

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 18, No. 1

January 1, 2022

“Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

In the midst of a family conversation recently the question arose regarding favorite scripture verses. My daughters asked if I could name their favorite verses, which I could not. When they shared with me their favorite verses, I found it oddly satisfying that their selections were not among the most familiar of Bible verses. Many people may list verses like John 3:16 as their favorites, and with good reason. Few verses have encapsulated the love and mercy of God with such simple, memorable clarity. Yet God’s Word has countless points of intersection with our hearts. It was encouraging for me to hear evidence that my girls were reflecting on different gems of truth from the Holy Word.

Psalm 119:105 could easily be listed among the more familiar verses in the Bible. Many of us have even sung the words in worship or Sunday school as children. It comes in the midst of perhaps the longest chapter in the Bible (176 verses), a text dedicated to the beauty and power of God’s Law. While verse 105 may be the most memorable summation of the psalm, we should consider what the psalmist wants us to understand about God’s Law, why it is so cherished to the writer.

Looking at the verses preceding verse 105, we get a picture of how God’s word benefits us. It “makes me wiser than my enemies,” “gives me more understanding than my teachers and the aged,” “holds my feet back from evil,” and “gives me understanding” (v. 98-104). For the psalmist, God’s Law is not a set of rules imposed to make life less enjoyable. It is a gift of love to establish the hearer on the good, healthy paths of life. In that way it truly is “light to our path.” The dedication of the psalmist then comes as no surprise; he considers God’s Law to be an irreplaceable, inexhaustible resource for daily living.

Do you have favorite verses? What are they? Why do you consider them among your favorites? Your answer doesn’t have to be the same as your fellow Christians. Each of us will be moved by God’s Word for reasons that are timely and personal. One thing, however, is certain: we will surely not be moved if the Word is not given a hearing in our lives. As we roll into a new year with new opportunities, let’s give God’s Word plenty of space to shine upon the path we walk.

Pastor Dave



Angel Tree

The Wills Point Community Angel Tree program for 2021 is complete! Thanks to countless individuals, churches, and local businesses who picked an angel, gave gifts and food, donated funds, and/or gave of their time, clothing and toys for 302 children and food for their 108 families were distributed. Our volunteers collectively spent hundreds of hours shopping at numerous stores in several cities and sorting items received in an attempt to make sure that the children receive the right size clothing and at least one of their requested items among their 3 and that

their families receive a good quantity of food. This truly was a community-wide effort, neighbor helping neighbor. Thank you for helping to make Christmas 2021 special for some very needy Wills Point families!

The logo for Right Now Media, featuring the words "rightnow" in a bold, orange, lowercase font and "MEDIA" in a bold, orange, uppercase font, set against a black background with an orange border.

Right Now Media

Don't forget about the amazing offer of rightnow media offered through the church. Text RMUMC to 49775 for an invitation to set up your account, or contact the church office to request help.



Church Vision Retreat

In his book *Visioneering*, pastor and author Andy Stanley makes an important observation that is summed up in a simple, two-word statement: vision leaks. When it comes to vision, the compelling picture of why an organization exists, there is a tendency for it to leak. It is like going to sleep on a fully inflated air mattress, then waking up in the morning feeling the hard floor under you. For whatever reason, the air that supported you leaked away. In the same way, we can find that our vision—our understanding of purpose that guides and compels us—gets lost. When that happens, recapturing vision is a vital necessity for any organization, including a church.

On Saturday, January 22, we will be holding a vision retreat for the members of our church. Leaders are especially encouraged to attend; all are invited. Those who attend will be praying together, studying together, and having holy conversation about God's desired future for the congregation.

Please contact Pastor Dave (rmumcpastor@gmail.com or 304-654-2150) if you plan to attend or if you have questions. The retreat will go from 8:30 until 5:00. Lunch and snacks will be provided.



Thank you to our wonderful RMUMC family for all the calls, cards & especially prayers. Mike & I really appreciate your kindness, thoughtfulness and love. Hopefully, with God's grace, we can eventually return & be with you all again. Meanwhile, we watch the live-stream on Sundays. Love to you all -
Billie & Mike Cade

I want to thank you for the prayer shawl. It was very beautiful. Lois presented it to me last week. It was a very nice surprise. I know you ladies do a lot of good work.
Thanks a lot!
Ferne Tremelling

Dear Russell Memorial members,
Thank you for all of you who prayed for my Bible Class on prayer. It went really well. There were

four people who joined me in the class. I'm starting to organize for the National Day of Prayer (NDP). Here are a couple of prayer requests for this:

1. Pray for an outreach that I have coming up in February, that people will be encouraged to think about coming to NDP. Also, pray for some volunteers from my church to join me.
 2. Pray that I will be able to find good quality speakers to do prayer points at the NDP in May.
- Thank you for all your prayers!

