



## **FEBRUARY 2020 SLATE AND STONE** **E-NEWS**

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Dear Rumble Family,  
Welcome to the new edition of Slate and Stone! Most of you will be receiving this as an email but for some of you this will still be a print newsletter- just in a different format. This is an experiment as we try to streamline our modes of communication here at Rumble. I remember, when I began in ministry 25 years ago, the church communicated with a printed newsletter, bulletin announcements, and phone calls. Now, we have all of those plus email, Facebook, and the church website. Our communication methods have increased the ways we can connect, but now the church has twice the number of modes to keep up with . We're trying our best, here at Rumble, to communicate with our members, affiliate members, friends, and visitors in the best ways possible. Please help us by letting us know the ways that you like for the church to communicate with you!



A new Slate and Stone is just one way that 2020 is off to a great start at Rumble. The month of January has flown by. While it hasn't felt much like winter in the High Country, there is lots of snow and wintry mix in the forecast as I write. But, it's also supposed to be 60 degrees next week- in February! Maybe some of you who escape the cold for the winter may want to come back early?

In this busy new year the 2020 Nominating Committee is fast at work to select seven Rumble members to recommend to the congregation as members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. They hope to have those nominees selected in February and a congregational meeting to elect them held in late February. Once elected by the congregation, that Associate Pastor Nominating Committee will begin their work in earnest, with the counsel of Salem Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. The Properties Committee is also hard at work getting estimates for replacing the roof on the education building- a much needed fix! The Finance Committee and Session have approved an increased budget for 2020 and we finished 2019 so well that Missions has an additional \$23,000 to give away as we begin 2020 and, Properties has a good bit of the money in hand to replace the roof. This is all good news!

Before the month of February is up we'll begin the season of Lent, always a special time of personal and corporate examination and preparation for Easter. I look forward to making that intentional journey with many of you

again this year.

Every blessing to all of you- here on the mountain and scattered about in warmer places too!

Kathy



## RUMPLE BIRTHDAYS

### FEBRUARY

- 2- Patty Alexander
- 2- Sandy Starnes
- 4- Randy Saunders
- 7- Jackie Kirkland
- 7- Debra Shore
- 7- Nancy Trexler
- 7- Jessica Bishop Funk
- 8- Judy Veorse
- 10- Ed Cummer
- 11-Matthew Bishop
- 12- Welborn Alexander
- 12- Candice Horton
- 13- Brent Gurkin
- 15- Robert Shirley
- 15 -Heather Johnson
- 17- Jack Suddreth
- 18- Kaye Morgan
- 19- Marion Thorn
- 19- Karen Graham
- 19- Betsy Helms
- 19- Darmody Tausche
- 19- Bill Taylor
- 20- Dan McLamb
- 23- Tori Wright
- 24- Rick Herndon
- 24- Wayne Holliday
- 26- Shirley Harris
- 27- Tom Carpenter
- 27- Heather Sigmon
- 28- Caroline Beach- Verhey

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### **Please keep in your prayers:**

The Kirkland family, on the death of Susan, Danny's mother, on 1/30; Barbara Leon on the death of her son, Robert, on 1/28, Taylor Vickrey on the death of his grandmother, Anita, on 1/29; Mark Johnson on the death of his mother, Bettye, on 1/24; the family of Oliver Julien after his death on 1/12; Norma Suddreth, recovering from surgery; Don Saunders, in hospice care; Harriet McNair, Kim Kincaid's mom; Cliff Layman; Anne Simpson, Barbara Leon's aunt; Sue Meacham's sister, Margaret; residents of Puerto Rico after recent earthquakes; Earl Trexler; Wes Thompson; Cassidy Nooner's grandfather, Wyatt Clark; Taylor Aldridge Higdon (Lucy and John's daughter); Linda Jerger; Betty Kern (Debra Brenner's Mom); Adele Dunbar's sister-in-law, Wilkie Pitman who had a lung transplant on 1/26; Lucy Aldridge; AdaLis Andujar; Sammy Andujar; Leslie Novilla's daughter and friend, 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; 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



## **DAVE'S MONTHLY HYMN ARTICLE**

It is often looking back that we see the natural progression of our lives. Life choices of jobs, life partners, homes, friends, etc., are all part of our search for happiness. As we are searching, if we are lucky, we often seek out council from our elders. The advice is often at odds with our self-made spirit of independence. We think we know what's best for our lives. But the lens of experience often conflicts with our ego. Perhaps this is the wisdom of our elders, a wisdom that cannot be rushed, a wisdom that comes from life experience. Our ultimate realization of this wisdom, no doubt, is the fact that we are not the master of our fate. Although taught independence in our youth, we eventually come around to the fact that we have little control over our ultimate well-being. It is God that is in control. And when we can turn over our life choices to be led by God's love shown to us in the life of Jesus, our choices become more in line with Jesus' boundless love to us.

Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), the author of our text for this month's hymn, "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me," "had been an angry young man, a student and teacher whose plans had been put on hold by the Thirty Years' War. As a young man, he had passionately argued the finer points of Lutheran theology, but with age he mellowed. His passion turned to the overwhelming love of God. He was a wandering preacher, without a parish and without a home. At thirty-five, he became a tutor in the home of a Berlin attorney and fell in love with the attorney's daughter. At the age of forty-four he took a position as pastor of a small village church. Four years later, he married his sweetheart and began publishing his hymns, including this one."<sup>[1]</sup>

John Wesley learned the original German hymn from the Moravians during his time in Savannah, Georgia, and translated all sixteen stanzas.<sup>[2]</sup> Yes, the original hymn was sixteen stanzas long! Hymnal editors determine which stanzas appear in any given hymnal. The tune, named for a 4<sup>th</sup>-century martyr, comes out of the Roman Catholic revival movement of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

We will look at the three stanzas chosen for our Glory to God, hymnal. Stanza one is divided into three thoughts: a proclamation, a request, and a resolution. Here is the text: Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare; O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there! Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.

Stanza two uses all three sections to request that Jesus' love take complete sway with our life and life choices. Here is the stanza: O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone; O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown! All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

Stanza three highlights our human shortcomings that often get in the way of our ability to follow Christ. It lists these elements: fear, care, anguish, and sorrow. Here is the text: O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies; care, anguish, sorrow melt away wher-e'er thy healing beams arise. O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me, is a hymn that speaks to us from one that has wrestled with life. Wisdom has been the byproduct of a life-long struggle. Answers have not come easy or quickly. But the ultimate realization has rung true. Jesus' love is our ultimate truth. And while our feeble attempts often fail, his love endures. We are invited this new day to invite the love of Jesus into our hearts and claim the love of Jesus once again.

Dave

Ps. Here is one more stanza that doesn't appear in our hymnal. It speaks of our end-of- life moment: In suffering be Thy love my peace; In weakness be Thy love my power; And when the storms of life shall cease, O Jesus, in that solemn hour, In death as life be Thou my guide, And save me, who for me hast died.

[1] William J. Petersen & Ardythe Petersen, The Complete Book of Hymns: Inspiring Stories About 600

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## **RUMPLE ON A MISSION**

### **February 2nd - Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. FIRST SUNDAY COLLECTION**

- We will continue our support of Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. in 2020 with First Sunday collections. Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. is a food bank that helps provide basic non-perishable food to families and individuals in Watauga County. The Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. food pantry is open for clients on Mondays from 9 am to noon right here at Rumble. The February items of need for Blowing Rock C.A.R.E.S. are canned pineapple, canned tomatoes, oatmeal (round cardboard container), pancake/waffle mix, syrup, pudding/gelatin mix, and toilet tissue. Please bring your items on February 2nd or anytime during the month of February and leave them in the shopping cart in the church lobby.



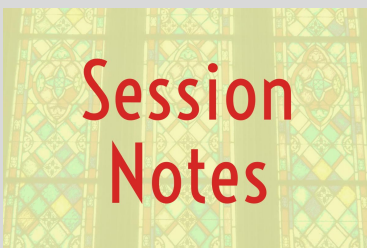
**February 23 - Pennies for Hunger Offering** - Rumble collects the Pennies for Hunger "Two Cents a Meal" offering the last Sunday of every month. The offering supports the Salem Presbytery Hunger Ministry. Since 1989 Salem Presbytery has distributed more than THREE MILLION DOLLARS to feed hungry people locally and around the world!

**March 29th - Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event** - Rumble is partnering with St. Mary's of the Hills and Appalachian State University Presbyterian Episcopal Campus Ministry for our 3rd annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. The event will be from 2 to 4pm at the Blowing Rock School. Many volunteers will be needed to help with this project and we will provide opportunities to sign up after our Sunday services in March. Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization based in Raleigh, NC. The packaged meals are used primarily to support school feeding programs in developing countries, including countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, and not only address hunger but also the related challenges of poverty, disease, education, and the welfare of women and children.

