

## *SONSHINE NEWSLETTER*

### *December 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](http://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:*

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

## From the Pastor's Study

Dear RGAPC Family and Friends,

When I was young, one of my favorite Christmas carols was, “*Do You Hear What I Hear?*” This year, I find myself wondering: Do you hear what I hear? Do you see what I see? Everywhere I go these days, I hear and see that wonderful message, “Christmas is Coming!”

It's true that many of these messages come in the form of advertisements urging me to shop, shop, shop, buy, buy, buy, spend, spend, spend. And it's true that newspaper, radio and television ads insist upon referring to “the holidays” instead of the Holy Days -- which can be downright annoying to a Christian!

But don't be troubled! Those politically correct, religiously neutral marketing blitzes can never diminish the truth: “Christmas IS Coming!” Despite the glitter, those with eyes to see and ears to hear, can still plainly perceive the deeper reality. We can gaze at the twinkling lights, and see in them reminders of Christ, the Light of the World. We can look at evergreen wreaths and be reminded of the eternal Son of the eternal Father, who loves us with a never-ending love. We can even look at the tempting array of gift possibilities - the things we long to buy for our loved ones, because we love them -- and be reminded of the most precious gift of all: the Son of God who gave his life willingly to atone for the sins of the world.

At Christmas, we rejoice at the coming of Christ into the world. But we celebrate much more than Jesus' birth in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. We also celebrate the truth that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ is active in the world today, and Christ will come again with power. This knowledge gives us both hope and humility as we rejoice in his birth, take comfort in his presence and eagerly await his return.

May the unfailing love of God, the divine Light of Christ, and the transforming flame of the Holy Spirit burn brightly in your heart and in your home, during these “holy days” and forever.

With love in the Lord,

*Pastor Sue*

### RGAPC Financial Information

	October 2014	Year to Date
Income – Envelope Giving	\$ 6,670.00	\$ 68,861.15
Presby Foundation Interest	416.88	2,141.96
Other Sources	794.20	36,296.48
Expenses	<u>- 8,244.80</u>	<u>- 112,384.46</u>
Difference	- \$ 363.72	- \$ 5,084.87

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



**Operation Christmas Child:** Fifteen (15) shoeboxes for the ministry of Samaritan's Purse were collected during November and sent for distribution worldwide. Thanks to all who participated.

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**END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** – Any contributions you wish to make to the church and have credited for the 2014 fiscal year should be made by Sunday, December 28, 2014.

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Jeremy Dickey has been hired as Marketing Specialist for the Sisters of Mercy of Americas, in Silver Spring, MD & starts his new position on Dec. 1. He is so excited about his own large office that can be decorated with his diplomas & memorabilia. Prayers have been answered for Jeremy! Grandparents, Cheri & Dick Mortimer, will provide his new address when it is known.

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**Newsletter articles are due in the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. The January newsletter will be published for distribution the week of January 4, 2015.**

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## SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER

- Hospital Visits:** Sarah Speth & George Wielandt  
**Worship Leader:** Jim Speth  
**Ushers:** Sam Alden, John Henderson, Vicki Henderson,  
George Wielandt & Don Yount  
**Greeters:** 7 Jim & Sheryl Clinefelter  
14 Don, Nancy & Aaron Weltner  
21 Grace Gibbons & Rhonda Rust  
24 Pellow family members  
28 Austin Clark & Wayne Edmondson  
**Acolyte:** 7 Joe & Amy Tatarek  
14 Jim & Sheryl Clinefelter  
21 Jim & Judy Sandok  
24 The Hartmans  
28 Jackson Lukers  
**Counters:** 7 Joyce Pellow & Joyce Wetjen  
14 TO BE ANNOUNCED  
21 TO BE ANNOUNCED  
24 Wayne Edmondson & Don Yount  
28 Wayne Edmondson & Don Yount  
**Children's Church:** Jim & Sarah Speth (12/28/14 & 1/4/15)
- 



### *JANUARY Birthdays*

- |    |                    |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Sierra Cook        | 16 | Vicki Henderson    |
| 4  | Judy Sandok        | 20 | Lois Pierce        |
| 5  | Elissa Stuttler    |    | Konner Hartman     |
| 11 | Aaron Weltner      | 23 | Patti Phillips     |
|    | Jessica Songer     | 24 | Brooke Brannon     |
| 12 | Charlotte Pellow   | 26 | Mike Hartman       |
| 13 | Alisha Newton      | 27 | Anden Hill (1)     |
| 15 | Madeleine Wielandt | 29 | Joshua Kirwin (15) |
| 16 | Vicki Henderson    |    |                    |

# The Giving Tree



This Christmas season, the Deacons are helping a family in our area. The names of the mother and three children will be available on the Giving Tree in the Narthex through December 14, 2014. Choose a tag, purchase the gift and return the wrapped gift with the tag on top by December 21. We are so blessed; let us bless others. Monetary donations may be given to Sheryl Clinefelter to purchase items on tags not selected.

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## FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions from the Session Meeting – November 10, 2014:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 13 Oct 2014.
- The minutes of the Special Session Meetings of 2 Nov 2014.
- The minutes of the Special Session Meetings of 9 Nov 2014.
- With regret, accepted Joyce Pellow's request to resign from the session after filling only a partial term, noting that Joyce is still an elder in good standing.
- Received the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team minutes of 20 Oct 2014, the Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting of 27 Oct 2014, the Trustee's meeting of 3 Nov 2014, and the Administrative Activity Report Oct 13th through Nov 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Elected Jim Clinefelter as financial secretary, Amy Tatarek as assistant financial secretary, Rhonda Rust as treasurer, and Melanie McGinnis as assistant treasurer for 2015.
- Pastor Sue's participation in a continuing education workshop that was held on 21 Oct 2014.
- Pastor Sue's request for vacation Nov 26 through Dec 2, 2014.
- Adopted the budget for 2015, with thanks to the Stewardship Ministry Team for their work in preparing it.
- The following communion schedule for 2015: 15 Feb 2015 (Transfiguration of the Lord), 2 Apr 2015 (Maundy Thursday), 24 May 2015 (Pentecost Sunday), 2 Aug 2015, 4 Oct 2015 (World Communion Sunday), and 22 Nov 2015 (Reign of Christ).

## MISSIONS CORNER

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected November 30<sup>th</sup> through the December 24<sup>th</sup>. This Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. There are envelopes in the pews for this special offering and included in this publication. Please give. God is good!

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Your Missions & Outreach Ministry Team,*

*Phyllis Wetzel*, Moderator

*Joyce Pellow*, Elder

*Rhonda Rust*, Trustee

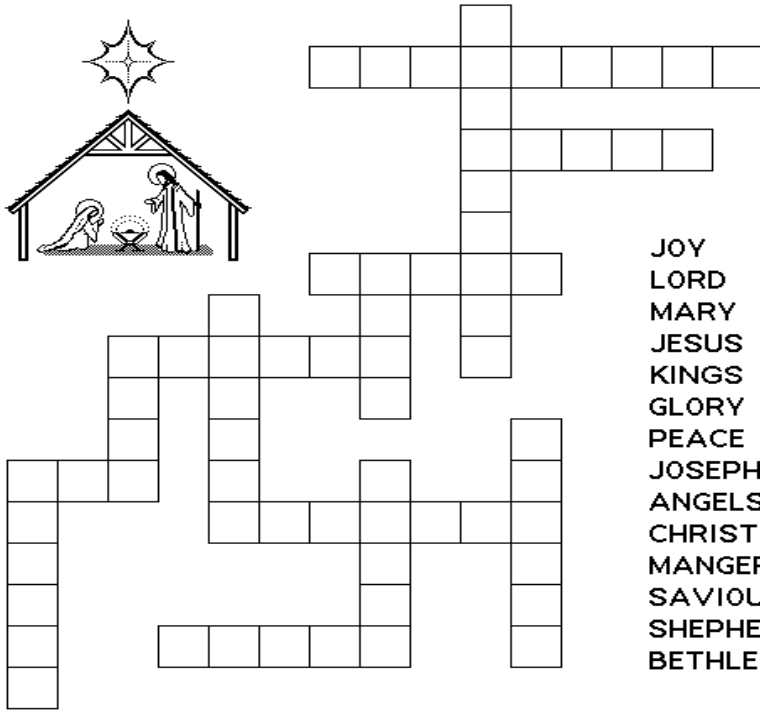
*Jill Alden*

*Joyce Wetjen*

*Diane Whitman*

# Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.



