

ROCKY GROVE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER JULY AUGUST 2010

**“Sharing, Preparing, and Caring
in Jesus’ Name”**

321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323

Church Phone: 814-432-4162

Fax Number: 814-432-4162

Website: www.rockygrover.org

Email Address: rgapc@verizon.net

Summer Worship – 10:00 a.m. through September 5th

Regular Worship – 10:45 a.m. beginning September 12th

Staff:

Rev. Sue Nageotte, Pastor

Joyce Wetjen, Administrative Assistant

Scott Donaldson, Custodian

Edith Richards, Organist

Janet Bish, Assistant Organist

Church Office Hours: Tues. & Wed.: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thurs.: 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SESSION REPORT:

Approved Motions Log: Wayne Edmondson, Clerk of Session

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 10 May 10 with one change.
- The minutes of a special Session Meeting of 16 May 10 with one change.
- The May 2010 Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports.
- The creation of two new church accounts: Account number 05.016 Medical/Dental with a budget amount of \$1,827.00 and account number 05.106 Medical-AA with a budget amount of \$1,827.00.
- The minutes of the Trustees Meeting on 7 Jun 10, the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting on 24 May 10, and the minutes of the Missions, Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team meetings on 22 Mar 10 and 24 May 10.
- Joyce Wetjen's request for vacation on 29 Jun, 30 Jun and 1 Jul 10.
- The Trustee's request to remove the dead tree in the back lot of the church for no more than \$350.00.

Report from the Christian Education Ministry Team:

Thanks to everyone who helped with this year's Vacation Bible School. It was a success!

Sunday School and Promotion Sunday will be on September 12, 2010. There will be separate Women's and Men's Sunday School classes.

There will be no Children's Church from 1 August through 5 September 2010. Children's Church will begin on September 12, 2010, for children who are four years old through second grade.

The Christian Education Ministry Team is updating information on our children. If you have children (or grandchildren, etc.) from the ages of birth through twelfth grade, please provide their full name, current home telephone number, their date of birth and the school grade they will be in this September to George Wielandt, Wayne Edmondson or Joyce Wetjen. Thank you!

Trustees Report:

If you haven't been near the back lawn of the church property, you might want to stop and take a look at it. The large tree that was near the border of the school property was recently removed. Over the last year several of the winter/spring storms had brought down limbs and the tree was separating from its trunk. It would have been a major liability for RGAPC if it fell on the school building! Wayne Edmondson received a bid of \$350 from Adam Miller, an insured tree remover, to take the tree down and cut it up for members of the church to remove the wood for personal use. The trustees and session felt that was a very reasonable bid and the wood is ready for pick-up by any member of the church family. (Adam's phone number is in the church office.) Arrangements have also been made to remove the three dead trees that border the cemetery property at the back of the church and the stump that remains behind the two sheds.

Ray Aikins, with some help from Harold Bell, has been busy painting the lines on the parking lot as well as the handicap parking spaces. Thank you, guys!

As some of you may or may not know, the caps come off the rates for electricity and natural gas this fall. The trustees have joined a consortium through the Synod of the Trinity and have secured a great rate (\$0.825/ccf) for the natural gas. John Dumbleton and Don McNany attended a meeting held by the Erie Manufacturer & Business Association and have made the recommendation that RGAPC join the Association in order to obtain the rate of \$.0012/kWh for electricity.

Great work, Trustees!

If you know anyone that would be interested in submitting a bid to plow the church parking lot this winter, please call the church office at 432-4162.

During the next year we invite you to uphold each church and member of presbytery in prayer. Many of you have included this information in your bulletin each week or newsletter each month, and many of you have included these people and congregations in your pastoral prayer. I urge you to continue this mutual support and encouragement each week.

May God richly bless our work together in the coming months as we serve Jesus Christ together. This is one small, but significant, way in which we can hold up our brothers and sisters through Christ in our prayers.

