



Grove Presbyterian Church News

www.GrovePresbyterianChurch.org

December 25, 2016

Kindermusik: The second semester of Kindermusik starts **Wed., Feb. 1st**. Children aged 16 months – three years will meet at 5:00 PM. Children ages three to four years will meet at 5:45 PM. Since materials need to be ordered, completed registration forms and the materials' fee are due in the church office no later than **Sunday, Jan. 22**. Registration forms can be found on the tables in the back of the sanctuary, by the mailboxes outside the fellowship hall, and in the December Spire.

Member Information: In anticipation of the 2017 in-house member directory, we would like to ask that you let the office know if you have any changes (name, family status, address, home phones, cell phones, email addresses, etc.) Email your changes to GroveChurch@aol.com or phone the church office (275 - 0692).

Robert Burns Supper: All are invited to attend the Annual Burns Supper on **Saturday, January 28th**, 6:30 PM at Rolling Pines Country Club in Berwick, to celebrate the birthday of Scotland's Immortal Bard, Robert Burns. Come and display your Tartan and enjoy an evening of Authentic Scottish food, Bagpipes, Poetry and Singing. There will be many toasts (cash bar) and of course, the Haggis will be addressed. The cost of the evening is \$30.00 and attendance is not limited. Contact Bill Godfrey (570-284-4248, wcgodfrey1@gmail.com) or Greg Bitler (484-332-4874, gbitler@ptd.net) for reservations and payment.

Calendar of Church Events

Sun. Dec. 25: *Christmas Day / No Church School*
 9:45 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
 10:15 AM Worship

Mon. Dec. 26: *Office Closed / Financial Books Close/DASD Closed 12/23-1/2*

Tues. Dec. 27: 9:00 AM Spiritual Growth – GR
 11:45 AM Office Staff Meeting – KH
 6:00 PM Adult Bells

Wed. Dec. 28: *No Activities Schedules*

Thurs. Dec. 29: 7:00 PM BSA Troop 39 - FH

Fri. Dec. 30: 8:30 AM Tutoring Class – GR
 2:30 PM - 7 PM Viola/Violin Lessons – GR

Sat. Dec. 31: *New Years Eve*

Sun. Jan. 1: *No Church School / Ingathering Offering / New Years Day*
 9:45 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
 10:15 AM Café Communion Worship Service / Brunch
 11:15 AM Worship & Music Committee Mtg.



2016 CHURCH DATA

MONTH TO DATE	AMT.	YEAR TO DATE	AMT.
Dec. Budget Needed	\$ 94,921.90	2016 Budget	\$319,000.00
Dec. Offerings Received	\$ 32,566.00	2016 Offerings	\$256,644.10
Dec. Balance Needed =	(\$ 62,355.90)	2016 Balance =	(\$62,355.90)

Attendance December 18: 10:15 AM = 100

We welcome guests to complete a Pew Card and place it in the offering plate. If you are new in the area or are looking for a new place of worship and fellowship, we extend to you a warm welcome. For our first time guests we want you to have a special gift. On the windowsills you will find a mug. Please take one with our compliments. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee on us.

Fully handicapped accessible bathrooms, for both men and women, are located in the foyer of the courtyard entrance, which can be reached through the fellowship hall. The door to the fellowship hall is to the right of the pulpit. See ushers if you need assistance.



Flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of all loved ones, given by the Notz family.

Food Bank: Next Sunday will be our Food Bank Ingathering. Each month we ask members to bring a donation of food to help stock the area Food Bank. We specifically need **Tuna and Canned Meats** at this time.

Deacons for the month of December are Spring Taylor-Santos, Gary Christian, and Scott Romberger. Large print bulletins and bulletins for children are available from the ushers.



Coffee Fellowship: There will be no coffee hour today. Help us continue to enjoy simple coffee hour fellowship after worship each Sunday by signing up. Coffee hour will not take place on the days the sign-up sheet remains vacant. A sign-up sheet can be found hanging on the wall outside the church kitchen. Please, no nut products due to allergies. Thank you.

2017 Offering Envelopes: Are now available in the Fellowship Hall on the table by the kitchen. If you are visiting a member who cannot make it to church, please lend a hand and bring them their envelopes. If you prefer to not use envelopes, please contact the office and let us know so that number can be removed from the system.

Grove Elders are asking each of our parishioners to please include in your prayers in the days ahead the following: the Pastor Nominating Committee - for help, guidance, and direction; our Pastor, Bob Andrews - for strength and direction as he prepares for his new role in his retirement; and the Session - to bring wisdom and understanding in our transformation as we prepare for our new chapter in Grove Church.

Child Care During Worship: Children are always welcome in worship, but we know sometimes other options are needed. Professional child care is provided by Sandy Lewis and Chelsey Stamey for children birth through age five starting at 9AM in the Infant/Toddler Room. Worship bags are located on the giraffe coat rack in the front of the sanctuary and are available for children's use during the service and returned to the giraffe after the service.

Next Sunday - Café Communion Service: January 1st there will be a member led service at Grove. The worship committee decided to make this another Café Communion Service held in the fellowship hall. All who attend are to bring a covered dish, brunch style, to share. There will be Christmas Carols sung, food enjoyed, communion served at the individual tables led by Scott Lawvere, and, in lieu of a sermon, all those attending will be asked to share their Christ Centered New Year's Resolution. Perhaps this will be a small intimate service, but what a better way to celebrate the New Year!

Pastor Emeritus: The Session of Grove Presbyterian Church has voted unanimously to give the title of Pastor Emeritus to the Rev. Dr. Robert J. Andrews. This is an honorary title given to a retiring pastor and carries with it no special responsibilities or expectations. It is our way of saying, "Pastor Andrews, you hold a special place in our hearts, thank you."

Special Coffee Hour: There will be a special Coffee Hour reception on Sunday January 8th to welcome our transitional pastor the Rev. Steve Cureton, and to honor our other guest that morning, The Rev. Dr. William Knudsen, Executive Presbyter, who retires from Northumberland Presbytery in March 2017. The Fellowship Committee is coordinating this and if you wish to contribute please contact a member of the committee.

Attention Committee Chairs' – 2016 Annual Reports: Members of the congregation have asked we revert back to a full annual report which will include reports from all committees. It was asked the reports be available a week prior to the congregational meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 22nd. As it is asked that your reports be sent in by Wednesday, January 4th. A special **Thank You** to those whom send in their reports earlier as it is a great help to me during a very busy time of year.

PW Meeting: "Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts." I John 5:21. On **Thursday, January 5**, the Presbyterian Women's Group will discuss *Seeking Satisfaction in Idols* at 9 AM in Muffin Man's Fireplace Room. Newcomers are welcome. There will be no meeting in February.

2016 Contributions – Books Close Tomorrow: Tomorrow is the last day to make contributions for 2016. All donations received after tomorrow, December 26th, will be credited on your contribution statement for the year 2017. **The books will be closed from Monday, Dec. 26th, to Jan. 6th.** Checks cannot be written until January 9th, 2017 due to system turnovers.

Volunteer Chaplain Assistant: The Spiritual Care Department of Geisinger Medical Center is offering the "Art of Caring Conversation" this summer. This four-week, twelve-hour training is the basic requirement for persons wishing to volunteer as a Chaplain Assistant in the hospital. Classes will be held Tuesday evenings, from 5 PM – 8 PM at Geisinger Spiritual Care Center, 100 N. Academy Ave, Danville, Jan 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, 2017. To reserve your place, contact Tina Kester, 570-271-3700. See the FH bulletin board for additional information.

No Sunday School: No Sunday School will be held on Sunday, January 1st. Sunday School resumes on January 8th at 9:00am.

2017 Flower Chart: The Flower Chart for 2017 is located on the wall leading to the church kitchen. Please remember to put whom the flowers are in Memory of or in Honor of and by whom the flowers are given. 2017 pricing increased to **\$27.00 an arrangement** per florist. In order to ensure beautiful flowers each Sunday, *please help by filling in January first*. Immediate dates untaken are: **Jan. 15 & Jan. 22.**

Session Reminder – Date Change: Committees of Session, Board of Deacons, and Session Elders *will meet a week later in January* due to the holiday season – meetings will take place **Monday, Jan. 9**, starting at 6:00 PM.

Book Club: The selection for January is "*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*", by Annie Barrows and Mary Ann Shaffer. We will gather on **Sunday, January 8 at 7 PM**. Location, TBA. All are welcome!

Office Closed: Please note – in observance of the holidays, the office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26th and Monday, Jan. 2nd.

Office Staff Schedule – Starting in January, Kristin will be here Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM – 4 PM. Bulletins will now be printed Thursday mornings. News articles will still be needed each Tuesday. The office will be open Mon. through Thurs. 8 AM – 4 PM as always. Although the office is not advertised as open on Fridays, Clare is always here – but uses that day to run errands and such.

Annual Meeting: Session hereby issues a call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the Grove Presbyterian Church for 11:15 PM on Sun. Jan. 22nd for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the Annual Reports, as well as any other pertinent business. We adjourn from the Worship Service at 11:15 into the Fellowship Hall for our regular congregational meeting. Copies of the 2016 Annual Report will be available in the Fellowship Hall a week prior for pre-review on Sun. Jan 15th.

Snow Policy: When the snow and bad weather arrive, Church School will be canceled by a joint decision of the Director of Children's Ministry and the pastor. An announcement will be made over the radio and TV, if possible. Teachers will be informed of the cancellation by the phone chain. All efforts will be made to have the sidewalks and parking areas plowed and cleaned as soon as possible. During the week, in the event that the Danville Schools are closed due to bad weather, Grove's Church Office will also be closed, and all activities scheduled for that day will be canceled. If the schools open one or two hours later, the office will be open and the activities will be held as scheduled.

Securing Your Property: Tis the season – with the holidays upon us and the weather getting colder, staff has been encountering more transients. Some are out of town transients simply passing through the area, and some are locals in need of financial assistance or housing. We remind you to please check all doors if you are the last to leave. We continue to find doors unlocked throughout the facility – and can put our members and property at risk. So, please remember to double check when exiting (push and pull to make sure doors latched correctly). Some have been found locked, but not latched. Thank you all for your assistance in securing the property.