



It's a privilege and honor to be your pastor!

Greetings,

WOW, what a year of challenges and blessings we've had in 2020. It has definitely been a year of transition in many ways. We have grown spiritually through those challenges and in the midst of them have, in my opinion at least, accomplished many tasks and received many blessings and have realized how important the church should be to us. You've been so supportive of our staff through your prayers, words of encouragement, ministering in areas that you never thought possible in past years, and especially through your continued giving. We've been able to continue to reach out to our community and beyond by your support and faithfulness. We're striving, as a staff, to minister to your needs but it's been difficult for us at times as we've not been able to be with you in times of illness and loss as we normally would have been. We haven't been able to visit in the nursing homes or the hospitals or even in the homes of many. We all truly miss that connection.

I read something this week that I want you to do at the beginning of 2021. At 11:59:55, on New Year's Eve, that's just 5 seconds before the New Year begins, I want you to stand up, raise your left leg in the air for at least 6 seconds so that you will be starting the New Year off on the right foot. If you can't stand up, just raise your left foot wherever you might be and make sure your right foot is on the floor. I don't guarantee that this will work but at least we will try.

We still have much to be done as a church and I pray that you will recommit yourself to the work of the Lord and to His church in this New Year. The church is the hope of the world especially when under persecution as we stand too boldly to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it. We are God's spokesmen! We are His chosen to deliver His message. I pray that you will be up to the challenge. I'm afraid that many churches and many believers have become complacent in their walk with the Lord and have settled into a comfort zone of non-service. This should be a time when we step up our efforts to be in service to our Lord who has given us so much. Will you join me in committing yourself to the work of our Lord and to His church in the New Year?

As previously stated in another article, there is still a need for Ramoath Baptist Church in this community. That's why the church was founded and that's why we exist today. We have no idea of what the New Year will bring but we know that our God is still in control and will bless us in many ways as we commit to serving Him. The transition will continue into 2021 and we trust our Lord to lead us in every decision we make.

It is my and Terry's joy and privilege and honor to serve you in this very challenging time and we continue to covet your prayers.

*Dr. Richard and
Terry*

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The Self-Help Book

He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

Here we go again. It is a brand-new year with the same old problems. COVID-19 did not suddenly go away. Credit card bills grew over the Christmas holiday. Schools and restaurants did not magically reopen. We have the same old actors in Washington. So, with all of the same problems, what are you going to do differently this year?

Michael Esmond, a Florida man, paid off utility bills for his neighbors for a second year in a row. In fact, he paid off \$7600 in past due utility bills. In the midst of the pandemic, He had a boon year with his spa and pool business, and is now paying it forward.

He has been called a good Samaritan. Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan told of a man who helped a stranger for no other reason than he needed help, but he wasn’t supposed to help others. He was the outcast. Maybe he knew what it felt like to be in need or neglected. Maybe that’s why he helped. Maybe he has been blessed with plenty and wanted to help those who didn’t have as much.

Esmond knows how it feels to be without. He tells a story of suffering in the winter

with no gas because he chose to put food on the table. It was 6 degrees outside, and icicles were in the house with him, his wife and three small daughters. It was miserable.

I imagine you know what it feels like to struggle. Maybe you are struggling. We all need help sometimes. Look at the shelf at the local bookstore and see how many self-help books are there. It is amazing. 1.6 million books were published in 2018.

There is a problem with this. We can help ourselves out of some situations, but there are many things that discipline, generosity, sacrifice, and a positive attitude simply will not help. COVID falls into that category. You can do everything according to the rules and still get sick. Wear a mask, stay home, don’t touch anyone in any way, stay six feet apart, wash your hands until there are no oils left in your fingers, and don’t touch your face, EVER!.....and still get sick.

You can read all the self-help books you can find, take all the financial classes, save every penny you make, and you can still find yourself poorer than a church mouse.

The bottom line is we sometimes need help. Maybe not from the government, that usually comes with a price, but from our family, friends and neighbors. And if you are not in need, you may be one of the family, friends and neighbors that are there to help.

Before the 60’s we lived in a “we society.” We thought about our neighbor and reached out to help. Now, we live in a “me society.” It is all about getting, not giving. We must leave the narcissism behind and think of others before we think of ourselves. That sounds a lot like the golden rule, doesn’t it?

