

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church

November 2011

“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

Edith Richards, 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

November Birthdays

1 Ellen Gierlach	16 George Wielandt
5 Carson Whitling (2005)	Jim Sandok
6 Sam Alden	17 Harold Bell
Zoe Kaster (2005)	19 Nick Henderson
9 Jean Weller	20 Jesse Harvey (1997)
Gene Sheffer	21 Sonya Baker
Lucas Schmidt (2010)	22 Edith Richards
10 Donald Yount	23 Arika Songer (2004)
Margaret Wielandt	26 Bill Jones
11 Joan Partridge	Todd Wetjen
15 Dennis McGinnis	27 Joyce Wetjen
Robert Alden	

Efraim Tobias Moeller was born October 19, 2011 at 1:44 p.m. Proud parents are Julie and Valerian Moeller and big sister is Elsea. Efraim was 8 lbs. 8 ozs. and 20½” long upon arrival! Their address is 621 Forest Drive, Grove City, PA 16127. He is the fourth grandchild of Jim & Sheryl Clinefelter. Congratulations to all!

Newsletter articles are due in the church office by the 20th 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!

Congregational Meeting

Luncheon and Chili Cook-off

November 20, 2011

Session has called for a meeting of the congregation after worship on Sunday, November 20th, for the purpose of electing elders, deacons and trustees due to normal rotation of terms.

As is customary, the “festivities” will include a hearty luncheon with different varieties of soup, and of course, the RGAPC Chili Cook-Off – this being the 5th annual. Anyone who wants to enter a pot of chili is welcome to do so. Pre-registration is not required. Just bring your chili, fully cooked, in a crock-pot to Moorhead Hall before worship that morning. Be sure to “check in” your chili with Jim Sandok, master of ceremonies and chili-pot-watcher.

When the church service has ended, everyone will gather in Moorhead Hall where we can sample all the varieties of chili. Then, you can vote for your favorites by putting money – as much or little as you choose – into small containers placed in front of each crock-pot. The contest winner is determined by the chili which receives the most donations. All the money received goes to a charitable cause, which is decided by the winning chili’s chef.

For questions about the congregational meeting, please contact Dave Brandt, Clerk of Session. For questions about the Chili Cook-Off, contact Jim Sandok.

AT WHAT COST?

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus

company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.' When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.' The driver, said with a smile, 'You're the new preacher in town aren't you?' 'Yes,' he replied. 'Well, I have been considering lately about where to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.'

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.'

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is an example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test!

ATTENTION:

The form that was included in the October Newsletter for the purpose of updating our files needs to be completed in regards to each individual who is a member or regularly participates in worship and activities at Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church. Extra copies of the form are available in the narthex next to the collection box as well as attached herein. If you have not already done so, please complete a form and return at your earliest convenience as we would like to have the information data entered by year's end. This will allow the church office to have up-to-date information on the church family. Thank you.

RGAPC Financial Information

	October 2011	Year to Date
Congregational Giving	\$8,682.00	\$ 75,291.96
Expenses	\$7,782.47	\$ 84,910.88
Difference	\$ 899.53	-\$ 9,618.92

Thank you for your faithful gifts to the ministry of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church. Please pray about making an additional gift if you are able to do so.

We are again this year participating in Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Shoe boxes filled with small toys and other gifts are distributed to children in desperate situations worldwide. When the gifts are given to the children, a missionary tells them the story of Jesus and often follows up with a Bible study called "The Greatest Journey" which encourages the children to grow in their faith. Boxes and brochures are available in the narthex. Collection will be through November 13th.

Please pray and be thinking of what you can do to help children less fortunate have a happier Christmas as well as hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Did You Know? When you place money into a Salvation Army kettle, 100 percent of your donation goes directly to the Salvation Army organization which "hosted" that kettle. No portion is sent to the national or regional offices. If you wish for your donations to support the Salvation Army center in downtown Franklin, you should contribute to the kettles in Franklin and Sugarcreek Borough. The kettles near Cranberry Mall go to a different area.

FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Special Session Meeting – Oct. 9th

- **Payment schedule for the construction work being done on the church: the sum of \$46,800.00 immediately; 50% of the balance of the contracted amount when the contractor certifies that 50% of the work has been completed, and the remaining 50% when the project has been completed.**
- **The funding of the construction project as follows: The Housing Account with Stifel Nicolaus will be exhausted and the balance will be taken from the Horizon Account with Stifel Nicolaus. [Note for information: the Housing Account contained \$111,321.81 as of September 30, 2011.]**

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – Oct. 24th

- **The minutes of the Session meetings on October 9, 2011 and September 12, 2011 as amended.**
- **The report of the Financial Secretary for the period ending September 30, 2011 and the checking account summary, budget year-to-date figures and financial report for September, 2011.**

- The following committee minutes: Missions, Outreach and Evangelism - September 26, 2011; Christian Education - September 19, 2011; Trustees - October 3, 2011; and Congregational Life - October 3, 2011
- The use of the parking lot by Rocky Grove High School on November 18, 2011, for Career Day.
- The use of the church for the renewal of the marriage vows of Matt and Allyson Cook on May 26, 2012, with Rev. John Seth (Matt's cousin) to lead the service.

TIDBIT:

A wild turkey has excellent vision and hearing. Their field of vision is about 270 degrees. A spooked turkey can run at speeds up to 20 MPH and can burst into flight approaching speeds of 50-55 MPH in seconds! These are a few reasons why they continue to elude some hunters! GO TURKEYS!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS at RGAPC

Please mark the dates on your calendars!

November 20th – Chili Cook-Off and Congregational Meeting following worship service. **Please sign up** on the sheet in the Narthex. Sign the number attending and if you are interested in entering the cook-off.

November 26th - Hanging of the Greens at 10:00 a.m. We will be having pizza for our helpers once we are finished decorating. (Snowflakes will be put on the tree November 27th during worship.)

Christmas Dinner – December 3, 2011!

The annual Christmas Dinner will be held at Grantham's Landing, Georgetown Road & Route 173 in New Lebanon on December 3, 2011. Social hour will be at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations and payments are due by November 27th at the latest. A reservation form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Watch Sunday bulletins for additional information & details.

Youthful Spirits

Men and women with *youthful spirits* gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Watch the Sunday bulletin for information of the next event on December 7th.

The celebration for 50-year members, which was announced in last month's newsletter, will take place in January 2012. Our apologies to Dick Exley, Rolf Laemmer (on behalf of the late Carolyn Laemmer) and the family of the late Merle Mong for having omitted their names from the list.

A New Members Class is being planned. If you are interested in

learning more about becoming a member of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, please contact Pastor Sue.

SERVANTS FOR NOVEMBER

Hospital Visits: Elder George Wielandt & Deacon Darlene Exley

Worship Leader: Jim Sandok

Ushers: Harold Bell, Jim Clinefelter, Debbie Dunlap,

John Klinger & Rhonda Rust

Greeters: November 6 Nancy & Scott Donaldson

13 Jim Speth & Sarah Moreland

20 Brad & Carrie Beightol

27 Don, Nancy & Aaron Weltner

Acolytes: November 6 Paige Winder

13 Austin Clark

20 Communion

27 First Sunday in Advent

Children's Church: November 6 Wayne Edmondson

13 Diane Whitman

20 Pam Viele

27 George Wielandt

A Sunday school teacher asked, “Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?” “No,” replied Johnny. “How could he with just two worms.”