July Birthdays:

1	Dave Brandt	20	Reece Henderson
	Ted Davis	24	Sheryl Clinefelter
	Dick Eakin		Gary Oakes, Jr.
	Jimmy Newton		Brad Wetjen
3	Allyson Holt	25	Jamie Wetjen
6	Bill Jones	27	Twyla Kernic
9	Elissa Sandok		Reagan Hartman
11	Shelly Feather	28	Sarah DeLong
12	Jarrad Griffin		Rachel Brumbauth
17	Doris Feather	29	Carolyn Shaner
18	Allyson Cook		

Rita Heald

August Birthdays:

1	Arnie Bish	19	Michael Bell
3	Curtis Zeller		Les Lepley
9	Zella McNany		Brandon Miller
12	Carol Rough	22	Jackson Lukers
15	Floyd Dunlap	24	Bert Cornmesser
16	Jim Clinefelter		Christina Eakin
18	Dick Exley	25	Bill Brumbaugh
	Gwen Speth	28	Nancy Donaldson
19	Chris Hartman		
	Doris Yount		

Pastor Sue will generally be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Other appointment times are available by prior arrangement. If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church during regular office hours. For urgent matters call Pastor Sue on her cell phone 814-573-5203.

Pastor Sue will be on vacation August 21-30, returning to the office on August 31.

The Pastor's Ponderings

Dear RGAPC Family and Friends,

As I write this newsletter article, summer is in full swing. It seems like only yesterday that the crocuses were pushing their bright heads above the frost, while this week the thermometer is pushing toward the 90 degree mark. Whew!

Even while we pray for a respite from the heat, most of us would not want to leap immediately into fall or winter. We recognize that each season has its own place in God's grand creative timing, its own special qualities and opportunities for enjoyment. I recently came across an insightful little book, *The Seasons of Life*, written in 1960 by Paul Tournier, a Swiss physician and pastoral counselor. He likens the seasons of the year to the seasons of our lives: Spring to childhood, Summer to adulthood, Fall to old age, and Winter to our last days before death. Tournier's main theme in the book is how God's grace penetrates our whole being and can bring springtime (being born anew in Christ) to any season.

At Rocky Grove Avenue Pres, we have small children, teens, young adults, and people in their 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and even 90's. As a church family, we have much to learn from each other as we share the joys and challenges of each season of life. Better still is the way we can grow and learn together in the joy of our saving faith in Jesus Christ. For it is when we "become as little children," trusting him with every aspect of our daily living, that we know true peace and purpose in life.

As a pastor, it is my prayer that everything we are and do as a church works together so that we can better understand, appreciate, enjoy and share both our natural and spiritual life together – extending the hope of Christ to our neighbors as well – all in the name of the one Triune God.

With hope for Christ in every season,

Pastor Sue

Can touch a prayer - if it's part of a prayer quilt.

Prayer quilts are given to people who have severe illnesses, who are enduring medical treatments or who are facing surgery or difficult family situations. Each prayer quilt is for someone in special need of the healing power of prayer.

When you tie a knot in the prayer quilt, you say a silent prayer. When all the knots are tied, the quilt is given to the recipient. The receiver of the prayer quilt knows that each knot represents a prayer said for him or her.

A group of women from Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Franklin have been making prayer quilts. We have a supply of quilts ready to be tied. We meet 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays in the Choir Room at First Presbyterian Church. Some of us make the quilts, some of us put the thread ties in the quilts, and some of us iron fabric. If you are interested in participating, we will find something for you to do. You can also support this ministry by donating 100% cotton fabric or making financial donations to defray the cost of making the quilts. There is never a fee for receiving a prayer quilt.

Our group called "*Patches with Prayers*" is Chapter # 965 of Prayers & Squares International. Toby Aikins, Darlene Exley, Sheryl Clinefelter and others from RGAPC participate in Patches with Prayers. You can ask them any questions about the prayer quilt ministry.