**March 30th - Hospitality House Dinner** - Rumble Missions will also continue our work with Hospitality House in 2020. We will cook and serve dinner every 5th Monday at the Hospitality House in Boone. Rumble's first Monday in 2020 will be March 30th. For more information contact Mission Committee co-chair David Hardage.

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## **SESSION NOTES**



Session met for their stated meeting on January 27, 2020. The meeting began with prayer.

Kathy Beach provided devotions from Romans 12 verses 3-8. Verse 3 "For by the grace given to me say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." Session then participated in the Word-Share-

Prayer activity including working in pairs to discuss what we learned from this text about the Christian life and ministry we lead and how we might apply this text to our own life and ministry.

Kathy then expressed prayers for members and friends of Rumble.

Minutes were approved from meetings in November, December and January. The clerk handed out elder manuals and revisions for the elders.

A guest minister was approved for March 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year.

Several committee reports were received.

A request has again been made from Duke Divinity School for a summer intern serving from early June until the first week in August. Rumple will again submit an application. Kathy mentioned the Realm Data Base which is the new online database that will make our church directory available to our members only. Session approved a motion to change the settings to allow all members access, but no others.

Having no further business, a motion was made to adjourn and Jim Crowell led the group in prayer and dismissal.

Respectfully submitted by,

Curt Salthouse, clerk

## “Who’s Who In The Pews?”

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

In order to foster our Rumple sense of community we feature an individual in our church that is making a difference. This month I am pleased to share with you, Jessica Minerva-Office Manager.

### **Jessica, where did you grow up and describe your path to Rumple Presbyterian Church and Blowing Rock.**

“I grew up in West Jefferson and after High School I attended East Carolina University majoring in business administration with a minor in merchandising. I met my now ex-husband in college and we moved to Topsail Island after we were married. I lived there twelve years working as a district manager for a company called Rainbow. I moved back to the mountains to be closer to my family six years ago. I miss the beach and plan to hopefully go back one day once my children are all in college. I do love the mountains though, it’s beautiful here just not a big fan of the colder temperatures. It’s a wonderful place to raise a family though.”

### **Speaking of family, tell me about yours.**

“I have four wonderful children-two boys and two girls. Reef, age 17 is a senior in high school, Bree who is 14, Ridge is 12 and Brooke is 10. They keep me extremely busy. I love them dearly. We also have 3 dogs, 2 cats and a bearded dragon. My kids would have more if I would let them.”

### **WOW!!! Does that leave you any time for hobbies or other interests?**

“I coach cheerleading in my spare time for youth leagues, middle school and high school. I also work at Six Pence Pub as a waitress two days a week. Both my daughters are on a competitive cheerleading team. That keeps me pretty busy, but when I have free time, I love to spend it with family and friends. I love summers kayaking on the New River and hiking. I also love the beach and enjoy going back there to visit friends.”

### **We all know Kathy as a wonderful spiritual leader, teacher, mentor and the list goes on and on. But I think we all want to know is how is she to work for?**

“Kathy is wonderful to work for. She is so understanding and willing to help with anything. I wonder sometimes how she does all she does. I look up to her, she always keeps you on your toes. Never a dull moment and always ready for the next project.”

### **Please give a sample of the many tasks and details you are responsible for.**

“I am responsible for a lot. I am learning more and more every day. Some examples would be not only being the face that everyone sees when they call or first come into the church, but others such as all publications-Slate and Stone, Bulletins, Website, Facebook Page, Church Directory and many others. Also keeping records of a variety things from attendance, visitor, forms, keys, different areas of ministry, members’ information, mail, timecards, etc. There are many other things but I



enjoy it. Members at Rumble are always willing to give a helping hand and that makes it worth the while."

**Devoting your working life to Rumble must resemble on one hand a normal job in the public sector and on the other dealing with things spiritual and very personal to many people. Please describe.**

"Yes, it is very personal and spiritual. I enjoy being here, I feel it brings me closer to my spiritual side. I know I am in a good place and learning more every day. I make sure anything told to me is told in confidence. It helps me learn that everyone is human and we all need help and guidance."

**For many unfamiliar with Rumble, you are the first face or voice they come in contact with. How do you transfer the feeling of our "loving church" to others?**

"Always smile, give them my full attention and just ask them how they are. Listen to what they have to say. I never make it about myself. Have a friendly voice."

**Kathy has reeved up the potential of Rumble in so many different areas. In order for that to occur it takes an involved congregation. It also requires a dedicated staff to support the growth. You are in the "center of the storm" so to speak. Talk to me about the balance necessary to keep your umbrella steady.**

"I have learned to take one thing at a time. I always make a list and love crossing off things!!! It has been difficult telling others I have to get back to you, I have something else I am working on that has a deadline only because I want to help everyone but I am learning more and more everyday sometimes I have to put others on hold and they will understand. Also, I have learned to ask for help. I like to do everything on my own unfortunately, I think that comes from being a single mom of four and having to do mostly everything by myself."

**Jessica, one cannot meet you without noticing your lovely smile and friendly disposition. It seems to come naturally to you, so please give us your secret.**

"Thanks-I've been nicknamed Smiley several times. Life is too short, I always have believed to make the most of it. Everyone goes through tough things and that smile is contagious. It could make someone else's day. Plus, everyone here has been so wonderful and welcoming. I enjoy what I do! Its like nothing I've ever really done before. I was a banker before this, its nice to work for such a caring place where you feel like you can make a difference and be appreciated."

I hope you enjoyed getting to know another "spoke in the Rumble wheel" because we're going to do it all again next month with another edition of "Who's in the Pews?"

Jeff Stewart

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## **MONTHLY CALENDAR**

To View Rumble's Monthly Calendar please go to our [website](#) !



**WOMEN TOGETHER** a new group for women, 50 and under, will meet again on February 9th at 9:30 am. They will be meeting every 2nd Sunday at 9:30 and 4th Thursday at 6:00. All are welcome! Please contact [Hope Squires](#) to be added to the email list.



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## **CREATION CARE**

Do you like to garden? Do you recycle? Do you avoid using plastic bags at the grocery store? Join our new Creation Care Group as we explore ways Rumple can faithfully care for God's Earth. The next meeting is February 9th at 9:00 in the Adult Classroom. Contact Parish Associate Pastor Stephanie Hankins for more details.



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### **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

Rumple will host Ash Wednesday Worship on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 in the sanctuary. The service will include special music, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes. Childcare will be provided.



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### **ANNUAL REPORT**

You can find the 2019 annual report on the [website](#). There will also be printed copies available, email [Jessica](#) to receive one.

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### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES OFFERED AT RUMPLE**

**RUMPLE OFFERS SEVERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS** for adults each Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45 am. Everyone is welcome to attend these classes! The Carter Lentz Men's class and the Women's Class are studying "The International Sunday School Lessons". The Men's Class meets in the Rumple House in the rocking chair room. The Women's Class meets in the Rumple library and is taught by Mary Lentz. The Discoverers Class, taught by Kim Rogers is finishing the book "Finding God in it's a Wonderful Life" over the next three weeks. They will begin a new book study at the end of February. Class starts at 10am and they try to finish at 10:45. Beginning February 23rd, Dave McCollum and Stephanie Hankins will teach a six week Sunday school class entitled "Won't You Be My Neighbor?". This class will look at the important lessons taught by our favorite Presbyterian minister, Mr. Rogers. This class will run through March 29.

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### **CHILDREN'S NEWS**

In After School, we are looking forward to many exciting activities this February! We are making Valentine's Day cards for our community, goody bags for our friends at the Foley Center and learning some new songs to share during worship service. In addition to these special activities, we will continue our weekly bible lesson and art time.

New elementary age children are always



welcome. Children walk to Rumble from Blowing Rock Elementary each Wednesday after school for bible lessons, music, art, and a snack. Contact Stephanie, to sign up your child or grandchild.

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## **YOUTH NEWS**

1) Thanks to Lou Moore for our delicious dinner! We studied Psalm 8 in conjunction with Lance's sermon on finding God at Home. Hopefully In the coming weeks we'll all continue to witness, respect, care for, and love God in ourselves, the people we interact with, and in the homes we share.



2) We've received a lot of volunteers for the Second Sunday Spuds Potato Bar on February 9!

Please make sure that the youth are at church by 9:30-9:45 to set up, and we'll need at least 3-5 who are willing to serve/clean after the luncheon from 12-1:30!

4) Youth at the Manse on Superbowl Sunday! Festivities and prayers will begin promptly at 6pm and will hopefully be completely over as the half-time show ends (plan for pickup around 8pm).

5) The deadline for Montreat Deposits is closing fast! Get your deposit to Evan ASAP if you are currently in 8th grade or older.

\*\*The Youth Group is asking any volunteers to provide dinner for our evening worship! Please sign up for a time in Mid March or April if interested:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lgJk1k1uNv-IrAMYPoq5UBUnIVbxNZtFQWkl9Ecm\\_lo/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lgJk1k1uNv-IrAMYPoq5UBUnIVbxNZtFQWkl9Ecm_lo/edit#gid=0)