

Rawlinsville Ramblings

Rawlinsville Camp Meeting

Praising the Lord in Song, Sermon and Service

WINTER 2024 Issue 97

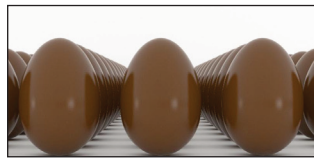
INSIDE

It's the end of the road for Camp's pot pie sales



Association votes to wrap up its oldest fundraiser as sales dwindle and labor is short.

Easter candy schedule



Peanut butter and coconut eggs again offered. Order starting Feb. 11. Page 7

Volunteer passes

Mary Brooks, a faithful servant at Camp. Page 7



Busy fall for volunteers

From the chicken stand at the fair to cleanup day, RCM had a busy fall. Pages 3-6

LEAFY NEIGHBORHOOD



Photos by Stephanie Reddinger

The trees that provide blessed shade at Camp put down a blanket of leaves each fall. Volunteers rake them into "snakes" to be picked up. In inset, rakes line Boarding House as workers take lunch break. For more photos, Page 6.



FROM DAPHNE HATHAWAY, ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

There's an app for Camp

As I write this column, I am looking out of the window at our first measurable snowfall in ages and enjoying every minute of it.

It is a time of peace, of rest from the seasonal work of yards and flowers and gardening, and the slowest time of the year for Camp activities. But it is also a



Daphne Hathaway

time of planning, assessing and considering what we can do to make the ministry of RCM even more effective in the coming year.

The Ladies Auxiliary is looking at the menu of meals; the Boarding House Committee is reorganizing and training new members; the Program Committee is scheduling speakers and teachers for the coming session; and our age-level coordinators are beginning to consider themes and activities for those fun-filled days in late July and early August.

One of the topics that continues to emerge as we look forward to the coming session is how to redesign our volunteer teams.

If your cottage is like mine,



Photo by Stephanie Reddinger

A team of volunteers cut dough at the last pot pie sale.

End of the RCM pot pie tradition

At its Jan. 11 meeting, after committee recommendation and somber discussion, the Association voted to discontinue the chicken pot pie sale.

Camp's longest-running fundraiser, the pot pie supper was initiated to help pay for the construction of wooden cottages on the then-existing tent sites.

Intended to be a short-term fundraiser, the pot pie supper grew in size and popularity for a number of years.

While it was started and funded by the RCM Association, the Ladies Auxiliary pro-

vided leadership, organization and most of the volunteer labor for the event.

In the 1970s, takeout sales were added as an alternative to the family-style dinner. It became necessary to ask each church to supply volunteers. Often, the takeout line of vehicles reached past the main gate.

For quite a few years, the total number of dinners and quarts sold hovered around 750; but the sale began to grow again, and eventually the dining room option was eliminated and only takeouts were sold. Sales remained high for a peri-

od of time, and then things began to change.

Over the past few years, sales have decreased, and we have had dozens of quarts of pot pie left over at the end of the day or we have stopped cooking early as the takeout line dwindled.

Help has been inconsistent and leadership difficult to find. Profits have declined due to increased cost of ingredients. Food handling standards and inspections have become more stringent.

As a result of these changes, the Pot Pie Committee recommended to the Association that the pot pie sale be discontinued.

Many of us who cherished the tradition and fellowship of the pot pie supper and pot pie sale will miss this event, and we gratefully acknowledge the service and efforts of so many who continued the tradition for so long.

The Association voted to create a Fundraising Committee to recommend and develop a new fundraiser(s) to replace the income budgeted from the pot pie sale.

If you are interested in participating on this new committee, please contact: Erik Walter (717-682-6888) or Daphne Hathaway (717-490-2999).

it is a place where friends and families gather, a homebase for friends who may be bringing children and youth for daily programs, and a place of hospitality for folks who come to attend the evening service.

We know that hundreds of folks are on the grounds each day and that each of us has gifts and graces that the Lord has given us as well as skills and abilities that we have developed.

We are hoping to tap into all

of that talent by learning more about who is on our grounds and how they might want to get plugged in to service opportunities.

One tool we will be leveraging this year is Church Center.

Church Center is an electronic platform through which we can share information about upcoming events and activities, provide opportunities for involvement,

and help to consolidate contact information about all of the in-

dividuals connected to Camp.

We encourage you to download the Church Center app from your app store. Then enter your phone number and email to create an account.

