



The Vine

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church

Volume 51/ Issue 2

March/April 2020



At a glance:

Sundays in March: Adult *Selectives* class on Elijah the Prophet led by Reid Trulson.

March 8: Daylight Savings Time begins.

Sundays in April: Adult *Selectives* class led by The Green Team.

HOLY WEEK:

April 5: Palm Sunday

April 9: Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm

April 10: Good Friday

April 11: RBC Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 11 am

April 12: Easter Sunday



WHO'S IN CHARGE IN YOUR HOUSE?

By Stan Murray

It's my joy to be invited to write this article for you this month. Let me ask you a question as we get started. What is the ongoing commitment you have to *strengthening* your relationship with Christ?

I want to tell you a story that I read some time ago written by a man named Robert Munger. I was actually only six years old! It's called *My Heart, Christ's Home*. I am going to paraphrase the story for you in hopes you can understand how important an *ongoing, deepening* relationship with Jesus must be our highest priority in life.

Munger says that one evening he invited Jesus into his heart, and it was a feeling of overwhelming peace and joy, not spectacular, but very real.

Jesus turned on a light where it had been dark and set a fire in the fireplace of his life to banish the chill. He started music where there had been silence. He said to Jesus, "Lord, I want this heart of mine to be yours. I want you to be at home in my life here. Let me show you around."

He showed Jesus the **study/library**, a secluded, control room of his house. Jesus looked at the books on the shelves, the magazines on the table, and the pictures on the walls. Munger began thinking to himself, "I didn't used to feel self-conscious in here, but now I do!"

Then he took Jesus into the **dining room**, which Munger uses as a symbol of appetites and desires. Jesus sat at the table and asked him what was for dinner. Munger replied, "Money, academic degrees, stocks, and newspaper articles about fame and fortune."

When dinner was served, Jesus just sat there looking at it, and said to him, "If you want food that really satisfies, do the will of your Heavenly Father."

They went into the **living room** where it was intimate and quiet. Jesus said, "This is a wonderful room. Let us come here often where we can fellowship together." And then Jesus said, "I'll meet you here every morning and we'll start the day together."

Morning after morning, he would join Jesus who would take the Bible from the bookcase and they would open it and read together. But little by little, there were other responsibilities and the time got shortened. It wasn't intentional, but he began to miss a day now and then, and then many days. Urgent matters would crowd out time with Jesus.

And then one morning he rushed down ready to go out, and he noticed the door to the living room was open, and he saw Jesus in there with a warm fire. He thought, "Jesus is my guest. I invited him into my heart, but I am neglecting him." When he stepped inside, he apologized to Jesus and asked if he'd been there every morning. Jesus said, "Yes, I've been here and will meet you here every day as I promised. I love you and value your friendship."

Next, Munger took Jesus into the **garage**. In the garage there was a workbench and tools, but Munger wasn't using them much. Jesus asked, "What are you producing for the Kingdom of God?" Munger held up a poorly made toy that he'd made and Jesus asked if he'd like to do better. "Certainly," replied Munger. And Jesus said, "Good. Let me take your hands and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you." Cont'd on Pg.3

And then came the **Rec Room**, a place for fun and family. Munger was hoping Jesus wouldn't ask about this room, but Jesus took him in and found out that all the "entertainment" that was watched was not something Munger actually wanted Jesus to know about!

One night Munger was going out with his buddies. Jesus asked if he could go along. Munger responded, "I don't think, Lord, that you would be comfortable with my friends. Let's go out tomorrow night, just you and me. We'll go to Bible study at church." Jesus said, "Oh, I thought you wanted to do everything together as close companions. I just want you to know that I'm ready and willing to go with you everywhere."

One day Munger saw Jesus standing by the front door. Jesus said, "There's a peculiar odor in the house. Something must be dead in here. I think it's upstairs in the hall closet." As soon as Jesus mentioned it, Munger knew exactly what he was talking about. It was a small closet that he kept locked, a room with personal things in it he didn't want anyone to know about. So he and Jesus mounted the stairs, and as they got closer to that closet, Munger felt angry. He had given Jesus access to the library, dining room, living room, garage, rec room, and now he was asking about a small closet. Munger decided he was not going to give Jesus the key. Jesus said, as if reading his thoughts, "You are mistaken if you think I'm going to stand up here by this odor. I'm going out on the front porch."

Then Munger said, "O.K., Jesus. I'll give you the key, but I can't clean out that closet by myself. You'll have to do it." And Jesus said, "Just give me the key and authorize me to clean it out. I'll take care of it." Once Munger did that he felt a joyous release and victory.

Finally, Munger transferred the title of the whole house to Jesus. He said, "Lord, you have been a guest here and I have been the host. But I want to be the servant and let you be the owner and Master." He ran to the safe and took out the deed, signed it over to Jesus, and said, "Here is all that

I am. I want you to run the house now." And he sums it up by saying, "Things are different since Jesus Christ has settled down and made his home in my heart."

When we get the right starting point, the perfect orientation and focus of our faith, then everything else can sort itself out: what our individual lives should become, where God wants us for the future of our church, how we deal with important social issues, our future, and *EVERYTHING* else that keeps us up at night!

Our starting point comes in understanding Jesus. Once you give him ownership of your life, everything else *falls into place and makes sense!* And Jesus begins to fill us with all the riches and fullness of God. We begin to see life differently. While things continue to change around us as they have and always will, we find security in our relationship with Jesus.

What about you? Does Jesus have possession of the deed to your house? Have you signed it over to Him yet? If you have ever bought or sold a home you know that a title search is required. The new owner has to be positive that when ownership is transferred, the whole house, every part, every room is included in the deal. How much of your house does Jesus own? Any locked closets that you can't or don't know how to turn over to him?

It's a pretty simple formula. Let Jesus run only parts of your life and you will still struggle with the change we have to endure, not to mention that we will only experience a relatively small part of the rich blessings that God is ready, will-

*Choose for yourselves today
whom you will serve...*

**As for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord.**

Joshua 24:15

www.plainbibleteaching.com



RBC Youth

This past February our church hosted a special ABCOPAD student event that we called “Momentum”. Student ministries in our region were invited out to a full Saturday event to connect with one another and be in fellowship. We kicked off the day with a couple hours of ice skating at Center Ice in Oaks, and had a blast! We then proceeded back to RBC to play a group game and have opportunity for these groups to blend together. Meanwhile, a group of musicians from Eastern University were preparing to lead us in an experimental worship session. This being something our youth group has been doing for a year or so now, we wanted to share this with these other church groups and get some college kids involved as well. We set up several prayer stations and worship-full activities around the sanctuary and the musicians lead the time with worship music. We then closed out the event with dinner and dessert! It was a very successful event that we are very thrilled about, and we can’t wait to get these groups together again.

In fact, it is happening very soon! We are already planning a weekend retreat in April for this regional ABCOPAD student ministry. This is something special God is building and we are excited about the possibilities!

—Ryan Seckman



RBC ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 11

**Beginning at 11:00 am sharp,
rain or shine!**

**All children toddlers through 5th grade
are welcome.**

**Donations of money for candy and
prizes may be given to Rose Stauffer
or Marge Henkel.**



ROYERSFORD BAPTIST CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday, April 17TH - Saturday, April 18TH

Mariawald Renewal Center Shillington, PA

MEET FRIDAY AND RETURN SATURDAY AFTER DINNER.

COME AND ENJOY A RELAXING TIME WITH THE WOMEN OF RBC!

Our women's retreat will truly be a time to relax with a whole new approach this year. We will schedule things you will enjoy, but will not be having a leader study. We're starting with dinner on Friday night! Delicious hot soups, tasty salads and sandwiches. Bring your favorite snacks and desserts to share. Play some games and get to know the fantastic ladies of RBC (and their friends). It's 26 hours of not having to be anywhere or do anything. No cooking or cleaning or errands. Just kick back in your comfy clothes and slippers and unwind!

The cost for the retreat is \$60.00 but if that's more than your budget can handle, there are scholarships available. Sign-up at the welcome center starting March 8, or contact Bernice Rogers at bernice.rogers@gmail.com for information on signing-up. Bernice will collect your payment in cash or by check and can help if you want a full or partial scholarship. Invite your friends and be sure to register by April 5th for this fun, relaxing and unique women's retreat.



ACTORS NEEDED!

We are looking for 13 men and 1 woman to take part in a dramatization of the Last Supper for the Maundy Thursday service, Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm.

Memorization preferred but not required. Volunteer now before all the spots are filled! Beards are optional :-)

Please let Lara Cifelli or Sharon Brownback know of your interest.