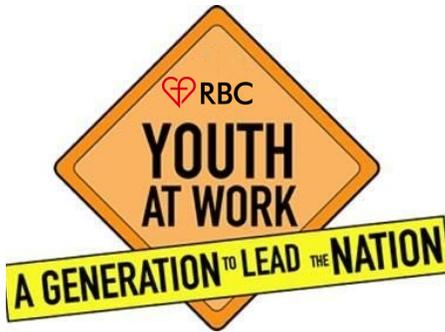
It is a new year. Get more exercise. Eat better. Live cleaner. Be more compassionate. Love more and on a greater scale. Go to church. Worship God. Read His word and pray to Him. Follow Jesus. Give of your treasures so others will have what you have in Christ. Spend more time with family. (We may have been doing this already with COVID restrictions.) Have less “screen time” and love your neighbor as yourself. And, that self-help book? Its called the Bible.



1.8 million self-help books were printed in 2018. Christians have been using the original self-help book for over 2 thousand years.

Leadership

We probably tell our kids that they can change the world, but do we mean “someday” or “today”? And are we actually giving them the tools they need to become the leaders we say they can become? Read more on the right to see a few things we can do to help every teenager learn to lead right now ■



Goals

We all have goals! Whether your goal is to raise your grades, learn a new skill, get TikTok famous, change the world, or all of the above, there are things you want to do, accomplish, and become. But let's be honest — it's not always easy to achieve our goals. Sometimes it difficult to even know which goals to set in the first place! That's why, in this 4-week series, we'll explore the story of a guy with a seemingly impossible goal and the steps he took to make his goal a reality. His name is Nehemiah, and because of his example we can learn a lot about goal-setting, decision-making, leadership, and trusting God. Through Nehemiah's story, we'll see that big difficulties can inspire God-sized goals, you are designed for God-sized goals, God gives us strength to pursue God-sized goals, and God-sized goals require God-sized gratitude. ■



Give them opportunities to lead (and fail!)

Teenagers and young adults have incredible energy to be leaders. However, this comes with also not having the discernment on how to best apply that energy. And this discernment often comes with experience. Sometimes when we try to simply guide teens in growth, we can step in and simply do the task for them. I think in my experience as a youth pastor, I take the reins from teens when I'm fearful of the results. But even when we think we're taking over for their own good, we are robbing them of valuable learning opportunities. Wherever we can, we need to let teens cut their leadership teeth and gain valuable experience.

Give them responsibility (real responsibility)

It is actually true, that at times teens may seem unmotivated because they recognize there are no real stakes in the game. In short, they're bored! Teens will often respond positively when given some actual responsibility. This happens because it shows we trust them with the weight. It also not only shows them we have faith in their abilities but also in them as a person. And this is the kind of validation teens need. I know, you're looking at your teen whose room may not have been clean since they were 8, and it gives you pause on how much responsibility they can handle. Start off with something that you can hold them accountable to with a clear reward at the end of it. Help them see the correlation of hard work and follow through leads to blessings (usually). And the key word is **accountable**. Do not let them quit. RBC student ministries often encourages our students that what makes the most successful people successful is not how naturally or quickly success came. It is usually how many times they could pick themselves off the mat after a hard knockdown that made them who they are.

Help them to develop well rounded leadership skills

This one is probably the hardest because it is mostly what we are all trying to do. But in keeping with the first two points, give them some ownership of their schedule. Let them develop things like time management and help them see how this is one of their greatest resources toward personal autonomy. But also let them know that leadership is not just about managing resources and getting the job done. Leadership is ultimately about influencing people. And the greatest way to influence people is to serve them, just like Christ showed at the Last Supper.

Celebrate their efforts

Raising teens is tough, and it will require you to hold some tough lines. This will lead to times of contention. It is all the more important for you to praise and celebrate when your teenager is getting the job done. It will not only help make those times of tension fewer and farther between, but it also validates your teen in vital ways.



Ramoth Baptist Church Children's Ministry

RISE-UP

Discipling Kids with a Heart

Looking forward to 2021...

I don't know about you, but 2020 definitely made me step out of my comfort zone, especially regarding Children's ministry. Everything we were used to had to change. How do we keep kids 6 feet apart? How do we encourage sharing, a skill we all learn as a child, without actually sharing. One thing I realized is that kids crave interaction with other kids regardless of Covid restrictions. No matter how many times you tell them to keep their distance, they still give hugs and high fives.

I love that our church refuses to change so much that the church fails to be the church. In Hebrews 10:24-25, the Bible says "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." God made us **all** for interaction. Without it, I believe, we stumble and are more likely to get

complacent. And isn't that what the devil wants, for us to be complacent?? Kids are the same way, they need to be around other kids to learn how to play nicely, how to take turns, how to share, how to love others the way God tells us to love.

