



# *The Vine*

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church

Volume 50/ Issue 6

November/December 2019



## ***ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES***

### **Sunday, December 1**

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Everyone is invited to stay after worship to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. There will be trees to trim and much more! Childcare will be offered throughout the morning.

### **Sunday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

The church will be open for time of personal contemplation and preparation for the upcoming Advent season. There will be no formal program.

### **Friday, December 20, 9:00 a.m. RBC Nursery School Christmas Party**

Please join the RBCNS students in the Sanctuary for a short program, followed by snacks.

### **Tuesday, December 24, 6:30 p.m.**

### **Christmas Eve Service**

"What the Donkey Saw" (a message for children of all ages).

## A FINAL WORD FROM YOUR INTERIM:

### 10 RULES FOR HOW TO TREAT

#### YOUR NEW PASTOR

The long wait is nearly over and you will soon be celebrating the arrival of your new pastor! Of course, once the new family arrives on the scene, things are going to have a very different “feel”, along with a sense of “permanency.” So here are a few practical suggestions that should make the transition more comfortable.

1. ***Put your new pastor and his or her family on the top of your prayer list!***

The first months of a new pastorate are tremendously exciting, but they are also stressful, so don't let up on your prayer support.

2. ***Remind each member of the family of your name every time you meet them***, at least for the first few months. Wear your name tag in worship and reintroduce yourself at every opportunity. Trying to remember 150 or so new names will take your pastor's family a lot of time (you'll only have to learn a few new names), so don't expect them to remember your name after meeting you only once or twice.

3. ***Look to your new pastor for leadership.*** As with most churches you have grown “comfortable” in your traditions and ways of doing things, but the past can hamper the fresh movement of the Lord's Spirit. Your new pastor will bring invaluable new ideas, a different experience and perspective on things, and a distinctive personality. As you become more comfortable together (it won't take long!), continue to “grow into” a new future for RBC. Trust your pastor's leadership style, and be open to new ideas and methods. You will soon discover that there *are* other ways to accomplish the work of the Kingdom! Follow your pastor's lead as you walk into the future together.

4. As much as possible during the first few weeks, offer to ***help your pastor's family get settled.*** Take them a meal or two while

they're unpacking boxes and rearranging furniture. If there are kids, show them where the schools are. And you know the best restaurants in the area. Do anything you can to assist them in getting established and comfortable, and help them find their way around town.

5. ***Invite them to your home*** so they can get to know you “as you are”, but also ***allow them their own privacy!*** Living in a fishbowl is never easy, and they will need time to settle into their new home. Find a balance between their public and private lives, but don't neglect either. Take an active interest in them. Learn as much as you can about them. Find out who they are apart from the “church” environment, as *unique, real people* whom the Lord has called to work among you.

6. ***Support the worship and study opportunities of the church like never before, and invite your neighbors and friends.*** Nothing will encourage your new pastor more than seeing a burgeoning congregation at worship, renewed interest in small groups and new ministries, and actively-engaged Bible studies and discussion times. And nothing will excite and energize your new pastor more than seeing you bring new faces into this welcoming community of faith!

7. ***Start now to increase your financial support to RBC.*** Your excitement about a new chapter in ministry should naturally result in even greater sacrificial giving. Put your money where your heart is. Just think what a gift of encouragement that would be to the beginnings of a new and explosive ministry!

8. ***Force your new pastor to keep learning!*** Continuing education opportunities, reading materials, and training events should *not be optional* for your pastor, nor should they be counted as vacation times. In the excitement of new ministry, your pastor will be tempted to neglect personal growth. So *send*

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him or her to Missions Conferences, training experiences, and personal growth opportunities. If your pastor keeps growing, the church will keep growing!

9. As a key American Baptist congregation in the greater Philadelphia area, you have an important responsibility to the larger denominational family. So **encourage your new pastor to engage in ministry beyond RBC**, in American Baptist circles and the great group of local clergy in town.
10. **Decide NOW that you will not say anything negative about your pastor's ministry for the first year.** Like a new pair of shoes, it will take time to feel comfortable with a new style of ministry, so give your pastor some "leadership space." You don't

have to refrain from asking questions or raising important concerns, but put a damper on disapproval, negativity, and gossip in your "parking lot conversations." A new era demands patience, encouragement, and energetic support rather than criticism, so give your pastor, and yourselves, a year at the very least.

RBC is a richly blessed congregation, and your new pastor is in for a treat (as it has been for me)! As your relationship with your new pastor becomes more comfortable, you will discover exciting new opportunities in this next chapter of your history. What a bright future you have, and I join you in praising our Lord for the great things He has done, is doing now, and will be doing! (Ephesians 3:20-21)

With deepest love and respect,  
Dave



For our Christmas project this year, the **Youth Group** will be contacting Project Outreach for the names and Christmas wishes of a few families. We have done this in previous years and find it to be a great ministry to our community, as well as a way for our church family to help make Christmas merrier for these precious families. We will be putting up the Christmas tree on Sunday, December 1 at the Hanging of the Greens. The tree will be decorated with ornaments that the youth have made, and on the back will be something that the family has on their wish list for the holidays. Please take an ornament and bring your **UNWRAPPED gifts** back to church by **December 15**. The youth will wrap the gifts and see that they get delivered to the families. If you have any questions, see Ryan Seckman. Thank you for helping to make Christmas merrier for some of our local families!



Ellen and I cannot begin to thank you enough for the warm reception on my last Sunday with you. Thank you for the “sending off” prayer time and laying on of hands in the worship service, and for the great soups and “eats” at the reception, with special thanks to Melissa and her crew for the set-up and clean-up: you are the unnoticed, humble ones who work “behind the scenes.” Thank you for all the cards, personal notes and gifts, and to Stan and Reid for their remembrances, Dan’s music, and George’s insightful poetry. Most of all, thank you for the support, encouragement and love you’ve shown me along the way, and for sharing your energetic joy over the past year. Ellen joins me in continuing to remember you in our prayers as you discern the identity of your next pastor. May God continue to bless and use you in His service!

David M. Brown

**Our address:**

**1733 Declaration Lane  
Lancaster , OH 43130**

## CALLING ALL DECORATORS!

We are going to decorate for the Advent Season on December 1. We will need “all hands on deck” this year!

Sunday, December 1 is the first Sunday after Thanksgiving so hopefully everyone will be ready to volunteer. Right after our morning worship (about 10:50 a.m.) we will have all the decorations ready to go in the long hallway. You may do the same job you had last year, if you

like. Again this year there will be sign-up posters at the Welcome Desk.

We will have pizza, chips, veggies and drinks for everyone to enjoy when you are done as a reward for all your hard work! It will be lots of fun and every age is welcome. We need tall people, creative people, ladder lovers and everything in between.

Thank you all!

Bernice Rogers

### ***SAYING “THANK YOU” THROUGH THE RETIRED MINISTERS & MISSIONARIES OFFERING***

In the mid-1930’s, many American Baptist congregations received an offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, the American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God’s service.

Our annual gifts to RMMO (the “Thank You offering”) enable the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) to distribute “Thank You” checks on our behalf to approximately 4,000 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries and retired lay employees. This is a tangible way in which we can say “Thank You” to these retired American Baptist servants in ministry. RBC will receive the “Thank You” Offering during the month of December.



## RBC Youth

One of the things our youth group loves to do at least twice a year is to have lock-ins at the church. If you are unfamiliar with what that is, it is basically a large scale sleepover for all the kids, where we fill the night with games, food, movies, and whatever we feel makes for a fun night. Sometimes these nights are structured, with meaningful activities, devotionals/lessons, outings and more... and sometimes we throw structure out the door and have what we all know as organized chaos. Now that I have briefly given a description of what our lock-ins can look like, we can do some math. If we have had at least two lock-ins each year, and I have been the Youth Director at RBC for over six years, how many lock-ins have I been a part of? That is right, at least twelve. And let me tell you something, they don't get easier as each year goes by.

After doing so many lock-ins with our group I jump at every opportunity to do something different or take them to the next level! And this past October we did just that! RBC joined forces with First Baptist Church of Lansdale, First Baptist Church of Bethlehem, Lower Providence Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist in Newark, Delaware, and Calvary Baptist in Allentown to put together the lock-in of all lock-ins. We called it the "Sleepless Sleepover!" and we all brought our groups to First Baptist Church in Lansdale for an action-packed night of not just fun but joined fellowship between all these groups!

Having around 60 youth in attendance, we spent the night going from one activity to the next. We went to Skyzone, had Pizza for dinner, played group games at the church, went to midnight bowling at the local bowling alley, played video games, board games, hosted a movie in the gym, and even found time for a devotional and small group discussion. This was such a fun night for our group, but more than just having a fun night together, I saw this lock-in as a starting point to bringing these church groups together for many more group activities. We are already in the works for a Winter or Spring retreat, and I am very excited for this beginning as our groups partner in ministry together.

As someone who has hosted over twelve lock-ins with our church group, and attended many more over the years, it takes something different and special to really get me excited about the loss of sleep. And while the recovery is always tough after nights like these, I left very excited about the time we had spent together, and what this could mean for our groups as we move forward.

-Ryan Seckman



## Thank You, LORD!

### NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Project Outreach needs toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, diapers and laundry detergent. Their supplies have been depleted. Please bring your donations to the church and leave them in the boxes marked "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" in the Narthex. **We will collect these items through the month of November and dedicate them on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24th.**

**RBC's week to provide food for St. Mary's Shelter for Homeless Families** is November 18 to 22. There is a sign-up sheet at the Information Center in the Narthex. Help is needed for main dishes, vegetables, bread, dessert and delivery to the Shelter by 4:30 p.m. each of the five days. Thank you for your help!

Following two professional safety evaluations, the Education Cluster makes the following safety recommendation:

*Supervision will be provided when the doors to the building are unlocked to seek to promote the safest environment for RBC children and youth. Supervised areas in the Nursery, Fellowship Hall or classrooms will be offered when children and youth are in the building before and after worship, as well as during adult classes and music/choir practices. With this being provided, no child should be left alone in the building by parents/guardians. Please contact Education Cluster to request additional childcare needs.*

### **The Issue With Tissue**

According to a new report (Feb 2019) from the Natural Resources Defense Council, Americans are flushing our forests down the toilet. Paper towels and facial tissue are also culprits. Americans use 15 billion pounds of paper products per year, which comes out to 100 pounds per 4 person household. This takes a dramatic and irreversible toll on the majestic old growth Canadian Boreal forest, with serious consequences for the Indigenous Peoples, treasured wildlife, and the global climate. We don't need to use virgin pulp products because the good news is that there is an easy solution. One may have to give up their favorite brand, but it is crucial to helping save our forests and all who live within. Paper products of all varieties using recycled materials, and responsibly sourced alternative fibers (like bamboo) are readily available. Listed below is a scorecard for a few brands. Those in the "A" category are completely recycled materials, and use a chlorine free bleaching process, at a fraction of the environmental cost.

"A"—Green Forest, 365 Bath Tissue 100% Recycled Everyday Value, Earth First, Natural Value, 7th Generation, Trader Joe's Bath Tissue "B" Marcal 1000, Marcal Small Steps

"D"—365 Sustainably Soft, Cottonelle Ultra Comfort Care, Scott 1000, Scott Comfort Plus, Trader Joe's Super Soft Bath Tissue

"F"—Charmin Ultra Soft, Kirkland Signature, Angel Soft, Quilted Northern, Up and Up Soft and Strong (Target)

More good news is that paper towels can be replaced by old rags, keeping a basket handy, then washing and reusing over and over. Even facial tissues can be replaced with hankies in baskets around the house.

We the consumer have power to help the environment with our choice of even the most basic needs of toilet paper, toilet tissues, and paper towels. Now that you know, what will you do?





**TURNING POINT choir from Eastern University will be leading our worship on November 17th.** *Turning Point* is a select touring group comprised of some of the best vocalists in Eastern University's music department. The ensemble has a legacy stretching nearly 30 years and has toured both locally and internationally. The name *Turning Point* comes from Eastern's sacred roots, grounded in God's word with the understanding salvation is given through Christ alone. *Turning Point* explores this gift of grace through exceptionally challenging and diverse music.

*"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19)*

## Turning Point ~ Eastern University 2019 - 2020



### **RBC's ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

**Moderator**— Bob Brownback

**Vice Moderator**— Ken George

**Clerk**— Emily Parker

**Treasurer**— Weegee Neiffer

**Financial Secretary**— Margoth Hinostroza

**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**— 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 & 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)

*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, Stan Slade, Cyndi & David Strosahl, Sarah Strosahl-Kagi and Reid Trulson.*





### *Dear friends at Royersford Baptist Church,*

It happened on September 7! I turned 70!

Bucky and I went to Asheville, NC, to celebrate this milestone. As we entered into our room at the BnB in which we stayed, there was surprise waiting for me! Valerie, in CA, organized these balloons and a lovely flower arrangement to be delivered into our room before we arrived! I was SO surprised!

Our tour of the Biltmore (<https://www.biltmore.com/>) was the next morning. I had a wonderful 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration!

Upon our return home, I've jumped in with both feet to continue working on my next trip to Nepal in October. During that trip, an IM colleague, Mylinda Baits, (<https://www.internationalministries.org/author/m-baits/>) will present a 3-day workshop *Training in Restorative Arts* for IM's Nepali partners who continue to be involved in the healing process of post-earthquake trauma victims. Through the arts-based experiential education and training of this workshop the healing and wholeness of trauma survivors and creatively transforming conflict can promote resilience and reduce the symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Please pray for the planning of this important workshop.

And turning 70 is not only a celebration, but a trip to the Social Security office and a submission of my retirement letter after serving International Ministries for over 25 years! And so that is what I did!

Effective December of 2019, I will be retired from my role as an International Ministries Global Servant. I will continue for 2 years as a Special Assistant (SA) for Ben Chan, the IM Area Director for Southeast Asia and India, returning to Nepal once a year. SA is a volunteer position that will let me complete the work of the Nepal Earthquake Relief projects and finish with all goals completed.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU, for your faithfulness in supporting and praying for me for so many years, is coming from my heart to all of you!

With IM's fiscal year having ended the end of September, my finances are different now in looking ahead to my retirement the end of December.

Your very faithful support will be with me as I return to my last trip to Nepal in October as an IM Global Servant.

Your faithful prayers will surround me in my last trip to Nepal, this workshop, and my time with other IM Nepali partners.

Your very faithful annual support I received in September is a perfect way of finishing your support to me.

Thanking God for all of you, *Carole*



P.S. from Carole  
10/28/19:

The Training in Restorative Arts was a HUGE success! 55 people attended and everyone was so appreciative of all the new skills they received in how to use the arts as a way of healing from stress and trauma.





### NOVEMBER

Margaret Clevestine	9
Phillip Hinothroza	12
Dorie Shalter	13
Stan Slade	16
Jessica Shalter	19
Shawn Turley	19
Krystal McLaughlin	21
Charlie Denning	25

### DECEMBER

Brett Wescott	1
Jake Wescott	1
Kiera Phillips	4
Ralph Eichelberger	5
Carol Francis	7
Rachel Fisher	12
Ali Wescott	17
Lexi Wescott	17
Megan Wescott	20
Logan Savage	22
Jeff Bedford	25
Sara Ford	27
Martha McDaniel	31



### NOVEMBER

Roger & Deb Savage	3
Bradley & Molly Moser	3
Ron & Nancy O'Neil	22

### DECEMBER

Gene & Amy Wheeler	17
Del & Lorri Engstrom	20
Peter & Joy Dramby	28
Mark & Karen Hite	29

*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](mailto:rbcabc@rbcabc.org)***

***Website - [www.rbcabc.org](http://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.

