

## *SONSHINE NEWSLETTER*

### *February 2015*

*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 friends and members of RGAPC,

Years ago, following World War II, a short poem was found carved on a cellar wall in Cologne, Germany. The cellar was a hiding place for Jews during the holocaust. The poem begins, *I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I do not feel it. I believe in God even when He seems to be silent . . .*

I cannot begin to imagine the horrors that Jews in Europe went through in those years. Whole communities were annihilated; families torn apart; people treated as less than animals. Yet someone hiding in that cellar – facing an uncertain future and probable death – was moved to carve those words into the wall. Simple words, but a profound testimony of faith that even when things seem very dark, there is light, there is love, there is hope – for God will never leave us.

This is a time in the life of our congregation, when many (even most) in our church family are heavy-hearted and anxious about the future. Of course I am not trying to say that our circumstances are in any way as dire as that faced by the un-named author of the poem. But some among us are facing serious medical, financial or family difficulties. Others are mourning the loss of loved ones. And every single church member I have spoken to in recent days is hurting, in one way or another, following the meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> when the second vote for dismissal once again fell short of the 75% approval required by presbytery policy.

Over the next several months a number of our church members will find it necessary – due to their theological convictions – to leave RGAPC to find another church home. We will be saddened by their departure, but we will understand that they have not made this decision lightly. Those who remain will need to make adjustments and step in to fill in the gaps so that essential ministry and mission can continue.

We do not know precisely what the future holds, but my prayer for you and for me is that we will take courage and strength knowing that God walks with us and will guide us.

With love and hope in the Lord,

*Pastor Sue*

## RGAPC Financial Information

	December 2014	Year to Date
Income – Envelope Giving	\$ 5,799.00	\$ 80,459.15
Presby Foundation Interest		\$ 2,141.96
Other Sources	\$ 704.63	\$ 37,615.67
Expenses	- \$ 12,075.35	-\$131,538.78
Difference	- \$ 5,571.72	-\$ 11,322.00

*Detailed **January** financial reports should be available  
in the narthex beginning the second Sunday of February.*

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### ***FEBRUARY Birthdays***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 4 Yolanda Clark<br>Mallory Wetjen (12)<br>5 Nancy Weltner<br>Hanna Wielandt (13)<br>7 Bob Wielandt<br>10 Kennedy Hartman<br>11 Madeleine Rose Wielandt (11)<br>14 Jeremy Dickey | 15 Flo Albright<br>17 Cameron Whitling (5)<br>20 Linda Christian<br>Doug Songer (13)<br>Marie Wendt<br>21 Helen Grettler (101)<br>26 Malinda Lukers |
|---|---|
- 

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

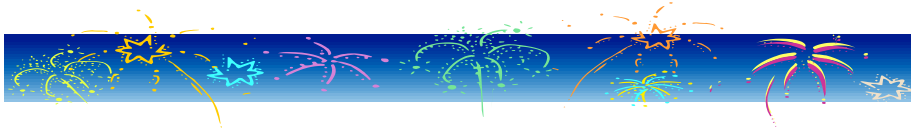


## SERVANTS FOR FEBRUARY

- Hospital Visits:** Wayne Edmondson & a Deacon  
**Worship Leader:** Jim Speth  
**Ushers:** Judy Sandok, Aaron Weltner, Nancy Weltner, Diane Whitman & Don Yount  
**Substitute:** Rhonda Rust
- Greeters:**
- 1 Doris Feather & Rhonda Rust
  - 8 Jim & Judy Sandok
  - 15 Don & Doris Yount
  - 22 The Hartmans
- Acolyte:**
- 1 Carson Whitling
  - 8 Arika Songer
  - 15 COMMUNION
  - 22 James Hoffman
- Counters:**
- 1 Joyce Pellow & Lois Pierce
  - 8 Don Yount & another elder
  - 15 Lois Pierce & another elder
  - 22 TO BE ANNOUNCED
- Children's Church:** Wayne Edmondson & George Wielandt
- 

