

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

November 2012

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,

Last week I took a few days of study leave to attend a conference called "Wee Kirk," which is designed specifically with smaller churches in mind. Held in the Laurel Highlands, Wee Kirk includes worship, workshops and time for quiet reflection and prayer. I always return feeling refreshed and encouraged.

During our free time one day I decided to hike up to a ridge overlooking the conference center. The afternoon was warm with a light breeze so I put on a thin jacket and set off. At first I was very comfortable, but as I followed the winding path up out of the valley some clouds came overhead and that breeze turned into a cold wind. I shivered and pulled my jacket tighter around my shoulders. For a while I even considered turning back. Then, just as I reached the ridge-top, the wind stopped and the sun came out to play. Oh, how nice its warmth felt!! I took off my jacket and sat on the grass for a long time, marveling at the lovely view and praising our Creator.

This experience reminds me of a fable about a contest between the sun and the wind to see which of them could take away a man's coat. First the wind tried, and failed, to blow off the coat by force. The sun won the contest by shining gently and steadily until the man took off the coat himself.

We can look at this as a metaphor for the power of God. Although God has infinite power, he does not force us to do his will. Instead, being love, he warms our hearts through the love and sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. God persistently draws us by his love until our objections melt away; we turn to Christ in faith and commit ourselves to doing what pleases God. This is called, "irresistible grace."

As I write this article, we are only two short weeks away from the presidential elections. Sadly, much of the campaigning is "wind" rather than "warmth." The same thing can happen in the church (or our families, or anywhere else) when we have strong feelings about something. It is okay to have differences of opinion, but as followers of Jesus Christ let us always endeavor to treat one another with gentleness and respect -- with the warmth of the Son.

Yours in the love of Christ, Pastor Sue

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC

Wednesday, November 7th - Men and women with *YOUTHFUL SPIRITS* gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun at Amazing Foods, 1327 Elk Street, Franklin. Contact Rhonda Rust (437-2831) & leave a message by 11/5/12 if you plan to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletins for information on the December 5th gathering.

Saturday, November 17th - “CE Cookie Day” – see below

Sunday, November 18th - Congregational meeting, luncheon and CHILI COOK-OFF. See article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Saturday, December 1st - “Hanging of the Greens” at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 8th - “Christmas Dinner” – 6:00 p.m. at Grantham’s Landing. See registration form for additional information.

One cookie at a time!

Come one, come all to help the children of the church make and bake cookies to distribute to our community. Everyone is invited to bring cookie ingredients, dough, or just yourself and help bake on Saturday, November 17th at 12 pm in Morehead Hall! We are asking for our church family to come together and bake cookies, which our children will then distribute to the community. The cookies will be tagged with information about our church services and upcoming youth group gatherings. We will take any type of donation whether it be cookie ingredients, supplies, an hour of your time, or even pre-made dough (if you like to keep your family recipe a secret) and we’ll bake it. Please help us spread the word of Christ and Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church one cookie at a time. For more information, contact Sarah Speth at 673-8976 or e-mail sarah.speth@joyglobal.com

Christmas Dinner

December 8, 2012

\$ 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 25th

Please make checks payable to:

Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church

and 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 fellowship.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church Christmas Dinner

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Attending: Adult(s) _____

Age 9 & under _____

Amount paid: \$ _____

FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – October 8th:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 10 Sep 12.
- The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 30 September 12 and the following Treasurer's reports: the checking account summary, the budget year-to-date figures and the Financial Report for September 2012.
- A letter transferring the membership of Willard and Lois Burns to Christ United Methodist Church, per their request and with regret;
- The removal of several people from the Active Membership List per their request or as a result of their not responding to Session's repeated attempts to contact them.
- A quorum for a Session meeting will be the Moderator and "half plus one" of the Elders currently serving on Session.

- The minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting on 17 Sep 12, Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meeting on 1 Oct 12, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 24 Sep 12, Stewardship Ministry Team meeting on 23 Sep 12, Trustee Meeting of 10 Sep 12 and 1 Oct 12, Special Trustee Meeting of 16 Sep 12, and 10 Sep 12 through 8 Oct 12 Report on Administrative Activity.
- The 2013 Budget with appreciation to those worked on the budget.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The Deacons are undertaking an outreach project for the Rocky Grove Food Bank. As you know, November is the month of Thanksgiving; and we all can be thankful to God for supplying our needs. But, the needs of our community food bank are growing on a daily basis; and they need our help. For the month of November, a box will be in the narthex for collection of non-perishable items, which will be donated to the food bank.

Our Lord through the scriptures of *Matthew 25: 35 & 40* tells us:

Verse 35 – I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

Verse 40 – Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.

Congregational Meeting,

Luncheon and Chili Cook-off

November 18, 2012

Session has called for a meeting of the congregation after worship on Sunday, November 18th, 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 a variety of different soups, and of course, the RGAPC Chili Cook-Off – this being the 6th annual.

