



Greetings in the Name of God the Father,
and our Lord Jesus Christ!

Beloved, I pray that you are well. I pray that the circumstances of your life will not win the day. I pray that you may know the peace of Christ and have a growing understanding of His riches and mercy for you. I pray that you may know Him and the Power of the resurrection in your life today.

There is talk in our nation about a great lack of leadership in our churches. As one pastor put it... “there’s nothing worse than being stuck behind someone who won’t move”. Now I can relate to that because of how much time I spend driving, but I’m wondering if its true in our churches. Is it true for Riverton? Is it true about me? Do you feel stuck behind me?

An equally frustrating thing to experience is to follow someone who doesn’t know where they are going. They are the lead car in a caravan and the rest of us only have enough time and energy to follow, so we trust that they know what we don’t know and we end up just as lost as they are. It’s possible to use up so much time and energy going in the wrong direction that we never reach our destination.

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 |

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9:00am–3:00pm M-TH
9:00am–12:00pm F

CONTACT INFORMATION

55 E. Strasburg Rd.
Front Royal, VA 22630
Phone: 540-635-3878
Fax: 540-636-4418
Email: riverton@rivertonumc.org

Visit our website! www.rivertonumc.org

And our [facebook page](#)



Riverton United Methodist Church

To Know Jesus Christ and to Offer Him Freely



COME *worship Jesus*

GROW *in relationship*

GO *serve others*

Riverton Staff

Rev. Marc Roberson Pastor, marc.roberson@rivertonumc.org
 Ella Mae Harper-Mueller: Youth Director, emhm72@hotmail.com
 Beth Moon: Administrative Assistant, riverton@rivertonumc.org
 Sherri Yoder: Worship Leader, drsherriyoder@gmail.com
 Cindy Martin: Riverfront Christian School Director, cindy.martin@riverfrontchristian.com
 Margie Moore: Little Sheep Preschool Director, littlesheep@comcast.net
 Debbie Stafford: RCS — Administrative Assistant, csoffice@riverfrontchristian.com

Church Council 2015

Table of Contents

Staff & Church Council Listing	2
Pastor's Page	3
Apologetics Conference	4
Apologetics Minute	5
Grow ministries	6
Grow ministries	7
Youth	8
VBS!	9
Little Sheep Preschool	10
Riverton Calendar	11
Birthdays & Anniversaries	12

• <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>GROW (Training & Transformation)</i>	Trish Anderson/ Theresa Roberson
• <i>GO (Sharing & Serving)</i>	John McKenzie
• <i>United Methodist Men President</i>	Ralph Smith
• <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Beth Moon



From the Pastor's Desk

Continued from page 1 ...

Another mistake we make as followers is to get sucked into a rhetoric of hope with no substance. Big talk about the future, the next big thing or the rewards of tomorrow are only as good as the foundation they are built upon. If hope is only talk with no plan, no strategy, no sure promise that we can absolutely count on, then we will eventually lose that hope and be in even more despair and disappointment than when we began.

So, my beloved, I humbly ask for your prayers. Please pray with me and please pray for me as I lay my desires, my plans, my dreams at the altar before the Throne of Grace, and the Mercy Seat of God. I only want His favor and His will for Riverton. I believe God does indeed have a plan for us and I believe it is a two-fold plan. The first portion is His general, scriptural plan for His church. Namely, that we are to be salt & light to our world; that we should not neglect the widow or orphan or any brother or sister in need among us. That we should visit the sick and imprisoned and that we should be Christ's witnesses everywhere we go. The second is more difficult to discern and has an over-arching principle of stewardship that will reflect our heart's motives and the faithfulness of our hands. "What have we done with what we have been given?"

Through the summer weeks we will be rebuilding our leadership teams and acquiring more volunteers to do as much ministry as possible with what we have been given. We are looking to expand our ministry to your children and youth by investing in their meeting spaces. We are looking to expand our ministry with young adults and older adults by aggressively pursuing our Small Group involvement and activities. We will be expanding our ministry to Senior adults by providing meetings and studies that address the most important issues in their lives today as well.

So again, please pray with me and for me and listen closely to discern where you belong and where God may be calling you to serve.

See ya Sunday,

Pastor Marc

Reverend Marc Roberson

marc.roberson@rivertonumc.org

Grow Ministries



C.S. Lewis said that “Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered.”

As we raise our families, work, build friendships, vote, and enjoy the things we love, we as Christians increasingly find ourselves confronted with bad philosophy or ideas. These ideas come in many forms. They are in the movies we watch, the politics we make decisions about, in our children’s classrooms and on the minds of our co-workers every day.