In Christ,
Mark Giardinelli

The Cartwright family would like to express our deep gratitude for the generous gift you provided this Christmas. We continue to be blessed by your fellowship and touched by your generosity. It is a joy for us to continue being part of the Russell Memorial congregation. May your new year be filled with the rich blessings of our Lord.

Dear RMUMC,
The staff members would like to thank you all for the generous Christmas gift we received. It is a pleasure and privilege to work with such a caring congregation. Thanks again,
RMUMC Staff Members



Just Be One T-Shirts

Did you order a Just Be One T-shirt from the youth? If you did, please see Jerry Don Huff, he has them! If you didn't, why not?! You can still pick one up for the low, low price of \$15. They still have several available and would love to set you up with some. Contact Jerry Huff, 214-458-2004.

Calendar of Events for January

Dates to Remember for January



Monday, January 3, 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Friendship Classroom
 Saturday, January 8, 10:00 a.m. Safety Team Meeting
 Monday, January 10, 5:00 p.m. Day School Board, 6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting
 Both in the Friendship Classroom
 Tuesday, January 11, 5:30 p.m. Moving Forward, Grief Group
 Saturday, January 15, 9:00 a.m. Crafting with Christ
 Sunday, January 16, 11:15 a.m. Church Council Meeting
 Saturday, January 22, 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Church Retreat
 Tuesday, January 25, 5:30 p.m. Moving Forward, Grief Group
 Thursday, January 27, 6:00 p.m. Revelation Study

Happy Birthday!

Lawson White	1-1	Jim Briggs	1-19
Laura Bates	1-4	Nathan Hullum	1-21
Barbara Lamb	1-5	Joan Berry	1-22
Theresa Turner	1-5	Linda Poteet	1-22
G.R. Culpepper	1-7	Harriet Hardin	1-24
Becca Rowe	1-8	Rusty Miracle	1-28
Taylor Hulsey	1-8	Judy Culpepper	1-29
Mark Hataway	1-10	Maxine Page	1-31
Herschel LyBrand	1-13	Molly Brittain	1-31
Sophie Nychka	1-13	Phillis Humphrey	1-31
AJ Galope	1-17		



Moving Forward, Grief Group

Please join us every other Tuesday, at 5:30 p.m. in the Deen Building for a grief group, Moving Forward. This is for anyone that has or is in the middle of experiencing a loss. For more information, contact Jerry Huff (903)458-2004.

Our Presence and Our Gifts

	<u>Dec. 5</u>	<u>Dec. 12</u>	<u>Dec. 19</u>	<u>Dec. 26</u>
Worship	100	95	127	60
Giving	\$8,767.00	\$6,913.00	\$9,646.00	\$6,778.08

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Years Day
2 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 5:00pm Youth Group	3 6:00pm Trustees	4	5 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	6	7	8 10:00 am Safety Team
9 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 5:00pm Youth Group	10 5:00pm Day School 6:00pm Finance	11 5:30pm Moving Forward—Grief Meeting	12 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	13	14	15 9:00 am Crafting with Christ (in George Hall)
16 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00am Church Council 5:00pm Youth Group	17	18	19 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	20	21	22 8:30am-5:00pm Church Retreat
23 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	24	25 5:30pm Moving Forward—Grief Meeting	26 6:00pm Ladies Hand Bells 7:15pm Choir Practice	27 6:00pm Revelation Study	28	29
30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	31					



Food Giveaway in Wills Point

Looking for the perfect opportunity to volunteer?! Well, look no further. Bread for the Hungry is working with the East Texas Food Bank in our area. They are handing out food on Fridays from 4:00-7:00 p.m. If that time doesn't work for you, they load the food bags on Fridays from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (You aren't required to stay the entire time, work what's best for you). They also need help on Saturday mornings loading a truck to deliver to Myrtle Springs and Rolling Oaks (just loading trucks, not delivering). Contact

Nancy Roberts, 214-354-6780, for details and to sign up.

Memorials

In memory of
Dan Todd
Given by
Patsy & Ken Aulich.

