

**ROCKY GROVE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SONSHINE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2010 EDITION**

**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](http://www.rockygrover.org)**

**Email Address: [rgapc@verizon.net](mailto: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**

**UPDATE FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**During worship on Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>, John Dumbleton and Jim Sandok gave the congregation a report from the Building Planning Team. For those members who are unable to be in worship that day, here is a summary:**

**The Building Planning Team believes that the best option for the congregation is to remain in its current location. Our sanctuary is truly beautiful and is in very good condition. Moorhead Hall is also in good repair, although not handicapped accessible. Where we have trouble is with the back end of the building. The rooms upstairs are fine; it's the ones down at ground level that are really bad. Water seepage over the years has created all kinds of trouble including corroded walls and electrical wiring. Contractors who have looked at that part of the building agree that it is really not salvageable.**

**The team's recommendation is that we stay where we are – make the best use of our existing space -- fix the area behind the balcony so it will be a comfortable nursery and toddler area. We will do some upgrades for handicapped accessibility, probably a small elevator. At the same time, we'll build a medium-sized building just to the south of the sanctuary, all on one level, with fellowship space and some classrooms and office space. It's not going to be as extensive as the plans we were looking at 10 years ago. But it will be useful and comfortable, energy-efficient and much more affordable.**

**At an appropriate point in the project the old back end of the building will be demolished, allowing access for water-proofing along the back foundation walls and for new parking spaces.**

**The team expects it to take several more months to have some preliminary plans and cost estimates. But they felt that the congregation should know that the best option seems to be to renovate and expand our existing facilities next to the high school, rather than attempting to sell and relocate somewhere else. This approach preserves the best and most cherished part of our church home, and makes needed improvements for accessibility and energy efficiency.**

**John Dumbleton and Jim Sandok stressed that this was not being presented as a final decision, but the team believes it to be the best option and they are very enthusiastic about it.**

**“Have you been wondering . . . . ?”**

**Q: What is the Building Planning Team?**

**A: The Building Planning Team – sometimes also called the Building Options Team – was formed by Session to explore different solutions for the serious structural problems that exist in the current buildings, and to present the best alternatives to the congregation for further discussion and input.**

**Q: Who serves on the Building Planning Team?**

**A: The team includes 2 session members (Linda Hartman and Wayne Edmondson), 2 trustees (John Dumbleton and Joyce Wetjen), and 3 members-at-large from the congregation (Jim Sandok, Vicki Henderson and Dick Exley). Pastor Sue serves as the moderator but does not vote.**

**Q: What happened to the idea of selling the church to the high school and building on the old elementary school property?**

**A: The school board indicated that they would be willing to consider this if the church came to them with a specific proposal, but it would be up to the church to come up with dollar figures. This is the point at which the Session formed the Building Planning Team. The first step was to find out what each property might be worth in the current market. Vicki Henderson, a real estate broker with many years of experience, did some investigation to find out what comparable properties had been selling for. Based on her research it was very clear to the Building Planning Team that there if we sold the existing church buildings and bought the elementary school lot, there would not be nearly enough money left over to build a new church suitable for our needs.**

**Q: What happens next?**

**A: The Trustees have already begun taking action to correct leakage and water damage above the narthex. The rooms behind the balcony will be converted to nursery and toddler space. The Building Planning Team is seeking bids from engineering firms to clearly identify what work must be done to correct structural and water problems (and how much that will cost). We will also find out if the plans developed 10 years ago can be modified, which would save us both time and money. There will be regular reports to the congregation, with many opportunities for input and discussion. In addition, Session will from time to time call an official meeting of the congregation so that church members can vote on major aspects of the project. Meanwhile, PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for wisdom, discernment and trust in God's leading.**

**The Pastor's Ponderings . . . .**

**Dear RGAPC Family and Friends,**

**“Why did you begin coming to RGAPC?” “Why do you continue to attend this church?” “What do you find most meaningful here?” I enjoy asking people these kinds of questions, because it helps me gain insight into the community of faith and what makes this church so very special. And most of the time, what I hear people saying – although they use a variety of different words – is “It's because of the relationships.”**