Anyone who wants to enter a pot of chili is welcome to do so. Just bring your chili, fully cooked, in a crock-pot to Moorhead Hall before worship that morning.

When the church service and Congregational Meeting have ended in the sanctuary, 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 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 Wayne Edmondson, Clerk of Session. For questions about the Chili Cook-Off, contact Jim Sandok.

RGAPC Financial Information

	September 2012	Year to Date
Congregational Giving	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 69,241.85
Expenses	\$ 8,184.81	\$ 76,362.29
Difference	- \$ 3,834.81	- \$ 7,120.44

Note: September Giving for Current Expenses was unusually low. Please pray about increasing your level of giving.

October Financial Reports will be available in the narthex

beginning the second Sunday of November.

Don't forget!

Set your clocks back one hour Saturday night, November 3rd. You'll lose one hour of sleep, but you will make it up again in the spring!

NOTES OF THANKS

I want to thank everyone for all of their cards, calls and prayers during my current medical problems. "Even though I am mostly shut in, all of your cards, prayers and

thoughts have made me not to feel shut out." Thanks again for thinking of me, I appreciate it very much. *Ray*
Aikins

Thank you so much for the visits, flowers and prayers during my recent hospital stay and for continued prayer. It is greatly appreciated.

Alfred Pellow

Dear family and friends of the Rocky Grove Ave. Preb. Church,

We would like to thank you for your support and concern for my mother, Glenda Songer. We would also like to thank you for making it possible to visit my mother in Kentucky and making sure she is well. Again, thank you for your thoughts and prayers. It is nice being a part of such a warm and welcoming church. *The Songer Family*

Dear RGAPC family and friends, words cannot possibly begin to describe how deeply I am touched by the notes and gifts I have received from you recently, expressing your appreciation for my ministry among you. Your kindness is such an encouragement, and I thank God for the blessing and privilege of serving as your pastor.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Sue

I want to thank the church for the Halloween card from the Deacons.

Joyce Riddle

Dear Friends,

Johnny wanted me to thank you for not only thinking of him, but also for your prayers. The quilt is beautiful and is getting a lot of use. In Christian love,
John & Twyla Kernic

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

The next "7:29 out by 9:00" Men's Breakfast will be held at the Atlantic Ave. United Brethren Church on Saturday, Nov 17th. Email Scott Walters at sfwalters@verizon.net for information.

November

Birthdays

1	Ellen Gierlach	15	Dennis McGinnis
5	Carson Whiting (2005)	16	Jim Sandok
6	Sam Alden		George Wielandt
	Zoe Kaster (2005)	17	Harold Bell
9	Jean Weller (90 th)	20	Jesse Harvey (1997)
	Gene Sheffer	21	Sonya Baker
	Lucas Schmidt (2010)	22	Edith Richards
10	Don Yount	23	Oliver David Feather (2011)
	Margaret Wielandt		Arika Songer (2004)
11	Joan Partridge	26	Todd Wetjen
15	Bob Alden	27	Joyce Wetjen

MISSIONS CORNER

Christmas is not too far away. Some of us can't wait and there are those who are dreading all the crowds and the hustle and bustle. But, the thought of Baby Jesus' birthday makes all those thoughts come to life.

As Presbyterians we try to help those who are in need of help get a little relief. That is where our gifts to the "Christmas Joy Offering" come in to play.

Since the 1930's the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church

designated this wonderful offering to be taken in our churches.

Gifts to "Christmas Joy Offering" are distributed equally to the assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and to help support student scholarships at Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

You can find special envelopes for "Christmas Joy Offering" in next month's newsletter and in the pews during Advent.

We hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. God bless.

Your Missions & Outreach Team member, Diane Whitman

SERVANTS FOR NOVEMBER

Hospital Visits: Elder Linda Hartman & Deacon Darlene Exley

Worship Leader: Wayne Edmondson

Ushers: Linda Hartman, Kennedy Hartman, Reagan Hartman,

Konner Hartman and Nancy Weltner

Greeters: November 4 Dave & Brenda Cokain

11 Bob & Jill Alden

18 Denny & Melanie McGinnis

25 The Jeremiah Lukers family

Acolytes: November 4 Gage Clark

11 Hanna Wielandt

18 Lillian Songer

25 COMMUNION (no acolyte)

Nursery: November 4 Diane Whitman

11 Molly Whitling

18 Joyce Dillemath

25 Sarah Speth

Children's November 4 Wayne Edmondson

Church: 11 Pam Baughman

18 Diane Whitman

25 George Wielandt

We will again be 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. Brochures and boxes are available in the narthex. Collection will be November 11, 2012. If you would prefer to contribute monetarily, see Edith Richards.