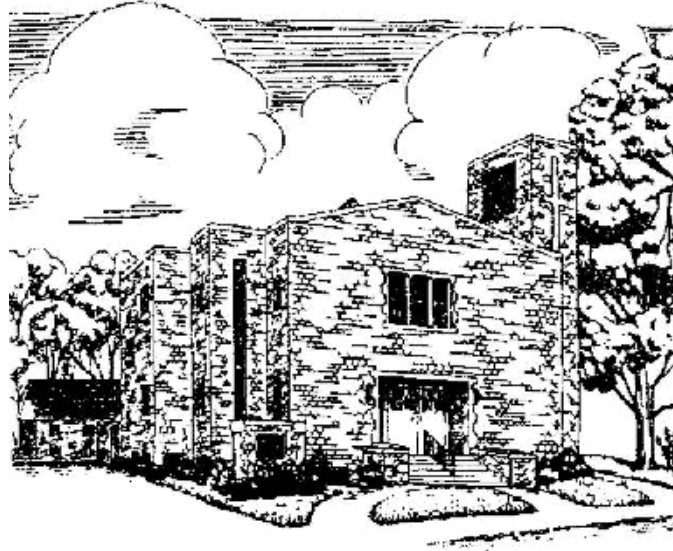


# SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

July 2014

*A Publication of Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church*



*"Sharing, Preparing, Caring in Jesus' Name"*

321 Rocky Grove Avenue, Franklin, PA 16323

Church Phone: 814-432-4162

Website: [www.rockygrovepres.org](http://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

Mike Burkhardt, Organist

Janet Bish, Assistant Organist

Scott Donaldson, Custodian

*Church Office Hours:*

*Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM*

## From the Pastor's Study:

### Reflections on the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly

Dear RGAPC family and friends,

It is with very mixed emotions that I sit down to write about the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly that has just concluded in Detroit. First of all, I want to thank you all for your support and prayers -- not only as I prepared for this important gathering, but throughout the very long days. We usually began our work at 8:30 a.m., and frequently did not end until 9:30 p.m. or even later. Knowing that this family of faith was praying for me and the other commissioners was a source of deep spiritual encouragement.

General Assembly brings together voting commissioners, advisory delegates, and observers from across the country and, indeed, around the globe. In many ways General Assembly is a celebration of the best of what it means to be Presbyterian: people from all walks of life, from widely varied social, economic, educational and ethnic backgrounds – men and women, young and old and in-between -- who all proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and who come together to share news, to testify to how we have seen God at work in our communities, to discuss opportunities and challenges in living out the Great Ends of the church, to worship and pray and seek God's direction for the future. I rejoice in being able to report to you that in Detroit, we did all of these things.

But as you surely know, General Assembly is also a time when commissioners must make decisions on a wide range of items. Some of those things, while significant, generated little discussion before being approved: like a resolution to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> birthday of John Knox (one of the founders of the Presbyterian faith), and a call for a 2-year moratorium on carrying out the death penalty in the United States. However, a sizeable portion of the work of this General Assembly involved complex, difficult and far-reaching concerns. It was to be expected that commissioners would not always agree on the nature of the challenge, the contributing factors, or the best way forward. A great deal of time was spent in careful listening, in prayer, in discussing options and implications of possible action for our congregations, for our neighbors, and for the global church. Yes, there was a certain amount of intense advocacy verging on propaganda. But overall, discussions were thoughtful, respectful, and serious.

Among the actions taken by the General Assembly:

- Voted to send the Belhar Confession to presbyteries for approval;
- Approved an initiative focusing on early childhood education and evangelism
- Declined to define “essential tenets” of the Reformed Faith;
- Approved advocacy of a number of measures that its supporters hope will reduce gun violence
- Approved a complex, multi-part overture affirming the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign nation within secure and internationally recognized borders, acknowledging that both Israel & Palestinian entities have contributed to the ongoing conflict, and urges positive economic investment in Israel-Palestine while simultaneously instructs the PCUSA to divest from stock held in three American companies that sell products used by Israel against Palestinians.
- Enthusiastically approved a call for every church member to live missionally instead of relying solely on committees & missionaries
- Voted to send a new Directory for Worship to the presbyteries for study & comment; could be adopted at the next General Assembly
- Passed an “Authoritative Interpretation,” effective immediately, permitting pastors to participate in any marriage they believe the Holy Spirit calls them to perform – including same-gender marriages - provided the marriage is legal in that civil jurisdiction.
- Approved a change to the Book of Order that, if ratified by a majority of the presbyteries, would define marriage as “a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman.”
- Approved numerous overtures to protest and reduce religious persecution, sectarian violence, human trafficking and child labor.

