



Anticipation + Expectation = Frustration (sometimes?)

Monday morning usually greets me with two emotions, two questions really, "How did yesterday's service really go, Lord? We're you pleased?" and "What am I going to talk about next Sunday?" There's a line in an old classic rock ballad that goes like this,

*Later in the evening as you lie awake in bed,
With the echoes of the amplifiers ringing in your head,
you smoke the day's last cigarette,
remembering what you (she) said.*

One of the blessings and/or curses of not preaching from a script is highlighted in this song. Later on Sunday evening, I lie awake in bed trying to recollect everything I said during the sermon or during worship. Trusting that I was lead by the Holy Spirit, but very well aware of the fact that if I talk long enough, I will eventually say something I might regret! So, my thoughts turn toward the next sermon, or more accurately the next worship service.

As I have reminded the congregation, and myself, worship is supposed to be an everyday thing, not a one-hour Sunday thing. I believe that worship is how we live our lives all week, while Sunday morning is when the church gathers to celebrate God's grace in our lives since we last met, and give testimony/witness to God's great and mighty acts. It is a time when the church takes advantage of its unity and oneness to seek God with all our hearts and pray for one another, and show God's love toward one another while all along, acknowledging His presence among us. Can I get an Amen?!

....*this story is continued on page 3.*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Sunday School for all ages (see page 12 for details) | 8:45am |
| • Prayer & Quiet Reflection, in Prayer Parlor | 9:15am |
| • Worship Service | 10:00am |
| • Children's Worship (begins in Sanctuary) | 10:00am |

Visit our website! www.rivertonumc.org

and [facebook page](#)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:30am– 2:30pm
(Monday-Friday)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Riverton Staff

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Chip Crawford:	Director of Worship & Welcoming Ministries chip.crawford@rivertonumc.org
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Church Council 2014

• <i>Pastor</i>	Marc Roberson
• <i>Chair</i>	Randy Moon
• <i>Secretary</i>	Betty Smith
• <i>Lay Leader</i>	Beth Smith
• <i>SPRC Chair</i>	Norman Shiflett
• <i>Trustee Chair</i>	Bill Coleman
• <i>Finance & Stewardship Chair</i>	Joan Burke
• <i>Annual Conference Delegate</i>	David Blanton
• <i>Director Riverfront CS</i>	Cindy Martin
• <i>COME (Worship & Welcoming)</i>	Chip Crawford/ Greg Hubbell
• <i>GROW (Training & Transformation)</i>	Trish Anderson/ Theresa Roberson
• <i>GO (Sharing & Serving)</i>	Bob Boulter/ John McKenzie
• <i>United Methodist Men President</i>	Ralph Smith
• <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Beth Moon

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From the Pastor's Desk

Continued from page 1 ...

So, why do I immediately begin to anticipate the next worship service? Almost as if I don't plan to worship until then. I need to start listening to my own sermons. Who said amen? I think the way most churches do this can be why Sunday's have so much stress attached to them, at least for those who are regular 'worshippers'.

We begin by trying to understand the scripture for next week, then the choir or band or bells rehearse for the 'big show', hymns must be chosen, and the bulletins must be 'prepared'. Depending upon the size of the congregation and the number of leaders involved the anticipation is palpable. Among each of the leaders there is an **expected** performance AND along with it, an **anticipated** response from the audience, oops, I meant congregation. When hands aren't raised, when amens don't come, when power point slides are mixed up, when babies cry at just the wrong time, when the liturgist mispronounces the words in the text... **Frustration** enters the room.

I have probably said too much already but I'll go on. I want to offer you a way to attend church next week without the stress. I want to give you permission to NOT judge the performance. Perhaps judge is too harsh a word, then replace it with 'evaluate' if it makes you feel better. Sunday services are not American Idol, or First Church Has Got Talent! You are not the reason we go to church. The pastor is not the reason we go to church, the special music, or music leader or children's choir or band, or stained glass windows or even to see old friends. THE reason we gather; the object of our attention; the center and purpose of our efforts to get up, get dressed and get out, is GOD!

