

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

January 2013

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,

In the second chapter of Matthew's gospel we learn that after Jesus was born, Magi came to Jerusalem from a far eastern land asking where to find the newborn king of the Jews, for they had seen a great star arise to herald his birth and had come to worship him. "In Bethlehem, in Judea," the chief priests said. King Herod told the Magi, "Go and search for the child; and when you have found him, report back to me." The Magi headed for Bethlehem, following the star until it came to the place where the child was. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Then, having been warned in a dream, they did not go back to Herod but returned to their own country by another way.

When we look at the list of gifts above, one of the first impressions we get is that guys shouldn't be allowed to pick out gifts for a baby shower. Not one of the gifts seems appropriate for a baby. But they were suited for a king. Why? Because of their value. Each of the treasures presented was an expensive gift fit for royalty.

God has always wanted and deserved our best gifts. Under the Old Testament law, God asked his people for the "first fruits" of every harvest, and for unblemished animals for the altar of sacrifice. When Jesus visited with a rich young man, he told him, "Go, sell everything you own and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." (Matthew 10:21). Jesus made no apologies in asking for the best.

Jesus does not generally ask people to "sell everything," but he does ask us to make God the highest priority in our lives. When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind, with all your soul and all your strength . . . and the second greatest is, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Happily, we do not do this in our own strength, but by cooperating with the work of the Holy Spirit.

My prayer is that God will bless every one of you in the coming year -- and our lives together -- and our ministry in Rocky Grove -- as we seek to know and to follow his good will for our lives.

Love in Christ, Pastor Sue

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC

Men and women with *YOUTHFUL SPIRITS* gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun January 2nd in the Youth Room. There will be a potluck luncheon; so bring something to share. Coffee will be provided. Please inform the office by December 31st if you plan to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletins for information on the February 6th gathering.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING new for 2013 – first meeting Thursday, January 17, 2013, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the church. Grades 3-12 are welcome. If you have questions or need a ride, contact Sarah Speth at 673-8976 anytime.

SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, April 28, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

The Keelings will be in concert at Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

January 11-12 (Friday 7:00 PM to Saturday 7:00 PM)

Winter Blast Jr. Retreat at Seneca Hills Bible Conference

Youth ages 9-11

Cost: \$45

Because we know that you need something to tide you over until you can come to camp again in the summer, we've put together Winter Blast! Come and enjoy your favorite activities from summer camp plus a few special winter activities. Prepare to be challenged by our speaker, Matt Shouse, as he brings Christ's call to "Do Hard Things."

The next Men's "7:29 out by 9" Breakfast will be at The Pone Lane Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, January 19th. This is a great way to meet fellow Christian Brothers in the Franklin Area. Invite a friend!

FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – November 12th:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 8 Oct 12 as amended.
- The minutes of the Special Session Meeting of 21 Oct 12.
- The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 31 October 12 and the following Treasurer's reports: the checking account summary, the budget year-to-date figures and the Financial Report for October 2012.
- To contact the Presbytery of Lake Erie and request a preliminary meeting in response to a letter they sent us dated 7 Nov 12.
- Minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting on 15 Oct 12, Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meeting on 5 Nov 12, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 22 Oct 12, Trustee Meeting Minutes of 5 Nov 12 and 1 Oct 12, and the 8 Oct 12 through 12 Nov 12 Report on Administrative Activity.
- Rhonda Rust was elected as our treasurer; Melanie McGinnis was appointed as our assistant treasurer; Jim Clinefelter was appointed as our financial secretary; and John Klinger was appointed as our assistant financial secretary.
- To invest a \$10,000 bond into the Franklin Income Fund, per recommendation of Merralee Obenrader (financial advisor from Edward Jones), and \$2,356 in the Siefer account into the type of investment that recommended to gain the best amount of interest.

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – December 10th:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 12 Nov 12.

- Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 30 November 12 and the following Treasurer's reports: checking account summary, budget year-to-date and Financial Report for November 2012.
- Reinstated Amanda Lewis to active membership and transferred her membership to the Christ United Methodist Church in Franklin, PA., at her request
- Restored the following persons to the active membership roll, at their request: Marie Cutchall, Elissa Stuttler, Joshua Wargo, Donna Wendt and Amie Wielandt
- Received minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting on 19 Nov 12, Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meeting on 3 Dec 12, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 19 Nov 12, Trustee Meeting Minutes of 3 Dec 12, and Administrative Activity Report of 12 Nov 12 through 10 Dec 12.
- A request from Jayne Romero, of the Venango County Mental Health organization, for the use of Moorhead Hall for one year beginning 3 Jan 13, and every first Thursday on a monthly basis, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., for staff meetings.
- The use of the church sanctuary for the wedding of Dale Hastings and Karien Hudock by Rev. David Graves, of the Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church, on Saturday, 16 Feb 13, at 2:00 p.m.
- A change to our Check Request policy to state that a minimum 24-hour processing time will be required for payments.
- Pastor Sue's request for one week of vacation from 29 Jan through 3 Feb 13 to complete her vacation time for 2012.
- Pastor Sue's request for one week of study leave that will be taken on 14 and 15 Feb and 7 through 10 Mar 13.
- The following guideline for "Regular Attendance," to be used in determining eligibility for scholarships: A regular attendee will attend worship services and/or other church related activities at the Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church an average of once per month during the two years prior to going to college.
- Several changes to the Administrative Manual, Sections 701, 702, 704, 705, 707, 708 and 713, Board of Deacons (which the Board of Deacons had requested be made).

RGAPC Financial Information

	November 2012	Year to Date
Congregational Giving	\$ 7,462.00	\$ 83,681.85
Expenses	\$ 7,345.78	\$ 91,537.37
Difference	\$ 116.22	- \$ 7,855.52

Detailed financial reports for December will be available in the narthex beginning the second Sunday of the month.

Notes of Thanks

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the nice stocking you (Deacons) gave me for Christmas – so many enjoyable things. God bless each of you.

With love and prayers, *Joyce Riddle*

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Dear Friends at RGAPC,

Many thanks to the Deacons at RGAPC for the Christmas stocking filled with many tasty & useful items. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

As ever, *Eleanore Moffitt*

Thanks to all for the stocking with the many gifts and for the Christmas cards.
Bernie Speth

To Deacons of R. G. Ave. Presbyterian Church,

Thanks so much for the stocking full of goodies and useful gifts.

So nice of you to think of me. Sincerely, *Marie Cokain*

Thanks for the certificate and other gifts that I received for Christmas. I am so blessed to have such a loving, giving church family.

Blessings to you all, *Rhonda Rust*

Dear friends at RGAPC,

Thank you for all the cards and expressions of appreciation you have given me in recent weeks. Words simply cannot express how touched I am by your kindness and generosity. It is a joy and a privilege serving as your pastor. With much love, *Pastor Sue*

TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2013

With all the problems the World is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind. You can be sure that the following are true:

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember Who is really in control and that, "the word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:25)

Until the nets are full, keep on fishing.

--Contributed by Norm & Jean Engelage

Hi! I'm Frosty's cousin, Chilly Willy! I love winter, don't you?

I'm here to stay for a while, but you can think spring anyways! I won't be offended.

A QUOTABLE QUOTE:

Cultivate your own capabilities, your own style. Appreciate the members of your family for who they are, even though their outlook or style may be miles different from yours. Rabbits don't fly. Eagles don't swim. Ducks look funny trying to climb. Squirrels don't have feathers. Stop comparing! There's plenty of room in the forest.

by Dr. Charles Swindoll

January

Birthdays

1	Sierra Cook	15	Madeleine Wielandt
4	Judy Sandok	16	Vicki Henderson
5	Elissa Stuttler	20	Konner Hartman
11	Aaron Weltner (1999)		Lois Pierce

	Jessica Songer	23	Patti Phillips
12	Charlotte Pellow (2011)	24	Brooke Brannon
13	Alisha Newton	26	Mike Hartman
15	Dennise Kirwin	29	Joshua Kirwin (1999)

MISSIONS CORNER:

Happy New Year!

The Missions & Outreach Ministry Team wishes to thank all who contributed to the Christmas Joy Offering. The total will be published in a January bulletin and the February Sonshine newsletter.

The Souper Bowl of Caring began more than twenty (20) years ago with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, millions have been raised for local charities across the country. We again at RGAPC will be part of this movement of sharing God’s love with those in need. On Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2013, please give generously. Every dollar donated will go to Community Services of Venango County, our 2013 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice. Help us help our local brothers and sisters in Christ. God bless you all!

As February approaches, we look forward to Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, which is February 13th this year, and One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHs monies go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People.

Submitted by His servant, Joan Lepley

SERVANTS FOR JANUARY

