FELLOWSHIP SUPPER  
BEGINNING AGAIN  
Wednesday, OCTOBER 12, 6:15 pm

Fellowship Supper is a meal for EVERYONE- all family and friends of RBC are invited to come! We gather the second Wednesday of each month. We begin at 6:15 pm and finish around 7:15, in time for choir members to get to practice. Bring a side dish to share and friends if you’d like.

Fried chicken is purchased for the meal; those who are able give a small donation to offset the costs. Don’t worry if you can’t contribute food or help pay for the chicken; come anyway! Your presence will be contribution enough. Join us any month.

Adult Selectives Class Offers Eight Week Series: Conversations on Sexual Identity, Gender Orientation and the Response of God’s People  
September 25 - November 13

As we have been reading through the gospel of Luke, we have seen Jesus engaging all of the people to whom he ministers with a deep sense of God’s grace. Each person, from poor widow to tax collector to Pharisee, is a beloved child of God. Even those whom others would call enemies, Jesus engages with grace-filled love. And he teaches us to do the same.

This eight week class, facilitated by Pastor Karen and Abigail Turley, will seek to help us to grace-fully engage with one another on this important topic through the use of Bible study, video resources, print resources, guest speakers (we hope) and, most of all, holy conversations in which we listen to God and each other in an attitude of grace and readiness to learn.

All are welcome! Childcare is available during the 11-12 hour for young children. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask Karen or Abigail. A general class outline will be available by mid-September at the Welcome Center for those interested in more details.

SERMON PREP BIBLE STUDY RESUMES SEPTEMBER 26

After a summer break, the Sermon Prep Bible Study is getting ready to roll again! This group meets with Pastor Karen on Mondays at 7 pm in her study. Each week those gathered discuss the scripture for the next Sunday’s sermon. You are invited to join this dialogue as we continue to journey through the gospel of Luke. You can come every week or just when a particular text or topic interests you. No need to sign up ahead of time; just show up and you’ll be welcome!
THINKING ABOUT WHETHER TO USE ONLINE GIVING?

Consider these reasons to use this tool for God’s glory...

YOU CAN FOLLOW THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS PROMPTLY.

The option to give one-time gifts online allows you to respond to a special need as soon as you know that God wants you to give.

DECIDING ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY GIVING IS A STEP OF FAITH.

Signing up to give to RBC Ministries monthly means deciding in advance to give. Your gifts are based on loving trust in God, not on fluctuating human circumstances.

YOU SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE.

Using automatic online giving, you won’t need to remember if you’ve already given this month or if you need to send your gift in by mail when you’re away.

YOU ARE HELPING THE CHURCH PLAN WISELY.

Knowing in advance when your gifts are coming in to the ministries allows us to plan more effectively for meeting regular needs.

YOU CAN FOCUS ON GOD DURING THE OFFERING TIME IN WORSHIP.

During the worship service you will not need to get out money, write a check, or fill out an offering envelope. You can focus on offering yourself to the Lord.

If credit card debt is something you are struggling with, please do not use the credit card option for online giving!

We do not want you to go further in to debt to support these ministries.

Remember—The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives. Deuteronomy 14:23
When I wrote the following reflection/reading some years ago, I was inspired by Genesis 28 and John 1:47-51. It is about dreaming and daring and doing. I hope it will inspire you to some of the same, as we invest ourselves in a season of visioning here at RBC!

Grace and peace, Karen

I.

Last night I had a dream.
I dreamed I was Jacob, alone and frightened, unsure of what the future might hold.
And in my dream, I knew what it meant to be Jacob--
never satisfied with what life brought,
burning with resentment toward another who had everything, yet valued nothing.
unable to deal with the hopes of my mother or the expectations of my father.

I was Jacob and yet not Jacob.
There was also a part of me in that fleeing, frightened individual,
running away from life,
escaping from other people’s anger and disappointment,
separated from all I valued by my own pride and needs,
lost and unhappy,
without any certainty about who I was or who I was meant to be.

And in that dream it happened that I (Jacob and yet not Jacob)
left my home, my family, my envy, my pride, all that I knew of myself,
and ran and ran, for hours and hours, the way you can sometimes run in a dream,
until, weary at last, I could see the sun setting in the distance.

And taking a stone for my pillow I lay down to sleep and to dream.

II.

And in that dream, dreaming as only a needy, frightened pilgrim can dream,
I saw the Lord.
O, not at first, nothing quite so clear.
First there was a ladder, daring me to climb it.
I stood at its base, where it’s feet were firmly planted in the dirt of the earth,
anchored by gravity and natural law and all that I knew of life,
and I looked up.
I looked up and up and up, as far as the heavens,
and I could not see the end of that ladder, stretching beyond everything I knew.
Still I could feel its challenge, chiding me for my fear, calling me to the risk,
and I even dared to set one foot upon its lower tread,
when with awe and dread I saw someone coming down from above me.

