

# *SONSHINE NEWSLETTER*

*MARCH 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](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**

**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: F.R.O.G.

Dear RGAPC family and friends,

Do you know anyone who is passionate about collecting things? I don't mean a random accumulation or hoarding, but a serious, intentional, "looking for the very best examples" kind of collector? My step-mother is one of those folks. Joan collects frogs. From jade ornaments and blown-glass figurines to clocks and throw-rugs, from thimble-sized peepers to ceramic bullfrogs large as a soccer ball, frogs are her specialty. At last count she had well over 5,000 of them. How do we know? Believe it or not, she keeps a log-book listing when and where she obtained every single one.

Nestled in with about 300 other specimens in a glass-fronted case in her dining room is a small silver frog pin Joan received many years ago when she was hospitalized after a terrible car accident. The pin came on a pre-printed card which read simply, F.R.O.G: Fully Rely On God. And on the back, a hand-written note: *"Fully rely on God, dear friend, for he is faithful. And know that we are continually praying for you."* Throughout her long recovery, Joan kept that silver pin – and its encouraging message -- close to her side and close to her heart. Now, 30 years later, she keeps it where she will be reminded, every single day: FROG.

Many in the church (or our friends and family members) are going through major challenges right now. Some struggle with poor health or troubled relationships. For others, the difficulties are financial. Our congregation, too, is facing challenges as it seeks to be faithful to Jesus Christ in accordance with biblical witness in a time of cultural and denominational change.

These are serious matters -- but they are also invitations to a deeper faith and Christian practice. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your path straight."* And let us love one another and our neighbors in the name and the power and the Spirit of Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.

## **Responding to Denominational Issues**

*from the newly-formed “Re-Affirmation Team”*

Dear church family,

Most of you are aware that our denomination – the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – is experiencing rapid change. The change is not in the number of churches or pastors . . . not in the kind of buildings or style of worship . . . not even in the use of technology. The change we refer to relates to what denominational leaders believe (and seminary students and church members are being taught), about God, salvation, and scripture.

**How did we get here?** From the early days of the Protestant Reformation, the Presbyterian “branch” of the Christian faith has held certain convictions. These include (among other things):

- the sovereignty of God;
- the Lordship of Jesus Christ;
- the Scriptures as the authoritative, inspired Word of God;
- the testimony of the Scriptures that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone;
- the belief that, having been saved by God’s grace, Christ’s followers are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live in grateful obedience to God, in accordance with the plain teachings of the Bible.

Presbyterians have also placed high value on allowing freedom of thought and belief. In other words, we are not required to all think exactly the same way - and this is good! The church *needs* to be wide enough to include people from different ethnic groups, different economic circumstances, with different personalities and points of view. But over the last forty years the PC(USA) has been moving away from the traditional beliefs of our Presbyterian heritage and toward a new blend of theological liberalism that allows people (even ministers) to “pick and choose” the parts of Scripture they wish to believe and follow.

This movement toward theological liberalism did not happen overnight and it did not happen equally in all parts of the country. Western Pennsylvania has largely continued to hold traditional, orthodox beliefs. The members of Lake Erie Presbytery, while fairly diverse in their theological views, are gracious and respectful of one another. But across the denomination there has been increasing division, discord and distrust as “progressive” voices have become increasingly numerous and vocal.

**The New Majority** For several decades, there was a kind of uneasy balance. The PC(USA) was growing more theologically diverse, but traditional values and practices were largely upheld in votes on major issues. But about four years ago, the “more liberal” wing of the denomination gained a slim majority and almost immediately introduced numerous changes.

For example, the PC(USA) now permits the ordination and installation of elders, deacons and ministers who are active in sexual relationships outside the covenant of marriage between a man and woman. At the General Assembly in Pittsburgh last summer, there was extensive debate about changing the PC(USA) constitution to re-define marriage as a relationship between two persons instead of between a man and a woman. This proposal was defeated by a narrow margin but will undoubtedly come up again in 2014.

