



FROM LAW  
to Grace



It's hard to believe, but we will soon be hearing the question, "So, what are your New Year's Resolutions?" For those who make these resolutions, the top three have remained consistent:

1. Eat Healthier
2. Exercise More
3. Save (More) Money

I would heartily concur on all three! However, even with extra will-power and the best of intentions, 80% of people who make New Year's Resolutions will "fail" by the second week in February according to U.S. News & World Report. How depressing. No wonder many people simply stop making resolutions altogether.

What is a resolution anyway? In its simplest terms, it is "a firm decision to do or not to do something." A firm decision means that there is no room for wavering or cheating. New Year's Resolutions, by their very nature, have cheating built-in. "I will eat healthier in 2019, BUT NOT when I go out with friends or celebrate special occasions." "I will exercise more, BUT NOT when I'm on vacation." "I will save more money, BUT NOT when I see something that I really like and want." Before you know it, the "BUT NOTs" of life cause your resolutions to fail.

So, what are a few resolutions that followers of Christ can make for the coming year without looking forward to "cheat days?" Puritan Pastor Jonathan Edwards (*"Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"*) was known not only for his sermons, but for his resolutions. Unlike modern resolutions, Edwards' 70 resolutions were not about self-fulfillment. The first of these resolutions (in modern language) sets the foundation for those that follow:

1. **Resolved:** *"I will DO whatever I think will be most to God's glory; and my own good, profit and pleasure, for as long as I live. I will do all these things without any consideration of the time they take. Resolved: to do whatever I understand to be my duty and will provide the most good and benefit to mankind in general. Resolved to do this, whatever difficulties I encounter, and no matter how many I experience or how severe they may be."* (Edward's Seventy Resolutions in Modern Language at [www.verticallivingministries.com/tag/70-resolutions-of-jonathan-edwards-in-modern-language/](http://www.verticallivingministries.com/tag/70-resolutions-of-jonathan-edwards-in-modern-language/))

This January, instead of making New Year's Resolutions designed for cheating and/or failure, why not try something different by adding a few resolutions that will be "most to God's glory."

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Howell*

### Church Staff

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# MEN'S BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00AM-10:00AM

GOLDEN CORRAL

For more information contact Rod Montgomery

(sitnchip@gmail.com)



**The observance of the  
Lord's Supper and  
Benevolent Offering  
will be Sunday, January 6  
at both the  
8:15AM and 10:45AM Services**



## Family Night

**Wednesday  
January 30, 2019**

### Quarterly Family Night Schedule

- 5:00PM Fellowship Dinner
- 6:05PM Children & Youth in the Youth Room completing a mission project
- 6:05PM Adults in Chapel for Quarterly Business Meeting



## Preparing for Worship

What do you do to prepare for worship? I mean, have you ever even *thought* about preparing for worship?

I really am not talking about getting up, getting the kids dressed, putting on your best clothes, and eating a good breakfast. I am not talking about warming up your voice so you can sing well. I am not talking about grabbing your Bible from the backseat of the car or making plans for lunch after church. I mean, what do you really do to prepare for worship?

Well, maybe we should first talk about our goal here. We want to worship, right? But what is worship?

Worship as described in the Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, is the reverence and adoration of God.

Is this what we *really* want to do on Sunday morning? Do we want to give God the reverence and adoration He deserves? I am not so sure. I think we often prefer to be entertained by the singers, the choir, the sermon, and, yes, even the prayers. Have you ever heard someone say, "That was a good prayer," as if the person was praying a prayer for you to admire instead of praying to God? Do you remember this passage of scripture from Matthew 6:5-6?

5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done in secret* will reward you.

This passage addresses the way we pray. It does not say that every prayer is to be prayed in a closet but that every prayer is to God, not those who are listening. In corporate prayer we are praying as a people. This cannot be done solo but must be done in concert with others. The prayer is to be a petition or a thanksgiving to God. Through our prayers He is revered. He is adored.

Wait a second, that sounded a lot like our definition of worship. Worship is the reverence and adoration of God. So, one of the steps in preparing for worship is

prayer. We revere God and we adore God in our prayers. We do not simply come to Him with a laundry list of concerns, wants, and desires. We come to Him in worship.

But what is one of the first steps in praying to God? We must make sure we come to Him with a clean heart. Listen to the words of Matthew 6:12.

12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

We must ask for forgiveness of all our sins before we can worship. We must come to Him with a clean and repentant heart. We must leave our sins behind, not at the door of the church, but in our selves that died when we became new creations in Christ. We must not allow this sin to enter the home of the Holy Spirit. We must not allow it to enter our hearts. We must not only ask forgiveness, but we must repent and turn away from sin. Maybe, run away from sin, is a better way to say it.

I know, this worship stuff is beginning to sound a lot like work.

God desires true worship, and this cannot be done by those who harbor sin in their lives. We cannot just pray on Sunday to be able to worship. We must pray throughout the week. Preparation is hard work and by its very nature requires us to desire to draw near to God. Our very first step is to seek forgiveness so we will be able to enjoy a close, intimate, loving relationship with God the Father through God the Son and we must depend on God the Spirit to help us through each day without failing in our battle with sin.

Hear the words spoken by God to Cain in Genesis 4:7

7 "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

I trust you will prevail in your battle with sin in this New Year. I trust you will lean on the mighty arm of God to win each fight. I trust you will come to church on Sunday morning ready to worship after a week of prayer. I hope you will join me next month as we talk about another step in worship prepa-

Pastor Chuck

## RISE-UP CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



From our nursery, where caregivers love on the smallest of babies in the name of Jesus, to our 5th graders who are on the verge of their teen years, Rise-Up Children's ministry is passionate about discipling your kids. Whether it is in Sunday School, Children's Worship Classes, or AWANA, it is our desire to partner with you in the spiritual maturing of your child.

### Praying for Your Child at School

#### 1. Pray against physical harm.

*"Always pray and never give up."* ([Luke 18:1](#))

Make a daily habit out of praying for their physical protection from cuts, bruises, fist-fights, bike crashes, abduction, abuse, and addiction. The reality of child trafficking should make every parent overly-cautious. The fact that cough meds have to be purchased with an ID is a red flag to parents to be aware. The rampant problem with bullying in this country proves abuse is just as prevalent outside the home.

#### 2. Pray that school fulfills its purpose - giving your child an education.

*"Learn them."* (Duet. 5:1)

The most powerful way to pray is by quoting God's Word, and I believe it's important to memorize Scripture for that purpose and beyond. In a transcendent way, this verse also illuminates the importance God places on learning. He created a world to discover and knowledge to be attained. Classrooms can be packed and distracting, making it hard for students to focus and teachers to teach. Mandated testing doesn't always align with a child's actual capacity of knowledge.

#### 3. Pray for your child's influences.

*"He is always listening."* ([Psalm 34:15b](#))

God ears pick up every conversation our kids have. Pray to Him in recognition of what He already knows. When learning is swallowed up by the social scene, academics aren't the only thing at risk. Our children's friends' will eventually have more influence than we do.

~Meg Elizabeth at sunny&80.org

As your kids are going back to school after the Christmas break, make it a habit to pray for their safety! Focused prayer allows us to cope with the broad band of threats to our children's safety without smothering their ability to be a productive part of society.

God's got this,

~Robin



### MOPS MEETING

(MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS)

January 14 @ 9:30AM  
January 28 @ 9:30AM  
Meet in Fellowship Hall

### Camp Red Arrow

June 17-21

Save the Date

VBS  
SAVE THE DATE  
2019

ROAR!

July 22-26

Awana

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
@ 6:05PM

Sunday Morning  
Bible Study

Birth - 5th grade  
9:30AM

Life is Wild 🐾 God is good



# Youth Calendar/Event Update...

**Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) 18-20 JAN: At London Bridge Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. This year's theme is LAUNCH... Featured Speaker is Fish Robinson, Worship Lead is BonRay, and Special Guest is Far From Ordinary. It's only a few weeks away....I cannot wait to be there.**

**Super Bowl Bash...FEB. 3<sup>RD</sup> ....Come out and represent your team, even if they are not playing. There will be food, games, prizes, and of course the big game. Wear your football jersey, bring snack foods to share, and invite your friends. This event is open to all those in Youth Group.**

**March through May will be service months...we will be canvassing the church to see who might need help around their homes during the Spring. This will be opportunities for Teens to earn money towards Summer Camp. More information to come in the weeks ahead, so stay tuned.**

**AND....because so many of you have asked about it....D-NOW will be back. We are planning now for D-NOW to take place April 12-14. We will need host families and leaders to participate in Discipleship NOW 2019. Please contact, Woody if you want to assist with planning.**

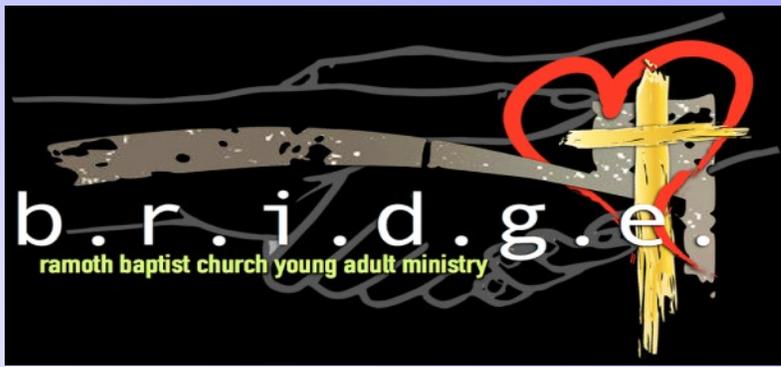
**Word of encouragement: Joshua 1: 7-9, "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."**

*Your Brother In Christ,*

*Sergio "Woody" Wooden*

*Interim, Student Ministry Director*





## *Young Adult Sunday School Class*

Join us as we bridge the gap between ourselves and others, youth and adulthood, a life once unchanged, but now transformed by Christ!

**B.R.I.D.G.E. Sunday  
Morning Bible Study  
at 9:30 AM in room 103**

Our teaching series continues with David and Goliath....who hasn't had to face their own personal giant in their lives. In this series by Louis Giglio, called Goliath Must Fall....we will see just how to engage things that seem bigger than life itself.

As always, if you have any questions about anything going on with the BRIDGE ministry or are interested in joining us or know someone that could use a young, welcoming, and exciting environment in which to grow.....send them our way. We will be glad to have them!

*Woody and Pachess Wooden*

*Seth and Katie Thompson*



RBC's Integritas Men's Ministry inspires and empowers men towards authentic discipleship, evangelism, and community service. We hope these strategic ministry opportunities will grow the men in our church and community as they share the love of Christ in tangible ways, leading to yet greater outreach opportunities to serve and lead others.

## **Join us in one of our Men's Small Group Bible Studies** **WEEKLY**

- ⇒ Men's Bible Study with Rod Montgomery will start on January 26 at 7:00AM meet first in Fellowship Hall. The topic will be "Revelation: What is Pre-Trib, Pre-Millennial, Amillennial, Post-Trib, or Pan-Millennial?"
- ⇒ Coming Soon, 33 the Series for Men. If you want to live the intentional life, God design you for...this series from Lifeway is for you. There will a sign-up sheet in the bulletin. Fathers bring your sons, Sons bring your fathers, Men bring your friends...The study will begin on Saturday, January 26th (8:30-10:30 am). God bless and be well....



## **MONTHLY**

- ⇒ Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Bible Fellowship Monday, January 7 at 7:00PM. Reading will be Matthew 15 and a light supper will be provided.
- ⇒ Men's Breakfast Saturday, January 12 at 8:00AM at Golden Corral in Fredericksburg

For more information about our Men's Ministry and how you can plug in, please contact Rod Montgomery, [sitnchip@gmail.com](mailto:sitnchip@gmail.com).



RBC's "Reaching" Women's Ministry encourages women of all ages to reverently reach UPWARD, INWARD and OUTWARD as they are disciplined to be radically committed followers of Jesus Christ. Focused on the church-wide mission to make disciples who are loving God, loving people, and changing our world, these ladies seek to provide opportunities for worship, Bible study, personal development, service, evangelism, and much more -

They would like to invite you to come and be a part of this exciting and growing ministry at Ramoth!

## Women's Ministry New Year Kick-off and Secret Sister Reveal

# Black & White Ball

Friday, January 11 at 7:00 PM

Women are encouraged to wear black and white casual clothing

Contact Carmen Hill for more information.

540-907-5363

See bulletin for full details



After the funeral, when the cards and flowers have stopped coming, most of the people around you return to their normal lives. But your grief continues and you feel alone.

Often friends and family want to help, but don't know how. That's the reason for **GriefShare**. This DVD driven grief support ministry is led by caring people who have experienced grief and have successfully rebuilt their lives. They understand how you feel because they have been in the same place. They will walk with you on the long path through grief toward healing and hope for the future.

**GriefShare**, a ministry of Church Initiative, is a network of 15,000+ churches worldwide equipped to offer grief support groups. **GriefShare** is a support group that meets weekly. You will find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief.

**GriefShare at Ramoth Baptist Church will meet weekly beginning  
Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm in Rm 104 (Youth Room).**

For more information on GriefShare contact Karen Larrabee ([karen.larrabee@yahoo.com](mailto:karen.larrabee@yahoo.com))

Or Max and Rhonda Waugh ([max.waugh@yahoo.com](mailto:max.waugh@yahoo.com) [Rhonda\\_waugh@yahoo.com](mailto:Rhonda_waugh@yahoo.com))



# Senior Adult Ministry

PrimeTimers is Ramoth Baptist Church's group for senior adults (50+). We believe that followers of Jesus NEVER retire and that the Senior Saints at RBC are invaluable to the process of making disciples who LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, and CHANGE OUR WORLD.

These people are integrated into every other ministry, but their monthly gatherings provide opportunities for fellowship and activity-planning. There will be special outings throughout the year for you to enjoy as well.



## "Precious Memories"

Our luncheon will on January 17 at 12:00PM.

PrimeTimers will provide soups, sandwiches, and salads.

Jan Schranz will be providing a Presentation of members that have gone home to their Heavenly Father in 2018.

Margaret Canter is our host for January!

*Margaret Canter*



## RTV ACTS 1:8 Mission Team

### How can you be "On Mission?"

**Winter Blessing Kits** — the homeless people collecting money along the street. Keep these kits in your car and pass them out to the homeless, those asking for money on the street or other ways the Lord leads you. Kits will be available for pickup in the Foyer while supplies last.

Look for more details in the bulletin coming soon as these mission opportunities get closer. Pray about how you can be "On Mission" this Christmas season.

We would like to thank all of you who donate to the RTV ACTS 1:8. Your donations help to spread the Word of God in our parking lot, in our schools, in our county, in our state and throughout the world. Every time that we are involved in a mission project the Word of God is given out in the form of a Bible, a tract or by word of mouth and you make that possible.

If missions is your thing, come join us.

We meet the *second Wednesday of each month at 7:45 in room 301 (across from the Pastor's office).*

**RTV Acts 1:8 Mission Team will meet January 9 @ 7:45PM**



## BUILDING UPDATE

*“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”* Psalm 127a

Just a quick update on Ramoth’s building campaign. Over the summer, Ramoth’s Trustees were authorized by the church to convey an easement to Stafford County as part of our site plan approval. That conveyance should be completed shortly. The Long-Range Planning Committee will then be in a position to work with the architect to finish the construction drawings that will be needed for the project. Once we get the 100% drawings from the architect, we will then be in a position to move forward. But, moving forward will require your help, including sacrificial giving above and beyond your tithe. Please prayerfully consider how God is directing you to participate in the next phase of our building campaign. Remember, *“it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”* Philippians 2:13



## More On Serving...

Greetings to you all, I know last month I said, I was wrapping up all this talk about service. However, it dawned on me that there were just a few more things that needed to be said. Like, it has been my pleasure to service as the Chairman of our great Deacon Body. It has been a blessing to serve alongside some great, godly men. It was an awesome thing to behold as the Deacons and their wives served at the Widow and Widowers Banquet back on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. It has been awe inspiring to see so many of you over the last several months, stepping into new areas of ministry and volunteering for things that you might have never done before. It does my heart and this body of believers good, to see God’s people taking a more active role in the kingdom’s work. The more that come to do, the more things get done...all the while, no one shoulders the burden of work alone. Is that not something?!?! With that in mind, here is the list of the men that will be serving as Deacons at Ramoth Baptist Church for 2019. Please be in prayer for these men, their families, and the work that is in store for them in this coming year.

- |                   |                |                       |                  |               |            |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|------------|
| Jason Breidenbach | Shelby Burnett | Brian Doerr           | Gary Graham, Sr. |               |            |
| Ken Hill          | Kerry Knowles  | Greg Kolandjian       | Bob Lingo        | John Loizzi   |            |
| Hunter Lutinski   | Danny Null     | Sam Raney             | Matt Sarkissian  | Seth Thompson | Jeff Tyson |
| John Wilhour      | Max Waugh      | Sergio “Woody” Wooden |                  |               |            |

My closing thought comes from 1 Corinthians 12: 27-31, “Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. 28 And God has placed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, managing, various kinds of languages. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in other languages? Do all interpret? 31 But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.”

God bless and be well...

Your Brother in Christ,

Sergio “Woody” Wooden

Chairman, Deacon Body

PRAYING GOD GIVES YOU A  
**year of favor**

FULL OF HIS UNENDING LOVE.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...  
 PSALM 90:17a

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



**Deacons  
 of the Week**

**January 6**

Ken Hill 540-207-7270  
 Sergio Wooden 207-632-8876

**January 20**

Hunter Lutinski 571-289-2496  
 Kerry Knowles 540-834-6631

**Point of Contact for RBC's  
 Deacon Ministry needs is  
 Deacon Chairman  
 Sergio Wooden  
 207-632-8876 .**

**January 13**

Matt Sarkissian 909-855-2881  
 Max Waugh 540-295-3306

**January 27**

Bob Lingo 540-842-0872  
 Brian Doerr 540-429-8379

**STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE REPORT (AS OF 12/16/2018)**

Undesignated Giving to date: - \$981,890.43  
 Expenses to date - \$778,445.81  
 Budget Requirement to date - \$1,020,401.00  
 Designated Giving to date - \$55,843.73  
 Lottie Moon Offering 2018 - \$9,534.75  
 Average Worship Attendance for December - 379



Use your smart phone or tablet to scan the QR to link to Ramoth's online giving

**Ramoth Cemetery Memorial Fund**

*NO MEMORIALS FOR NOVEMBER*

Balance November 1, 2018	\$142,797.83
Memorial Gifts	\$ 0.00
Paid out (mowing)	\$ 0.00
Paid out (gas)	\$ 0.00
 Balance November 30, 2018	 \$142,797.83



# january

## JANUARY 1

Thomas France  
Flavius Lungoccia

## JANUARY 2

Emily Setser  
Susan Taah

## JANUARY 3

Joe Rivenbark

## JANUARY 5

Jacob Foster

## JANUARY 7

Alex Chambers

## JANUARY 9

Carmen Hill

## JANUARY 10

Allison Ruiz

## JANUARY 11

Brenda Malpass

Betty Oakes

## JANUARY 12

Jim Garrison

Christina Nail

## JANUARY 13

Rachel Burnett

Linda Price

## JANUARY 15

Khristine Breeding

## JANUARY 17

Peggy Edenton

June Lucas

Pam Null

## JANUARY 19

Lydia Bloxton

Bradley Clore

Summer Munoz

Mike Shelton

## JANUARY 20

Laura Beth Gallagher

Esther Hildreth

Billy Payne

Gail Shelton

## JANUARY 22

Hailey Ellison

Helen Kearns

## JANUARY 23

Noah Sherman

## JANUARY 25

Virginia Armstrong

Joyce Breeden

Cindy Johnson

Maryann Skidmore

## JANUARY 26

Linda Blake

Barbara Larrabee

## JANUARY 28

Dwight Randall

Tammy Raney

Joy Shelton

Tammy Truax

Tiffany Truax

## JANUARY 30

James Buckles

Mason Schneider



**Greeters  
& Ushers**

## January

### 8:15AM USHERS

#### JANUARY 6

Charles Embrey  
Paul Germain

#### JANUARY 13

John Forshtay  
Lance Gentry

#### JANUARY 20

Sean Truax  
Pat Wade

#### JANUARY 27

John Murray  
David Tuckwiller

### 10:45AM USHERS

#### JANUARY 6

John Loizzi  
Dan Mehochko  
Jackson Mehochko  
Clint Nussberger  
Brad Setser

#### JANUARY 13

James Fraley  
David Gayle  
Chris Hudson  
Jerry Rochefort  
Chris Turman

#### JANUARY 20

Mark Blake  
Shawn Blake  
Kerry Knowles  
Steve Malpass  
JR Rigole

#### JANUARY 27

Tony Dingus  
Ken Hill  
Rich Mehochko  
Herb Schweiter  
Barry Denson  
Jeff Tyson

### 8:15AM GREETERS

#### JANUARY 6

Tonya Breidenbach  
Jasmine Sarkissian

#### JANUARY 13

Margaret Canter  
Danielle Forshtay  
Pachess Wooden  
Sergio Wooden

#### JANUARY 20

Nancy Anderson  
JoAnn Embrey  
Faith King

#### JANUARY 27

Paula Murray  
Mary Studebaker

### 10:45AM GREETERS

#### JANUARY 6

Pattie Foster  
Joann Jewell  
Wendi Loizzi

#### JANUARY 13

Jean Skidmore  
Steve Skidmore  
Ashley Turman  
Shannon Turman

#### JANUARY 20

Susan Shores

#### JANUARY 27

Sandy Sampson  
Emma Shifflett  
Patti Walls



## What's for DINNER

### Wednesday Night Meals

- January 2 - No Dinner, No Wed Night Activities
- January 9 - Pulled Pork BBQ, Slaw, Baked Beans, Garlic Bread, Dessert
- January 16 - to be announced
- January 23 - Chipotle style bowl, with all the fixings
- January 30 - Family Night  
Staff cooks

# Ramoth Baptist Church

478 Ramoth Church Road

Stafford, VA 22554



**service** *Times*

*Come & Worship with Us*

**FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICES  
ON SUNDAYS AT 8:15 AM & 10:45 AM**

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES  
AT 9:30 AM**

**WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES  
STARTING AT 5:00 PM**