

Happy Birthday to our Seniors!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

02—Jeanene Hill
20—Ron Ludwig
22—Jerry Ludwig
28—Scott Eshelman



Coming up in March:

Russell McVaugh—March 3
Louise Styer—March 13
Bud Bowman—March 18
Art Gordon—March 19
Sam Griffith—March 19
Joe Smith—March 19
Lois Beam—March 20
Mim Spence—March 30

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:

BAPTISM:

1/13/19—Jason Dennis Carr, son of Samuel and Bree Ann Carr



Do we have your **EMAIL ADDRESS**? If not, please send it to ddemarco@dejazzd.com with your name in the subject. We are hoping to have as many emails as possible in order to notify our members of any cancelations, send out reminders, and alert you of changes. Your help will be appreciated!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, February 10th, immediately after the 10:15 service.

The Parish Digest



From the Pastor:

⁴⁴ ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:44-46)

“If I had a million dollars, well I’d buy you a house...”
(Barenaked Ladies – If I Had a Million Dollars)

Sweet Dreams are made of this...

or

Putting my money where my mouth is.

What would you do if someone approached you tomorrow and gave you a gift of \$2,500.00? What is it worth to you?

I imagine for some folks that amount of money would be helpful in keeping up with the rent, or getting some much needed groceries and items for the home. For others it may bring to mind thoughts of paying down the car, the house, or the debt one feels from impending student loans (I can certainly commiserate with that). Of course for some of us blessed or lucky enough to be significantly wealthy, \$2500.00 may not seem like much money to dream with at all.

But for those of us currently living somewhat outside the (continued on page 4)

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

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

Email address: weziecow2@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

Rex Miller



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 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. Our first check of the year was for \$124.14! Keep up the good work and keep saving those tapes; it’s a big help for our church!

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!

COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS:

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



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.



FEBRUARY SERVICES & EVENTS

Every Sunday: Children's SCS is held during the worship services. Sunday Church School for teens and adults is held at 9:00 a.m.



FEBRUARY 3: SCOUT SUNDAY/ SOUPER BOWL

7:45 & 10:15 **Holy Communion**

Our Youth Group, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be holding soup kettles to collect money for the hungry in our community following the worship service on this day. There will also be a soup lunch fundraiser following the 10:15 service. You will receive soup, bread, dessert and a drink for \$7. All proceeds will go to the local food banks. Please plan to attend.

FEBRUARY 10: 7:45 & 10:15 **Holy Communion**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held following the 10:15 a.m. service. Please plan to attend. Annual reports will be ready for pick-up by Sunday, February 3rd in preparation for the meeting. Thank you!

FEBRUARY 17: 7:45 & 10:15 Worship

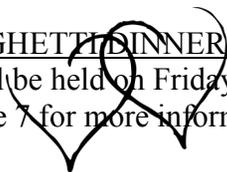
FEBRUARY 24: **Praise Service** at 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.

Joyful Noise offering for the Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund.

EVENTS:

Tuesday, February 5: Preschool enrollment for all present students and church members. Call the preschool at 610-856-7613 for an enrollment form or more information.

VALENTINE SPAGHETTI DINNER AND DANCE sponsored by the preschool will be held on Friday, February 15, 6-8:30 p.m. Please see page 7 for more information.



Bounds of significant debt or financial distress, we might hope to daydream of luxury items or experiences we could purchase with \$2500.00.

For example, I could imagine finally purchasing that high-end liquid-cooled massively-powered graphically-intensive gaming rig that I always wanted; a new PC that would cause my current PC to automatically shut down in shame.

On the other hand, \$2500.00 would certainly make for a nice week's worth of vacation (flight and all-inclusive hotel included) at either Montego Bay, Jamaica or Cancun, Mexico.

Heck, I could even go and see family in Germany, or better yet stay a week or two in my favorite city – Munich.

The point I wish to make is that there are plenty of awesome things, nice daydreams, or lifetime experiences that I could imagine achieving for myself with such an amount of money; however, I ultimately have other plans for that \$2500.00.

I am giving it to Robeson Lutheran Church as part of my contribution to the Capital Campaign.

Like the man who found a hidden treasure and seeks to buy the land on which it is hidden, or the merchant who found a pearl of great value and sold off other valuables to purchase it; I believe that our ministry together at Robeson; the faith we teach, the fellowship we have, and the facility we share with our community is a great treasure, a beautiful and rare gem that is worth making sacrifices for (time, talent, and treasure).

It is my sincere hope, that you, like me, will also see the great value inherent in our life together at Robeson, and be inspired to go beyond your regular giving. And if you have the means, and if you haven't already, that you will consider pledging or contributing to our "Keep the Light

Men's Group

The men of Robeson Lutheran Church continue to meet for breakfast and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month at different area restaurants. This is a great opportunity to get to know your brothers in Christ. **The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for February 9. Please contact John Lauer for details at 610-286-0800 or email John Lauer, johnwmlauer@gmail.com.**



Robeson Robins Senior Group

The Robeson Robins will be cutting back on the number of meetings/outings during the year. It was decided not to meet in January and February when the weather is cold and possibly snowy. We will welcome spring with our first event on March 27, when we meet at Twin Valley High School for breakfast and the play "The Addams Family," which is sure to be a crowd pleaser! Please RSVP to Billie ASAP at 610-401-8496. We also plan to go to the Rainbow Dinner Theater sometime this year for some good Pennsylvania Dutch cooking and some good laughs.



We are asking for your help in planning the other 2-3 events or programs. I'm sure some of you have seen some good acts around town or heard a great motivational speaker. Maybe there is a place that you think the group would like to see? Please call me or see me at the breakfast at Twin Valley where we can discuss these plans. Future events will be posted in the Digest and weekly bulletins.

For more information or to express your interest in the Robeson Robins please speak to Billie at 610-401-8496.



QUILTING GROUP

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 join the group on the first Saturday of the month from 9-2 (bring a lunch) in Hoeffer 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, but now more than ever. We have lost some of our volunteers over the past few years and need some people to fill some of the months. 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.

PARISH DIGEST DEADLINE: Articles for the March newsletter are due in the office by February 18.



**SPONSORS NEEDED FOR
BULLETINS & ALTAR FLOWERS:**

Sponsors are needed every Sunday to defray the costs of the Altar flowers and bulletins. In addition, when there are special services like during the upcoming Lenten season, bulletins are produced for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. This month bulletins are open for February 3 and 17. If you have a special person, group, or event you would like to honor by sponsoring, please contact Linell in the church office to find out what dates are still available. The cost for bulletins on a regular Sunday is \$25. The altar flowers cost \$38.

Shining” Endowment Anniversary Campaign in honor of our upcoming 250th year of ministry.

Know that all gifts are appreciated!

More information on our capital campaign is available through the church office.

Your brother in Christ,
PASTOR MICHAEL



**Robeson Evangelical Lutheran Church
1770-2020**

Celebrating 250 Years!

**“Keep the Light Shining”
Capital Campaign & Anniversary Celebration**

Here is another opportunity for our light to shine into the community: OPPORTUNITY HOUSE in Reading, is in need of CEREAL for their residents. Opportunity House is a family-oriented shelter and provides breakfast for all of their residents and also those seeking shelter in the cold weather. Donations may be dropped off at the church foyer at your convenience (by February 11th if possible).



2019 Day Trips to New York City by White Star Tours

We are planning two bus trips to New York City and want you to respond on the sheet below or a phone call to the church office if you are interested. We don't need any money at this time, but I need to know interest.

The first trip can be a weekday, for example Wednesday, May 8 for \$139 or Saturday, May 11 for \$149 per person. This trip includes Motorcoach transportation, admission to the 9/11 Memorial Museum and the One World Observatory, dinner at Puglia's as well as taxes & meal gratuities.

The second trip is titled Christmas in New York City. It includes Motorcoach transportation, ticket to the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes, a guided tour of Lower Manhattan, shopping at Macy's Herald Square or Rockefeller Center, dinner as well as taxes and meal gratuities. The cost for a weekday, for example Wednesday, December 11 is \$189 while Saturday, December 7 costs \$215 per person.

For more information, please contact Linell in the church office 610-568-7242. Please invite your family and friends. I would like to get 40 people to run the trip.

_____ Yes, I am interested in the weekday trip to the 9/11 Memorials in NYC @ a cost of \$139.

_____ Yes, I am interested in the Saturday trip to the 9/11 Memorials in NYC @ a cost of \$149.

_____ Yes, I am interested in the December weekday trip to Radio City & the Rockettes for \$189.

_____ Yes, I am interested in the December, Saturday trip to Radio City & the Rockettes for \$215.

Name _____
I know of _____ family and friends who would also be interested in these trips.



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. Robeson received \$3,628 in choice dollars in 2018 and we thank you!!

Please remember that you have until March 29th to designate your 2018 Choice Dollars before it's too late. If you are not sure you have Choice Dollars, ask your Thrivent representative.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance Forward: \$ 8,638.31
 Dec. Income: \$28,506.94
 In/Out Account: \$ 1,605.40
 Dec. Expenses: \$26,939.54
 Balance 11/30/18 \$11,811.11

Unpaid Bills: None

-Dorothy Martin, Treasurer

SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT:

Income:
 Donations received in December \$ 2,130.00
 Outflow:
 New computer \$ 678.39
 Transfer to general fund (from Bazaar) \$5,275.46
 Checking Account balance 12/31/18 \$48,796.93

-Kay Good, Treas. Spec. Funds

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP FOR E-GIVING. E-giving is an ongoing service offered here at Robeson Lutheran but regrettably the site had been down for most of the summer months. It is now up and running but you will have to sign-up again. (your old password will not work.) You should have received information directly from our envelope company explaining the new process. You can continue to access the new site through our website, **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.

Valentine



Spaghetti Dinner & Dance

Come bring your sweethearts to a spaghetti dinner and dance.

Friday, February 15, 2019 from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Adults \$8.00, Children 3-12 \$4.00; Family cap \$28.00



Join us for a fun evening of all you can eat spaghetti dinner and dancing. There will be raffle baskets and giveaways. Meals to go will be available also. BYOB—wine or beer only please.

Tyler Werner will DJ, and Greg Gehman will be cooking!

Contact the preschool office at 610-856-7613 or preschool610@dejazzd.com for reservations.

Limited seating available so make your reservation today! Proceeds will benefit the preschool. Everyone is invited—singles, couples, families; old and young!

Robeson Preschool PRESCHOOL News:



Registration for all the 2019-2020 school year will begin on Tuesday, February 5th for all enrolled families and church families. February 12th will begin enrollment for former families and siblings, and February 19th for new families.

Please spread the word and get your application in early.

The preschool's outreach project for February is to join with the church to help support the "Souper Bowl" on February 3. All proceeds from the soup luncheon will go to support the local food banks. Each child is being asked to bring a can of soup to help restock the pantry shelves at the food banks. This will teach our children the importance of helping others by providing a warm meal to someone.

FUNDRAISERS:

Everyone is invited to the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser being held on Friday, February 15. It is our hope to continue the tradition of old and young joining together for an evening of good food, good company, and good music. See you there!

Here is an opportunity to participate in and earn CASH for our preschool from the **Giant A+ School Rewards program**. Visit www.giantfoodstores.com and select Savings and Rewards. Create your online account. You will need your 11 digit BonusCard number and the School ID# 26822. Support our youth by buying gift cards and then designate your school rewards to our preschool! Thank you!!!

WORDS OF THANKS

Sam and I want to thank everyone who came to sing Christmas carols to us, and our friends from Robeson for the Christmas card. It sure made our day to know others care. Merry Christmas to all and have a Blessed New Year.
-Sam and Hazel Griffith

With appreciation for the special blessing you've been. Thank you so much.
-The Owens Family

We received a thank you from ELCA Global Church Sponsorship for our faithful support of their missionaries, in particular Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson. We have also received a letter from the Jacobsons indicating that after 36 years in Africa, they are retiring as full time ELCA missionaries and returning to the U.S. where they will continue their work in support of the hospital they started in Tanzania and other ministries involving global health.

We also received a letter of thanks from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, expressing their sincere appreciation for our kind and generous donations.

St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Benedict R.C.Church writes,

"We wish to express our gratitude to Robeson Lutheran Church for your generous and faithful donations to the Society in 2018. Through your generosity we have been able to assist many needy families living in Berks County and the surrounding area.

Your financial support and giving of your time, talent and prayers in support of the poor of Berks County is greatly appreciated.

May God bless you and your congregation for all the good work that you do.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT



MARCH 6—3:00 & 7:00 **Ash Wednesday Services**; Holy Communion; Optional imposition of ashes

Beginning March 13 through April 10, a **Lenten Supper** will be held in Hoeffler Hall at 6:00 p.m. followed by a **Lenten Service** in the church sanctuary at 7:00. Watch for the Lenten mailing which will include details of this year's sermon topics and other important information.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our Christmas Services and other areas where needed this holiday season. Some names were not received in time for the Christmas bulletins, and some people helped with tasks after Christmas. You know who you are and we want you to know that your efforts did not go unnoticed and we thank you!

IMPORTANT:

- Any group or individual sponsoring special projects, collections, etc. please contact the church office for coordination purposes and 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.

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). FYI, members from Robeson applied for 26 Thrivent Action Teams last year (2018) which amounts to \$6500 in funds for church and community fundraisers and other events.



Robeson Township Play Group

Play Group at Robeson Lutheran Church & Preschool

Who: Parents/caregivers and kids of all ages. Spread the word, invite a friend!

What: A casual, open play group to provide a way to get to know other families in the community, while the kids play and make new friends.

When: Every Monday and Wednesday from 11:15-12:15

Where: Hoeffler Hall

The children and their caregivers will be making a special craft on January 30 for Valentine's Day and plan on doing some new crafts and/or programs on a regular basis. Remember, this group is open to everyone in the community so bring some friends.

Additional Info: If you are interested, please join the [Robeson Township Play Group](#) on Facebook. The group will be following the Twin Valley School District/Robeson Lutheran Preschool schedule so if there is no school, there will be no play group that day! Feel free to contact Julie Alessandrini (juldem3@gmail.com) for any questions.

YOUTH UPDATES:

AT THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING in December, it was shared that the position of Youth Director has been eliminated from the 2019 budget due to the low number of youth in grades 7-12. Tyler Werner was offered another position within the church, but after some consideration decided to decline this position and pursue other opportunities in line with his education and career interests. **WE THANK TYLER FOR HIS WONDERFUL SERVICE AS YOUTH DIRECTOR** and continue to appreciate his many talents in other areas here at Robeson.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES: Pastor Michael, along with a committee of adult and youth volunteers, will continue the ministries of the youth. They look forward to working with the youth and hope to continue to grow this group in the future. The first restructuring meeting will be held on Sunday, February 10, immediately after the annual meeting. Anyone with a calling to work with youth or any interested youth are invited to attend.

Thank you: Hello, I wanted to thank Ava Gerace and your senior youth for the lovely and inspirational holiday cards for our clients. They will be given to them on Christmas morning with their gifts. We greatly appreciate you thinking of us and taking the time to write out these great cards. Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!
-Mindy S. McIntosh, Director, Safe Berks



THE NEXT GAME NIGHT will be held on February 8, from 6-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Bring your family, bring a guest, bring a snack to share, bring your favorite game to play, or just bring yourself!

THE LITTLE LIBRARY located next to the church and parsonage, continues to provide books for young and old. We thank everyone who has been sharing their books and Bonnie Lauer who continues to take care of the library. Cozy up with a good book this winter!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Did you know that our Outreach Committee presently does most of our fundraisers here at Robeson Lutheran? They coordinate and are responsible for our annual bazaar which raised over \$4,000 in 2018. They also hold a chicken barbecue in September and sell coupons for the Friends Helping Friends in October. And last but not least is their annual **Soup Sale** which is coming up on **March 17th**. They are asking your help in making soup, providing desserts, and of course buying soup. Preorders will be taken up to March 9th but will not be accepted after that date. If you do not preorder we cannot guarantee that all varieties of soup will be available for you on the day of the sale. Check the weekly bulletin for a list of soups or stop by the church office at your convenience.

If you like to cook and are willing to make your favorite soup please give Judy Mountz a call at 717-445-6130. They could really use your help! And if you'd rather bake, that would also be appreciated so please call Judy.

The committee is still looking for new members. They presently meet on a Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 but would be willing to change their meeting time to accommodate those who work and would like to join the committee. Please give Judy a call.

SOUP SALE
March 17

Name: _____

Phone: _____

_____ I am willing to make soup _____

_____ I am willing to bake _____

_____ I would like to preorder soup

A complete list of soups will be available in the near future.

Drop form in the offering plate; mail to the church; or give to Judy Mountz or Diane Morlock.

