

# ***SONSHINE NEWSLETTER***

*A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church*

***March 2012***

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

**321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323**

**Church Phone: 814-432-4162**

**Website: [www.rockygrover.org](http://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**

**Edith Richards, Organist Emeritus**

**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***

## March Birthdays

1 Lorraine McCauley	18 Emmalie Dickey (2000)
Brady Franklin (2007)	19 Mabel Mong
3 Wayne Donaldson	23 Linda Hartman
4 Rosie Odier	Maryann Yount
Aaron Wetjen (2006)	Karen Richards
Molly Whitling	27 Eleanore Moffitt
10 Rodney Zeller	29 Ernest Pellow
13 Stephen Feather, II	Renee Feather
Brenda Holt	30 John Dumbleton
Makayla Yount (2001)	31 Jill Alden

The family of Mabel Mong would like to invite the congregation to a party on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Moorhead Hall to help us celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Anyone with questions may call Nancy Weltner at 676-0521.

## . NOTES OF THANKS

Thanks to all for the cards, prayers, food donations, visits, etc. during the past few months and recently during Gwen's illness.

*The Speths & extended family*

We want to thank the members and the church for the piano given to our daughter. She has two little girls she is going to teach to play it. Thanks again gratefully.

*§ Doris Yount*

*Don*

**Ryker Daniel Mortimer, was born Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at 5:42 p.m. to Rich and Brenda Mortimer, 303 Elm Street, Richland, PA 17087. Ryker (German for Richard) was 7 lbs. 15½ oz. and 21” long with brown hair upon arrival! Congratulations to Dick and Cheri Mortimer (Grandpa & Grandma)!**

## **SERVANTS FOR MARCH**

**Hospital Visits: Elder Nancy Weltner**

**Deacon Brenda Cokain**

**Worship Leader: Wayne Edmondson**

**Ushers: Harold Bell, Dennise Kirwin, Adam Kirwin,  
Josh Kirwin, and Diane Whitman**

**Greeters: March 4 Joyce Riddle & Judy Ream  
11 Mabel Mong & Betty Cornmesser  
18 Margaret, Hanna & Maddie Wielandt  
25 Joan & Les Lepley**

**Acolytes: March 4 Doug Songer  
11 Austin Clark  
18 Hanna Wielandt  
25 Lillian Songer**

**Nursery:**      March 4 Diane Whitman

11 Joyce Dillemath

18 Sarah Moreland

25 Molly Whitling

**Children's**      March 4 Pam Baughman

**Church:**          11 Pam Viele

18 Wayne Edmondson

25 Malinda & Jeremiah Lukers

#### **RGAPC Financial Information**

	<b>January 2012</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Congregational Giving</b>	<b>\$ 8,874.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,874.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,929.57</b>	<b>\$ 7,929.57</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 944.43</b>	<b>\$ 944.43</b>

*Watch the Sunday bulletin for February 2012 financial information, which was not yet available when this publication went to print.*

#### **FROM THE SESSION**

#### **Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – February 13<sup>th</sup>:**

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 12 Dec 11 with the following change concerning deposits of offerings: “Deposits will be made no later than the second business day following the worship service when the offering was collected.”

- The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 31 Jan 12 and Treasurer's reports: checking account summary, budget year-to-date figures and Financial Report for January 2012.
- The minutes of the Shepherds' Committee meeting on 14 Dec 11, the minutes of the Trustee meetings on 9 Jan 12 and 6 Feb 12, the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting on 16 Jan 12, the minutes of the Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 23 Jan 12, and the minutes of the Congregational Life & Worship Committee meeting on 6 Feb 12.
- The 2011 Session Statistical Report.
- With regret, the resignation of Jane Beach from the Deacons.
- Rev. Sue's vacation request for 18 through 26 March 2012.
- The use of the church sanctuary for the wedding of James Edwin Eakin and Dorothy Francine Jones for the evening of Friday, 17 Feb 12, and reducing the church fee for them to \$100.00.

The Stewardship Committee is inviting members of the congregation who have an interest in stewardship to join our group. We will be meeting Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Ladies Parlor. This group will only be focused on stewardship and not the personnel portion of the committee's responsibility. If you have any questions, please call either Joyce Wetjen (432-8545) or Linda Hartman (437-6028). We hope to see some new faces at the meeting!!

