



The Vine

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church

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July/August 2019



RBC KIDS SUMMER FUN

Attention all children in RBC Kids! This summer Ryan Seckman, the Youth Director, has some great fun activities planned for you. Please mark these dates on your calendars.

July 18, 4-7 PM: GAME NIGHT

Meet at the church for a time of **Olympic Style Games** and **Pizza**. Please bring a friend to join the fun.

August 4, 3-7 PM: FAMILY POOL PARTY

You and your family are invited to a **FAMILY POOL PARTY** at Tyler and Jack Parker's house. Please invite a friend and his/her family. Of course, there will be swimming, dinner of hot dogs and lots of fun. Children must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP would be helpful, but if you find at the last minute you can come, please do.

BOOK CLUB



The RBC book club is going on summer vacation during July and August. Enjoy some summer reading on your own and we will get together again in September.

I wanted to say Thank You to everyone at RBC for the past 7+ years. It has been a pleasure working with you, whether it has been face-to-face, via phone or email. Prayers for Dave as your Interim Pastor and the continued search process for your next Pastor. I wish the best for the RBC community.

Lee Kratz



All Are Invited to be a Part of Helping the Earth

Most of us are aware that there is an environmental crisis at hand. In fact, it is becoming more urgent by the day to change our ways, as a planet, and turn the destruction of our beautiful earth around. This does sound harsh, because it is rapidly getting worse. Two of us recently attended a presentation by Richard Whiteford, an internationally acclaimed climate change expert, at a local library, who took an hour to explain the crisis in great detail. The dire straits of our situation were alarming at best. The bottom line is that we all need to get on board the environmental express at full steam ahead. We have a limited number of years to turn it around. This expert (whose bio is almost as long as this article) says that we must cut emissions by 45% in the next 12 years, and by 100% (to 0) in the next 26 years, or else we may not be able to save the planet. I don't know about you, but it sounded very sobering to me.

The good news is that a great number of people and organizations are working very hard to make this happen. Our church too has formed a Green Team to work together, both within and without RBC, to make a difference. The first goal of the Team is to educate in a number of ways. Each month will be an article in the newsletter about ways we can all work together to help preserve our earth. For example, one may focus on energy – how to eliminate dependence on fossil fuels, and make the switch to renewables. Another article will be how to reduce the number of plastics we use. Plastics are showing up everywhere - in our oceans, in the animals, in our food, and even in our own bodies. There will be facts and figures about each situation, and then suggestions of what we all can do. We can help individually, or take on bigger tasks together. We welcome any comments or questions, directed to Kay Rolfs Massaglia at (216) 313-8236.

At our first meeting April 7, we decided to focus on recycling, which we are finding out is a fairly broken system, and on community gardening. Two folks from the community joined us at our meeting, and a young man presented his ideas about community gardening, and we would like to support him in this endeavor. His emphasis is to build relationships along with providing the ground to grow the garden. We will keep you posted as this evolves.

The goals for our church include, along with education, purchasing reusable mugs, glasses, and napkins for all members to be able to use at any function. We already have the dishes and silverware, and a dishwasher that takes literally 3 minutes, so it would be nice to have available the rest of the frequently used items. We are also going to explore renewable energy for RBC. This gives you an idea of where we began.

So I invite you to come aboard the Environmental Express. You can come as a spectator or a participant. It is up to you. My mantra is that (almost) every decision we make all day either helps or hurts the planet. Once we help you become more informed, what will you choose to do? Stay tuned for next month's update. And welcome aboard!

Kay Rolfs Massaglia

We welcome Mrs. Terry Myers to our Administrative Assistant position. She and her husband, Tom, served for over 17 years as missionaries in Bulgaria. Terry will begin fulltime with us as the first of August.

A WORD FROM YOUR INTERIM PASTOR:

BEST MIX

Because Ellen and I lived in Prague for five years, Olympians from the Czech Republic tend to attract our attention. During the 2004 Summer Olympics, Roman Šebrle (a Czech) was one of the top contenders for the Decathlon. (I wanted to follow him in the 2008 Olympics, but, to my disappointment, he was injured and couldn't take part.)

