

The Good News

Roanoke Seventh-day Adventist Church
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September 2026



Giving Paralysis

Bill Gates and Warren Buffett made headlines when they asked billionaires to give away half their wealth. Even more striking, many of the 1,000 invited responded. Forbes estimated \$150 billion would go to charity. This idea is not new. Scripture has long taught that generosity is tied to blessing and giving is central to receiving. Notice:

"Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty" (Proverbs 3:9–10). "The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered" (Proverbs 11:25). "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

Industrialist John D. Rockefeller once said giving was key to his success, noting he learned to tithe from his earliest earnings. Sir John Templeton, founder of Templeton Funds, gave millions to charity and believed his spiritual discipline, not market insight, was the true source of his success. Benjamin Franklin similarly observed that money itself does not create lasting happiness; rather, "acts of humanity, friendship, generosity, and benevolence" do.

This is important in a time when many families are tightening their belts due to economic uncertainty. As Christians, we must be wise stewards—budgeting carefully, saving, reducing debt, and investing responsibly—but we must remain cheerful givers. We must give to support those in need, family and church family first, return a faithful tithe, and give systematically to advance the mission locally and globally. And giving is not only financial; it includes our time, energy, and talents. True generosity begins when we give ourselves.

The Bible warns that withholding can backfire: "There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty" (Proverbs 11:24). Now is not the time for "giving paralysis." The work of God calls for generous hearts, open hands, and willing service. We can trust God on this one.

~ Pastor Chris Buttery

Strategic Planning Committee

The church board's Strategic Planning Committee has begun its work to address the Church Renewal Project voted on by the church in business session.

The Committee's work is to assess submitted projects and to finalize a list, organize the projects into priorities, assess costs, find and hire vendors and/or volunteers and ensure projects are accomplished in a timely and satisfactory way.

Members of the Committee are: Pastor Chris, Chair; William Dodge; Tim Doudiken; Gregory Gooden; John Hodgkin; and Kristen McLennan. Stay tuned for news and developments in the near future.



The King's Heralds

Mark your calendars now so you won't miss *The King's Heralds*! This quartet of men will be at our church on Sabbath, September 26, at 6:30.

Life gets tough, but there's nothing like the comfort of a good song. The King's Heralds' music is Christian music that speaks to your heart, offering hope, peace, and encouragement for the journey. Whether you're facing a challenge or just need to feel closer to God, this music will remind you that you are never alone.

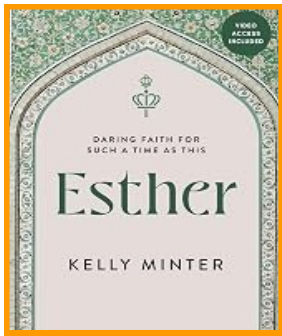


The Language of Wellness

Thursday, September 3 @ 6:00

Speakers will be Ralph and Joni Henderson. They will share with us some communication skills for healthier relationships and lives. We will sample BBQ "chicken," potato salad and watermelon!

Please join us! It's free and you are invited!



Women's Bible Study

Tuesday mornings @
11:00

About 16 women will continue to gather each Tuesday morning in September. They gather to study together at the church at 11:00. The topic of study is the well-loved Bible story of Esther.

Linda Janetzko is leading the study and there is still room for you to participate if you aren't already. Even if you've missed a meeting or two, it will still be worth your time to study with like-believing sisters in our church family as friendships and bonds are strengthened.

Surely, the presence of the Lord is in that place!

Health Breakthrough

We are excited to announce our fall evangelism focus, a part of our church's annual cycle of evangelism. Starting October 1, *Health Breakthrough* will be a multimedia seminar for our community and members alike, discovering practical, science-based, biblical solutions for peak physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Dr Ryan McLennan and Pastor Chris Buttery will be joined by Dr. David DeRose, a syndicated talk radio host, popular lecturer and author of *Thirty Days to Natural Blood Pressure Control* and *The Methuselah Factor*, as together they explore answers to the following questions:

- How can I naturally reverse high blood pressure and diabetes?
- How can I live longer, think sharper and feel better?
- Is there a divine diagnosis for whole person healing?
- Can incurables really be cured?
- Does the Bible offer any hope?
- How can I successfully break bad habits?
- What are the health benefits of forgiveness?
- How do good social connections preserve or enhance peak mental performance?
- How can I genuinely experience freedom from worry, guilt, and/or fear?
- Is there a proven way to better handle stress?

There will be 11 presentations in total running Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights starting October 1 and ending October 23. The presentations will be made in the Fellowship Room of the church.

Please mark your calendars now and be praying about who you can invite to these vital presentations. This series will be unlike anything you, or those you invite, have ever attended. Breakthroughs will be experienced!

Two Service Programs in Roanoke

Last Fall, our congregation was introduced to the **Blue Ridge Women's Center (BRWC)** by means of the "Baby Bottle Campaign." Several of you participated in this program to help support BRWC. BRWC has now moved into their new facility, and they continue to provide support and information to women facing an unplanned pregnancies, including sonograms, counseling and an opportunity to learn more about God's plan and His guidance.

In celebration of their new facility at 325 Elm Avenue, the staff is offering tours at noon on the second Monday of every month. This is a great opportunity to see how God is working in Roanoke to encourage women as well as to gain info about the many services provided at no cost. They would love to show you around. To sign up to tour their facility, you may email Lynette, the Development Director, at Lynnettem@blueridgewoman.org.

