

# Cross Roads Communiqué

Pastors Gary & Lisa Lyon Phone: 724-845-1901 E-mail: [crcpc@windstream.net](mailto:crcpc@windstream.net)

November 2014

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

## November Worship Opportunities Sundays at 10 AM

November 2

*"Where is Your Treasure?"*

Matthew 6:19-22

November 9

*"The Problem With Two Masters"*

1 Kings 18:21; 1 Samuel 7:3-4; Matthew 6:24; Mark 3:24-25

*An informal worship experience to help you grow a vibrant faith.*

*Worship at 6*

Saturday, November 15, 6 PM

*"Giving Your Treasure Back to God"*

Communion will be celebrated.



November 16

*"Giving Your Treasure Back to God"*

Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 6:1-6

November 23

Christ the King

*"Don't Worry 'Bout a Thing"*

Matthew 6:25-34

Communion Celebrated



November 30

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

*"Restore Us, O God: Hope"*

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13:24-37



**Leechburg Ministerial  
Thanksgiving Eve Service  
at Cross Roads Community  
Presbyterian Church  
Wed., November 26, 7:00 PM**

**Speaker: Rev. James Arter**

Offering goes to Leechburg Food Bank.



## "Fall Back" Social Sunday, November 2

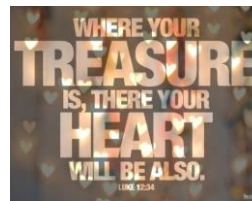
The Party Planners invite everyone to the social hall following worship on Sunday, November 2 for yummy treats & beverages. Come enjoy the food and fellowship.



**BOWLING BLAST**  
November 9 at 1:30 PM  
Lee's Lanes  
4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> graders and their friends are invited to come bowl with us!

\$1.00/person includes shoe rental.

Call the church office or speak with Rev. Gary if you plan to go. Sponsored by Leechburg Ministerial.



**You are invited** to participate with church members and friends in a month-long devotional centered around the theme of "Where you treasure is, there will be your heart also." The passage is from Luke 12:34. Each

Sunday, beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup> in worship, readings for the week will be in the bulletin and will connect with the Sunday morning theme. They will also be posted on our church web page at [www.crcpc.org](http://www.crcpc.org) on the Worship tab and can be found on the church Facebook page.

## PW Thank Offering to be received Nov. 16



Since 1888, Presbyterian women have joyfully expressed gratitude for God's blessings by sharing their blessing with those in need at home as well as around the world. The Thank Offering funds programs that provide education, safe housing, clean water, health care, help for prisoners, justice for women, and so much more. Our Synod of the Trinity received \$5000 for The Welcome Table in Philadelphia, bringing homeless women together weekly for a meal they prepare and share together. Our partner presbytery, Kigali in Rwanda, received \$35,000 to train youth leaders in reconciliation, peace building, conflict resolution, family planning and entrepreneurship. They will return to their universities and congregations to train other youth.

Women & men are invited to give on Nov. 16.

# Opportunities for mission, ministry & fun!

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## November at a Glance

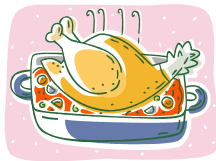
- 2 Fall Back Social, after worship
- 2 Turkey Feast Planning Mtg., 11 AM
- 3 Liturgical Arts Team Mtg., 7 PM
- 4 Session & Deacons Meetings, 7 PM
- 9 Bowling Blast for 4 – 7 graders, 1:30 PM at Lee's Lanes
- 10 Pilgrimage Planning Mtg., 6:30 PM
- 15 Pot Love Dinner, Noon
- 15 Worship @ 6, 6 PM

- 16 Presbyterian Women Thank Offering Sunday
- 18 Mission Team Mtg, 7 PM at Dunnivan Home
- 23 Stewardship Sunday
- 23 Turkey Feast, 11:30 AM
- 24 Monday Eve. Club Prayer B-Fast, 9 AM
- 26 Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7 PM at Cross Roads Community Presbyterian Church
- 27 Thanksgiving Day Dinner, 1 PM

### Thanksgiving Day Dinner November 27 at 1 PM

Do you know someone who will be alone on Thanksgiving or is unable to prepare a meal? Jamie Rimmel leads the crew of volunteers who will provide the meal in our social hall. Reservations need to be received in the church office by November 21.

**NEEDED:** Monetary donations to purchase meal items, food donations, and willing workers. Please talk with Jamie, 724-845-3038.



### Worship at 6 – November 15

One of the best kept secrets at Cross Roads is the very informal worship service held once a month, **Worship at 6**. Communion is celebrated at each service.



### Cross Roads Community Annual Turkey Feast Sunday, Nov. 23 - 11:30 AM

Great food & fellowship! Complete & return the enclosed reservation form or sign up in church. **Don't everyone choose bread & rolls!!**

**Volunteers Needed** to help prepare, set up, serve, and/or clean up on Turkey Feast day. **Let's meet following worship, Sunday, November 2.**

### Adult Church School is for all

**CRPC Adults!** We meet each Sunday at 9 AM in the church office for a time of study and learning. All adults are invited. Come join in!



**Church School for Children & Youth!** Great lessons, wonderful teachers, fun, faith, friendships all are part of our program for children age 3 and up. We start at 9 AM each Sunday morning and would love to have you here!

**2014 Christmas Pilgrimage** planning continues. Next meeting is November 10 at 6:30 PM.

You can help by collecting ½ gallon clear plastic jugs to be used for luminaries.



Pilgrimage will take place on December 13 from 2 – 5 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us on the journey.

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



### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 at NOON

A warm welcome and a hot, nutritious **FREE** meal. Reservations appreciated.

### Secret Sisters Party Saturday, December 6, 2:00 PM

Bring your favorite dish to share. New Sisters are always welcome! Just bring a gift and join in.



### Monday Evening Club Prayer Breakfast Monday, Nov. 24, 9 AM, Cross Roads' Social Hall

Enjoy a continental breakfast. Pastor Terri Landers of Forks Zion Lutheran Church will be the speaker. A free-will offering will be collected. **Everyone is welcome!**



### Christmas Candy Sale

**Valos Candy** will be sold again this year in time for yummy Christmas treats for you and gifts for your family & friends. Sale dates and info will be in your Sunday bulletins.

# Getting Down to Business

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## Session Munchies:

- Received Terry & Martha Young by letter of transfer from Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church and Gary & Kathleen Smith by letter of transfer from Hebron Lutheran Church.
- Gary reported on the 2014 Fall Stewardship Theme taken from Matt. 6:21: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- Sue Ellen Rupert took on the task of potentially reducing our church insurance premium by \$580 by watching several church safety videos on behalf of session. She'll report back to session in the coming months.
- Sharon Nelmes reported on the Presbytery meeting held at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church on Sept. 9.
- Treasurer's Report was reviewed. It was moved and seconded to receive the Treasurer's Report, file for financial review and to pay bills as funds become available.
- Approved September 2, 2014 Minutes
- Approved reception of Presbyterian Women Thank Offering to be received on November 16, 2014
- Approved dedication of 2015 Stewardship Commitments on November 23, 2014.
- Approved purchase of the new Presbyterian hymnal Digital version, Glory to God.
- Gary and Lisa inquired about using some of their 2014 vacation days in the first months of 2015 to help provide child care for their granddaughter as their infant grandson undergoes heart surgery. Session approved the one-time request to roll over vacation days as they have need.
- After a lengthy discussion concerning questions and comments received from congregation members, session acted to eliminate the 'renewal of membership' action being asked of church members. For 2015, the membership roll will remain the same unless members choose to be removed from the roll. Session will review the roll annually.
- Session affirmed that the Inactive Role will cease to exist on December 31, 2014. Those currently on the Inactive Role will be contacted.

**2014 Peacemaking Offering.** Thanks to everyone for your contributions. We collected \$222.00 and 25% (\$55.50) stays here at CRCPC.

## Financial Corner

October 1 - 27, 2014

**Income:** \$14,855.32  
**Expenses:** \$10,973.17  
\$3,882.15\*

\*The actual balance in the general account is **(-\$3,609.91)**. This is due to restricted use funds, deficient income during summer months, and an influx of large bills during September and early October.

{November Bills Estimate \$9,000.00}  
{December Bills Estimate \$9,500.00}

**Need Offering Envelopes?** Call 724-845-1901 or e-mail [crcpc@windstream.net](mailto:crcpc@windstream.net) the church office. We'll get them ready for you.

## October, 2014 Memorials

### In MEMORY Of:

Robert Ormesher

“

“

Betty Blom

Andrew T. Sendry

“

### Given By:

Dick & Katherine Snyder

Karen & Danny Ferrero

Jeff & Pam Roberts

Sidney & Pat Breman

Mrs. Andrew T. Sendry

Andrea E. Sendry

## OFFICE HOURS - Through December 12

Monday - 9:00 – 2:00

Tuesday – 9:00 – 4:00

Thursday – 9:00 – 3:00

Friday – 9:00 – 2:00

Hours may vary from time to time, so if you don't reach Karen, please leave a message. Thanks!

## 2014 PER CAPITA!

Will you help Session pay our allotment?

\$26.82/confirmed member



*Happy Thanksgiving from the Pastors & staff of Cross Roads Community! The church office will be closed Friday, November 28.*

# More Opportunities, News, & Information...

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## Salt of the Earth: Help keep the cupboard

**stocked!** Our ministry to chemotherapy patients is meaningful to everyone involved. Please help us refill our stock. **We need instant soups, instant cereal, snack crackers (peanut butter, cheese, etc.), pudding, and ginger ale.** Items can be placed in the cabinet at the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> Street stairs.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### November

- 3 Pete Wasyluk
- 4 Tom Shoemaker
- 6 \*Scott & Sally Baker
- 6 \*Vicki & Dave Stephenson
- 6 \*Donna & Andrew Zabinski
- 7 George Spiering, IV
- 11 Kristin Swartzlander-Bowser
- 12 \*Merle & Rose Marie Sober
- 12 Deborah Wanichko
- 13 PJ & Dawn Frejkowski
- 17 Marcia Carroll
- 18 Sheran Kupas; Andrea Sendry
- 21 Noah Shearer
- 22 \*Art & Nancy Duppstadt
- 23 Sally Trefelner
- 24 Donna Cline; Jacque Davis
- 25 Marjorie Santillo
- 27 Jessica Pierce
- 29 Michele Covey

\*Anniversary

## WEBPAGE UPDATED

Go to [www.crcpc.org](http://www.crcpc.org) and check it out!



**Thank you to outgoing elders,** Patty Brady & Corey Whitesell and **deacons,** Sally Trefelner & Allison Whitesell. Your dedication and service to CRCPC is very much appreciated.

**Welcome new elders,** Marilyn Klugh & Gary Cockcroft and **deacons,** Bill Davis & Denny Bringer.

**Thanks to** Antoinette Cockcroft, Sharon Nelmes & Liz Fanelli for continuing your service with another term as elders and deacon.

## New Members welcomed in October

**Terry & Martha Young** transferred to CRCPC from Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church. They live in Leechburg and are both retired. Together they enjoy various hobbies and antiquing. Terry also enjoys golfing while Martha likes to read. Terry has 2 children & 6 grandchildren. Martha has 1 child & 2 grandchildren.

**Kathleen & Gary Smith** transferred to CRCPC from Hebron Lutheran Church. They live in Leechburg. Gary is a manager at Busy Beaver in Kittanning and Kathleen is retired. They were members of a Presbyterian church for 21 years prior to joining Hebron Lutheran, and Kathy served as a Sunday school teacher for both kids and adults. They are looking forward to growing with CRCPC.

**Welcome to you all.** We are so glad to have you as part of our church family!



## 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.

**Here are pics of the helping hands team cutting down a tree at the home of Sharon Nelmes. Thanks to Gary Cockcroft, Jim Potter & Gary Lyon for a tough job well done!**



**Helping Hands** worked on Sat., October 25<sup>th</sup> at a home in Vandergrift. Patty Brady, Sarah Cuffia, Jim & Patty Potter, Carol Start, Gary Cockcroft, and Lisa & Gary Lyon removed cabinet and window hardware, scraped windows, painted cabinets and trim, and chipped out a sewage pipe from the garage floor.

Keep your eyes and ears open to when the next opportunity for hands-on mission presents itself so you can join in!



## Cross Roads Community Presbyterian Church

271 Main Street  
Leechburg, PA 15656  
724-845-1901  
www.crcpc.org

Co-Pastors: Gary and Lisa Lyon

email: [crcpc@windstream.net](mailto:crcpc@windstream.net)

**At the October Session meeting action was taken reversing decisions made in the spring concerning annual review of the membership roll required in the PCUSA Book of Order. What follows is a statement ruling elder Patty Brady made on behalf of session near the end of worship on Sun., Oct. 19. We wanted all of our members to read it.**

We have recently learned that some members of our congregation are very upset and offended by the session's decision to ask members to reaffirm their Cross Road membership by signing their name to the membership book. As a session, we are standing up here to let you know that we are very sorry if our actions have caused confusion and distress among this church family. This was certainly not our intention.

Please let us explain to you how we came to this decision. Every year, the session is required - by the Book of Order - to review the membership roll. And every year, it is a very difficult task to determine who is or is not an active member. We agonize over it. We have to determine who is an active member, but we are never comfortable with establishing criteria - is an active member someone who comes to church every week...every month... once a year? Is it someone who gives his/her time and talent to the congregation? Is it someone who fills out a pledge card during fall Stewardship? Is it...what? There is no easy answer. Yet, as a session we have to review the roll and make decisions.

We finally concluded that being an active member is a very personal and spiritual choice and one that we should not make for others. Naturally, we cannot make assumptions as to what is in your heart, so the easiest way ...least invasive way was to simply ask the congregation to reaffirm that you consider yourself an active member and sign the book. Just like we repeat the Apostle's Creed in church to reaffirm our faith, we were simply trying to reach out to you and asking you to reaffirm your Cross Roads membership.

Clearly, this approach was not successful. We had no idea that this initiative would cause such a negative emotional response. To be honest, as a session we were surprised and dismayed at the reactions and comments we received. We hope you all know that we had the church's best interest in mind.

So where do we go from here? First of all, we are throwing out the book and not asking anyone to reaffirm their membership. Membership will remain the same this year except for two inactive members who asked to be put on the active membership roll and we are going to do that - happily. The session will review the roll annually and will call those members who we have not heard from in a while to determine if they still wish to be on the active roll. If any of you have any suggestions as to how to make this process more effective, please share your thoughts with us.

Thank you for giving us the time to speak with you. We hope that our explanation today helps to alleviate any animosity with regards to this issue. We also hope our actions today affirm our willingness to govern this congregation to the best of our abilities and with the hope that we can love and serve God and each other. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any session member. Thank you.

2014 Session: Antoinette Cockroft, Sharon Nelmes, Patty Brady, Corey Whitesell, Richard Snyder, Gary Hall, Patty Potter, Jamie Rimmel, Sue Ellen Rupert, Paula Mahar, Alisha Schall, & Sandi Lechner

# And Still More...

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## Congratulations to:



**Claire (Brady) & Sean Hess** on the birth of their son, Braden Neill, on October 27. Braden weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 22" long. Patty & Neill Brady are Braden's happy grandparents!

**Elizabeth (Hall) & Josh Fishel** on the birth of their son, Oliver Eugene, on October 29. Oliver weighed 7 lbs., 14 oz. and was 21" and has a big sister, Aria. Gary & Cheryl Hall are thrilled grandparents and Maxine Hall is happy great grandma!



**2014 CROP Walk.** Cross Roads Community, First Lutheran, Hebron Lutheran, Allegheny Presbyterian, and First Methodist Churches all walked on Sunday, Oct. 5 and raised \$2,473.00. First Lutheran Church won the prizes for most walkers and most money raised. Len Kalmar won the individual award for most money raised. Thanks to all participants. Brienne Ralph and Gary Lyon walked for CRCPC. It was a great day!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your choice:

**Poinsettia OR Gift for Shut-in**

# \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettias X \$7.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Shut-in Gift X \$7.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Order Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Will you pick up your poinsettia after worship on Christmas Eve? **yes** **no** (Circle one)

Please give orders & money to Karen Ferrero, Marge Hunter, or the church office. Order deadline is November 23.



**Where is your treasure?** Where is your heart? How does this connect with what you commit to the church financially? During the month you'll receive mailings from the church concerning your 2015 financial commitment to Cross Roads Community. On Sunday morning, Nov. 23, all 2015 commitments will be dedicated during worship. You may return yours any Sunday in November or directly to the church office.

*"Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also."*  
Luke 12:34



**The Liturgical Arts Team** is still looking for Christmas tree stands. Can you help us out?? We will return them to you after Christmas. Please call or e-mail Karen at

the church office (724-845-1901; [crcpc@windstream.net](mailto:crcpc@windstream.net)) and she will pass your name and phone number along to Sandi. Thank you!



**Pray for the safety of deer hunters and be extra careful driving!**

## Cobs & Cores

For the third year in a row, Cobs and Cores has been a successful outreach to the community and a fun time! Good music, good food, good witness of our love of God, and good time together with community. Thanks to the Grow the Church Team for making this year so special. Net profit, which is a good thing as well, was \$503.44!

### Turkey Feast Reservation Card

I'll/We'll be at worship & dinner **Sun., Nov. 23**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please **CIRCLE** what you will bring (one item):

Sweet potatoes corn carrots  
bread/rolls apple pie pumpkin pie.

Return this card in the offering plate or to the church office by Sunday, November 16.

**Cross Roads Community  
Presbyterian Church**

271 Main Street  
Leechburg, PA 15656-1038



**November**

**Dated Material**

**Experience the wonder of Christ.....Grow & Thrive in your faith;  
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**From the Lyon's Den**

*"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us....."*

Romans 12:68

Mary was in her late 80s. I remember that her make-up was caked on, she dressed really extravagantly in cheap bright clothes, and burned a lot of her food. She didn't have family or much money. Mom and dad used the gifts of exhortation and parenting on me lots of times when they said, "Get over to Mary Moore's house and wash her walls for her. Go cut her grass. Wash her windows. Paint her ceiling." Off I'd scramble.

For Mary's sake, and many others', my dad taught me about tools and repairs when I was growing up. He instilled in me the need to be generous in giving. I think what I learned not through his words, but through his quiet action, was not to grumble when using the gifts God has given us. Sometimes I forget that lesson and it isn't until I'm taking a quiet moment with Jesus that I'm reminded of these words, "*God loves a cheerful giver.*" II Cor. 9:7. Smilin' returns!

This past month I've watched and experienced persons giving of themselves at Cross Roads in amazing ways. We've had vine clearers, church school teachers, food preparers, tree choppers, CROP walkers, tech

workers, leaders leading, pray-ers, in-home visitors, personnel team members, mission workers, biscuit makers, offering counters, maintenance workers, ministry dreamers, nominating team members, and many others giving for the sake of Jesus.

What might God have in store for your gifts in November? Chew on these for a while and then let Lisa or me know if you're feeling some tuggings:

- We need Sunday morning tech team members.
- Person or team to figure out how to stream our worship services on the internet.
- Special music solos or group pieces for our upcoming services and the holidays.
- Repair of the manse chimney cap and flashing.
- Discerning your own commitment of financial gifts to CRCPC for 2015.
- Additional volunteers for our Pot Love program.
- Volunteers for our Turkey Feast Sunday dinner preparation, serving, and clean-up and for our Thanksgiving Day community dinner.

We've all been given gifts and God has a place just for you to use them. Come on. Give it a try. I know you'll be blessed.

Faithfully ... Gary