But if we go back to the 2004 Olympiad, there's a lesson to be learned. As you know, the Decathlon consists of ten different track and field competitions. When the dust had settled, here's how Šebrle fared: he didn't do so well in the 1500 meters—he came in 23rd of 39 entrants (though, of course, there were hundreds of other athletes who didn't even make the cut). Šebrle did much better in the 100 meters—he reached 10th in that one. He also placed 5th in the 100 meter hurdles, and excelled as a 4th place contestant in four events: the high jump, 400 meter race, discus, and pole vault. (Note that in seven of the ten events, he would not have won even a bronze medal.) But Šebrle came in 2nd in the long jump and 1st in both the shot put and the javelin. All in all, his performance was nothing to write home about. But Roman Šebrle's final score of 8,893 points set a new Olympic record for the Decathlon! From that time until the London Games in 2008, he was recognized as the greatest athlete in the world.

Your Search Committee, meeting almost weekly for the past several months, has been working faithfully and diligently at their task. They've compiled demographics about our church membership and the greater Royersford community, engaged the congregation in a significant information-gathering event on March 3, and listened attentively at three important Town Hall sessions (in which over half of the congregation participated) and an all-church retreat (at which a third of the congregation was present). Each of those "listening sessions" contributed significantly to the Search Team's understanding of RBC's identity, mission, and future. They have repeatedly talked together about what they've heard from you, assessed our unique culture and needs, and discussed leadership styles. They have been praying seriously and intentionally, and have just unanimously identified eight criteria for the kind of pastoral characteristics they have determined are most critical for RBC's future. Now they are about to put finishing touches on a church profile that will be available to potential candidates.

It means that all the *preparation work* has almost been completed. Even though it seems like it's taken a long time, this "season of discovery" (for both congregation and Search Team) has been essential to the process, because a particular Spirit-led vision has been emerging which now commands the Committee's attention.

The actual search will begin when they receive and sift through names from a computerized search of American Baptist pastors (perhaps *scores* of them). They'll discover that each of these candidates is a gifted *follower of Jesus* and a *genuine servant* of the church, and all of them will have the right *pastoral skills*. But *very few* will be *just right* for Royersford Baptist. That is, our Search Team will be looking for the individual with the right "mix" of gifts and the right personality for our unique culture, history, and ministry.

Here's where the Roman Šebrle story is important. It's a reminder that the pastor the Lord is leading here will probably not fulfill all *your* "top priorities" or expectations, or match your theological perspective, or preach the way you want. He or she may not dress in a way that you think is appropriate or may not have the sense of humor you expect. *No candidate will perfectly match all the priorities you feel are important*. Yes, there will be many pastors who *do* have those particular characteristics, but, alas, they may not even reach 39rd place in their ability to meet the other needs identified by the Search Team. That's because *no candidate* comes 1st in every category; *no pastor* can match *exactly* every desire of every member of the congregation.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Thankfully, the Search Committee reflects the breadth of diversity in our church family, so you can be sure that your perspective is represented among them. But they will be seeking the best *mix of gifts* that most closely matches our need. It's the *overall assortment of skills, training, giftedness, theology, and personality* that gets the gold medal!

So, for the future health of RBC, you might have to let go of one or two of your “druthers” in order to obtain *twenty* other traits that are essential. Your new pastor will be a *unique* individual, a very real *person* with a very real *personality*, not just an embodiment of "pastoral traits." Likely he or she will be *different* from every other pastor you've ever known, and won't fit the mold you've got in mind. That's as it should be, because *every* pastor is unique. The Search Team's responsibility is to "discover" that unique person the Lord is calling here, and the exciting day will soon come when they will *unanimously* and *enthusiastically* present their recommendation for your approval.

That's why your ongoing prayer support is so critical, not only for the Search Team, but for that special pastor who will also be praying for the Lord's leading, but who might not yet know that RBC even exists.

Don't ever forget that our Lord is still working with us, because you are *His* church, and He's got a particular new pastor in mind for you. As the Apostle Paul writes, “*God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us*” (Eph. 3:20-21). Yes, God is *working out* a marvelous future for us, and He will do *much more* in and through you in the years ahead than you can even *imagine* right now!

So keep your sneakers tied, because, when the dust settles and your new pastor is in place, the Lord is going to blow your socks off!

David M. Brown

Motoring with the Graduates

In June, the Graduates [retirees] of RBC toured the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles.