1 Peter 3:15 says that we are to be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks for the hope we have.

National Conference on Christian Apologetics

One great way to equip yourself with answers and prepare you to share the gospel is the National Conference on Christian Apologetics. Held every October in Charlotte, North Carolina, you will hear from some of the leading Christian experts in science, philosophy, Biblical scholarship and cultural issues. I highly recommend this conference to give you encouragement and confidence to share your faith with others.

Please check out the promotional video and speakers list at www.conference.ses.edu. I’m glad to answer any questions you have about the conference. You can also listen to a sampling of speakers from the 2013 Conference by downloading the SES App or going to YouTube Channel at SES Apologetics.

Trish Anderson

dittotrish@gmail.com

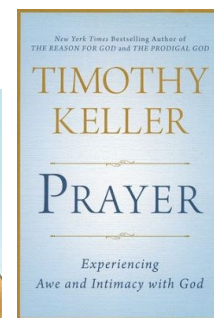
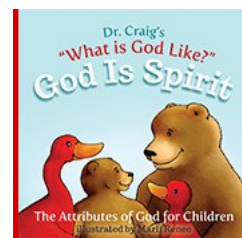
Grow Ministries

New Book Reviews Coming Soon!

Two new book reviews- one for Adults and one for children

For Adults- *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*, By Timothy Keller

For Children- *God is Spirit*, By Dr. William Lane Craig



Please take a minute to browse through our current book offerings in the Gathering area in the Grow Ministry book review section: *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*, by Nabeel Qureshi for adults and for children, *How Do We Know God Is Really There*, by Melissa Cain Travis.

Apologetic Minute

“....Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.” I Peter 3:15

Do Muslims and Christians worship the same God?

Both Christians and Muslims are monotheistic, that is they worship one God. Some claim we worship the same God while others claim they are different. What are the distinctions and why can't they be the same God?

Christians believe God is Yahweh	Muslims believe God is Allah
Yahweh is Trinitarian- One essence, but 3 persons	Allah is Unitarian- a single essence in one person
Bible says Jesus is the Son of God	Qur'an claims Allah has no son
Yahweh is separate from Creation but entered into it and reveals Himself to His creation (Jesus became flesh)	Allah is separate from Creation
Christians believe it is a heresy to deny the Trinitarian nature of God.	Muslims believe it is blasphemy to affirm the Trinitarian nature of God.

Alan Shlemon, of the Ministry Stand to Reason, makes this helpful distinction, think of the difference between the title and the person who occupies it. God is the title or the *what*, and both Christians and Muslims agree on the title. We disagree, however on the *Who*.¹ The “who” is the unique position, and I’ve listed the unique characteristics of the who above. We cannot worship the same who based on these differences.

Other Questions? I recommend www.str.org. Stand to Reason has podcasts, video blogs, and articles on many questions in the topics of culture and theology.

Do you have a question you would like to see answered in The Streams about how to defend your faith? Email your question to riverton@rivertonumc.org.

<http://www.str.org/articles/do-christians-and-muslims-worship-the-same-god#.VYrmlxtVhBe>

Grow Ministries

..*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with **all your mind**. This is the first and greatest commandment."* Matthew 22:37-38

Growing Together

It's Better in Groups

Have you ever been part of a unique, challenging, or difficult experience with a group of individuals that was transformative in your life? Think of a time when perhaps you had to work together to complete a task that required you to work with others as a team; perhaps at work, in the military, or college. Or maybe it was for fun like an athletic event or team competition. How did working together with others who shared the same goals help get you through a difficult project or situation? Do you ever look back on this experience then or now and find there are only certain people with whom you can relate because of your shared experiences? Have you ever been to a support group with individuals going through something you are going through and received encouragement? I think there is a group of early Christians who could answer yes to these questions and while not prescriptive for our lives today, their model of discipleship contains some key principals for healthy discipleship and encouragement.

The Life Group I am part of at Riverton has been studying the Book of Acts. We recently looked at the transformed lives of a group of early Christians who devoted themselves as the author Luke describes, "To the Apostles for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer." You can read more in Acts 2:42-47. Luke tells us in his Gospel, Luke 24:44-49, that the Apostles had spent 40 days with Jesus undergoing special teaching. He had opened their eyes to His fulfilment of Old Testament (OT) teachings and "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures". Now fast forward to post Pentecost; with the gift of the Holy Spirit the Apostles have the full benefit of understanding what the Gospel means and are teaching the first converts who are devoted to their new faith. Luke recounts in Acts how they stayed together, studying, worshipping, praying, eating in each other's homes, and we know they were evangelizing because more were being added to their number daily.

