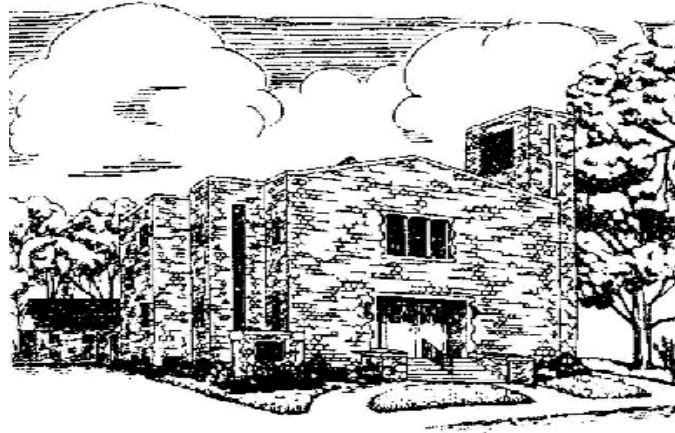
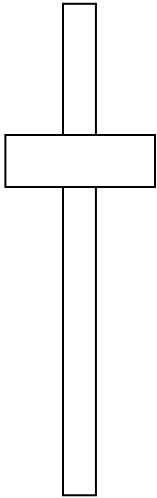
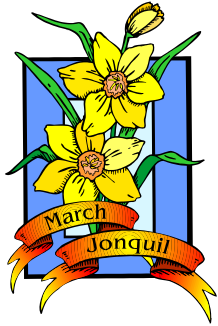


*SONSHINE
NEWSLETTER
March 2014*



“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 church family and friends,

The season of Lent is almost upon us! Lent is the Christian season of preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5th this year) and ends Palm Sunday. The word “Lent” is based on the “lengthening” daylight in springtime. The 40 day period -- Sundays aren't included in the count -- may have been designed to remind us of the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, or the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert before entering the promised land.

In some Christian traditions, people are asked (or told) to “give something up” during Lent – something they enjoy and will miss, like eating chocolate, drinking coffee, going to the movies, playing computer games. Purposefully going without a favorite food or activity is a form of fasting, and many people find this to be a meaningful spiritual discipline.

However, the real purpose of Lent is not to deny ourselves something we like. Rather, it is to set time aside for reflecting on the life of Jesus – his teachings, his compassion, his suffering and death and resurrection – so that we can more deeply enter into the meaning of Good Friday and Easter.

This year during the season of Lent, Christians throughout Venango County are being invited to join together in a unique community-wide commitment to “40 Days of Prayer.” A prayer and devotional guide titled *Seek God for the City* is available to our church family free of charge. You can pick one up in the sanctuary, or contact the church office if you would like one mailed to you. The booklet includes a calendar of prayer services that will be held at different area churches on each of the 40 days. Some are planned for the daytime, others for the evening, in order to accommodate different work, school and home schedules. I trust that you will be greatly encouraged, and will be an encouragement to others, as you join with other believers this year in 40 Days of Prayer.

Love in the Lord, Pastor Sue

TAX SEASON IS HERE!

Volunteers are ready to prepare your federal, state and local taxes as well as rent and tax rebate. They will be available at the Oil City Library every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9AM until 4PM starting February 4th and continuing through April 9th. Volunteers will be available in Franklin at the Baptist Church, 1401 Liberty Street, every Thursday and Friday from 8AM until 3PM starting Thursday, February 6th and continuing through April 11th. Please bring all your information for 2013 plus last year's tax return for 2012.

NOTES OF THANKS

Thanks to the Deacons for the Valentine's Day card with the knitted red heart I found inside. It warmed my heart! *Carol Rough*

Dear church family,

Thank you to Pastor Sue and her calls and visits and long distance prayers. Also, thanks for the many cards, calls and prayers from everyone! The prayer quilt is beautiful; you don't know how you can feel the prayers that cover and protect you until you are in the position of needing them. In Christ's love,
Joyce Pellow

I want to thank everyone for the beautiful birthday cards I received for my 100th birthday. I enjoyed reading every one of them. *Helen Grettler*

Answers to crossword:

ACROSS: 1. StPatricksDay
2. Gold
3. PotofGold
4. Luck
5. Cornpipe
6. Three

DOWN: 1. Shamrock
2. Ireland
3. Hide
4. Leprechaun
5. Green
6. TopHat

Newsletter articles are due in the church office by the 20th of each month or risk being omitted from the upcoming publication!



