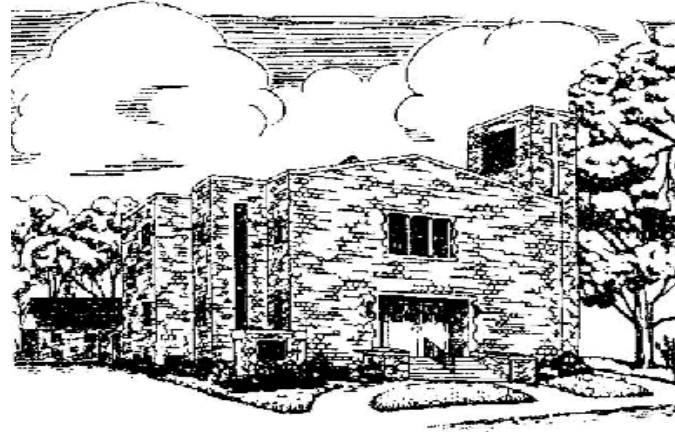




SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

January 2014

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 Pastor's Study:

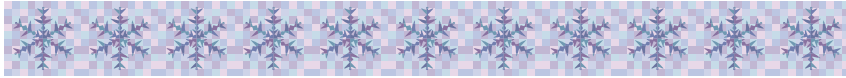
Dear RGAPC church family and friends,

Happy NEW Year – and, welcome to 2014! I was recently reading some of the history of our congregation. The roots go back to a small Sunday School class for boys and girls, known as the Lily Band, begun in 1885. In those days many children had to help their families by working on farms and in businesses, so they could not attend regular school during the week. “Sunday School” provided not only religious education but also taught reading, writing, basic arithmetic and the development of good moral character. The Lily Band Sunday School was well attended and eventually grew into the church, which was formally organized in 1904. The name “Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church” was adopted in 1912.

It is hard to envision the situations and challenges this congregation has faced over the more than 127 years of its ministry and mission. There have been times of great success and celebration, as well as times of uncertainty and even loss. But with each pastor and each member of our church community persevering in their walk of faith, worshiping together, studying the Bible, and seeking to offer the love and compassion of Christ to our neighbors, Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church has continued to be not only a home, but a beacon of hope, for many people through the years.

So let's raise a toast to 2014, a new year that will be filled with many opportunities to love and serve and live out our faith together – a year to face with joy as we give thanks for God's provision during the past, and as we look ahead with anticipation to see what God will do in, and among, and through his people in the months to come.

Love in Christ, Pastor Sue



SERVANTS FOR JANUARY

Hospital Visits: Elder Wayne Edmondson & Deacon Sarah Speth

Worship Leader: Jim Sandok

Ushers: Bob Alden, Jill Alden, Lois Pierce,
Brad Wetjen & Joyce Wetjen

Greeters:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| January 5 | Doris Feather & Rhonda Rust |
| 12 | Jim & Florence Albright |
| 19 | Debbie & Floyd Dunlap |
| 26 | Joe & Amy Tatarek |

Acolytes:

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| January 5 | Gage Clark |
| 12 | Doug Songer |
| 19 | Eli Moreland |
| 26 | Lillian Songer |

Children's Church:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| January 5 | Wayne Edmondson |
| 12 | Wayne Edmondson |
| 19 | George Wielandt |
| 26 | Wayne Edmondson |

Counters:

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| January 5 | Lois Pierce & another Elder |
| 12 | Lois Pierce & Joyce Wetjen |
| 19 | Wayne Edmondson & Don Yount |
| 26 | Joyce Wetjen & another Elder |

CHURCH MEMBERS VOTE TO GO FORWARD WITH DISMISSAL

A special congregational meeting was held after worship on Sunday, December 8th, for the purpose of determining if RGAPC should go forward with seeking to be dismissed from the PC(USA). 65% of church members present at the meeting voted in favor of seeking dismissal. Stay tuned for further information and updates – and please, keep praying that we would seek to know and to follow God's will for our church!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jan. 10-11 – Winter Blast Junior Retreat Weekend for ages 9-11 at Seneca Hills Bible Camp. Visit www.senecahills.com

Feb. 21-23 – Man Camp at Seneca Hills Bible Camp. Visit www.senecahills.com

Mar. 5-Apr. 9 – 40 Days of Prayer – Seeking God for Our City/County

Based on materials from WayMakers, the Joint Ministerium will be offering 40 Days of prayer in our County with intentional, deliberate prayer around 40 different topics at 40 different churches area-wide. Booklets are available for people who want to commit seriously to this effort and can be purchased for a nominal fee of \$1.55/ea or can also be purchased as download to their mobile devices for \$.99 from www.waymakers.org. Each day there will be a daily topic of hope, a promise from the prophets, a word and a prayer from the Gospel to lift your vision to Christ's life transforming our community, and prayerwalking ideas for those who want to take this to the highest level they can. The churches participating in this effort will be encouraged to be creative in finding ways to target the topics of the day as we seeking God's face and seek Christ's kingdom for our county and communities in 2014! An order form can be found at www.fishermensnet.org on the Visual Bulletin Board or at www.vencoministerium.org Churches please order by Jan. 25.

We need churches to sign up now for the date that they would like to host one of these services and for the topic that they feel resonates with each congregation. The topics are available on a first come first serve basis. We encourage each church to make these materials and calendars available to their people and encourage this from the pulpit. The calendar of dates and topics will be posted in the near future at www.vencoministerium.org

Cecile Wagner has been moved to a new room. Her new address is:
Sugarcreek Station, **Room 208**, 351 Causeway Drive, Franklin, PA

MISSIONS CORNER:

NEW YEAR/NEW BABY

When you think of the New Year approaching, what comes to mind? My first mental picture is the baby with the black derby hat and the sash across his chest that says “Happy New Year”. Some of you might question my use of “his” chest, but I was taught in school (a lo-o-ong time ago) that when you are referring to the unknown sex of a baby, you use he/him but please don’t ask me why. I can only remember the rule – not the reason!!

You are probably wondering where is she going with this, right? Well, I will tell you. The Missions and Outreach Ministry Team is giving you the opportunity to shop for a New Year/New Baby project that will be starting in January. When the sanctuary is “undecorated” from the beautiful Christmas decorations on January 11, 2014, there will be a crib placed where the Christmas tree has been. We are asking the congregation to help “FILL THE CRIB” with **new** baby items for ABC Pregnancy Center in Franklin. The crib will be in the sanctuary until February 16, 2014. If you would like to donate cash for items to be purchased by the Ministry Team to help with this project or if you have any questions, please see Joyce Wetjen or Rhonda Rust.

It’s been several years since I have shopped for a baby so I am really looking forward to it! The needs of ABC Pregnancy Center are many as they assist their clients; so, we hope you will join us as we “FILL THE CRIB” and pray that RGAPC can be a blessing to several babies in the community. Thank you for your consideration in helping with this project. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

ABC Wish List

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Newborn and 0-3 mos outfits | Newborn toys |
| Diapers (newborn thru size 5) | Blankets |
| Wipes | Baby toiletries |
| Crib sheets | Baby Books |
| Bassinet Sheets | Bottles |
| Sippy Cups | Training Pants (not disposable) |
| Oxyclean powder | Disinfecting wipes |
| Kleenex | Fabreeze |
| Tide with Downy liquid laundry detergent | |

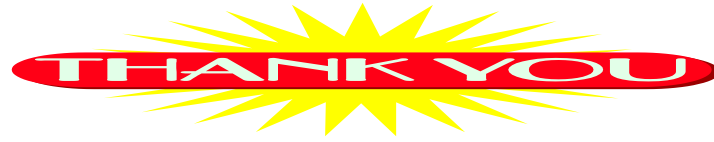
PS on behalf of the Missions and Outreach Ministry Team, thank you for your support and generosity for the special offerings, projects and MissionFest in 2013. We welcome new members to our team and would love to have you join us the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We meet in the former nursery across the hall from Pastor Sue’s office.

In Christian Love,
Joyce Wetjen, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team Member

FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – December 9th:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 10 Nov 13.
- The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 30 Nov 13 and Treasurer's reports of the checking account summary, the budget year-to-date figures and the November Financial Report.
- Received the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meeting on 18 Nov 13, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 25 Nov 13, Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meetings on 2 Dec 13, report on the Presbytery Meeting that was held on 16 Nov 13, and the Report on Administrative Activity from 10 Nov 13 through 9 Dec 13.
- Communion dates in 2014: March 2 (Transfiguration of the Lord), April 17 (Maundy Thursday), June 8 (Pentecost), August 3, October 5 (World Communion), and November 23 (Christ the King Sunday).
- Change Section 602 of the Administrative Manual to eliminate responsibility "#10 Appoint subcommittee to administer scholarship funds," eliminate required action in May to address the "Harold Siefer Memorial Scholarship and Ronald and Louise Moorhead Memorial Scholarship (reference Section 903)," and add "Sunday School curriculum" to action required in July.
- Pastor Sue's request to do home communion at her discretion at times other than the congregation's regular celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- The Terms of Agreement (Extension of Contract) between Rev. Sue Nageotte and the Session of the Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church.



I want to thank the Deacons from the bottom of my heart for the lovely Christmas bag of goodies.

Joyce Riddle

Thank you, Board of Deacons, for the Christmas card and the Christmas bag filled with goodies, including the meaning of the candy cane. I also want to thank my Shepherd, Linda Zeller, for the lovely Christmas card.

