



### Russell Jones Bio

My path to pastoral ministry was rather roundabout and rather unusual, to say the least. The son of a Baptist deacon, I practically grew up in the church - if the doors were open, the Joneses were there. Unfortunately, like many young people, I drifted away from church as a young adult and stayed away for twenty-five years. An epiphany at the age of forty-six brought me to my senses, and I realized that no matter how far I'd run, God was with me still. That even though I'd turned my back on God He had never left me. (It's a better story than I can do justice here - I'd be glad to tell you sometime). My wife Victoria was very supportive and we began searching for a church home the very next day.

Soon work took me, Victoria, and our kids from southwestern Ohio to College Station, Texas where it wasn't long before I started teaching Sunday School and working with leadership committees and other "behind the scenes" work at First Baptist Church of College Station. The drive to learn more and better minister to that Sunday School class were the catalyst that drew me to begin taking seminary classes and eventually (yes, I can be a little stubborn) accept the calling to pastoral ministry at the age of 50. (It seems that everyone had known but me for some time).

Family and career changes brought about another move that precipitated Victoria and I planting Mosaic Fellowship in Belton, Texas with the help of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Bell Baptist Association, and Freedom Road Biker Church as sponsors. I include Victoria in this because even though she is not called to ministry I would have been unable to plant a church without her support and assistance. We deliberately planted Mosaic Fellowship in the poorest part of Belton in an attempt to reach the poor and the marginalized, which made ministry there...different.

I currently teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade English in Killeen, Texas while looking to transition into full-time ministry. Victoria is a church secretary at Heights Baptist Church in Temple, TX (where I spent some time as Interim Youth Pastor after Mosaic Fellowship closed in 2019). We have three children, all adults: Kayla, a Navy veteran attending nursing school in Ohio; Mandi, lives and works in the Killeen area; and Taylor, who is living in Los Angeles trying to get into the entertainment industry as a scriptwriter/producer. Victoria has three cats (they're definitely hers - they only tolerate me because I feed them half the time) and I have an AussiePoo puppy (Australian Shepherd/Standard Poodle mix) named Buckeye with whom I am quite enamored - he's an ornery rascal but cute as a bug.

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HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION of PIERRE

301 West Pleasant Drive, Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: 605-773-7425 Fax: 605-773-7375

First Baptist Church  
PO Box 105  
Pierre, SD 57501

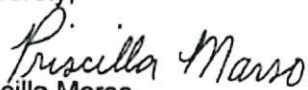
Dear First Baptist Church :

HRCP has two **IMMEDIATE** openings in our Midtown Apartment building. Midtown Apartments offer subsidized housing to persons 62 and older **OR** have a disability. Certain qualification will apply. Call with any questions.

HRCP has 2 four-bedroom homes for rent. These are for families and the rent is based on income.

Please review the attached rack card and let me know if you would like more. Please call HRCP with your question during office hours Monday – Thursday 7 am – 3 pm and Friday 7 am – Noon or call and leave a message.

Sincerely,

  
Priscilla Marso  
Executive Director

## Helen Rittel



Helen Elizabeth Rorgo was born in Reliance, South Dakota, on March 6, 1925, to Oscar and Ada (Johnston) Rorgo. She passed away and into God's care on January 10, 2021. In all likelihood, she was met by Neil and her parents at Heaven's gates. Helen received her education at Mobridge, Pierre, and Belvidere. She received her diploma a year after graduation, when Belvidere High School became accredited. Because she was an only child, Helen was often asked if she was a spoiled only child. She learned to respond that she was – she had a lot of love. What she didn't have were material things or, sometimes, the necessities of life.

At age 16, Helen decided Neil Rittel was the man for her. They were married on May 31, 1944, shortly before Neil left for service. After basic training and a short furlough, he left for active duty, taking Helen's heart with him.

Helen worked as a clerk at Fischer Brothers' Store in Fort Pierre while Neil was in the service. It was while she was at work that she received the telegram that Neil had been wounded in battle. There were no details, and she just had to wonder and worry for days about how badly wounded he had been.

After his Honorable Discharge, Neil and Helen lived on a farm north of Kadoka, followed by a move to north of Philip, where Neil managed a dairy farm until it was sold a year later. His first job in Pierre was at the airport, converting barracks into housing. He also worked for contractor George Specker, building houses.

In 1954, he went to work on the Oahe Dam and was there until its completion in the early 1960s. During those years, Helen was a housewife and mother to their six children. She had the family for which she had always longed to be a part.