SERVANTS FOR MARCH

- Hospital Visits:** Phyllis Wetzel & Joan Lepley
- Worship Leader:** Jim Speth
- Ushers:** Wayne Edmondson, Kevin Songer,
Jessica Songer, Diane Whitman & Don Yount
- Children's Church:** Sarah Speth
- Greeters:**
- March 2 Grace Gibbons & Rhonda Rust
 - 5 Wayne Edmondson
 - 9 Nancy & Aaron Weltner
 - 16 Jeremiah Lukers family
 - 23 Jim & Judy Sandok
 - 30 Scott & Nancy Donaldson
- Acolyte:**
- March 2 COMMUNION
 - 9 Lillian Songer
 - 16 James Hoffman
 - 23 Carson Whiting
 - 30 Arika Songer
- Counters:**
- March 2 Don Yount & Phyllis Wetzel
 - 9 George Wielandt & an elder
 - 16 Wayne Edmondson & an elder
 - 23 Two Elders
 - 30 Wayne Edmondson & Joyce Wetjen
-



If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday morning worship, please contact Judy Ream at 432-5287.

Report on Small Group Meetings of February 23, 2013

About 45 people participated in three small group discussions after the congregational meeting on February 23rd. These conversations are part of RGAPC's ongoing work with the Presbytery of Lake Erie, related to the possibility of our leaving the PCUSA to join another Reformed-Presbyterian denomination through the process known as "gracious dismissal."

Please note – if you are uncertain why RGAPC is in the midst of this process please contact Pastor Sue or the Session and we will be glad to send you background materials and/or arrange for someone to talk with you. It is very important that everyone in our church family have a good awareness of the issues and the process involved.

As we hoped and expected, the small groups included church members of different ages, occupations and backgrounds. Also as expected, there was agreement on some points and diversity of opinion on others. While the conversations sometimes grew quite lively, it is very clear that people care deeply not only about the issues, but about each other and our life together as a church.

Here is a synopsis of the responses gathered from the 3 groups:

We love the fact that our church is welcoming, friendly, willing to help, mission-minded, prayerful, Bible-based, faithful in giving. We have very good staff, an excellent organist/pianist, a beautiful building in a great location. We are blessed with "olders" who have wisdom and experience, and children who are eager to be involved. There is a warm, encouraging, supportive spirit in the congregation, and we hope it will remain so.

The groups identified some potential benefits, if we were to remain with the PC(USA): this is a good, supportive presbytery, able to help us with training, resources, pulpit supply and finding a new pastor (when the time comes). The PCUSA may allow us more choices than another denomination would. And it would take less effort and in some ways be more comfortable to stay with the PCUSA, because it is already familiar to us. Most of the participants agreed, however, that the PCUSA allows too many differing and non-traditional interpretations of the Bible.

Among the basic assumptions that we have made in entering the "dismissal" process, is that RGAPC would not leave the PCUSA except to a denomination with traditional, biblically based theological beliefs – the same beliefs long held and cherished by the majority of RGAPC members. In the small groups, people shared many benefits to such a change: having a clearly defined set of essential tenets, trusting and teaching the plain meaning of Scripture, being free to "welcome the sinner but not the sin." We would like to see the traditional definition of marriage upheld, and hope that our church will grow as the community becomes aware that we teach and serve from a biblically sound base. We want to get past denominational discord,

and focus on mission. Lastly, in the PCUSA, church property is owned by the presbytery; in a new denomination, the building and other assets would belong to our congregation.

Through these conversations, we identified a need for Session to better explain the steps and timing of the dismissal process, and to provide information about suitable “new” denominations. The other big question is the financial cost to leaving – a question that Session is working with the Presbytery to try to determine.

Every group expressed a strong desire that church members should stay together, talk things through, work things out. We want to continue to be a welcoming family of faith, accepting one another even if we do not fully agree, building each other up in the faith, encouraging one another to be the people God desires us to be.

Additional information will be provided in the newsletter, as it becomes available. I hope you will participate in future small group discussions, too – we need your voices! Pastor Sue

FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – February 17th:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 13 Jan 2014 and the minutes of the special Session Meeting of 26 Jan 2014.
- The Financial Secretary’s report for the period ending 31 Jan 2014 and the following Treasurer’s reports: checking account summary, budget year-to-date figures and Financial Report for January 2014.
- Received the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team meetings on 20 Jan 2014 and 10 Feb 2014, Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meeting on 3 Feb 2014, Missions & Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 27 Jan 2014, Trustee’s meeting on 3 Feb 2014, Presbytery of Lake Erie Stated Meeting on 15 Feb 2014, and Administrative Activity Report 13 Jan 2014 through 17 Feb 2014.
- The transfer of funds to various investments as recommended by the representative from Edward Jones.
- The following policy: “Children may participate in the Sacrament of Communion after they have received instruction on the meaning of this sacrament from the Pastor. This instruction is provided as part of confirmation classes (at age 12), but may be given at an earlier age if requested by the child’s parent, grandparent or guardian.”