JOY  
LORD  
MARY  
JESUS  
KINGS  
GLORY  
PEACE  
JOSEPH  
ANGELS  
CHRIST  
MANGER  
SAVIOUR  
SHEPHERDS  
BETHLEHEM

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## PROSE & POETRY:

Somehow, not only for Christmas  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others  
Is the joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier

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**Congregation/Corporation Meeting,  
Soup Luncheon and Chili Cook-off  
held November 16, 2014**



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation was held Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. **Elders** elected are: – **Jill Alden, Jim Clinefelter and Joe Tatarek** (3-year terms); **Joyce Pellow** and **John Henderson** (2-year terms); and **Wayne Edmondson** (1-year term). **Deacons** elected are: **Linda Christian** (3-year term) and **Jessica Songer** (2-year term); there are 2 vacancies for 3-year terms and 1 for a 1-year term as a result of Sarah Speth's verbal resignation. **Trustees: David Christian and Kevin Songer** (3-year terms); **Melanie McGinnis** (2-year term); and **Arnie Bish** for a 1-year term. **Auditor: Elissa Stuttler.** **Presbyterian Home Reps: Jim & Flo Albright** and **Gene & Marge Sheffer.** **Nominating Committee: Doris Feather, Marge Sheffer, Linda Zeller, Melanie McGinnis and Janet Bish.** The 2015 budget as approved by Session on November 10<sup>th</sup> was presented. Thanks to the Nominating Committee for all their hard work.

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Chili Cook-Off had eight entries – from Jim Clinefelter, Samantha Hoffman, Melanie McGinnis, Joyce Pellow, Pam Viele, George Wielandt, Don Yount, and the winner – **Ben DeLong.** This is the third consecutive win for Mr. DeLong. The voting proceeds of \$177.87 were designated by Ben for Camp Scholarships. Congratulations, Ben!!!

*December Birthdays*



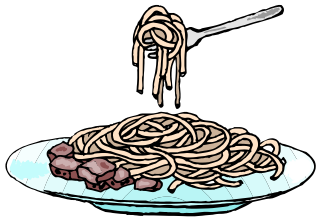
- |    |                       |    |                |
|----|-----------------------|----|----------------|
| 1  | Kassidy Clark         | 19 | Jim Speth      |
| 4  | Jayne McEntire        | 20 | Daniel Wetzel  |
| 6  | Rhonda Rust           |    | Jacob Wetzel   |
| 14 | Dick Mortimer         |    | Amy Tatarek    |
| 15 | Savanna Lukers (2009) | 25 | Joshua Wargo   |
|    |                       | 29 | Mike Burkhardt |

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC**

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Men and women with *YOUTHFUL SPIRITS* gather for food and fellowship at noon the first Wednesday of each month. Join in the fun at **Amazing Foods**, 1327 Elk Street. Make your reservation with Grace Gibbons or leave a message at 432-4388 by 12/1/13. All are welcome!! Next month's gathering will be on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Watch Sunday bulletins for additional information.

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m. – Christmas Dinner** - Linda Lou's Restaurant, 633 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Franklin. Watch Sunday bulletins for more information and reservation form.



**Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.** – *Spaghetti Dinner* – includes homemade meatballs, salad, roll/butter, dessert and beverage. Take outs will be available. Donations will benefit camp scholarships. Sign-ups will be forthcoming.

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** – 10:45 a.m. - Children's Christmas Play – “THE NIGHT THE ANGELS SANG” – Anyone interested in helping with the play, please contact Diane Whitman (374-4077).

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

**Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00 a.m. -- “De-hanging of the Greens” --  
*MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK*



## Ready for Christmas

“Ready for Christmas,” she said with a sign,  
As she gave a last touch to the gifts piled high,  
Then wearily sat for a moment and read,  
‘Til soon, very soon, she was nodding her head

The quietly spoke a voice in her dream,  
“Ready for Christmas! What do you mean?  
Ready for Christmas when only last week  
You wouldn’t acknowledge your friend on the street.”

“Ready for Christmas, while hold a grudge:  
Perhaps you had better leet God be the judge.  
Why, how can the Christ-child come and abide  
In the heart that is selfish and filled with pride?”

Ready for Christmas when only today  
A beggar lad came and you turned him away  
Without even a smile to show that you cared?  
The little he asked – it could have been spared.”

“Ready for Christmas! You’ve worked, it is true,  
But just doing the things that you wanted to do;  
Ready for Christmas! Your circle’s too small –  
Why, you are not ready for Christmas at all!”

She awoke with a start and a cry of despair,  
“There’s so little time and I’ve still to prepare,  
Oh, Father, forgive me, I see what You mean,  
To be ready means more than a house swept clean.”

Yes, more than the giving of gifts and a tree,  
It’s the heart swept clean that He wants to see,  
A heart that is free from bitterness, sin-  
Ready for Christmas – and ready for HIM.

–Author Unknown



# DECEMBER 2014



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