



SONSHINE NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 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)

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:45 a.m.

Reverend Sue Nageotte, Pastor

Rhonda Rust, Secretary

Mike Burkhardt, 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 SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – November 10th:

- Minutes of the regular Session Meeting 14 Oct 13.
- Minutes of the special Session Meeting 30 Oct 13 with one change.
- New 6-month contract to be created for Rev. Sue Nageotte. (From the minutes of the Special Session Meeting of 30 Oct 13.)
- Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 31 Oct 13 and the following Treasurer's reports: Checking Account Summary, Budget year-to-date figures and Financial Report for October.
- Received minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting 21 Oct 13, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting 28 Oct 13, Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meetings 21 Oct 13 and 4 Nov 13, Stewardship and Personnel Ministry Team meeting 20 Oct 13, Trustee Meeting 4 Nov 13, and Administrative Activity Report 14 Oct 13 through 10 Nov 13.
- Elected Jim Clinefelter as Financial Secretary, John Klinger as Assistant Financial Secretary, Rhonda Rust as Treasurer, and Melanie McGinnis as Assistant Financial Secretary for 2014.
- Rev. Nageotte's vacation request from 25 Dec 13 through 3 Jan 14.
- Transfer of management of the Harold Siefer and Ronald and Louise Moorhead Scholarships from the Christian Education Ministry Team to the Stewardship Ministry Team.
- People who give memorial funds to the church will be requested to share with Session how they would like the funds to be used. If no requests are shared with Session within a year of receipt, Session will decide how the funds will be used.
- Adopted the budget for 2014 as prepared with one small change.
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Due to Christmas being on Wednesday, the office will be open Monday 9:00-4:30, Tuesday 9:00-3:30 and Thursday 9:00-4:30.

The Session authorized the purchase of twenty-one Lifetime tables from undesignated Memorial Funds. Some of the older tables may be available for purchase by members of the congregation. Watch the bulletin and future newsletters for updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT REAPC

Wednesday, December 4th - Men and women with *YOUTHFUL SPIRITS* gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun at **Lona's Restaurant**, 1213 Liberty Street. Make your reservation with Doris Feather or leave a message at 437-5236 by 12/2/13. All are welcome!! Next month's gathering will be on January 8th (the second Wednesday due to New Years Day being the 1st) with Lois Pierce as hostess.

Saturday, December 7th - "Christmas Dinner" – 6:00 p.m. at **Linda Lou's, 633 13th Street**. Dinner to be served at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 8th – Congregational Meeting, 12:00 Noon for a non-binding vote on whether to go forward with the process of seeking dismissal from the PC(USA)

Sunday, December 22nd – 10:45 a.m. - Children's Christmas Program

Christmas Eve – 7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service; invite your friends!

Saturday, January 11th – 10:00 a.m.-- "De-hanging of the Greens" --
MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Sunday, January 12th – 50-Year Membership recognition

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM:

- Diane Whitman will lead Children's Church in December.
 - The Children's Christmas Program will be held during worship on Sunday, December 22nd – (no sermon that day).
 - A Christmas party for the children is being planned. Watch worship service bulletins for additional information.
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END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – Any contributions you wish to make to the church and have credited for the 2013 fiscal year should be made by Sunday, December 29, 2013.

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|--------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Melchior | 2. Gabriel | 3. Inn Keeper | 4. Messiah |
| 5. Balthasar | 6. Shepherds | 7. Frankincense | 8. Myrrh |
| 9. Bethlehem | 10. Nazareth | 11. Gold | 12. Caspar |

Answers to Nativity Word Scramble:



Congratulations!

Ben and Sarah DeLong are the proud parents of *Emily Rose*, born November 13, 2013, at 2:10 p.m. She is a 19" brunette weighing 6 lbs. 6.2 ozs. at birth. Grandparents of the bundle of joy are Bob and Jill Alden and Matt and Barb DeLong.

**Congregational Meeting
& Chili Cook-off Report**



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation was held Sunday, November 17th. **Elders** elected are: **Joyce Pellow** and **Don Yount**; vacancies exist for a 2- & a 3-year term. **Deacons**: **Joan Lepley, Judy Ream & Phyllis Vogan**. **Trustees**: **Rhonda Rust & Gene Sheffer; Don McNany** (2-year term); and **Linda Hartman & Brad Wetjen** for 1-year terms. **Auditor**: **Grace Gibbons**. **Presbyterian Home Reps**: **Jim & Flo Albright** and **Gene & Marge Sheffer**. **Nominating Committee**: **Jill Alden, Janet Bish, Cheri Mortimer, Linda Hartman** and **Melanie McGinnis**. The 2014 budget was presented. Thanks to the Nominating Committee for all their hard work.

The 7th annual Chili Cook-Off had eight entries – from Joyce Pellow, Joan Lepley, George Wielandt, Don Yount, Diane Whitman, Samantha Hoffman, Pam Viele and the winner – **Ben DeLong**. This is the second consecutive win for Mr. DeLong. The voting proceeds of \$107.78 were designated for Youth Group. Congratulations, Ben!!!

SPIRIT OF GIVING

The Deacons will be placing a variety of tags on a tree **in the narthex** of gift suggestions for persons less fortunate and in need this Christmas. You are encouraged to take a tag (or two, or three), purchase the requested item(s), wrap each gift and adorn with the tag. Gifts need to be under the tree (or under the table) by December 15th. Monetary donations may be given to Sheryl Clinefelter to purchase items on tags not selected.

From the Pastor's Study:

Dear RGAPC family and friends,

December is here, and Christmas is coming! Christmas, that beloved holy day (holiday) when Christians around the world join in glad celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior and King. "Christmas!" What a wonderful, glorious, heaven-sent, hope-filled word! Just speaking it aloud brings joy to the believer's heart, and laughter to the lips of children.

So don't worry, dear friends, if secular culture and the powers of political correctness are pushing hard to undermine Christian belief and celebration. Don't fret if a store clerk greets you by saying, "happy holidays" or "season's greetings." Their employer probably won't let them say what they'd really like to say: Merry Christmas!

As Christians, we know that Jesus IS the reason for the season. Those who trust in Christ have rejoiced in their faith in the midst of cultural, political and religious opposition in many times and places. We are blessed with freedom to worship Christ, and to openly celebrate His birth at Christmas – and so we shall!

You and I have the privilege of sharing the love of Christ this Christmas with friends, neighbors, co-workers and even strangers. We can do this with joy in our hearts, and with gentleness and respect (I Peter 3:15). Why not invite people to one of the special events here at RGAPC, such as the Children's Christmas Program on December 22nd, or to the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve?

This year, may Christmas not just be a holiday but a true "holy day" for you and for all who are dear to you, as together we rejoice and marvel at the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ.

NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS TEAM

Hi Everyone,

Merry Christmas!

We will be collecting for the Christmas Joy Offering December 1st through the 25th. There are envelopes in the pews for this special offering and included in this publication.

A griddle has been purchased for the Hot Sausage at Missionfest. Just think about the smell of the Hot Sausage cooking on it. If anyone would like to donate money towards the expense of this item, please designate Missionfest griddle on the memo line. Thank you in advance.

In the New Year we will be doing a special collection for "NEW YEAR, NEW BABY" for ABC Pregnancy. We will make an attempt to fill a crib with things that a baby would need. More details will be forthcoming next month.

We are asking if anyone from the congregation would like to be a liaison from the church for Mustard Seed Missions. Please let a mission member know if you are willing. Please pray about this opportunity.

Thank you. God is good! We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas Season.

Your Missions & Outreach Ministry Team,

Debbie Dunlap, Moderator

George Wielandt, Elder

John Klínger, Trustee

Jill Alden

Kennedy Hartman

Linda Hartman

Rhonda Rust

Joyce Wetjen

NOTE OF THANKS

RGAPC,

Thank you for all the prayers and good wishes extended to me for my knee surgery. Thank you also for the "Prayer Quilt" that Sheryl Clinefelter brought to me. It is beautiful and I have used it a lot. Sincerely, *Lois Pierce*

We extend Christian sympathy to the family and many friends of Bill Phillips, who passed away on October 18th.

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Ronald L. (Ron) Walters, whom the Lord called home on Friday, October 25, 2013. Ron was a member of RGAPC for almost 55 years - Since December 1, 1958



DECEMBER Birthdays

1	Kassidy Clark	19	Jim Speth
4	Jayne McEntire Patricia Campbell	20	Daniel Wetzel Jacob Wetzel
6	Rhonda Rust		Amy Tatarek
14	Dick Mortimer	25	Joshua Wargo
15	Savanna Lukers (2009)		

RGAPC 2013 Financial Information

	October	November	Year to Date
Congregational Giving	\$ 8,446.40	\$ 6,270.00	\$ 84,957.38
Expenses	(\$ 8,643.85)	(\$ 7,927.55)	(\$ 95,773.99)
Difference	(\$ 197.45)	(\$ 1,657.55)	(\$ 10,816.61)

*Detailed financial reports for November will be available
in the narthex beginning the second Sunday of December.*

Operation Christmas Child: Seventeen (17) shoeboxes for the ministry of Samaritan's Purse were collected by individuals here at RGAPC. Those boxes along with many others will be distributed to children worldwide with the message of Jesus Christ. Thanks to all who participated for helping to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Would you like a variety of Christmas cookies without having to bake them all? Here's a deal for you! Anyone who would like to participate in a cookie exchange should advise the Church Office - 423-4162, Joyce Wetjen - 432-8485 or Rhonda Rust - 437-2831 by December 8th. The exchange will be on December 15th at 3:00 pm in the Youth Room. Depending on the number of participants, we will make and plate 6 or 12 for each participant, label with the name of the cookie and note the baker (so if anyone wants your recipe). If you would like computer printed labels, notify Rhonda by December 8th as well.

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Treva Clinefelter who was called home on November 24, 2013. Treva, mother of Jim & Sheryl, was received into RGAPC membership on March 9, 1930.



SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER

Hospital Visits: Elder George Wielandt
Deacon Sarah Speth

Worship Leader: Jim Speth
Ushers: Kennedy Hartman, Konner Hartman,
Linda Hartman, Reagan Hartman &
Rhonda Rust

Children's Church: Diane Whitman

Greeters:

- 1 Jim & Sarah Speth & family
- 8 Kevin & Jessica Songer & family
- 15 Dennis & Melanie McGinnis
- 22 Dick & Darlene Exley
- 24 Diane Whitman w/Austin & Gage Clark
- 29 John & Mary Jo Dumbleton

Candle 1 Brad & Joyce Wetjen
Lighters: 8 Jim & Sheryl Clinefelter
 15 Jim Speth family
 22 Dick & Darlene Exley
 24 The Songers and Diane Whitman
 29 Arika Songer

Nursery: 1 Malinda Lukers
 8 Margaret Wielandt
 15 Molly Whitling
 22 Margaret Wielandt
 24 NO NURSERY CARE
 29 Joyce Dillemath

Counters: 1 Debbie Dunlap & Linda Hartman
 8 Debbie Dunlap & George Wielandt
 15 Debbie Dunlap & Linda Hartman
 22 Linda Hartman & Joyce Wetjen
 24 Wayne Edmondson & Lois Pierce
 29 Linda Hartman & Joyce Wetjen

Burt Richards, a long-time member of RGAPC before moving south, passed away on October 22, 2013. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Phyllis, at 117 Lake Road, Inman, SC 29349

Nativity Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words from the Christmas story?

1. MHCEROIL -----

2. GEBLAIR -----

3. IPNREEEKN -----

4. MSHEAI -----

5. BSARTALAH -----

6. SHEDSPERH -----

7. FESANNIERCKN -----

8. MRYHR -----

9. BEMETLHEH -----

10. NTAERHZA -----

11. GDLO -----

12. CPRSAA -----



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

When you have given up, the answers can be found on page 3 of this newsletter,
but not 'til then!!!!!! Have fun and have a blessed season of celebrating our Savior's birth!



DECEMBER 2013



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	2 6:00 CLAW	3 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice	4 Noon <i>Youthful Spirits</i> @ Lona's 6:00 Daisy Scouts 6:30 Bible Study	5	6	7 8:30 Men's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous 6:00 Christmas Dinner @ Linda Lou's
8 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Noon <i>Congregational Meeting</i> 5:30 Boy Scouts	9 6:15 Session 7:00 Trustees	10 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice	11 10:00 Quilting @ 1 st Presbyterian 6:00 Shepherds Christmas Party 6:30 Bible Study	12 8:00-10:00 Venango County Human Services (Moorhead Hall)	13	14 8:30 Women's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:30 Boy Scouts – Court of Honor	16 NO CE meeting	17	18 6:30 Bible Study	19	20 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	21 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship – Children's Pageant	23 NO Missions meeting <i>Office 9:00-4:30</i>	24 7:00 p.m. <i>Christmas Eve Service</i>  <i>Office 9:00-3:30</i>	25 	26 <i>Office 9:00-4:30</i>	27	28 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
29 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	30	31	 HAPPY NEW YEAR 			