

# Around The Hill

The Round Hill Presbyterian Church Newsletter | December 2022

"A caring community in Christ. Making Disciples for Christ. Equipped for ministry by Christ."

## Contact Information & Hours

Church Address:  
2150 Round Hill Church Rd,  
Elizabeth, PA. 15037

Office Phone:  
(412) 384-5889

Office Email:  
[RHPCOffice@comcast.net](mailto:RHPCOffice@comcast.net)

Pastor's Email:  
[RHPCMatt@comcast.net](mailto:RHPCMatt@comcast.net)

Sunday School:  
9:15AM

Sunday Morning Worship:  
10:30AM

Tuesday Recharge: 6PM

Church Website:  
[www.RoundHillChurch.org](http://www.RoundHillChurch.org)

Church Facebook:  
[Facebook.com/  
RoundHillChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RoundHillChurch)

## Save The Date!

Christmas Cantata -  
12/14 at 6:30pm in the  
sanctuary, and  
streaming online!

Annual congregation /  
corporation meeting -  
12/18 after worship in  
the Sanctuary

## From The Pastor's Pen



One of the world's leading experts on rest.



I didn't set my alarm this morning. And as I write, having slept as late as my body wanted to, I am wearing sweatpants and slippers, with my feet up in front of the (artificial but still appealing) fire, sipping tea and listening to classical music.

That's right: today is a vacation day!

More specifically, today is not only one of the vacation days that I am allotted each year under the terms of my call, but also a vacation day on which I do not have anything much scheduled to do; a day on which I am, in fact, resting. We're not always very good at resting, are we?

Even on holidays and days off, we often set ourselves busy schedules and lists of commitments that leave us exhausted at day's end. I'd say that I am more cognizant than many of the need to get regular rest, but still, on a scale of 0 to my dog (the most restful creature I know), my resting habits are still much closer to the "0" end than they ought to be. ...

(Continued on Page 2)

(From the Pastor's Pen, continued from page 1)

... We need rest. God even built rest into the fabric of creation by himself resting on the 7th day and commanding his people to take a sabbath rest every week. Even secular authorities agree, with both governments and employers generally providing for certain days off in the year.

So constantly striving to grind something productive out of every minute of every day is contrary both to our own best interests and to God's plan. Yet, all too often, we are deceived into thinking it somehow shameful or lazy to do anything else.

The Lord is aware of both our need for rest and our frequent difficulty in taking it, and so his Word frequently reminds us of its importance. Psalm 127 might as well have been written directly to our over-busy age: "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved." God will provide and does not require us to drive ourselves to exhaustion and despair trying to do it all ourselves.

Jesus was even more direct on the subject, saying: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." I invite all of you, as your circumstances offer, to take Jesus up on his offer.

Trust in the Lord's provision and wisdom, and take time to really, deeply rest.

Yours under the Mercy,

Pastor Matt

## November Session Meeting Notes

On Monday, November 14 Session met and received the usual reports. It was reported that the roof on the C.E. Building needs repaired and was added to the needed improvements list. Funds for these projects will come from the RHPC Capital Improvement Fund. To contribute to this fund mark on your offering RHPC Cap. Fund. We hope to raise enough funds to cover the improvements needed now and in the future.

Session also declined a request from the South Hills Christian Camp Ministry asking for support.

December events were listed by the Fellowship group. They were a Church Christmas covered dish dinner after worship on Sunday, December 11 and the Christmas Cantata by the choir on Wednesday December 14 evening with cake after.

The annual Congregation / Corporation meeting is set for Sunday, December 18 after worship at which time the officers will be elected, pastor's terms of call will be approved, and the budget presented. All members are encouraged to attend.

## November Deacon Meeting Notes

Submitted by Lois Lawson

1. Deacons reported those who were visited, contacted and or had soup delivered. Discussed anyone that might need added to the list and their preferences (cards, visits, phone calls, etc.)
2. Deacon card ministry determined who is responsible for December, January birthday/anniversary cards. Update on bread delivery packet for visitors who leave their address.
3. Discussion with Session member who attended our meeting.
4. Assigned a deacon to attend the November Session meeting.
5. Prayed for deacon's prayer requests.

## Save The Date for our 2nd annual RHPC Christmas Cantata

Submitted by Mayim Stith

Join us as we reflect on Christ's earthly ministry and celebrate His prophecy, presence, and promise of a second coming. The cantata will begin at 6:30pm on Wednesday December 14th in the sanctuary and will be followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. The cantata will also be live streamed at [www.RoundHillChurch.org/worship](http://www.RoundHillChurch.org/worship). The cantata is open to the community, so tell your friends! There are save the date flyers in the narthex to hand out as well.



## Card Ministry: Expanding Our Prayers & Ministry

Submitted by Lisa Wagner

As you may know, the Card Ministry team sells cards and prayer boxes which have been prayerfully created. We pray for both the giver and receiver of the item. We are hoping to expand our offerings to prayer shawls. If the term sounds familiar, this was a previous mission of Round Hill Church led by Marilyn Sharp. Shawls are prayed over while they are being created (knit, crochet, quilt) and then given to someone in need, as a blessing and comforting presence feeling the love of God wrapped around their shoulders. Lap blankets are also included in this ministry for those confined to wheelchairs.

We are hoping, next summer to use these items as an outreach opportunity and participate in local craft and hobby fairs. Our booth would introduce Round Hill Church to the community, provide the opportunity for anyone in need of prayer, and sell our items as additional sharing of God's love. As announced in church last Sunday, all proceeds from our ministry will be donated to the Roof Fund.

Calling out to all who knit, crochet or quilt:

As the winter season approaches and we move activities indoors, please consider joining our 'remote team' and creating these items. You may also bring your yarn and needles and enjoy the fellowship at Bonnie's when the team meets. (Our meeting dates are posted in the bulletin).

Please see Lisa Wagner if you have any questions or need a shawl or lap blanket.

## Trustee Tidbits

Submitted by Bonnie Craig

The Trustees are diligently caring and maintaining Round Hill Church facilities and grounds. The insurance company contacted the Trustees about shingles that need to be repaired on the CE building. They are reviewing quotes from businesses to repair the shingles on the roof. Trustees are also considering floor samples for the Fellowship Hall in the church building and reviewing costs for that improvement.

## Christmas Store

Submitted by Bev Harchelroad

The E-F Clothes Closet will be hosting a Christmas Store to help those in need on December 15 (Food Pantry Day) from 8:30 to 11:30 AM in the CE Bldg. Clients of the Round Hill Food Pantry are 99% of our shoppers.

Clients need a permission slip from a preacher, nurse, or social worker to show there is need and they must reside in the Elizabeth Boro, Elizabeth Township or Forward Township area. Slips are available at the Church Office or at the Clothes Closet.

If you have any small gift items – Christmas or not – that you can donate, please bring them to the CE Bldg. High School Room (next to Pastor Matt's Office) by December 11. Thank you for helping a needy family have a blessed Christmas!

# Getting To Know One Another

Photos and interviews submitted by Lois Lawson



## Marilyn Christenson

Marilyn Christenson was in charge of Round Hill's food pantry for 33 years! She has served as a deacon for many years, where she serves presently. She has also served as an elder.

Jim and Marilyn have been married for 66 years. They have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Marilyn is thankful that she has many good friends that help her. Cooking (and eating!) is her main hobby.

## Bill Leggett



Bill has been at Round Hill since birth and was baptized here. He has lived in Elizabeth all his life. Presently, he is serving as an elder on the Fellowship/Outreach Committee (which includes activities such as dinners, flea markets, etc.). Bill is a veteran of the Vietnam War where he served in Korea for 13 months after he was drafted.

Bill and his late wife, Yvonne, have 2 children. Their daughter Karen, who lives in Philadelphia, is the director for Philadelphia health management. Their son Todd works for the Navy in Fredericksburg. Bill has 2 grandsons, Ezra, a sophomore at Pitt studying mechanical engineering, and Alex, who is in Middle School in Virginia.

## Fellowship Committee Update

Submitted by Laurie Conley

Mark your calendars because it's covered dish dinner (well lunch) time again!! Our theme for this year's annual Christmas lunch scheduled for December 11, is "family favorite holiday dishes". Bring a dish that you and your family enjoy during the holidays and join us after Worship in the Fellowship Hall. If you don't cook that's not a problem, because there is always plenty of food for everyone to share!! This is always a special time to enjoy being with our church family and celebrate the birth of our Savior. We are also sponsoring a blood drive in early January. Watch the bulletin for details on the date and time.

## December Birthdays

- Lois Lawson (12/2)
- Brandon Casturo (12/4)
- Dennis Larcinese (12/4)
- Carol Hill (12/6)
- Michelle Wycoff (12/8)
- Mark Neff (12/12)
- Stacey Baron (12/13)
- Kaylee Fritz (12/13)
- Jeremy Jackson (12/14)
- Heather McCall (12/16)
- Denise Napoli (12/18)
- Nancy Neff (12/18)
- Bayleigh Ressler (12/23)
- Howard Sutton (12/23)
- Vera Thornton (12/25)
- Tim Guffey (12/27)
- Bill Leggett (12/29)
- Bradley Branik (12/30)
- Melody Coleman (12/31)

## December Anniversaries

- Jay & Leslee Schwirian (12/30)

# Food Pantry - A Local Mission Project

Submitted by Lisa Wagner



Some of the happy volunteers, Diana Hicks, Karen Simon, Lisa Wagner, Joanne Jones, and Tanya Jackson

A team of 12 people, led by Joanne Jones, meet once a month to turn the CE Building into a market known as the Round Hill Food Pantry. We are one of three pantries serving the Elizabeth area and are an extension of Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Our clients are all pre-registered. Currently, we serve about 35 clients - a combination of short term (unemployed or short-term disability) or long term (individuals with low income). We can distribute emergency food orders if required, but our format is not one of open participation. Our clients can shop for needed items and select from each of our staged areas. Note that the term 'shop' is our format, and no money changes hands.

A few of our clients have limited mobility and as a result opt for a prepacked order. They still receive all our offerings; the team just pulls it together for them and delivers it to their car.

Our pantry is stocked by donations from the congregation and the local Giant Eagle as well as items purchased from Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Monetary donations are used to source the latter. We participate in a PCFB program which provides, free of charge, fresh vegetables, and milk.

On the last Thursday of the month, our clients are met by Olive (Bonnie's dog), who serves as our official greeter. After registering, they travel down the main hall where they can select health and beauty products, powdered milk, juices, various canned goods and baking supplies. Before entering the meeting room, they are handed a pre-packed box of frozen meat and vegetables.

Within the large room, they can select canned vegetables and fruit, tomato sauce, peanut butter, soup, tuna, various pastas, and cereal. They finish their shopping with fresh vegetables like potatoes, apples, carrots and onions, milk, eggs and cheese, bread, and baked goods. (All based on availability.) When their visit is finished they have a trunk full of healthy food. They leave us with a final thanks, sometimes with tears, explaining that the food that we provide is very much needed and makes a big difference in their lives.

Left-over perishable items are donated to the local Meals On Wheels. Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and contributions.



Olive greets Bill Leggett and Laurie Conley

# Officers of the Church

There are three positions within the structure of the presbyterian church: elder, deacon, and trustee. Simply put, the elders are responsible for the spiritual welfare and governance of the congregation. The deacons' responsibility is one of compassion, and the trustees' is the business part.

Elders make up the Session. The entire life of the local church is under the oversight and supervision of the Session. This is a short list of the Session's responsibilities:

- To initiate the ministry of evangelism as the first business of the Church, and to seek to lead persons to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- To oversee the worship of the congregation along with the pastor.
- To oversee the discipleship ministries of the church.
- To receive, dismiss, restore, grant affiliation, remove members.
- To determine the budget of the church.
- To oversee the educational program of the congregation.
- There are other areas of responsibility that fall to the elders, but these are the major ones.

Deacons make up the Board of Deacons. The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, concern for needs, and of serving others. Therefore, the first duty of the Deacon is sympathy and service. Deacons are to oversee the ministry of the congregation to the sick, friendless, bereaved, and those in any way distressed. The Session can assign them additional responsibilities.

Trustees make up the Board of Trustees. Trustees shall have the power, upon authorization from the local church, to buy, sell, and mortgage real property, accept, and execute deeds, to hold and defend titles to the same, maintain the physical plant, enter into contracts, and to assume other such related duties as may be assigned to them.

This is just a brief overlook of what these positions do. If you want to see a more detailed description you could go online to look up EPC Book of Order.

## Missions Team Report

Submitted by Bev Harchelroad

The members of the Round Hill Mission Team met on November 17 at 1:00 PM. Our job is to allocate Mission funds donated by members of the congregation. We welcomed Bill Leggett to the Team.

By consensus, the following contributions were approved:

1. Salvation Army – Elizabeth Service Area \$1,000
2. Redstone Highlands Senior Care Capital Fund in honor of Helen Allen and Tetta Hall \$500
3. EPC Missionary families Mitchel and Bailey \$500 each
4. Sram Ashram (Dr. Clement) \$1,000
5. Any funds left at the end of the year will go to Round Hill Client Care

If you wish to contribute to this Fund, please mark "Mission" on your check or offering envelope. We strive to help local, national, and worldwide Missions as they struggle to assist those in need. Thank you!

MEMBERS: Marilyn Christenson, Barb Gaylord, Bev Harchelroad, Bill Leggett, Bob Leggett, Howard Sutton

# Round Hill Church History, Volume 2.

A recurring column submitted by Bev Harchelroad

Round Hill Church History - Compiled by Walter Scott

“Three structures have housed the people here  
And kept the Spirit blowing  
Whether of logs or frame or brick  
Each supported the seedlings’ growing”

The first church building was a crude log shelter with no windows or conveniences located approximately 300 feet down the hill from the present Sanctuary and built by church members. The first schoolhouse was located near the log structure and later moved to Miller’s Hill and to the Harmony Site. The following is an ad that appeared in the Pittsburgh Mercury on December 29, 1813:

On Friday, the 7th day of January next, commencing at 9 o’clock forenoon, will be exhibited at Round Hill School Room Forks of Youghanany, Allegheny County, by the pupils of the subscriber of their profeciences consisting of 10 different classes, with an addition of several other displays too numerous to insert. Said School is under the inspection of Messr. John Mitchel, tanner; Dr. James Power and John Fleming, inn-keeper; trustees. All those favoring us with their company, will obtain a fine reception, and particularly those interested, to be punctual in attending.

In 1781 the Minutes of the Synod of Philadelphia and New York recorded: “Rev. Messrs. Joseph Smith, John McMillan, James Power, and Thaddeus Dodd, having requested to be erected into a separate presbytery to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Redstone. Request granted first meeting to be held at Laurel Hill Church.” The first meeting, however, was held at Pigeon Creek because of hostile Indians. This Presbytery included Ohio, West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania, and lasted twelve years, 1781 to 1793. It was the sole undivided presbytery of the West and held 41 meetings, four of which were at Round Hill and five at Rehoboth. The four original members were Thaddeus Dodd, aged 31; John McMillan, aged 29; Joseph Smith, aged 45; and James Power, aged 35. In 1784, John Clark, aged 64, James Dunlap, aged 38, and James Finley, aged 60, joined.

“The ministers who came and led this place  
Nurtured the young church, knowing  
That there was something here at Round Hill  
That no dissension could keep from growing”

For two years after Rev. Finley died, the pulpits were empty at the churches, but in 1797, Rev. David Smith became the second pastor of the sister churches. He was also the editor of Western Missionary magazine. A revival known as the “Falling Down Work” was conducted with meetings in a grove of trees in Round Hill Cemetery. David Smith was a “man of deep piety and respectable literary ability and his sermons were rich and instructive, but his delivery was not engaging.” Mr. Smith’s brother-in-law, Rev. William Wylie, D.D., was called here in August of 1803 when Rev. Smith died. Rev. Wylie’s wife, Esther, was a daughter of Joseph Smith and a sister of David Smith, She was also aunt of Joseph Smith, author of Old Redstone. A new Psalmody was introduced into the Church Communion Service, and many left the congregation because they thought the church was “going to the devil.”

TO BE CONTINUED

## The Circles

Submitted by Laurie Conley

There is good news for those ladies who don’t like to drive at night but would like to be in a small group! The women’s circle has grown! During the Joy Circle’s September meeting, it was decided to create a daytime gathering. The new one, appropriately named “Sonshine Circle”, meets at noon on the last Wednesday of every month in the CE building. The Joy Circle continues to meet at 7 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of every month at a member's home. Watch the bulletin for additional details. ALL women are invited to attend either one - or both!! Once again, ALL women are invited to attend an upcoming event sponsored by both the Joy and Sonshine Circles. The Annual Christmas Party will be held at 6 p.m. on December 8, at R-Place located at 102 Enterprise Street, Elizabeth. We can order from the menu and after dinner there will be an optional \$25 gift exchange. Please RSVP by December 5 to Gayle Larcinese at 412-860-4659, or Eileen Russell at 412-352-4228, if you are interested in joining us.

# Thriving Survivors

Submitted by Tom Russell



The church's Survivor's group met on November 8th at the River House in Charleroi, for lunch and lots of good fellowship. There were 17 parishioners in attendance where much good conversation and many laughs were enjoyed. This fun group meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 1pm. Notify Karen Welsh if you would like to join in on the fun.















## One Final Note...

For newsletter submissions, or if you would prefer to receive this newsletter in your e-mail, please send a note to Editor Bonnie Craig at [DreamsToGo2@gmail.com](mailto:DreamsToGo2@gmail.com). The submission deadline is the Friday after the 2nd Monday of each month.



# DEC 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
				10:00 am Card Ministry 	03	
	04	05	06	07	08	09
9:15 am Deacons Mtg 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Comm. Serv.		10:00 am Intercessory Prayer 6:00 pm RECHARGE 7:00 pm Choir Practice	 10:00 am Card Ministry		10:00 am Clothes Closet	6:00 pm Christmas Dinner - Joy & Sunshine Circles @ R Place in Elizabeth 
	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship followed by Christmas covered-dish dinner in fellowship hall 	6:30 Trustees 7:00 Session	10:00 am Intercessory Prayer 6:00 pm RECHARGE 7:00 pm Choir Practice	 Food Pantry truck day 6:30 pm Christmas Cantata 	8:30 am Clothes Closet/ Food Pantry/ Christmas Store		17
	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship		10:00 am Intercessory Prayer 6:00 pm RECHARGE 7:00 pm Choir Practice		 <i>Winter solstice</i>		7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 
	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:30 am Christmas Service 	<i>Church Office Closed</i>	10:00 am Intercessory Prayer	 12:00 pm Sunshine Circle 			 <i>New Year's Eve</i>

Round Hill Presbyterian Church  
2150 Round Hill Church Rd  
Elizabeth, PA.  
15037.

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