**In our modern culture, the word “church” is most often used to refer to the building, or perhaps, to the hour or two we spend at 321 Rocky Grove Avenue on Sunday mornings. But we know that “church” really refers to the people.**

**“Church” is a gathering of people joined together by the Holy Spirit to love God and others in an atmosphere of giving and receiving, to learn and grow as followers of Jesus Christ, to worship God and to be strengthened in our daily living with guidance, inspiration and encouragement. “Church” is how God intends for us to remain connected and spiritually healthy. “I am the vine, you are the branches,” Jesus said to his disciples (John 15:5).**

**Life is full of challenging problems and few easy answers. But “church” can help us find and apply meaningful answers. We learn from one another in important and meaningful ways as we share our knowledge and experience. We communicate with the Lord in prayer, both expressing ourselves and in listening for His voice. We learn from Holy Scripture and from the wisdom of other saints – those still living, and those who are now in heaven – and all of this helps us to better understand ourselves, our connections with others, and God’s will for our life.**

**And God’s will for our lives is that we do not live in loneliness, separation and fear, but that we live a new kind of life of sharing and caring and forgiveness and peace. “So then, you are no longer strangers, but you are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God . . . with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.” (Ephesians 2:19-20). As we are “in church” – not in the building, but in the spiritual reality of our family connections in Christ – we also experience the presence and power of Christ in our midst. Jesus promised, “Where two or more are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20).**

**As family members, let us continually look for ways to offer one another godly encouragement and support in every aspect of our daily living – in times of joy, change, stress, loss and fulfillment – regardless of our age, circumstances or position. Because every one of us needs the love, acceptance, forgiveness, warmth, renewal and encouragement that Christ offers in and through his Church.**

**“I came to this church” to find friendship with God and enjoy godly friendships with other seekers and believers. “I keep coming to this church” because I feel the presence of God here, in our worship and in our lives together, and because I find these friendships to be very meaningful and helpful as I give of myself and as others share their lives with me.**

**I hope that you come to RGAPC, and continue to come, and invite others to come along with you, for all these reasons and more. May the Lord bless you and all his people as together we seek to know and to follow his good purposes for our lives.**

**With love in Christ,**

**Pastor Sue**

**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.**

### **TIDBITS OF INFORMATION**

**Youthful Spirits will meet for lunch at Bonanza Restaurant in Franklin on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at noon. If you have any questions, please call Betty Cornmesser 432-5587. We'd love to have you join us!**

**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!**

**A Venango County MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) group will be meeting on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at Galloway U.M. Church. If you are interested in attending or need more information, please call Amy Smith at 437-5425 or 432-8407.**

**Beginning in September all committee reports are to be turned into the office by the Wednesday prior to Session meeting so reports can be reviewed before the meeting. This**

will save time at the meeting if the reports are read in advance and questions noted if necessary. Therefore, all committee reports for August are due in the church office by Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> as Session meeting is Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Folders have been purchased for the reports and they will be in Session mailboxes on Thursday morning for anyone that would like to stop at the church to get them. Please put the empty folder back in your mailbox at the end of the Session meeting.

## **SESSION REPORT:**

**Approved Motions Log:** Wayne Edmondson, Clerk of

Session

### **July Meeting:**

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 21 Jun 10 with one minor change.
- The June 2010 Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports.
- The minutes of the Trustees Meeting on 7 Jul 10.
- The minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting on 28 Jun 10, and the minutes of the Missions, Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team meeting on 28 Jun 10.
  
- To change the ages of children for Children's Church to be those who are 4 years old through those who are in second grade.
  
- Rev. Sue's request for vacation from 22 through 30 Aug 10.
  
- Rev. Sue's request for one week of study leave to attend the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary class entitled "Spiritual Leadership" that will be held from 20 through 24 Sep 10.
  
