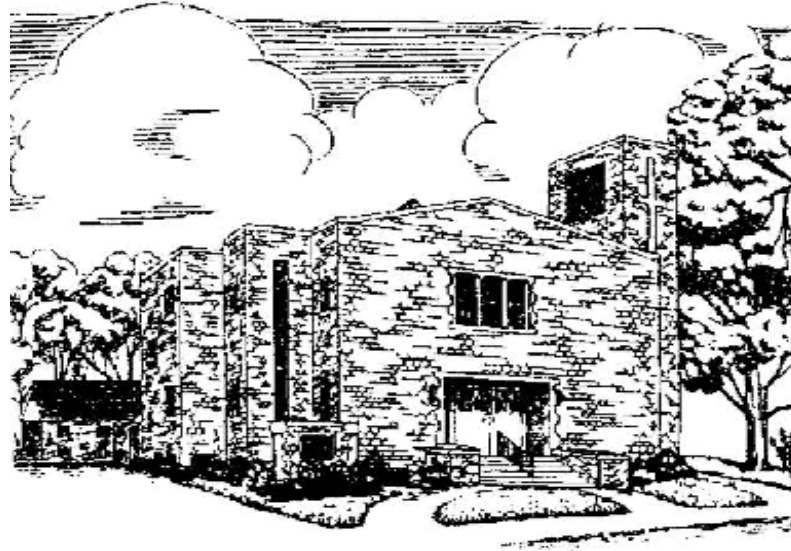




SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

August 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

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

Dear RGAPC family and friends,

A famous and much loved passage of Scripture begins, “*For every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens . . .*” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, KJV). For many people, summer is the time for vacation – visiting relatives -- yard work – or sorting through closets and cupboards to identify gently-used items that can be donated to Missionfest. As it happens, the 3rd week of July your pastor is doing all four of these things. Therefore I hope I may be forgiven that this newsletter article is not a new creation, but based on an article I wrote last summer.

One afternoon my husband and I were at a fast-food restaurant in Meadville when we overheard a group of young people arguing about whether Jesus ever really lived, and if the Bible 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 congregation (RGAPC), in a major denomination (PCUSA), 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 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. Unfortunately, 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 place more weight on the values of modern society than on what the Bible says about how we are to live

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 " facts" about the early history of Western civilization are derived from ancient writings by the following five authors.

- Herodotus and Thucydides both lived around 488-400 BC. We have eight copies of each of their writings. The earliest copy from each writer dates to around AD 900 -- a gap of 1,300 years.
- Tacitus lived and wrote around AD 100. The earliest copies of his writings date around 1100, a gap of 1,000 years. (20 copies)
- Julius Caesar wrote his Gallic Wars around 58-50 BC. The earliest copies of his writings date around AD 900-950. (10 copies)
- Livy wrote his History of Rome around 5 to 15 AD. The earliest copies date around AD 900, a gap of 900 years. (20 copies)

By comparison, the New Testament was written between AD 40-100. The earliest "minuscules" (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 minuscules 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. In it we find God-breathed testimony about Jesus Christ, the only Savior of the world. So let’s read it – and believe it -- and live it -- and share it -- in Christ’s love. PASTOR SUE

FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – July 14, 2014:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 2 Jun 2014 and the Special Session Meeting of 29 Jun 2014.
 - Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 30 Jun 2014 and Treasurer's reports of the checking account summary, the budget year-to-date figures and the Financial Report for Jun 2014.
 - Received minutes of the Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meetings on 9 Jun 2014 and 7 Jul 2014, Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting on 23 Jun 2014, Trustees meetings on 2 Jun 2014 and 7 Jul 2014, and the 2 Jun 2014 through 14 Jul 2014 Report on Administrative Activity.
 - The terms of a new maintenance agreement for our copier machine if Session's approval is needed.
 - Pastor's request for vacation time from 21 through 25 Jul 2014.
 - After extensive discussion about the actions of the 221st General Assembly and the feelings of people in our congregation, the Session, by **motion** second and vote, unanimously approved the following new policy: *As has been the historic practice of the Christian faith, wedding ceremonies and renewals of wedding vows performed on the Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church property will be between one man and one woman, in accordance with Scripture.*
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UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC

Wednesday, August 6th @ noon - **YOUTHFUL SPIRITS** (men and women of any age) will gather for food and fellowship at **Linda Lou's, 633 13th Street**. Betty Cornmesser will be the host; please inform her (432-7424) by August 4th if you plan to attend. Watch the Sunday bulletins for information on the September 3rd gathering to be hosted by Dorie Feather.

Saturday, August 16th @ 6:00 p.m. – **BIRTHDAY BASH** – church family picnic will be held in Moorhead Hall. Attendees will decorate a table in memorabilia related to their month of birth, and the winner will win a surprise! If you need to know who shares your birth month, contact the office. Sign up on sheets on bulletin boards and bring a tureen to share.

FUN IN THE SUN



- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| BAIT | BARBECUE | CAMPGROUND |
| COASTLINE | CROQUET | DIVEING |
| DUNE BUGGYS | FISHING POLL | FRESH FRIUT |
| HIKING | HOTDOGS | MOSQUITO |
| OUTDOORS | PICNIC TABEL | POOL |
| RESORT | SAND DUNES | SURFBOARD |
| SWIMING | TACKLE BOX | TENT |
| TRAVEL | WATER | WAVES |

Six of the words in the word list are spelled incorrectly. Circle them and write them correctly in the blanks. Then find all 24 correct spellings in the puzzle. The words may appear in any direction.

