

The Rocky Hock Anchor

The Mission of Rocky Hock Baptist Church is
to magnify Christ and make disciples of all people.



When Faith Becomes Lonely

I will never forget that moment. I was sitting on a swing in my back yard with a phone pressed to my ear. With a shaky voice I said, "Thank you. Have a good night," and I hung up the phone. Immediately tears ran down my face. Crying then gave way to sobbing as I fell even deeper into the despair that had gripped me. I had just moved my pregnant wife and two small children halfway across the country following the call of God

only to find out that the ministry we had come for decided to go in a different direction. Now what was I going to do? I had no ministry, no way to provide for my family, our third child was due in a few weeks and I had nothing to offer.

I had already been on my "Road to Troas"¹ for some time. My journey was not one of great personal loss; instead, it was a time of wandering without direction. I wanted to serve God with my life, but I had no idea where He was taking me. After years of prayer and many closed doors, I began to feel my heart drawn toward pastoral ministry. I followed God, trusting Him to provide a way. Finally, the doors seemed wide open, but that night on the swing, they all came crashing shut. That night was when my Christian walk became an uphill journey, filled with tears, littered with doubt, assaulted by the devil's lies. Looking back, it does not feel like there was ever an easy step on this road.

During this time, every day was different. Some days I was hopeful and other days I was blind to hope. Some days it seemed that my faith was hanging by a thread and as my life storm roared, it seemed I was only one gust of wind away from that thread breaking. Yet, in the midst of my weakness, the strength of God was on display.

While I was weak in the flesh, the never-ending power of God was supplying all that I lacked. What Christ told Paul was true for me: "My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9). While Christ says this to Paul in regards to the thorn in his flesh, it is no less true in the midst of any weakness. That is why Paul responds by saying, "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." If the all-sufficient grace of God is magnified by my weakness, then the story of my weak faith is also the story of God's great power.

The question was never, "Is my faith strong enough to overcome this?" The question is, "Will the Author and Finisher of my faith be powerful enough to finish the work that he started in me?" You see, my faith was never the product of human strength or will-power. First Peter 1:5 makes this very clear when it says "...you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." From a human perspective, my faith was held up by a thread, but from a heavenly perspective, I was secured to Jesus by a 2-ton anchor chain. Ultimately, my faith did not fail because the One who promised to uphold it never fails.

Think about the implications of this: the God who created the heavens and the earth with the words of His mouth is the God who upholds your faith. The God who has stretched out the heavens and hung the stars in the sky is the One who guards you for a salvation ready to be revealed. There is nothing that can contend with the power of God, therefore there is nothing that could circumvent His protection. True faith does not fail because the power of God cannot fail. So then, my testimony is simple: in my weakness, God was strong, and I exalt Him because of His faithfulness to a wretch like me.

So when you hit the mountain miles in your walk of faith and every step seems to push the limits of what you can withstand, know that God will never leave you nor forsake you. It is His mighty hand that protects your faith. At the end of your trial you will be able to say, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Thankful for Grace,

Pastor Matthew

¹ Road to Troas is a reference to the third chapter of "The Cup and The Glory" where Dr. Greg Harris analyzes Paul's long journey to Troas. The Road to Troas becomes synonymous with an extended tumult in the life of a believer.

Baptist Women



Calling ALL Women! Celebrating WMU in Alaska

The following article by Meghan Bowker (editor of Missions Mosaic) is in our August Missions Mosaic magazine. As I was reading the article, it has special meaning to me.

Judy Rice transplanted to Alaska to become WMU Director. She started a Women's Retreat which is held every year in April. The NC Baptists had a partnership with Alaska and several women from Rocky Hock, Corinth, and Edenton Baptist were able to go 2002 - 2005 to help with the retreat. The group of Rocky Hock women were Lois Ashley, Lorrie Byrum, Marcia Evans, Lisa Eure, Frances Evans, Jean Lindblom, Shirley Madry, Patsy Tynch, Brenda Weeks, and Belva White. We planned meals and cooked for a week to feed those attending. We also provided child care and activities and Bible stories for their children. I was able to attend 2 retreats along with my mother and sister. This has brought back some great memories as we shared Jesus in Alaska. Hope you enjoy the article!

Belva

A woman in Portland, Oregon was only 26 years old when she received a surprising phone call: Would she serve as WMU Director in Alaska? She responded, "Where is Alaska, and what does a WMU Director do?" Judy Rice was willing to be transplanted. That same year, 1968, she moved to Anchorage.

Alaska WMU had been formed 11 years earlier in 1957 (two years before Alaska became a state). As its first director, Judy had a hand in shaping the organization. Having been involved with Baptist Young Women, she organized a retreat for Baptist young women and leaders. She emphasized the fact that everyone has a part to play in missions. Because she knew this truth in her life, she told the women, "His plans are tailor made for each of you." She urged them to "trust God with the results" of following those plans and "get excited about what those results can be."

Judy Zach, who served as Alaska WMU President from 1994 to 1999 and 2014 to 2018 said, "Judy Rice was the backbone of Alaska WMU. She has an unwavering love for missions and missions support.

"I first met Judy when I served as Baptist Women's Director for the Tanana Valley Baptist Association in the mid-1980s. She helped me learn how to preside at women's events and how to organize. She knew how to delegate and organize well. When I served as Alaska WMU President, she was patient and supportive, and we worked well together. She became a great friend. I have a great love and respect for Judy Rice, who was a model of missions in my life. And I always liked her colorful socks!

Judy Zach also remembers her friend as an enthusiastic proponent of training: she encouraged Alaska Baptist women to attend WMU Week in Glorieta, New Mexico each year. The women who attended grew as leaders, and in turn, Alaska WMU grew. Judy Rice modeled going on mission with trips to Russia and Portland, Oregon and she supported outreach to Alaska Native peoples across the state. In those far-flung villages, she became well known and loved.

The retreat Judy Rice started in her early days of leading Alaska WMU became the annual Baptist Young Women House Party held every April. In 1981, its name changed to the Women on Mission Celebration. The celebration is a highly anticipated occasion, when women from distant villages and towns across the state gather for encouraging worship, Bible teaching, and missionary testimonies. It has a multicultural flair as women from Filipino, Alaska Native, African American, European, and Samoan heritages attend faithfully. They take up the offering, assist in registration, and lead in congregational worship through song and dance.

The celebration is held at the Alaska Baptist Resource Network building in Anchorage, the state's largest city. Free time means shopping opportunities, an added bonus most attendees appreciate. But the highlight, of course, is missions: local, national, and global. Every year, missionaries from the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board speak at the celebration. For the women who live in and near Anchorage, refugees are a missions opportunity. The city welcomes refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Somalia, among other countries. Like residents in many US cities that receive refugees, Alaskans can minister to internationals without leaving their state.

God used Judy Rice to unite the Baptist women of Alaska around missions, and that desire is with her yet: she serves on the Alaska WMU leadership team as co-representative of the Chugach Association. Like she once said, His plans are tailor made for every woman willing to be used by Him. And every woman, of every age, has a place in WMU.



RHBC 15th Annual Golf Tournament

All proceeds benefit the NC Baptist Children's Homes

Saturday, August 5th, 2023

@ Occano (formerly Scotch Hall) in Merry Hill

Pre-Registration @ 8:30 AM, Shotgun Start @ 9 AM

Entry Fee: \$350 per team (includes mulligans and super red tee shot)

Deadline: July 31st, 2023

For more information, contact Trey Bass (333-8615),
Neal Tynch (312-9362), or Ellis Tynch (333-0388).

Senior Adults Trip - Christmas at the Biltmore House

Featuring a Candlelight Tour

4 days, 3 nights

November 13 - 16, 2023

\$729 per person (double occupancy)

Package includes: 3 nights lodging, 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners (including the Stable Café on the Biltmore Estate), evening candlelight audio tour of the Biltmore House, daytime visit to the Biltmore grounds (including Antler Hill Village), guided tour of Asheville (including the Folk Art Center) and an evening of entertainment. Motorcoach transportation, taxes, meal gratuities, luggage handling, and a souvenir gift are also included in the package deal. Trip insurance is available and highly recommended. Sign-up sheets are in the Vestibule, Connecting Corridor, and Senior Adult Bldg.



Payment plan is as follows: 3 payments of \$243 payable on August 15th, September 15th, and October 15th. Make checks payable to Rocky Hock Baptist Church and put in the memo: Biltmore Trip. Deadline to sign up is August 15th. For more information, call Betty Bass at 333-5504.



The Baptist Men's Breakfast this month will be on August 20th at 7:30 AM.

Gentlemen, please join us in the Special Function Room for breakfast, devotion, and fellowship.



Region 1 Mission Rally - Tuesday, August 22 @ Cashie Baptist Church, 221 South Queen Street, Windsor, NC 27983

Hosted by Baptists on Mission, the rally will highlight the variety of opportunities NC Baptists have to be involved in missions across our state, nation and world. Featured will be worship, testimonies, mission videos, and a prayer time for missions. The rally is for anyone who is interested in missions. A main focus will be state, national, international partnerships and projects (including Disaster Relief) and the NC Missions Offering. A meal is provided at no charge, but reservations are necessary to ensure an accurate meal count. The cut off date for reserving a meal is one week **PRIOR** to the event. Please register online at <https://baptistsonmission.org/events/region-rallies> or by sending an email to Melanie Crawford at mcrawford@ncbaptist.org or by calling 919-459-5596. The meal will begin at 5:45 pm, followed by the program from 6:50 pm - 8:30 pm.