In memory of
Gibb Matlock, Sr.
Given by
Phillip & Nancy Ward, Max Connel,
Andrea Waitt Carlton, the Keahey Family,
Brian & Janine Smale, Jerry & Anna Palmer,
Rebecca Bird, Jon & Kyle Hall, Renate Garner,
And Fritz Gilbreth.

In memory of
Cotton Miles
Given by
Helen Lawrence, Jerry & Markie Lawrence &
Family, Maxine Page, Billy Jenkins,
Sammy & Donna Gunter, Ted & Denise Deen,
Larry & Theresa Turner, Fritz Gilbreth
And Eleanor E Hurst.

In memory of
Sara Bullard
Given by
Maxine Page.

In memory of
Phyllis Mayo
Given by
Maxine Page.

In memory of
Liz Ellis
Given by
Maxine Page.

In memory of
Thomas Butts
Given by
Maxine Page.

In memory of
Sarah Rogers
Given by Lucy Hill.

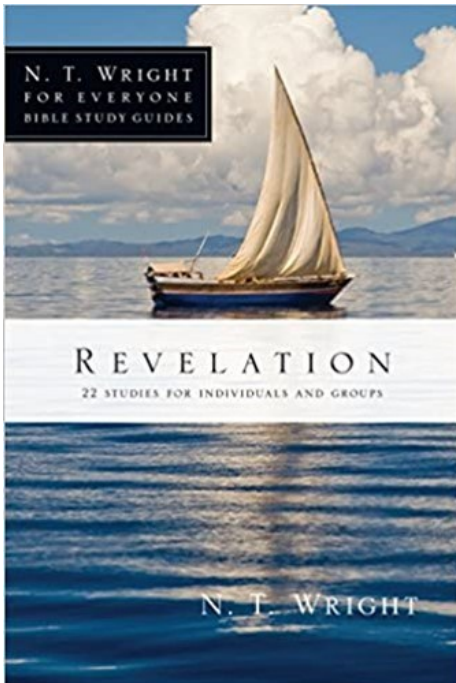
In memory of
Mack Waller
Given by
Colleen Waller.

Remember in Prayer:

Family of Theo "Cotton"
Miles
Family of Gibb Matlock, Sr
Family of Brad Hargrave
Family of Dan Todd
Hooten, Sabella & Randall
Families
Family of Darren Attaway
Family of Sara Bullard
Family of Liz Ellis
Family of Russell Truett
Family of Bennie McBride
Arthur Galope, Jr
Alana Simpson
Aneya Williams
Andy Anderson
Becca Rowe
Betty Manning
Billie Cade
Bobbi Smith

Bobby Petillo
Bruce Lacy
Carl Fulton
Caroline Edwards
Chad Ash
Cheryl Bradley
Christy (Culpepper's
granddaughter)
Crestwood Nursing &
Assisted Living
Dana Hullum
Darin Richardson
Dave Edwards
Dianne Deen James
Dianna Perry
Emily Cockerham
Eric Johns
Evan Mayone
Eyal Family
Harrison Mayone
Hunter Haney

Isaac Bullard
Jared McDonald
Judy Culpepper
Kay & Benny Mitchell
Keeta Lybrand
Laura Bates
Linda & Will Dennis
Linda Greenwald
Marigrace & Mike Lang
Mark Brown
Matt James
Maxine Page
Military
Paul Cain
Roger & Jan Moore
Sherry & Lynn Mullins
Students, Teachers, & Admin.
Sunday School & Church
Terry McDermott
Virginia Cockerham
Wayne Rhodes



New Bible Study

Have you been curious about the book of Revelation but cautious to wade into its pages? The images contained in this work are colorful and at times bizarre, often leaving us with more questions than answers. If you are interested in a journey into Revelation without the dogmas and speculations, this is your chance. *Revelation for Everyone* will be a 16 week Thursday evening study beginning at 6:00 on January 27. A study book is available but not mandatory. It is called *Revelation: 22 Studies for Individuals and Groups* by N.T. Wright. Questions can be directed to Pastor Dave at rmumcpastor@gmail.com. Come join us as we apply this message of hope to our lives today.

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Rev. David Cartwright, Pastor
John Ross, Minister of Music
Theresa Turner, Ladies Hand Bells Director
Jackie Cockerham, Financial Administrator

Nancy McDonald, Office Administrator
Fritz Gilbreth, Organist
Kelli Huff, K6 Kids Coordinator
Jerry Don Huff, Youth Director

Join us Sunday Morning!

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED