

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



Vol. 18, No. 2

February 1, 2022

Yes, they are out to get you...

...but do not be afraid. I don't want you to lose sleep, or to occupy your waking moments with worry. Still, you need to know. I want you to know. They ARE out to get you.

I believe the psalmist was on to something when he reflected in Psalm 23 on God as our shepherd. Attributed to Israel's King David, Psalm 23 is but six verses long, yet it is packed with imagery that is beautiful, meaningful and memorable. The writer describes God as one who faithfully provides for daily needs, blesses us in the sight of those who oppose us, anoints us with healing when injury comes, and fills our cup of blessing to overflowing. To end the psalm, the writer offers this reflection with the utmost of certainty: "surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Yes, I believe the writer was on to something powerful. When it comes to God's goodness and mercy, they ARE out to get you.

Many years ago I recall a Spirit-filled teacher pointing out that English translations of this psalm can tend to lose the power of the original language. In most of the familiar English translations, goodness and mercy is said to "follow" us. The problem is that the idea of "following" conveys an action that can be casual or passive. We might imagine the stray dog who follows you on your walk, willing to stay within a certain distance yet failing to come close. This is not a good picture of God's action toward us. Instead, picture the pet running excitedly toward his owner, anxious to welcome her home. Or better yet, picture the father in the parable of the prodigals who ran to embrace his long-lost son (see Luke 15:20). There is nothing passive in this image; it is active pursuit. This is what the psalmist describes regarding the goodness and mercy of God.

I don't know how it might impact your thoughts day by day, but to me there is something powerful in the knowledge that God is chasing those whom he loves. God desires for our eyes to behold His goodness, for His mercy to be the resting place of our hearts. If Psalm 23:6 doesn't convince you, consider also the following. "Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him" (Psalm 34:8). "The Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11). "The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made" (Psalm 145:9). "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 106:1; 107:1; 118:1; 136:1).

(cont. on pg. 2)

(continued from pg. 1)

The psalmist knew something powerful, and wants for you to know it as well. When it comes to God's goodness and mercy, they are definitely out to get you. They WILL pursue you all the days of your life. For that reason, I encourage you to pause as often as necessary to allow God's goodness and lovingkindness to overtake you. Know in your heart and mind that the Lord is good, and savor His goodness in every day you have.

Pastor Dave

Youth and Parent Lunch

Youth and Parent Lunch

Join us on Sunday, February 6th, 12:00pm in the Deen building for a youth and parent lunch and meeting. Please RSVP to the church office (903-873-2569, or office@rmumc.net) or with Jerry Huff (214-458-2004).



UMW Valentine Luncheon

The women of Russell Memorial UMC and your friends are invited to the Valentin Luncheon, February 12th, in George Hall. Join us for soup, salad, sweets and fellowship. The guest speaker will be Jeanne Deen from the Van Zandt County Welfare Board. Look forward to seeing you at 11:30 a.m. and hope you are lucky and win a door prize!

rightnow MEDIA

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.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

In case of inclement weather, we will post cancellations and postponements on our Facebook page, our website (rmumc.net) and you can call the church office (903-873-2569, if out of office hours, the message should let you know of any changes). If the weather looks questionable, please check for updates before coming.

Thank You

Dear Church Friends,

As we enter 2022, we are reminded of our generous donors who support the mission of the ABC Room. Your ongoing donations enabled us to supply 1,285 items of basic need to 109 children that CPS workers took into foster care in Van Zandt County.

The ABC Room was able to supply everything from diapers & formula, beds & blankets, clothing & school supplies to Christmas gifts. All thanks to your continued support.

Please know how much we thank you and appreciate you.

God Bless,

The ABC Room Volunteers



RESCHEDULED 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, February 19, we will hold a vision retreat for our members. The retreat will be an all-day event, from 8:30 until 5:00. Lunch and snacks will be provided. The number of participants will affect the location of the event, so it is important that you let Pastor Dave know in advance if you plan to attend. We will spend the day learning, praying, sharing and seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance for our congregation. **Please contact Pastor Dave (rmumcpastor@gmail.com or 304-654-2150) if you plan to attend or if you have questions.**

Calendar of Events for February

Dates to Remember for February



Sunday, February 6, 12:00 p.m. Youth Parent Lunch
 Wednesday's 6:00 p.m. Ladies Hand Bells
 Wednesday's 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 Thursday's, 6:00 p.m. Revelation Bible Study
 Saturday, February 12, 9:00 a.m. UMM Meeting
 Saturday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. Safety Team Meeting
 Saturday, February 12, 11:00 a.m. UMW Valentines Luncheon
 Saturday, February 19, 8:30 a.m.-5:00p.m. Vision Retreat

Happy Birthday!