I pray that we, as believers, don't forget this amongst all the Covid restrictions. We do have to change and bend a little because of this pandemic, and that's ok. But even though we have to change, God doesn't! His word doesn't change. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8.

I look forward to the day (and I hope it comes) where masks are not needed, we aren't using hand sanitizer like its bath water, and I don't have to tell kids not to be kids.

Jaynie Hudson

Sunday School

We are hopeful to start Sunday School in February. This means that Sunday School will go back to being at 9:30 and Children's Church at 10:45. We are still in need of volunteers in this area. We have openings in all classes! If you would like to minister to these little ones and help grow God's kingdom, please come see me! How can you say no to this face???



Centrikid Camp... coming soon

We are hopeful that we can have Centrikid Camp this year. We will be taking 6 kids to camp. Please sign your child up early so their spot is reserved.

- **Where:** Centrikid at Skycroft Conference Center, Middletown, MD
- **When:** July 26-29, 2021
- **Cost:** \$319, with opportunities for discounts



January 6— Regular Club night
January 13— No club— RBC Bus. Mtg.

January 20— Regular club night
January 27— Favorite Jersey night

We had a wonderful Christmas store to end our 2020 year in Awana. Kids were able to buy Christmas gifts for their family members and the youth volunteers wrapped their gifts to take home. We look forward to 2021 as we start back in January.

REFUGEE

Ministry Center

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR CENTER
 MON - THURS
 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 by appointment only
 1126 Kellogg Mill Road
 Stafford, VA 22554

As we enter into 2021, we just want to remind everyone what the Refuge Ministry Center (RMC) is all about. It is a place of hope, healing, and help. This is what we have been trying to establish for the last two years. It is also what we have documented here in the Beacon each and every month for the last year. We are trying to achieve what God has desired RMC to be for all His people. We are striving to develop this ministry with a heart for people and a desire to see our church and local community inspired, whole, and thriving.

We desire to be a place that offers the kind of hope that is mentioned in **Romans 15:13**, *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* This kind of hope can lead people from the darkest of places and the deepest of depths. This kind of hope can

guide people away from paths that others have been lost on.

We desire to be a place where healing of all sorts can take place: spiritual, emotional, personal, and relational to name a few. We want people to encounter the Great Physician that is mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (**Matthew 9:12**, **Mark 2:17**, and **Luke 5:31**). In each of these, there is the assertion that there is a sickness that only Jesus Christ can cure. We desire to lead people to the connection that provides the healing, that only God can provide.

We desire to be a place that has the help that people seek. We want people to know that our hearts are set to the words of **Galatians 6:2** where we *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* We want people to know that there are beings that are set to the thoughts of **Romans 12:13** where we are

directed to *“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”* We also want people to know that God has sent us workers to extend a helping hand with love, grace, mercy, and compassion as if we were doing so the help Jesus, Himself (**Matthew 25:34-36, 40**).

We say all this, to remind you all that while the time of 2020 may have been different, difficult, and downright unbearable...as we enter into 2021 things will be better. We say so with the assurance that God is still in control and that He has a plan for us all. If you need help, we are here. If you know someone that needs help, we are here...and if you want to help, just let us know. God bless and be well...■

Your Brother In Christ,
 Sergio “Woody” Wooden



One can easily be overwhelmed by the day-to-day needs of stresses of caregiving, often times neglecting one’s own emotional, physical, and spiritual health. This support group will offer respite and encouragement as we navigate difficult times and foster hope for daily challenges.

This support group will be divided into two groups -
CARGIVERS of the ELDERLY
CARGIVERS of SPECIAL NEEDS



GriefShare is an ongoing grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the loss of a loved one. The group meets every Monday at 6:30PM in the Ramoth Chapel.

For more information contact:

Sergio “Woody” Wooden
 counseling@rbcstafford.org

Karen Larrabee
 karen.larrabee@yahoo.com



WOMEN OVERCOMING DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP

Right now we are staying in contact through email posts until the quarantine is lifted, and we can meet again. Watch emails from the church. If Ramoth does not have your email, please send an update to the church office.

Other Ministries



7:00 AM SATURDAY - Fellowship Hall - Rod Montgomery

Integritas Men's Bible Study & Prayer – Weekly synopsis on one of the 66 books of the Bible. Come gain a quick overview for how Christ is in every book of the Bible and how that book fits in the Bible.

December 2020 – We examined Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther.

Ezra showed us a return to Scripture – the essence of Christ.

Nehemiah taught us persistence in striving for completion – we are complete in Christ.