If your church already uses Church Center, look for the RCM page and keep an eye out for more to come.

As you enjoy these refreshing, low-humidity days that are the complete opposite of the sultry days of August, please begin praying about how you can serve this year at Camp and keep an eye out for opportunities to come.

Let's get ready to serve the Lord with gladness this year.



Logo for Church Center app.

West Lampeter Fair chicken stand

First up in a busy fall for RCM volunteers was staffing the chicken stand at the late September West Lampeter Fair.

At right, the crew prepares for a busy day. Below, middle, you could find RCM families on both sides of the counter. RCM vice president, Ralph Huber, makes purchases with daughter, Sophie, and granddaughter, Josie.

Below, bottom, the stand's popularity is substantiated by the long line. At lower right, Don Hess grills hot dogs during his shift.



*Photos by
Stephanie
Reddinger*



Soups on! | Quarts still available

Thanks to all who supported the fall soup sale by making and packing soup.

Soup making was completed on Oct. 28, Nov. 1 and Nov. 4.

The project was coordinated by Daphne Hathaway (ham and bean), Sandy Hoover (chicken corn), and Karen McGaw and family (tomato bisque).

Above left, Jen Bitner slices onions; top right, containers of ham and bean soup; and just below, ham and bean soup simmers in a pot.

In the middle photo, Karin Paxson, Daphne Hathaway, Anne Norton, Terry Hall, Judy Fishel and Sue Huber work in the Boarding House kitchen. Bottom photo shows a row of soup pots cooking on the stoves.

Diane Jacobs said volunteers made 789 quarts of soup, including 401 quarts of chicken corn (new this year: gluten free); 233 quarts of tomato bisque; and 155 quarts of ham and bean.

A limited number of quarts of chicken corn soup and tomato bisque are available. Please contact Glenn McGaw at 717-575-2276.



Photos by Stephanie Reddinger

FALL FEST

RCM held its Fall Fest on Oct. 13 and 14. At right, top, Alecia Walter, Ann Branning, Sarah Brooks and Michelle Henry oversee the Friday evening pie-tasting contest.

Below, middle, Joni Huber, Sandy Lee and Merlene Troutman cheerfully dish out hot dogs at the Saturday lunch.

To the right, baby Emma on her first trip to RCM with her mother, Sara Trout.

At bottom left, Brent, Gray, Katie, and Paige Hostetter pick out a pumpkin for decorating. Middle right, the Boarding House is crowded for the auction on Saturday.

At bottom, the Youth Tabernacle is a busy place on the Friday night of Fall Fest.



*Photos by
Stephanie
Reddinger*

FALL CLEANUP



Fall cleanup was Nov. 11. At left, Ralph Huber cleans up a row of leaves with his handy machine.

Above, they may be small, but Avery and Ellie Griffith pitch in.

At lower left, Sarah Brooks, Jonathan Fry and Justine Fry pause for a photo.

Just below, Karen McGaw, left, Judy Fishel and Sandy Lee dish out food for workers.

At bottom, a crew fills a trailer with leaves and branches.



Photos by Stephanie Reddinger

OBITUARY

Mary Brooks, 84

Mary Evelyn Brooks, 84, who served Rawlinsville Camp Meeting faithfully in many capacities, died Jan. 11 at Providence Place Senior Living of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

At RCM, Mary could often be found in the Boarding House kitchen, both during the Camp session and at special events like cleanup days.

Living in the Holtwood area, she was a longtime member of Rawlinsville United Methodist Church.

For many years she represented her church on the RCM Association and served the Association as its secretary.

She also served in the positions of president and vice president of RCM's Ladies Auxiliary.

"She was warm and wise," said Daphne Hathaway, Association president, "a humble leader who did not desire the spotlight, but had lots of experience to share."



Mary Brooks at the counter in the Boarding House during a cleanup day.

"She taught me how to make the Auxiliary ham dinner and always brought her delicious black raspberry jelly (no seeds) to the team break-fast in the early morning hours of chicken pickin' day."

Born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Ira and L. Pearl (Schofield) Johnson. She was wife of Jere J. Brooks for 55 years until his death in 2020.

Mary served as the tax collector for Providence Township for 35 years.

She enjoyed Yankees baseball, traveling, listening to Frank Sinatra, and playing

cards. Mary was a member of the Red Hat Society.

