

## Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

### BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE:

Billie Bannon—June 14

Ed Haag—June 14

### Coming up in July:

Elsie Evans—July 4

Robin Werner—July 11

Louise Wilson—July 12



Did we miss anyone? If you are a “Senior” Member over age 55 and wish to be included on the birthday list, please call the church office at 610-856-7242.

### PARISH REGISTER:

#### MEMBERSHIP LOSSES:

Russ Schade—transferred to Allegheny Lutheran Church

Bryn Beichner and children Madeline, Riley and Samuel  
Transferred to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church



Do we have your **EMAIL ADDRESS**?

If not, please send it to dde-marco@dejazzd.com with your name in the subject. We are presently updating our email list in order to notify our mem-

bers of any cancelations, send out reminders, and alert you of changes. Your help will be appreciated!

**THINK AHEAD:** How can you help organize a fund-raising event and receive \$250 in start up funds? It's easy if you form a **Thrivent Action Team**! If you would like more information about forming a team for a fundraiser in our church or your community please contact John Lauer (610-286-5986 ) or the church office (610-856-7242).

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## The Parish Digest

### From the Pastor:



*<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it,<sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)*

### Literalism, Nationalism, and Politicism: The struggle of Christianity in the United States.

Or

Did Christendom make Christians dumb?

Part 1 - Literalism

The Bible, or the “Good Book” as it is sometimes known, is a collection of various types of literature and genres (poetry, history, wisdom sayings, apocalyptic visions, pastoral letters, law & gospel) that primarily began as oral tradition and in time was written down. These various writings (thanks to the work of ancient scribes and meetings of ecumenical church councils) were ultimately gathered, debated, critiqued and finally compiled into the collection of books that makes up the Bible as we know it today. Indeed the history of the Bible itself could be its own article, but for now, let us just agree to accept the fact that the Bible did not simply fall out of the sky in the form of the King James English Version, but rather it was the work of many decades of labor. (cont. on p. 4)

### HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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A mailbox is located outside the church office for anyone who has written information for staff, chairpersons, preschool, or other leaders.

**Rev. Michael Ware, Pastor**

Home: 610-875-0015 Office: 610-856-7242

**Office hours:** Wednesday 9-12 and 1:30-3:00; Thurs. 9-12;

Day off: Monday;

Email address: revmikeware@gmail.com

**Susan J. Creed**, Minister of Christian Ed. —Home 610-779-0179

Office Hours: M-TH 1:30-4:00 610-856-7242

Email address: screed@dejazzd.com

**Tyler Werner**, Youth Ministry Leader—610-781-4004

Office Hours: TH 10:00-1:00 610-856-7242

Email address: twern9@gmail.com

**Louise Wilson**, Minister of Music—Phone: 610-273-3911

Email address: weeziecow2@yahoo.com

**Debbie DeMarco**, Parish Secretary

Home: 610-856-7386 Office: 610-856-7242

Office Hours: M-TH 9-4; Friday 9-12:00

Email address: ddemarco@dejazzd.com

**Linell McCormick**, Office Assistant, T & Th, 12-4

Home: 610-775-2571 Email: lmr52@aol.com

**Robin Werner**, Sexton—Phone: 610-698-0688

Email: robinbaskets@aol.com

**Julia Bond**, Preschool Manager— Phone: 610-856-7613;

Email: preschool610@dejazzd.com

Council Officers: Chris Gerace, President

Julia Bond, Vice President

Jessica Shepherd, Secretary

Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

Kay Good, Treasurer Special Funds

Lori Sifford, Financial Secretary

Other Council Members:

Amanda Baylor

Wayne Kercher

Mike Wisniewski

Ava Gerace (youth)

Ed Haag

Walt Hamilton

Karen Kercher

## COMMUNITY EVENTS (Continued)

Nolde Forest Education Center

2910 New Holland Road, Reading PA 19607

Guided Dog Hike: Saturday, June 2, 2-3 p.m.

Come hike the trails with your furry best friend. All dogs must be on leash. One dog per hiker. 2 miles

Beauty of Botany: Saturday, June 9, 1-3 p.m.

Dr. Susan Munch will present botany topics during a forest walk for hands on identification.

Story Time for children 3-5 years: Tuesday, June 19 9:30-

10:30 am. Story time featuring a nature themed book followed by a nature walk.

10:45-11:30 a.m. Children ages 1 to 3 years and their adult learn about the summer forest, story followed by time in the Chickadee Nature Discovery Area.

Pond Explore—Friday, June 22 2-3 p.m.

Registration requested

Conservation Leadership; DiscoverE

June 26, 27 & 28, 8:30-3:30

For students in Grades 9-12; Free 3 day program. Pre-registration required, deadline June 8.

Freshwater Fish Communities of Pennsylvania

Friday, June 29, 7-8:30 p.m.

Take a look of prominent and interesting members of the local freshwater fish community. Speaker Kemp will discuss the ways these fish species interact, human influence on fish communities, and why both people and fish share a common interest in keeping PA's waterways clean.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS:

**BREAKFASTS:** Geigertown Fire Company—First Sunday;  
Brecknock Fire Company—Second Sunday; Joanna Furnace—Third Saturday, 7-11 a.m.



You won't want to miss this! The DeMarco family attended this event last year and it was wonderful. The music is great and the peaches and ice cream were delicious:

### **PEACH FESTIVAL**

#### **AT ALSACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

Kutztown Rd, Reading PA Back parking lot off 11th Street.

**Sunday, July 15th, 4:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Entertainment: Uptown Band—5:00-8:00 p.m.**

Plenty of food, games, fun and fellowship!

Bring your own lawn chairs!

New this year—Car Show

Do you or a loved one suffer from

**Arthritis? COPD? Heart Failure? Diabetes? Or any other Chronic Condition?**

Join us for this special six-week program that can help you manage the symptoms of a chronic condition and live your best life!

**LIVING WELL**—Tuesdays, June 5-July 10, 1:00-3:30 p.m.  
Health South Rehabilitation Hospital, 1623 Morgantown Road, Reading PA 19607

Classes are free, but you must register with Kathy Roberts at 610-374-3195 ext. 230 or email [kroberts@berksencore.org](mailto:kroberts@berksencore.org)

**Joni and Friends**, a faith-based charity serving the disabled, is requesting donations of used mobility equipment (manual wheelchairs, walkers, crutches). The equipment is restored and then delivered to those in need in developing countries. Donations are tax deductible. For more information or to donate, please contact Larry Easton at 315-416-1716 or [leaston78@gmail.com](mailto:leaston78@gmail.com)



## SERVICES

**Every Sunday:** Children's SCS is held during the worship services.

JUNE 3—9:00 a.m.—**Holy Communion**

JUNE 10—9:00 a.m.—**Holy Communion**

JUNE 17—9:00 a.m.—**Worship**; Father's Day; Installation of VBS Staff

JUNE 24—**9:00 a.m.—VBS Sunday**—John the Baptist; Holy Communion; worship in Hoeffler Hall; Joyful Noise offering for Hearts and Hands

### **Vacation Bible School**

**June 18-22, 24, 9-noon!!**

Plans are in place for this year's VBS and **you won't want to**

**miss it!** There will be classes for 3 year olds (potty trained)- 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Along the river, students will discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. If you haven't done so, please register your child as soon as possible. Stop by the church

office or call 610-856-7242 or email [screed@dejazzd.com](mailto:screed@dejazzd.com).

**Activity Camp** will be held following VBS Monday through Thursday June 18-21 from 12:30-2. Children will eat lunch from noon to 12:30. Schedule: M-kickball, T-Human Hungry Hippos, W-Soccer, Th- Laser Tag. The Activity Camp is open to all children who have completed kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.



As the primary book of the Christian faith (and an immensely important book to other faiths as well) the Bible is valuable for the many insights it provides into the work of God among us, the relationship between God and creation, and our purpose as God's creation in this world. Perhaps most of all, for Christians, the Bible is home to the many stories of Jesus of Nazareth and the life he lived among us here on earth as well as the life he promises to those who believe in Him for all eternity.

While today's modern Bibles come in various translations and include commentaries, introductions, concordances, maps, illustrations, tables of contents, and appendices; something they often do not come with is instructions. Thus, it is left entirely up to the reader to choose how they are going to read the Bible (i.e. Do I begin with Genesis or go straight to the Gospels?) and how they are going to interpret its meaning (i.e. Was the world actually created in six 24-hour days, or does each day represent a much longer period of time?) as it applies to their lives.

In modern Christendom, especially in the United States, it has become entirely fashionable to read and interpret the whole of the Bible literally regardless of where one begins reading (Genesis or the Gospels) or of what is being read (poetry or prophecy or apocalyptic visions). Yet interestingly enough, this modern practice of absolute literalistic interpretation is just that, a modern practice.

As literary critic and cultural historian Catherine M. Wallace PhD would tell us:

*"Furthermore, in the ancient world—in the times when biblical documents were being written, edited, rewritten, re-edited, and assembled into The Book, the literal meaning of any serious or sophisticated text was regarded as its least important level of meaning. The literal meaning wasn't the core. It was a shell, a surface, something to entertain the crowds maybe, but not remotely serious intellectually. In the ancient world, the serious dimensions of meaning were what today we call the metaphorical, the symbolic, and the moral."* (Wallace, Catherine M. "The Cultural History of Biblical Fundamentalism")



#### RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES:

##### **HELP YOUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY:**

Please bring in your used **ink cartridges** (any kind) and we will recycle them at Staples earning \$2 each for the church.

**Cell phones, eyeglasses, and hearing aid batteries** also continue to be collected for local ministries.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Paper Recycling Bins** located at the rear of Hoeffler Hall have been emptied. We will continue to accept your **newspaper, magazines, office paper, "junk" mail, and cereal type boxes smashed flat.** Please no plastic; take your paper out of the plastic bags before you throw it in the bin. Thanks for your help!

**DID YOU KNOW?** We have wheelchairs, potty chairs, shower chairs, canes, crutches, and walkers to loan out to anyone who might need one for a time. Please call the church office (610-856-7242) to make arrangements for pick-up of items.

#### **OUR ONGOING FUNDRAISER:**

**REDNER'S RECEIPTS.** We continue to collect Redner's receipts as an ongoing fundraiser. We just received another check for \$108.95! Marion would like to thank everyone who participates and remind you to always use your gas card when making a purchase at Redners.

**Receipts without the gas card number printed on them are invalid and will not be accepted by the store. If you don't yet have a card just ask for one—it's free!**



MINISTRIES AVAILABLE TO OUR SENIORS, SHUT-INS, SICK, ETC.:

**CD Ministry**—CD's of the weekly services are being mailed out to all those senior, sick or and shut-in members who cannot attend church services.

**Large Print Devotionals**—these are the same as our small, daily devotionals but have larger print for those needing it.

**Prayer Shawls**—These are available for sick, hospitalized, shut-in or senior members who would like one. They are very comforting to those who have received them. Recipients do not need to be a member of Robeson so please take them for others who would like them.

**Robeson Hammers**—Helping members in need with minor repairs at home, mainly small projects that would make their homes safer or more comfortable.

**Home Visits**—Our visitation team now trained to bring Holy Communion is visiting a number of our seniors and shut-ins and would be more than happy to visit others if invited. It is our hope to visit with and bring Holy Communion to each shut-in and homebound member of Robeson up to 6 times a year. If you would like a visit, and have not yet been visited by a member of our team, please feel free to contact Pastor Michael or call the church office 610-856-7242.)

If you have a need or request for any of the above ministries, please call the church office and we will be happy to help you.

The **Berks County Area Agency on Aging** is available to help you over the phone. Please call their office at 610-478-6500 and a staff member will be able to explain available services, answer questions and provide information on programs and community resources for you, family members or anyone you know who is 60 years of age and older. Please don't hesitate to give them a call.

As it turns out early Christians struggled against an utterly literal interpretation of the Bible because it often negated science and discovery and it also conflicted with the various truths and insights found within figurative and symbolic interpretations of texts.

A great historical example of this is St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430CE) who highlighted several problems that came with a strictly literal interpretation of the creation account in Genesis. Augustine wrote:

*"In matters that are obscure and far beyond our vision, even in such as we may find treated in Holy Scripture, different Interpretations are sometimes possible without prejudice to the faith we have received. In such a case, we should not rush in headlong and so firmly take our stand on one side that, if further progress in the search of truth justly undermines this position, we too fall with it. That would be to battle not for the teaching of Holy Scripture but for our own, wishing its teaching to conform to ours, whereas we ought to wish ours to conform to that of Sacred Scripture."*

*Often, a non-Christian knows something about the earth, the heavens, and the other parts of the world, about the motions and orbits of the stars and even their sizes and distances, ... and this knowledge he holds with certainty from reason and experience. It is thus offensive and disgraceful for an unbeliever to hear a Christian talk nonsense about such things, claiming that what he is saying is based in Scripture. We should do all we can to avoid such an embarrassing situation, which people see as ignorance in the Christian and laugh to scorn."*

(St. Augustine of Hippo, The Literal Meaning of Genesis. vol. 1, Ancient Christian Writers.)

Looking back at the long history of teachings and practices of biblical interpretation, one quickly discovers that it was not until sometime after the Protestant Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century that a strict Biblical literalism began to slowly gain popularity among certain constituents of the Christian faith. The reason for this growth in popularity was due to increasing concern over scientific theories, secular discoveries, and the skeptical view of religion and Holy

Scripture that began to flourish during the 18<sup>th</sup> century Age of Enlightenment.

Now, while I strongly believe that the intentions of the literalistic movement were for the protection of the faithful, the results of the movement thus far into our own day have been questionable if not disastrous when it comes to things like: the unfortunate wedge that literalists insist on driving between science and religion, the growth in Biblical illiteracy due to a lack of contextual research or critical scholarship, and the constant fear-mongering and repetitive end of world predictions of literalistic interpreters of apocalyptic texts.

Indeed the main result of such strict literalism has been to turn the Bible into a cage; one that forbids the Holy Spirit from moving the church forward or inspiring change, and what's more, it has had the effect of deifying the Bible such that the Bible itself becomes the central object of worship rather than the God who inspired its creation.

The way that the early church and our spiritual ancestors like Augustine avoided making such a mistake, as has been caused by rampant Biblical literalism, was to embrace a certain amount of humble flexibility when it came to interpreting the Biblical text; recognizing the simple and literal meaning as merely one facet of a multitude of interpretative options.

Perhaps where this can best inspire us today is to encourage us to read the Bible with a more open mind; to ask more questions about the text and its possible variety of meanings, not only caring about how the Bible speaks to our own day, but also considering and taking into account what it might have meant for the first listeners and hearers of the text.

In taking the time to read the Bible with care; recognizing the vast differences between the culture of Biblical times and our own, and considering the variety of thoughts and interpretative commentaries of God's people over the ages; we will not only come to a much better understanding of the text as it applies to our lives, but we will also develop a greater appreciation for how the Bible is a "living word," one that is always relevant because it has been inspired by the very Spirit of God.

Your brother in Christ, **PASTOR MICHAEL**

## Men's Group



The men of Robeson Lutheran Church continue to meet for breakfast and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m. (usually here in Hoeffler Hall). This is a great opportunity to get to know your brothers in Christ and learn more about your faith through brief bible study and mutual conversation. Come and see how the men of Robeson live out their discipleship. The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for **June 9 at 7:30 a.m. in Hoeffler Hall.**

## Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robeson Robins will not be meeting in June. Their July meeting will be dinner at Red Lobster. If you plan to join the group on that day, July 17, please make your reservation with Billie by calling 610-401-8496..



The Robins always welcome new members so if you are 50 or over and able to attend Tuesday meetings/trips once a month please consider joining the group. Programs and trips are planned by the Robeson Robins Board. There are several openings on the board at the present. Call Billie at 610-401-8496 if you would like more information about serving on the board or joining the Robeson Robins.

**QUILT TILL YOU WILT** every first Saturday of the month from 9-2. If you like to "quilt" which includes cutting, sewing, and knotting, (no experience necessary) then maybe Quilt Till You Wilt is for you. More sewers, quilters, knotters are always welcome. If you would like to try this art, please feel free to join the group on the first Saturday in Hoeffler Hall, or call Cindy Stewart for more information (610-856-7041).





### THIS AND THAT AT ROBESON LUTHERAN:



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!** We have posted volunteer sheets on the bulletin board in the new foyer. If you are willing to help during any of the worship services please sign up on this board. There are lists for acolytes, lectors, ushers, greeters, sound technicians, worship assistants, and communion servers. We appreciate and need our volunteers!

**ALTAR GUILD:** Altar care volunteers are always needed. If you are willing to serve on altar care for a month with at least one other volunteer please call Marion Kachel (610-856-1683) or the church office.

### **REMINDERS:**

Committee reports are due in the church office on the first Thursday of the month for the council meeting which will be held on the 2nd Thursday.

All Property concerns and requests should be brought to the attention of the church office or Bob Rivers, chairman of Property Committee.

**PARISH DIGEST DEADLINE:** Articles for the July/August (Summer) newsletter are due in the office by June 25.

**ALTAR FLOWERS and BULLETIN SPONSORS:** Please check with Linell in the church office for any openings. Reminder: **Altar flowers cost is now \$38** and bulletins are \$25.

### **IMPORTANT:**

- Any group or individual sponsoring special projects, collections, etc. please contact Bill Haney (Social Ministry) for coordination purposes and Debbie at the church office for advertising these events and projects.
- Any committee or group that has events etc. to advertise in the area papers should please copy to Linell at [lmrm52@aol.com](mailto:lmrm52@aol.com).



**YOUTH NEWS: It's finally here! Ten youth and chaperones will be leaving for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX on June 27th.**

Please keep this group in your prayers as they join youth from across the country for worship, fellowship, and service (rebuilding from last year's hurricane).

### **ROBESON LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL**



The preschool would like to thank everyone who supported their Ice Cream Social Fundraiser on May 18. It was a huge success, raising over \$1,000 for our preschool and enabling the preschool to support future projects here at Robeson Lutheran.

The preschool has also received \$454.44 from the GiantA+ Rewards Program. Thank you to everyone who signed up with Giant under our preschool so that we received these rewards when you shop there. The program is over for this year but be sure to sign up again in the Fall (yearly sign-up is necessary).

Graduation for those children going to kindergarten was held on May 22 and all classes have ended by Memorial Day. Summer Camp will be held during the two weeks following Memorial Day. Thanks to everyone who made this another successful year for our preschool!

### **PLAY GROUP: at Robeson Lutheran Church in Hoeffler Hall, Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m.**

The play group will continue to meet weekly - days and times and perhaps location may vary throughout the summer. Please check their facebook page Robeson Township Play Group updated times/locations. All families with preschool children are invited to join the group!





## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018

Robeson Lutheran is still on schedule to be part of National Night Out celebrations here at the church. This event is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. The goal of this evening is to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

National project coordinator, Matt Peskin said, “ This is a night for our nation to stand together and promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement. When law enforcement and the community work closely together, some amazing things can happen.

To celebrate this event Robeson Lutheran is hosting an evening of information, entertainment and a gathering of Plowville and surrounding area residents on the parking lot of the church from 6:00-8:00. It is hoped that area businesses, emergency responders, community outreach groups, etc. will set up a display on the parking lot to let those attending know what is available to help serve and support the community in many different ways. Please let us know that you are interested in participating or give us a call if you have any questions: [screed@dejazzd.com](mailto:screed@dejazzd.com) or (610-856-7242) .

People or groups willing to entertain, such as, music groups, jugglers, therapy dogs, etc. are being sought for half-hour stints. Anyone willing to help in this area should contact the church office 610-856-7242. Please put the date of August 7 on your calendar and plan to attend an evening with neighbors and friends as we celebrate the goodness of our community.



## LEAVING A LEGACY THAT GOES BEYOND DEATH

When we recall the names of the faithful who have died, our minds are often filled with precious memories. In our thoughts we are reminded that we are their legacy, that is to say, much of what we have – in both material and non-material things – has been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered by those who come after us? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?

As you plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, please consider a charitable bequest to Robeson Lutheran Church. This is one way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can undergird our congregation's ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Christians to worship, serve others, and continue the vital ministries of this church.

If you have questions about planned giving, you can talk to your personal financial advisor or speak to our congregational Thrivent representative John Lauer at his Morgantown office (610)-286-5986.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: Our thanks to those members/friends of the congregation who have designated Robeson Lutheran Church as the charity of choice for their Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you have received a letter from Thrivent indicating that you are eligible for this plan, please consider our congregation as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. This month we have received 181.00 thanks to John and Bonnie Lauer.



## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Income for April:	\$ 21,543.25
Other Income:	\$ 850.37 (in/out)
Checking balance brought forth:	\$ 5,808.49
Checks issued for April:	\$ 24,757.57
Checking balance as of 4/30/2018	\$ 3,444.54

Unpaid Bills: None  
In/Out Accounts: \$384.00

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

## SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

### Income:

Donations received in April:	\$ 2,15.00
Insurance Check (steeple, roof, & pavilion)	\$4,271.97

### Outflow:

Steeple Repair	\$4,675.00
Reserved Special funds—flooring	\$1,117.50

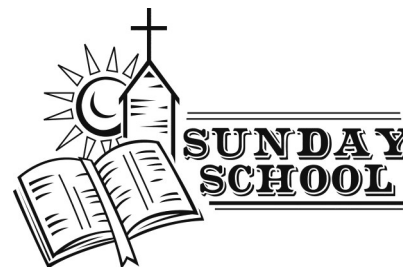
Checking Account balance 4/30/18 \$26,865.89

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP FOR E-GIVING.

We would like to remind those who are using E-giving that you now have the option to enter 999 to keep your giving going indefinitely until you choose to stop giving.

E-giving is an ongoing service offered here at Robeson Lutheran. You can sign up on our church website at [www.robesonlutheranchurch.org](http://www.robesonlutheranchurch.org) and look for the **"Donate Now" button**. Thank you for considering this giving opportunity that allows you to be good stewards of God's gifts even when you are unable to attend services.



## SUMMER CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church will continue to meet throughout the summer during the 9:00 worship service. We are in need of volunteers to lead this ministry. Even if you don't have someone in the 3 year old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes you are still welcome to serve as leader for the group. The need for Christian Ed. is important whether there is one or ten children present. Please consider talking to Sue Creed about being part of this ministry, if only for the summer months.

FREE WURLITZER PIANO: If you are interested please call Bob Loughery at 610-856-1742.

## CAMP NOAH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

Camp Noah is a week-long day camp curriculum serving communities impacted by disasters for 30 years.

Our local Camp Noah is a day camp offered August 13-17, 2018 free to families from Puerto Rico who are sheltering in the greater-Reading, PA area because they were affected by the 2017 hurricanes. Volunteers will be 18\* years of age or more, about half will be bilingual (Spanish and English). All will love children and have a passion for this type of ministry. (\*Volunteers 16-17 years of age with advanced leadership maturity may participate with coordinator's permission.) We are signing-up a volunteer crew of 25 to serve 50 campers in K-6th grades. [CampNoah.org](http://CampNoah.org) for more info.

From the Outreach Committee:

It is with sadness that we are losing two members of the Outreach committee because they are relocating out of the area. With Carol Rousch moving to Tel Hai and Janet Haney moving to the Phoenixville area., we are losing two faithful hard working people. They worked tirelessly on any project we did. People like this cannot just be easily replaced.

Along with them we also lose their husbands, Charlie and Bill, who helped the committee and never said no because they did not have the time. The biggest job was the bazaar and with all of us working together it grew into a great success. All we can do is wish them the very best and that God will bless them with health and happiness they so much deserve.

Bill and Janet were instrumental coordinating the Angel tree a project that grew in recent years, giving so many families a Merry Christmas they would not have had. This could not have happened without all the Haney's dedication and hard work. Sue Besecker has graciously agreed to chair the Angel Tree project, and we thank her for that.

We could go on and on about all the things the Rouschs and Haney's did for the church, too many things to mention, so we'll just say thanks as they move into the next phase of their lives.

As you can see, we need folks to step up and volunteer to fill these voids. We need folks for many committees, especially to chair the Social Ministry Committee, take charge of setting up vendor tables for the bazaar, help with our soup sale, chicken BBQ, and the bazaar. So if any one is interested talk to Debbie and be a part of the growth of this church. A few hours is all you need to offer and it will make a big difference to you and others around you.

## PROPERTY NEWS:

THANK YOU DALE! It is with regret and sadness that we announce that Dale Creed, Maintenance Supervisor, has resigned his position effective the end of May. Dale has held this position for 7 years and has been a dedicated staff member. We will miss him but wish him well in his retirement.

We are happy to report that the church steeple has been repaired and all costs were covered by insurance and donations. Thanks to those of you who gave generously to this project.

The old stained carpeting has been removed and new flooring has been installed in the new parlor. The carpet in the sanctuary at the altar area has been stretched and no longer has bumps. Thank you to the Outreach Committee who designated the profits from their chicken barbecue to the new flooring, and to those members who contributed toward the remaining costs.

WANTED: FREE push mower to be used around the church property. If you have a mower in good working condition that you would be willing to donate please call the church office. Thank you.

## LITTLE LIBRARY COMING TO PLOWVILLE!



Bonnie Lauer has formed a Thrivent Action Team to help fund a Little Library for our community. It will be located on the church property and will provide free books for adults and children to borrow. The library will be opening this summer, so please watch for more details in the summer Digest and upcoming bulletins.