



Grace Notes

November, 2025

Official Newsletter of Raleigh Shared Ministries, Raleigh County WV

Including Beckley Community, Mabscott and Sophia United Methodist Churches

WARMING CENTER TO OPEN DECEMBER 1

VOLUNTEER MEETING AND TRAINING NOVEMBER 18

The winter of 2025 - 2026 marks the 5th year of Beckley Community United Methodist Church hosting the Beckley Warming Center. This year promises to be the most challenging year yet with the closure this summer of the Pine Haven shelter.

Several community agencies, including FMRS Mental Health Services, have reached out to offer help with staffing on the nights when the warming center is operating. We are excited to have the community agencies involved.

Last winter we served 1210 guests over 31 nights. We anticipate even more people utilizing the warming center this winter due to the lack of any other shelter in Raleigh County.



There will be a meeting for all volunteers on November 18 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Beckley Community UMC Fellowship Hall. There will be some changes this year in anticipation of increased usage, so all volunteers, both experienced and new, are encouraged to attend on the 18th.



PASTOR APPRECIATION DINNER OCTOBER 26



ABOVE: David Rumburg, Laura Fygetakes, Don Stilgenbauer, the honorees.
RIGHT: The gathering.

The churches of Raleigh Shared Ministries gathered at Beckley Community UMC on October 26 for a potluck dinner to honor Pastor Don Stilgenbauer, Pastor David Rumburg and Diaconal Minister Laura Fygetakes. The United Women in Faith sponsored a bake sale to raise funds for a special Christmas project.



ESSENTIAL OILS CLASS



Mabscott United Methodist Church is offering a class in Essential Oils the last Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. The class teaches the safe use and health benefits of essential oils.

The group met two nights in October with 10 people in attendance on the second night. The attendees were also taught how to make a pain or calming cream with the oil of their choice. The group prayed with anyone who wanted prayer.

The group plans to continue to meet the last Tuesday of each month.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR.....

Would someone at Raleigh Shared Ministries be willing to get one of our sponsored Kenyan students through her last semester at university?

St. Mary's UMC sponsored Brenda through high school, and Jan Anderson contributed significantly when she started at university. My dad and I have been paying for Brenda lately. However, I have had some expensive house repairs in the past two years, and I need to call another contractor.

Brenda will want about \$1,400 in December for her last semester. She has also just asked me to get her a newer cell phone to do her class assignments on. I told her no, but she says it is necessary and is not accepting no. She is seeing the desperateness of her situation and doesn't understand mine.

If anyone is willing to get Brenda through her last semester, I will be happy to supply her email address and her bank routing information. We can no longer send money through Riverton and the high school. My bank charges a flat \$75 fee for international money transfers. I have been told that going online through Remitty is cheaper.

I know this is a huge request, especially since it falls in December, but it seems a waste to stop at her last semester. I am just concerned about how much the next round of house repairs is going to end up costing me.

I am hoping that God and the contractor will both be merciful, but I dislike leaving Brenda hanging. Please let me know what to tell her.

Michelle Schultze
ishatelle@gmail.com
304-712-6993



WHAT: Rummage Sale & BBQ Lunch

**WHEN: November 7 & 8
9:00 to 3:00**

WHERE: Sophia UMC

From the Pastor's Pen.....

A Busy - and Blessed - October

October was a full and busy month for our church family! Between Charge Conference, District Day with the Bishop, and what seemed like meetings nearly every day, there was never a dull moment. Yet even in the busyness, it was a true joy to be in ministry with all of you.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for each of you. Your kindness — through cards, gifts, cake, and especially your encouraging words — has meant more to me than I can say. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness, your support, and for the many ways you make this ministry a blessing.

With gratitude and joy,

Pastor Don



As part of the Raleigh County Dinner Church Collective, Raleigh Shared Ministries has hosted two "Pancakes and Parables", one on the last Saturday in September and one on the last Saturday in October. There is also another dinner church starting to meet in Shady Spring with the members of Perry Memorial UMC and United Methodist Temple.

We need to form a committee from Raleigh Shared Ministries to organize the Parables part of the pancakes. If you would rather help with the pancakes, that can be arranged too. We need to discuss what is working and what may need to be adjusted to help this initiative succeed.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Pastor Don at 304-210-5403 or Martha Wilkinson at 304-575-5566.

RALEIGH SHARED MINISTRIES LAITY HONORED



On Wednesday, October 8, Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett met with clergy and laity at the Lewis Center in Oak Hill as part of the conference's District Days program.

A wonderful dinner was served by the ladies of Oak Hill United Methodist Church.

The Bishop's message focused on Experiencing God's Renewal by lifting up the ways churches are answering the call to witness and serve in our communities. Laity from all over the Southern District were recognized for their involvement in different programs. From Raleigh Shared Ministries, Ann Cline, Laura Fygetakes, Bill Eades and Martha Wilkinson were recognized.

A TASTE OF ALASKA MISSION TRIP



On October 19, Pastor Don a presentation on his mission trip to Alaska, including pictures and Alaskan delicacies.

Some of the Alaskan delights included fried fish - halibut and black drum. Salmon was not in season when he was there in July.



One of the more popular offerings was reindeer sausage. Quite tasty!! Just don't think about the 8 tiny reindeer when you eat it!

November 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Church Office Contact Information: Phone 304-252-3435 Office Hours 8:30 am – 12:30 pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday Email church.office.bcumc@gmail.com Don's Dstilge05@aol.com; David's: rumberg@gmail.com						1
2 Communion Sunday All Saints Day	3 7:00 Adult SS Class w/Bill Eades/Zoom	4 10:00 Bible Study @ BCUMC 5:00 Choir @ BCUMC 6:00 Bell Practice	5 9:00 Quilters	6	7 9 am - 3 pm Rummage Sale & BBQ Lunch @ Sophia UMC	8 am 9 - 3 pm Rummage Sale & BBQ Lunch @ Sophia UMC
9	10 7:00 Adult SS Class w/Bill Eades/Zoom	11 Veterans Day 10:00 Bible Study @ BCUMC 5:00 Choir @ BCUMC 6:00 Bell Practice	12 9:00 Quilters	13	14	15
16	17 7:00 Adult SS Class w/Bill Eades/Zoom	18 10:00 Bible Study @ BCJMC; 3:00 BCUMC United Women in Faith ; 5:00 Choir/ BCUMC; 6:00 Bell Practice 6:00 Warming Center Volunteer Meeting	19 9:00 Quilters	20	21	22
23 5:00 BCUMC Trustees 6:00 BCUMC Ad Council	24 7:00 Adult SS Class w/Bill Eades/Zoom	25 10:00 Bible Study @ BCUMC 5:00 Choir @ BCUMC 6:00 Bell Practice	26 9:00 Quilters	27 Church Office Closed 	28 Church Office Closed	29 2:00 Hanging of the Greens @ BCUMC 5:00 Pancakes & Parables
30 1* Sunday of Advent UM Student Day						