

February  
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# THE MESSENGER



**RAMSEY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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## Dear Ramsey Memorial UMC Saints,

One of the scriptures that we looked at during our Philippians sermon series in January was found in chapter 1 verses 9-11. In that text, the apostle Paul prays for the church at Philippi to grow in knowledge and understanding.

*“I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ<sup>®</sup>—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.”*

Certainly, as we talked about in that sermon, we want to grow in our knowledge and understanding of God and of God’s word - the Bible. In addition to us growing in our understanding and knowledge of God, I also pray that we find ways in our Ramsey church family to help each other understand and know what is going on in our church life. The last two years of adjusting to and making accommodation for a pandemic has changed our ability to communicate in some of the same ways we have for years. We do not have the same face to face contact with one another as we did before March 2020. We do not have the same fellowship opportunities to hang around one another and just chat. But at the same time, we have gained many more technology avenues to share with one another.

As we continue to live into this new year of 2022, one of my prayers is that we will find ways to let each of you know and understand what you yearn to know and understand about your Ramsey church family, her leadership and her decisions and choices. Throughout this newsletter there are offers that if you want more information, to take the following steps of acquiring more knowledge and understanding. If you have questions, please ask. If you have input, please offer it. If you don’t understand something, ask someone to explain it. That explanation may come in a shape and a form that we didn’t use until the last two years. But thanks be to God, it still works to ask a question, receive an answer or at least receive a, “I don’t know but I’ll try to find out!” I look forward to growing in knowledge and understanding along with you in 2022.

With transforming hope,

*Claudia*



To the ladies at Ramsey,

Thanks for all the things you sent me. I will eat the candy and cake. Will enjoy looking at the other things.

From Shirley Wiegand

I’m enjoying the beautiful poinsettia that Pat Beville delivered to me from Ramsey Church and will continue to enjoy it through the holidays. Thank you for remembering me. Best wishes for happiness and good health in the coming year.

From Laura Coleman



“We wanted to say a huge thank you for our Christmas presents. You are so kind and thoughtful and wonderful. We love the cute Christmas decoration that is brightening our home as we are limiting our Christmas decorations this year due to our pending move and our decorations are hard to get to right now. Thanks also for the delicious bread which was truly enjoyed. You are such sweet women to make the time to do this and make our Christmas extra special. We love you so very much.

From Matt, Erin, and Polly

I wish to thank the church members for the beautiful poinsettia given to me. It was so thoughtful of you to remember me. I miss all my church friends and hope to be back soon. Hope everyone is doing well and had a nice Christmas.

From Peggy Brightwell

### Just a thought:

"...He will guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Psalm 23.3

Thought: I believe it! And you? I believe that God guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake! I believe in the shepherd of Psalm 23! And you?

Reading Psalm 23—whether at the beginning of the year, at the end of the year, at a funeral or in some bitter moment—is for me like discovering, over and over again, the best medicine for the soul. Or as the very well known Mary Poppins would say, it is like “a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down.” The shepherd of Psalm 23 reminds me that, for his name's sake, he promises to lead us down paths of righteousness, through green pastures, and through still waters. I think so! And you?

Ramsey, people of God, let us remember:

God guides us! God walks with us.

In times of uncertainty, God guides us!

In the midst of changes, God guides us!

At all times and in all seasons and settings, guess what?

Well said, God guides us!

He walks with us and with Him we find green pastures and still waters. Fear no evil, God is with us. His rod and His staff give us life.

What do you think, will you join me in this prayer? To you, shepherd of our souls and eternal God, I want to ask that by your grace and great mercy you help us to walk in Your ways, help us to walk according to Your will. I recognize Your promises on my life, and the life of your people, I know that all of them will be fulfilled, because Your word is faithful and does not return to You empty. We thank You for rescuing us and through Jesus showing us Your love. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Remember: A spoonful of sugar (God's word) helps bitter taste better.

Your companion on the way,

Pastora Norma Aguilar



### Just Ask:

Each month the Administrative Council meets to oversee the ministries of our church; it is our decision-making group. If you would like to receive the minutes of our meetings to follow along with the decisions we are making and the direction we are taking, let us know.

Contact Melissa at [admin@ramseymemorial.org](mailto:admin@ramseymemorial.org) or 804-276-4628 to be added to the list to receive an emailed copy of the meeting minutes or to receive a copy by USPS mail.

Dear Ramsey Family.

Many of us are using the New Year for a refreshed start in our homes. It is also a great time to refresh our church home. Last fall, I wrote of the long-range plan to begin culling through the areas of the church and collectively deciding what we are still using and what is not being used now.

