

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church

December 2011

“Sharing, Preparing and Caring in Jesus’ Name”

321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323

Church Phone: 814-432-4162

Website: www.rockygrove.org

Email Address: [rgapc @ verizon.net](mailto:rgapc@verizon.net)

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Reverend Sue Nageotte, Pastor

Rhonda Rust, Secretary

Edith Richards, Organist

Janet Bish, Assistant Organist

Scott Donaldson, Custodian

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

A Note from the Pastor's Study:

When I was young, one of my favorite Christmas carols was, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" This year, I'm curious - do you hear what I hear? Do you see what I see? Everywhere I go these days, I hear and see that wonderful message, "Christmas is Coming!" It's true that most of these messages come in the form of advertisements urging me to shop, shop, shop, buy, buy, buy, spend, spend, spend. And it's true that newspaper, radio and television ads insist upon referring to "the holidays" instead of the Holy Days -- which can be *very annoying* to a Christian!

But never mind! Those politically correct, religiously neutral marketing blitzes can never diminish the truth: "Christmas IS Coming!" Despite the glitter, those with eyes to see and ears to hear, can still plainly perceive the deeper truth. We can look at the twinkling lights, and see in them reminders of Christ, the Light of the World. We can look at evergreen wreaths and be reminded of the eternal Son of the eternal Father, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. We can even look at the tempting array of gifts - the things we long to buy for our loved ones, *because* we love them -- and be reminded of the most precious gift of all, the Son of God who gave his life willingly to atone for the sins of the world.

At Christmas, we rejoice at the coming of Christ into the world. But we celebrate much more than that one day, two thousand years ago, when the baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We also celebrate the truth that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ is active in the world today, and Christ will come again with power. This knowledge gives us both hope and humility as we rejoice in his birth, take comfort in his presence and eagerly await his return.

May the love of God, the light of Christ, and the flame of the Holy Spirit burn brightly in your heart and in your home, during these "holy days" and forever.

LOVE IN CHRIST, PASTOR SUE

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL

POINSETTIAS

If you desire to place memorial poinsettia(s) in the church for Christmas, please return this form with payment to Doris Feather, 302 15th St. Apt 19, Franklin Pa 16323 or phone her at 437-5236. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary starting December 18th. ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH.

SORRY, PER THE RETAILER, NO ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER DEC 4TH

Attached is my check for \$_____ (\$7.00 each) payable to “Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church Deacons’ Fund” and can be given to Doris Feather or put in the Offering Plate.

Please mark color preferred: _____Red _____White _____Pink

(Please Print Clearly)

NAME (S) OF DONOR:

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

**PLEASE CLAIM YOUR POINSETTIAS AFTER THE CHRISTMAS EVE OR
DECEMBER 25TH SERVICE.**

VETERANS RECOGNIZED

On Sunday, November 13th, during the worship service, the following veterans were recognized and honored. Please continue to hold all members of the armed services and their families in your prayers.

<u>VETERAN</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>WHEN/WHERE SERVED</u>
Jim Albright	Navy	1944-1946
Charles Bashor	Army	Currently serving
Harold Bell	Army	1968-1970 (Vietnam)
Arnie Bish	Army Reserves	1961-1982
James Dickie	Army	1968-1969
Clarence Diehl	Navy	WW II
Wayne Edmondson	Army	1966-1978
Heather Faulkner	Air Force	1982-2002
S/Sgt Alex Faulker	Air Force	Currently serving
David Feather	Army	1951-1954
Clair (Bo) Gibbons	Navy	Served previously
Charles Girty	Army	Served previously
William Girty	Army	Served previously
Chuck Gothe	Air Force	World War II
Don Gothe	Army	Korean War
Bob Gothe	Air Force	Served previously
Mike Hartman	Army	Vietnam

Robert Hawkins, Jr.	Navy Seals	Currently serving
William L. Hill	Army	WW II
Paul Jankowski	Air Force	Currently serving
Norman Kashner	Army	1942-1945
Stephen Kernic	Air Force	Desert Storm
Nick Kernic	Air Force	Afghanistan – now
Ron Klinger, Sr.	Army	Served previously
Russell Klinger	Navy	Served previously
Suzanne Klinger	Army	Currently serving
Tim Klinger	Navy	Served previously
Les Lepley	Army	1963-1968
Mike McNany	Marine Corps	1992-2008
Jim Nageotte	Air Force	1966-1970
Alfred E. Pellow	Army	1955-1959
Bill Phillips	Army Airborne	1966-1968
Matthew Phillips	Air Force	Currently serving
Tyler Ream	Marine Corps	Currently serving
Sharon Rockne	Army	1975-1993
Jim Sandok	Navy	1967-1969
Paul J. Sandok	Merchant Marines	WW II
Paul L. Sandok	Navy	1959-1962
Eugene Sheffer	Army	1953-1955
Clair Speth	Army	1943-1945

John Viele	Army Combat Engineers	1950-1953
Ron Walters	Army Air Force	WW II
Brad Wetjen	Army Reserves	1963-1969
Gerald Wendt	Army	1954-1956 (Korea)
Harry Whitman	Army	Served previously
Adam Yeager	Army	Served previously

ATTENTION:

The form that was included in the October & November Newsletters for the purpose of updating our files needs to be completed in regards to each individual who is a member or regularly participates in worship and activities at Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church. Extra copies of the form are available in the narthex next to the collection box. If you have not already done so, please complete a form and return at your earliest convenience as we would like to have the information data entered by year's end. This will allow the church office to have up-to-date information on the church family. Thank you.

Christmas Card Exchange

In past years the Deacons have provided a table where people could place Christmas cards for other church members to pick up. Because it was difficult to keep the cards in order, sometimes cards got misplaced and did not reach the intended recipient. Therefore, the deacons have decided not to set up a card exchange table this year. However, you are still more than welcome to bring Christmas cards with you to church and give them to others before worship, in order to save postage.

SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER

Hospital Visits: Elder Don Yount & Deacon Joyce Dillemath

Worship Leader: Wayne Edmondson

Ushers: Jim Albright, Dave Brandt, John Dumbleton,
Brad Wetjen and Joyce Wetjen

Greeters: December 4 Cheri & Dick Mortimer

11 Ed & Molly Whitling

18 Dave & Sonya Baker

24 Joyce Pellow & family

25 Brad & Joyce Wetjen

Candle Lighters: December 4 Ray & Toby Aikins

11 Jim Speth & The Morelands

18 Debbie & Floyd Dunlap

24 The Hartmans

Nursery: December 4 Sarah Moreland

11 Diane Whitman

18 Joyce Dillemath

24 & 25 No Nursery

Children's Church: December 4 Jeremiah & Malinda Lukers

11 Jeremiah & Malinda Lukers

18 Children's program during worship

24 & 25 No Children's Church

Good News of Great Joy!

2011 Christmas Joy Offering

Christmas Joy Offering is upon us once again. Your offering goes towards helping to support the needs of Presbyterian church workers and their families, racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The story I'm about to tell you is about a 4th generation Presbyterian, who grew up in the predominantly Roman Catholic country of Mexico.

Lemuel Garcia felt a calling to deepen his faith. His family had very little money, educational opportunities were limited, and Lemuel did not speak English. He still was determined to further his formation within the Presbyterian-Reformed tradition.

Lemuel soon learned about the Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS). Its mission is to challenge its students academically, spiritually, emotionally and physically in preparation for lives of Christian leadership.

Each year PPAS faces very real challenges. 90% of its students receive financial aid, and tuition provides only 45% of its annual operating budget. It relies on grants and other donations to make up the difference.

Rev. Lemuel Garcia graduated and was ordained in 1996 at his beloved PPAS. Lemuel says, "All that I am or have accomplished I owe in large part to PPAS."

Our continued support of the Christmas Joy Offering will help ensure the same opportunity for others. Envelopes for donations can be found in this newsletter and in the pews. You can also give online at www.pcusa.org/christmasjoy or by texting JOY to 20222 (to give a \$10 donation).

submitted by Diane Whitman for Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Team

FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – November 14th

- The minutes of the Session meeting on October 24, 2011 as amended.
- The report of the Financial Secretary for the period ending October 31, 2011 and the checking account summary,

budget year to date figures and financial report for October 2011.

- The following committee minutes:

Missions, Outreach & Evangelism - October 25, 2011

Trustees - November 7, 2011

Congregational Life - November 7, 2011

- One week of vacation for the Pastor from December 26, 2011 through January 2, 2012.
- The establishment of officer training by Pastor Sue and the scheduling of installation of officers as the Pastor's schedule permits in January 2012.

Amended Motions from the Session Meeting – Oct. 24th

- Two persons shall count each and every offering before the money leaves the church building. (This action is taken to comply with the new Book of Order.)