- A minor change to the definition of “quorum” in Section 601 of the Administrative Manual, Purpose and Structure of Session. New wording reads: “The quorum for a Session meeting is the Moderator and a majority of the Ruling Elders currently serving on Session.”
-

RGAPC Financial Information

	January 2014	Year to Date
Congregational Giving	\$ 6,116.34	\$ 6,116.34
Presby Foundation Interest	+ 891.32	+ 891.32
Other Sources	<u>+ 926.14</u>	<u>+ 926.14</u>
Total Income	7,933.80	7,933.80
Expenses	<u>- 8,264.02</u>	<u>- 8,264.02</u>
Difference	- \$ 330.22	- \$ 330.22

*February Financial Reports will be available
in the narthex beginning the second Sunday of March.
If all copies are gone, please contact the church office.*

2014 Church Officers and Other Leaders

Session Members:

Class of 2014: Wayne Edmondson, Joyce Wetjen, Phyllis Wetzel

Class of 2015: Lois Pierce, George Wielandt

Class of 2016: Joyce Pellow, Don Yount

Clerk of Session: Wayne Edmondson

Moderator of Session: Rev. Sue Nageotte

Session Members leading Ministry Teams:

Christian Education: Wayne Edmondson & George Wielandt

Congregational Life & Worship: Lois Pierce & Don Yount

Missions & Outreach: Phyllis Wetzel & Joyce Pellow

Stewardship & Personnel: Joyce Wetjen & Don Yount

Nominating: Joyce Wetjen

Board of Deacons:

Moderator: Sarah Speth Secretary: Sarah DeLong

Class of 2014: Sarah DeLong, Linda Zeller

Class of 2015: Sheryl Clinefelter, Doris Feather, Sarah Speth

Class of 2016: Joan Lepley, Judy Ream, Phyllis Vogan

Board of Trustees:

Moderator: John Dumbleton Secretary: Rhonda Rust

Class of 2014: Arnie Bish, Linda Hartman,
 John Klinger, Brad Wetjen

Class of 2015: Harold Bell, John Dumbleton, Don McNany

Class of 2016: Rhonda Rust, Gene Sheffer

Nominating Committee Members from the Congregation:

Jill Alden, Janet Bish, Linda Hartman,
Melanie McGinnis, Cheri Mortimer

Church Treasurer: Rhonda Rust

Assistant Church Treasurer: Melanie McGinnis

Financial Secretary: Jim Clinefelter

Assistant Financial Secretary: John Klinger

Auditors: Marge Sheffer (2014)
 Doris Feather (2015)
 Grace Gibbons (2016)

MARCH
Birthdays



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Lorraine McCauley | 19 | Mabel Mong |
| 4 | Aaron Wetjen (2006) | 23 | Linda Hartman |
| | Molly Whitling | | Karen Richards |
| 5 | Rosie Odier | 27 | Eleanore Moffitt |
| 6 | Kevin Songer | 29 | Ernest Pellow |
| 8 | Bryce David Beightol (2013) | | Renee Feather |
| 10 | Rodney Zeller | 30 | John Dumbleton |
| 13 | Stephen Feather II | 31 | Jill Alden |
| | Brenda Holt | | |
-

UPCOMING EVENTS AT REAPC

Wednesday, March 5th – noon - *YOUTHFUL SPIRITS* (men and women of any age) will gather for food and fellowship at **Amazing Foods**, 1327 Elk Street. Joan Partridge is the host; so, please inform Joan (437-7978) by March 3rd if you plan to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletins for information on the April 2nd gathering hosted by Joanne Brannon.

March 5th – 6:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary

March 12th – 10:00 a.m. – Quilting at Franklin First Presbyterian Church resumes.

March 12th – 7:00 p.m. – Shepherds’ meeting at the church

March 22nd – 6:00 p.m. – “*SPRING PICNIC*” – watch Sunday bulletins for more information, but *save the date* in the meantime.

MISSIONS CORNER:

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering will be taken again this year during Lent (Ash Wednesday, March 5th, through Easter, April 20th). OGHS supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Hunger Program. Envelopes for your donations will be available in the pews as well as in the April Sunshine Newsletter. Please help those less fortunate than ourselves.

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**The Souper Bowl of Caring offering collected Sunday, February 2nd, after worship took in a total of \$200.20, which has been sent to Community Services of Venango County. Your generosity will help many.**

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The generosity of this congregation has been evidenced once again with the “New Year New Baby” *Fill the Crib* project. So many baby items were able to be donated to ABC Pregnancy Center thanks to your generosity.



The Missions & Outreach Ministry Team now consists of the following individuals:

Phyllis Wetzel, Moderator
Joyce Pellow, Elder
Joan Lepley, Deacons liaison
John Klinger, Trustee
Rhonda Rust, Trustee liaison

Jill Alden
Kennedy Hartman
Linda Hartman
Joyce Wetjen

Anyone is welcome to join us! Just show up at 6:30 on the 4th Monday of each month in the downstairs classroom (formerly the nursery)!!!!!!

The Buzzard, Bat, Bumblebee and People

THE BUZZARD: If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner.

The reason is that a buzzard always begins flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

THE BAT: The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place.

If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air.

Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

THE BUMBLEBEE: A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

PEOPLE: In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up!

That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem – just look up!

*Sorrow looks back,
Worry looks around,
But faith looks up!
Live simply,
Love generously,
Care deeply,
Speak kindly, and
Trust in our Creator,
Who loves us.*

NEWS FROM STEWARDSHIP & PERSONNEL

Stewardship & Personnel Ministry Team recently met with the church's financial advisor, Merralee Obenrader. Merralee was commended for her advice in our realizing a rate of return for 2013 of 16.71%, which amounts to \$78,200.55 for all three investment accounts – Horizon, Moorhead Scholarship and Siefer Scholarship.

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

An **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held for the children on **Sunday, April 13th**. Donations for candy for this event can be given to George Wielandt or Sarah Speth. More information will be in the April newsletter. Thank you for your support!

Vacation Bible School, for children from age 4 through 12, will be held at our church on **Tuesday through Thursday, June 17th through the 19th**, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided. Please plan to have your children attend this event. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

WHAT A BLESSING!

One of the strengths of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church is that God has greatly blessed us with faithful and generous church members. The tithes and offerings given each Sunday cover the majority of church expenses. Wise investments in the past provide for financial reserves and scholarships. Recently, our congregation received a very substantial financial gift from the *Marie H. Cokain Charitable Remainder Trust*. These funds are being invested in accordance with the wishes of the donor. Let us give thanks to God not only for all of these financial blessings, but for the warm hearts, willing hands, and faithful souls that fill our church!

Squigly's



St. Patrick's Day Crossword

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 10 columns and 10 rows. The clues are as follows:

- 1. Across: 11 letters
- 2. Down: 5 letters
- 3. Across: 4 letters
- 4. Down: 5 letters
- 5. Across: 7 letters
- 6. Down: 4 letters

Illustrations include a pot of gold with coins, a leprechaun in a green hat and coat, and a top hat.

Across

1. March 17
2. What leprechauns keep in their pot
3. Leprechauns bury this
4. Good _____
5. Irishmen might smoke this
6. How many leaves a shamrock has


Down

1. St. Patrick's Day symbol
2. Home of St. Patrick
3. _____ and seek
4. Mischievous fairy
5. St. Patrick's Day colour
6. A type of hat



MARCH 2014



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:30 Men's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 O A
2 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship – COMMUNION 5:30 Boy Scouts	3 6:00 Cadette Girl Scouts 6:00 CLAW (Congregational Life & Worship) 7:00 Trustees	4 6:30 Sweet Adelines	5 NOON <i>Youthful Spirits</i> @ <i>Amazing Foods</i> 6:00 Daisy Scouts 6:30 Ash Wednesday service	6	7	8 8:30 Women's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 O A 4:00 Baby Shower – for Cassidy Clark
9 <i>Daylight Saving</i> <i>Time begins</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 1:00 Sweet Adelines 5:30 Boy Scouts	10 6:15 Session	11 6:30 Sweet Adelines	12 10:00 Quilting @ 1 st Presbyterian 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Shepherds' meeting	13 8:00 – 10:00 Venango County Services meeting – Moorhead Hall	14	15 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
16 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:30 Boy Scouts	17 6:30 Christian Education 	18	19 6:00 Daisy Scouts 6:30 Bible Study	20 <i>SPRING</i> <i>begins</i> <i>NEWSLETTER</i> <i>DEADLINE</i>	21	22 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous 6:00 Spring Picnic
23 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	24 6:30 Missions & Outreach	25 6:30 Sweet Adelines	26 6:30 Bible Study	27	28	29 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
30 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:30 Boy Scouts	31					