

APPFAITHHEALTH PARTNER: RUMPLE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BLOWING ROCK, NC

By Anne Tarbutton

At Rumble we have a Congregational Care Team that serves our members in a variety of ways. We have individuals who volunteer for weekly time frames to visit ones who are sick and recovering and offer support to their families, send cards, make phone calls, deliver meals, provide respite, recommend resources when needed, provide worship/spiritual practices, etc. Additionally, we minister to the bereaved with receptions, food, memorial donations, bereavement baskets, cards, and visitation. Also, we welcome new and visiting members to our congregation. Last, we have offered specialized training to our church community in compassionate caregiving, grief, and hospital visitations.

It's important for us to be a partner and member with AppFaithHealth for many reasons. First, there are evidence based numbers of partnerships like this that reflect decreases in mortality rates, decreases in hospital readmissions and reduced medical costs for those served. Second, we have a "direct" relationship with App Regional Healthcare. This allows us access to support from the health provider when a patient is admitted and in a "care plan / follow up" when a patient is released. This provides better communication with our pastor and Congregational Team and helps us coordinate our ministry to others in an organized, patient specific needs approach. Third, we have an opportunity to network and collaborate with other local faith communities. This is valuable for all as we learn from each other ways to carry out this important outreach. Last, we benefit from continuing training in resources from App Regional Healthcare. Recently, I attended a Virtual Dementia Tour at a local Medical Center. It was an eye opening experience for me as I gained an understanding of what persons with dementia may experience, and how I may better serve them as a member of Congregational Care.

Ms. Anne Tarbutton, "Annie" is the proud "Gannie" of two grandsons. Living almost 6 hours away, she has spent much time in her Airstream Travel Trailer visiting to bond and be with them. Annie is a member of the Congregational Care Committee and Choir at Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church in Blowing Rock, NC. She also served as POAMN Conference Chair and took classes in the Older Adult Ministry Certification with POAMN.