Esther confirmed.... Have you ever wondered if God is really involved in the circumstances of your life? The book of Esther describes how the Jews of Persia during the reign of Persian king Xerxes are saved from certain destruction through divine providence. Do personal or political crises make you question God's role in human events? The book of

Esther, like much of the Bible, tells the story of God's involvement with his people. Unlike the rest of the Bible, however, this book shows God's work indirectly. In fact, God's name is not mentioned once, nor is there any explicit reference to God, though his influence permeates the narrative. The book demonstrates how God worked in the lives of his people, and it will encourage you to trust him to work in your life today.

January 2021 – The study will be in Job and in the following weeks with Psalms.

Iron Sharpens Iron - Monday, January 04 at 7 PM. Kerry Knowles. This group meets in Fellowship Hall for social distancing requirements. Monthly reading will be Matt 26.

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



All Women's Ministry Bible Studies and Events have been suspended until further notice.

For more information about our Women's Ministry and how you can plug in, please contact church office admin@rbcestafford.org



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 9:30AM in room 103

We are still not meeting for Sunday Morning Bible Study, but we are meeting at 8:45AM and 10:45AM for Worship Service.

Wednesday Discipleship Class (room 307) is meeting Wednesday at 6:00PM



PRIMETIMER
(Sr. Adult Ministry)
50 years and older

As we have focused on the months gone by since this pandemic, we must still be very careful and use caution when resuming our wonderful PrimeTimers meals and meetings together. As we pray for this awful COVID virus to end, we also need to pray for our country and our leaders.

Psalm 46:1-3

Heavenly Father we pray for this virus to leave and we pray for you to strengthen our hearts, remind us to encourage one another. Guard our hearts against depression. Give us the strength to rise up each and every day and fight against the struggles which seek to weigh us down, and again we pray for our great country and for all our leasers. In Jesus Name we pray.

Margaret Carter

***Stewardship & Attendance
(report as of 12/20/2020)***

Undesignated Giving to date:

\$906,495.61

Expenses to date:

\$820,786.53

Designated Giving to date:

\$69,460.29

Average Worship Attendance for DECEMBER

260

Give in person,

by mail, or

online at

www.rbcstafford.org

***RAMOTH CEMETERY
MEMORIAL FUND***

Balance November 1, 2020	\$141,734.00
Memorial Gifts	\$ 0.00
Paid Out Mowing & Fuel	\$ 0.00
Balance November 30, 2020	\$141,734.00

No activity for the Month of November





Missions Matters



And you shall be MY witnesses Acts 1:8
EVERY CHURCH EVERY TRIBE EVERY NATION

HUGHES HOME MINISTRY

Thank you everyone who helped with the Hughes Home Christmas Gifts. They were a hit with the residents and not one name was left on the board!

January Birthdays

1/4/1944
Carl Gant

1/25/1935
Naomi Kelly

Send your birthday cards to the following address

1/13/1933
Sidney Carneal

1/25/1928
Sue McMillian

NAME OF PERSON

1/20/1931
Anne Wilson

1/31/1924
Anne Arthur

c/o HUGHES HOME

100 Caroline Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

The Hughes Home Ministry is always accepting DEPENDS, all sizes.

Ramoth continues to support through prayer and our giving to the following church plants.