Another group providing services, and one our Youth recently visited, is the **Roanoke Rescue Mission**. In the first six months of 2026, the Mission served 199,248 Meals; 69,702 Nights of Shelter, and 19,570 Manna Food Boxes to people experiencing homelessness in our community. The Mission also supports recovery programs. All programs and services of the Mission are supported by their mission statement, "Helping Hurting People in Jesus' Name."

Every Monday at noon, a Mission staff member is ready to welcome you and share a tour of the facility. The tour lasts for about 45 minutes and there is walking involved as you visit all the buildings on the campus. You may email volunteer.ing@recuemission.net to let them know you are coming; however, no reservations are required.

~ Submitted by Susan Timmons



The Pathfinders and Adventurers are about to start a new Club Year! Parents, if you have not registered your child yet, there's still time!

For children ages 4 through 9, please see Mela Julin and she will help get the children registered for Adventurers.

If your child is age 9 or older, please see Kofi Amo-Mensah or Novia Gooden and one of them will help you get your child registered for Pathfinders.

The Induction Ceremony for both Pathfinders and Adventurers will be Sabbath, September 5! Sign you children up soon!

Upcoming Pathfinder Calendar

September 5 Induction Ceremony

September 17-20 Camporee Event, New Market

October 3 Classroom Education Session /Honors workshop

October 17 Classroom Education Session



So Long, Bedrock Church! Godspeed on Your New Chapter!

On Sunday, August 22, 2026, Bedrock Church had their final worship service in our building! After ten years and seven months of sharing space, Bedrock has moved into their own building about a mile up the road.

A delegation on behalf of our church was invited to join Bedrock for their final services on August 22. During each of the two services, the delegation was invited to the front of the sanctuary. Our church was publicly thanked for being such gracious hosts through the years, and prayers were offered on behalf of our church and each of our members and families for the blessing they've been to their congregation. Large "thank you" cards were presented to the group. Check the bulletin board in the hall of the church to read their comments! Below are a few of them.

*What a blessing you have given!
10 years of sharing God's love!
Thank you!*

*Thank you for welcoming us
and partnering in our fellowship!*

*Thank you for letting us worship in
your home! I was peptized here in
our first service 10 years ago!*

*We've had so many great memories in this church building.
Thank you for sharing it with us and making us feel so welcome!*

*What a blessing you have been!
Thank you sincerely!*

Church Board News & Notes

The members of the Roanoke SDA Church Board met on August 10, 2026, to discuss the plans, mission and vision of our church.

Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- > Pastor Chris reviewed Evangelism/ Church Growth ideas
- > Sabbath School Council meeting to review purpose of SS and begin to strengthen SS and coordinate more outreach
- > RACS has started, new books ordered and calendar finalized
- > Mission Minute will be promoted for 2nd Sabbath of each month
- > Fall evangelism plans are in the works - Health Breakthrough with David DeRose, Pastor Buttery and Ryan McLennan
- > Nominating Committee process to begin soon
- > Luzia Raleigh will lead SS Lower Divisions

The next church board meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, September 14, starting at 6:30. Please keep the board and its members in your prayers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our church, through your offerings, provides Sabbath School lesson books (quarterlies) to all adults and children that want them. Adults can pick up a hard copy of the adult lesson look during Adult Sabbath School on any Sabbath morning. Children can, too, in their classes.

But, did you know you can also get the Adult Sabbath School Lesson online? Sometimes it can be very convenient to just pull up the lesson book and have the lesson and the Bible texts right at your fingertips. Check it out at

www.Sabbath.School/LessonBook

Its About That Time!

On the last Sabbath in August, during the worship service, the process began. The nominating process, that is.

The Organizing Committee, which is the small group of members that will help select the Nominating Committee, was chosen. This groups will compile a list of names of those to suggest to the congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Please pray for this process that the Lord will guide the selection process and the work of the committee. Pray also about how you would like to serve!



*On your birthday, there are
two great reasons to
celebrate:*

*It's your birthday; and
There's no one else like you!*

September

- 4 Sherry Otto
- 7 Peniel Amo-Mensah
- 10 Ashleigh Forrester Austin
- 12 Roy Robinson
- 13 Shirley Pleasants
- 14 Brianna Agee
- 15 Daniel Clarke
- 17 Christopher Barnett
- 19 Mariah King Willard
- 19 Rose Smith Celestin
- 22 Blake Booth
- 22 Josiah Clarke
- 23 Jenny McGuire
- 24 Mela Julin
- 24 William Dodge III
- 24 Josh Roth
- 25 Marisol Arreaga
- 27 Embelle Ngalame Eko



Online Prayer Meeting

Every Wednesday evening we gather online for a time of devotions and prayer.

Some join us while sitting on their porch, some in their car and some at the kitchen table or favorite chair in the living room! We do have room for you to join us via ZOOM so don't worry about not having space! Watch your email on Wednesdays about noon for the ZOOM link!



Coming Soon!

Pathfinder and Adventurer
Club Induction - Sept 5 @ 10:55

Pathfinder Camporee
Sept 17 - 20

The King's Herald Concert
September 26 @ 6:30

Health Breakthrough
Starting Oct 1

Blood Drive - Oct 24

Fall Festival - Oct 25

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