The Oil City Ministerium & Fishermen's Net are bringing to our area one of the biggest names in Christian music today. On Wednesday, November 30th, Keith & Kristyn Getty will be at the Oil City High School Auditorium for a 7:00 p.m. presentation of "Joy, An Irish Christmas." Advance tickets are available online at www.fishermensnet.org or by sending a self addressed stamped envelope and \$10.00 check payable to Lighthouse Ministries, 149 Summit Drive, Franklin, PA 16323. Tickets at the door will be \$12.00. Tickets for groups of ten or more are \$9.00 each.

NOW PLAYING

Nov 4 - 10	The Mighty Macs
Nov 10 - 16	Courageous
Nov 18 & 19 7:00 p.m.	Lynn Royce Taylor

Show Times

Mon thru Thurs - 7:30
Fri & Sat - 7 & 9 PM
Sun - No shows

Christmas Dinner

\$ 12.95 per person (includes gratuity)

Children Age 9 and under – \$6.50

Buffet Style Dining

with Pie for Dessert

Reservations & Payment are needed no later than November 27th

Please make checks payable to:

Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church

Please write “Christmas Dinner” on the memo line.

5:30 p.m. – Car Pool (meeting at Church parking lot)

6:00 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Meal

Come to enjoy some great company and lovely door prizes.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church Christmas Dinner

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Attending: Adult(s)** _____

Age 9 & under _____

Amount paid: \$ _____

Missions Corner:

Can you believe that it is almost time for our annual Christmas Joy Offering? For some of us 2011 has zipped right past us and 2012 is just around the corner. The Missions Team has had a very busy year, but we are preparing now for our last major item of this year. Hopefully, the information below will be of value to assist with your donation.

What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring *Good News of Great Joy* to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Special offering envelopes will be in the newsletter as well as the pews for the Christmas Joy Offering. If you are writing a check, please mark "Christmas Joy" on the memo line which designates your offering to the correct fund.

Thank you for your consideration and we pray everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Joyce Wetjen

Member of Missions Team

A Note from the Pastor's Desk:

Dear RGAPC members and friends,

Thank you for the many cards and expressions of support that I received from you during Pastor Appreciation Month. I feel so blessed to have the privilege of serving Christ and his people here at Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church.

November and December are often filled with opportunities for worship, fellowship and service, and this year is no exception. Here are a few upcoming events that I hope you will be sure to place on YOUR calendar:

- Sunday, November 13: Veterans Recognition Sunday and Dedication of the "Operation Christmas Child" Shoeboxes**
- Saturday, November 19: Light-Up Night. After missing out for a couple of years, this year RGAPC will once again have a float. Watch the bulletin or call the church office for more information on how you can participate in this fun community outreach.**
- Sunday, November 20: Celebration of the Lord's Supper, followed by the annual meeting of the congregation and the Fifth annual chili cook-off.**
- Sunday evening, Nov. 20, 7 PM: Community Thanksgiving**
Worship Service at the Missionary Alliance Church, 12th &
Otter Street, in Franklin. Joint Choir Practice, 6:15 PM at
the same location.
- Saturday, November 26 at 10 AM: Come one, come all for the "Hanging of the Greens," a festive time when we decorate the sanctuary in anticipation of Christmas.**
- Sunday, November 27: First Sunday of Advent & hanging of the Memorial Snowflakes.**

- **Wednesday, November 30, 7 PM:** Don't miss the opportunity to hear Christian artists Keith and Kristy Getty in concert at the Oil City High School. Plans are being made to purchase group tickets and carpool from the church.
- **Saturday, December 3:** RGAPC Christmas Party
- **Sunday, December 18:** Children's Christmas Play during worship; no Children's Church today.
- **Saturday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 PM
- **Sunday, December 25:** Christmas Day worship service; no Sunday School

As you make your plans for the holidays, please remember to invite your friends and neighbors. Many people who do not regularly attend church are open to attending worship and fellowship activities during the holidays, so they can re-connect with God and be encouraged in their faith. We have a wonderful church family and Good News to share – so please, “invite, invite, invite!”

Giving thanks to the Lord for all of you,

PASTOR SUE