When you look forward to giving God your worship on Monday and Tuesday and all week, your acts of worship will flow naturally. God will be at the center of your mind and heart as you dwell in Him and Christ dwells in you, the Holy Spirit will bear witness to your spirit and worship will result.

Start right now, look for God in your life today, in your world today. Where is God and what is God doing right now? Get involved. Next Sunday when you walk into the sanctuary, you will be prepared. All the expectations will be met because you have come to declare once again your love for God, your allegiance to God, and to celebrate what God has been doing and will do in your life. That worship does not depend on nor is it affected by which song you sing or what dress you wear or what color the vestments are or how long the service lasts. **If you give yourself to God**, fully and wholly, then what's to disappoint you? Certainly God will not be disappointed. Its not burnt offerings (or great solos or eloquent preaching) that He desires. And only then will all your expectations be met, only then will you leave church truly satisfied, only then will your joy be complete.

Now I can't wait to worship again, in fact, why wait till Sunday,
I'm gonna start right now!

See ya Sunday,
Pastor Marc

Reverend Marc Roberson
marc.roberson@rivertonumc.org

Worship & Welcoming



“REJOICE!”

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Philippians 4:4

As a youngster, my mother used to teach scriptures to me and my two sisters by singing songs based on the scripture. One such melody that I heard growing up was this passage from *Philippians 4:4*. Although I learned this at a very young age, only as an adult have I come to realize the powerful significance of these Holy Spirit inspired words.

In my younger days, I understood that these instructions to the church at Phillipi meant that they should praise God... therefore, so should we. Now that I'm in my not-so-younger days, a much deeper lesson has become clear that's a lot more challenging than the previous perspective. God's word to us is not just to rejoice in Him, but *“Rejoice in the Lord **always**”*. The key word here is “always”. Now, I have absolutely no problem rejoicing in, praising and worshiping God on a regular basis...but rejoice always?? Isn't that asking for a bit too much?? After all, doesn't always mean...like...all the time?? What about those difficult, challenging days when maybe I just don't feel like rejoicing in the Lord? Don't I get a pass on those days? What about the times when it feels like the weight of this world's struggles are more than I can bear? Surely God will understand if I just skip those stormy times, knowing I'll get back to rejoicing in Him once the rain, thunder and lightning come to an end and the clouds give way to a beautiful blue sky with its peaceful sunshine. Here's the incredible and challenging detail about *Philippians 4:4*. The Apostle Paul was inspired to write these words while he was sitting in a Roman prison! He was not exactly having a good day! He was in the midst of a time of suffering for the cause of Christ. What an eye opener! Without a doubt, he was instructing the church to do what he had already been doing himself...praising God right in the middle of his life's extreme difficulties.

Why would he... and why should we do that?? The English Dictionary defines the word rejoice as a verb which means “be happy”. Are we instructed to rejoice or be happy about our challenges or life's hard circumstances and tragedies? Absolutely not! We are to rejoice **in God**! As, I'm sure Paul discovered, when we choose to do this in the midst of our own “prison challenges”, we are expressing to God that we trust Him. As we rejoice, God may not always change our circumstances, but He becomes our source of hope, strength and peace as He carries us through our most difficult times. In the middle of some hard times of his own, King David sings to The Lord these words in *Psalms 13:5* “But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart **rejoices** in your salvation.” David sings again in *Psalms 21:1* “The king **rejoices** in your strength, Lord.”

As we have turned a page into the New Year, I am making it a personal goal for 2015 to do my best to heed the instructions of Apostle Paul and choose to rejoice in the Lord always, in good days or in challenging ones. But, I confess, I'd rather not do this alone...care to join me??

Finally, brothers and sisters, **rejoice!**

2 Corinthians 13:11

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Chip Crawford

COME Ministries Lead

The background of the entire page is decorated with various black and white snowflake patterns and elegant swirls. These decorative elements are scattered across the page, with some larger, more complex swirls on the right side and smaller, simpler snowflakes on the left and bottom.