Newsletter articles are due in the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC**

### **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 March 7th at Linda Lou's, 633 13<sup>th</sup> Street,

**Franklin. Call Betty Cornmesser for reservations – 432-5587. Watch the Sunday bulletin for information of the next event on April 4, 2012.**

**The RGAPC Camp Scholarship Administration Committee is now accepting applications for camp scholarships. Application forms are available on the counter outside the church office and must be returned to the church office by March 18, 2012.**

## **UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Saturday, March 31 – ApologetiX in Concert at First Baptist Church in Franklin at the Miller Auditorium at 7:00 pm. ApologetiX is a Christian Parody Band specializing in Biblical parodies of rock hits from yesterday and today, including everything from Elvis to Eminem. It's kind of like "Weird Al" Yankovic meets Billy Graham.**

**ApologetiX has a simple, two-fold mission: to reach the lost and teach the rest. The band takes its name from the word "apologetics," meaning the defense of the Christian faith (1 Peter 3:15).**

**Ticket prices: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Group rates of 10 tickets for \$80. Kids ages 5 and under are free. For more information, contact Joy Lamphere at [kjlamp5@yahoo.com](mailto:kjlamp5@yahoo.com) or call 814-432-4925.**

## **MISSIONS CORNER:**

**The committee of Missions and Outreach would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity on "Souper Bowl" Sunday. Your total donation of \$204.00 was given to our local Community Services to help stock their food pantry.**

**We look forward to March 18th, when our guest speakers will be Jim and Alice Vanderhoof. As many of you know, Jim and Alice are with World Gospel Mission, one of our several mission recipients, and will be giving us an update on what they have been doing.**

Also, One Great Hour of Sharing offering will take place during Lent. This offering helps those not only in our country, but also around the world. The monies raised are used for Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will be giving Minutes for Missions on One Great Hour of Sharing throughout Lent, and we ask that you prayerfully consider giving to this worthy cause. An envelope is included in this newsletter and also can be found in the pews. Also included in this newsletter is a four-week “sharing” calendar; coin banks are available in the narthex.

The Missions and Outreach committee is looking for someone with some artistic ability to help with the bulletin board just outside the Narthex. If you have this particular gift and would like to share your talent with us we would be most appreciative.

Thank you and God Bless.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”*  
Colossians 3:23-24

The approximately 2,800-pound bell was loaded on a flat-bed truck and is currently being housed at John Henderson’s shop. Plans are to restore it to “like-new” condition and bring it back to the church property for display.

The total cost of repairs needed for the front of the church was \$156,000.00. This price included lowering the limestone cross on the front and replacing the flashing along the roof line of the lowered tower; replacing the lintels at the windows in the “new” addition and repairing the affected masonry; re-laying approximately 3,000 bricks, cutting and re-pointing as needed, as well as cleaning and sealing all exterior surfaces including old stonework; replacing gutters and down spouts and installing several additional down spouts to adequately handle heavy rains.

Although the cost of repairs was substantial, the congregation had sufficient funds to pay for the project without taking out a loan or running a capital campaign. The repairs were paid in full using funds invested after the sale of the manse in 2000 plus other savings, including funds designated for building repairs. Thanks be to God for faithful givers!

If you feel led to make a contribution toward the recent repairs, please be sure to mark on the memo line of your check “Building Repair/Improvements” so that the funds are deposited into the proper account. May God continue to bless RGAPC that we may be a blessing to the community.

Joyce Wetjen – Stewardship Committee

### **IF ONLY I COULD TALK**

*“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:” Ecclesiastes 3:1*

On January 11, 2012, a beloved and historical voice fell silent when the Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church's large bell, which once graciously rang out across the community, was removed from the church bell tower due to structural issues within the tower itself. Ah, if only those walls could have talked before they came down! The church bell was purchased by the Ladies Aid Society for \$125. We could not find information on the exact date, but based on an article found about the Ladies Aid, it was probably 1945 or 1946. So, there were approximately 15 years of history in the original stone building where it was housed prior to the “new” addition being added and another 60+ years within that structure. The ground breaking ceremonies were held in May 1961 and construction started in July 1961. Although the main part of the old structure remained, the new structure completely changed the appearance of the church. On Easter Sunday, April 22, 1962, the first worship service was held in the new sanctuary. With thankful and reverent hearts, the church was dedicated to God on May 27, 1962. The cost of that renovation and building addition was approximately \$110,000.00.

