



The Vine

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church

Volume 50/ Issue 3

May/June 2019

ATTENTION RBC!

Save the dates:

Sunday, May 19, 10:45 am - Town Hall Meeting
(the future of RBC)

Saturday, May 25, 9:00 am - All-Church Retreat
(follow-up on Town Hall Meeting)



GRADUATE RECOGNITION

If you know someone related to our congregation who is graduating this spring, please let the church office know as soon as possible.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Our interim pastor will be holding a church membership class for anyone who is interested in becoming an “official” member of RBC. The class will be held on Saturday morning, June 1, from 10- 12 o’clock. Please let Dave know if you’re interested!

American Baptist Men of PA & DE

Retreat for Men and Young Men
Friday, July 26 – Sunday, July 28, 2019
Shippensburg University
Shippensburg, PA

THEME: Nothing is Impossible with God
(Luke 1:37)
So Let Your Light Shine for Jesus to
All! (Matthew 5:16)

Registration information available at
abcopad.org

**A WORD FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR:
THE SUMMER I LEARNED TO PLAY THE PIANO**

David M. Brown
May-June Vine

When I was growing up, we'd sit at Sunday dinner around the dining room table and Dad would invariably turn on the old hi fi. Most of the time (probably at my request) it was a cherished recording of great classical piano music which included "Clare de Lune," "Traumerei," "Fantasy Impromptu," and "Moonlight Sonata." The music made a lasting impression on me.

The summer after I graduated from high school, my family took a two week vacation. I couldn't go because I had a job, but I decided to learn "Moonlight Sonata" while they were gone (it seemed like the easiest piece on the record). I located sheet music buried in our creaky piano bench and matched up the written notes with the keys on our old upright. (I had taken a year of piano lessons 4 years earlier, which I didn't much like, but it helped me know where all the notes were.) Day after day I worked on the music, early in the morning before work and well into the night after I got home, always starting from the beginning and going as far as I could, repeating it over and over as I gained more ground. Gradually, I worked my way through the entire piece, and, by then, I had it memorized. After that, I could play it without the sheet music whenever I wanted. It was a kind of portable "envelop of prayer" that I could turn to at any time a piano was nearby. When I went to Michigan State, I would sneak off to a music room from time to time at night just to play it through, or sometimes locate an old piano in a church basement when nobody was around. I played it whenever I got the chance. Sometimes I got up the nerve to try it when other people were around, but, mostly, I just enjoyed playing it for myself, either at regular tempo, which took about 6½ minutes, or speeded up to finish it in 4 minutes. It became part of me.

The last time I played "Moonlight Sonata" was about 35 years ago, at the annual talent show in our church basement in Sunland, California. It was my first (and last) "public" performance. I wore my father's old woolen preaching tails, bow tie, and stovepipe trousers with suspenders. When my turn came, I nervously dimmed the lights, placed two lit candelabras on top of the old spinet, apologized publicly to Ludwig van Beethoven, sat down, and, with trembling fingers and shortness of breath, played adequately through the entire piece, even past the part where I often stumbled. When the last chord faded away, I received a rousing (but completely undeserved) standing ovation, the only one in my life.

It was the last time I played the *Moonlight Sonata*, even privately. Today, if you were to ask me, I know that most of the first notes are on black keys, but I can't remember which keys they are. Regretfully, I just can't bring *any* of it to mind. I started well, but I didn't keep at it; *I didn't persevere*.

Perseverance is important in the life of the church, too, especially during an interim period. I'm reminded of what James writes:

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces *perseverance*. Let perseverance finish its work *so that you may be mature and complete*, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4).

James is reminding us that trials (like those that come during an interim season) *test* our faith. That is, our faith is *proven* (or *refined*) by fire, like gold, through the stresses we face, and our *purified* faith creates *perseverance*, and perseverance, in turn, leads to *maturity*. So when we *remain faithful in our work*, when we "keep on keeping on" during a season of impatience, great *endurance* is produced in us that generates *maturity* that, in turn, enables us to capture the exciting future our Lord has for us!

We've done very well since Karen's retirement. Attendance has been healthy in worship, our Bible studies, and the Selectives' class. Our Search Team is meeting almost weekly. The Graduates and our small groups are continuing to gather faithfully. Current ministries are keeping their course (like RBC Kids, our growing youth program, and our women's retreat) and new ones are emerging (like our voter care, a new all-church Easter breakfast, and the Green Team). And our Leadership Council is looking ahead to a retreat at the end of May. An exciting and hopeful future awaits. Can you imagine what your new pastor will inherit here at RBC?!

But even as momentum builds toward the calling of that new pastor, I encourage us, as never before, to *keep at it*: James writes that "*perseverance must finish its work*." As our Search Committee finalizes the church profile and begins to sift through suitable pastoral candidates, it's important for all of us to keep up our disciplines, pray intentionally, maintain a visible "presence" in the community, enhance our study of Scripture, and continue to join together in worship, especially now with the coming of the summer months.

Yes, some of us may feel like slowing down, but when things get tough or we get impatient, that's the most important time to *stay faithful*, because when our faith is "tested" like that and we remain committed to our Lord and our church, great things will happen in and through us.

Take a lesson from me: if we don't persevere, we could lose the music!

A Letter from the American Baptist World Relief Officer:

Dear Friends,

God is doing **more than we can imagine**.

Everywhere we turn, it seems there are communities in conflict and chaos around our world. We hear of families being separated from their homes or each other because of disasters. Maybe it is because of a volcanic eruption in Indonesia, or because of wars and political turmoil in Syria and East Africa, or because of violence in Central America. Daily we hear of such news and our hearts pull us toward God.

In the midst of suffering and uncertainty, God pulls us, calls us, uses us to be compassion. We, the Church are called to be God's compassion at work in the world, helping to rebuild and create a better world for all.

The world we are being called to create may seem beyond what we can imagine. But it is a world that God can imagine.

Through **One Great Hour of Sharing** we are creating, together, a world where families have access to clean water, education and medical care – where they can find new homes without persecution; it is a world where there is shalom. And you are making that possible. You are making what God imagines for this world a reality.

Thank you for your generous gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing**. Together we are transforming lives in ways that are more than we can imagine.

In grateful partnership,
Lisa Rothenberger-Winter
World Relief Officer

NOTE from RBC Mission & Outreach Cluster: We will receive gifts for the 2019 **One Great Hour of Sharing** throughout the month of June. Thank you for giving generously again this year.



RBC BUILDING GETS LOTS OF USE!

You may not know it, but our facility is a very busy place during the week. Our very own RBC Nursery School ministers to young children throughout the week. And of course, the rest of the RBC family is here for group meetings, events, practices, etc. But beyond that, we also host several non-profit groups and rent space to others.

Those who use our building include Girl Scouts, PFLAG, members of neighborhood associations, twelve-step groups, those throwing parties and even election officials. They and others walk through our doors ready to have fun, do business, learn and grow! It's a great way to be good stewards of what God has given us, but it also takes a lot of scheduling.

So please, the next time you are planning an event here in the building, contact Lee in the church office. She can tell you if the room you want is available and get your event scheduled on the official church calendar. Thanks so much for your help!



St. John's Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville, presents the twenty-ninth annual "St. John's Choir & Friends Concert" Sunday, May 5 at 7:00 pm. Fifty-five singers from twenty-four area churches perform a concert entitled "Psalms and Spirituals." Selections feature Psalm settings by John Ness Beck, Randall Thompson, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Cesar Franck and Spirituals including *Swing Low*, *Sweet Chariot*, *There is a Balm in Gilead*, *Give Me Jesus*, *This Little Light of Mine*, *Ain't Got Time to Die*, and *Take Me to the Water*.



This summer, if you can't make it to worship due to travel or other commitments, we encourage you to automate your regular contributions. RBC relies on the consistent financial support of the folks who are a part of our faith community and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. If

you'd rather not set up a recurring gift, you can always give a "one-time gift" to send in your gift when you are away. Go to the church webpage and click on the circle that says "GIVE" to get started. If you have questions, check with the church office.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May

Curt and Emily Parker	1
Guy and Megan Wescott	4
Grace Herstine and Phillip Covelli	17
Bob and Ginny Dearolf	17
Charlie and Judy Denning	22

June

Stan and Cathy Slade	16
Ralph and Dolly Eichelberger	18
Paul and Sandi Rosenberry	27
Alex and Lara Cifelli	30

May

Katie Shalter	4
Ginny Dearolf	10
Stephanie Ford	13
Allison Fisher	20
Jack Parker	21
Stan Murray	23
Lorri Engstrom	24
Norah Turley	24
Philip Covelli	28
Janelle Trulson	30
Helen Christman	31

Happy Birthday

June

Jose Ortiz	1
Samuel Savage	8
Janelle Miller	15
Ron O'Neil	21
Maggie Hite	23
Amy Smith	28



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.

**Royersford Baptist Church
452 S. Lewis Road
Royersford, PA 19464**

Royersford Baptist Church (RBC)
Office - 610-948-4170

Email - rbcabc@rbcabc.org
Website - www.rbcabc.org

Staff -

Rev. Dr. David M. Brown, Interim Pastor
Ryan Seckman, Youth Director
Lee Kratz, Administrative Assistant
Lara Cifelli, Worship Coordinator
Sharon Brownback, Choir Director
Alex Cifelli, Accompanist
Ralph Eichelberger, Interim 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
Lee Kratz at 610-948-4170 or send an
e-mail to rbcabc@rbcabc.org**

Office Schedule

Monday through Friday 8 am - 2 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