Neil and Helen were baptized on Easter Sunday evening in 1957. Those years as new members of First Baptist Church were among the best for Helen and her family. Friendships were established that lasted through their lives.

Helen and Neil lived away from Pierre for 15 years where Neil was able to find work in Utah and Wyoming. In Utah, they added two new sons-in-law to their family, having to leave part of their now-large family and friends when they returned to South Dakota. Returning to Pierre was their shared hope. Neil told friends and co-workers that, well, he owned land in Pierre, without explaining it was cemetery plots.

Helen worked as a nurse aide or ward clerk in hospitals in Pierre, and then in Roosevelt, UT, and Douglas, WY, before returning to Pierre. She loved working in the hospital environment and took care of patients "like they were her own kids" (her words). When they returned to Pierre, they returned as new managers of Chateau Apartments. Long-time tenants appreciated how well they kept the property during the ten years they were there. Neil passed away on Veterans' Day in 1997.

Helen accepted a position at the new Walmart in 1995. She worked there for 18 years and considered her co-workers and friends as family.

Survivors include her son, Brad (Dawn) Rittel and her daughters, Donna (Keith) Crandell, Karen (Alan) Hughart, Laura Rittel, Tana (Ronnie) Culpepper and Liz (Jim) Ames. Also left with gratitude for sharing in her long life and with good memories of their Grandma Helen are 12 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and six great great grandchildren. Helen was predeceased by Neil and their parents, Oscar and Ada Rorgo, her step-dad, George H. Sherrill, and Sol and Ella Rittel, their infant great granddaughter, Maizy Rittel, granddaughter-in-law Tamie Ames, along with Helen's beloved Aunt Frances (Sis) and Uncle Virgil (Tunie) Jensen.

# Reta Lathem



Our "Cowgirl" Reta, after brief stay at Dougherty Hospice House, rode off into the sunset late afternoon January 22nd to be wrapped in the arms of her cowboy Roy and our Lord and Savior.

Reta was born as a middle child February 4, 1927 in Nevada County, Arkansas to Joseph Dale and Edna Faye Stringer. In her early years she spent a lot of time with Grandma Crank where she learned rock star skills on how to become the very best "Granny" ever. Playing sports was a passion, she always told us if they were selecting teams for a sport she was the first one chosen however if it was for spelling or academics she was the last one chosen!!

In eighth grade the family moved to Sandhill, Texas. With grandpa being a cotton farmer, Reta developed a strong work ethic early on and telling us of picking cotton for hours on end pulling a giant bag down the rows. They were so heavy they had to be assisted by the men to dump their bags into the trailer and they were paid by the pound.

It was during the Old Settler's parade in Floydada, Texas in late May where Reta was riding on a saddle on top of a car waving her pom poms that caught the eye of Roy.

After a brief two month courtship, they were married on July 20, 1947 in her parents' home. Following their wedding Roy returned to ranching, working for G.L. Taylor Cattle Co. at Stratford, Texas. During this time their only child, Penny Louise, was born. In 1951 they moved to Colorado working for the same Cattle Co., while there she acquired the joy of hunting in the mountains.

In 1952 the Lathems returned to Olton, Texas. The year that Penny started first grade, Reta drove the school bus so that she and Roy could help provide school clothes, etc. for her 4 young nieces and nephews that had recently lost their Dad to cancer.

June 10, 1956 Roy and Reta moved north to South Dakota to begin their many years of working for Billy Barrick Cattle Ranches. Reta became the head cook preparing three meals a day, seven days a week, cooking for up to 12 hired men. As duties changed Reta worked along side Roy whether it was raking hay, plowing in the fields, riding the range checking the livestock, BRANDING her most favorite annual activity or working in their huge garden they loved to share with others.

Reta had a persistence for nurturing her and Penny's faith. Anyone that would travel through five cattle gates and thirty six miles in the winter months showed strong will and perseverance.

Valerie (Bub), Jerime and Zach have numerous fond memories of learning to drive where there was nothing you could hit, riding horses, roasting marshmallows over the huge cook stove, root beer floats in the big colorful aluminum glasses, tooling leather, going to the stock tank filled with warm artisan water and pretending it was their hot tub, granny introducing them to their Texas relatives as they all met in Lake City, CO and their annual trips to the Black Hills.

Upon retirement, Roy and Reta moved to Ft. Pierre. Reta was able to become more involved in church functions at First Baptist Church, so enjoyed visiting those that were shut-ins and those in nursing homes, along with serving as a volunteer at Avera St. Mary's Hospital. Reta had a avid interest in Football, with the Broncos being her favorite. She had a a definite opinion on certain teams and quarterbacks!!

