



Pine Grove Presbyterian Church

December 2015

Pine Grove Presbyterian Church, 150 W. Pine Grove Road, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868

pinegrovepresbyterian@gmail.com

Pastors Ponderings

Reverend Carl Campbell

A new church year begins with advent and a new calendar year right after Christmas. During this wonderful time of year we once again look forward to Jesus' return as we celebrate his coming to save us. Our savior was not a fully formed man who just landed here. He came as a child. His birth was in a stable. No human fanfare. He came so we could all see that God loves us enough to enter into the lives that we live.

This year, as you celebrate all the wonderful Christmas traditions of your families and friends, take some time to read the Christmas story from two of the Gospels. The first few chapters of Matthew and Luke are the ones who speak of the baby in the manger. As you read them consider how God, the creator and sustainer of the universe decided to come to us, to become like us, in order that we might know the love and forgiveness that was made flesh in a baby born in Bethlehem. This was the plan from the beginning. Matthew traces Jesus' lineage back to Abraham, the father of the nation of Israel. In Luke the baby is born of Mary, from the line of King David, Israel's greatest leader. This child is the fulfillment of all the promises that God has made and he is to be King for all the world for all time. His name is Emmanuel, God with us. Then read Isaiah 9:2-7 and 11:1-9 and you will get a glimpse of what we look forward to during this and every advent season. The baby came. He lived and taught, healed and preached. He died to take away our sins and he will return. In the meantime we are to love as he loves. Live in hope and seek for peace, while we await his return.

Merry Christmas,
Carl Campbell

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Ponderings	1
Newsletter Articles / Sunday School / Bible Study	1
Session Update	2
Presbyterian Women	3
Cub Scout Corner	3
Church announcements	4-6

Newsletter Articles

We are always looking for articles to include in our quarterly newsletter. If you have something to share, please email your article or idea to pinegrovepresbyterian@gmail.com. We plan to compile the next newsletter in early March. Please have articles submitted by February 20.

Sunday School

Please join us for Sunday School every Sunday at 9am. We have classes available for both youth and adults. All are welcome!

Bible Study

We are starting a Bible Study on Thursday, December 10 at 12pm. If you have a question about something and want to know what the Bible has to say about it, write it down and bring it and we will learn together.

Session Update

Beth Raney, Clerk of Session

For 2015 the Session of Pine Grove Presbyterian Church of Pine Grove Mills, PA includes the moderator, the Rev. Carl Campbell, and nine ruling elders. Property and Budget committee (Ben Hudson, Ken Kephart, John Pascavage); Program and Worship committee (Joan Henney, Doug Schaufler, Jeff Sechler); and Mission and Stewardship committee (Ken Barto, Jo-Ann Dreibelbis, Beth Raney, Clerk)

Discussed at the September meeting:

- Children of the World concert at Hollidaysburg on Wednesday, December 2.
- Replacement sign for in front of the church is needed to let people driving by know who we are and what we're doing.
- The children will plan to sing once per month during worship.
- Chelsea and Robert Hudson were married on August 8.
- Brianna and Tyler Tressler were married on August 15.
- Boy Scouts will use the church on Monday evenings for Cub Scouts.
- Girl Scouts will use the church on Thursday evenings for Brownies

Discussed at the October meeting:

- A dehumidifier, ABC fire extinguisher and small laser printer were purchased or donated
- 25 people attended our church fall picnic at Fairbrook Park in September.
- Krislund reported serving ~1300 youth this past summer
- Carl continues to moderate for Upper Spruce Creek congregation

Discussed at the November meeting:

- Another option for a new sign for in front of the church
- A columbarium will be added to the joint cemetery near the church for the 9 people who agreed to participate and there will be a few extra spaces.
- We're holding a Christmas Carol and Hymn Sing on Sunday evening, December 13 at 6:00 PM. If anyone would like to bring cookies, there will be snacks afterward.
- Bible Study during Advent on Thursdays beginning December 10 at Noon.
- Offering for Centre Volunteers in Medicine will be collected in December.
- \$245 was donated to the CROP Walk from our congregation.

The next meeting of Session will be on December 1, at the church at 7:00PM.

Presbyterian Women

Sue Harpster

Fall Bazaar Wrap-up

Thanks to all who donated items and time to set up, work and shop at the annual bazaar. This was the most successful one to date. For what was left over, the Presbyterian Women's group chose to distribute to the following agencies:

Windy Hill Home, Centre Peace, Centre County Library, St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill, Strawberry Fields and Salvation Army. Next year there will be a Bag Day, the Monday following the bazaar from 10 AM – 2 PM. This change will result in fewer left over items to pack up.

Donations to Agencies

At the November P.W. meeting these organizations were chosen to receive funds: Centre Co. Women's Resource Center – \$200, PAWS – \$100, Youth Service Bureau – \$200, Philipsburg YMCA (Christmas Family Program) – \$200, Bridge of Hope – \$200 and CVIM in Dec. –

\$200. Research is being done on the Out of the Cold and Hearts for the Homeless before making a contribution.

All are welcome at meetings

Please attend any of the Presbyterian Women's meetings – third Sunday of the month from 9 AM – 10 AM if you have a particular cause you'd like this group to support.

Sock Tree

Nov. 29, the 1st Sunday in Advent, the P.W. provided the pizza and drinks for those who decorated the church for Christmas. The beautiful trees were donated by the Rachael Parsons Family. Remember to purchase SOCKS for the sock tree which will be taken to the local Shoe Bank.

Next event: The Maundy Thursday Meal in the Upper Room, March 24 at 6:30 PM. There will be a sign-up sheet for items needed closer to this date.

Cub Scout Corner

Jeff Sechler, Committee Chair, Pack 44



Cub Scout Pack 44, which our church sponsors, is well into another exciting year of activities. We recently wrapped up our annual popcorn sale – our one and only fundraiser.

Thank you to all who purchased popcorn and supported our organization.

Some of our upcoming events include ringing bells for the Salvation Army, Ice Skating, Klondike Derby (an outdoor skills competition for the 4th and 5th graders) and lots of other fun events.

Our pack consists of a great group of boys and leaders and we are always interested in having more join our organization. If you know of any boys in grades 1–5 who may be interested in cub scouts, have them contact Jeff Sechler (pack44pgmpa@gmail.com) or direct them to our page on the church's website: pinegrovepresbyterian.org/cub-scout-pack-44.

As always, we are greatly appreciative of the church allowing us to use the space downstairs to hold our meetings. Without your support, we could not function as well as we do.

Church Announcements

Holy Communion

Our last Holy Communion for 2015 was held on November 22.

Dates for 2016 have not been set yet, but will be available in the next newsletter and on the church website.

Annual Congregational Meeting

We held our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, November 22. During this meeting we discussed the finances of the church, a new church sign, elected new Deacons and Elders and other issues related to the church.

New Deacons

Please welcome the following members of our church to serve as Deacons for the next term (Class of 2018): Gail Sunday and Nancy Poust.

They join current Deacons:

Class of 2016: Aileen Hudson, Sharon Heimbaugh

Class of 2017: Bonnie Spetzer, Linda Young

New Ruling Elders

Please welcome the newly elected Ruling Elders (Class of 2018): Edna Miller, Marie Marshall, Ellen DeAntonio

They join current session members:

Class of 2016: Beth Raney, Ken Kephart, Ken Barto

Class of 2017: Doug Schaufler, Joan Henney, Jeff Sechler

Mailed Bulletins

We send out our announcements by email each week. For folks who you know who do not use email, we are seeking to mail a copy of the bulletin to keep those who cannot attend informed. If you, a family member, or friend would like to get the bulletin mailed please let Carl or a session member know.

Food Bank Collection

This month we will be collecting **Rice and Rice Side Dishes**. There is also a need for **pet food in cans or small bags**. Thanks for your help!

Church Fellowship

If you are willing to set up refreshments for after church fellowship times please sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the vestibule. Thank you to those who help and/or provide refreshments!

Christmas Carol Sing

We invite all friends, family, neighbors and community members to join us for a festive carol sing on Sunday, December 13 from 6–8pm. We will choose carols as we go and enjoy a fun-filled evening of fellowship and joy. Refreshments will be available afterwards. Come in out of the cold and warm up with some festive holiday spirit.

Christmas Eve Worship

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 24 at 7:00pm. Our service includes candlelight singing and a story for the children. All are welcome to attend.

Church Announcements continued

Per Capita

Per Capita for 2015 is \$31.00 per active member. These funds are used to cover administrative costs at Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The church is required to pay the per capita each year. Please use the special envelope provided in your offering envelope box.

Per Capita for 2016 will be \$33

Summer Camp Scholarships

Did you know our church provides scholarships to youth interested in attending summer camp? If you know of a youth at the church who is interested in attending a summer camp at Krislund Camp (<http://krislund.org/>) please see a Session member to learn how to receive scholarship funds.

Labels / Box Top Collection

Spread some TLC by clipping from various grocery items, any Labels for Education, Box Tops for education and snapping off the tabs from metal food or beverage cans. These benefit Ronald McDonald house, Ferguson Elementary Store and VFW National Children's Home. Drop off is conveniently located on the bulletin board in the downstairs.

Special Offering at Christmas Eve

We will once again be collecting a special offering during the Christmas Eve service. All monies collected will be donated to the Centre Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) to help with their on-going costs and services.

Soup and Sandwich

We will be having a Soup and Sandwich lunch after worship in January. The exact date has not been chosen yet, but we wanted to let everyone know it is being planned.

Deacons Report

Brief overview of Deacon activities in 2015:

- 1) Provided poinsettias at Christmas and baskets at Easter to shut-ins.
- 2) Provided eggs and prizes for Easter egg hunt at church for the children.
- 3) Packed and collected clothes during clothing drive and delivered to the Community Action center in Aaronsburg.
- 4) Called ushers and greeters each week to remind them.
- 5) Set up communion 6 times during the year.
- 6) Served receptions for four funeral services in 2015.
- 7) Provided meals for one family in 2015. Always willing to prepare meals for shut-ins or those who are sick.
- 8) The Deacons typically meet monthly after morning worship.

Thank you for your support and remember the Deacons are there to serve the church and the community. If you know of a need, please let us know.

Church Announcements continued

New Church Sign

One of the items that Session has been discussing is the need to replace our current sign and desire to purchase a brand new sign for the front of the church. The current sign is deteriorating, old, and in need of major repairs. It also is only one-sided and faces the road, making it difficult to read as you go past. A new sign will be turned 90 degrees so that it can be seen while driving in both directions.

Session has been looking into options for a new one and we found a suitable design that is both modern and reflects the personality of our church and surrounding community. The design (shown below as a black and white sketch) showcases a clean design and features our church name, established date, and a changeable text area for messages. This message area is important so that we can better announce upcoming events and service times.

We shared our design options and information to the congregation at the annual meeting in November. The majority of members agreed with our design choice. Session has invited the sign designer (Lloyd Designs from Tyrone) to our meeting on December 1 to discuss further details about the project including colors, materials, design, etc. Anticipated installation would be Spring 2016.

The Horner family has graciously offered to cover the expenses for the purchase of the sign. Thank you for your generosity.