This will probably be a year long project but if we do not start now, we will not meet our goal of a cleaner and more usable church facility.

*If you have something you want kept and not disposed of, please label it. If you have something that personally belongs to you and you want to have it back, please take it home with you.*

Areas that need attention have been identified. I would like to ask for you to search the list and find a place or two that you would like to help. Please let me know an area where you wish to help. This list is not a complete list of all the spaces in the church. You may know of more places that need attention. Please feel free to add areas to the list. – Woodfin building, barn, lawn mower shed, etc. If we don't start somewhere, we will never start!

Areas that need attention:

1. Communion cabinet in the Fellowship kitchen
2. Worship room near the Parlor
3. Hallway between Education wing and the sanctuary
4. Bulletin boards through-out the building
5. Room 100
6. Computer room
7. Storage room next to the kitchen in the CLC

If one or more of these places sound like a project that interests you, please let me know. If you want to invite another person to work with you- wonderful!

As my 4-year-old grandson says, "Team work makes the dream work!"

Joan McGowan (804-513-8540)

[Joanmcgowan56@gmail.com](mailto:Joanmcgowan56@gmail.com)

## PASTORA NORMA'S REPORT

### Administrative Council meeting

01-05-2022

Happy new year everyone! On every first day of the year, I intentionally search for at least for two words that will reaffirm my calling to ministry and service to others. For this year two lines called my attention, which came from the book of Hebrews 10:22-25, "encouraging love and helping out". The verse reads as follow, *"So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching. (Message)*

My prayer for this new year is for the Lord to make all things new in my life, my family, Ramsey, and our community. I would also like to share three of my goals for this year:

- Encourage the congregation to read through the bible in one year and keep encouraging one another all the time.
- With Oswaldo's help, we want to encourage our young musicians to actively participate by leading us in worship - not only for the 12:30 pm service but for 10:00 am worship service as well.
- I also will work harder to become a bridge where our English and Spanish members can meet and together work as One, as one Ramsey, as the body of Christ.

I can't wait to be amazed again and again by our gracious and loving God.

**Norma Aguilar**, Associate pastor.

## A FRESH START IN 2022:

In early January, during our first 2022 Administrative Council meeting (our Ramsey governing team) I shared the following:

### Pastor Claudia's Goals for Ramsey during 2022:

**Simplified accountable structure.** As you will see in other articles in this newsletter, we are offering Virtual Town Hall opportunities during February to learn more about this potential change to Ramsey's leadership structure so we can make an informed decision about its implementation.

**A Culture of welcome.** We want to take Ramsey's wonderful friendliness to a deeper level to be sure that our guests are given opportunities to be integrated into our community life, our missions and our ministries happening throughout Ramsey Church.

**Speaking the truth in love.** Learning to share honest feedback and input with one another in loving, kind and direct ways so that we can grow and learn together. Over the next few months, please ask me what progress we are making on these goals. Thanks!

*Pastor Claudia*



## A Need for the Word

Mercy Mall is in need of Bibles and devotional materials.

If you have any Bibles or devotionals you would be able to donate to this mission, please bring them to the church office.

## SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTABLE STRUCTURE (SAS) INFORMATION

If you would like a copy of the notes from our November 2021 In-Person SAS Town Hall or would like to receive the SAS FAQ and One Page Summary, please email Melissa at [admin@ramseymemorial.org](mailto:admin@ramseymemorial.org) or call the church office at 804-276-4628.

If you want further information about SAS, please contact the SAS Core Team members:

Will Flynn – 804-402-0778 / [wflynn@franklinstreet.com](mailto:wflynn@franklinstreet.com)

Kathy Holmes – 804-687-2307 / [kbholmes0806@gmail.com](mailto:kbholmes0806@gmail.com)

Tammy Howe – 804-307-5056 / [2razoo@gmail.com](mailto:2razoo@gmail.com)

Pastora Norma Aguilar – 804-245-6662 / [NormaAguilar@vaumc.org](mailto:NormaAguilar@vaumc.org)

Pastor Claudia Stallings – 804-387-2448 / [ClaudiaStallings@vaumc.org](mailto:ClaudiaStallings@vaumc.org)



## WELCOME MELISSA

On January 4th 2022, Melissa Robinson became Ramsey's Administrative Assistant.

If she can help you in any way, contact her at [admin@ramseymemorial.org](mailto:admin@ramseymemorial.org) or by calling the church office at 804-276-4628.

Stop by and welcome Melissa to Ramsey whenever you can!