**We have received Jeremy Dickey's new address:**

1220 East West Highway, Apt. 1111,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



### **FROM THE SESSION**

Approved Motions – January 12, 2015, Session Meeting:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 8 Dec 2014, and the minutes of the two Special Session Meetings on 14 December 2014 and 4 January 2015.
- The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 31 Dec 2014 and the following Treasurer's reports: the checking account summary, the budget year-to-date figures and the Financial Report for December 2014.
- The transfer of up to \$5,500 from the Horizon investment account, if needed, into the current fund.
- Accepted Sarah Speth's resignation as a Deacon, with regret, effective 27 Feb 2015 as she requested.
- Received the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team minutes of 15 Dec 2014, the minutes of the Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meeting of 5 Jan 2015, the minutes of the Trustees meeting of 5 Jan 2015, the minutes of the Shepherd's Committee meeting of 10 Dec 2014, and the 8 Dec 2014 through 12Jan 2015 Report on Administrative Activity.
- Pastor Sue Nageotte's request for vacation from Monday, 23 Feb 2015 through Tuesday, 3 Mar 2015.
- Paying Rev. David Edmunds for his services to preach and moderate the Congregational Meeting on 25 Jan 2015.

## **MISSIONS CORNER:**

### **YEAR-END DISBURSEMENTS OF 2014 MISSION FUNDS**

**\$480.00** each to:

ABC Life Center (formerly ABC Pregnancy Center)  
Seneca Hills Bible Camp & Retreat Center  
World Gospel Mission (Jim & Alice Vanderhoof)

**\$240.00** each to:

Child Evangelism Fellowship  
Camping Assn. of Presbyteries of N/W PA  
Fishermen's Network  
Latin America Mission (Robert & Nina Bruneau)  
One Mission Society (Joetta Lehman)  
Venango Youth for Christ

**\$3,927.48** was carried over to 2015, of which **\$3,436.56** is designated for work trips, leaving **\$490.92** actual Benevolence Fund carryover.

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### **Help Fight Hunger through the Souper Bowl of Caring!**

In 1990 Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

*"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl Football Game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."*

This special offering will be collected in large "soup pots"  
at the end of the worship service on **February 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Every dollar donated will go to fight hunger in our community.

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Used cell phones (working or not) are still being collected for donation to **Cell Phones for Soldiers**. Please help with this worthy cause any time you get a new phone. A box for collection is located in the narthex.

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The Missions & Outreach Ministry Team wishes to express sincere gratitude for the support of our chosen missionaries and special offerings throughout the years. If you know of a missionary that should be considered for support in 2015, please advise the **new moderator, Joyce Pellow** or **elder, Jill Alden**.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC**

**Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</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 **Linda Lou's, 633 13<sup>th</sup> Street**. Make your reservation with Rhonda Rust or leave a message at 437-2831 by 2/2/15. All are welcome!! Next month's gathering will be on March 4<sup>th</sup> hosted by Lois Pierce. Watch Sunday bulletins for additional information.

**Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>** - *Women's Prayer Breakfast*

Calling all ladies! Come join the women of RGAPC for breakfast the second Saturday of the month at King's Family Restaurant on Allegheny Blvd. at 8:30 a.m. Devotions, prayer and fellowship abound. That's **February 14<sup>th</sup>**, ladies! See you there?

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** – **Ordination & Installation of Officers**

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Recognition of newest persons attaining 50-year membership: Eleanore Moffitt (belated), Lorraine McCauley, Bill McCauley (posthumously), Jean Weller, Marilyn "Joanne" Brannon, and Linda Hartman. More information will be made available as plans are finalized.

**Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** – "*Spring Thing*" – an event being planned by Congregational Life & Worship Ministry Team. Watch future bulletins for further details.

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## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Congratulations to Aaron Weltner for being named STUDENT OF THE WEEK January 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**. Students are selected by their school's administrative staff based on academic performance, attendance, participation in extracurricular activities, and interaction with teachers, staff and fellow students. *See newspaper clipping on bulletin board at foot of balcony stairway!* Aaron also took third (bronze) out of approximately 200 students in competition in the Academic Sports League on Saturday, January 10, 2015. Way to go, Aaron! We are so proud of you.



## THANK YOU

We want to thank members who sent us Christmas cards; the Deacons who brought us a knitted goodie bag of gifts; and most of all whoever made and prayed over the prayer cloth that was given to Zella while she was in Sugar Creek Station. Everything you have done for us to keep us in your thoughts and prayers has been a blessing. Thank you!