GREEN TEAM LEADS CLASSES **ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

April is designated as Earth Month, which includes Earth Day. So the Green Team thought it would be a good month to have a class about environmental concerns. God's beautiful Earth, the gift to us to sustain all life, has been ravaged and is being destroyed by multiple causes. Our job is to find out more about this and how we can help be a part of the solution to save our Earth. Time is running out as our planet continues to heat up, and change must be swift. National Geographic says, "Glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, cloud forests are dying, and wildlife is scrambling to keep pace...Humans have caused most of this warming by releasing heat-trapping gases as we power our modern lives...causing changes to the Earth's climate. Humans continue to add heat trapping gases to the atmosphere...What will we do to slow this human-caused

warming? ...the fate of the earth hangs in the balance." Each class will present one problem, then ways to help. The planning is not 100% complete, but this much is sure: the first class will be an introduction to the whole situation. Not sure of the order yet, others classes will focus on plastics and recycling, paper, food, water, and socially responsible investing. We also hope to touch on energy, as well as air quality. Come to one or come to all of the classes for some eye opening awareness, as well as hands on suggestions for personal, community, corporate and law changing steps to take. It is not really an option that we all need to make changes to help save the Earth. Jump aboard the Environmental Express, to be informed and be intentional about how you too can help save our planet. Hope to see you there!



RETREAT FOR MEN AND YOUNG MEN

Sponsored by the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABMOPAD)

*“Do Not Just Listen—Do Something!”
(James 1:22)*

Friday, July 24 - Sunday, July 26, 2020
Shippensburg University
Shippensburg, PA

Featuring:

- ◆ Service work project
- ◆ Youth program (4th grade-high school)
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Testimonies

Registration is \$180 by May 15

More information available at: abmopad.org

A copy of the program is available in the church office.



**ROYERSFORD
BAPTIST CHURCH
NURSERY SCHOOL**

Registration opened in January for the 2020-2021 school year at Royersford Baptist Church Nursery School. For more information and to schedule a tour, please contact Kris Christopher at: director@rbcms.org.

“THRIVING THROUGH SEEING”

A Conference for Women and Girls!

Sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries of Pennsylvania & Delaware

MAY 15-16, 2020

Blair County Convention Center
Altoona, PA

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Kelly Legg

Missionary Speaker: IM Missionary

Corenne Smith, Brazil

Program booklet available in the church office.

Adult Conference Fee: \$100 (excluding hotel)

Girls (Grades 5-12): \$100 (including hotel)



America for CHRIST OFFERING 2020

“You shall
LOVE your
NEIGHBOR
as **YOURSELF.**”
MATTHEW 22:39



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2020

Jesus teaches us to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Our church follows Jesus’ teaching by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors’ needs, physical and spiritual alike.

Our efforts are supported by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) which provides resources for cultivating leaders, equipping disciples, and healing and transforming communities. Through ABHMS, we serve neighbors in Puerto Rico and other places in the United States in long-term recovery after natural disasters. Indeed, ABHMS provides many ways to help our church love our neighbors, near and far!

RBC supports this work through our gifts to the American for Christ (AFC) Offering. Each dollar given increases the ministry and impact of ABHMS to serve neighbors with ministries that are living expressions of Christ’s love, justice and compassion. In addition, 26% of this offering is used in our own Region, the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD). One of the way ABCOPAD is helping RBC is by assisting the search for our new pastor.

By population, the United States is the world’s third largest mission field. In 2019 our gifts to America for Christ supported ministries such as:

- +Rebuilding churches and homes in Puerto Rico.
- +Providing scholarships to students burdened with excessive student-loan debt.
- +Working with organizations that have resettled more than 100,000 persons from across the world.
- +Partnering with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty.
- +Helping ex-offenders to re-enter their communities.
- +Supporting efforts to help others come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Please give generously to the 2020 America for Christ Offering as we partner with ABHMS to love our neighbors and share the gospel.



With the approach of warmer weather, our thoughts naturally turn outdoors. With Spring comes another Earth Day, on April 22nd. This year is the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day. Why do we care? And what does this mean for us as Christians? I believe the Earth Day movement and our own beliefs are very much in alignment. In 1969, Gaylord Nelson, the US Senator from Wisconsin, saw firsthand the devastation of an oil spill in California. Inspired by the energy of the anti-war movement, he hoped to switch that energy to environmental concerns. And it worked! On the first Earth Day in 1970, over 20 million Americans participated in coast to coast rallies for a healthy, sustainable environment. Before the end of the year, the EPA was formed, which led to the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Act. Earth Day today with the theme, "Climate Action" is the largest secular movement in the world, with over a billion people and over 190 countries engaged. There are opportunities here at RBC to be a part of a movement which honors the protection and preservation of God's beautiful Earth. First, we have formed a Green Team, working toward helping our church to be informed, be active, and be intentional in this movement. You are welcome to join. Second, we are sponsoring a class in April and May, designed to educate the congregation about both the problems and the solutions. Find out more details in a separate article in this newsletter. Third, there are dozens of Earth Day events in the area, including a Litter Pickup on April 25th right here in Royersford. Also, a Stream Cleanup is sponsored by the Perkiomewatershed.org, on April 4th from 9-12am. They are hoping for 1,500 volunteers. If you are interested, search online at earth-day.org under events, and find one that fits your interests and timeframe. Meanwhile, don't forget that we need to protect and help God's beautiful Earth every day, not just Earth Day. Litter pickup, highlighted in next month's newsletter, is one example. Meanwhile you are invited to participate in Earth Day, the world's largest secular movement. This many people trying to save our Earth? I want to be a part. Will you?