If you know of someone who needs prayer, complete a Prayer Quilt Request form found in a folder in the narthex and give the form to the church office or to one of the participants listed above.

In The Hospital Recently:

Nancy George – ICU

Jameson Health System

1211 Wilmington Avenue

New Castle, PA 16105

Jarrad & Kaitlin Griffin

674 Grant Street – Lot 53

Franklin, PA 16323

Carol Rough

1533 Pittsburgh Road

Franklin, PA 16323

Congratulations to Jarrad & Kaitlin on the birth of their twins on Saturday, July 3rd. Liliann (Lily) Analise was born at 10:38 p.m. and weighed 5 lbs. 10 oz. and was 18” long and Maxwell (Max) Henderson was born at 10:42 p.m. and weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19” long. Isabel must be a very proud big sister!

Have you lost an item?? There was a medical pin with the letters “CNA” on it turned into the church office. It may be claimed by calling or stopping at the office.

The Thursday night Bible Study Group is taking a break for the rest of the summer. There will be an announcement in the bulletin and newsletter when they resume meeting.

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast meets the first Saturday of each

month at 8:30 a.m., at King’s Family Restaurant. All men of the church are invited to fellowship with us.

The Women’s Prayer Breakfast meets at King’s Family Restaurant on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Women of all ages are invited to join us. We hope to see you there!

Youthful Spirits will meet for lunch at Primo Barone's Restaurant, 1564 Airport Road, Franklin on Wednesday, August 4th at noon. Please see or call Joanne Brannon (437-5076) with your reservation. We'd love to have you join us!

NOW PLAYING at THE IRIS THEATRE

July 25 Billy: The Early Years
(Sunday) Special Showing at 7:30 p.m.

July 26-28 Toy Story 3

July 29-31 Karate Kid

Show Admission (unless otherwise noted):

Adults \$3.00; Children (under 12) \$1.50;

Children (under 6 with Parents) Free

Phone: 814-425-3786

Follow up of Operation Christmas Child:

The journey begins when our local church partners distribute shoe box gifts and offer children Gospel storybooks in their local language. Then boys and girls are invited to participate in a 12-lesson Bible study. Once they finish we give each of them a special New Testament with study helps. Over 300,000 children in 21 countries are participating in The Greatest Journey and we want to reach millions more. For more details visit www.thegreatestjourney.org

If you have not yet filled out your “Family Connection” form, please do so and return it to the church office. Forms are available in the narthex and church office. We look forward to receiving your information. Thanks!

OUR FAMILY CONNECTION

Twyla Kernic is our featured RGAPC member this month. She and her husband, John, celebrated 55 years of wedded bliss on June 11th. They are the parents of five children – Cindy, John D, Keith, Stephen, and Lisa. They have nine grandchildren ranging in age from 5-1/2 years to 34 years of age. Twyla and John have vacationed in Ocean City, NJ; Branson, MO; the Grand Canyon; and Disneyworld. She shares that they met at a wedding that she had introduced the bride and groom.

Twyla has been an active member at RGAPC for many years. She has served as an Elder and Deacon and was a faithful member in the alto section of the choir for several years. During her tenure as the moderator of the Deacons, she affectionately received the nickname of “Sarge” from one of our former pastors who now lives in Indianapolis!

As you enter the sanctuary, she can usually be found in one of the back pews on the far left side near the Albrights and Sheffers. She is a delight to know if you aren’t already enjoying her friendship.

Please keep Twyla’s grandson, Nick, in your prayers as he is in the Air Corps and was sent to Afghanistan in May.

MISSIONS CORNER:

It's that time of year again!!!!

Is everybody ready?! You know what I'm talking about right?! Saturday, September 11th, the first Saturday after Labor Day?

It's MISSIONFEST time!! Time to get ready all your garage sale stuff, time for you to round up all those books you are done reading, time to start crafting, and thinking about

what you want to bake! Garage sale items may be brought to the youth room beginning August 1st. Please – No Clothes or Shoes.

