

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 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.rockygrovepres.org

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

Summer Worship – 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Sue Nageotte, Pastor

Rhonda Rust, Secretary

Linda Christian, Pianist/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

August Birthdays



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Arnie Bish | 19 | Christopher Hartman |
| 9 | Zella McNany | 19 | Doris Yount |
| 12 | Carol Rough | 20 | Les Lepley |
| 15 | Floyd Dunlap | 20 | Brandon Miller |
| 16 | Jim Clinefelter | 22 | Jackson Lukers (2006) |
| 16 | Makenzie Ann Yeager (2011) | 26 | Carly Moreland (2007) |
| 16 | Dick Exley | 28 | Nancy Donaldson |

*God doesn't want shares of your life;
He wants controlling interest!*

RGAPC Financial Information

	June 2013	Year to Date
Congregational Giving	\$ 7,616.00	\$ 47,989.98
Expenses	(\$ 12,661.16)	(\$ 53,386.62)
Difference	(\$ 5,045.16)	(\$ 5,396.64)

*Detailed financial reports for July will be available
in the narthex beginning the second Sunday of August.
If all copies are gone, please contact the church office.
(June expenses included annual premium of building and grounds insurance.)*

NOTES OF THANKS

TO MY DEAR FRIENDS AT RGAPC,

Thank you so much for the flowers, cards, calls & prayers that I received during my most recent hospital visit in early July. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness. As ever, *Eleanore Moffitt*

From the Pastor's Study

Dear RGAPC family and friends,

A couple of months ago my husband and I were at a fast-food place in Meadville when I overheard a group of young people talking about the recent television mini-series, "The Bible." Actually, they weren't talking – they were arguing about whether Jesus ever really lived, and if the New Testament contained an accurate record of what Jesus did, what he taught and what he calls us to do. In other words, they were asking, "How do we know that the Bible is reliable?"

This is a timeless question. It has been asked over and over again through the centuries, and yet has enormous relevance for us today -- as individuals, as members of a particular faith community (RGAPC), and as citizens living in the United States of America. The Apostle Paul wrote, "*Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or the other – showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17, The Message translation). Martin Luther, John Calvin and other Protestant Reformers insisted that the Bible alone contains God's written word and is, therefore, the highest and completely trustworthy authority for faith and life.

In these first decades of the 21st century, most of us are bombarded with an overflow of information. Television, radio, newspapers, magazines, the internet – words and images continually flow our way. Most of them claim to be true, or at least worthy of our consideration. Many of these sources make fun of, distort or completely dismiss the Bible. Tragically, even in our own Reformed, Presbyterian denomination it has become common to rely more on "logic" and "science" than on the clear teachings of the Bible.

So this brings us back to the question – how DO we know that the Bible is reliable? Let's look at the following facts.

FACT: The Bible is the most closely studied ancient text in the history of the world. The reliability of an ancient text is largely based on the time interval between when it was written and the most ancient copy available to scholars. Most of the "historical facts" about the early history of Western civilization are derived from ancient writings by the following five authors.

Herodotus lived and wrote around 488-428 BC. The earliest copies of his writings date around AD 900, a gap of 1,300 years. There are eight copies.

Thucydides, lived and wrote around 460-400 BC. The earliest copies of his writings date around AD 900 - a gap of 1,300 years. There are eight copies.

Tacitus lived and wrote around AD 100. The earliest copies of his writings date around 1100, a gap of 1,000 years. There are 20 copies.

Julius Caesar wrote his Gallic Wars around 58-50 BC. The earliest copies of his writings date around AD 900-950. There are ten copies.

Livy wrote his History of Rome around 5 to 15 AD. The earliest copies date around AD 900, a gap of 900 years. There are twenty copies.

By comparison, the New Testament was written between AD 40-100. The earliest "miniscules" (partial copies) date around AD 130, only a generation after composition. Full manuscripts of the New Testament date, at the very latest, around AD 350, three hundred years after composition. There are over 5000 Greek miniscules and manuscripts available. There's another 10,000 in Latin, plus an additional 9,300 ancient copies in other languages. And apart from very minor variations, the oldest available manuscripts and recent English translations read precisely the same.

FACT: There is more textual evidence for the story of Jesus and the 1st-century Church of Jesus Christ than the history of Greece and Rome. Considering how many early Christian writings exist, it is significant that no Jewish or Roman documents of that same period dispute Jesus' existence.