In 2010, an engineering firm was hired to evaluate the building for possible renovations. At that time, we discovered that the internal structure of the bell tower was not built to the 1961 engineering plans. Some of the support structures had crumbled, allowing large cracks to develop near the decorative grillwork. A frame work of planks and cables was installed to support the upper corners of the bell tower until the bell could be removed and the tower rebuilt to a lower height.

**Daffodil Days are Coming**



**Order by Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> for Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>!**

**Daffodils are among the first signs of spring, and have become a symbol of hope for cancer patients and their families. The American Cancer Society is providing our congregation the opportunity to purchase lovely bunches of fresh daffodils, which will be displayed in the church on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. After worship that day, you may take the daffodils home or – if you prefer – they will be shared with homebound members. A bunch of ten fresh daffodils is available for a donation of \$10.00. All proceeds go to benefit cancer patients in Venango and Forest Counties, and to provide funds for cancer research and education.**

**Orders can be taken until March 11<sup>th</sup> and are being coordinated by Diane Whitman, phone 673-5447, and Margaret Wielandt, phone 518-8049. Make checks payable to The American Cancer Society.**

**My name is \_\_\_\_\_**

**I would like to purchase:**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Bunches of daffodils at \$10.00 per bunch of 10**

**Total Due (\$10 times number of bunches) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my daffodils home after worship on March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Please give my daffodils to someone to cheer up their day**

**From the Pastor's Study:**

**Dear family and friends of RGAPC - beloved in the Lord --**

**“Imagine opening your mailbox. Amidst the usual assortment of bills and advertisements, an immaculate envelope stops you right in your tracks. The envelope has your name written in the most beautiful handwriting, and you know without a shadow of a doubt that it is extremely important. . . . The letter seems to glow as you open it. What could be so very important ?? And then, as you unfold the card inside, the message grips you:**

**“Repent! Now!” and it is signed, “Love, God.” ”**

**In his book *Repentance: A Cosmic Shift of Mind and Heart*, Edward Anton writes that a person’s reaction to such a scenario is a good indicator of their feelings about “repentance.” Does it evoke a sense of doom and gloom? Discomfort? Excitement? Awe? Or something else entirely?**

**For many people, the word “repentance” carries overtones of guilt, sorrow, even suffering. But from a biblical perspective, repentance is more about the joy and the relief we experience when we 1) realize we have drifted away from God’s path, 2) admit that fact, and then 3) willingly turn back to the Lord our God. Think of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24). It was hunger that brought him to his senses and put him on the homeward path – home to his father who had long awaited his return, and greeted him with open arms.**

**This is the way, Jesus says, that our Father in heaven receives each one of us every time we turn back toward God. Feeling spiritually hungry lately? Most of us feel that way from time to time. And when we do, it just may be the Spirit of God calling us to awaken and run back to our loving Father. May this season of Lent be for all of us a season of prayer and joyful repentance.**

**Growing with you in Christ,**

**Venango YFC’s:**

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual LADIES GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST**

**Adelle's** faith has led her through a series of real-life trials. Adelle's life experiences and her faith provide inspirational testimony of God's presence in our lives. She offers a compelling plea to turn to God for help and answers with issues that are pressing on many people's minds today. Adelle is the mother of three grown children. Adelle and her husband Steve, were married for nineteen years when the Lord called Steve home. After six years as a single mother, Adelle married Bruce Dickie. They reside in Bremen, Indiana.

**Friday, April 6— 7:00 AM**

**Location: Seneca United Methodist Church**

**196 East State Rd., Seneca PA**

**Advanced tickets - Individual \$14, group (10+) \$12**

**After 4/2/12 tickets at door for program only—\$16**

Child care will be provided for infants through first grade at \$3 per child.

Questions: Call Venango YFC 814-677-7013

or email us at [venyfc@zoominternet.net](mailto:venyfc@zoominternet.net)

Come and experience a wonderful morning.

Get your ticket now & bring a friend.

Send a self addressed, stamped envelope

along with your check made out to:

Venango Youth for Christ

P.O. Box 27, Seneca, PA 16346