As noted above, many of these items generated extensive discussion in Detroit, reflecting different perspectives within our denomination. Some items were passed only by narrow margins.

***In coordination with the Presbytery, RGAPC is holding a meeting in our sanctuary at 6:30 PM on Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup>, open to the public, to provide further information and an opportunity to discuss these GA actions. The Session will also provide opportunities for our church family to consider the implications of these decisions for this congregation. Please participate in as many of these conversations as possible – and please continue praying that we will, in all things, follow Christ, who alone is Head of the church. Yours in His love, Pastor Sue***



## Servants for JULY

**Hospital Visits:** Sheryl Clinefelter & Joyce Pellow

**Worship Leader:** Jim Speth

**Ushers:** David Christian, Linda Christian, Kennedy  
Hartman, Konner Hartman & Reagan Hartman

**Greeters:**  
6 Harold Bell & John Klinger  
13 George & Cayden Wielandt  
20 Doris Feather & Rhonda Rust  
27 Bob & Jill Alden

**Acolyte:**  
6 Douglas Songer  
13 Eli Moreland  
20 Lillian Songer  
27 Arika Songer

**Counters:**  
6 Lois Pierce & Phyllis Wetzel  
13 Wayne Edmondson & Joyce Pellow  
20 Lois Pierce & Joyce Wetjen  
27 Joyce Wetjen & Don Yount

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*“Please remember that food and drink (other than water, if necessary)  
should not be taken into the sanctuary. Thank you.”*

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

### **NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS and OUTREACH TEAM**

The Missions and Outreach Ministry Team will collect items for Community Services (Rocky Grove facility) in July. There will be a box provided in the narthex in which you can place your contributions. The following is a list of needed items (with an asterisk (\*) beside those most needed):

*bath Soap – bars and body wash	deodorant – Men’s & Ladies’
*shampoo – family	toothbrush
denture tabs	toothpaste
denture adhesive	sanitary pads/tampons
hair spray	baby wash
baby lotion	baby shampoo
*diapers – all sizes	baby wipes
tissues	paper towels
toilet paper – 4-packs	window cleaner
bathroom cleaner	all purpose cleaner
toilet brush	dish detergent
*laundry detergent	

If there is something else you would like to donate that isn’t on the list above, that is fine. Any assistance is much appreciated.

Thank you on behalf of Community Services and the Missions & Outreach Ministry Team for assisting with God’s work by providing to the needs in our community

In Christ’s love,

*Joyce Pellow*

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC**

**Wednesday, July 2nd @ noon** - **YOUTHFUL SPIRITS** (men and women of any age) will gather for food and fellowship at **The Commons, 1340 Liberty Street**. Ray & Toby Aikins will be the hosts; please inform them (432-2726) by June 30<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletins for information on the August 6<sup>th</sup> gathering to be hosted by Betty Cornmesser.

## **FROM THE SESSION**

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – June 2, 2014:

Approved Motions Log:

- It was unanimously agreed upon that a new six-month contract be extended to Rev. Sue Nageotte and that all Session Elders agreed to work together to address related concerns and to properly identify and solve related problems.
- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 12 May 2014.
- The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 31 May 2014 and the following Treasurer's reports: the checking account summary, the budget year-to-date figures and the Financial Report for May 2014.
- Received the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team Meeting on 19 May 2014, the minutes of the Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 19 May 2014, and the 12 May 2014 through 2 Jun 2014 Report on Administrative Activity.
- The use of the church parking lot, and electrical usage, for the Soap Box Derby that will be held on Saturday, 19 Jul 2014.

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### **July** **Birthdays**



1 Dave Brandt	18 Allyson Cook
1 Jimmy Newson	22 Samantha Cook
3 Lillian Griffin (2010)	24 Sheryl Clinefelter
3 Maxwell Griffin (2010)	24 Brad Wetjen
9 Elissa Baker	25 Jamie Wetjen
12 Jarrad Griffin	27 Reagan Hartman (1997)
17 Doris Feather	28 Sarah DeLong

## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The joy of the prayer quilt ministry lies in the truth that God hears and answers our prayers. The success of this ministry depends on you, our church family, requesting a quilt for someone who needs prayer. In the past five years, First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, Fox Street Church of God and Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church have given over 120 quilts to people who needed prayer for a major health problem.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, you don't have to be a seamstress. The only requirement is the desire to serve our Lord in this way. For further information, contact the church office, Darlene Exley or Sheryl Clinefelter.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

*Rocky Grove VFD's Annual Fireman's Fair - Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> (Parade Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>). Visit [RGVFD.com](http://RGVFD.com) for details. (Schedule posted on bulletin boards.)*

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## FREEDOM

The greatest statement on freedom from this world has ever heard is not the Declaration of Independence, not the Constitution, but rather these simple words of Jesus: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Matt and Allyson Cook became parents once again on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:31 a.m. Zachary Allen weighed in at 8 # 5 oz. and was 20¼” long at birth. He will join big sisters, Sierra and Savannah, to complete the family. Proud grandparents are Denny and Melanie McGinnis and Craig and Jan Cook.



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*Merçi*

We would like to thank the people of your church for the beautiful prayer quilt and keeping us in your thoughts and prayers during Ron's health issues. Sincerely, *Ron and Pat Master*

Pastor Sue & Congregation,

Mom wanted ever so badly to write this herself but presently, as you know, that's not going to happen. She really was both surprised and impressed by the prayer quilt. She was also quite thankful & blessed to receive communion at the hospital. And of course, I don't want to forget the many prayers, thoughts, cards & wishes sent her way by many of you. So, from me for her....

*Cathy Hustedde* for Joanne Brannon

RGAPC,

Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers and for the wonderful prayer quilt. Love, *David, Samantha & James (Hoffman)*

*(Actual cards can be found on the bulletin board  
at the bottom of the stairway leading to the balcony)*

**Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Financial Information**

	<b>May 2014</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Income – Envelope Giving	\$ 7,714.06	\$ 33,677.10
Presby Foundation Interest	00.00	1,308.20
Other Sources	255.64	2,479.27
Expenses	<u>- 8,606.70</u>	<u>- 41,737.68</u>
Difference	\$ - 637.00	\$ - 4,273.11

*Detailed reports for June will be available in the narthex  
beginning the second Sunday of July.*

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*Congratulations to Jeremy Dickey, graduate of Mercyhurst University, who is pursuing a Master's degree in Public Relations from the London University of Arts, has won the prestigious 2014 Douglas Smith Graduate Student Award presented to him in Manchester, England. His professor suggested he enter the international challenge.*

*The campaign was based on a fictitious company wanting to launch genetically modified rice in a country (he chose China) with low rainfall. Since Jeremy does not actually believe in this process, he went completely out of his comfort zone to devise the campaign strategy. Jeremy won a crystal globe trophy & monetary gift presented to him by the CIPR (Chartered Institute of Public Relations). Also for his exemplary efforts, the judges invited Jeremy to serve on the judges' panel next year.*

*Jeremy is currently doing his internship with Doctors Without Borders.*





# JULY 2014



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> NOON <i>Youthful Spirits @ The Commons</i> <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>8:30</b> Men's Prayer breakfast @ King's <b>9:30</b> Overeaters Anonymous
<b>6</b> <b>10:00</b> Worship	<b>7</b> <b>6:00 CLAW</b> (Congregational Life & Worship) <b>7:00 Trustees</b>	<b>8</b> <b>6:30</b> Sweet Adelines	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 Quilting @</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>10</b> <b>8:00 – 10:00</b> Venango County Services meeting <b>6:30 p.m. Open Meeting on Actions at General Assembly</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>8:30</b> Women's Prayer breakfast @ King's <b>9:30</b> Overeaters Anonymous
<b>13</b> <b>10:00</b> Worship	<b>14</b> <b>6:15 Session</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>9:30</b> Overeaters Anonymous
<b>20</b> <b>10:00</b> Worship	<b>21</b> <b>6:30 Christian Education</b>  <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	<b>22</b> <b>6:30</b> Sweet Adelines	<b>23</b> <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9:30</b> Overeaters Anonymous
<b>27</b> <b>10:00</b> Worship <b>5:30</b> Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> <b>6:30 Missions &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>29</b> <b>6:30</b> Sweet Adelines	<b>30</b> <b>6:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>31</b>		