



Sermon Series: *Olympians*

OLYMPIANS

July & August 2024



The Olympics is a great display of human discipline, effort, and talent. Athletes from all over the world compete not for money but for the honor of their land, their family, and themselves. Events, some of which go back hundreds of years, define the spectacle, and names of the greats are remembered for generations. The Olympic games, in fact, go back to the times in which the Bible was written, back to the eighth century BCE in Greece and lasted until the fourth century CE. Who knows if the biblical authors knew about the Olympics, but what scripture does reveal is that those who are in God's covenant often tell a different story than athletic glory.

August 4: *The Hurdles*
Romans 9:30 -10:4

August 11: *The Gold Medal*
Psalm 68:1-6 & Mark 9:33-37

August 18: *The Closing Ceremonies*
Psalm 108:1-6 & 2 Timothy 4:6-8



Our worship service on Sunday, August 25 will be at Mill Mountain at 10:00 AM, with a potluck brunch at the picnic shelter to follow. The Fellowship Committee will provide coffee, juice, and biscuit sandwiches from Scratch Biscuit. We are asking the congregation to bring fruit, breads, breakfast casseroles or other brunch items. Don't forget to bring a chair! We look forward to seeing everyone on Mill Mountain. If you are unable to join us on Mill Mountain, a shortened service will be available at 8:00 AM in the Chapel.

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

Note from Dillon

August 1. I looked at the date on the calendar and couldn't believe it. One year at RCPC. A true testament to the paradox of perceived time. How could it only be a year when we have experienced so much together — a renovation project, many concerts, a centennial celebration, and more? Where did the year go? Some days I feel like I just moved here last week when I can't remember where a store or certain library location is. Nonetheless, in just a few short weeks, we begin the ministry work of another program year together and I am thrilled at what's in store for us!

Sanctuary Choir

**Rehearsals: Wednesdays (7:00 PM—8:45 PM)
Adults**

First rehearsal is Wednesday, August 7, at 7:00 PM in the choir commons. We will kickoff our year with a time of fellowship, a quick calendar meeting with an overview of our ensemble handbook, and a deep dive into some exciting new music for the fall with focus on John Rutter's Requiem. New singers are always welcome! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Dillon at dillon@rcpres.org so a folder can be ready for you at your first rehearsal!

God Alive Choir

**Rehearsals: Wednesdays during God Alive
(4:00 PM—6:00 PM)
Kindergarten—5th grade**

The God Alive Children's Choir is offered as part of the God Alive Christian Education program. This graded choral program progresses children through musical concepts and worship skills by age group. It is a wonderful way for children to learn about their church, their faith, and music.

The God Alive Children's Choir regularly serves as worship leaders at our 11:00 AM sanctuary worship services. Our schedule includes about six Sundays of worship leadership, a Wednesday evening Christmas pageant, and the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service.

Our Kick-Off Party and Parent Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, at 4:00 PM. More information about the God Alive programming is forthcoming in a letter home and in the upcoming fall programming booklet.

Raleigh Court Ringers

**Rehearsals: Tuesdays (7:15 PM—8:45 PM)
Adults**

Our first rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, at 7:15 PM in the music room. We will kickoff our year with a time of fellowship, a quick calendar meeting with an overview of our ensemble handbook, and a deep dive into some exciting new music for the fall!



Montreat Worship & Music Conference

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

NEW! Genesis Ringers

**Rehearsals: Tuesdays (6:30 PM—7:15 PM)
4th Grade – Adult**

Following Raleigh Court Presbyterian's centennial celebration in May 2024, we began to dream about what the next 100 years at RCPC could look like. Through conversations and reflections, the desire for more intergenerational opportunities was heard and to answer this call, the plan for the Genesis Ringers was born. This ensemble, as the name implies, is for beginning and early advancing handbell ringers all ages 4th grade and up. Note: 4th and 5th grade participants are required to be active members of the God Alive Choir. This ensemble is not a substitute for the valuable biblical and music education offered in the God Alive programming on Wednesday evenings. The Genesis Ringers offer music in worship four Sundays a year at the 11:00 AM sanctuary service.

In this ensemble of children, youth, and adults, we will learn the basics of handbell ringing and music reading. Parents (or other adult family members) and students can enjoy this choir together. While the basics of music gained from piano lessons or participation in a school orchestra, band, or choir are helpful, music reading is not required and can be learned while participating in this ensemble.

If you are interested in this opportunity, you are welcome to reach out to me right away, so I can begin to be thinking about the structure of the ensemble. My goal for this ensemble is to be 9-12 ringers. If you would like more information, don't hesitate to reach out with questions! Our first rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 10, at 6:30 PM in the music room.



Montreat Worship & Music Conference

NEW! Raleigh Court Youth Choir

**Rehearsals: Sundays (5:00 PM—6:00 PM)
6th Grade—12th Grade**

After a year of exploring, learning, and listening, we are excited to bring a new vision to the Youth Choir program at RCPC. During the last year, we combined choral singing and bell ringing into a Youth Music hour to explore and listen to where God might be directing this part of our music ministry. Through many conversations with community music teachers, reflections from the youth involved, and thoughtful prayer and discernment, it was clear that our church and community need a place for youth to sing and have fun doing so in an environment that nurtures their musicianship, leadership, and faith, and that our current program structure for the Youth Choir needed a reboot and refocus.

The Raleigh Court Youth Choir offers the opportunity for teenagers to come together to traverse the false boundaries and competitive nature of our society to create beauty and friendship, thereby making a more connected, kinder community through the ministry of music-making. In our choral rehearsals, worship leadership, and performances we are committed to nurturing our singers through voice building, training in musical literacy, and developing artistic expression.

The Raleigh Court Youth Choir regularly serves as worship leaders at our 11:00 AM sanctuary worship services. Our schedule includes about six Sundays of worship leadership, a shared Christmas program at Brandon Oaks with the Raleigh Court Ringers, the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service with the God Alive Children's Choir, and outreach projects in the community throughout the year.

The Raleigh Court Youth Choir will rehearse from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Sunday afternoons and all 6th-12th graders are invited to participate! We will kickoff the year on Sunday, September 15, with a pizza party at 12:30 PM in the Choir Commons. Those interested should contact Dillon for more information!

MONTREAT WORSHIP & MUSIC 2024 IN REVIEW

"Lead Us Homeward" was the title of this year's conference. For many who have attended the Montreat Worship and Music Conference, this special place feels like a second home. During the week through the music, worship, and preaching we explored different thinkings about what it means to be "home." Our scriptural lens for the week, among other stories, was focused on the Psalms of Ascent (120-134) sung by Jewish pilgrims as they traveled to Jerusalem for the great feasts. This theme and all that it contained during the week, was particularly special to me as I reflected on my own journey in the last year making a new home in Roanoke at RCPC. I could write to you for pages about my experience, but instead I invited others from the group to share their thoughts and feelings about the week. I'm incredibly grateful to have shared my first Montreat experience with these wonderful people and I hope you experience the joy and excitement we encountered through their words below. If their words pique your interest about joining us next summer, keep your eyes and ears open for more information in September! - Dillon J. Swanson

Joanna Whaley: I enjoyed choir because of the games that we played and the songs that we sang. Our director, Dr. Mark Patterson, made class fun and I learned a lot about making music. I also learned in worship that home doesn't have to be your actual home where you live, it can be any place that makes you feel safe.

Rebecca Whaley: What I enjoyed most about Montreat were the conversations in the "down time." Whether it was over a meal at the house or in the quiet time before bed, all the youth and adult participants gathered and excitedly shared what they learned in classes, practiced challenging music, played board games, and laughed together! We created so many memories together as we grew closer to one another and to our faith in the beautiful mountain setting in Montreat.

Kathleen Carroll: My first visit to the beautiful mountain environment. I found the experience welcoming and I truly appreciate the inclusivity and musical diversity that highlighted the week. Music was definitely emphasized and meaningfully woven into worship services. I especially enjoyed the instrumentalists (overlooking the lake from the Inn balcony) and the children/young people's talent show and the children's and youth choirs. Sound of laughter, waterfall over the dam and folks sharing ideas to take back home sit in my memory bank. My drumming instructor earnestly and capably provided a quality learning experience for seasoned choral professionals as well as newbies like me. Also enjoyed Rusty eating ice cream and rehashing memories of taking his daughters to Montreat when they were young! Enjoyed spending time with fellow RCPC members at the lodge and around campus.

Diana Dietz: I attended the Montreat conference at Black Mountain for the first time in Summer 2024. The theme of this year's conference was home. Home? Where is home? Who is home? I didn't know that first night, when the darkness of my new room echoed my homesickness. I didn't know the next day, when I was completely lost in the throes of the campus. Do I know now? I'm getting closer.

Life at Montreat was quiet but fun. I stayed in a quaint, cozy cottage with some of my church family. Every day we would go to our classes, rehearsals, and seminars. My favorite class would have to be either my Small Group or the class I took on the organ. I can't choose just one! After class we would go to the café for ice cream, rock hopping in the creek, hiking, paddle boating, or swimming. These afternoon activities were so fun; I love to be outside, and Montreat is great for outdoor activities. At night we would eat dinner, and sometimes afterwards we would go to an evening concert or activity. Then it was off to bed for us! That was a typical day in Montreat.

However, right before lunch each day, we would go to worship. The beautiful service included singing, instrumental pieces, and a sermon. Like the theme of the conference, the theme of the sermon was "home." Every day I would listen about what home is. How it is not the past or the future, but the present. Where God has called you to be, who God has called you to be with. That is home. Home is not something we have lost to time, nor is it something we must wait patiently for. It is the here and now. So, in conclusion, at Montreat I learned what the different pipes of an organ are called, I learned the story of Hagar, and I learned some really nice peoples' names. But I also learned what home is, who home is, and I believe that I am better for it.

Marie Tulou: The Montreat worship and music camp was amazing! Montreat, NC is absolutely beautiful! My favorite class was band. I enjoyed playing with different instruments and people. It was so fun to see what everyone else had worked on all week! Montreat was so fun, I enjoyed every second of it.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATES

Living the Word

Saturday, August 17
10:00 AM—12:00 PM

We will hear and act out the Parable of the Sower, tend to our garden, and explore and play! As always we will provide a snack, but please have your child bring their own water bottle.

Kayak Adventure

Annual 4th & 5th grade Carvins Cove Kayak Adventure is Saturday, August 24 from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. RSVP to Leigh Sackett (leigh@rcpres.org) to attend.

God Alive Garden

Wednesday, August 14
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

We will garden, helping our tomatoes to grow and be healthy. We will pray for the people who will be receiving the fruits of our garden. We will make lasagnas for the Rescue Mission once we have enough tomatoes harvested. We will also play Nine Square in the Air and have Walkie Talkie adventures each time we meet.

God Alive Garden & Salsa



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

RCPC Youth August Schedule

Sunday, August 11 | 2:00 PM—4:00 PM
Close of Summer Pool Party

Thursday, August 15 | 7:45 AM—8:45 AM
First Day Back to School Coffee for Grownups & Sweet Treat for the Kids at Mill Mountain Coffee on Starkey Rd

Tuesday, August 20 | 7:45 AM—10:30 AM & 2:00 PM—5:00 PM
First Day Back to School Coffee for Grownups & Sweet Treat for the Kids at Little Green Hive

Contact Isabella at Isabella@rcpres.org for more information.