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – Any contributions you wish to make to the church and have credited for the 2011 fiscal year should be made by Sunday, December 25, 2011.

PER CAPITA - It's not too late to pay the 2011 per capita amount which is \$27.57 for each RGAPC member. Be sure to clearly mark your check or giving envelope "2011 per capita" and place it in the offering plate by December 25th.

UPCOMING EVENTS at RGAPC

Please mark the dates on your calendars!

Youthful Spirits

Men and women with *youthful spirits* gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun December 7th at The Commons At Franklin, 1340 Liberty Street, Franklin. Call Gayle Schull at 432-4387 to make a reservation. Watch the Sunday bulletin for information of the next event on January 4, 2012.

Children's Christmas Play

Preparation for "You Can't Cancel Christmas" will be December 4th and 11th during Sunday School and Children's Church. This children's Christmas comedy will be presented to the congregation during worship on December 18th. Cast members (speaking and non-speaking roles), props/stage crew, and other assistants are needed. Please contact Malinda Lukers @ 432-5353 if you are interested in participating.

SPIRIT OF GIVING

The Deacons have placed tags on the tree in the sanctuary of gift suggestions. Two families will be sponsored this year. You are encouraged to take a tag (or two, or three), purchase the requested item, wrap it, place the tag on the wrapped gift and place under the tree by December 18th. Monetary donations can be given to Joyce Pellow to purchase items on tags not selected.

The celebration for 50-year members, which was announced in last month's newsletter, will take place January 22, 2012. There will be a light luncheon in Moorhead Hall after worship. A new plaque is being purchased to display all 50-year members on one. (The current plaque is not large enough to accommodate all the new additions!)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

As Christmas approaches, the giant foreign factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box? Everyone yes EVERYONE gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down big bucks for a foreign made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants -- all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your hometown Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would LOVE the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I KNOW I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theater.

Musicians need love too, so find a venue show-casing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you REALLY need to buy another ten thousand ornamental lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of light, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that other countries can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

THIS is what I hope will become the new American Christmas tradition.

E-mail from the Internet submitted by Jim Sandok

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation was held Sunday, November 20th, after worship. Persons elected as Elders are: Wayne Edmondson, Joyce Wetjen and Phyllis Wetzl. Deacons are: Sarah DeLong, Margaret Wielandt & Linda Zeller.

Arnie Bish, John Klinger and Don Yount were elected for 3-year terms as Trustees; Joyce Pellow for a 1-year term. The budget was not available and will be presented at a later date. The 2011 winner of the 5th annual Chili Cook-Off trophy is George Wielandt. George also won in 2007, the first year of this event. Congratulations, George! The proceeds of \$125.00 will be put towards camp scholarships per George's request.

Hospital Visitation

You are probably aware that Pastor Sue regularly makes hospital visits, as do our elders and deacons. If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital (UPMC Northwest), please remember to tell the admitting staff that you are a member of RGAPC. If admitted to another medical facility, please call the church office (you can leave a message at night and on weekends). Otherwise we have no way of knowing you are in the hospital.

"Did you know? You can now make donations directly from your IRA -- tax free! IRA owners who are 70½ and older can make direct transfers to a charitable organization without paying taxes. This IRA charitable rollover option is available through the end of 2011. Please talk with your financial advisor and pray about whether this might be a way for you to give a special gift to RGAPC."

December Birthdays

1	Kassidy Clark	20	Reily Kaster (2004)
	Donald McAfee		Amy Tatarek
3	David Cokain		Jacob Wetzel
4	Jayne McEntire		Daniel Wetzel
	Patricia Campbell	23	Ben Donaldson
6	Rhonda Rust		Thomas Moffitt
14	Dick Mortimer	25	Joshua Wargo
15	Savannah Lukers (2009)	26	Judy Jones
17	Amy Franklin	30	Caylee Henderson (2008)
19	Neil Donaldson		
	Jim Speth		

Dear Friends at RGAPC.

Thank you so much for the plate of delicious cookies you sent to us for Thanksgiving. We really appreciate being remembered.

Tom & Eleanore Moffitt

Twenty-two (22) shoeboxes were taken to the Operation Christmas Child collection center. Thanks to all who participated. Continue to pray that many children will hear the story of Jesus through this world-wide outreach.

Edith Richards

Newsletter articles are due in the church office by the 20th of each month. Please write out all of the information as you wish it to appear. Be sure to provide a contact name and phone number for an event so your group can be contacted if needed. Thank you!