

# THE MESSENGER

July/August 2023



## LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Ramsey Saints,

I do not know what heaven will be like, except, I am positive it will be beyond anything any of us could ask for or imagine. I also know that most often when we speak of heaven, it involves relationship — ours with God and with our loved ones already there. Even when the Holy Scriptures speak of heaven, it involves the relationship of God and Jesus. In Acts 2:33, it speaks of Jesus being seated at the right hand of the Father. In our vernacular we will often speak of someone being "our right-hand man or woman". In Biblical times to have someone seated at your right was a position of honor and status affirming that Jesus was equal in status with God. It is no wonder that relationships are a large part of what we think of when we think of heaven.

Ramsey church, what are we doing here on earth to be ready to participate in heaven? In Revelation 7:9, the writer John describes heaven in this way: "I saw a large crowd too great to count, from every nation, and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb." Are we spending time getting ready to meet people from other nations, races and languages? Are we spending time getting ready to meet people who may look a lot like us and talk a lot like us but who have had very different life experiences from us? Ramsey's Leadership Board (a group of 9 leaders who serve as Ramsey's Church Council under our new leadership structure) are learning methods and means to reach beyond our church walls to know and engage with the people in our community. The process is simple but takes TIME to carry out.

We can get their names, so that we can have a conversation, so that we can start a relationship, so that at some point we can share our 3 minute faith story and can invite them to come WITH US to Ramsey Church and let the Holy Spirit take it from there. All of that does not happen in the same week, or within a month. It is an investment of our time to engage with and involve ourselves in another person's world.

Are you excited to think about Ramsey preparing for heaven by practicing relationships with others here on earth? I am. We all have an opportunity July 24-27 to volunteer for Vacation Bible School — which we pray will welcome some families we have not met yet. We all have an opportunity to come during the week (day and night) to meet and engage with others who use Ramsey's facilities for dance classes, pickleball games, basketball practices and Bible Study. We all have the opportunity to practice for heaven while still here on earth.

Ramsey Church let's meet some new folks to add to the already wonderful Ramsey Heaven-Preparatory-Family-Group we have going! Let's start by getting their name. It's that simple. Questions about this? Just ask — we will do this together!

With transforming hope,  
Claudia

From a Pastoral Corner

When writing these few lines I asked myself, Lord, what do you want me to write? The latest news of the incident that occurred in Richmond this past June came to my mind. The names of a recent Huguenot High School graduate and his stepfather were added to the list of many who have been victims of gun violence. Also to my mind came the inevitable separation that has come to hit our much loved denomination.

And it is in moments like these, filled with many anxieties, uncertainties and sadness that the only thing that we have to do is keep bending our knees, crying out His name and continuing to humble ourselves before our God, and in the same way continue to open the scriptures in order to continue hearing the voice of God through his Word which gives us the peace we need, the only comfort that can shelter our hearts and the only true strength that can lift us up.

Here are three verses that fill my soul when reading and meditating on them:

Psalms 94:19 (NIV)

When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.

John 16:22 (RVA2015)

You too, by the way, are in anguish now but I will see you again. Your heart will rejoice greatly, and no one will take away your joy.

Matthew 11:28-29 (RVA2015)

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your soul.

In Christ and Christ alone,  
Your companion on the way

Pastor Norma



## NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPER

Ramsey's next Neighborhood Supper will be Saturday, July 29 at 5:00 pm in the CLC. Come join us!

---



## RAMSEY FOOD MINISTRY

We completed the second year of delivering bags from FeedMore to students at JL Francis. In order to continue this ministry, additional volunteers are needed to serve as drivers- going to the food bank and delivering to the school. This takes about 1 hour and does not involve heavy lifting. Please consider stepping up and joining the group to enable Ramsey to continue this outreach into our community.

---



## RAMSEY REFRESH

The month of June was spent with the flowers used around the church for coffee time, dinners, special events, and decorations. These arrangements are not the ones used on the altar. The flower arrangements were gathered, evaluated and redesigned by the team. The Mission Room received another round of organization as we found items that belonged in this room, belonged elsewhere, or nowhere. Many items were relocated to the Nativity or Bethlehem storage area. The room was also cleaned.

There are at least 5 Christmas Trees in the Nativity Storeroom (2nd floor of the Education Wing) and only 2 are labeled (new Chrismon tree and CLC Lobby).

Does anyone know if the remaining 3 trees have a current use?

There is a 5 foot tree in the Bethlehem storeroom (1st floor- Old Nursery) which is used in the marketplace for mittens and hats.

Specific projects for a refresh have not been identified for July or August. If you know of a need, please contact Joan McGowan at 804-513-8540



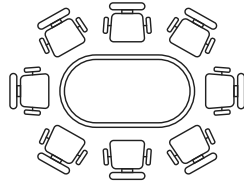
## NO SUMMER COFFEE TIME

There will be no Coffee Time in June, July, or August to give those who offer it each week a break for the summer. Coffee Time will resume on Sunday, September 3. If you would be interested in providing Coffee Time refreshments in the fall, contact Ann Hallinan at 804-271-4758.



## 55+ LUNCHEON

We would like to invite you to the 55+ luncheon on Friday, July 14 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please give your RSVP to the church office (804-276-4628) by July 12. Bring a friend!



## LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

All are invited to attend board meetings in person, or virtually online using ZOOM software.

The ZOOM link for each meeting is the same from month to month. If you have received the link in the past, you may use it for the upcoming meeting. Please call the church office for the link.

Leadership Board will meet on the following dates/times:

Tuesday, July 18, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, August 15, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, September 19, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, October 17, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, November 21, 6-7:30 PM  
Tuesday, December 19, 6-7:30 PM

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place in the CLC lobby.

If anyone wishes to receive a copy of the meeting notes, please contact the church office at 804-276-4628.

Please pray for your leaders that God will provide a vision, wisdom and patience as we work through this transition year.

---

*thank you*

I want to thank you Ramsey Family for your gracious help in giving donations of items and giving of money to purchase items for the Conference Kits --- Hygiene and Feminine Hygiene Kits. With your wonderful support we were able to do 69 Hygiene Kits and 50 Feminine Hygiene Kits. Give yourselves a pat on your backs. You stepped up to the cause like you always do. Thank you all so very much from the bottom of my heart. Just think how many persons will be helped.

Love you all, Sue Newman

*events*

**7/4**

Independence Day  
Office closed

**7/14**

55+ Luncheon

**7/24-7/27**

VBS

**7/29**

Neighborhood  
Supper



**GIVING QR  
CODE**

Scan the QR code  
above to be  
directed to our  
online giving  
resource!

## RAMSEY KIDS & IGNITE YOUTH

This upcoming month will be an exciting time for our children and youth ministry as well as for Ramsey Memorial UMC as a whole! It's that time of year again! Vacation Bible School is approaching fast! VBS will be a great opportunity to continue to feed our children spiritually with songs, fun, and games. VBS also allows the opportunity to welcome new children of our community and teach them about Christ in a fun-filled environment. We seek to make this year's VBS experience an unforgettable one! If you'd like to be a part of this wonderful experience, we welcome you to serve as a volunteer within the program! A QR code is provided in the bulletins that will direct you to the volunteer form! Parent, Grandparents and/or Guardians! **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!** Please don't forget to register your children for a thrilling adventures as we assemble a team of Heroes for Jesus to help our community and other heroes beginning July 24-27. We hope to see you there!

As for August, we hope to continue making recreation trips with our children and youth. In June, the youth and children made a trip to Kings Dominion, and we were happy to welcome a new youth member, Marcos. We encourage you to bring your children and youth so that they may also be a part of these fun-filled events! We have the entire summer to look forward to and look forward to establishing fellowship and deeper relationships within our children and youths ministry.



### UPDATE ON STEPHEN MINISTRY - TURNING OUR PRAYER LIST INTO A CARE LIST

The June newsletter recently updated the congregation on the progress of our new Stephen Ministries program. Sherry Price and Beverly Rugani have now completed their leadership training and are preparing to train those who are interested in becoming Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministers are volunteer lay congregation members (both men and women) who will be trained here at Ramsey to provide one-to-one **CONFIDENTIAL** care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation, among other scenarios. Stephen Ministers do not act as professional counselors, but simply as Christians willing to commit to meet individually for a time with those who are in need of spiritual support.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or simply want more information on this ministry, please contact Sherry Price or Beverly Rugani. We are happy to talk with you.

Sherry Price: [loveandlight2360@gmail.com](mailto:loveandlight2360@gmail.com) OR 804-920-8066

Beverly Rugani: [bhrugani@gmail.com](mailto:bhrugani@gmail.com) OR 804-338-0682

Visit the website: [stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org)





## CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Dear Ramsey Church Family,

Jesus took a few loaves and fish, and fed thousands by the Sea of Galilee. He also takes our gifts and talents, and multiplies them, so we can reach out to our community and fill God's Kingdom. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. —John 6: 11

With your financial support and God's blessing, we've been able to reach people through Sunday Worship, Nativity and Bethlehem, Neighborhood Suppers, J.L. Frances Elementary programs, plus make much needed repairs to our aging building. The Lenten offering for youth, parking and security exceeded expectations. Thank you.

From a financial perspective, you should know current donations are not meeting ministry demand. We are behind on paying apportionments \*by approximately \$14,000. We ask that you please continue your regular giving and increase the amount you give, if possible. We realize that some of you may be in difficult financial situations yourself, we understand. For those blessed with the resources to be more generous, we ask that you please consider giving more during this shortfall.

Thank you for your continued support of our church. I encourage you to pray for one another and support each other in all things.

Sincerely,

Will Flynn

Chair, Ramsey Leadership Board

\*United Methodist apportionments pay for programming at denomination-wide levels and to carry out the mission and ministry of the Virginia Annual Conference.





### **RAMSEY MEMBERS WITH ON-GOING HEALTH CONCERNS**

Virginia Abbott  
Matt Amason  
Betty Lou Brame  
Norma Britt  
Peggy Burch  
Mabel Campbell  
Melinda Campbell  
Mitzie Conner  
Ralph Conner  
Dot Davis  
Sherry Fox  
Cicero Gainer  
Elnora Holmes  
Amy Salley  
Janet Sheek  
Nell Simmons  
Darlene Thomas  
Helen Wallace  
Curtis Walsh

### **FRIENDS WITH ON-GOING HEALTH CONCERNS**

Alice Alford  
Mitch Early  
Jackie Gray  
Nancy Hulon  
Debbie Mullins  
Vance Richardson  
Sheri Ruggles  
Tim Ruggles  
Ellie Thomas  
Iris Ward

### **OTHER NEEDS**

Justin Chamberlain  
Brother of Tiffany Stone, prayers for life choices





## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Norman Kropp	July 1
Barbara Harrison	July 2
Torin David Kropp	July 2
Sandy Aderholt	July 7
Chris Cullop	July 7
Maria Sanchez	July 8
Pat Beville	July 10
Stacey Beville	July 12
Karen Henline	July 13
Tyler Flynn	July 16
Jamie Robinette	July 19
Lucy Monk	July 21
Elissa Aguilar Bonilla	July 22
Kerri Bissett	July 22
Emilia Robinson	July 22
William Flynn	July 23
Curtis Lane	July 25
Russell Cottrell	July 30

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Katie & Warren Smith	July 2
Craig & Beth Lane	July 19
Stephanie & Kevin Moran	July 26
Curtis & Megan Lane	July 30
Joyce & Curtis Walsh	July 31



# July 2023

July 2023							August 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 25	26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1
10:00am Worship Service 10:30am Escuela Bíblica 11:00am Ignite (CLC) 12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	3 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 8:00am Stephen Ministry Training 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible	4 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 2:00pm McGuire Park Circle 5:30pm Estudio Bíblico (Room) 6:00pm Amateur Sports	5 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 7:00pm YABS (together rm )	6 7:00am Care-a-Van 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00pm James River Home	7 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm James River Home School (clc)	8 7:30am Yard Sale & Food (CLC) 8:00am TOVA Recertification (Fellowship Hall)
9	10 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 8:00am Stephen Ministry Training 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible	11 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 5:30pm Estudio Bíblico (Room) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 9:00pm Dance Practice (CLC)	12 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm) 6:00pm Amateur Sports	13 7:00am Care-a-Van 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00pm James River Home	14 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 12:00pm 55+ (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm James River Home	15 8:00am TOVA New (Fellowship Hall)
16	17 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 8:00am Stephen Ministry Training 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible	18 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 5:30pm Estudio Bíblico (Room) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 9:00pm Dance Practice (CLC)	19 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)	20 7:00am Care-a-Van 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00pm James River Home	21 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm James River Home School (clc)	22 Graduation (CLC) 5:30pm CASA (Fellowship Hall)
23	24 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 8:00am Stephen Ministry Training 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible	25 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 5:30pm Estudio Bíblico (Room) 6:00pm Amateur Sports 9:00pm Dance Practice (CLC)	26 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)	27 7:00am Care-a-Van 11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:00pm James River Home	28 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 6:00pm James River Home School (clc)	29 9:00am Women's Conference (Fellowship Hall) 3:00pm Quinceanera - Julissa 3:30pm Neighborhood Supper
30	31 Group Counseling (Rm 203) 8:00am Stephen Ministry Training 9:00am Pickleball (CLC) 10:00am Neighborhood Bible	Aug 1	2	3	4	5





## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Christian Fox	August 3
Tom C. Spain	August 4
Thomas Wagstaff	August 5
Melanie M. Hewes	August 6
Debbie Smyth	August 7
Donald Cameron	August 10
Paul Austin	August 12
Jeff Howe	August 13
Scotty Doyle	August 14
Howard Fox	August 15
Samuel Aguilar	August 16
Leroy Garrett	August 19
Rita Pittman	August 19
Rachel Southard Mathes	August 19
Yvonne Arvin	August 20
Kelsey Atkinson	August 21
Dan Hallinan	August 21
Jason Garrett	August 22
David Pittman	August 22
Sherry Warman	August 22
Brian Ortiz	August 23
Matt Hoover	August 24
Jean Marie Swann	August 25
Peggy Burch	August 26
Samantha Sweat	August 28
Scott Fox	August 30
Amanda Moreau	August 30
Bert Smith	August 31

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Joan & Kevin McGowan	August 2
Amanda & Kaleb Moreau	August 3
Kenneth & Linda Baltz	August 4
Kathy & Dwain Holmes	August 6
Rick & Barbara Vance	August 18
Debbie & Leroy Garrett	August 26



# August 2023

August 2023							September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		8	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
6	7	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	14	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
20	21	29	30	31									
27	28												

Ramsey Church	1	6/28/2023 9:52 AM
---------------	---	-------------------