Deacon Team of the Week

7/30/23 - 8/5/23

Keith Rollins, Scott Noble, Mike Evans

8/6/23 - 8/12/23

Russell Byrum, Keith Nixon, Phil Smith

8/13/23 - 8/19/23

Adam Bunch, Ted Peele, Oscar White

8/20/23 - 8/26/23

Steve Evans, Bill Smith, Chris Turner

8/27/23 - 9/2/23

Donald Bass, Allen Peele, Sam Tynch

August Deacon Greeters

Senior Adult SS Center: Danny Lewis

Sanctuary Main: Mike Evans

Connecting Corridor: Steve Evans

Multi-Purpose Main Entrance: Ruston Howell



August Ushers:

Lee Jordan, Jerry Peele,
Ellis Tynch, Paul Ward,
Aundra Harrell, Jay Parrish

August Offering Team:

Allen Peele (Chair), Adam Bunch,
Keith Rollins, Phil Smith,
Chris Sykes, Ellis Tynch

August Counting Committee:

Aundra Harrell, Mary Louise Phelps,
Phil & Rene` Smith, Ellis Tynch



<u>Sunday Attendance:</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
7/2/23:	164	237	71
7/9/23:	169	276	VBS Set-up
7/16/23:	212	312	72
7/23/23:	172	273	81

Wednesday Evening Attendance:

6/28/23:	82
7/5/23:	Camp Review
7/12/23:	VBS
7/19/23:	75



The request from RHBC this month is:

Canned Green Beans



Children's Page

For children
of all ages!



Back to School



X G O W P Z D R A M A F K Y R A R B I L
R N S N S T C E J B U S H E Q M A T H V
L I T A O F Y S E N X P K A I C W G D Z
M T U K E I B H V L A Q N O L U R J T S
Y I D H C W T X T R E Z F A O S E N E P
J R E Q O A N A G L U M S K V B A I B Y
S W N X S M P O C H A S E T A Z D R A F
C E T O T Y E K B U R E V N J U I L H Q
I Z S F R G A W C O D L H E T L N X P M
E Q J S A T V R O A K E P S Y A G O L E
N U M B E R S M S R B T L I D F R S A H
C R X V G C O J H C K A W A Z Q P Y N O
E O H P A F E N G L I S H O C E B U T D
B C I S U M K R F C Y S L X L I C N E P
A J S R G V Q B O Z M O S L W T S H A U
P X T U N D E S K F O B I O S R M Y C N
S N O Y A R C Z W H J N T V R A Q O H L
U F R I L B M H C T G R A D E S U K E P
H M Y T O C G S N R A E L S D N E I R F



Attention! Present Bibles!

Yes - it's time to begin preparation for Bible Drill 2024. Children's Bible Drill is open to Grades 4-6; in addition, children in the 3rd Grade are eligible to participate at the church level and are encouraged to join us. We plan to begin September 10th by providing participants with handouts of the verses and key passages and will also provide pizza. If your child plans to participate, please contact Donna Peele or Cindy Ricks prior to September 10th to provide us with a head count for ordering the pizza. We look forward to another great year for Bible Drill!

alphabet	Drama	History	numbers	Science
Art	elementary	homework	pencil	Social Studies
backpack	English	Language Arts	Physical Education	Spelling
books	friends	learn	reading	students
classroom	Geography	library	recess	subjects
crayons	grades	Math	school	teacher
desk	Health	Music	scissors	writing

Children's Back to School Bash

Sunday, August 20th from 5 - 7 PM
at 210 Country Club Drive, Edenton
(aka: The Goose Park)

Parents, please stay and join us for swimming, cook-out, games, and devotion (swimmers will need chaperones)! Bring your own chair, appropriate bathing suits, and towels. Please RSVP so we can have a head count for the food!
Scott Noble 333-0018 Mia Noble 333-0667



Rocky Hock Baptist Church
113 Rocky Hock Church Road
Edenton, North Carolina 27932
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
EDENTON, NC
PERMIT NO. 127



Check us out on the web at www.rhbce.org

Weekly Schedule:

Sundays: 9:45 AM - Sunday School for all ages
11:00 AM - Morning Worship for all ages (Nursery & Children's Church available for up to 5th Grade)
Worship Online at www.rhbce.org, our Facebook page, vimeo, and YouTube
6:00 PM - Evening Worship ("Sundays @ SIX") - Adults in Sanctuary, Youth in Youth Suite, Children in Gym

Wednesdays: 7:00 PM - Prayer Meeting / Adult Bible Study - Sanctuary; Middle & High School Youth - Youth Suite;
RA's - RA's Room, upstairs; GA's - GA's Room, beside foyer; Mission Friends - Kindergarten Classroom

Rev. Matthew P. Dupuy, Senior Pastor
mdupuy@rhbce.org

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Mr. Chris Sykes, Chairman of Deacons
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Mrs. Linda B. Bunch, Administrative Assistant
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252-221-4133 (Office)

Mrs. Mary Alice Riddick, Organist
Mrs. Mary Jo Bass, Treasurer
Ms. Deborah Long, Custodian

Mrs. Donna Peele, Pianist
Mr. Trey Bass, Security
Mrs. Doris Tynch, Custodian



Rocky Hock
BAPTIST CHURCH-EDENTON