Upcoming Concert:

St. John's Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Circle in Phoenixville, presents **Simple Gifts**, two women plus ten instruments, in concert 4:00 pm, Sunday, March 15. Enjoy a wide variety of ethnic folk music from lively Irish jigs to down-home American reels, haunting Gypsy melodies to lush Scandinavian twin fiddling.

No tickets required; a freewill offering will be received.

The Spring 2020 *Secret Place* is available on the table near the coat rack, just off the Narthex. Pick up your free copy!

RBC's WINTER STORM CANCELLATION POLICY

For Sunday morning activities: The Moderator and the Leadership Council will make the final decision. Such a decision will be made by 6:30 a.m. whenever there are extremely bad weather conditions. A decision to cancel will be communicated on the RBC website, our Facebook page and the message system on the church phone. People are encouraged to pass the message on the friends who may not hear through these means.

Weekday activities and church office: If the local schools close or if there is a warning by state officials to stay off the roads, the church office will be closed that day. Any all-church activities will also be cancelled. Small group activities will be decided upon by the various organizations.

RBC's ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE 2020

Moderator— Ken George

Vice Moderator— Bob Brownback

Clerk— Emily Parker

Treasurer— George Reitnour

Financial Secretary— Bernice Rogers

Education— Millie Collins

(Adult Education, RBC Kids, Church Nursery, RBC Nursery School, Vacation Bible School)

Worship— Janelle Trulson

(Choir, Communion, Drama, Hosts, Planning, Technology, Worship Leaders)

Spiritual Growth & Caring— Mark Hite

(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 & Grounds, Kitchen Team, Finance/Business, Office Volunteers, Staff Relations, Website/Public Relations)

Youth Ministry— Charlie Denning

(Small Groups, Student Leadership, Summer Mission, After-School Program, Youth Group)

This list identifies RBC's administrative structure, including the Clusters for church activities, as well as the name of the individual who is responsible for those activities. These Cluster Facilitators help make up the Leadership Council. Please contact the appropriate Facilitator if you have questions, comments or needs. Most names, emails and phone numbers can be found in the church directory.

Additionally, during this in-between time until we select our new pastor, the following individuals have agreed to help meet our spiritual needs: Stan Murray, Jose Ortiz, Marcia Ricketts, Stan Slade, Cyndi & David Strosahl, Sarah Strosahl-Kagi and Reid Trulson.



MARCH

Tyler Parker	2
Jenny Bedford	3
Fred Neiffer	3
Haydee Ortiz	3
Scott Ritchie	10
Beth Smith	11
Bill Wanner	12
Alverna Bedford	14
Bob Dearolf	14
Ken George	17
Amy Wheeler	19
Amelia Yeoman	19
Marilyn Weikel	20
Marty Murray	22
Jason Ritchie	26

APRIL

Julie Williams	2
Danielle Crist	9
Rose Stauffer	11
Peg Pascale	15
Herb Rogers	15
Rebecca Romain	20
Joan Russell	21
Weegee Neiffer	25
Mickey McDaniel	27
Bob Yeoman	28
Bernice Rogers	29



Dan & Rose Stauffer	March 2
Jose & Haydee Ortiz	April 5
Bob & Amelia Yeoman	April 12
Herb & Bernice Rogers	April 22

If there are any additions/changes that need to be made to the birthday and anniversary list, please contact the church office.

Royersford Baptist Church
452 S. Lewis Road
Royersford, PA 19468

Royersford Baptist Church (RBC)

Office - 610-948-4170

Email - rbcabc@rbcabc.org

Website - www.rbcabc.org

Staff:

Pastor -

Youth Director- Ryan Seckman

Worship Coordinator- Lara Cifelli

Choir Director- Sharon Brownback

Accompanist- Alex Cifelli

Administrative Assistant- Terry Myers

Interim Custodian- Bo Delano

Nursery School Director- Kristin
Christopher

***RBC is affiliated with American
Baptist Churches USA***

Office Hours:

**Monday through Friday,
9 am - 3 pm**

Youth Pastor's Hours:

Monday Off

Tuesday 11 am – 3 pm

Wednesday 9 am – 2 pm

Thursday 11 am – 3 pm

Friday 11 am – 3 pm

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

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am – Worship

10:10 am – RBC Kids

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 differ-
ence in the Kingdom of
God.