**Rocky Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church
Financial Information**

	June 2014	Year to Date
Income – Envelope Giving	\$ 6,918.05	\$ 40,595.15
Presby Foundation Interest		1,308.20
Other Sources	308.16	2,787.43
Expenses	<u>- 8,455.32</u>	<u>- 50,193.00</u>
Difference	\$ - 1,229.11	\$ - 5,502.22

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



To our church friends:

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you for the many 60th anniversary cards you sent us. The cards were beautiful and the lovely verses meant so much to us. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is abundant, and “thank you” hardly seems adequate.

Most sincerely,

Marie & Jerry Wendt

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls and beautiful prayer quilt I received during my recent period of ill health. I’m feeling better each day. My church family means a lot to me.

Dorie Feather

Dear Church

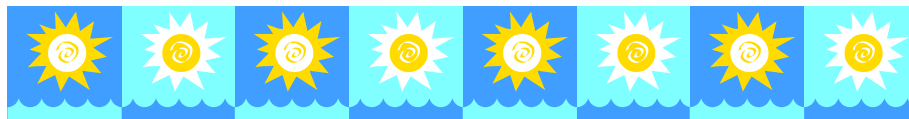
Thank you for letting me go to camp.

Jackson (Lukers)

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

September 13th – 9:15 am – 4:15 pm -- Oil City Community Alliance Church, 411 Seneca Street, Oil City, will host a live simulcast of “Living Proof.” Experience Beth Moore’s dynamic event. Additional information available at www.occachurch.com/bethmooresimulcast



SERVANTS FOR AUGUST

- Hospital Visits:** Sarah DeLong & Lois Pierce
- Worship Leader:** Jim Sandok
- Ushers:** Rhonda Rust, Amy Tatarek, Joe Tatarek,
Brad Wetjen & Joyce Wetjen
- Greeters:**
- 3 Margaret Wielandt & girls
 - 10 The Speths
 - 17 Samantha & James Hoffman
 - 24 The Ed Whitling Family
 - 31 Janet & Arnie Bish
- Acolyte:**
- 3 Communion
 - 10 James Hoffman
 - 17 Carson Whitling
 - 24 Douglas Songer
 - 31 Eli Moreland
- Counters:**
- 3 Wayne Edmondson & Joyce Pellow
 - 10 Joyce Wetjen & George Wielandt
 - 17 Phyllis Wetzel & Don Yount
 - 24 Lois Pierce & Joyce Wetjen
 - 31 Wayne Edmondson & Joyce Pellow

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

NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS and OUTREACH TEAM

Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf. Psalm 66:5

Due to the rain on July 19th, the annual Soap Box Derby was cancelled again this year. The money donated (to help towards the cost of buying food items) will be put into missions. If you donated monetarily and would like your donation to be used for another purpose, please contact one of the Mission Team members.

Now, here comes the big question – **ARE YOU READY FOR SOME “MISSIONFEST”??** September 6th will be here before we know it! Please see Rhonda Rust to sign up for a booth assignment and Joan Lepley or Diane Whitman to work in Kid's Kingdom. See one of them before your dream position is taken!

Starting July 30th, garage sale items may be brought into the Choir Room during office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:30 – 5:00 . **As usual we cannot accept clothing or shoes.** If you could price your items before you bring them, *it will help so much*. If you are going to be making crafts for our craft booth, it's time to get busy! Bakers need to be baking for the bake sale. Our reputation as excellent bakers continues to bring people in for our goodies!! We will be keeping you updated on Missionfest with Minutes for Missions and the church bulletin, but if you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the Missions Team.

This year we will be blessed with music by The Pine Valley Boys on Missionfest Sunday (September 7th). Please spread the word and invite family and friends to join us. A love offering will be taken.

Please keep the Missions Team in your prayers. 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.

We also thank you for supporting the collection of items for Community Services (Rocky Grove facility). Your help is greatly appreciated!

Team Members: *Phyllis Wetzel - Moderator, Joyce Pellow, Jill Alden, Joan Lepley, Rhonda Rust, Joyce Wetjen, and John Klinger.*

2014 Missionfest Recipients

ABC Pregnancy Center
Child Evangelism Fellowship
Fishermen's Net
Seneca Hills Bible Camp & Retreat Center
Camping Assn. of Presbyteries of NWPA
World Gospel Mission – Jim & Alice Vanderhoof
United World Mission – Bruneau's
One Mission Society – Joetta Lehman
Venango Youth for Christ

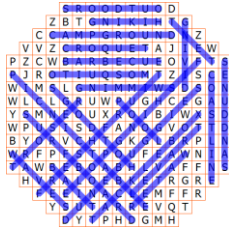
August Birthdays



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

Fun in the Sun!

Answers



The corrected spellings are:

DIVING
FRESH FRUIT

DUNE BUGGIES
PICNIC TABLE

FISHING POLE
SWIMMING



AUGUST 2014



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:30 Men's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
3 10:00 Worship (Communion) 5:30 Boy Scouts – Court of Honor	4 6:00 CLAW (Congregational Life & Worship) 7:00 Trustees	5 6:30 Sweet Adelines	6 NOON <i>Youthful Spirits @ Linda Lou's</i>	7 8:00 – 10:00 Venango County Services meeting	8	9 8:30 Women's Prayer breakfast @ King's 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
10 10:00 Worship	11 6:15 Session	12	13 10:00 Quilting @ 1 st Presbyterian	14 8:00 – 10:00 Venango County Services meeting	15	16 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous 6:00 Church Picnic (Birthday Bash in Moorhead Hall)
17 10:00 Worship	18 6:30 Christian Education	19 6:30 Sweet Adelines	20 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	21 <i>OFFICE CLOSED (Church Secretary vacation day)</i>	22	23 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
24 10:00 Worship 5:30 Boy Scouts	25 6:30 Missions & Outreach	26 6:30 Sweet Adelines	27	28	29	30 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
31 10:00 Worship						