Pastor Tony & Souzan Ghreeb
Arabic New Life Baptist Church

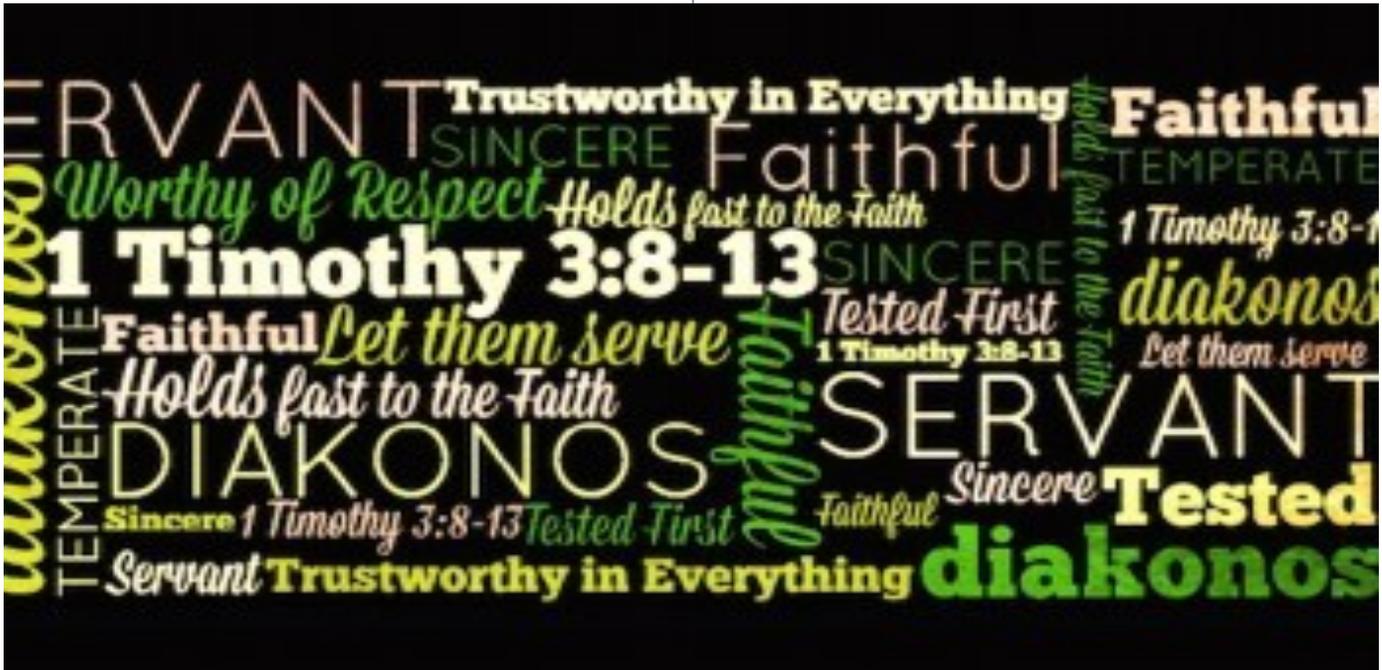
Pastor Daniel Tesfasselase
Emmanuel Eritrean Baptist Church
BonAir Baptist Church, Arlington

Pastor Billy & Amanda Gwinn
Northwood Fellowship Church
Saltville, Virginia

MISSIONS

"...that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

Romans 9:17



**NEXT DEACONS' MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25 at 7:00 PM**

Deacons of the Week for January
Will be listed in the bulletin after the election of the new
Deacons for 2021

JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

1ST

Tom France
Flavius Lungoccia

2nd

Emily Setser
Susan Taah

3rd

Kias Bolling

5th

Jacob Foster

8th

Nevaeh Walding

9th

Carmen Hill

10th

Allison Ruiz

11th

Amelia Baldwin
Brenda Malpass

Betty Oakes

12th

Jim Garrison
Skye Jackson

13th

Linda Price

14th

Aiden Dunford

17th

Pam Null

19th

Lydia Bloxton

Summer Munoz

20th

Laura Gallagher

Billy Payne

Gail Shelton

22nd

Hailey Ellison

Helen Kearns

24th

Devon Armstrong

25th

Virginia Armstrong

Joyce Breeden

Cynthia Johnson

Mary Ann Skidmore

26th

Linda Blake

Barbara Larrabee

28th

Joy Shelton

Tammy Truax

Tiffany Truax

30th

Jessie Aliff

James Buckles

Mason Schneider

*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will worry about its own things.
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

Matthew 6:34



By Statement of Faith

The Sylvia Family
Adam, Dorana
Doniel, Nothon, Potrick

CHURCH
BUSINESS
MEETING

Ramoth's Quarterly
Business Meeting
will be held on
Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30PM
We will meet in the
Worship Center.
The agenda will include
Presentation and vote on
2021 Church Budget
2021 Nomination Committee
recommendations for church
officers and ministry volunteers.

MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

We will continue the study
of the books of the Bible,
Saturday, January 9
7 AM
in the Fellowship Hall

Will return on Monday,
January 4 at 6:30 PM in
Ramoth's Chapel

GRIEF  SHARE

GOD DOESN'T
give us
WHAT WE
can handle.
GOD
HELPS
US
handle
WHAT WE ARE
given.



RAMOTH BAPTIST CHURCH

478 Ramoth Church Road
Stafford, Virginia 22554
(540) 659-4588
www.rbcstafford.org



SERVICE TIMES

FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICES ON SUNDAYS

at 8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School (birth-5th grade) at 10:45 AM

Youth Activities Sunday Evening at 6:00PM

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

6:00 PM (AWANA CLUBS)

6:00 PM (YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY)

6:30PM (ADULTS BIBLE STUDY)

6:30 PM (EXALTED WORSHIP CHOIR REHEARSAL)

7:30 PM (EXALTED WORSHIP PRAISE TEAM/BAND REHEARSAL)