- The creation of Account number 05.076, Account Name Medical and Description Expense related to providing medical coverage through the denomination's medical benefits program.

### **Report from the Christian Education Ministry Team:**

Sunday School and Promotion Sunday will be on September 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be separate Women's and Men's Sunday School classes.

There will be no Children's Church September 5<sup>th</sup>. Children's Church will begin on September 12<sup>th</sup> 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 fall to George Wielandt, Wayne Edmondson or the church office at 432-4162. Thank you!

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

*This month we are featuring two members of the congregation, one in the area and one “long-distance” member.*

*Ray and Toby Aikins are very active at RGAPC. Ray is a trustee and past elder and serves on the Missions Team as a representative from trustees. Toby participates in “Patches with Prayers” which is Chapter # 965 of Prayers & Squares International that meets at First Presbyterian Church. Ray and Toby recently built a new home in the country so Ray could get back to his “roots” and plant lots of things to keep himself busy!! They have two sons – Ray, Jr. and David, and two grandchildren – Christian and Elijah. They share that they have had many interesting vacations – auto trips to the western U.S., southwest U.S., eastern U.S. They have also traveled to Israel, Germany, and other European places. They have enjoyed cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii, and New England. They have participated in numerous church work camps to Mississippi, Michigan, Stkitts, Ecuador, Argentina, and Guatemala. If you need lines painted on your driveway, you might give Ray a call. He’s quite experienced at doing that!*

*Our other friend is Rosalie (Rosie) Odier who left the area to move to Erie to be near her daughter, Gina Metzenbacher, and granddaughter, Megan. While at RGAPC Rosie was very active in the choir as well as serving as Financial Secretary for several years. I’m sure the choir would love to see her commute on Sunday mornings!!*

**MISSIONS CORNER:**

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

**MISSIONFEST is almost here!! We are still in need of workers for a couple booths. If you can help for a few hours, PLEASE call Rhonda Rust at 437-2831. Crafts are desperately needed so please call Marge Sheffer at 432-3456 if you have any items to donate. Garage sale items may be brought to the youth room any time the church is open. Please – No Clothes or Shoes.**

**New games for the kids (of all ages) have been purchased for 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. If you would like to donate a basket for the prize drawing, items or cash for a basket, please call the church office.**

**We are also 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.**

**Thank you!!**

*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**

**The Personnel Committee will be conducting reviews of the Pastor, Administrative Assistant, Custodian and Organist in the near future. We would appreciate receiving input from members of the congregation to assist in these performance reviews. Please put your comments or concerns in writing, including your name so that we may follow up with you for clarification if needed. Your input can be placed in a sealed envelope in Dave Brandt's mailbox (on the wall near the church office) or mailed to his attention at the church. Thank you!**

*We cannot thank you all enough for letting us girls meet in your house of God. I am so grateful to have had a positive and safe place for my young ladies to be. For some this was the only chance they had to be in God's house. The time we have spent here has been very special to all of us. This has truly been a blessing. Thank you so much! Bless you all, Daisy Troop 20209.*

*Grace, Alexis, Anabell, Britney, Theresa Hawkins,*



*Leader, and Lynn Beach, Assistant Leader*

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*I would like to thank you for your support for Susan Komen 3-Day-for-the-Cure. My sister Robyn, my friend Thea, and I walked every step of the 60 miles in Cleveland on July 30 – Aug. 1. Thanks to many of you, I raised over \$2500 for the Susan Komen Foundation. The donated money will be used for community awareness programs and research to fight breast cancer. I am so blessed to be part of the caring and generous people who make up our wonderful Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church.*

*Pam Baughman*

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*Dear Church Family,*

*Thanks so much for the generous gift of both the Moorhead and Siefer scholarships. With love and guidance from my loving church family, I know I will continue to do my best at Mercyhurst College. Thanks and see everyone when I come home!*

**Jeremy Dickey**

**HIS SERVANTS:**

**Worship Leader – September: Wayne Edmondson**

**Worship Leader – October: Sheryl Clinefelter**

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**Ushers – September: Jim Albright, Joanne Brannon, Gene**