Montreat Youth Conference



HOMETOWN MISSION WEEK



Morningside Community Garden



**Roanoke
Rescue
Mission**



LEAP Kitchen



Roanoke Rescue Mission Thrift Store

MISSION GROUPS UPDATES

August Opportunity for Generosity: Sudanese/South Sudanese Mission Group Education Initiative

Long known for our Christmas gift collection, the Sudanese/South Sudanese Mission Group is retiring that ministry. Our children here in Roanoke and students in South Sudan have education needs and we now want to offer you the opportunity to support their academic goals.

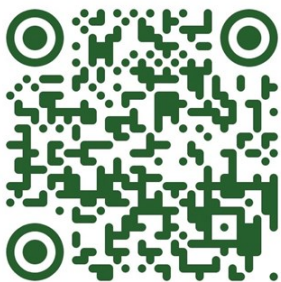
In South Sudan this will be an investment in the future of that country. Abukloi, which means "We can do it" in Dinka, is a secondary school that has for 10 years striven to develop a new generation of peaceful leaders through excellence in education. Along with other churches in the Presbytery, local and national government ministries within South Sudan, businesses, churches and academic institutions in the United States and other countries, we want to partner with them in this effort.

Founded by Angelo Maker, a Lost Boy refugee just like the Lost Boys who were our first Sudanese at RCPC, Abukloi now educates 667 students. Ninety-five were in this year's graduating class with 100% passing the National Exam. Thirty percent of the students are female in a country where girls' education is less valued. The first girl to attend Africa University from South Sudan graduated from Abukloi. They have started a self-sustaining farm project that educates local villagers and helps feed the students. The students at Abukloi are in a precarious position. Because of extreme poverty and astronomical inflation, the cost of an education has proven to be an insurmountable hurdle for half of the students. Providing a meal is difficult, as the farm project has only begun, so they must buy most of the food supplies. They are seeking partners who have a passion for education, gender equity, peace and reconciliation, self-development of people, community and economic development, as well as sustainable agriculture. Sounds like us, doesn't it? To support the students, the school offers a sponsorship program where for only \$80 a month or just \$2.66 a day you can provide a student with: annual tuition, daily meal, textbooks and classroom supplies, two uniforms a year with socks, hygiene products, and access to life skills training programs.

If you would rather, you can donate money to the feeding program or scholarships by indicating "Abukloi" on your check or you can donate online at rcpres.org and add "Abukloi" to the notes field.. If we have enough scholarship money donated, RCPC can sponsor a student.

Locally we will have students of any age apply for assistance. If they are in college or a training program, they will need to apply first for any resources offered by their institution, if they have not already done so. We will help with other educational expenses. We expect tutoring to be requested. We would like to compile a database of church members who would be willing to provide help. This would be subject or skill based, so all students whether pursuing a degree, getting a certificate, needing help with homework or learning their ABC's could be helped. If you want to be added to the database, send your contact information and the subjects or skills you would be willing to tutor to sandrarcpc@yahoo.com or text 540-330-3451. If we can't provide the help they request, your donations could help secure a tutor. If you wish to donate to our local Sudanese/South Sudanese educational needs, please designate Sudanese Mission on your check or donate online at rcpres.org and add "Sudanese Mission" to the notes field. All loose plate offerings will be directed to one of these educational initiatives.

Thank you all for your generosity and compassion shown toward our Sudanese and South Sudanese friends for the past 22 years. As our focus shifts from things to education, we pray that you will come along with us.



By scanning the QR code you can contribute to the student sponsorship fund and be connected to our Sponsorship Coordinator who will communicate details about your sponsored student.