Carol Rough

Thanks for the gifts and cards that I received for Christmas. I am so blessed to have such a loving, giving church family.

Rhonda Rust

Thank you, RGAPC, for the lovely quilt. I appreciate it very much.

Coni Duffield

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Christmas Gift given to me last Sunday. I really enjoy playing for the church as it has been a part of my life for many years. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Janet Bish

Dear Friends at RGAPC.

Thanks for all the prayers & good wishes I receive from you, through the year. Many thanks to the Deacons for the bag of goodies & all the things they do. I hope you all have a MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR. As ever,

Eleanore Moffitt

Dear friends at RGAPC,

Jim and I have been so touched by your many Christmas cards and other expressions of appreciation, including the generous Christmas gift given me by the congregation. It is a joy and a privilege to continue to serve as your pastor. Thank you, and may God bless you all!

Pastor Sue

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the well wishes and cards. The prayer quilt is so lovely – blue is my favorite color. Have a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year - 2014. In Christ's love,

Cheri & Dick (Mortimer)

Thanks for all the Christmas cards and gifts. We are blessed to have such a loving church family.

Scott Donaldson & family

January Birthdays



| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Sierra Cook | 15 | Madeleine Wielandt |
| 4 | Judy Sandok | 16 | Vicki Henderson |
| 5 | Elissa Stuttler | 20 | Konner Hartman (1999) |
| 11 | Aaron Weltner (1999) | | Lois Pierce |
| | Jessica Songer | 23 | Patti Phillips |
| 12 | Charlotte Pellow (2011) | 24 | Brooke Brannon |
| 13 | Alisha Newton | 26 | Mike Hartman |
| 15 | Dennise Kirwin | 29 | Joshua Kirwin (1999) |

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC

We welcome Mike Burkhart to our staff as organist/pianist on a permanent basis effective January 1, 2014. We are blessed to have Mike share his God-given talent with us.

Men and women with *YOUTHFUL SPIRITS* gather for food and fellowship at noon *typically* the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun **January 8th, delayed due to New Year's Day**, in the Youth Room. There will be a potluck luncheon; so bring something to share. Ham balls, cookies and coffee will be provided. Please inform Lois Pierce (437-3653) by January 6th if you plan to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletins for information on the February 5th gathering hosted by Ray & Toby Aikins.

January 11th @ 10:00 a.m. – “Unhanging of the Greens” - come help remove the Christmas decorations from the church. A few extra hands makes the work so much easier!

January 12th @ 10:45 worship – We will recognize Mabel Mong and Judy Ream for attaining 50 years of membership at Rocky Grove Presbyterian. A light reception will follow the service. Please plan to attend and stay to congratulate the recipients personally.



Congratulations! Suzanne & David Wolf were blessed with the birth of their first-born son, Jackson Robert, on December 10, 2013, at 11:15 a.m. He was 8 lbs. 9 ozs. and 22" long at birth. Grandparents of the bundle of joy are John and Paula Klinger. Cards may be sent to the new family at 47-751 Hui Ulili Street, Kaneohe, HI 96744

My inconclusive travel plans for 2014

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent, and I don't remember what country I was in.

It's an age thing.

RGAPC Financial Information

| | November 2013 | Year to Date |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Congregational Giving | \$ 6,270.00 | \$ 84,957.38 |
| Expenses | (\$ 7,927.55) | (\$ 95,773.99) |
| Difference | (\$ 1,657.55) | (\$ 10,816.61) |

December Financial Reports will be available by the second Sunday of January. Watch the Sunday bulletin.

JANUARY 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|--|-----------|--|
| | | | 1 OFFICE CLOSED  | 2 | 3 | 4 8:30 Men's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 O A |
| 5 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:30 Boy Scouts | 6 6:00 CLAW (Congregational Life & Worship) 7:00 Trustees | 7 6:30 Sweet Adelines | 8 Noon <i>Youthful Spirits</i> 6:00 Daisy Scouts 6:30 Bible Study | 9 8:00 – 10:00 Venango County Services meeting – Moorhead Hall | 10 | 11 8:30 Women's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 O A 10:00 "Unhanging of the Greens" 10:00 Baby Shower for Amanda Hill – Moorhead Hall |
| 12 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Noon 50-year membership reception 5:30 Boy Scouts – Court of Honor | 13 6:15 Session | 14 6:30 Sweet Adelines | 15 6:30 Bible Study | 16 6:30 Deacons Meeting | 17 | 18 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous |
| 19 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship | 20 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> 6:30 Christian Education NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 21 | 22 6:00 Daisy Scouts 6:30 Bible Study | 23 | 24 | 25 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous |
| 26 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship | 27 6:30 Missions & Outreach | 28 6:30 Sweet Adelines | 29 6:30 Bible Study | 30 | 31 | |