newton's son in law, David; Carol Capristo's mother, Ruby Vincent; Jan McClure, Holly Bannan's mother; Grover Gore, Stanley Coffey, son of Betty Coffey; Ellen and Al Smith, missionaries in Russia, Germany.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3. Ashlyn Steele Yates
3. Rene Cuthill
3. Molly Bowden
4. Recie Craig
10. Kathryn Scott
11. Susan Becker
12. Gus Newton
13. Winnie Gee
14. Betty Coffey
16. Patti Curtis
17. Linda Liesegang
20. Charles Gurkin
22. Eric Luke
23. Janice Carter
23. Natalie Holshouser
24. Donna Hamrick
27. Kenton McCollum
27. Dusty Yates
28. Don Rives
29. Beau Stanley
31. Melissa Tausche

CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OR AFFILIATE MEMBER OF RUMPLE?

Rumple receives members and affiliates (those who retain membership in their church elsewhere but who "affiliate" them-selves with Rumble in an official way too) throughout the year. New members may join at the monthly Session meeting on the 4th Monday evening of each month or after a Welcome Class on Sunday mornings. The next Welcome Class and Tour will be held on Sunday, 12/8 at 9:30. Please call or [email Jessica](#) in the office if you plan to attend.



Hymn for DECEMBER by Dave McCollum

As we find ourselves at the beginning of the Christian year with our focus once again on the Advent season, it’s appropriate to set our attention on an advent hymn. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” is rich in its musical and historical significance of the church. The text finds its origin from c. 12th century Latin although it wasn’t translated into English until the 19th century by John M. Neale (1818-1866). The tune is based on plainsong/chant from c. 13th century and is entitled “Veni Emmanuel,” meaning “Come God With Us.” The tune, as with all plainchant, is through-composed, meaning each phrase is independent of the others with no repetition. Most hymns use repeated notes and rhythms to aid in learning and singing (ex: Amazing grace uses the same five notes and rhythm on three out of four phrases): making it all the more remarkable this hymn has survived and thrived throughout history.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” finds its origin in the medieval Roman Church. It began as a series of Antiphons - short statement sung at the beginning of a Psalm or of the Magnificat at Vespers during the Advent season. Vespers is the Evening prayer time, about 6 pm, of the Breviary or Divine Office; a series of prayers marking the hours of each day and sanctifying them with prayer. Each of the Antiphons greets the Savior with one of the many titles ascribed to Him in the Scriptures. Since each of these antiphons begins with the letter O, they are referred to as the “O” antiphons.

“Advent, beginning four Sundays before Christmas, is the season of the church year that emphasizes the anticipation of the first come of Christ to this earth. His coming as the Messiah was first prophesied in the sixth century B.C. when the Jews were captive in Babylon. For centuries there-after faithful Hebrews looked for their Messiah with great longing and expectation, echoing the prayer that He would ‘ransom captive Israel.’ He did come ‘unto His own’ to establish a spiritual kingdom of both redeemed Jew and Gentile, ‘but His own received Him not. . . .”

While most hymnals include five stanzas, our “Glory to God,” hymnal includes seven, allowing a stanza to be sung each day of the week leading up to Christmas. There are instructions at the bottom of the page assigning a stanza to a particular day. Here is the text.

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go, Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Kenneth W. Osbeck, *101 Hymn Stories: The Inspiring True Stories Behind 101 Favorite Hymns* (Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI, 1982) 177-179.

“Emmanuel” - Deliverer. God’s people now separated from heaven are here compared to Israel, during its Babylonian exile, being separated from God’s holy temple in Jerusalem.

“Lord of Might.” This is addressed to Almighty Jehovah, the One who first gave the Law at Mount Sinai to the awesome accompaniment of lightning and thunder (Exodus 19:16).

“Rod of Jesse.” This is a reference to Isaiah 11:1; “and there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” This prophecy was perfectly fulfilled with the birth of Christ, who came from the kingly line of David, the son of Jesse.

“Thou Key of David.” This expression is first recorded in Isaiah 22:22: “And the key of the house of David will I lay upon His shoulder.” The well-known verse from Isaiah 9:6 also confirms this royal authority of Christ: “and the government shall be upon His shoulder. . . .”

“Day-Spring.” This address to the Messiah means literally “sun-rising.” This prophetic reference was re=echoed by the priest Zacharias in these words upon hearing of Christ’s birth: “The day-spring from on high has visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death” (Luke 1:79b, 79a).

Haggai 2:7: “And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come. And I will fill this house with glory saith the Lord of hosts.

Around Rumble

Thanking our outgoing elders

Later this month the Rumble Session will say a huge thank you for five of our ruling elders:

Davis Hankins, Misty Mayfield, Kim Rogers, Cullie Tarleton, and Emily Leonard. Davis, Misty, Kim, and Cullie are completing their three year terms on Session. I am very grateful for the constant leadership they have provided during my entire time here at Rumble. They have provided leadership on Stewardship, the Vision Process, Missions, Finance, Properties, and Christian Education in their three years. They have covered a lot of bases and served Rumble well with “energy, intelligence, imagination, and love,” as they promised to in their ordination and installation vows. Please join me in thanking them for their faithful service to Rumble!

We also say a sad goodbye to Emily Leonard, who is moving from the area and so will step down from her term as elder this December as well. Emily has been a faithful elder this year serving with both Congregational Care and Worship. We are grateful for her service to Rumble and with her, Kent, and their daughter Rose every blessing as they relocate to the Mooresville area with Kent’s job. Thank you elders! Kathy



Rumble will ordain and install five elders on Sunday, January 19 during worship. Please save the date and plan to be in worship for this special service.



Service of Hope and Remembrance, December 18
Rumble will co-host a Service of Hope, Light, and Remembrance on Wednesday, December 18 from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the Rumble sanctuary. This year we will co-host this service with St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal and Faithbridge United Methodist Churches. For many people, this holiday season is not a joyful time but a sad and lonely time. In this special worship service we will offer prayers, time for silence, and special music. Anyone who finds this time of year difficult is invited to come and to be reminded of the comfort and presence of God and the light of Christ that shines brighter than any darkness we may feel. This service is open to anyone. Please invite friends and neighbors too. Childcare will be provided in the Rumble nursery.

Women Together, a new group for women under 50, will be meet again for dinner on Monday, December 16, at 6:00 in the Rumble House (the large white house next to the sanctuary.) Childcare will again be provided in the church nursery. If you do not receive emails about this group, but would like to, please speak to Kathy or Stephanie or email them. This group is still forming so new women are always welcome.



RUMPLE HAS A PASTOR’S DISCRETIONARY FUND to help with emergency financial needs for church and community members. The requests in 2019 have been many and Kathy has been able to generously share from this fund to pay for heating oil, rent, medical bills, transportation, school fees, food and gas cards. Priority is given to members of the Rumble family and to folks living in Watauga County. As we head into the cold winter months, the requests for assistance will continue and the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund will need replenishing. If you would like to contribute to this mission fund of Rumble, please indicate that your gift is for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund on your check. You may give your donation directly to Kathy, place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church to Jessica’s attention.

Around Rumble and In the Community

Who’s In The Pews

Called to Worship-Empowered to Serve-A Missional Church-Inspiring Disciples- Creating Community

There are thirteen words in the Rumble Vision statement...taken individually they are just words but linked together, a compelling impact. Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church has a wealth of individuals that live this vision. Each month will feature a group or individual within the church that is inspired to carry out God’s wish for us. This month we feature Kent Leonard.

Kent was born in Fort Myers, Fl. and moved to Boone when he was five years old. His wife Emily, part of our outstanding choir, is the child of a preacher that moved around North Carolina in her formative years. The two met after Emily’s graduation from Western Carolina University, married and are now blessed with their first child, Rose. Rose is a child of Rumble, four years old, full of energy and comfortable in many situations.