FELLOWSHIP

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Lisa Boylan Sloan Sebolt	12 Ryland Cook 13 Charlotte Biddle Joe McCrobie	21 James Elton Steve Layman Michael Sheets	28 Peter Danyi Susan Davis Anne Larimer
3 Kallie Wilkes Bessie Williams	14 Sue Cook 15 Caleb Dietz Alicha Grubb	22 Haley Lynch Liam Rippel	Becky Marsh Marilyn Martin
4 Robert Frantz 5 Jeff Newman	16 Jonathan Stanley 17 Augusta Kessler	24 Lune Sackett 25 Adam Peters	29 Elizabeth Danco Sarah Grace Danco
6 Ester Brockman Morgan Currie Leigh Ramsey	18 Eleanor Lockaby Mattie Marsh	26 David Kazner Orin Reynolds-Saint	Rosalie Flowers Carl Utley
7 Anne Travers 9 Makenzie Bowes Lyndsey Onyett	19 Rob Jarrett Larry Koon	27 Leigh-Anne Williams	30 Carolyn Kazner Alan Smith
11 India Atkinson	Jeanne Welch		31 Marion Raney

Special Birthday Wishes:

Marion Raney on celebrating her 96th birthday on August 31.

Special Anniversary Wishes:

Linda & Roger Wickert on celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary on August 7.
Roena & Marvin Barbre on celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary on August 12.
Bonnie & Bobby Cooper on celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary on August 12.
Ann & Bob Rutherford on celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary on August 16.
Carol & Tom Webster on celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary on August 26.
Nancy & Charles Favor on celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary on August 28.

Book Club

The book group meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 10:30 AM in room 102. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Nancy Ayling at 540-344-5454 or ayling42@verizon.net.

PW August Event

Friday, August 23 at 5:00 PM
Munchies at the Maridor—Join PW for fellowship and to go over the 2024-2025 monthly schedule of events. Contact Ellen Austin at ebaustin11@gmail.com to RSVP or fill out the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.



**Fellowship
Outing to a
Salem Red Sox
Game!**

Back to School Coffee & Sweet Treat

Are you sending your child off to school for the first time? Or is your child headed to a new school this year? You might be excited to see them out of the house again or you might be sad at how quickly time is passing by. If you're a youth, you might be excited to start a new year or a bit scared in a season of transition. Whatever you're feeling, your church is holding you in our prayers and wants to treat you on the first day of school. Grown ups in the city and county can join Isabella on their respective first day of school.

First Day Back to School- Roanoke County - Coffee for Grownups at Mill Mountain Coffee on Starkey Rd
Thursday, August 15 | 7:45 AM—8:45 AM

First Day Back to School - Roanoke City - Coffee for Grownups & Sweet Treat for the Youth at Little Green Hive
Tuesday, August 20 | 7:45 AM—10:30 AM & 2:00 PM—5:00 PM

WEST END CENTER SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



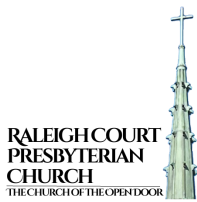
The 2024 West End Center school supplies drive has been very successful. Thank you for your generous support for collecting school supplies and donations to help the center. As of July 28, we have collected \$1,708 in cash donations. On Monday, July 22, the Youth Home Town Mission Week helped deliver the supplies collected at our church to West End Presbyterian Church where they were sorted and set up for bagging 131 individual student bags with the supplies their school and grade asked for this year. We had 10 Middle School youth and 7 adults help on Monday. On Tuesday July 23, 22 people helped to bag the supplies and 2 people shopped for a few missing items. Our list was very short this year. On Wednesday, 4 people helped to double check the bags and clean up the West End Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. All of the supplies we didn't use will be saved for next year in a closet at the center. This year we collaborated with the following organizations to gather supplies for the children: Roanoke Valley Paralegal Associates, Bank of the James Oak Grove Branch, Our Lady of Nazareth Catholic Church, TMEIC, VA Medical Center Building #10, Hall Community Services, Roanoker Magazine and West End Presbyterian Church. The children and parents will be so excited to see their bags of new supplies! Thank you for all you do to help these children start the year off on the right foot!