Under current Presbyterian governance, no church can be forced to ordain and install elders, deacons or ministers it does not approve of. And no PC(USA) pastor can be required to officiate at a same sex ‘marriage’ even where such is permitted by state law. RGAPC is absolutely free to teach and uphold traditional, biblical beliefs, values and standards of conduct. But we are still part of the presbytery, and choices made by other parts of the denomination do have an effect on us here in Rocky Grove.

### **So, how is RGAPC responding to all this?**

For many years, this congregation has been praying about the direction of the PC(USA). In the last few years, our prayer and discussion have greatly intensified. When the change in ordination standards was announced, many members were deeply disappointed in the denomination but expressed their continued commitment to serving Jesus Christ in and through this local congregation.

Last fall Pastor Sue led a Sunday morning study of some corner-stones of the Presbyterian-Reformed faith (see the first page of this article), including a discussion of the ways these cornerstones are understood within the PC(USA) today.

Through ongoing prayer and conversation, the Session has become convinced that the PC(USA) -- as a denomination -- is headed in a very bad direction. Session began to consider whether it might be appropriate for RGAPC to consider moving from the PC(USA) to another Reformed denomination, by a process called “dismissal.”

On November 11, 2012 Session held an information meeting with the congregation in order to share concerns about the direction of the PC(USA). A large percentage of those who attended that meeting indicated they were in favor of exploring the possibility of seeking to be dismissed.

So, Session ‘did what Presbyterians do’ -- they formed a committee (actually, a team) to begin actively exploring the possibility of dismissal. Included are five ruling elders (Linda Hartman, Phyllis Wetzel, Jim Sandok, George Wielandt and Wayne Edmondson), as well as a deacon (Darlene Exley) and trustee (John Klinger) chosen by those respective boards. The team felt it was important to choose a name reflecting the focus of their efforts. Thus, they will be known as the “Re-Affirmation Team,” indicating their hope that their efforts will result in the members of our congregation being able to re-affirm their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ in a denomination that supports historical Presbyterian-Reformed beliefs and biblical standards.

The Presbytery has a process for churches that wish to discuss the possibility dismissal. There is no set time or duration for the process, but it is designed to allow plenty of opportunity to gather information and discuss various options and possibilities. The Session held a special meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> at which it voted unanimously to ask the Presbytery to begin the process of discussing dismissal.

The Re-Affirmation team is committed to keeping you, the church members, regularly informed about our activities. You can expect a monthly newsletter article and occasional updates in worship. We ask for your prayers and for your participation in information meetings when those opportunities arise. In the near future we will also establish some method of submitting questions. This is still very much a time of listening and discernment. We cannot emphasize enough that no decisions have been made, other than to continue to explore where God may be leading us.

Ultimately, what we want is to be faithful to Jesus Christ. There is no other goal. This is not about “running away” or “giving up” but about “moving beyond.” We want to be able to move beyond arguments about biblical interpretation and human sexuality. We want to move beyond denominational discord, so that we can move toward Spirit-led fruitfulness as together we live and share the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,   The Re-Affirmation Team

*Wayne Edmondson, Phyllis Wetzel, George Wielandt, Linda*

*Hartman, Jim Sandok, John Klinger and Darlene Exley*

**March**

**Birthdays**

<b>1</b>	<b>Lorraine McCauley</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Mabel Mong</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Rosie Odier</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Linda Hartman</b>
	<b>Aaron Wetjen (2006)</b>		<b>Karen Richards</b>
	<b>Molly Whitling</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Eleanore Moffitt</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Kevin Songer</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Ernest Pellow</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Rodney Zeller</b>		<b>Renee Feather</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Stephen Feather II</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>John Dumbleton</b>
	<b>Brenda Holt</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Jill Alden</b>

### **RGAPC NEWS**

**A bracelet was found in the church parking lot on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, before Sunday School and may be claimed by contacting the church office.**

**The IRS now requires that specific wording be included on charitable contribution statements. If you itemize deductions, please contact the church office and the financial secretary will provide you with a new copy of your 2012 RGAPC giving statement.**