### 5 fun facts about Melissa:

1. She has been playing the piano since she was three years old.
2. She loves to read - especially Fantasy and Science Fiction.
3. She broke a finger twenty years ago that has never set correctly.
4. She loves very spicy foods.
5. She has four children and fifteen nieces and nephews.





## February Anniversaries

Donald & Brenda Cameron February 14

## February Birthdays

Miriam Bonilla	2/1
Hunter Flynn	2/1
Bonnie Byrnes	2/2
James Darrell Jump	2/2
Sherry Price	2/3
Berk Wiley	2/4
Michael Alvarado	2/5
Jeffrey Mauricio Munoz	2/5
Tammy D. Howe	2/7
Dorothy Davis	2/9
Marsha Graham Hallinan	2/9
Eliana Aguilar	2/16
Matt Amason	2/17
Nicole Aguilar	2/18
Claudia Stallings	2/18
Tammy N. Heller	2/22
Jason Aguilar	2/25
Benjamin Robert Hoover	2/25
Stephanie Ching	2/27

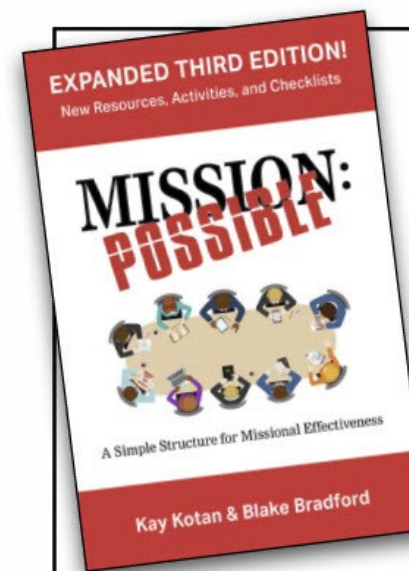


## What is Simplified Accountable Leadership Structure?

Ramsey is considering a new governance structure for our church. What does this mean? Please join us online to ask Questions and get Answers. Sign up by calling the church office at 804-276-4628, or email [Admin@ramseymemorial.org](mailto:Admin@ramseymemorial.org). Council Chair, Will Flynn, Pastor Claudia Stallings and Pastor Norma Aguilar will lead the discussion.

Please choose a date that works for you:

- ☐ **Monday, February 7 at 7PM—online ZOOM meeting**
- ☐ **Tuesday, February 15 at 7PM—online ZOOM meeting**
- ☐ **Wednesday, February 23 at 7PM—online ZOOM meeting**



## What is Simplified Accountable Leadership Structure?

Ramsey is considering a new governance structure for our church. What does this mean? We encourage you to read the book *Mission Possible* by Kay Kotan and Blake Bradford. The authors remind us that meetings are not ministry. The idea of the simplified structure is to focus on ministry while making meetings fewer in number but larger in meaning. In this third edition aimed at United Methodists leaders, the authors provide practical, field-tested steps to simplify your church structure, practice accountable leadership, and unleash more people into ministry. Available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for \$24.99.

# February 2022

February 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	1	2	3	4	5
13	14	8	9	10	11	12
20	21	15	16	17	18	19
27	28	22	23	24	25	26

March 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	1	2	3	4	5
13	14	8	9	10	11	12
20	21	15	16	17	18	19
27	28	22	23	24	25	26

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 30	31	Feb 1	2 7:00pm Administrative Council (Room 105)	3 5:30pm Estudio Bíblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	4	5
6 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de	7 7:00pm SAS Town Hall ( <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584784812?pwd=eUc0SDB0TmVUYkgrYW1XOTZEVTV">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584784812?pwd=eUc0SDB0TmVUYkgrYW1XOTZEVTV</a> )	8	9 2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 105) 7:00pm Trustees (Rm 105)	10 5:30pm Estudio Bíblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	11	12
13 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de	14	15 7:00pm SAS Town Hall ( <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584784812?pwd=eUc0SDB0TmVUYkgrYW1XOTZEVTV">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584784812?pwd=eUc0SDB0TmVUYkgrYW1XOTZEVTV</a> )	16 6:00pm Finance (Library)	17 5:30pm Estudio Bíblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	18	19
20 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de	21	22	23 6:00pm SPPRC (Library) 7:00pm SAS Town Hall ( <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584784812?pwd=eUc0SDB0TmVUYkgrYW1XOTZEVTV">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584784812?pwd=eUc0SDB0TmVUYkgrYW1XOTZEVTV</a> )	24 5:30pm Estudio Bíblico (Room 105) 7:00pm Bible Study (Library)	25	26
27 10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de	28 7:00pm Security Safety Team (Room 105)	Mar 1	2	3	4	5