August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*Centering Prayer meets at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church on Mondays at 10:00 AM						
4 10am—Worship: Sanctuary	5 9am—Preschool Camp 10am—Monday Morning Prayer Group 10am—Centering Prayer* 6pm—Cup Scouts: Pack Games 7pm—BSA Troop 2	6 9am—Preschool Camp 9am—Staff Meeting 10am—Primary Purpose: AA 4pm—Small Group: Dixon 5:30pm—Tai Chi 6:45pm—Eagle Board of Review	7 9am—Preschool Camp 7pm—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	8 9am—Preschool Camp 10:30am—Primary Purpose: AA 5:30pm—Justice, Equity & Belonging Committee 5:30pm—Tai Chi 6:30pm—Hip Sober Chicks 6:45pm—Adult Scout Leadership Training	9 9am—Preschool Camp 11:45am—Al-Anon	10 11am—Young Adult Pool Party
11 10am—Worship: Sanctuary 11:15am—Earth Care Committee	12 10am—Monday Morning Prayer Group 10am—Centering Prayer* 6pm—Fellowship Committee 6:30pm—Cub Scouts 7pm—BSA Troop 2 7pm—Deacons	13 9am—Staff Meeting 10:30am—Primary Purpose: AA 4pm—Small Group: Dixon 5:30pm—Tai Chi 7pm—Youth Committee 7pm—Hospitality Committee	14 10:30am—Book Club 7pm—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	15 7:45am—First Day of School Coffee for Grownups 10:30am—Primary Purpose: AA 5:30pm—Tai Chi 6:30pm—Hip Sober Chicks	16 11:45am—Al-Anon	17 10am—Living the Word

August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
18 10am—Worship: Sanctuary 11:15am—Children's Worship Training	19 10am—Monday Morning Prayer Group 10am—Centering Prayer* 4:30pm—Personnel & Administration 5:30pm—Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm—Cub Scouts 7pm—BSA Troop 2	20 7:15am—First Day of School Coffee for Grownups 10:30am—Primary Purpose: AA 1:15pm—Worship & Music 2pm—First Day of School Coffee & Sweet Treats 4pm—Small Group: Dixon 5:30pm—Tai Chi 5:30pm—Endowment Board 7:15pm—Raleigh Court Ringers	21 7pm—Preschool Committee 7pm—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	22 10:30am—Primary Purpose: AA 5:30pm—Tai Chi 5:30pm—Justice, Equity, & Belonging Committee 6:30pm—Hip Sober Chicks	23 11:45am—AI-Anon 5pm—PW Event: Munchies at the Maridor	24 4th & 5th Grade Kayaking at Carvins Cove
25 8am—Worship: Chapel 10am—Worship: Mill Mountain	26 10am—Monday Morning Prayer Group 10am—Centering Prayer* 6pm—Joint Session & Deacons Meeting 6:30pm—Cub Scouts 7pm—BSA Troop 2	27 9am—Staff Meeting 10:30am—Primary Purpose: AA 4pm—Small Group: Dixon 5:30pm—Tai Chi	28 7pm—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	29 10:30am—Primary Purpose: AA 5:30pm—Tai Chi 6:30pm—Hip Sober Chicks	30 11:45am—AI-Anon	31



Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church
1837 Grandin Road SW
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The Raleigh Court Herald is a monthly publication of
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540 343-5541

Weekly Worship Schedule

Summer Sunday Worship Services:
10:00 AM - Sanctuary, Nursery Available, Livestream (Facebook & YouTube)

The Rev. Andrew C. Whaley	Pastor and Head of Staff
The Rev. Isabella Fagiani	Associate Pastor
Leigh Sackett	Director of Christian Education
The Rev David Dixon, MD	Minister of Care
Dillon J. Swanson	Director of Music Ministries
Betsy Prillaman	Preschool Director

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[youtube.com/rcpres](https://www.youtube.com/rcpres)

Each Sunday's Sermon is available on the
RCPC Podcast. Scan the QR Code to Listen Today!