*Don & Zella McNany*

*(Actual card displayed on bulletin board at foot of balcony stairway.)*

Dear Friends,

I thank you, church members, for the beautiful prayer quilt and Christmas hat. Thanks!

*Richard Vogan*

*(Actual card displayed on bulletin board at foot of balcony stairway.)*

I would like to thank all of my church family, for your kind thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. I would also like to thank you all for the lovely flowers and the beautiful Prayer Quilt, and thank you Pastor Sue for the visit.

*Bonnie Wielandt*

Dear Rocky Grove Presbyterian,

Community Services of Venango County, Inc. would like to thank you for your continuing support. We sincerely appreciate the \$200 donation to be used in our food pantry at our Rocky Grove office.

*Mary Jeanne Gavin, Social Services Director*

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**Children's Church has been cancelled indefinitely. Children will need to return to their parents or grandparents after the Time with the Young Disciples.**

**Volunteers are needed to provide food and drink, and to set up and serve these items, during the Fellowship Time between Sunday School and the worship service. Please contact Wayne Edmondson if you are able to help in this way.**



## **ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE SEASON OF LENT**

It's hard to believe, but the season of Lent begins in just a few weeks! **We will begin our Lenten observance with a worship service at 6:30 PM on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Once again this Lenten season, Christians throughout Venango County are being invited to join together in a community-wide commitment to "*40 Days of Prayer*." A devotional prayer guide titled *Seek God for the City* will be available to our church family free of charge. You can pick one up in the sanctuary (starting February 8), 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.

**Our own congregation will host a prayer service focusing on Health Care Workers, at 7 PM on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>.** Please invite others to attend this, or any other, prayer event in the area during the season of Lent.

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### **Don't Carry The Burden Of Tomorrow**

God broke our years into hours and days,  
That hour by hour, and day by day,  
Just going on a little way,  
We might be able, all along,  
To keep quite strong.  
Should all the weight of life be laid  
Across our shoulders at just one place,  
And the future, rife with woe and struggle,  
Meet us face to face:  
We could not go; Our feet would stop,  
And so God lays a little on us every day.  
And never, I believe in all life's way,  
Will burdens bear so deep,  
Or pathways lie so steep,  
But we can go, if, by God's power  
We only bear the burden of the hour!

-- Author Unknown



# FEBRUARY 2015



| SUNDAY                                                                                                                       | MONDAY                                 | TUESDAY                                   | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                         | THURSDAY                                                                                    | FRIDAY                                         | SATURDAY                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Worship<br>5:30 Boy Scouts<br><i>Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday</i>                    | <b>2</b><br>6:00 CLAW<br>7:00 Trustees | <b>3</b><br>6:30 Sweet Adelines practice  | <b>4</b><br>Noon<br><i>Youthful Spirits</i><br>@ Linda Lou's<br>6:30 Bible Study                                  | <b>5</b>                                                                                    | <b>6</b>                                       | <b>7</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous                                                               |
| <b>8</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Worship –<br><i>Scout Sunday</i><br>5:30 Boy Scouts                                  | <b>9</b><br>6:15 Session               | <b>10</b><br>6:30 Sweet Adelines practice | <b>11</b><br>6:30 Bible Study                                                                                     | <b>12</b><br>8:00-10:00<br>Venango County Human Services<br>(Moorhead Hall)<br>6:30 Deacons | <b>13</b><br><i>FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup></i> | <b>14</b><br>8:30 Women's breakfast @ King's<br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous<br><i>Valentine's Day</i> |
| <b>15</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Worship –<br><b>COMMUNION</b><br><i>Installation of Officers</i><br>5:30 Boy Scouts | <b>16</b><br>6:30 Christian Education  | <b>17</b><br>6:30 Sweet Adelines practice | <b>18</b><br>6:30 Service<br> | <b>19</b>                                                                                   | <b>20</b><br><i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>        | <b>21</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous                                                              |
| <b>22</b><br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Worship<br><i>50-year membership celebration/luncheon</i>                           | <b>23</b><br>6:30 Missions & Outreach  | <b>24</b><br>6:30 Sweet Adelines practice | <b>25</b><br>6:30 Bible Study                                                                                     | <b>26</b>                                                                                   | <b>27</b>                                      | <b>28</b><br>9:30 Overeaters Anonymous                                                              |