**The RGAPC Camp Scholarship Administration Committee is now accepting applications for camp scholarships. Application forms are available in the "Scholarships" mailbox opposite the church office door. Please return the completed forms to this same mailbox by March 17, 2013.**

**Membership Classes: Pastor Sue will be offering a class for those who are interested in finding out more about this congregation and how to become a church member. We would probably meet four or five times. Dates and times will be arranged to work with the schedule of those involved in the class. Please contact Pastor Sue directly for additional**

information. You can reach her through the church office, speak with her Sunday mornings, call her at 814-573-5203 or send Email to [rockygrovepastor@yahoo.com](mailto:rockygrovepastor@yahoo.com).

## **SERVANTS FOR MARCH**

**Hospital Visits:** Elder Debbie Dunlap & Deacon Linda Zeller

**Worship Leader:** Jim Speth

**Ushers:** Jim Albright, Gene Sheffer, Sarah Speth,  
Diane Whitman and George Wielandt

**Greeters:** March 3 Dick & Darlene Exley

10 Jim & Judy Sandok

17 Dick & Cheri Mortimer

(Palm Sunday) 24 Ed & Molly Whitling

(Easter) 31 Diane Whitman & family

**Acolyte:** March 3 Doug Songer

10 Hanna Wielandt

17 Lillian Songer

(Palm Sunday) 24 Paige Winder

(Easter) 31 Arika Songer

**Nursery:** March 3 Margaret Wielandt

10 Malinda Lukers

17 Margaret Wielandt

(Palm Sunday) 24 Joyce Dillemath

(Easter) 31 Margaret Wielandt

**Children's Church:** March 3 - 24 Jim Speth

(Easter) 31 NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**Counters:**

March 3 Jim Sandok & George Wielandt

10 Jim Sandok & Wayne Edmondson

17 Phyllis Wetzel & Wayne Edmondson

(Palm Sunday) 24 Jim Sandok & Debbie Dunlap

(Easter) 31 TO BE ANNOUNCED

**Notes of Thanks**

Thanks to the Deacons for the Valentine's Day card. *Joyce Riddle*

I would like to thank my church family for flowers, cards, prayer quilt & continued prayer during Ken's illness. *Judy & Ken Ream*

Thanks to the Deacons for the lovely Valentine remembrance.

*Carol Rough*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Youthful Spirits, a group of men and women of the church, gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to join in the fun at noon on March 6<sup>th</sup> at Amazing Foods, 1327 Elk Street, Franklin. Call Grace Gibbons at 432-4388 to make a reservation. Next month's gathering will be on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Watch for the location in the Sunday bulletin.

**March 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m. – ST. PATRICK'S MYSTERY DINNER**

This is sure to be a fun event. With a mystery dinner, the menu is such that you can only guess as to what you are ordering. Sign-up on the sheets on the bulletin boards by March 10th.



**March 16, 2013 – Foundations for Life: Children's Ministry Conference - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Seneca Hills Bible Camp and Retreat Center. See brochure on bulletin board for more info.**

**Saturday, March 16 - Amore, An Evening of Music & Love Songs.** The concert will feature the last three years Taste of Talent Winners, Lyric Dick (2010), Kevin Downey (2011), and Hunter Cook (2012). Many more popular musical talents will be on board. Proceeds benefit First Baptist Church and Mustard Seed Missions. The concert will be at the First Baptist Church, 1041 Liberty St., Franklin, PA 16323. Doors open at 5:30 and the concert is at 7:00 pm. For tickets call First Baptist Church at 814-432-8061.

**Empty Bowls Event March 21, 2013 from 4:00-6:00pm or 6:30-8:30pm at Wanango Golf Club in Reno, PA.** This event is hosted by Community Services of Venango County, Inc. and is the area's second Empty Bowls event. This event is being held to raise awareness of hunger in our community and to help support our food pantries and programs at Community Services that combat hunger. The event will feature a sampling of soups from Wanango Golf Club, Bella Cucina, Amazing Foods, Classy Catering, and The Mosaic Cafe. A handcrafted "Empty Bowl" made by local students from Cranberry, Franklin, Oil City, and Valley Grove School Districts will be handed out. There will be a silent auction with artwork donated by Allegheny Clay Works, Red Foot Pottery, Sticks and Stones Fine Pottery and Wheel House Pottery as well as gift basket raffles from CSVC. Tickets are \$15 each (kids under 6 free) and can be purchased at Venango Chamber of Commerce in Oil City or at Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 678-7766.