We are adding some new and fun games for the kids (of all ages) to do in Kids Kingdom. We are keeping a lot of our old favorite booths, such as prize drawing, garage sale, hot sausage, lemon shakes, hot dogs and hamburgers. There is a need for people to sign up for which booth they want. Rhonda Rust is in charge of booth assignments and Joyce Wetjen is in charge of Kids Kingdom assignments. So go see them if you want to make sure you get assigned where you want to help out. See them before they come looking for you! (And they will!) We are also planning to have baskets again for prize drawing. Last year we had candy baskets, snack baskets, candle baskets, anything you can think of to put in a basket. If you would like to donate items or cash for a basket or if you have any questions, just call the church office (432-4162).

We are also going to be in need of coolers. If anyone has a cooler they could lend us for the day, it would be very much appreciated. We will need them for the pop and water especially. Please see Debbie Dunlap.

In other news, the amount raised from Blanket Sunday was \$246.00. That money will go to provide blankets for disaster area victims. Thank you!!

Saturday, July 31 will be the annual Soap Box Derby held right in front of our church. The Missions team will be there selling refreshments. So if you want to have a good time, watch some fun races, and cheer on the kids, mark your calendar.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the mission team members, Jill Alden, Ray Aikins, Rhonda Rust, Jim Speth, Diane Whitman, Amy Carr, Debbie Dunlap, Joyce Wetjen, Joyce Dillemath, or Joan Lepley.

We thank you for all your support and prayers in the past years, and we thank you for your continuing support and prayers of our missions with your time and talents.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

To Our Church Family:

Thank you for your many expressions of sympathy for the passing of Sheryl's mother. Your kindness has touched our hearts and lifted our spirits. Our loss is Heaven's gain and for that we praise God.

Jim and Sheryl Clinefelter

Marie Cokain wishes to thank everyone who sent her birthday cards. She hopes you all make it to 90 with good health. It's great!

+++++

Kaitlin and Jarrad would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes. She is holding her own. The babies are weighing 5 lb. 12 ounces (boy) and 5 lb. 9 ounces (girl). Also she asked that we thank everyone for the cards and the prayer quilt.

Vicki & John

Thank you very much for the cards and prayers during the loss of my sister, Alice Persing. God released her from the pain she was enduring since the cancer had spread to her bones. However, her death came from a heart attack which was unexpected but ended her suffering. I thank God for the wonderful years we had together and look forward to our reunion someday.

Joyce & Brad Wetjen

HIS SERVANTS:

Worship Leader – July: Jim Speth

Worship Leader – August: Vicki Henderson

Worship Leader – September: Wayne Edmondson

Ushers – July: Debbie Dunlap, Wayne Edmondson, Don McNany,

Rhonda Rust, and Ron Walters

Ushers – August: Bob, Jill & Sam Alden, Brad and Joyce Wetjen

Ushers – September: Jim Albright, Joanne Brannon, Gene

Sheffer, Jim Speth, and Jerry Wendt

Greeters:

July 18: Gene & Marge Sheffer

25: Jim & Sheryl Clinefelter

August 1: Joyce Pellow & Family

8: Don & Nancy Weltner

15: Jerry & Marie Wendt

22: Ray & Margaret Wielandt & Family

29: Ed & Molly Whitling & Family

Sept. 5: Doris Feather & Grace Gibbons

12: Dennis & Melanie McGinnis

19: Dave & Anne Brandt

26: Les & Joan Lepley

Acolytes:

July 18: Austin Clark

August 1: Josh Kirwin

25: Aaron Weltner

8: Aaron Weltner

15: Reagan Hartman

Sept. 5: Adam Kirwin

22: Konner Hartman

12: Josh Kirwin

29: Austin Clark

19: Aaron Weltner

26: Reagan Hartman

Nursery Workers:

July 18: Jennie Brumbaugh August 1: Pam Viele

25: Molly Whitling

8: Margaret Wielandt

15: Kassidy Clark

Sept. 5: Jennie Brumbaugh

22: Diane Whitman

12: The Lukers

29: Lois Carr

19: Pam Viele

26: Joyce Wetjen

Hospital Visitation Schedule:

July: Dave Brandt, Elder

August: Linda Hartman, Elder

Joyce Pellow, Deacon

Jane Beach, Deacon

September: Nancy Weltner, Elder

Doris Feather, Deacon

WORD TRICKS: *Rearrange the letters in the following words to make one word.*

BEST IN PRAYER

ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday, August 7, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Kiwanis Kamp

Takitezy Road in Sugarcreek

(Right above Sugar Creek Station)

Please bring a dish to share (casserole or salad). The Congregational Life Committee is supplying hot dogs, buns, baked beans, dessert, drinks, and table service.

It will be a Luau Theme so please wear brightly colored shirts and bring your grass skirts!!

Everything is on one floor and handicapped accessible so please plan to attend! If anyone needs a ride, please call Don Yount (432-3811) or Nancy Weltner (676-0521) and arrangements will be made.

Be sure to sign up on either bulletin board!

We hope to see you there!

**So What Do You Learn When You
Travel to Africa?**

Recently a total of eight people from the Presbytery of Lake Erie traveled to northern Ghana to learn how God is at work there. Those who represented you in Ghana were:

Elder Robin Copeland, Conneaut Lake Church

Rev. Dave Edmunds, Belle Valley Church, Erie

Elder Barbara English, 2nd Church, Oil City

Elder David English, 2nd Church, Oil City

Rev. Rachel Johns, Meadville Redeemer and

Hartstown Churches

Elder Linda Lorah, Wayside Church, Erie

Rev. David Oyler, General Presbyter

Rev. Gregg Townsend, North East Church

The country of Ghana is overwhelmingly Christian – probably 75 to 80%. The northern part of the country does, however, have a higher percentage of Muslims. Most of the money, and most of the people, are concentrated in the south. The climate is warm year round due to the location close to the equator.

The group, with great assistance from Rev. Peter deVries of Beaver-Butler Presbytery, traveled in the south but spent the majority of time in the north. The north is a harsher climate with fewer resources. Practically speaking that means many of the villages have no electricity and educational options are limited. Visiting in late February/early March meant the dry season had its grip on the land. The further north a person travels the less greenery is seen. The vast majority of the people in the north live on less than \$1.00 a day.

The time in the north was divided between two cities.

Tamale is a regional hub of 300,000 (about the size of Pittsburgh).

While in Tamale the group was hosted by the Presbyterian Church of

Ghana. Yendi, a city of about 40,000, was also home to the group for several days. While in Yendi the group was hosted by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana. Additional time was spent in the south at Trinity Seminary, the Akrofi-Christaller Institute (ACI) as well as the Slave Coast where slaves departed for the western hemisphere.

You might ask what a Christian learns by being in a place like northern Ghana. There are many answers to that question but here are a few:

-A one hour worship service is VERY SHORT! There is a wonderful vibrancy to lengthy worship services!

-The church in Africa has a great deal to teach about hospitality to the church in North America.

-Signs of Christianity are EVERYWHERE in Ghana. Many of the stores have Christian names; nearly all the taxi cabs have Bible verses printed on them.

-ACI is engaged in deep thought about what it means to be a Christian within an African context. We do well to ask the same question – what does it mean to be specifically Christian within a North American context.

-The needs may appear to be overwhelming yet God's grace is greater still.

So what about 'next steps' that might emerge from this presbytery mission trip? There are groups of people within this presbytery that are praying about a long term international partnership with a presbytery in Ghana. It is hoped that consensus would emerge and a recommendation would come to a presbytery meeting in the near future. It would likely involve an exchange of people, ideas and prayers so that we both might mutually be encouraged. It would provide an opportunity to understand the global church and hear how God is at work in a lively place in the world! We invite your prayers for God's will to be made known as we learn from other Christians.