

Cross Roads Communiqué

Pastors Gary & Lisa Lyon Phone: 724-845-1901 E-mail: crcpc@windstream.net December, 2011
Experience the wonder of Christ...Grow & Thrive in your faith...Our hands reaching your hands...as we share the Spiritual adventure

December Worship Opportunities Sundays at 10 AM

December 4
"The Refiner's Fire"

December 11
"Sweet Fruit"

There will be a congregational meeting today immediately following worship, for the purpose of voting on session recommendations to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Pastor Lisa Lyon; eliminate the position of co-pastor, and approve 2012 Terms of Call for Pastor Gary Lyon.

December 18
"The Great Reversal"
Children's Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, December 20
"Blue Christmas"
Too much Christmas cheer for you?
Find comfort in the presence of God.
Dinner 6:00, Worship 6:30



Christmas Eve

December 24, 7:30 PM
"Wait and Sing"
Candles, Carols, Communion

December 25
"Grow in Wisdom"

Joint Session & Deacons Meeting, Dec. 7, at 7
All are asked to bring cookies or a snack for our party. We'll also examine our newly-elected elders & deacons.
Ordination & Installation of Elders & Deacons will be Dec. 11 during worship.

Advent Gathering Sunday, December 4



The Party Planners invite you to stay after worship on Sunday, December 4 to sample some holiday cookies. Spend a few minutes together enjoying a warm drink and a sweet taste of the season.



2011 Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for over 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is divided between assistance to retirees & their spouses and support of Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools & colleges. Envelopes for your gifts are in this newsletter. Please return offerings to the church rather than mailing directly to PC(USA). Last year's offering totaled \$328.00.

Last Chance Contributions

2011 Per Capita: Have you paid your \$26.45 per member yet? Please do so ASAP.

End-of-Year Gifts: All contributions or extra gifts that you would like to make and have credited to your 2011 Giving Statement need to be received by Sunday, December 25. Thanks!

Advent Family Time



Take a few minutes away from TV & shopping. Gather your family each day to read words of wisdom, encouragement and faith from an Advent devotional booklet. Booklets are at the church entrances.

CRCPC Pictorial Directory Pictures are being taken before and after worship on Sunday mornings during Advent. See info. later in this newsletter and get ready to SMILE!

Opportunities for mission, ministry & fun!

Experience the wonder of Christ...Grow & Thrive in your faith...Our hands reaching your hands...as we share the Spiritual adventure

December at a Glance

CRCPC Choir Practice – Wednesdays, 7 PM; Prophetic Frenzy Practice – Wednesdays, 8 PM

3 - Secret Sisters Party, 2 PM, social hall
4 – Elder/Deacon Training, 9 AM
4 – Advent Social, after worship
6 – Session/Deacon Joint Meeting/Party, 7 PM
11 – Installation/Ordination of Elders & Deacons, during worship
11 – Congregational Meeting, after worship
11 – Holiday Gift Wrapping, after worship

17 – Pot Love Dinner, Noon
18 – Church School Christmas Pageant, during worship
18 – Family Christmas Party, 11 AM, social hall
18 – Christmas Caroling, 1 PM
21 – Decorating Sanctuary for Christmas Eve, 6 PM
24 – Christmas Eve Worship, 7:30 PM
30 – Red Cross Blood Drive, 12 – 6 PM, social hall

Don't like lists? Calendar pages (with a box for each day) are on the bulletin board in the church office.



Secret Sisters Party Saturday, December 3 2:00 PM, Social Hall

Bring your favorite dish.

New Sisters are always welcome!
Just bring a gift and join in.

Luminaries!!!

Youth Group age teens (grades 6-12) are invited to the Christmas party on Dec. 18 for pizza & St. Nick. We'll also prepare Christmas Eve Luminaries!
Christmas Eve: Youth should arrive about 6:45 PM to set out luminaries and light them.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive Thursday, December 30 12-6 PM in the Social Hall

Volunteers Needed:

- ☺ to greet donors as they arrive
- ☺ help donors walk to canteen area after giving blood
- ☺ work at canteen area to serve snacks & juice.

If you are available to lend a hand for several hours, please call the church office. **AND if you are available to donate**, please call the office and reserve a time convenient for you or just come.



We need someone to prepare the **Power Point slides for Sunday morning worship** and other special worship services. It takes from 1 to 2 hours on Friday afternoon or evening or any time on Saturday (after the bulletin is done). Power point experience is helpful, but not required.

Besides, it's easier than you think. Lisa Lyon will teach you all you need to know! Contact her at lilyon@windstream.net or leave a message at 724-845-1901.



Holiday Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Benefits CRCPC Church School
**Sunday, December 11
11 AM–2 PM**

Come to the social hall where Church Elves will wrap your

Christmas gifts. Bring gifts and appropriate To/From info and let the elves go to work. Gifts will be bagged and/or boxed. Donations accepted. Beverages served while you wait.

Cross Roads Church Christmas Party Sunday, December 18 11:00 AM



Christmas Party

Everyone, from the oldest to the youngest, is invited. Food, crafts, treat bags for kids, Santa, telling of the Christmas story and carols.

We'll provide pizza, veggies, fruit, dessert & beverage. Sign up in the attendance pads, call or e-mail the church to let us know who's coming; and how many children,

Let's Go Christmas Caroling!

... and make the season bright for folks who can't get out much anymore, or who are ill and/or confined to nursing homes. Meet in the church parking lot, **1:00 PM, Sunday, December 18.** We'll provide the songbooks; you provide the joyful noise!

Getting Down to Business

Experience the wonder of Christ...Grow & Thrive in your faith...Our hands reaching your hands...as we share the Spiritual adventure

Session Munchies:

- Received Melissa Renwick by re-affirmation of faith as a member of Cross Roads effective 11/1/11.
- Approved the use of remaining 2011 vacation days for Gary and Lisa
- Approved a letter of encouragement and discernment to be sent out to members who are on the active membership roll but are less than active.
- Transferred Stephanie Riddle and Matt Riddle to the inactive roll at their request because they are no longer living in the area.
- Approved the in house pictorial directory idea. Pictures to be taken in the back of the sanctuary throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.
- Reviewed the Mission portion of the 2012 budget, first because that is the heart and the soul of the ministry of the church. The remaining portion of the budget, except for Terms of Call of pastors, will be reviewed and approved at the December meeting.
- Lengthy discussion took place concerning Terms of Call for Gary and Lisa. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to recommend to the congregation at the December 11th meeting that the pastoral relationship between Lisa Lyon and Cross Roads Community Presbyterian Church be dissolved as of 12/31/11 because of budgetary shortfalls.
- MSC to recommend to the congregation Terms of Call for Gary for 2012 that are for a 100% position at the 2011 combined salary amount.
- MSC to recommendation to the congregation that if the motion to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Lisa is approved that the position of Co-Pastor be eliminated for Board of Pension purposes.
- MSC to send a letter to the congregation regarding the financial situation of Crossroads Church, a follow-up postcard and then telephone calls to those we have not heard from.

2011 PER CAPITA! DID YOU FORGET? \$26.45

*We are currently behind on our 2011 quarterly per capita payments.
\$1,000.00 is due for the 2nd quarter
\$1,000.00 is due for the 3rd quarter
\$1,653.11 is due in mid-December for the 4th quarter*



DECEMBER

- 2 James Stull
- 6 Matt Boarts; Nancy Talley
- 7 Elizabeth Hessom
- 8 Sarah Braden
- 10 Linda Kay Fryer
- 11 *Sheran & John Kupas
- 12 *Sue & Andy Gero
- 12 Cheryl Hall; Christopher Simon
- 13 Tyler Snyder
- 15 Maxine Hall
- 17 Mary Brewer; Rose Marie Sober
- 18 *Ray & Marge Hunter; Jeff Hall
- 20 Dale Hessom
- 21 Ken Covey; Robert Schultz
- 22 Bill Davis
- 24 Mary Shearer
- 26 Patricia Kupas
- 28 Margaret Salsgiver; *Gary & Cheryl Hall
- 29 Heather Shoemaker
- 30 Jerry Baylor

*Anniversary

Financial Corner

November 1 - 28, 2011

Income: **\$11,794.40**
Expenses: **\$8,315.08**
****\$3,479.32**

**The actual balance in our general funds that can be used to pay day-to-day expenses is \$257.48. Remainder of above-noted balance is restricted use.

{December Bills Estimate \$9,500.00}

More Opportunities, News, & Information...

Experience the wonder of Christ...Grow & Thrive in your faith...Our hands reaching your hands...as we share the Spiritual adventure

Beginner's Bible Blog & Webpage UPDATED

Go to www.crcpc.org and check it out!



Need Offering Envelopes?

Call 724-845-1901, sign up on the sheet at the First Street door or e-mail crcpc@windstream.net. We'll get them ready for you.

Lenten Thought in the Middle of Advent

The Buried Treasure Ministry Team is in the beginning stages of putting together a Lenten Calendar written by you. We hope you'll say **yes** to writing a few sentences for our 2012 Lenten calendar.



Mighty Mite Offering

The coins have been counted, and the total is \$203.92! Start saving your change now for the next round in 2012.



2011 Christmas Joy Offering

Pictorial Directory Pictures

Throughout the Advent season, Brienne Ralph and Angela Vigna will be taking pictures/portraits of church members and their families on Sundays before and after worship. We are hoping to get as many church members as possible to have their pictures taken for a church directory we will be putting together in the church office. More information will be available in the coming weeks on the webpage, church bulletin, and December newsletter. **Smile!!!**

Salt of the Earth - Our ministry to chemotherapy patients is ongoing and meaningful to everyone involved. As always your donations for the bags are very much appreciated by those who receive them. Items can be placed in the cabinet at the bottom of the 1st Street stairs.



Tastefully Simple is

CRCPC Church School's on-going fundraiser. You can keep stocked up on your favorite Tastefully Simple goodies by ordering using paper forms or on-line. Paper forms may be obtained from Allison Whitesell. To place an on-line order go to www.tastefullysimple.com; click on SHOP OUR PRODUCTS; click on HOST/EVENT SEARCH; Type in Cross Roads (first name) Presbyterian Church (last name); then shop away! All products are delivered to your door! Our Church School receives 20% of all sales. So far we have received \$161.00 to help fund our church school and Vacation Bible School programs. Thanks for your generosity and support! There is a list on the First St. bulletin board of gift items available for everyone on your Christmas list. Check it out!

...And Still More!

Experience the wonder of Christ...Grow & Thrive in your faith...Our hands reaching your hands...as we share the Spiritual adventure



Thank you to outgoing elders, Tammy Dunnivan, Sandi Lechner, Jim Potter, Richard Snyder, and deacons, Denny Bringer, Bill Davis, Karen Ferrero. Your dedication and service to CRCPC is very much appreciated.

Welcome new elders & deacons: Corey Whitesell, Sharon Nelmes, Patty Brady, Antoinette Cockroft, Liz Fanelli, Allison Whitesell, Sally Trefelner.



The Mission Team's "helping hands" are willing to come and lend them to you. We'll help with your projects (painting, repairs, simple carpentry, etc). Call or e-mail the church. We'll set a time to help!

CRCPC extends sympathy to Betty & Deborah Kupas on the death of their brother & uncle, Donald Groomes, of Connellsville, PA on October 29, and to the family of Clifford Bennett, who died on November 20. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Need a good meal on weekends?
Tired of eating alone?
Food budget stretched thin?
Pot Love Dinners
are for you!**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, NOON

A warm welcome and a hot, nutritious **FREE** meal.
Reservations appreciated but not necessary.



Sheila, Jamie & Cindy, the "Whitehair Sisters", relax after the community Thanksgiving dinner they helped prepared and serve.



CRCPC 2011 Mission Trippers

First Call: Mission Trip 2012

Thanks to your incredible mission support, CRCPC is sponsoring a mission work trip in the winter of 2012, possibly to central or eastern Pennsylvania. Our work week will consist of making repairs to homes, spending time listening to the stories of families, spreading the love of Jesus Christ, and building the community of faith with others from around the USA.

No work skills are required to be a member of the Cross Roads Community mission work team. We train on the job! If you want to sign up or more information, see Jim Potter, Gary or Lisa. We need to make reservations by mid-December. Cross Roads is *working to make a difference* in people's lives through hands-on faith experiences.



Welcome newly-baptized Brooke Lynne, seen here with her parents, Sarah & Denny Cuffia.



*Merry Christmas
to one and all!
from the pastors &
staff of Cross Roads*

Community Presbyterian Church

**Cross Roads Community
Presbyterian Church**

271 Main Street
Leechburg, PA 15656-1038

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LEECHBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 43

Return Service Requested



Dated Material

**Experience the wonder of Christ.....Grow & Thrive in your faith;
Our hands reaching your hands.....As we share the Spiritual adventure**



From the Lyon's Den

*"For nothing will be impossible with
God."* Luke 1:37

Ann Weems titles a poem "In December Darkness" in her book ***Kneeling Bethlehem:***

*The whole word waits in December darkness
For a glimpse of the Light of God.
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"
and chase away the carolers
have been seen looking toward the skies.
The one who declared he never would forgive
has forgiven,
and those who left home
have returned,
and even wars are halted,
if briefly,
as the whole world looks starward.
In the December darkness
we peer from our windows
watching for an angel with rainbow wings
to announce the Hope of the World.*

Won't you join with Lisa and me in gazing into the sky this Advent season and beholding the Wonder of God? Let's look at the impossible and know that anything is possible because God saved even you and me. I know my shortcomings and it seems like an impossible task. What about you?

The Hope of the World is coming and the world is waiting for some new angels to step up to the plate and be the light of the world. Be empowered this Advent and Christmas in the name of Jesus. Join your Cross Roads family as we worship, play, get serious for a time, shout and sing 'joy to the world' together, and then glow under the Christmas Star.

Nothing is impossible today or tomorrow because Jesus is comin'! Hallelujah! Amen.

May your Advent Christmas be filled with much joy!

Gary & Lisa