(Continued on page 4)
And another came and another and another--they were angels every one--although neither Jacob, nor my dreaming, separated self knew what to make of these messengers of God.

And we, Jacob and I, stood watching,

until in the way that dreams happen, in one moment,
where there had been no one before,
the Lord stood beside me in majesty and spoke:

“I am the Lord your God.  Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back again.”

“Dare anything in my name; risk everything for my sake;
for I will never leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

And in my dream, somehow I knew that this was the end and I awoke,

lifting my head from that pillow of stone
and saying with Jacob those words of awe and wonder:

“Surely the Lord is in this place-- and I did not know it.  How awesome is this place.  This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

III.

But the dreaming was NOT done and the surprises had not ended,
for in that early morning light,

I heard another voice, the strong, familiar voice of Jesus saying to me

“Do you believe because of what was told you as you lay dreaming on that pillow of stone?
You will see greater things than these.  I tell you, without a doubt, if you dare to follow me,
you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

And as he spoke, I saw before my eyes a vision for my life as it could be,

with God to pillow my head for dreaming, and determine the daring tasks I shall attempt,

with the Lord Jesus Christ to empower me with grace and truth for the doing of his will.

I am more awake now than I have ever been.  Surely the Lord is in this place.

I must follow Jesus, and see and do the greater things,

pursuing peace,
seeking justice,
sharing love,
announcing God’s kingdom,
honoring God’s name.

Come dream and dare and do with me, for together we are the Body of Christ.  Amen.

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Have a good eye for decoration or a crafty sense about you? We are looking for a "Hanging of the Greens Coordinator" for this Advent season. We can provide lists of decorations and plans used in the past, or we are always open to new and fresh ideas. This can be done by one person or a small group. If you feel called to help create the worshipful atmosphere for our Advent season, or would like more information, please contact anyone on the Worship Cluster team: Lara Cifelli, Sharon Brownback, Janelle Trulson, Pastor Karen.
CHANGES COMING FOR
RBC Knitting and Crocheting for Peace Pod

OUR HISTORY: For the last few years, a small group of women has met in Pastor Karen’s study on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30 pm for handwork, conversation, and prayer. The purpose of this group is to create items like scarves, hats, dolls, blankets, etc., to send as symbols of love and hope to folks in areas of poverty or warfare. Needles and yarn were always available for handwork and there are even women willing to teach knitting or crocheting for those who’ve never done it. It truly is an enjoyable and meaningful ministry!

OUR CURRENT SITUATION: After taking a break this summer, we are evaluating the best way to continue our ministry in 2016/2017. Two of our regular attenders have moved and so we are trying to decide whether or not to continue with regular meetings at the church. The RBC PEACE POD will continue to exist and knit and crochet items for those in need, but we are currently making decisions about when/how often to meet.

YOUR INVITATION: We’d love to have new people join us, either as part of the group that meets or in producing items to be sent out as gifts of love. Please let us know if you are interested in being a part of this ministry tearing off the little survey below and leaving it in the church office or by emailing your responses to Pastor Karen at pastorkaren@rbcabc.org.

Knitting and Crocheting Interest Survey:
Please include the following information so we can make some decisions about future gatherings and information, pattern sharing, etc. We have been meeting at night, but we are also open to having part of the group meet during the day and another set of folks meet at night:

Name: ________________________________
Contact info: (phone or email or text)_______________________________

1. ___ I am interested in attending meetings to knit/crochet, pray and create gifts of love to send to others.
   • I prefer to attend: ___once a month, ___ twice a month.
   • The best day of the week for me to meet is ______________.
   • I prefer ___ daytime (indicate morning/afternoon) or ___ evening (we’ve been meeting from 7-8:30 with people free to come and go as their schedule allows).

2. ___ I would like to be a part of the group, knitting and/or crocheting items on my own and delivering them to the church to be shared with others. I do not have time to attend regular meetings.

3. ___ I would like to be a part of the group, but I would prefer meeting less often, perhaps every other month or quarterly.

OTHER COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:
Here we are, fall semester of 2016, ready to start the new youth ministry season. Every year we approach this time and it feels so different from the year before. We have no cookie cutter approach to the living organism that is our church and our youth ministry. We must seek God for guidance and fortitude as we prepare ourselves to start up the school year. I find August to be a time to rewind, reflect, and refresh, not only for me as the youth director, but the students, the volunteer leaders, the parents and the church.

The fall brings new challenges, fears, joys, excitements, new friends, goodbyes, hellos, and change. Often it is not just a few of these things we experience at one time, but all, and these changes and challenges can often distract us from God, when really it is the time we need to cling on to Him most.