They were serious about their new faith. Their lives had just been transformed, and when our lives are changed in a deep way, we see the world differently. We want to be with other people who see things like we do. We want to talk about our similar interests and hang out together because no one else quite understands or "gets it." I think this is what we see in Acts chapter 2. The early Christians were learning from the very men who had been taught by Jesus and saw the OT prophecies fulfilled. This was certainly unique to these early converts! So they spent time together worshipping God. They studied. They went to the temple together and evangelized. And they may have known this time would not last. We know from scripture it did not. They eventually would go outside their familiar confines to tell others what they had learned and witnessed. The Apostles left to preach in various parts of the world and persecution began in earnest. These days may have seemed like the calm before the storm, soaking in the education, the encouragement, and worshipping and praying together. I wonder how many sensed what was coming.

Grow Ministries

While discussing this in our Life Group study, we compared times in our lives when we have been part of a group focused on something because we were passionate about it or needed to accomplish a job or goal. For most of us that was finishing a degree in college or a major project at work that consumed our efforts, or forced us to work as a team with others. We can look back now and see how we rearranged our lives so we could make it happen. We looked at life through a different lens. These were transformative times in our lives. We see the early Christians as a group forming with a sudden common passion that drew them together. They had a passion to learn all they could and worshiped God with this new found freedom they had in the Gospel. And by being together they were strengthened and encouraged in a wonderful way that kept them in times of persecution. Our Life Group could relate to the benefit of coming together once a week for learning, worship, being together with people who share our values, with people who will pray for us, make a meal for us when needed, encourage us, and help us feel part of our church family.

So what key principals can we learn from this early group of Christians and how we grow together? We do not have to sell all that we have, live together, and spend our days in each other's company. This time in Acts was unique for these believers. However, we know that when we are transformed, our lives are very different and we become interested in and passionate about the object of our transformation; in this case Christ. We see that these early Christians were doing 5 key things.

1. They were learning together and preparing to be sent out. We desire to learn more about Christ because we love Him, and we want to be equipped to share the Good News with those who need His gift of salvation. We also want to be able to stand strong in our faith and know God's Word.
2. They were in relationship together. We need to be in relationships with others who have the same values and passions we do. We are strangers, spiritually speaking, in our culture and are encouraged and supported when we come together. We commit to praying for one another and our relationships deepen as we care for one another.
3. They worshiped together. This takes many forms both corporate, breaking of bread, to finding joy in His Word together and expressing that joy.
4. They shared the Gospel and added to their numbers. We must be sharing the message of salvation with others boldly. This is the great commandment and together we can encourage one another in this task.
5. They were serving one another, and others, so needs were met. We care for one another through prayer, meals, whatever is needed within our group and as a group in our church and community.

Those of us, who have been in a Life Group for any length of time, have found a camaraderie that has been very important to spiritual growth and remaining connected to our church and being encouraged in our faith journey. We have found our faith deepened by learning, our lives encouraged, and in general our connection to our local church strengthened.

I encourage you to sign up for a Life Group. Riverton will be having a fall kickoff with a church wide study and adding additional Life Groups to our current lineup. This is a great time for you to plug in and find yourself part of a unique group; a group who loves Christ like you and wants to spend time being transformed together.

If you would like to know more about Life Groups, please call or email the church office at 540.635.3878; river-ton@rivertonumc.org or stop by the Life Group kiosk in the church gathering room on Sunday morning. You can also sign-up on our website at www.rivertonumc.org and click on Find A Group.

July Summer Youth Program

June 29-July 1

Monday – Confirmation Class 10AM-12 Noon

Tuesday – Confirmation Class 10AM-12 Noon

Going Deeper Study 1:30 - 3:00 PM - Mostly for Sr. Highs but Middle Schoolers who are serious about going deeper in their relationship with Jesus are welcome!

Drama Practice – 3:00-4:00 PM, We plan to take a Drama out to our community this summer

Wednesday – Regular Youth Group 6:15 - 8:15 PM

Thursday – **Activity and Service Day** 10AM – 4 PM, Pack a lunch & sunscreen

July 6-9 & July 13-16

Tuesday – **Going Deeper** 1:30 - 3:00 PM - Mostly for Sr. Highs but Middle Schoolers who are serious about going deeper in their relationship with Jesus are welcome!

Drama Practice – 3:00-4:00 PM, We plan to take a Drama out to our community this summer

Wednesday – Regular Youth Group 6:15 - 8:15 PM

Thursday – **Activity and Service Day** 10AM – 4 PM, Pack a lunch & sunscreen

July 19-24

Impact the Valley – We will be helping all week with a local mission. Times TBA

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.



VOLUNTEER FOR VBS!

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN!

Pick up a form at the Welcome Center!