Most grateful for having shared her zest for life include daughter Penny (John) Porter of Sioux Falls, three grandchildren, Valerie (Kerry) Kelly of Pierre, Jerime (Lisa) Porter of Piedmont, Zachary (Angie) Porter of Sioux Falls and eight great grandchildren Kylee And Kiera Hanson of Pierre, Jayden and Jaci Porter of WI, Max and Charlie Porter of Sioux Falls , step great grandchildren Mason and Lia Neumiller of Piedmont, sister in laws Molly Stringer and Virginia Stringer of Floydada, Texas, Johnnie Lathem of Bee Branch, Arkansas, and Sybal Crouch of Wills Point, Texas

along with numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Roy, brothers Stinson and Bill Stringer, sisters Sue Stringer and Dorothy Rhea, sister in law Nell Baumann, brother-in-law's Ray and Billy Lathem, Garland and Doug Rhea, and Bruce Baumann.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to

- 1) Avera Foundation, PO Box 5045, Sioux Falls, SD 57117, memo line of check: Dougherty Hospice House or Reta Lathem
- 2) First Baptist Church, 2310 East Capital Ave., Pierre, SD 57501 for sound system enhancements.



## THE WEATHERED OLD BARN

A stranger came by the other day with an offer that set me to thinking. He wanted to buy the old barn that sits out by the highway. I told him right off he was crazy. He was a city type, you could tell by his clothes, his car his hands, and the way he talked. He said he was driving by and saw that beautiful barn sitting out in the tall grass and wanted to know if it was for sale. I told him he had a funny idea of beauty.

Sure, it was a handsome building in its day. But then, there's been a lot of winters pass with their snow and ice and howling wind. The summer sun's beat down on that old barn till all the paint's gone, and the wood has turned silver gray. Now the old building leans a good deal, looking kind of tired. Yet, that fellow called it beautiful.

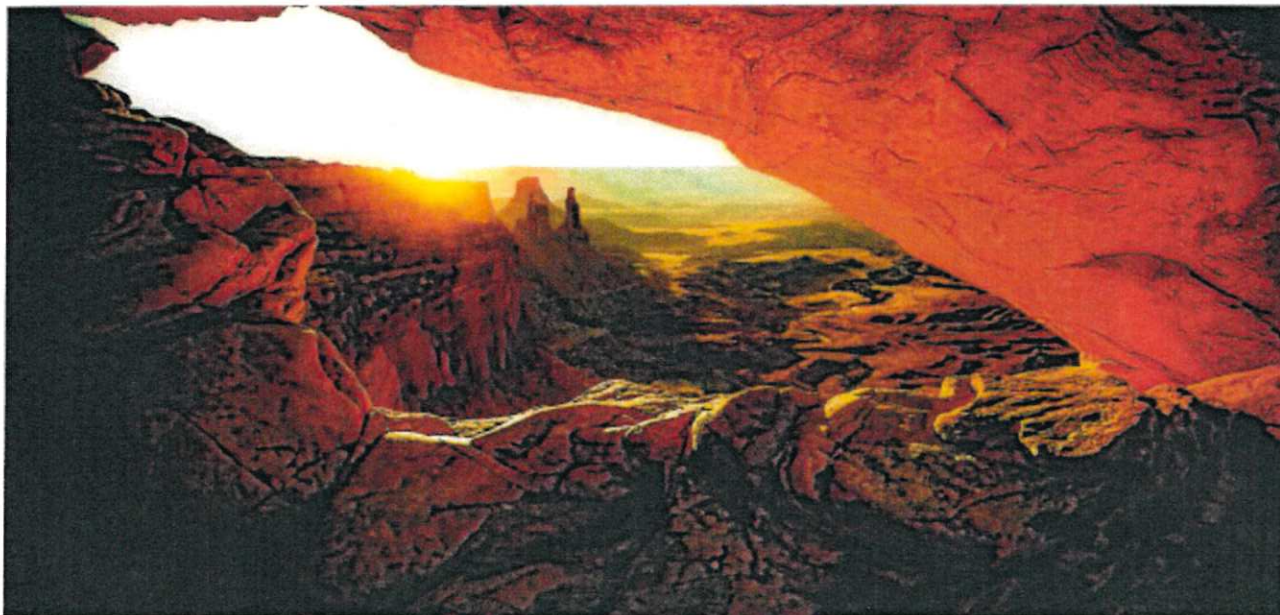
That set me to thinking. I walked out to the field and just stood there, gazing at that old barn. The stranger said he planned to use the lumber to line the walls of his den in a new country home he's building down the road. He said you couldn't get paint that beautiful. Only years of standing in the weather, bearing the storms and scorching sun, only that can produce beautiful barn wood.