**Sheffer, Jim Speth, and Jerry Wendt**

**Ushers – October: Dave Cokain, John Klinger, Diane Whitman,**

**Dennise & Adam Kirwin**

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**Greeters:**

**September 5: Doris Feather & Grace Gibbons**

**12: Dennis & Melanie McGinnis**

**19: Dave & Anne Brandt**

**26: Les & Joan Lepley**

**October: 3: Lois Pierce & Linda Zeller**

**10: Arnie & Janet Bish**

**17: Jeremiah & Malinda Lukers & Family**

**24: Pam Baughman & Joan Partridge**

**31: John & Paula Klinger**

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**Acolytes:**

**September 5: Adam Kirwin**

**October: 3: Communion**

**12: Josh Kirwin**

**10: Konner Hartman**

**19: Aaron Weltner**

**17: Austin Clark**

**26: Konner Hartman**

**24: Adam Kirwin**

**31: Josh Kirwin**

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**Nursery Workers:**

**September 5: Jennie Brumbaugh** **October: 3: Cassidy Clark**

**12: The Lukers**

**10: Molly Whitling**

**19: Pam Viele**

**17: Joyce Wetjen**

**26: Diane Whitman**

**24: Lois Carr**

**31: Jennie Brumbaugh**

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**Hospital Visitation Schedule:**

**September: Nancy Weltner, Elder**

**Doris Feather, Deacon**

**October: Jill Alden, Elder**

**Joyce Pellow, Deacon**

**September Birthdays:**

1 Tammi Davis

14 Janet Bish

7 Amanda Baughman

Scott Donaldson

Brianne Bell

Brian Friedrich

Jerry Yount

Bonnie Wielandt

8 Linda Zeller

15 John Klinger

11 Clair Speth

19 Alfred Pellow

13 Marge Sheffer

Paige Winder

24 Grace Gibbons

26 Gerald Wendt

**In The Hospital Recently:**

Patty Campbell

Jim Clinefelter

1212 Chestnut Street, Apt. 205  
Franklin, PA 16323

967 Pone Lane  
Franklin, PA 16323

**As a church family, we extend our Christian sympathy to:**

The family of Shannon Long (relative of Cheri Mortimer).

The family of George Boughner (father of Ellen Gierlach).

Family and friends of our dear sister in Christ, Nancy  
George who went to be with our Lord on July 31.

Denny and Melanie McGinnis and family. Denny's  
mother, Helen McGinnis, passed away on August 24.

**2010 LAKE ERIE PRESBYTERY PRAYER LIST**

**September 5: Fairview, Rev. Charles Cammarata, Pastor**

**Rev. Jen Haddox (Validated Ministry World  
Mission Initiative)**

**12: Mill Village, Rev. Rob Willert, Stated Supply**

**Rev. George Johnson (Honorably Retired)**

**19: Pleasantville, Rev. Susan Speakman,**

**Temporary Supply**

**Rev. Lyta Seddig (Validated Ministry, Spiritual**

**Director)**

**26: Irvine, Elder Dennis Ledebur, Commissioned**

**Lay Pastor**

**Rev. John Dietz (Honorably Retired)**

**October 3: North Sandy, Rev. Hydie Houston, Stated Supply**

**Rev. Tom Guerdat (Honorably Retired)**

**10: Port Allegany Avenue, Elder Garen Smith,**

**Commissioned Lay Pastor**

**Warren First Pres., Rev. Ellie Johns, Pastor**

**17: Woodcock Gravel Run, Rev. Don Gordon,**

**Stated Supply**

**Elder Linda Valentine, Director General**

**Assembly Mission Council**

**24: Oil City, Second Pres., Rev. Dr. Jannie Swart**

**Temporary Supply**

**Rev. George Espy (Honorably Retired)**

**31: Kane, Rev. Brian Snyder, Pastor**

**Candidates under Care of Lake Erie Presbytery**