Mary is survived by two children: the Rev. Mark, husband of Cindy Brooks, of Pottsville, Pennsylvania; and Ann, wife of Isaac Branning, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Also surviving are three grandchildren and a sister, Jean Dull. She was preceded in death by three siblings.

Mary's funeral was held at Rawlinsville UMC on Jan. 16. Interment followed in the adjoining cemetery.

Memorial contributions in Mary's memory may be made to Rawlinsville Camp Meeting, 475 Clearfield Road, Holtwood, PA 17532.

Dates set for making candy; ordering opens Feb. 11

By Karen McGaw

The Ladies Auxiliary will be making peanut butter and coconut eggs for Easter.

We will be accepting orders starting Feb. 11. Please send those orders to Kelly McCall by March 10.

The cost of the eggs is \$15 per dozen or \$8 per half dozen.

Checks payable to RCM Ladies Auxiliary should be mailed to Kelly McCall, 141 Spring Run Road, Conestoga, PA 17516, preferably in advance of egg order pickup.

Questions? Contact Kelly at 717-917-8488 or email her at kam1986@aol.com.

Volunteers will be needed to make the eggs on Monday and Tuesday, March 18-19, from



Diane Jacobs, left, and Karen McGaw, package candy at last year's work session.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church, 673 Martic Heights Drive, Pequea.

The eggs can be picked up

from 4-6 p.m.

Contact Glenn and Karen McGaw at 717-575-2276 to arrange an alternate pickup time.

RCM Calendar

March 18-19

Making chocolate and coconut Easter eggs, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mt. Nebo UMC.

April 18

Spring Auxiliary Meeting at 7 p.m. in Children's Building.

April 11

Association meets at 7 p.m. at Rawlinsville UMC.

May 11

Spring cleanup day from 8 a.m. to finish.

July 11

Association meet at 7 p.m. in the Children's Building

July 28

Spiritual life rally at 7 p.m. in the Tabernacle.

July 29-Aug. 11

139th session of Rawlinsville Camp Meeting.

Oct. 10

Fall Association meeting at 7 p.m. in Boarding House.

Oct. 18-19

Fall Fest.

Caretaker Update

We are transitioning between caretakers at Camp. If you have needs on the grounds or conditions to report over the next few months, please reach out to the following:

Daphne Hathaway, 717-490-2999; Ralph Huber, 717-575-2453; Kevin Johnson, 717-286-4156; or Glenn McGaw, 717-575-2276.

Spiritual Directors take a team approach

RCM's four Spiritual Directors will return to Camp this year, but the Rev. Blake Deibler will step down as Lead Spiritual Director as the four take a team approach to their duties.

Blake, lead pastor of Wesley Church, served two years as Lead Spiritual Director. He took the post with the intention of mentoring a new team to follow his tenure.

The other three directors are pastors Adam Swift, Jared Schnapf and Bryce Wendler, now in their second years as

Spiritual Directors.

Rev. Swift, lead pastor of Grace Church at Willow Valley, has stepped up as "point man in terms of making sure everything is in order for communications, etc. We are very much equally sharing the burden of responsibility."

He added:

"It is an honor for the Spiritual Directors team to serve at Camp this year. It is our aim to continue the stewardship of Biblical preaching and evangelism God

has so richly blessed at Camp, a legacy the Spiritual Directors have spiritually benefited from since childhood.

"We live in a time where our world may appear uncertain and rootless, but God's one true gospel remains steadfast and relevant: 'Jesus saves!'"

"By God's grace, it is our prayer to see Jesus' saving and renewing power at work in Camp again this year as we seek him together."

Bryce has been the pastor of Colerain Church, part of the Wesley Network, since 2018. Jared is an associate pastor of Next Generation and Discipleship at Mission Church.

Rawlinsville Camp Meeting Association

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Camp hibernates under a blanket of snow

The sun sets over snow-covered cottages at Rawlinsville Camp Meeting on Jan. 23.

After nearly two years without snow, the area was blanketed by two small snowstorms.

Snow from the storms totaled about nine inches in the Rawlinsville area.



Obituaries

Rawlinsville Ramblings will print obituaries for people who were associated with Camp.

Some individuals who pass on may have been associated and active with Camp, but have not been able to attend for years because of age or illness. We rely on you letting us know about those passings.

Length of the obituary may depend on how active the person had been at Camp.

Send suggestions to Marv Adams at daddysirme@comcast.net or notify a RCM officer. Adams can also be reached at 717-368-3461.