

SONSHINE NEWSLETTER

January 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

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 church family and friends,

I pray that your Christmas holy-day was filled with joy and that, despite the busy season, you had some time to marvel quietly at the wonder of Jesus' coming into our world and into our hearts.

This precious gift was born more than 2,000 years ago in the dusty, down-trodden, politically troubled region of Palestine. Yet we know that Jesus is NOT ancient history. He is still the Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, who comes today and every day bringing fresh hope and healing wherever dusty, down-trodden, troubled hearts welcome Him in.

Sometimes even faithful disciples can feel a bit dusty and worn around the edges. In the past few weeks, several church members have spoken to me about spiritual New Year's resolutions. Would you like to grow closer to the Lord, grow stronger in your faith, in the year ahead? I know that I would. So if spiritual growth is on your "list" for 2015, I invite you to consider, with me, four biblical practices suggested by Christian author Max Lucado:

First, steadfastly maintain the habit of *prayer*. Want to deepen your prayer life? Pray. Don't prepare to pray; just pray. Don't worry about coming up with the right words; it's better to pray awkwardly, than not pray at all. Just talk with God the way you would talk with a trusted friend. But do *listen* as much as you speak.

Second, establish a habit of *studying the Scripture*. If possible, take part in Sunday School or the Wednesday night Bible study, so your individual study is enhanced by discussion with other believers.

Third, practice the habit of *regular giving*. Your tithes and offerings are an indication of your trust in the Lord (Deut 14:23).

Finally, maintain the habit of *regular worship and fellowship*: "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing, but instead let us encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)

And –may I add a fifth that Lucado does not mention? Let's *rejoice in the Lord always*. For the Light of the World has come to chase away the darkness, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Have a blessed New Year,

Pastor Sue

RGAPC Financial Information

	November 2014	Year to Date
Income – Envelope Giving	\$ 5,799.00	\$ 74,660.15
Presby Foundation Interest		\$ 2,141.96
Other Sources	\$ 614.56	\$ 36,911.04
Expenses	-\$ 7,078.97	-\$119,463.43
Difference	-\$ 665.41	-\$ 5,750.28

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



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

Dear Church family,

I am sorry for breaking the window in the Youth Room. I did not mean to. To repay the church, I will help the church. I am truly sorry.

Doug Songer

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



SERVANTS FOR JANUARY

Hospital Visits: Doris Feather & Wayne Edmondson

Worship Leader: Wayne Edmondson

Ushers: Konner Hartman, Linda Hartman, Reagan Hartman, Rhonda Rust & Diane Whitman

Greeters:

- 4 The Lukers Family
- 11 Lois Pierce & Linda Zeller
- 18 The Songer Family
- 25 Diane Whitman

Acolyte:

- 4 Hanna Wielandt
- 11 Doug Songer
- 18 Eli Moreland
- 25 Lillian Songer

Counters:

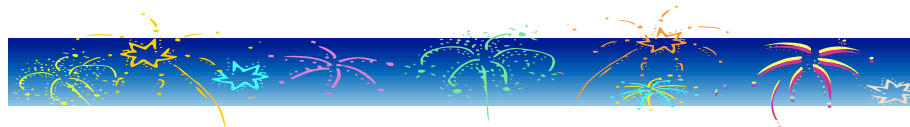
- 4 Don Yount & another elder
- 11 Joyce Pellow & Don Yount
- 18 Joyce Pellow & another elder
- 25 TO BE ANNOUNCED

Children's Church: Wayne Edmondson & George Wielandt
Jim & Sarah Speth (1/4/15 only)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RGAPC

Wednesday, January 7th - 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 Joan Partridge or leave a message at 437-7978 by 1/5/15. All are welcome!! Next month's gathering will be on February 4th. Watch Sunday bulletins for additional information.

Saturday, January 10th – 10:00 a.m. -- “De-hanging of the Greens” – Come help undecorate our church of Christmas décor. *MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK*



FROM THE SESSION

Approved Motions – December 8, 2014 Session Meeting:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting of 10 Nov 2014.
- The Financial Secretary's report for the period ending 30 Nov 2014 and the following Treasurer's reports: the checking account summary, the budget year-to-date figures and the Financial Report for November 2014.
- Received the minutes of the Christian Education Ministry Team minutes of 17 Nov 2014, the minutes of the Missions and Outreach Ministry Team meeting of 24 Nov 2014, the minutes of the Congregational Life and Worship Ministry Team meeting of 12 Nov 2014, the report on the Presbytery meeting that was held on 15 Nov 2014, and the 10 Nov 2014 through 8 Dec 2014 Report on Administrative Activity.
- To contact the Presbytery of Lake Erie's Committee on Ministry to ask them for permission to talk with them about the petition we received; the petition requests Session to ask the Presbytery of Lake Erie to reconsider dismissing the congregation to ECO.
- Contacting the ECO transition team and ask them to arrange a phone meeting with Session regarding any requirements for joining ECO.
- Wayne Edmondson to be Clerk of Session for the year 2015 and the church's Ruling Elder Commissioner (delegate) to meetings of the Presbytery of Lake Erie.

MISSIONS CORNER

Good day and Happy New Year Everyone,

We hope that 2015 will be a great year for everyone.

