

THE PARK BENCH

January, 2019



Happy New Year from Church Council. As we begin this new year, there are several items we would like to share with the congregation :

1. Church Council is serving as the Pastoral Search Committee. We have submitted to Dr. Jeff Johnson of ABCOPAD, surveys which they requested from us, along with a church profile. Since Dr. Johnson is recovering from his back surgery, we will await his recovery to receive further information.
2. Pastor Jan will be away from the pulpit on January 13 enjoying a vacation with her daughter. We will welcome Don Smith, a former member of our church and son of Bill Smith, to bring the morning message.
3. Council has asked Pastor Jan to remain through January 27. Beginning Feb. 3, Scott Cunningham will be bringing us the morning message, as part of his studies in the ACTS program. ACTS stands for Academy of Christian Training and Service, which Scott has been enrolled in since September. Scott will continue to bring the morning message until we have selected a new permanent pastor.

Please continue to pray for Council and your church as we begin this process.

Your Church Council :

Paul Merriman Nancy McNaughton Rick Raraigh Christy Nichols

Jane Myers Scott Cunningham Sandy McGinnis

Sally Cunningham (Treasurer) Cindy Merriman (Church Clerk)

**Worship Service Greeters
for January, 2019 :**

6 – Scott and Sally Cunningham

13 – Bill Smith

20 – Rick and Linda Raraigh

27 – Lynn Cress

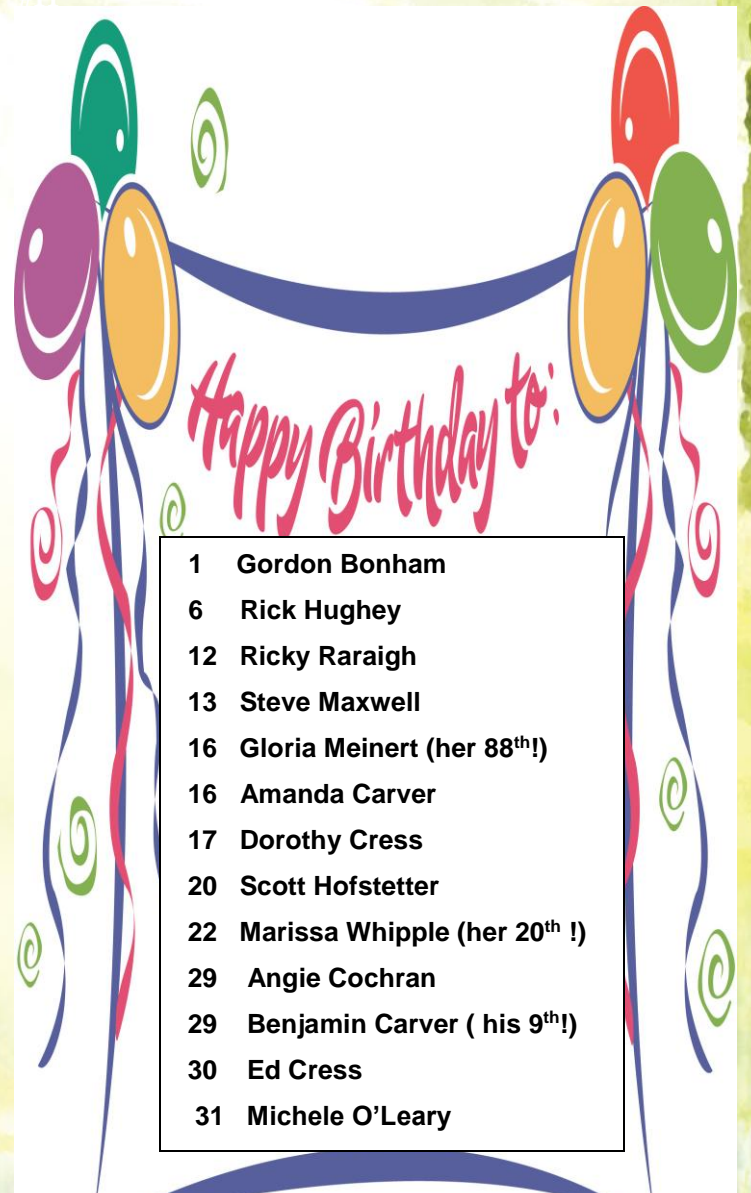
Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2019*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2019*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 13, 2019*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
January 18-25, 2019
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 21, 2019*

2018 Annual Reports and Booklets

All groups, committees and boards within the church are to submit an annual report of their 2018 activities to the church office by **Wednesday, January 16th**. They will be compiled and ready for each family to pick up on **Sunday, January 20** to preview before our annual business meeting to be held after the worship service on **Sunday, January 27th**.

A Soup and Salad lunch will be provided after the meeting.



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| 1 | Gordon Bonham |
| 6 | Rick Hughey |
| 12 | Ricky Raraigh |
| 13 | Steve Maxwell |
| 16 | Gloria Meinert (her 88 th !) |
| 16 | Amanda Carver |
| 17 | Dorothy Cress |
| 20 | Scott Hofstetter |
| 22 | Marissa Whipple (her 20 th !) |
| 29 | Angie Cochran |
| 29 | Benjamin Carver (his 9 th !) |
| 30 | Ed Cress |
| 31 | Michele O'Leary |

On January 28, 2019

REV. ROBERT & RUTH CUNNINGHAM will celebrate their 76th wedding anniversary.

They have 6 children:

Bob Cunningham, Margaret Kelly, Larry Cunningham, Jenny McGahee, Lance Cunningham and Scott Cunningham.

All who were raised here at Franklin Park when their dad was our pastor for 33 years.

A Flock of Lessons

These facts about geese were distributed to staff members of "Outward Bound" all over the U.S. I took the liberty of paraphrasing them for you:

FACT: As geese flap their wings, they create an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71percent greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

LESSON: People who share a common direction and sense of community get where they are going quicker and easier when they lift each other up along the way.

FACT: If a goose falls out of formation, it feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. So it quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

LESSON: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those headed where we want to go.

FACT: When the head goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

LESSON: It pays to share leadership and take turns doing the hard work.

FACT: Geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up the pace.

LESSON: It is important that our honking be encouraging. Otherwise it's just - well honking.

FACT: When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation to follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again.

LESSON: When one of us is down, it's up to the others to stand by us in our time of trouble.

THANK YOU ! THANK YOU !

The members of the summer mission group would like to thank everyone who participated in buying the gifts for the Angel Tree children for Christmas. A tremendous show of generosity went to those in need from the Mt. Nebo Church Outreach program and the girls in Grafton, WV where the group worked this summer.

Before caption goes here

Ukulele Lessons

Monday nights from 6:15 until 9 p.m. a teacher from the North Hills Strings Studio will be giving lessons to 15 students here in our gym.

Space is available for beginners and intermediate classes and you can get more information by going to :

NHStringStudio.com

On Christmas Eve and during the month of December we received the RMMO for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries and their widowed spouses to be used as a Thank You check for their years of dedicated service in the American Baptist Churches. Our total for this offering is :

\$967.00 THANK YOU

Prayer Requests, Concerns and Praises:**January, 2019**

^ **The McKenna Family** asks for prayers from our church family as Shawn will be having surgery on Monday, January 7 at Passavant Hospital. He will have a partial or complete kidney removal depending on what the doctors determine when they operate. Please keep Shawn, Ellen, Matthew and Stephen in your thoughts and on your hearts especially tomorrow.

^ **John Flinchum's great-granddaughter, Cara** is 7 months pregnant and has been hospitalized with complications. Prayers are needed for her to make it to full term before delivering the baby.

^ **Marion Wolbert** thanks the Lord that a family member recognized the signs of a mini stroke at a Christmas function and got her to the hospital for evaluation. She is doing ok now.

^ **Shirley Wright** would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and visits she received during the Christmas season. She is so thankful for your thoughtfulness.

^ **Erik Kolodziej's mom** underwent knee replacement surgery and will be having her other knee done in early 2019. Please keep her in prayer as she mentally and physically works toward a complete recovery and prepares for another surgery.

^ **Sandy Bennett** will have a heart valve replacement surgery in January. She is a friend of Sandy Hughey.

^ **Anne Hercules**, is being treated for a brain blockage. Her husband, **Charles**, needs a heart transplant and has a blood infection. They are friends of Sandy Hughey.

^ **Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Johnson**, Regional Pastor with Congregations through ABCOPAD, had extensive surgery on his spinal cord Christmas week for a neuro-muscular disease. He will have more follow-up surgery in January. Please pray for Jeff and his family in the coming days as he undergoes the surgeries and physical therapy.

^ **Keep in prayer our church family** as we go forward in the search for a new spiritual leader for our congregation. Pastor Jan will serve as our interim until the end of January.

Answered Praise and Prayer For: Kristen and Anthony Doria announced they are expecting their third child in May of 2019. They have 2 boys, Luca and Bodie. Congratulations ! This will be the fifth grandchild for Tom and Jane Myers !

Your Support of The Following Fund Raisers
allow our church to succeed in their Outreach programs

The Scrip Gift Card Program

Sir Pizza Fund Raiser

Aluminum Can Recycling

Annual Spring Rummage / Bake Sale

AmazonSmile on line shopping

Used Greeting / Christmas Cards

The Benevolence Envelope on Communion Sundays

Winter warmth



O God, you give the winter's cold,
as well as summer's joyous rays.
You warmly in your love enfold,
and keep us through life's wintry days.

—Samuel Longfellow

New Address:

Karen and Jeff Ott

1400 Merriman Road

Ambridge, PA. 15003

724 – 385 – 0036 (home)

412 – 952 – 1110 (cell)

karendott@comcast.net (email)