

Public Relations (continued)

REAP 36th Annual Christmas Store

REAP – Adopt a Family!

Families will vary in size from 1-5 children, ranging in ages from newborn to 17 years old.

To adopt a family please email:

adoptafamily@raytownreap.org

Donate online via

www.raytownreap.org/donate or send a check to REAP.

Requirements to adopt a family:

- Spend at least \$100 per child
- Consider their Amazon wishlist items (or similar items)
- Label bags or items with each child's name
- Items DO NOT have to be wrapped, but feel free to do so if you would like.



The holidays are upon us! I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving.

Now we are about to celebrate Christmas. Christmas can be a joyous time, but it can also be a stressful time. It can be especially difficult for those who have lost loved ones in the past year. Those "firsts" can be particularly difficult; the first Christmas without them, first birthday without them and so on. If you find yourself in this situation or any stressful situation, please reach out to Stephen Ministry. A Stephen Minister can visit with you "one on one" in a confidential relationship. Hopefully, those of you who have received our grief books have found them to be helpful. One suggestion for this holiday season – as you send out Christmas cards or wish others a "Merry Christmas"; mention their loved one who has passed.

While you might think this would bring pain to the individual or family, there is more pain when it appears as if their loved one has been forgotten.

I want to thank Terry and Joyce Harwood for their service as Stephen Ministers. They have served for several years and have blessed many in the congregation.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Don Burns as well for his many, many years of service. Also, I am very thankful that I was able to serve as a leader alongside Lynn Brown, who is dearly missed.

We will be offering a Stephen Ministry training course beginning in January. The course consists of 50 hours of training through Stephen Ministry materials. If you are interested or would like more information; please contact me. We would love to have you as part of this ministry.

Merry Christmas!



On Sunday, Dec 22nd there will be a pie reception following worship for a VERY special person for a VERY special birthday! Don Burns turns 102!!!! Come, bring a pie to share and celebrate this incredible man!! Pie sign ups are at the Information Center.



Season's Greetings to my RCC family!

This holiday season brings quite a few shifts into our lives. With the changing of the weather, the upcoming New Year, and yes, the embracing of change even within our great ministry, I would like for us to celebrate the greatest "shift" that we have and will ever experience. That shift is the transition from darkness to light, introduced to us through the person of Jesus Christ. We celebrate His entrance into the world and we anticipate, during this season of Advent all of the Joy, Love, Hope, and Peace that He brings into all of our lives.

During this season, we are truly "Looking" unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Also we look at the selfless act of God, who thought it not robbery to send His greatest gift and to influence us unto selfless acts of love toward those around us.

Let's Love well, Hope fervently, live in true Joy, and rest in the Peace of God.

I love you all! Happy Holidays to you and your families!



Christmas is quickly approaching with all of the hustle and bustle of getting ready to celebrate with family and friends. But let us not forget the reason for this season, we are preparing for the coming of the Christ Child. Advent is a special time in the Christian faith. Let's take a few minutes to think about the candles we light each Sunday.

Last week we lit the first candle of Advent, The candle of Hope. We think about the Hope of what is to come not only in our lives as we follow the Lord but also about Hope for the world and all of its citizens.

This week we lit the candle of Peace. We pray for not only Peace in our individual lives but Peace for others and for all the nations of this world. Let's offer this wish as we pray to an ever loving and kind God.

The next candle is the pink candle, a symbol of Joy. When we think about Joy, we think about the great Joy for our Christian world when Jesus was born in that stable so many years ago. We think about the Joy in our lives now but this does not compare to the Joy we will feel when we are reunited with Jesus in Heaven.

Message from the Moderator (continued)

The candle for Love reminds us that God's Love is all around, it always has been and always will be there for each of us. We can do our part by reaching out and sharing that Love with everyone, those we know, those we will meet and those that we may never have the opportunity to meet. Sharing God's Love with others is the best way to worship Him.

And on Christmas Eve, we light the candle of Light. This candle reminds us that Christ came to this earth as man to insure our salvation.

Every year, we celebrate the Season of Advent, the meaning of this celebration never changes. Hopefully as we grow in our life with Christ, this season continues to strengthen our belief that God is always with us providing us with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as he Lights our way.

Merry Christmas to each of you and may God continue to Light the way for you each and every day.



Effective January 2nd, office hours will be 9:00 a.m. – noon, Monday through Thursday. After tracking visitors for a few weeks, we found that most people entering the church either had a key or left by noon. Additionally, there are no regular groups requiring access to the church in the afternoon.

Previously, office hours were from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. By reducing the hours, we will achieve a savings of \$4,388. This contributes significantly to our budget and should not negatively impact visitors.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



Well, it's been 2 years since campaigning for funds to fix up, replace, repair and upgrade our building. RCC responded with love and generosity, pledging about \$90,000! With what we have already received, we have been able to:

- Repair and repaint the parking lot
- Repair and repaint the roof
- Repair and replace our baptismal drain
- Make our kitchen compliant to Health regulation
- Strip and wax floors
- Upgrade our entry mats
- Clean carpets
- Upgrade our vacuums
- Install security cameras
- Install a gate in the courtyard
- Upgrade lighting

We have collectively invested in the future of Raytown Christian Church and we should be proud! We have made a statement that we are here to stay, spreading God's love in our community. Hallelujah!

The last thing on our "Must Do" list is to replace as much of the very old, very stained carpet that we can. Since we have received most of the pledged amount, we will have to make choices about which areas we can replace and still leave funds in the account for future repairs.

Now that the campaign has wrapped up—please review your pledge and be sure that you've satisfied your commitment to the Fixin' Up Our Father's House Campaign. That will ensure we complete our last project and have some money in reserves for future building repairs.

Thank you RCC for your generosity!



Raytown Christian Church provided desserts for 19 adults and 41 children for River of Refuge's annual Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you to all our dessert makers (and purchasers) for your support of the River of Refuge!



Angel Tree gifts will be delivered to caregivers Saturday, December 14th. Forty-five children will receive gifts this year from their incarcerated loved ones, through the Prison Ministry Program and the generosity of Raytown Christian Church.



December 22, our Angel Tree will become the Mitten, Hat, and Scarf Tree. We will start collecting these items to distribute to those needing a little extra warmth this winter.



RCC is a member of the Raytown Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has monthly meetings that are attended by RCC. The meetings discuss what is happening in Raytown and share information about local businesses.

HOLIDAY EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN!

Trailhead Books Holiday Event
10009 E. 63rd Street
Saturday, Dec 21 – 10am – 5pm
FREE EVENT

Celebrate the holidays at Trailhead! Finish up your shopping while enjoying some live music and complimentary hot chocolate & cookies, and as a special treat, ALL kids that stop by will receive their own personalized wood carving!

Lutfis' Fried Fish
"Things for Teens"
Annual Holiday Community Giveaway
Drop Off Locations:
3631 Prospect Ave & 9120 E 350 Hwy

NEW ITEMS NEEDED:

For teens ages 12-17

- Hoodies
- Sweatpants
- Headphones
- Socks
- Jackets
- Gift Cards
- Phone Charges
- Phone Cases

Teens receive these free items - giveaway date is December 21st 8am-Noon.