The *Christmas Joy Offering* that was taken during Advent totaled \$308.00. Thank you for your gifts. I am sure they will be more than welcomed.

We are still collecting old cell phones. There is a box in the narthex for them. Thank you in advance.

We had a good year with our Missionfest and Fall Vendor Fair. Thank you all for your support and help. Our next fund raiser is the Souper Bowl of Caring offering on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, 2015. We would like all of you to bring at least \$1.00 to put in the pot to support this worthy cause. It helps to support those less fortunate so they may have something to eat. So, we will see you at the door with our pots. Let us see how full we can make them!! Thank you so much for your support.

Anyone who would like to come and join the Missions and Outreach Team are more than welcome. We would love to have you. We meet the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 in the downstairs classroom (near the offices). We hope to see you there. Yes, it can be work; but when it is done for the Lord, it is gratifying. We also have a lot of fun! I hope you will consider and pray about joining us as you are needed!

Remember to keep our Church in your prayers. Take Care and God bless you all. *Jill Alden*, **Elder**

on behalf of *Your Missions & Outreach Ministry Team*,

Joyce Pellow, **Elder**

Jill Alden, **Elder**

Rhonda Rust

Joyce Wetjen

Diane Whitman



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:

The members of the Christian Education Ministry Team thank those who came to the Spaghetti Dinner that was held on Friday, December 12, 2014. We also thank the children and adults who worked to prepare and serve the food, and those people who contributed food for this event. The money made during this event (\$151.00) will go towards church camp fees for the children.

Jim and Sarah Speth will be in charge of Children's Church on Sunday, 4 Jan 2015. George Wielandt and Wayne Edmondson will be in charge of Children's Church for the other Sundays in January.

Training for Elders and Deacons

Two workshops have been scheduled to provide basic officer training as required by the PC(USA) Book of Order. This training is mandatory for newly-elected elders and deacons, but current and former officers, as well as any other interested party, are welcome to take part as a “refresher.” The workshops will be held in the Ladies Parlor on Sunday, January 11th, at 2 PM, and Saturday, January 17th, at 2 PM (you need attend only ONE of the two workshops).

Participants are asked to notify Pastor Sue as soon as possible which of the two workshops you wish to attend, since there is some reading to be done ahead of time. Training will last about 2 ½ hours and will include an overview of Presbyterian governance, the responsibilities of and relationship between the Session and the Board of Deacons, and discussion of the PC(USA) ordination vows. At the end of the regular training, those who wish to do so may remain for a brief review and discussion of the ECO "Essential Tenets."

Prayer for the New Year

Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to accept and less to fear.
Help me live that I may be
From selfishness and envy free.

Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.

A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

--Edgar A. Guest



THANK YOUS

I want to thank the Deacons for the Christmas greeting and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Carol Rough

My Dear Church Family,

I want to thank each and everyone for all you have done for me in so many ways. I never thought this would happen to me. I cannot find words to express it. I appreciate all of your kind words that have been said to me and for all the wonderful things that have been done for me.

It is like I am in another world, but I know my savior is with me. I use my Daily Bread everyday. I know that the Lord sees and knows all. Great comfort to me.

Pastor Sue has gone out of her way for me. My dear Edith has been with me all she can.

God bless you all for each little thought or kindness you have shown me. As I tell my family, "God sees and knows all."

Joyce Riddle

I want to thank the Deacons for the hand-crocheted Christmas basket and angel ornament as well as the many other useful things. I appreciate it all and especially enjoyed my visit with Sheryl.

Carol Rough

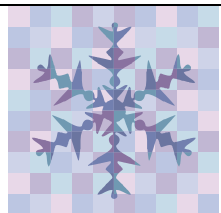
I wish to thank Linda Zeller, my Shepherd, for the Christmas greeting and also the Deacons for the New Year's Card.

Carol Rough

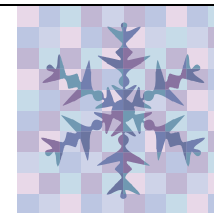
Thanks for all the greetings and gifts I received for Christmas. I appreciate them – every one!!!!

Rhonda Rust

Dear church family – I greatly appreciate the many cards and other expressions of appreciation from the congregation. I am truly blessed to be serving here! *Pastor Sue*



JANUARY 2015



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
4 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	5 6:00 CLAW 7:00 Trustees meeting	6 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice	7 Noon <i>Youthful Spirits</i> @ Amazing Foods 6:30 Bible Study	8 8:00-10:00 Venango County Human Services monthly meeting (Moorhead Hall)	9	10 8:30 Women's breakfast @ King's 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 <i>Unhanging of the Greens</i>
11 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 2:00 Officer Training 5:30-7:00 <i>Boy Scouts & Venturing Crew sign-ups</i>	12 6:15 Session	13 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice	14 6:30 Bible Study	15 6:30 <i>Deacons Organizational Meeting</i>	16	17 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous 2:00 Officer Training
18 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:30 Boy Scouts	19 6:30 CE meeting <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	20 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i> 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice	21 6:30 Bible Study	22	23	24 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous
25 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	26 6:30 Missions meeting	27 6:30 Sweet Adelines practice	28 6:30 Bible Study	29	30	30 9:30 Overeaters Anonymous