It came to me then. We're a lot like that, you and I. Only it's on the inside that the beauty grows with us. Sure we turn silver gray too.... and lean a bit more than we did when we were young and full of sap. But the Good Lord knows what He's doing. And as the years pass He's busy using the hard wealth of our lives, the dry spells and the stormy seasons, to do a job of beautifying our souls that nothing else can produce. And to think how often folks holler because they want life easy!

They took the old barn down today and hauled it away to beautify a rich man's house. And I reckon someday you and I'll be hauled off to Heaven to take on whatever chores the Good Lord has for us on the Great Sky Ranch.

And I suspect we'll be more beautiful then for the seasons we've been through here ... and just maybe even add a bit of beauty to our Father's house.

Author Unknown



## Five Verses When You Need Strength

*Need to be reminded that God hears you? He does! Meditate on these promises when you need His strength to get you through the challenges of the day.*

**1** I cried out, "I am slipping!" but your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me. When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.

PSALM 94:18-19 (NLT)

**2** As for me, since I am poor and needy, let the Lord keep me in his thoughts. You are my helper and my savior. O my God, do not delay.

PSALM 40:17 (NLT)

**3** O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel.

NEHEMIAH 1:5-6 (NLT)

**4** Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

PSALM 9:10 (NIV)

**5** May your glorious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessing and praise! You alone are the LORD. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you.

NEHEMIAH 9:5-6 (NLT)

## Girl Scouts Troop 40226



The Girl Scout Troop 40226 received a bronze award for sewing pillow cases for cancer patients.

Sydney Carlson, Abigail Stanley, Anne-Renee Speck, Violet Speck and not pictured Brooklyn Hildebrandt are holding some of the pillow cases. The girls were assisted by Maxine Tessier and Pat Weeldreyer with the sewing.

### *Let's share the news!*

Anyone wishing to share information is welcome to send articles, news items, pictures and etc. to the church for use in the upcoming FOLDS.

These can be mailed to the church @ Box 105, Pierre, SD 57501, e-mailed to [firstbaptist@mncomm.com](mailto:firstbaptist@mncomm.com) or dropped off with the secretary or pastor. The deadline for submitting is the **20th** of every month.





# SDABY WINTER RETREAT

## FEBRUARY 12 – 14, 2021

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Middle School and Senior High students are welcome to attend the SDABY Winter Retreat
- ABC Dakotas and member participating churches are hosting this event
- The retreat begins at 7:00 PM on February 12<sup>th</sup> and ends at 12:00 PM on February 14<sup>th</sup>
- The retreat location is the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Mitchell, SD  
Location: 1525 W Havens Ave, Mitchell, SD 57301; PHONE: (605) 550-4805
- Cost for the retreat is \$90: covers room, food, and meeting room expenses
- Students will stay in a single room/suite with up to 4 others students of the same gender (preferably from the same church.)
- All rooms will be chaperoned by at least 1 approved adult leader (at least 18 years of age)
- Bring a sleeping bag, Bible, notebook, any needed personal items, etc.  
Optional - swimwear for the pool (if venue allows the pool to be open)
- Pool use/recreational facilities are limited to hours of operation and adult leader supervision
- Swimwear must include shorts for boys and a modest one piece suit for girls  
"Non-white T-Shirts" or athletic swim shirt is an optional addition for female swim attire
- DO NOT BRING: drugs, alcohol, weapons of any kind, fireworks, etc.
- *At all times, students are expected to follow all rules and directions, whether written or verbal, from venue staff and retreat leaders. We will have fun, yet still expect respectful, Christ-like, behavior during the entirety of the event. Failure to adhere to this code of conduct could result in a student being removed from the event at the parent's expense*
- Send registration form and registration fee no later than Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>
- Make checks payable to: ABC of the Dakotas, 1101 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Sioux Fall, SD 57105-1699
- For more Information, please contact Sarah Zander @ (605) 881 - 6585 or  
Pastor Josh Matthews @ (608) 774 – 0433. Email: [pastorjosh316@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjosh316@gmail.com)

### COVID – 19 Safety Precautions and Policy Disclaimer:

Dedicated to the safety of your family, SDABY, ABC of Dakotas, along with its' participating churches will abide by event venue, state, and local public health regulations and guidelines, including; social distancing and wearing masks when required, temperature checks upon departure to and arrival at the venue, and hand sanitizer use before and after each activity. However, please understand despite these precautions, we cannot guarantee your student will not come into contact with COVID -19.

**DATE:**      **2/7**      **2/14**      **2/21**      **2/28**      **3/7**      **3/14**      **3/21**      **3/28**

<b>Message Given by:</b>	Pastor Matt Spoden	Pastoral Candidate	Ron Baumgart	Bonnie Rus Jim Knipp	Pastor Emily Munger	Paula Weeldreyer	Darrell & Cindy Kemnitz	Laurie Feiler
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Bonnie Rus	Darren Hall	Darrell Kemnitz	Esther Burket	Lori Hall	Ron Baumgart	Nick Osterkamp	Esther Burket
<b>Communion</b>	Pastor Matt Spoden				Pastor Emily Munger			
<b>Usher</b>	Ken Koistinen	Desiree Quinn	Darren Hall	Eric Feiler	Darren Hall	Eric Feiler	Desiree Quinn	Ken Koistinen
<b>Usher</b>	Joyce Koistinen	Pat Quinn	Sunny Hall	Laurie Feiler	Sunny Hall	Laurie Feiler	Pat Quinn	Joyce Koistinen
<b>Usher</b>	Todd Mahoney	Nathan Quinn	Lori Hall	Michelle Mahoney	Maxine Tessier	Todd Mahoney	Nathan Quinn	Michelle Mahoney
<b>Children's Moment</b>	Connie Pierce	Lori Hall	Paula Weeldreyer	Lori Hall	Connie Pierce	Paula Weeldreyer	Lori Hall	Esther Burket
<b>Power Point</b>	Jeff Pierce	Sunny Hall	Renee Osterkamp	Laurie Feiler	Jeff Pierce	Laurie Feiler	Patrick Quinn	Sunny Hall
<b>Song Leader</b>	Erika Bruns	Lori Hall	Paula Weeldreyer	Erika Bruns	Erika Bruns	Paula Weeldreyer	Erika Bruns	Esther Burket

## Dakotamart Receipts

Please place your receipts in an envelope and put Maxine's name on the front, then place it on the table in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

**NOTE:** Only Lynn's Dakotamart valid register tapes will be accepted. Tapes that are mutilated and do not contain a legible total will not be accepted.

**Please remember to save your receipts... every dollar counts!**

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

Feb 7: Linda Hunter  
 Feb 8: Henry Ruppelt  
 Feb 10: Blaine Drageset  
 Feb 10: Chris Speaect  
 Feb 11: Carly Retterath  
 Feb 17: Arrow Reddest  
 Feb 18: Rhonda Drageset  
 Feb 20: Carol Howard  
 Feb 21: John Weeldreyer  
 Feb 23: Ron Frame  
 Feb 24: Cindy Kemnitz  
 Feb 25: Aaron Tripp  
 Feb 27: Dominique Ruppelt  
       27: Tyson Pierce  
 Feb 28: MaKayla (Wilson) Kjerstad  
 Mar 7: Danielle Wilson  
 Mar 8: Eric Feiler  
 Mar 11: Doug Osnes  
 Mar 13: Ryan Baumgart  
 Mar 17: Erika Bruns  
 Mar 17: Keith Crandell  
 Mar 18: Kendall Light  
 Mar 27: River Sivage

### ANNIVERSARIES

February 15:  
       Dick & Carol Howard  
 February 19:  
       Bill & Sandy Griese  
 March 1:  
       Kerry & Wanda Dilley  
 March 6:  
       Paul & Leane Herman  
 March 7:  
       Darrell & Cindy Kemnitz



**The Fold**  
**PO Box 105**  
**Pierre, SD 57501**



*First Baptist Church*  
*Pierre, SD*

## **First Baptist Church**

**Secretary: Larae Schoenfelder**  
**2310 E. Capitol Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 105**  
**Pierre, SD 57501**  
Phone: 605-224-2030

Church Website:

[www.pierrefirstbaptist.com](http://www.pierrefirstbaptist.com)

Church Facebook:

First Baptist Church of Pierre  
South Dakota

Church Email address:

[firstbaptist@mncomm.com](mailto:firstbaptist@mncomm.com)

Pastor's Email address:

[pastorlizettehunt@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlizettehunt@gmail.com)