Grow Ministries

Wednesdays Are Back!

*January 7th 'Dinner and More'
will resume.*

5:30 Dinner for everyone.

Youth Meet at 6:15 - Conference Rm

Children's Time: 6:30 in Rm 120 -122

Adults at 6:30

"One More Day" Life Group - Rm 124

Bible Study with Pastor Marc - Sanctuary

Women's Study with Sherry Williams -
Prayer Parlor

New Study - "Unfinished" - Tracey Funk

Nursery Provided

Trish Anderson, Te Roberson

GROW Ministries Lead

Surge 120

Riverton Youth

January, 2015

What we've been up to...

And what's coming up...

Coming Up...

January 7

New Alpha Youth series starts

January 10

Youth Leader Prayer 9-11 AM prayer parlor

January 11

Youth Leader meeting 11:45

January 14

Rest of ATF deposit due

January 30

Leaving for ATF at 1:00 PM be at RUMC

January 31

Returning from ATF between midnight & 1

On the Look-out for the Next Communication Coordinator!

We are in need of a new Communication Coordinator. We are looking for someone creative who can make our correspondence "Youth Friendly".

The responsibilities include:

Updating forms

Managing the email distribution list

*Creating the monthly newsletter articles
with info from Youth Director*

Youth announcements for Bulletin



Acquire the Fire – Jan. 30-31

Leaving Friday at 1 PM

Returning Saturday between midnight & 1AM

Check out the link for the new Youth Alpha Study starting January 7th

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MW2CjzV3AJg>

Youth Group

Wednesdays from 6:15-8:15 PM

Youth Sunday School

Grades 6-12 from 8:45-9:45 AM.

Youth Director: Ella Mae Harper-Mueller: emhm72@hotmail.com

Purpose Statement: To be a caring & fun-filled community of youth who know Jesus Christ, intent on sharing Him in our places of influence.

Riverton's Children

There have been many exciting events going on for the children at Riverton UMC. Back in September, we began offering a children's ministry event on Wednesday evenings to coincide with the adult bible studies. September was also when children's Sunday School classes started back after summer break. Children's Worship has been well attended and is looked forward to by the children each Sunday morning. Thank you to Chip, Deb and the dozens and dozens of hard working saints who helped make our musical drama, *"The Heart of Christmas"* such a huge success. It was truly a blessing to see the children working together for Jesus. These are just a few of the opportunities we provide for your children to know Jesus Christ and make Him known.

We are very thankful for the many volunteers who teach classes, contribute supplies and provide supervision to create this ongoing ministry of value and meaning for Riverton UMC families.

Judy Reddle, Sherry Williams, Pam Mathis, Stephanie and Joshua Brandon, Betty Smith, Angie Ruffo, Judy Martin, Cathy Johnson, Sally and Bryan Gillespy, Dyllan Gillespy, Seth Gillespy, Justin Lee, Dylan Lee, Colleen Stanton, Sarah Lawson, Carol Kresge, Jean Patton, Tim and Anna Grant, Chrisanne Mishler, Julie Shifflet, Bill and Sharon Coleman, Kimmie Daniels, Travis Shell, Margie Moore, Deb Duckworth, Dick Rutledge (for the famous hayride), Sharon McKenzie (for the great ideas).

Special thanks to Cindy Martin for setting this ministry in motion. It is through her dedication as Interim Children's Ministry Director that the doors of unity and Christian service have been opened between the school and Children's Ministry. Her devotion to serving in the name of Jesus is a blessing.

***** WEDNESDAY CLASSES RESUME ON JANUARY 7TH *****

Children's Ministry volunteers that completed the First Aid/CPR/AED course in November may pick up their cards from the church office.

Riverton's Children

Riverfront Christian School

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty."
Zechariah 4:6 "NIV"

I can remember as a child, my favorite Vacation Bible School was held at Vaughn Summit Mission. It was located in a little one room church nestled next to the mountain in Page County, VA. I vaguely remember my VBS teacher. She wasn't fancy, but reminded me of an old-fashioned missionary who wore average clothes. Our classroom had plain grey walls without pictures or decorations. I never remember her using fancy visuals to catch our attention, but she knew how to connect with us. Upon instructing us to open to a chapter and verse, the next 45 minutes went in a flash. She had us hanging on the edge of our seats. We could not help but hear what she was teaching us. How disappointed we were when VBS ended that year.

I will always remember she used the power of prayer and relationship to teach the Word of God. The fire in her spirit opened up our understanding as I had never experienced before. As I think about it, the purpose of Christian education really has not changed over the decades. It is to touch the heart of the hearer so the individual can live in a personal relationship with God.

Her method was simple. Spend time in prayer and read the Bible. The Holy Spirit will teach us and draw you close to God. Then, like my VBS teacher, God will use us to open the door for others to know him. You will be amazed at how, children young and old, will come to him.

Every day at Riverfront Christian School, we open the Bible with our students. Our passion is to see their lives developed under the banner of Christ. Our hope is for these students to see the people around them living and working as Christians. The harvest is ripe. Will you commit to pray for Riverfront Christian School?

May God abundantly bless you,
Cindy Martin, Director

Special Events at Riverfront Christian School

January 5 Students return to classes after the Christmas/New Year's Break
January 16 100th day of School
January 19 Martin Luther King Day (No School- Possible Snow Make-up Day)
January 27 American Red Cross Blood Drive Day
No Classes for students K5 – 12, Teacher In-Service
January 29 - 30 Little Sheep Preschool Luau and Grandparent's Day.
January 30 Little Sheep Preschool Luau and Grandparent's Day
January 30 1st Annual Chili Bowl Dinner, Come and eat dinner! Please save Date!

January is Career month. Students will have the opportunity to learn about a various careers options from visiting guest speakers.

Riverton's Children

Little Sheep Preschool News

January is Hawaii month at LSP. We will celebrate our grandparents and share what we have learned about Hawaii at the end of the month with a Grandparents' Day Luau. Hawaiian attire and cuisine will be enjoyed by all. What a great way to spend a cold winter month. Here is a picture for you to color while dreaming of Hawaii. Aloha!

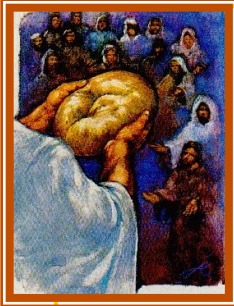


ALOHA!

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Ladies of Riverton

The next gathering of the RUMC Women will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2015. Whether it's your first time or not, we hope you'll be able to join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of sisterhood, fun, and food. We're planning to start around 2:00 pm and end around 4:00 pm. See you then!!



Community Table Coming Up!

The next community table will be Jan. 8.

The Menu:

- ⇒ Lasagna
- ⇒ Salad
- ⇒ Garlic bread
- ⇒ Dessert



Monetary donations are appreciated for non-perishable items. The contact for this ministry is Jayme Dodge. Talk to her after church! Phone: 636-2675

United Methodist Men

We have been very busy since last reporting in the Streams.

- Outcome of election of officers for the year 2015: President Ralph Smith, Vice President Bert Sours, and Secretary-Treasurer Wendell Davis.
- Our major fund raisers and outreach includes a food booth at Front Royal's two festivals (weather permitting) and the fall pancake breakfast which helps to provide a college scholarship for a high school senior who is a member of Riverton UMC.
- We have contributed financially and physically to "Heart of Christmas", donated to the Christmas Basket Fund and the annual Charity Golf Tournament.

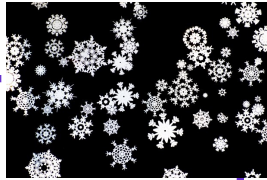
We are not all work and no play! During the golf season many of our members (including Pastor Marc & Worship Leader Chip) travel to various courses in the valley to enjoy fellowship, good golf and good food (true Methodists).

We continue to meet on Tuesday mornings 9:00 am at the VFW, and our monthly dinner and Bible Study are at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall. We are presently studying Daniel. Finally our group of men has grown over the past year and it's not just the old guys. New faces appear regularly. ***Remember all men of the church are welcome!***

January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Church Office Closed</i> HAPPY NEW YEAR! RCS Christmas Vacation	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i> RCS Christmas Vacation	3
4 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10:00 AM Worship	5 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	6 9:00 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM WARM Ministry 10:30 AM Prayer Team 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 7:00 PM Praise Team 7:00 PM Strategic Planning Team Meeting	7 10:00 AM Women's Fellowship Circle 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Meal 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Classes	8 6:00 PM Food Pantry	9	10 7:00 AM Pancake Breakfast
11 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10:00 AM Worship 11:45 AM Youth Leader Meeting	12 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 7:00 PM Church Council	13 9:00 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM WARM Ministry 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 6:00 PM RCS School Board 7:00 PM Praise Team	14 RCS Chapel 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Meal 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Classes	15 11:00 AM Full Sugar Gang	16 RCS 100th Day of School	17
18 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10:00 AM Worship 11:45 AM Mission Group Meeting	19 Martin Luther King Day RCS—No Classes 3:30 PM Girls Scouts	20 9:00 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM WARM Ministry 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 6:30 PM Finance Meeting 7:00 PM Praise Team	21 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Meal 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Classes	22 6:00 PM Food Pantry	23 Leadership Retreat Offsite	24 Leadership Retreat Offsite
25 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10:00 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10:00 AM Worship	26 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 6:00 PM UM Men Supper/Bible Study	27 RCS Teacher In-Service—No Classes 9:00 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM WARM Ministry 2:00 PM Blood Drive 5:30 PM Trinity's Branches 7:00 PM Praise Team	28 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Meal 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Classes	29 RCS P3 Grandparent's Day—Luau	30 RCS K4 Grandparent's Day—Luau Youth —Acquire the Fire, Offsite 4:00 PM Chili Supper Fundraiser for Riverfront Christian School	31 Youth —Acquire the Fire, Offsite

Birthdays



Anniversaries

- 1 Cary Poe, Beverly Jones, Daniel Rishel, Betty Smith, Mitchell Smith
- 3 Cindy Martin, Jeff Walters
- 4 Stephen Barr, Dylan Cook, Bonnie Shipe
- 6 Larry Smith, Tony Smith, Daniel Walters
- 7 Megan Jaskulski, Eileen Dougherty
- 9 Becky Cox, Gabriel Davis
- 10 Allison Rudacille
- 11 Ethan Funk
- 13 Margie Moore
- 14 Bonnie Coleman, Teri Greenlee, Leticia McQuerry, Christiana Archuletta, John Proper
- 15 Bill Coleman, Rob DeMariano, Jeanine Gordon, Pamela Lynn, Clark Moats
- 16 Gina VanDoren
- 17 Evelyn Anderson
- 18 Shannon Barr, Noah Funk, Teresa Keeler, Donna Sours
- 20 Kyle Cairns, Ann Cooper, Jenny Dunivan, Linda Lee
- 22 Jackie Carper, Jerry Carter
- 23 Kristin Waltz, Brandi Gordon, Lynda Turner
- 24 Philip Brewer, Kendra Cook
- 25 Jessalyn Brooks, Libby Funk, Chris Gousse
- 27 Aadon Atwood
- 28 Judy Atkins-Stauf
- 29 Tyler Presley
- 30 Loretta Lilly
- 31 Emily Dodge

- 8 Kevin & Celeste Brooks
Glen & Sally Smith
- 13 Cecil & Danny Pullen
- 15 Greg & Melissa Sisk
- 23 Wendell & Doris Davis
Tom & Edie Reil
- 24 Glen & Candy Ferst
Eugene & Wanda Wharton
- 25 Norman & Julie Shiflett