Registration_____

Teacher_____

Teachers Aid_____

Games_____

Nursery_____

Snack/Kitchen_____

Set Building_____

Decorating_____

Clean-up_____

July 26—31, 2015

Beginning at 6PM

Sunday-Thursday

**Closing program & family
picnic Friday, July 31**

Riverton's Children

Little Sheep Preschool Summer News

On July 4th, the **USA** will celebrate its 239th birthday with picnics, fireworks and family time. Vacations will soon be coming to an end.

Now is the time to enroll your 3 or 4 year old in a preschool that offers a high quality Christian education at an affordable price. Little Sheep Preschool can do just that. Call the school office at 540-635-8202 to schedule a tour today!

Have a safe and happy holiday.

God bless the **USA**!



July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 AM Women's Fellowship Circle 12 PM Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wed. Night Classes 7 PM New! Young Adult Class	2 7 PM Praise Team 7 PM SPRC Meeting 4 PM Offsite - Additional Community Table	3	4
5 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship Service	6 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 7 PM Trustees Meeting	7 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry 10:30 AM Prayer Team Mtg. 6 PM RCS Executive Committee Meeting	8 12 PM Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wed. Night Classes 7 PM New! Young Adult Class	9 4 PM Offsite - Community Table 5 PM Food Pantry 7 PM Praise Team	10	11
12 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Youth Leader Mtg.	13 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 7 PM Church Council	14 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry 7 PM Strategic Planning Mtg.	15 12 PM Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wed. Night Classes 7 PM New! Young Adult Class	16 7 PM Praise Team	17	18
19 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship Service	20 3:30 PM Girls Scouts	21 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry	22 12 PM Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wed. Night Classes 7 PM New! Young Adult Class	23 5 PM Food Pantry 7 PM Praise Team	24	25
26 8:45 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Prayer 10 AM Children's Worship In Sanctuary 10 AM Worship Service 6 PM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!	27 3:30 PM Girls Scouts 6 PM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!	28 9 AM UM Men's Breakfast 10 AM WARM Ministry 6 PM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!	29 12 PM Bible Study 6:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Wed. Night Classes 7 PM Young Adult Class 6 PM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!	30 7 PM Praise Team 6 PM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!	31 6 PM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!	

Birthdays



Anniversaries

- 1 Alexander Guercio, Michaela Salmons
- 2 Garrett Bunch, Eugene Whoarton, Sam Nmair
- 3 Glenn Ferst, Matthew Shiflett
- 4 Doug Chapman, Shelley Compton, Mariann Cuff, Amanda Moats, Susan Ritter, Tiffany Walker
- 5 Brittan Kirkland
- 6 Cliff Presley
- 7 Matthew Dniels, Josh Brandon
- 8 Kayla Darr, Dillon Knighting
- 9 Evan Hoffman, Arthur Megeath, Morgan Strickler
- 10 Doris Davis, Kindsay Richardson,
- 12 Tom Reil
- 13 Robin Richardson, Nicole Nmair
- 14 Melissa Sisk, Sandra Swanson
- 16 Todd Dodge, Joann Lower, Dan Rishel
- 17 Nicholas Helmick, Justin Darr, Dick Redding
- 19 Alex Atwood, Monica DeMariano, Emmalee Dunivan, Connie Fretwell, Jeanie Stoots, Christina Tharp
- 20 Mary Helen Ritchie
- 21 Tom Scoggin
- 22 Margaret McDonald, Crystal Williamson, Dianne Wines
- 23 Colleen Stanton
- 25 Sherri Baker, Gary Roland, Susan Salmons, Carolyn Mauck
- 26 Allen Burton
- 27 Tim Williams
- 28 Judy Martin, Matthew Myers
- 29 George Lewis, Daniel McKenzie, Joyce Myers
- 30 Josh Arnold, Troy Darr, Barbara Frederick, Gary Robertson
- 31 George Harness, Burt Sours, Shannon Stanton

- 1 Joey & Kim Neff
- 3 Raymond & Georgia Ann Boklmann
- 5 Chris & Linda Lee
- 8 Antoinette & Dennis Funk, Jr.
- 11 Mike & Tina Dick
Neil & Loretta Lily
- 17 Michele & R.L. Frederick
- 18 Paul & Valentia Pullen
Marty & Carolyn Roof
- 19 Alan & Kim Rutherford
- 21 Paula & Thomas Wayland, Jr.
- 22 Don & Lil Eldrid
- 23 Tripp & Jan Bradd
- 24 Bill & Sharon Coleman
Jim & Jane Kenney
- 26 Ryan & Audrey Koch
- 30 Emmett & Neda Duncan