We first need to rewind, and look back at our past year, at how God has worked in us, and all the ways He has shown love in and around our lives. Doing this gives us a chance to reflect on that, to find a sense of understanding and peace that sets up the next chapter in our lives, the way we live it and it shapes our big decisions. This is how my August looks, approaching the new school year. Like I mentioned before, every September looks different than the last, especially in regards to how the youth ministry looks, and I must rewind, and reflect in order to go to God for guidance for the new year. This past year has been a lot to digest, as I reflect, but as I look back, it has given me new eyes to the future. It has given me time and closure to rest and refresh.

I look at this new school year as a new beginning, new opportunities to try new things. The dynamic of our youth group is going through a big change this year, and as always we must adapt and make changes. But that is just it, our youth ministry is a living organism that is one piece of our RBC church, that is part of the greater Christian community, that is all made of individuals that all go through challenges, fears, joys, excitements, new friends, goodbyes, hellos, and change that require us to rewind, reflect, and refresh. So I pray as we all travel through the seasons of life, we find time to rewind, reflect and refresh so we can embrace the new with peace for the past.

-Ryan Seckman

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**RBC BUILDING GETS LOTS OF USE!**

You may not know it, but our facility is a very busy place during the week. Our very own RBC Nursery School ministers to young children throughout the week. And of course, the rest of the RBC family is here for group meetings, events, practices, etc. But beyond that, we also host several non-profit groups and rent space to others.

Those who use our building include Girl Scouts, members of neighborhood associations, twelve-step groups, those holding blood drives, those throwing parties and even election officials. They and others walk through our doors ready to have fun, do business, learn and grow! It’s a great way to be good stewards of what God has given us, but it also takes a lot of scheduling. So please, when you are planning an event here in the building, contact Lee Kratz, our wonderful Administrative Assistant. She can tell you if the room you want is available and get your event scheduled on the official church calendar. Thanks so much for your help!
Prayer is the key to Heaven but Faith unlocks the door

Health Concerns
Charlotte R; Margaret C; Sherman H; Stan M; Stephen R; Rebeca R; Tyler; Lilliam V; Karen; Eli; Ella; Marilyn; Loretta; Helen C.

Personal Issues
Sarah M; Keith K; Sandy; Bob C; 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; peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Iraq, Ukraine, South Sudan and the Middle East; 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.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil 4:6

The RBC staff are an integral part of our faith community, and the Staff Relations committee works with them to help things flow smoothly. The Staff Relations committee currently needs additional members. If you're interested in volunteering your time for this committee or would like more information about it, please contact the church office or Ken George.
**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 Clevenstine 4
- John and Ruth Gleason 6
- Jack and Loretta Hill 9
- Gregg and Judy Zahora 9
- Howard and Lissa Hess 19
- Mickey and Becky McDaniel 22
- Linnie and Sandy Smoyer 24
- Jonathon & Lisa Hanchuruck 26

**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
- Meghan May 28

**October**

- Kyra Smith 1
- Jana Hong 3
- Stephen Reitnour 3
- Lara Cifelli 4
- Brad May 5
- Cassandra Brittain 6
- Anthony Bloom 12
- Sarah Murray 13
- Emma Trulson 14
- Bill Mason 15
- Greg Mason 19
- Rachel Collins 20
- Gene Wheeler 21
- Becky McDaniel 25
- Kevin Hendricks 29
- Chris McLaughlin 29
- Ryan Crist 30
- Charlotte Rothenberger 30
Office Schedule
Monday through Friday 9 am - 3 pm

Pastor Karen’s office hours
Monday 2 – 6 pm
Wednesday 10 – 11:30 am, 1 – 5 pm
Thursday available by appointment
8:30 – 11 am
If these times don’t work for you, please call the office. We will help you schedule an appointment for a time convenient for you.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>Bob Brownback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Moderator</td>
<td>Ken George</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Millie Collins</td>
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<td>Adult Education Program</td>
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<td>RBC Kids, RBC</td>
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<td>Nursery School, VBS</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
<td>Janelle Trulson</td>
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<td>Choir, Communion, Dance, Drama, Hosts, Planning, Technology, Worship Leaders, Worship Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Growth &amp; Caring</td>
<td>Robin Sexto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>Tracy Denninger</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ABC Missions, CROP, Evangelism, Hands-on-Worship, Mission Trips, RBC Players</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>Dave Messer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Buildings and Grounds, Kitchen Team, Finance/Business, Office Volunteers, Staff Relations, Website/Public Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry</td>
<td>Allison Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breakfast Club, Small Groups, Student Leadership, Summer Mission, After School Program, Volleyball, Youth Group</td>
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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