**Maundy Thursday – March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. – Seder Service at Franklin First Presbyterian.** The menu will be a Jewish Passover meal which will include some of the dishes that Christ would have had at his last supper, plus some “modern” dishes as well. We will begin with conversation and appetizers at 6:30, with the formal seder beginning at 7:00 p.m. The host church requests an approximate count of those planning to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more information.

**March 29<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday Laymen's Service – Breakfast at 6:00 a.m. at Oil City K of C Hall and worship service at 7:00 a.m. next door at Grace United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$7 at the door.**

**March 29<sup>th</sup> - Venango Youth For Christ's Ladies Good Friday Breakfast, 7 am Seneca UM Church, 195 East State Rd. Author & speaker Kolleen Lucariello will be sharing! Tickets \$14 advance, \$12 advance for groups of 10+**

**Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast – March 31<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 a.m. @ Grace United Methodist Church of Rocky Grove followed by breakfast at Grace UM Church.**

**PEACE STARTS WITH A SMILE !**

**VNA OF VENANGO COUNTY HOSPICE**

**If you have a desire to make a difference in the lives of the terminally ill or those who are grieving by giving of your time to assist a patient, family member, or office staff, then you have the qualities VNA of Venango County Hospice is looking for. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a volunteer. For free training dates and additional information, please call 814-432-6555.**

**The LARGE print issues of Our Daily Bread daily devotionals for April/May/June have arrived and are available on a window sill on the parking lot side of the narthex. Please help yourself.**

**JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP**

**SKATE NIGHT!!**

**When: Wednesday, March 13, 2013**

**Time: 5:00-8:30 pm**

**Where: Church parking lot at 5pm**

**Who: *Grades 3-12***

**Come with us to the Titusville Roller Skating Rink: 45314 State Hwy 27. We are leaving at 5:15 from the church, and will return around 8:30 to the church. The cost is \$5 per youth which includes 1 slice of pizza, 1 small drink, and skate rental.**