The museum is preserving Pennsylvania transportation history. Museum volunteers served as hosts to explain the many vehicles at the museum.

The vehicles exhibited expanded from horse-drawn sleighs and carriages, to Model T's, to the first delivery trucks, to bicycles and motorcycles. And, the exhibit included an old Sun Oil Co. gas station, and a Reading Diner. The Graduates were reminded of various items from their younger days. A 1923 open car reminded Weege and Sandy of the photograph of their toddler mother, Anna sitting in one with her father, mother and Anna's three older siblings. Their father, Ben worked on the PA turnpike in the 1950's, a display case of photographs and other memorabilia. A jeep and a personnel carrier truck from WW11 manufactured at Auto Car Co. [a local company at that time, during the war]. One other vehicle, a horse drawn hearse from England sported Waterford glass windows; it was the only vehicle from another country in the museum.

The Graduates' next outing, July 2, includes lunch at Spring-Ford Diner followed back at RBC, by Pastor Dave Brown and Reid Trulson talking about their ministries in Europe. Everyone is invited. Please contact Bob Yeomen 610-287-8168.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July

Bob and Sharon Brownback	10
Fred and Weege Neiffer	14
Reid and Janelle Trulson	24
Shawn and Abigail Turley	26
Dave and Jo-Ann Messer	29

August

Stan and Marty Murray	4
George and Melissa Reitnour	6

July

Elaine Fitzgibbons	2
Sandy Smoyer	3
Mark Fisher	5
Melissa Reitnour	5
Ronald McCorkle	14
Nancy Ritchie	17
Nancy O'Neil	27
Judy Denning	28
Susan Vaughn	29
Cathy Slade	31

Happy Birthday

August

Marge Henkel	2
Peter Dramby	9
Kris Lutton	12
Joyce Hedrick	15
Reid Trulson	15
Emily Parker	26
Margoth Hinostroza	30



The birthday/anniversary lists of active members/regular attenders has been updated. If there are any additions/changes that need to be made, please contact the church office.

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The Vine is published 6 times a year by Royersford Baptist Church (RBC)
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Ryan Seckman, Youth Director
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Lara Cifelli, Worship Coordinator
Sharon Brownback, Choir Director
Alex Cifelli, Accompanist
Kenneth Gaugler, Custodian
Kristin Christopher, Nursery School Director
RBC is affiliated with American Baptist Churches in the USA

If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail, please contact the Administrative Assistant at 610-948-4170 or send an e-mail to rbcabc@rbcabc.org

Office Schedule

Monday through Friday 9 am - 3 pm

Pastor Dave's office hours

Monday through Thursday
9 am – 12 pm

If these times don't work for you, please call the office. We will help you schedule an appointment for a time convenient for you.

Ryan's Hours

Monday Off
Tuesday 11 am – 3 pm
Wednesday 10 am – 3 pm
Thursday 12 pm – 4 pm
Friday 11 am – 2 pm

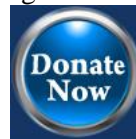
Sunday Schedule

9:30 am – Worship
10:10 am – RBC Kids

RBC Lay Leadership

Moderator - Bob Brownback
Vice Moderator - Ken George
Education - Millie Collins
Adult Education Program, RBC Kids, Church Nursery, RBC Nursery School, VBS
Worship - Janelle Trulson
Choir, Communion, Drama, Hosts, Planning, Technology, Worship Leaders
Spiritual Growth & Caring – Vacant
Gifts Discovery, Small Groups, Social Event Planning, Women's Ministries
Mission & Outreach – Reid Trulson
ABC Missions, CROP, Evangelism, Hands-on-Worship, Mission Trips, RBC Players
Administrative Support - Dave Messer
Buildings and Grounds, Kitchen Team, Finance/Business, Office Volunteers, Staff Relations, Website/Public Relations
Youth Ministry – Allison Fisher
Small Groups, Student Leadership, Summer Mission, After School Program, Youth Group

If you have been touched by the ministry of RBC, you can be part of continuing our ministry together through your financial gifts. Our website has online giving options that make it possible for you to be a part of supporting the work of Royersford Baptist Church. Your gifts and your prayers make a vital difference in the Kingdom of God.



For the latest in news and information about Royersford Baptist Church go to

www.rbcabc.org