For those of you unaware, Kent operates our sanctuary sound system. I asked him how long he has attended Rumble and some background and his service to our church.

“I started to go to Rumble in 2007. Emily and I were married in 2009 and I started to work on the sound system in 2008 when it was up in the staircase to the choir loft. The choir members used to have to queue about what was happening so I could turn on the right microphone. Several years later Josh Curtis, Sean Printz and I started to update the sound system including installing new speakers and moving the soundboard.”

I asked Kent for a ballpark figure on how many services he has operated the sound system? “52 weeks a year x 10. Over 500. That does not count the double services, Christmas Eve and other special services.”

No doubt you have been part of MANY surprises during the course of your volunteering. “I don’t like surprises when running the sound system. Surprises mean something has broke or run out of batteries. I have definitely run batteries to people while the choir sings. The people I work with are professionals and tend to quickly adapt to changing conditions. The beauty is that the church was built before microphones and speakers and a person that projects their voice can be heard across the church.”

I asked, “What special enjoyment do you receive from giving back?” “I love to hear the choir sing. I think being in the back of the church on Christmas Eve as the candles are lit is a rare gift.”

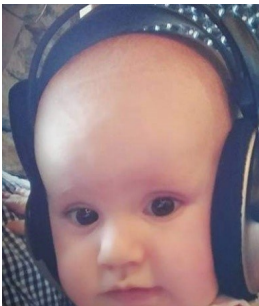
You and Emily have been a couple that has sacrificed a large amount of time giving your gifts back to Rumble. How is it meaningful to the two of you, now three? “Emily and I come from a background that helping the church and giving to the church is the way that we do church. We both come from church backgrounds where we played a part in either the youth or other aspects of the church and we’re actually able to help the church grow and survive. This is how we do church, if we just sit in the pew it feels weird. I also like having an assigned seat on Christmas and Easter when the church is filled to the gills.”

“We are moving to Mooresville, N.C. so I can be closer to work and so Emily can start a new design and drafting business. The move is more a technical and time issue. We know its going to happen but we now have to make it happen”. To quote Smokey and the Bandit “We got a long way to go and a short time to get there”.

The Leonard’s are a couple making a difference, like so many. Kent’s technical ability and Emily’s vocal gifts will be missed at Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church but we are blessed knowing those gifts will be shared with a whole new congregation.

Jeff Stewart

Rose Leonard in training



CALENDAR December 2019

December 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent COMMUNION 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 12:15 PM Implementa- tion Team meeting	2 6:00 PM Circle 1	3 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Personnel Committee	4 9:30 AM Circle 5 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Youth & Children 6:00 PM Decorate Tree 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir	5 1:00 PM THREADS	6	7
8 2nd Sunday Lunch CANTATA 9:00 AM Session Meeting 9:30 AM Welcome Class and Tour 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 12:00 PM 2nd Sunday Lunch 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Fellowship	9 1:00 PM Circle 4 2:00 PM Circle 2 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Girl Scout's Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 PM SESSION CHRISTMAS PARTY	10 7:00 AM Youth Breakfast	11 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Employee Christmas Party 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Youth & Children 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Christmas Caroling Foley Center 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir	12 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Prayer Shawl	13 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM High Country Council on Aging	14
15 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Fellowship	16 Blowing Rock Cares packing event 10:00 AM Circle 3 4:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 5:00 PM Missions committee	17	18 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Youth & Children 6:00 PM Service Of Hope and Remem- brance 6:30 PM Choir Christ- mas Party	19 Blowing Rock Cares food packing 1:00 PM THREADS	20	21
22 First Day of Winter 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Fellowship	23	24 4:00 PM Christ- mas Eve Worship 6:00 PM Christ- mas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28
29 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Worship 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Youth Fellowship	30	31	1 New Year's Day 9:30 AM Circle 5 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Youth & Children 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir	2 1:00 PM THREADS	3	4

L—Library
RH—Rumble House FH—
Fellowship Hall
MP—Memorial Park
ACU-Adult Class Room Upstairs