**Need more information, or a ride?**

Contact Sarah Speth at 814-673-8976 or

Diane Whitman at 814-673-5447

**\*If you are in need of financial help for this trip, feel free to contact Diane or Sarah.**

**2013 Church Officers and Other Leaders**

**Session Members:**

**Class of 2013: Debbie Dunlap, Linda Hartman, Jim Sandok**

**Class of 2014: Wayne Edmondson, Joyce Wetjen, Phyllis Wetzel**

**Class of 2015: Lois Pierce, George Wielandt**

**Clerk of Session: Wayne Edmondson**

**Moderator of Session: Rev. Sue Nageotte**

**Session Members leading Ministry Teams:**

**Christian Education: Wayne Edmondson & Phyllis Wetzel**

**Congregational Life & Worship: Jim Sandok & Lois Pierce**

**Missions, Outreach & Evangelism: Debbie Dunlap & George Wielandt**

**Stewardship & Personnel: Linda Hartman & Joyce Wetjen**

**Nominating: Linda Hartman & Joyce Wetjen**

**Board of Deacons:**

**Moderator: Doris Feather      Secretary: Melanie McGinnis**

**Class of 2013: Joyce Dilleuth, Darlene Exley, Melanie McGinnis**

**Class of 2014: Sarah DeLong, Margaret Wielandt, Linda Zeller**

**Class of 2015: Sheryl Clinefelter, Doris Feather, Sarah Speth**

**Board of Trustees:**

**Moderator: Don Yount**

**Class of 2013: Bob Alden, Brad Wetjen, Dick Exley**

**Class of 2014: Arnie Bish, John Klinger, Don Yount**

**Class of 2015: Harold Bell, David Cokain, John Dumbleton**

**Nominating Committee Members from the Congregation:**

**Jill Alden, Cheri Mortimer, Joyce Pellow, Judy Ream**

**Church Treasurer: Rhonda Rust**

**Assistant Church Treasurer: Melanie McGinnis**

**Financial Secretary: Jim Clinefelter**

**Assistant Financial Secretary: John Klinger**

**Auditors: John Klinger (2013), Marge Sheffer (2014),**

**Doris Feather (2015)**

**COMMITTEES FOR 2013**

**SESSION: Meeting - Second Monday of each month**

**CLERK OF SESSION: Wayne Edmondson**

**Ministry of Christian Education**

**Leaders: Wayne Edmondson & Phyllis Wetzel**

**Ministry of Congregational Life & Worship**

**Leaders: Jim Sandok & Lois Pierce**

**Ministry of Missions & Outreach**

**Leaders: Debbie Dunlap & George Wielandt**

**Ministry of Stewardship & Personnel**

**Leaders: Linda Hartman & Joyce Wetjen**

**Representative to Presbytery: Wayne Edmondson**

**TRUSTEES: Meeting - First Monday of each month**

**MODERATOR: Don Yount    SECRETARY: Bob Alden**

**Church & Property – Arnie Bish, Dick Exley,**

**David Cokain & Brad Wetjen**

**Christian Education Ministry Team – John Dumbleton**

**Congregational Life & Worship Ministry Team – Harold Bell**

**Missions & Outreach Ministry Team – John Klinger**

**Stewardship & Personnel Ministry Team – Don Yount**

**Boys Scout Liaison –Bob Alden**

**DEACONS: Meeting - Thursday before Communion Sunday**

**MODERATOR & SESSION LIAISON: Doris Feather**

**SECRETARY: Melanie McGinnis**

**Treasurer and Finances – Sarah DeLong**

**Flowers – Margaret Wielandt**

**Home Department – Sheryl Clinefelter**

**Communion – Sarah DeLong**

**Funeral Luncheon – Linda Zeller/Darlene Exley/Doris Feather**

**Nominating Committee – Melanie McGinnis**

**Christian Education Ministry Team – Sarah Speth**

**C L & W Ministry Team – Melanie McGinnis & Darlene Exley**

**Missions & Outreach Ministry Team – Joyce Dillemath**

**Stewardship & Personnel Ministry Team – Doris Feather**

**Shepherds – Linda Zeller**

### **ONLY A DONKEY**

The donkey awakened, his mind still savoring the afterglow of the most exciting day of his life. Never before had he felt such a rush of pleasure and pride.

He walked into town and found a group of people by the well. “I’ll show myself to them,” he thought. But they didn’t notice him. They went on drawing their water and paid him no mind.

“Throw your garments down,” he said crossly. “Don’t you know who I am?”

They just looked at him in amazement. Someone slapped him across the tail and ordered him to move. “Miserable heathens!” he muttered to himself. “I’ll just go to the market where the good people are. They will remember me.” But the same thing happened. No one paid any attention to the donkey as he strutted down the main street in front of the market place.

“The palm branches – where are the palm branches?” he shouted. “Yesterday, you threw palm branches!” Hurt and confused, the donkey returned home to his mother. “Foolish child,” she said gently. “Don’t you realize that without Him, you are just an ordinary donkey?”

Just like the donkey that carried Jesus in Jerusalem, we are most fulfilled when we are in the service of Jesus Christ. Without him, all our best efforts are like “filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6) and amount to nothing. When we lift up Christ, however, we are no longer ordinary people, but key players in God’s plan to redeem the world.

***Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.***

**RGAPC Financial Information**

	<b>January 2013</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Congregational Giving</b>	<b>\$ 7,645.01</b>	<b>\$ 7,645.01</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>(\$ 8,002.61)</b>	<b>(\$ 8,002.61)</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$ 357.60)</b>	<b>(\$ 357.60)</b>

**Detailed February Financial Reports will be available in the  
narthex beginning the second Sunday of the month.**

**The Deacons have made arrangements for memorial flowers on Easter Sunday. The price is \$6.50 for each plant. Orders with payment should be received by Sunday, March 10, 2013. Please complete the form below and send to:**

**Margaret Wielandt**

**21 Hazel Street,**

**Franklin, PA 16323**

**Please include a check for \$6.50 per plant**

**payable to 'RGAPC - Deacon's Fund'**

**In memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by** \_\_\_\_\_

**In honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth      \$6.50 each      Total  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip      \$6.50 each      Total  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lily      \$6.50 each      Total  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils      \$6.50 each      Total  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Color of tulips and hyacinths at discretion of the florist**

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to pick up my flowers on Easter Sunday and  
would like it to be given to a shut-in.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my flowers.

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2013.**

### **FROM THE SESSION**

#### **Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – February 11<sup>th</sup>:**

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 14 Jan 13.



- The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 31 Jan 13 and the following Treasurer's reports: checking account summary, budget year-to-date figures and Financial Report for January 2013.
- The 2012 Session Statistical Report.
- Received the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting on 21 Jan 13, Congregational Life & Worship Committee meeting on 4 Feb 13, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 28 Jan 13, and Trustee's meeting on 4 Feb 13, the Deacon's Fund 2012 Annual Report, and the 14 Jan 13 through 11 Feb 13 Report on Administrative Activity.
- An outdoor vendor fair fundraiser that will be held on Saturday, 1 Jun 13.
- A tentative request from Venango County employees to use Moorhead Hall for an exercise program called "Insanity Workout" on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, from 5 to 6 p.m., starting 20 Feb 13 for approximately six weeks, and providing them a church key.
- A meeting of the congregation after the worship service on Sunday, 3 Mar 13, to review the annual reports, elect a person to fill a vacancy on the Nominating Committee, and update church members on action being taken to explore dismissal from the PC(USA).

### **Ronald and Louise Moorhead Scholarship - New Information**

This scholarship was established to support active members of the Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian church who are planning to further their education after high school. This scholarship requires applicants to be active members for at least two years and be regular attendees. Some of our church members asked for a definition of a "regular attendee." During the Session meeting on December 10, 2012, Session approved the following guideline for a "regular attendee" for scholarship consideration: 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 (or technical or vocational school). Please contact Phyllis Wetzels or Wayne Edmondson if you have questions pertaining to this.

### **MISSIONS CORNER**

*“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” —2 Corinthians 9:8*

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is an offering that we at RGAPC traditionally take during Lent. This offering was started in 1949 when Americans were asked to give in response to the devastation of World War II. This has been an ecumenical offering from the get go, in that many Christian denominations work together for the offering. Each denomination gives some of the gifts received for shared ministry through Church World Service. However, each denomination decides how the gifts its members give will be used. Presbyterians divide the offering into thirds – 36% to Presbyterian Hunger Program, 32% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and 32% to Self-Development of People.

This year's theme is “SHARING BRINGS JOY TO OTHERS, TO GOD AND TO US.” So, let us share our resources and support the OGHs programs with continued, or better yet increased, support. Last year's offering totaled \$383.53. I challenge you to increase your giving and increase your joy to others, to God and to yourself. This offering is a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in many ways. Envelopes can be found in the pews and in this newsletter. Also, new this year, envelopes will be attached to the bulletin inserts. We request that you deposit those envelopes into the offering plate rather than sending directly to the address on the envelope. You have through Easter Sunday to respond. Please share by giving, and you also will feel truly blessed.

The Missions & Outreach Ministry Team will continue to collect used cell phones in a box located in the narthex to be donated to Cell Phones for Soldiers. The phones are sold to recycling firms, and the money is used to buy calling cards for soldiers overseas.

**Please help with this worthy cause.**

**Souper Bowl of Giving offering taken Super Bowl Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, totaled \$200.00, which was sent to Community Services of Venango County to help stock their food pantry.**