FACT: Some scholars may not believe the message of the New Testament. After all, it is a faith document. However, even non-believing experts in biblical languages agree that the New Testament accurately records the original authors' message.

So not by "faith" alone, but by logic also, we can say with confidence that the Bible is completely reliable. And while we are talking facts -- the fact is, the Bible is also a love letter. It is God's love letter to a lost and lonely and hurting world. In it we find hope, healing, consolation, correction, comfort, encouragement, challenge and inspiration. So let's read it – believe it -- live it -- and share it -- in Christ's love. Pastor Sue



In the Old Testament there is a story of a city which had no food, and all the people inside the city walls were starving to death! But outside its gates were some people who found huge amounts of food - who were these people?

To find out, fill in the clues, and read the answer down from here:

1. Knife and
2. Big, scary, monster human
3. Opposite of tie up
4. Famous NZ rugby shield
5. Something you do with your tongue
6. Big animal with big ears
7. Brother of a princess
8. Beautiful sky arch during showers
9. Another word for 'bad smell'
10. Handheld rain-deterrent
11. Thing worn on the feet
12. Small rodent with a long tail
13. What we hear with
14. Sewing tool

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ANSWER: see 2Kings 7:3

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf.

Psalm 66:5

How awesome indeed! The Lord is with us and working through us everyday. **Praise be to God!**

Due to the showers and thunderstorms on July 20, the annual Soap Box Derby was cancelled. It was decided that the money donated from the congregation (to help towards the cost of buying food items to sell at the derby) would be put directly into missions. If you donated monetarily and have another purpose you would like your donation to be used, please contact one of the Mission Team members and let us know. We did however, have a \$22.00 profit with an additional \$7.00 made by selling the remaining 1 dozen donuts after church, making a total profit of \$29.00.

The Military Cell Phone project has been doing extremely well. (Special thanks to a certain employer). Well over 30 cell phones were delivered to Huff's Chapel, where they will send the phones away to be refurbished for those in the military.

Next up is our annual Missionfest in September – always the Saturday after Labor Day! Please start thinking about where you would be willing to help out. Rhonda Rust will be working on booth assignments, and Diane Whitman with the help of Joan Lepley will be heading up Kid's Kingdom assignments. So if you want a particular booth, please see one of them before your dream position is taken!

We will start in August to take in your garage sale items. As usual we cannot accept clothing or shoes. If you could pre-price your items before you bring them, ***it will help so much*** and save those who prepare the items a lot of time and energy. If you are going to be crafting for our craft booth, it's time to get busy! And if you are going to be baking for the bake sale, start thinking about what you want to bake. The word has gotten out about our baked goods, so they do sell out quickly. We will be keeping you updated on Missionfest with Minutes for Missions and the church bulletin, but if you have any question, please feel free to contact anyone on the Missions Team.

Missionfest Sunday, our planned musical guest will be 2012 Taste of Talent winner and 2012 Inspirational Country Music Talent winner - Hunter Cook. Hunter is a local teen who attends Rocky Grove High School, and is now a national recording artist. He has recently released his first CD and is now working on his second. He specializes in inspirational country music, and is very youth oriented. Spread the word. A love offering will be collected for his inspirational musical message.

Please keep your Missions Team in your prayers and the projects that are underway. We thank you so much for your support and thank you in advance for the work you are willing to do to help spread God's word and love.

Team Members: *Jill Alden, Joyce Dillemath, Debbie Dunlap, Kennedy Hartman, Linda Hartman, John Klinger, Joan Lepley, Rhonda Rust, Joyce Wetjen, Diane Whitman, and George Wielandt.*

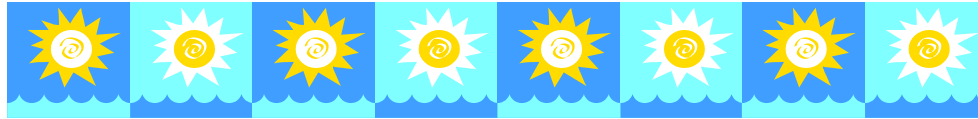
Praise be to God who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me.

Psalm 66:20

2013 Mission Recipients

ABC Pregnancy Center
Child Evangelism Fellowship
Fishermen's Net/Lighthouse Ministries
Seneca Hills Bible Conference
Camping Assn. of Presbyteries of NWPA
World Gospel Missions –Jim Vanderhoof
Latin American Missions – Bruneau's
One Mission Society – Joetta Lehman
Venango Youth for Christ
Undesignated/Mustard Seed Missions
(We are disbursing to Mustard Seed Missions
from our undesignated funds for now.)

