

Dear Story Tellers,

As the Pneumatrix group has met, one of the themes that has run throughout our conversations is that our church is an active, engaged, open, welcoming, loving, embracing family. We serve locally and globally, sharing what might be considered above our means. This is our story and one that we are pleased with or “proud as a peacock”. While we affirm this story, we don’t necessarily promote this story which we have also been pleased about. It seems that this might be one of our greatest growth areas.

How do we share who we are with others who are not prone to walking in church doors and who may even have suspicion about doing so? How do we welcome and work alongside with the broader community? How do we share an expanded vision of God in work, play, and rest? These are serious questions.

It may not be that more or different programs are necessarily the answer needed for Rockmart Presbyterian’s future. Rather, building on what we offer and learning how to share what already takes place inside and outside of the church seems to be the area where we are being led. Social media is one way to achieve the goal of sharing our story. Increased signage in the fellowship hall about what is going on in the church is another. Actually being present as a church family when there are other functions in our community is one that we believe should be pursued more now. Joining in a natural way with Homespun, the Halloween Trick-or-Treat, or Welshfest are golden opportunities for us.

And yet what continues to be true is that other people are drawn into the story of God as they witness the lives of Christians who follow Jesus’ ways. Focusing our energy on helping us to become more comfortable in sharing our stories with Jesus and how being part of the church has made a difference in our lives will be a concerted effort of the church as we move forward.

With that in mind at June’s Family Meal on the 9th, I would like to ask each of you to come prepared with a short answer to these questions. Where have you seen God’s presence in your life? How has Rockmart Presbyterian Church helped you in your life, drawing you closer to God or encouraging you along the way? We will share these with each other.

The children will be learning at VBS this year that Jesus is their friend. They will see how Jesus interacted with Martha and Mary, his first disciples, the woman at the well, and Zacchaeus. All of these are different people and we see Jesus showing up to them in a variety of ways. During VBS we talk about God sightings, attempting to help the children see God in the simplest aspects of daily life and to simply want to share what it is they see. As adults we lose sight of this. We get hung up with the word evangelism. We think we have to have a powerful “conversion” story. So, let’s encourage each other to slow down and to simply be; to see God in the beauty of a new day, in the hummingbird drawing nourishment, in the growing of the grass, in the taste of a fresh tomato. Ah, I find myself interested in wonder and delight as a first place to start. We are overwhelmed with heaviness and with fear. The biblical story tells us that just when we think we are at our lowest and that we are not seeing a way clear, that is when God moves. Return to wonder and delight so that we can see how God will move forward in our time and in our place.

Love and Delight,

Maryellen

Vacation Bible School Needs: We have two mission projects this year to offer. The first is asking each child to share one of their lightly used toys with another child. Helping Hands will help us distribute. We want to encourage thinking about others and sharing in simple ways. The second will be packing a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. We do this so we are familiar with what goes in them. You already give a great deal and are bringing in items for the Malawi Project. But if your budget will allow and you feel directed by God, we could use these items for the shoe boxes. Please sign your name on the bulletin board if you can provide one and note what you are contributing for our records. If you would like to purchase some items but do not have the funds, Maryellen has some available. Please speak with her.

15-18 Wow Items – dolls, balls, larger toys that will fit in box but not totally fill it. We may have to take out of packaging and we can do that.

15-18 personal care items – toothbrushes, combs, brush, barrettes, soap and washcloth

15-18 clothing and accessories – children sizes of shirts, shorts, pjs, socks, underwear

15-18 craft or other smaller toys