

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

December 2012

A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church

Sharing, Preparing and Caring in Jesus' Name"

321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323

Church Phone: 814-432-4162

Website: www.rockygrover.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

June McClintock, 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

From the Pastor's Study:

Dear RGAPC family and friends,

The month of December is filled with anticipation as Christians all around the world prepare to celebrate once again the birth of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. This is the season of Advent – from the Latin word *adventus* -- which means ‘arrival.’ Advent is a time of looking forward, a time of hope, a time to marvel at the Prince of Peace who stepped out of the glories of heaven to be born as a tiny baby. And he did this for one reason -- to fulfill God’s merciful will to rescue God’s people from darkness and sin and death.

As we publicly celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ some 2,000 years ago, we can also inwardly celebrate the coming of Jesus into our own individual lives -- that is, when we knew him to be real, and received him as Savior and Lord. Singer-songwriter Chris Tomlin puts it this way: *“King of all days, o so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above; humbly You came to the earth You created, and for love’s sake became poor. Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes and let me see the beauty that made my heart adore You, and hope in a life spent with You . . .”*

This is the Christian’s unshakeable hope and enduring comfort: that, in life and in death, in times of plenty and times of want, we belong, body and soul, to Jesus Christ our faithful Savior . . . that God gives to all who trust in him forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life . . . and that Christ is coming again in glory to make all things new.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the City of David. Our sermon series this month will focus on the Book of Ruth, which takes place almost entirely in Bethlehem. If you are wondering how that Old Testament story fits into the Advent season . . . well, you’ll just have to come & find out for yourself! And don’t miss the children’s Christmas program, *The Story of the Christmas Bells*, on December 23rd.

At this special season and always, I pray that you and those who are dear to you will be filled to overflowing with the hope, peace, joy and love of God’s amazing gift - Jesus Christ.

PASTOR SUE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC

Saturday, December 8th - “Christmas Buffet Dinner” at Grantham’s Landing. If you would like to car pool, meet in the church parking lot at 5:30. Festivities begin at 6:00, and we will eat at 6:30 p.m. Join in the fun and fellowship.

Sunday, December 23rd – Children’s Christmas program, *The Story of the Christmas Bells*, during worship service.

Christmas Eve – 7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service

SAVE THE DATE – April 28, 2013 - The Keelings will be in concert at Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

December 8th 5-9 pm & 9th 3-7 pm – The Bethlehem Experience at First Presbyterian Church, 215 East Bissell Ave., Oil City. Tour the village of Jesus’ birth; walk through the marketplace; chat with the shopkeepers; and check out their wares. At the end of your journey, you will meet Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. Each tour takes approximately 40 minutes. There is no admission fee; however, donation baskets will be available. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, December 15th - 6:30 p.m. – Victorian Christmas – First Baptist Church sanctuary, 1041 Liberty Street. Classical and sacred Christmas music will be featured. See poster on bulletin board for additional information.

Wednesday, December 19th - 7:30 p.m. - David Phelps in Concert at First Assembly of God, 8150 Oliver Rd, Erie, PA. General admission is \$25 at the door, Children 5 and under are free, no ticket required. (Children in Artist Circle section must purchase a ticket at regular posted price.) Artist Circle \$25; General Admission \$20; Gen. Admission Group (10+) \$18; Gen. Admission Child (ages 6-12) \$10. To place an order call 800-965-9324. (Service fees may apply)

RGAPC NEWS

At the congregational information meeting on November 11, a large majority of members present were in support of RGAPC exploring the possibility of seeking to be dismissed from the PC(USA) to another Reformed (Presbyterian) denomination. This exploration will involve continual prayer and many conversations, both within the congregation and with the Presbytery. Please watch for updates from time to time, in the Sunshine Newsletter and occasional special mailings.

The minutes for the Session meeting on November 12, 2012, will not be available until the January newsletter.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation was held Sunday, November 18th. Elders elected are: Lois Pierce and George Wielandt for 3-year terms; Linda Hartman for 1-year term (filling a vacancy). Deacons: Sheryl Clinefelter, Doris Feather and Sarah Speth. Trustees: Harold Bell, David Cokain and John Dumbleton. Auditors: Marge Sheffer (2-year) and Doris Feather (3-year). Presbyterian Home Reps: Jim & Flo Albright and Gene & Marge Sheffer. Nominating Committee: Jill Alden, Cheri Mortimer, Joyce Pellow and Judy Ream. The 2013 budget was presented. Thanks to the Nominating Committee for all their hard work.

The 2012 winner of the 6th annual Chili Cook-Off trophy is Ben DeLong. A total of \$100.77 was made and donated to Youth Programs. Congratulations, Ben!

RGAPC Financial Information

	October 2012	Year to Date
Congregational Giving	\$ 6,978.00	\$ 76,219.85
Expenses	\$ 7,829.30	\$ 84,191.59
Difference	- \$ 851.30	- \$ 7,971.74

November Financial Reports will be available in the narthex

beginning the second Sunday of December.

The Birth of Jesus

Use your Bible to answer the questions below, then find the answers in the puzzle.

S F A W B C Y I J O K
H A S I X N P S O D T
E L I Z A B E T H G L
P Y M Y U M C H N Q U
H T E J G A B R I E L
E D O E U R K E R T D
R Z N D S Y R E L S N
D K B E T H L E H E M
S Y O R U P R H S N M
R G J O S E P H O T A

1. The people living in the fields nearby, watching their flocks. (Luke 2:8)
2. Jesus' mother. (Luke 2:5-7)
3. The angel who brought messages from God. (Luke 1:19&26)
4. The wife of Zechariah the priest. (Luke 1:13)
5. The Caesar who issued a decree that a census should be taken. (Luke 2:1)
6. A righteous man who was waiting for the consolation of Israel. (Luke 2:25)
7. Zechariah's son, a relative of Jesus. (Luke 1:59-60)
8. The man Jesus' mother was pledged to marry. (Luke 1:27)
9. How many months did Mary stay with Elizabeth? (Luke 1:56)
10. The town where Joseph and Mary went to be counted. (Luke 2:4)

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – Any contributions you wish to make to the church and have credited for the 2012 fiscal year should be made by Sunday, December 30, 2012.

PER CAPITA - It's not too late to pay the 2012 per capita amount which is \$27.83 for each RGAPC member. Be sure to clearly mark your check or giving envelope "2012 per capita" and place it in the offering plate by December 30th.

MISSION TRIP ANYONE?

The devastation resulting from Hurricane Sandy is as extensive and heart-breaking as that from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. There will be many opportunities for people to go on work trips in the coming year. Some of these will be coordinated at the Presbytery level, others through local Franklin area churches. Please let Pastor Sue know if God is nudging you to participate in a work trip to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

THE TUG

Mary and Joseph felt a tug and so they went with reverent fear
to the city of David for the Messiah's birth was near.

The lowly shepherds felt the tug and their wonder would not yield
when they heard the angel's voices while tending flocks in the field.

The wise men also felt a tug and set out on a journey far
to the little town of Bethlehem, being guided by a star.

Through ages we too feel this tug,
our Savior beckoning from heaven above.

Still speaking, still leading, still healing, still listening:
Emmanuel, God-with-us, abounding in mercy and love.

Notes of Thanks

I wish to thank the church for the Halloween card from the Deacons. It was a nice surprise and made me smile.
Carol Rough

To the Prayer Quilt Ministry and church friends, thank you for the prayer quilt and the well wishes!
Rich Mortimer

Many thanks for all the cards, calls and food given to me during my recovery from back surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Sue for her visit with me at the hospital.
Darlene Exley

Thank you for the flowers and prayers during my stay in the hospital. They were beautiful and greatly appreciated.
Eleanore Moffitt

I received two lovely Thanksgiving cards – one from the Deacons and one from my Shepherd, Linda Zeller. I am grateful for caring friends at Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church.
Carol Rough

Dear Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church,

Community Services of Venango County would like to thank you for the donations. They will bring help to countless families that need our help this year.

We appreciate your contribution. Thank you for understanding that the battle against poverty seems to get worse every year. Without your support we would not be able to help so many.

On behalf of those who benefit from your generosity, thank you.

Sincerely,
Olivia Fox, Community Services of Venango County

December

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Kassidy Clark | 15 | Savannah Lukers (2009) |
| 3 | David Cokain | 19 | Jim Speth |
| 4 | Jayne McEntire | 20 | Reily Kaster (2004) |
| | Patricia Campbell | | Amy Tatarek |
| 6 | Rhonda Rust | | Daniel Wetzel |
| 14 | Dick Mortimer | | Jacob Wetzel |

MISSIONS CORNER

***MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY
NEW YEAR from the MISSIONS &
OUTREACH TEAM!***

***The CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is now
through Christmas Eve. Please consider
giving to this worthy cause.***

Your Missions & Outreach Team member, Jim Speth

SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER

Hospital Visits: Elder Jim Speth & Deacon Diane Whitman

Worship Leader: Jim Speth

Ushers: Darlene Exley, Dick Exley, Jim Speth,
Brad Wetjen and Joyce Wetjen

Greeters: December 2 Jim & Sheryl Clinefelter
9 Joe & Amy Tatarek
16 Joyce Dillemoth & Heather Faulkner
23 Angels, Shepherds & Wise Men
24 Jim & Sarah Speth & family
30 John & Paula Klinger

Candle December 2 Jim & Sheryl Clinefelter

Lighters: 9 Joyce Pellow & family
16 The Hartman Family
23 Angels, Shepherds & Wise Men
24 Jim Sandok Family

Acolyte: 30 Eli Moreland

Nursery: December 2 Diane Whitman
9 Malinda Lukers
16 Molly Whiting

23 Joyce Dillemath

24 No Nursery

30 Sarah Speth

Children's Church: (During Children's Church on December 2nd, 9th and 16th, the children will be preparing for the Children's Christmas Program, which will be presented during the worship service on December 23rd. Pastor Sue is preparing a special message for the children for the worship service on December 30th, so there will be no Children's Church that Sunday.)