God bless you for all you do to spread the Good News and the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.



SERVANTS FOR AUGUST

Hospital Visits: Elder Phyllis Wetzel
Deacon Margaret Wielandt

Worship Leader: Jim Sandok

Ushers: Wayne Edmondson, Jessica Songer,
Kevin Songer, Diane Whitman, and
George Wielandt

Substitutes: Rhonda Rust & John Klinger

Greeters: **August 4** Diane Whitman & Lillian Songer
11 Joyce Pellow & family/friend
18 Linda Zeller
25 Debbie & Floyd Dunlap

Acolyte: **August 4** Lillian Songer
11 Communion
18 Hanna Wielandt
25 Arika Songer

Nursery: **August 4** Margaret Wielandt
11 Joyce Dillemath
18 Margaret Wielandt
25 Diane Whitman

Counters: **August 4** Linda Hartman & George Wielandt
11 Wayne Edmondson & Joyce Wetjen
18 Lois Pierce & George Wielandt
25 Lois Pierce & Joyce Wetjen

Answers to clues: 1. Fork 2. Ogre 3. Untie 4. Ranfurly* 5. Lick, 6. Elephant 7. Prince 8. Rainbow 9. Odour* 10. Umbrella 11. Shoes
12. Mice 13. Ears 14. Needle

Answer to puzzle: Four Leprous Men
where the correct spelling for "odor" is "odour"

*This puzzle was created in **New Zealand**

FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – July 8th:

- Sheryl Clinefelter for installation to the office of Deacon
 - The minutes of the special Session Meeting of 3 Jun 13
 - The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 10 Jun 13
 - The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 30 Jun 13 and the following Treasurer's reports: the checking account summary, the budget year-to-date figures and the Financial Report for June 2013
 - With regret, the transfer of David and Brenda Cokain's membership to the Christ United Methodist Church in Franklin, PA
 - Received the minutes of the Congregational Life & Worship Committee meeting on 1 Jul 13, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 24 Jun 13, Personnel and Stewardship Ministry Team meeting on 9 Jun 13, and Administrative Activity Report 11 Jun 13 through 8 Jul 13
 - Reimbursing Jim Clinefelter for an expense relative to our new web page
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Youthful Spirits, men and women of the church, will gather for food and fellowship at noon on **August 7th** at **Lona's**, 1213 Liberty Street, Franklin. Make your reservation with Ray and Toby Aikins (432-2726) and leave a message by 8/6/13. Next month's gathering will be on September 4th with Grace Gibbons as hostess. More info will be forthcoming.

Ice Cream Sunday: Plan now to stay for a while after worship on August 11th, to enjoy a special "Ice Cream Sunday" in Moorhead Hall. This isn't a business meeting, and the only decision you'll need to make is what flavor of ice cream and toppings you want. Yum!

The Presbyterian Home Auxiliary is having a fund raiser for Oakwood Heights (formerly the Presbyterian Home in Oil City) on Saturday, August 24, at Noon at First Presbyterian Church of Franklin. The event will be a spoon luncheon where you get a spoonful of each casserole. There will be a speaker and door prizes. A cookbook of every casserole recipe will be given to each attendee. Watch for information to obtain tickets.



AUGUST 2013



end of summer...

back to school...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 8:30 Men's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
4 10:00 Worship 5:30 Boy Scouts	5 6:00 CLAW 7:00 Trustees	6 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice	7 9:00 – 4:00 Venango County Training (Moorhead Hall) Noon <i>Youthful Spirits</i>	8 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Venango County Human Services 6:30 Deacons	9	10 8:30 Women's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
11 10:00 Worship 11:00 <i>Ice Cream Sundaes</i> 5:30 Boy Scouts Court of Honor (Moorhead Hall)	12 6:15 Session	13 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice	14 10:00 Quilting @ 1 st Presbyterian 6:30 Praise & Prayer	15	16	17 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
18 10:00 Worship	19	20 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i> 6:30 Christian Education	21 8:45 Venango C&Y (Moorhead Hall)	22	23	24 9:30 O A 9:30 'til 4:00 Sweet Adelines (Moorhead) Noon Benefit Luncheon @ Franklin 1 st Presby
25 10:00 Worship	26 6:30 Missions & Outreach	27 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice (sanctuary)	28 6:30 Praise & Prayer	29	30	31 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous