



Pine Grove Presbyterian Church

December 2016

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

pinegrovepresbyterian@gmail.com

Pastors Ponderings

Reverend Carl Campbell

I find it hard to believe that another Christmas is upon us and the year is rushing to a close. The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year for all sorts of reasons. Family gets together, dinners and parties occur, beautiful music plays and folks give and receive. Those of us who are believers celebrate the birth of our Savior and stand in awe of our God who loves us so much he became as we are to save us. The incarnation of God in Jesus Christ demonstrates that love. While we were yet sinners God acted to come into our world and show us the way. Not everyone feels or understands that love. For some this season is a tough time of the year for many reasons. If you know someone who is hurting or sad, let them know that someone cares and embody the love of God for them.

No matter what happens in your life this Christmas season and into the New Year remember God's love shown in a manger in Bethlehem, in Jesus' healing and teaching, and in his sacrificed on the cross and his resurrection.

In him we find hope, peace and joy!

Merry Christmas,
Carl Campbell

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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 taking a break from the Bible Study for December and will pick up again starting on January 5, 2017 at 12:30 at the church. 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 2016, 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: Ken Kephart, Doug Schaufler, and Jeff Sechler

Program and Worship: Ellen DeAntonio, Joan Henney, and Edna Miller

Stewardship and Mission: Ken Barto, Marie Marshall, and Beth Raney, clerk.

- The new church sign is in place and we have three slide-ins for the sign: Turkey Dinner, Ferguson Twp. Seniors and the church website address. Lighting was completed in November by Heritage Electric.
- The church parking lot was repaired and sealed before winter set in.
- Fall Cleanup Day was held on Saturday, October 22. Thanks to all who helped clean the church!
- Communion was served to 62 people on October 2, 2016.
- The church is decorated for Advent and looks beautiful! Thank you to the Presbyterian Women for providing pizza for the helpers.
- Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM. Christmas Day worship will be at 11:00AM with no Sunday School. New Year's Day – regular Sunday School and worship times.
- We're hosting a Carol Sing on Sunday, December 11 at 6–8:00 PM. Invite friends and neighbors.
- Sunday School youth baked and sold cookies to raise money for Out of the Cold. Their work raised \$228.00! Thanks to all who supported them!
- We will support two families for Christmas. Thanks to all who have donated gifts to make their holiday happier.
- The AED (automated external defibrillator) in the downstairs fellowship room was serviced and ready for potential use. We may schedule another training to use it. Let Carl know if you are interested.
- Huntingdon Presbytery has notified us that that Per Capita for 2017 is \$34.25 per member.
- Greenland Construction will provide sidewalk snow removal this winter.

During our annual congregational meeting the following were elected for the Class of 2019:

Ruling Elders -- Ken Barto, Johnny Martin and Bill McVicker.

Board of Deacons -- Edna Shuey and Bari Reese.

Presbyterian Women

Sue Harpster

Fall Bazaar Recap

Many thanks to all of those church members who made the Fall Bazaar such a success! People generously gave items, their time to organize and work at the three day event and purchased our food stuffs and treasures. Because of your generosity, we raised \$1,575.

From the \$1,575 proceeds, the Presbyterian Women's group has already identified these local organizations to receive some monetary support:

- Moshannon Valley YMCA: \$200. Our church has supported their Christmas Program by providing gifts of clothing and other essentials. This money will help provide a basket containing a full holiday meal for these registered families.
- Hearts for the Homeless: \$100
- Out of the Cold: \$400
- \$100 for the New Year's Day Dinner for Out of the Cold guests. This traditional home cooked meal is prepared by the Doug Schaufler family.

- In January when the Shaner group will match funds, the P.W. will decide on the amount to be given to the CVIM.

A dozen new black and gold carafes were purchased for \$228.

Sock Tree

Remember to put socks on your shopping list so they can be placed on the downstairs Christmas tree.

Christmas Tree Thank You

If you see or talk to Rachael Parsons, please thank her and her family for continuing to donate two beautiful trees for our holiday season.

Join Our Group

All women of the church are automatically members of the Presbyterian Women. We meet the third Sunday morning from 9 – 10 AM (Dec. 18). We would love your input in our activities.

Cub Scout Corner

Jeff Sechler, Committee Chair, Pack 44



Cub Scout Pack 44, 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.

We are always looking for new members. If you know of any boys in grades 1–5 who may be interested, contact Jeff Sechler for more information or direct them to the Pack 44 page on our website:

<http://pinegrovepresbyterian.org/cub-scout-pack-44>

Church Announcements

Holy Communion

Our last Holy Communion for 2016 was held on November 20.

Dates for 2017 are: 1/15, 4/13, 6/4, 8/6, 10/1, and 11/26

Per Capita

Per Capita for 2016 is \$33.00 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 2017 will be \$34.25

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 Camp Krislund (<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 School and VFW National Children's Home. Drop off is conveniently located on the bulletin board in the downstairs.

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 **Green Beans & Corn**. There is also a need for **pet food in cans or small bags**. Thanks for your help!

Wheelchair Available

A wheelchair has been donated to the church and is available upstairs in the small room by the lift for anyone who may need it while in the church. If used, please return it to where you found it

Turkey Suppers

Mark your calendars for our Turkey Suppers in 2017! Tickets are \$9 and will be available a week or so before each supper. Thank you for your support!

2017 dates:

January 28, February 25, and March 25

Children's Christmas Program

Our Children's Christmas program will be Sunday, December 18. Practice will be Saturday, December 17th at 4:00 PM. All are welcome!

Church Announcements continued

Choir Practice

Share your gift of singing by joining our church choir! We meet every Wednesday at 6:45pm to practice for that week's service. Please come and help us make a joyful noise!

Congregational Meeting

We held our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, November 20. During this meeting we discussed the finances and other issues related to the church and also elected new Deacons and Elders. Installation and Ordainment will be on January 8.

New Deacons

Please welcome the following members of our church to serve as Deacons for the next term (Class of 2019): Edna Shuey and Bari Reese

They join current Deacons:

Class of 2017: Bonnie Spetzer, Linda Young

Class of 2018: Gail Sunday, Nancy Poust

New Ruling Elders

Please welcome the newly elected Ruling Elders (Class of 2019): Ken Barto, Johnny Martin and Bill McVicker.

They join current session members:

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

Class of 2018: Edna Miller, Marie Marshall, Ellen DeAntonio

Church Decorating – Thank You

Thank you to everyone who stayed after church on December 4 to decorate. The church looks fantastic as always!

Community Carol Sing

We invite all friends, family, neighbors and community members to join us for a festive carol sing on Sunday, December 11 from 6–8pm. We will choose carols as we go and enjoy a fun-filled evening of fellowship and music. 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.

Christmas Eve Special Offering

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.

Christmas Day Worship

Since Christmas falls on a Sunday, we will be changing our normal Sunday routine. There will be no Sunday school on Christmas Day and we will be moving the time of our worship service to 11:00am.

New Year's Day Worship

We will be having our normal Sunday schedule on New Year's Day: Sunday School at 9am, Worship at 10:15am.

Krislund Update

Jim Purdum

Dear friends,

As 2016 winds down and with planning for next year well under way, we give thanks to for all the support Krislund has received, in particular from this congregation. Krislund was blessed to serve over 1.900 campers this summer – nearly 4 times the number of young people reached just a few years ago! With the explosive growth of the summer program and a strong commitment to year-round ministry for all age groups, there is much work to be done to sustain and manage this wonderful opportunity. Adding staff, expanding and improving programming, providing camperships and transportation to young people who otherwise might not have the chance to come to Christ through the Krislund experience, are at the center of staff and volunteer efforts. Krislund turns down no one due to financial need and with the demand growth generated by an awesome staff and exceptional experiences, Krislund spent over \$17,000 to help get kids to camp this summer alone. We expect that need to continue to grow so please consider a gift to support these life changing opportunities. The camp is always in need of volunteers and donations of all sorts, including such simple items as leftover exterior latex paint, (just bring it to the church and label it for Krislund) and other items that you can review via the Krislund web site; Krislund.org. If you have any specific interests or questions regarding the latest happenings or needs at Krislund, I'll be more than happy to respond whether it's before or after church, via email; jpurdum248@gmail.com or phone; 814-777-8531.

Thank you again for your interest and your support of this unique and vibrant ministry!

Deacons Report

2016 has been another year when Deacons have been busy behind the scenes. As usual, Deacons enjoy making about a dozen visits at Christmas and Easter to those unable to come to church.

Thanks to the congregation, many donations of gently used clothes were gladly received by the Community Action Center in Aaronsburg at the end of May.

Meanwhile, throughout the year, Deacons set up and tidied away Communion and made calls to ushers and greeters just before their turn to serve.

Always with generous donations of dishes from our congregation, Deacons have been able to provide lunches after funeral services, on occasion helping the family to serve the food, furnishing sandwiches for a small memorial or lunch for a crowd.

All in all a year of opportunity to serve.

Thank you all.

Linda Young, Sharon Heimbaugh, Gayle Sunday, Aileen Hudson, Nancy Poust, Bonnie Spetzer