Gerda David	2-4	Bernadette Kolb	2-18
Steven Collins	2-7	Phyllis Mayo	2-20
Dana Hullum	2-8	Linda Malone	2-21
Brad Malone	2-11	Debby Roberts	2-22
Peggy Kinney	2-13	Diane Sandifer	2-27
Holly Malone	2-14	Linda Dennis	2-28
Justin Galope	2-15	Leilanie Galope	2-29
Cody Rowland	2-16	Marigrace Lang	2-29



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

	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Jan. 23
Worship	60	78	61	74
Giving	\$14,562.00	\$6,377.21	\$5,947.00	\$4,182.00

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



Food Giveaway in Wills Point

Looking for the perfect opportunity to volunteer?! Well, look no futher. 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
James Furrh
Given by
FG & Becky Hardy.

In memory of
Cotton Miles
Given by
Ron Turner.

In memory of
Sara Bullard
Given by
Ron Turner.

In memory of
Liz Ellis
Given by
John & Jeanie Buffington.

In memory of
Phyllis Mayo
Given by
John & Jeanie Buffington.

In memory of
Virginia Turner
Given by
Frosty & Joni Tunnell.



Just Be One T-Shirts

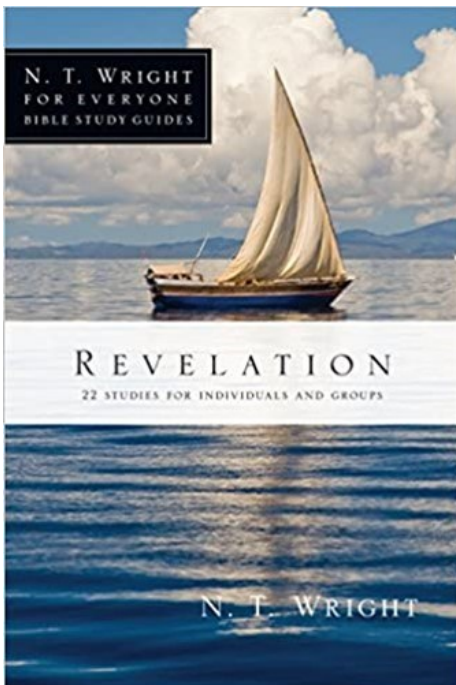
Did you order a Just Be One T-shirt from the youth? If you did, please see Jerry Don Huff, he has them! If you didn't, why not?! You can still pick one up for the low, low price of \$15. They still have several available and would love to set you up with some. Contact Jerry Huff, 214-458-2004.

Remember in Prayer:

Family of Debbie Bateman
Family of Theo "Cotton"
Miles
Family of Gibb Matlock, Sr.
Family of Dan Todd
Hooten, Sabella, & Randall
Families
Alana Simpson
Andy Anderson
Aneya Williams
Angelina Fields
Arthur Galope, Jr.
Becca Rowe
Betty Manning
Betty & Denny McCormick
Billie Cade
Bobbi Smith
Bobby Petillo
Bruce Lacy

Carl Fulton
Caroline Edwards
Chad Ash
Cheryl Bradley
Christy (Culpepper's
granddaughter)
Crestwood Nursing & Asst.
Living
Dana Hullum
Darin Richardson
Dave Edwards
Dianne Deen James
Dianna Perry
Emily Cockerham
Eric Johns
Evan Mayone
Eyal Family
Isaac Bullard
Harrison Mayone
Hunter Haney
Jared McDonald

Katherine Bunce
Kay & Benny Mitchell
Keeta Lybrand
Laura Bates
Linda Greenwald
Mark Brown
Marigrace & Mike Lang
Matt James
Maxine Page
Paul Cain
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 (it's not too late to join). 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.

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church

A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love



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

The Russell Report

Russell Memorial United Methodist Church
A Family Rooted in Christ and Reaching Out in Love
201 S. Fourth Street
P. O. Box 335
Wills Point, TX 75169

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED