



# The Vine

News, Information and Inspiration from Royersford Baptist Church

Volume 49/ Issue 5

September/October 2018

## RBC CHURCH PICNIC

**Saturday,  
September 29  
3 – 7 pm  
Manderach Park**



Come one, come all! Bring family and friends. Lots of fun for all! We will provide fried chicken and drinks. Sign-up sheets are at the church.



RBC Book Club this fall. All are welcome!

Thursday, September 13

**Loving Eleanor** by Susan Wittig Albert

Thursday, October 11

**The Radium Girls** by Kate Moore

Thursday, November, 8

**The Silent Wife** by Kerry Fisher

Thursday, December, 13

**Killers of the Flower Moon** by David Grann

## CROP WALK

Sunday, October 21 (Registration – 1:00 pm)  
at First UCC 145 Chestnut Street, Spring City

See the Sunday Bulletins and Midweek Newsletters  
throughout September for more information.

If you have any questions, please see Jose L. Ortiz.

## LOST & FOUND

A table will be set up in  
the narthex in September  
with items that have been  
found over the last several  
months.

## ***Bolicks to visit RBC***

Dwight and Barbara Bolick will be at RBC in our 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, October 7. Barbara and Dwight serve with the Convention of Baptist Churches Chilean Mission in ministries of economic and leadership development. Their primary work is with Mapuche churches in southern Chile.

The Mapuche are the indigenous people of Chile and Argentina. Most of them live on small farms in isolated rural communities called "reductions." They struggle with severe poverty, lack of sustainable livelihoods, and the debilitating, culture-eroding effects of centuries of domination.

The Bolicks work with Mapuche churches and communities helping them to recover their identity as a people made in the image of God and to discover their vocation as productive stewards of God's creation.

The Bolicks and the Mapuche churches pursue these goals together through various programs. These include recovering the use of the native language, Mapudungun, in worship, evangelism and service; entrepreneurship training in a rural context (beginning with the production of traditional weavings, and beekeeping/honey production); and theological education. Rooted in Bible study and reflection, these programs equip Mapuche leaders to serve their communities through economic development that is fully integrated with a proclamation of the Gospel grounded in their culture and context.

The Bolicks also serve in equipping leaders among the Convention's other churches. They both teach and preach in churches from Santiago to the Lake District. Barbara helps churches develop ministries to women and children, and Dwight focuses on stewardship, helping churches grasp their potential to create and sustain Christ-like ministries in their communities.

## ABC Home Mission Society



[www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org)

## **World Mission Offering – October 2018**

“You are the salt of the earth.” (Matthew 5:13)

Salt, as ordinary and plentiful as it is, possesses a very special and unique power when added to foods. Unlike any other seasoning, salt unlocks the subtle flavors, enhancing and bringing new sensations to our taste buds. When our Lord says to his followers, “you are the salt of the earth,” he is urging them to go into the whole world and enhance the good that he is doing so others can be touched by the power of the saving grace of God. As followers of Christ, we are the salt of the earth, seasoned with the love of the gospel and called to carry that love to all the earth.

This year, the World Mission Offering highlights three ministry priorities: (1) Health and Wellness, (2) Abolishing Global Slavery and (3) Economic and Community Development. While this does not include all the work of American Baptist International Ministries, these serve to illustrate some of what God is doing worldwide through our 120 global servants, 900+ volunteers, 43 home staff and 240+ global Christian partners. RBC’s gifts to the World Mission Offering powerfully connect us to all of the global servants and ministries of the Lord through International Ministries.

(Cont. on page 6)

As I preached from Isaiah and its focus on the way forward from here on the first Sunday in worship since saying good-bye to our friend and pastor, Karen, I had said an initial word about where we are. My suspicion is that, we are, as they say, “all over the map.” Emotionally, relationally, spiritually—we are probably in many different places.

I remember when the Slade family left El Salvador in 1992 and made the return journey to begin life in the U.S.A. We were neither sailing nor driving, but flying. And, though we were tightly bunched together on the airplane, we were in very different places, emotionally. All of us felt a mixture of sadness and joy, but the mixtures were very different. Some were focused especially on the joys of new discoveries and new possibilities. They would miss their longtime friends in El Salvador, but the sadness of those losses was overwhelmed by excitement over what was coming. Others of us were looking forward to new opportunities, but the excitement over those new adventures was overwhelmed by sadness over the relationships we were leaving behind. Even though there were only 5 of us, we were a pretty mixed bunch.

I have to believe that the same thing is happening in our midst. For some, this last decade with Karen has been vitally important and you give thanks for it, but you find yourselves primarily oriented toward the new, toward what is coming. You look forward to what God will do in and through us in this next chapter of our life together. For others, at the same time that you believe deeply that God is walking with us and will carry us into the future, what you are most aware of right now is the pain of loss. You are so grateful for how God used Karen to touch your life that your hopes for what we *will be* are currently taking a back seat to your sadness over the loss of what we *have been*.

Recognizing this mixture is important. If you are excited about the future, I thank God for you. May the Lord lead us into a future that exceeds even your hopes and dreams! If you are grieving the loss of the past, I thank God for you. May the Lord make us ever grateful for the wonderful gifts we have received through his servants Karen and Alan.

Sound strange? Perhaps, but the truth is that we need both gratitude and joy, grieving and growing as we move through this time of transition.

Recently, I got together with my friend Elmo. No, not the red, furry tickle-me guy from Sesame Street. Elmo Familiaran, acting executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. He has had a whole career in ministry, including the last fifteen years or so as a member of the region staff. I asked him about the crucial things he has learned over the years, as he has walked through transitions in pastoral leadership with many congregations. His answer was quick and clear: grieving is a crucial part of the process of leadership change. It is vitally important that we recognize and make space for sadness and grieving as we go through this transition.

So if you feel sad, if you feel anxious, if you wonder what life at RBC will be like as we go forward... if you feel any of those things, that is okay. We have just said goodbye to a wonderful servant of Christ, someone who has been used by God in an amazing variety of ways over the last decade. Week in and week out, God used Karen to flesh out Isaiah’s promise of a voice that would speak to us, saying, “this is the way, walk in it” (Isaiah 30:21).

So, it is perfectly normal and natural to feel grief over this loss. Feeling grief does not mean you lack faith. What it means is that you are grateful for the wonderful gifts we have received. Let me say that again, slightly differently. We have not lost a great friend, sister and wise counselor in the Lord. Karen is all of those things, and more. She has been all of that, and still is. But we will experience those things quite

(Cont. on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

differently in the future than we have in the past decade. So, if you are grateful for the ways you have been blessed in the past by the work of God's Spirit in and through Karen, your initial experience of the change we are going through will be an experience of loss, of sadness.

Please do not feel that you must either deny your feelings, or quickly rush to replace them with something more obviously positive. I say "more *obviously* positive," because I believe there is real value—real positive value—in letting ourselves feel the pain of separation, the sense of loss.

As you are able, though, I would urge you to frame your awareness of loss in terms of thanksgiving. Give thanks to God for what you have experienced over the years we have shared with Karen, as she has encouraged us to trust in God and to follow Jesus. We will all need to draw strength and wisdom from the good gifts we have already received as we continue following Jesus into the future.

At the same time, we know the future will be different from the past. So, we must take those wonderful gifts we have received and find ways to use them creatively on the journey ahead. That, basically, is what the Scripture passage is talking about that comes from a series of oracles that God gave to Isaiah in order to speak to the needs of people in transition.

Isaiah is a large, sprawling, complex book, containing messages from God that address a variety of very different situations. Those situations range from life in the Kingdom of Judah some 150 years before they were conquered by the Babylonians, to the hunkered-down, despairing community of exiles in Babylon as (unbeknownst to them!) the time for their liberation and return to Palestine was drawing near. In addition to that wide range of initial application, the inspired writers of the New Testament agree that the messages God gave Isaiah were absolutely crucial for understanding what God was up to in and through Jesus. They continue to resonate with our lives, struggles hopes and dreams today. (Isaiah 43:16-19)

If last time God pulled back the waters to make a dry path, this time God will bring the waters back together and turn the parched desert into a well-watered garden. God is on the move. God is doing a new thing. It won't be the same as the past, but we can count on God to be with us for salvation and blessing—both for us, and for many others. God is doing a new thing, and we get to be part of it! Keep an eye out for God on the move, then share the word and help the rest of us to see what you see!

God will make a way in the wilderness. That is the promise. Right now, you may not be able to see much of it. You may be more engaged in grieving the past. That is okay. Let your grieving lead you to give thanks for the wonderful gifts of the past. As you give thanks for the past, remember that the same God who walked with us in the past, walks with us today, and will lead us into the future. As you give thanks to God for yesterday, you will experience God's presence today. And, perhaps with help from a few scouts in our midst, your gratitude for God's presence today will eventually grow into expectation and even joy in God's promises for the future. God is doing a new thing, making a way in the wilderness. Keep your eyes peeled. Even now, it is beginning to break forth.

Stan Slade



ABCOPAD Biennial Leadership Conference  
October 18-20, 2018  
Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA  
[www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)

## RBC YOUTH

When I was a child, I grew up in a new suburban development, where during my younger years it was normal to have new homes in construction pop up every couple of months. My brother and I, along with a couple neighborhood friends we had made at the time, loved to wander around these new dirt mounds, pits and even newly framed structures. We would ride our bikes on these big dirt mounds like we were professional motocross cyclists or climb into the pits and see who could climb out the steepest and deepest and the fastest. Needless to say, we always came home dirty, or hurt. But one of our favorite things to do was take our Walmart purchased Laser tag gear and go into an unfinished home and use it as our arena. You can imagine how our imagination would make an epic day out of that as our playground. Now, I am sure a lot of you are reading this, as parents, grandparents and responsible adults thinking... "I WOULD NEVER LET MY KID DO THAT!"... and you would be right. My parents had no idea, and I as an adult now, see how terrible of an idea it was, with all the nails sticking up everywhere and possible structural incompleteness and insecurity, let alone that this is someone else's property, finished or not. But I bet, for a lot of you, this triggers memories of your own as a kid, where you went out exploring, or went on adventures, or even the dumb stuff you may have done, and laugh about now. There is something about childhood memories that are special, and freeing and filled with wonder and wandering. And frankly, we want that for our kids. We want them to explore, and we want them to create memories of climbing trees, and swimming in the pond, building a fort in the woods, playing king of the hill on the dirt mound down the street, because that is what we had, and it did good for us... kinda. But with all that freedom, and exploration we remember, we now need to coat with safety, that some of which is a new thing. Now a days, you don't let your kid just go down the street without yourself or some trusted adult in eyesight of the child, and we would never condone a kid playing on top of a dirt mound or going into a ditch. (probably all for good reason). Add in these restrictions that we never had, with the development of technology and ipads, xboxes and iphones, and we see that our kids are staying inside and watching screens.

So, what do we do!? My answer is... I don't know. I think we can all agree though, that the first step starts with ourselves, needing to come to terms with the fact that our kids are not going to have the childhood we had, but I think also to understand that is okay. We did not grow up with the superior childhood experience and what kids these days do for fun just does not match up to what we experienced. Thinking that way won't get us anywhere. If I look back to my childhood, I did a lot of outdoor exploring and what we would call childhood adventures, but I also remember countless hours sitting in front of the tv watching cartoons or whatever show was on. We all have our time in the day where we are just potatoes sitting around. I would like to defend for a second the idea that when our kids are sitting in front of a screen playing a video game or making and editing an Instagram video, or texting another human being, that we not condemn that activity as if it were worse than sitting around watching tv, or even just sitting on the front porch watching time pass. Those screen related activities do invite creativity, and critical thinking and problem solving. So, the problem isn't the screen as much as balance and priority. To function as an adult in the future is heavily going to be based on using technology and all those avenues, so it won't do them any favors taking them away. Let us strive away from getting annoyed when we see a twelve-year-old with a cell phone and scoffing at the word "Fortnite", (though I also find myself getting annoyed when I hear the word sometimes... if you don't know, it is a very popular video game these days) and let's encourage and reward balance and priority. Going into the undeveloped home down the street is obviously not an option for the kids, or even roaming the streets freely, but our communities are filled with awesome after school programs where kids can be with other kids outside doing all sorts of activities. We can also make intentional time to spend with the young people in our lives, that isn't formed as a punishment or a replacement of their time on the screen, but just because we care about them, and want to share some fun experiences with them. Then, (this one will be hard) be okay with them during their down time, aka potato time, to sit in front of a screen playing a video game, texting a friend, watching a video or often all three at the same time.

(Cont. on page 6)

## RBC YOUTH

(Continued from page 5)

This Summer, our youth group has been more active than it has been in years past, and we have seen each other multiple times a week, hosted games nights, youth group nights, a lock-in, gone to Reach, spent a day at Six Flags, did an overnight camping trip at Wildwood beach. It has been so much fun, and I have been able to connect with our youth over this Summer and I am excited for how excited they are all about Youth Group. And one of the ways I have been able to connect with our students is through technology and screens. We have a youth group Instagram account, as well as having my own personal account, and students often contact me through those medias to talk and share funny videos and sometimes work through issues. Also, as an avid video gamer myself, I have been able to connect with a few students through online gaming, specifically "Fortnite." This game that we feel has taken over our kids lives, has been a platform for me to connect with students. And as someone who has been playing games a long time, I am able to have those conversations of balance and priority about how they structure game time, while we are playing the game... I know, sounds crazy right. Good things can come from their time on technology and screens. It looks anti-social, but often is very social. We as the adults in their lives need to figure out ways to encourage the balance and priority of things and activities, and to that I do not have the formula. Every kid is different as to what will work, motivate and excite them. Some are freer spirited, while others like a schedule. We are, as a community, raising a new generation of young people that are not replicas of how we were raised or grew up. We can not take away technology, you can hide it...but not for long. And we can't open the front door and just kick them outside to entertain themselves any more.

-Ryan Seckman

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil 4:5*



### **Health Concerns**

Margaret C; Rebeca R; Lilliam V; Karen; Eli; Ella; Loretta; Jeanne M; Janelle M; George H; Jen

### **Personal Issues**

Sarah M; Keith K; Domestic violence victims, abusers, survivors; children who are victims of physical and emotional abuse

### **Our Missionaries**

Stephen & Nancy James; Dwight & Barbara Bolick; Kihomi Ngwemi & Nzunga Mabudiga; David & Joyce Reed; Stan Slade; Carole Sydnor

### **World Issues**

Pray always for peace, to the Prince of Peace; our political leaders and the campaign process; those suffering from drought and natural disasters;

### **Military**

Jeff H; Lucas M; Seth R; Niko; Will B.

*Please help us keep this list up-to-date as changes occur by notifying the church office.*

## **World Mission Offering – October 2018**

(Continued from page 2)

Our gifts to the World Mission Offering enable us to be part of God's work of transforming lives both now and for eternity.

Please pray for our global servants and give generously to the World Mission Offering as the Lord Jesus leads you.

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## September

Steven and Beth Smith	12
Mark and Allison Fisher	21
Scott and Nancy Ritchie	23
Ryan and Danielle Crist	25

## October

John and Margaret Clevestine	4
John and Ruth Gleason	6
Howard and Lissa Hess	19
Mickey and Becky McDaniel	22
Linnie and Sandy Smoyer	24

## September

Sharon Brownback	11
Mark Hite	11
Dave Messer	11
Dallas Schurr	12
Jeanne Miller	13
Barry Hess	15
Millie Collins	16
Karen Hite	17
Noah Wheeler	18
Mary Glassman	20

Happy Birthday

## October

Kyra Smith	1
Jana Hong	3
Stephen Reitnour	3
Lara Cifelli	4
Sarah Murray	13
Emma Trulson	14
Bill Mason	15
Greg Mason	19
Rachel Collins	20
Gene Wheeler	21
Becky McDaniel	25
Kevin Hendricks	29
Ryan Crist	30



**Royersford Baptist Church  
452 S. Lewis Road  
Royersford, PA 19464**

The Vine is published 6 times a year by  
Royersford Baptist Church (RBC)  
Office - 610-948-4170  
Prayer Line - 610-948-3418

Email - [rbcabc@rbcabc.org](mailto:rbcabc@rbcabc.org)  
Website - [www.rbcabc.org](http://www.rbcabc.org)

**Staff -**

Ryan Seckman, Youth Director  
Lee Kratz, Administrative Assistant  
Lara Cifelli, Worship Coordinator  
Sharon Brownback, Choir Director  
Alex Cifelli, Accompanist  
Ralph Eichelberger, Interim Custodian  
Kristin Christopher, Nursery School  
Director  
RBC is affiliated with American  
Baptist Churches in the USA

**If you would like to receive your  
newsletter via e-mail, please contact  
Lee Kratz at 610-948-4170 or send an  
e-mail to [rbcabc@rbcabc.org](mailto:rbcabc@rbcabc.org)**

**Office Schedule**

Monday through Friday 8 am - 2 pm

**Ryan's Hours**

Monday Off  
Tuesday 11 am – 3 pm  
Wednesday 10 am – 3 pm  
Thursday 12 pm – 4 pm  
Friday 11 am – 2 pm

**Sunday Schedule**

**9:30 am – Worship**  
**10:10 am – RBC Kids**  
**11:00 am – Adult Classes**

**RBC Lay Leadership**

**Moderator** - Bob Brownback  
**Vice Moderator** - Ken George  
**Education** - Millie Collins  
Adult Education Program, RBC Kids, RBC  
Nursery School, VBS  
**Worship** - Janelle Trulson  
Choir, Communion, Drama, Hosts,  
Planning, Technology, Worship Leaders  
**Spiritual Growth & Caring** – Robin Sexto  
Gifts Discovery, Small Groups, Social Event  
Planning, Women's Ministries  
**Mission & Outreach** – Reid Trulson  
ABC Missions, CROP, Evangelism, Hands-on-  
Worship, Mission Trips, RBC Players  
**Administrative Support** - Dave Messer  
Buildings and Grounds, Kitchen Team,  
Finance/Business, Office Volunteers, Staff  
Relations, Website/Public Relations  
**Youth Ministry** – Allison Fisher  
Small Groups, Student Leadership, Summer  
Mission, After School Program, Youth Group

If you have been touched by  
the ministry of RBC, you can  
be part of continuing our  
ministry together through your  
financial gifts. Our website has  
online giving options that make  
it possible for you to be a part  
of supporting the work of  
Royersford Baptist Church.  
Your gifts and your prayers  
make a vital difference in the  
Kingdom of God.



For the latest in news  
and information about  
Royersford Baptist Church  
go to

[www.rbcabc.org](http://www.rbcabc.org)