



The Glen Rock Light

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REST! OR STUCK IN THE DESERT?

Hebrews 4:1-13

Our life is filled with frenetic activity – fast-paced, problem-prone, project-oriented, and endless “to do” lists. Lewis Carroll wrote, “Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!” Such a life yields spiritual emptiness. The important is sacrificed for the urgent, the personal for the professional, and the private for the public image. In many ways, we are spiritually stranded – stuck in the desert between the slavery of Egypt and the promise of Canaan. God raised up Jesus to lead us into the land of promised REST: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you REST. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find REST for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”* (Matt. 11:28-30)

REST is God’s creation. After God created the cosmos, He rested. His rest didn’t mean that He ceased all activity; rather, it reflects the harmony and peace of creation. God lived in community with His people, walked with them, and enjoyed the mutual love they shared. It was a life without conflict, without pain, and without suffering. However, the wilderness invaded the Garden and the REST was disturbed—ushering in conflict, pain, and suffering. Our gracious God sought to give His people rest despite the choices that shattered God’s rest. He called Israel into being a holy community in which he would dwell among them. Each seventh day (Sabbath) would be a reflection of God’s REST. God also called them to a land where he would give them Rest (Exodus 33:14). However, despite being called to enter, they choose not to enter because of unbelief and disobedience. They were stuck in the desert between the slavery of Egypt and the promised land of Canaan. God raised up Joshua to lead Israel into the land of promised REST.

Our Hebrews text declares that the REST still stands. *“Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.”* It is a rest that is both present and future. Future in the sense that believers are on a journey toward the heavenly city and we wait for the fullness of God glory and peace. Present in the sense that we participate in the city already, and we enjoy God’s presence now and experience the peace of God through the reconciliation achieved by the suffering and exaltation of Jesus. Our “Sabbath” rest is not a seventh day, but the experience of living in relationship with God through Jesus. As we experience the wildernesses of life, God is with us and our champion Jesus leads us toward the joy of eternal rest.

Therefore, we are to persevere toward God’s promised REST and we are to “make every effort to enter that rest (4:11). The promised REST has not disappeared...it is constantly renewed as each generation seeks God. The Word of God promises REST through the gospel. We must follow Jesus and not follow the negative example of disobedience exhibited by the Israelites. God’s Word is still active and alive and it discerns the heart—who has faith and who is faithless. God sees us inside-out! He still calls us to trust his promises and experience His Rest.

Gareth D. Flanary

**Because of God’s love, we celebrate and guide
those inside and outside the church
to salvation in Christ Jesus through the Bible.**

Prayer Requests

(Please advise us of updates as they become available)

Alice Trinks (George's mother) has pneumonia. **Ruth Shultz** has had a recurrence of the flu. **Steve Clayton** has pneumonia. **Elijah Potts** (Grandson of the Pearson's) is recovering at home after a hospital stay for a severe respiratory infection. Please continue to pray for his recovery. **Tanya Diaz** is experiencing abdominal pain. **Prayer of Thanks - Evelyn Rosier** was able to worship with us on 12/30. **Ruby Shultz** (Gary's mother) is back in the hospital with internal bleeding. **Gary Shultz** broke 4 ribs in a fall. Please keep him in prayer. **Pat Smithson** continues to have health struggles. Please continue to pray for her. Please pray for **Scott & Geri Strothers** who lost their baby (she was 5 months pregnant). Pray for **Wyatt Koger**, an 8 week old baby recovering from complications of a hole in his diaphragm. **Chelsea Carper** has been ill, please pray that a cause and treatment may be found. Please pray for **Erin Jacoby and family** who lost a baby daughter. They are expecting delivery of a baby boy in a few weeks. Please keep **Jim Alban, Jr.** in your prayers, he has lost his job. Please pray for **Lily Seufert** (Steve & Barb Rosier's grand daughter) who had surgery to help her with a hearing problem. Please pray for the **5 year-old son of Joel Cummings** who has Juvenile Diabetes (given by Heinly). **Shana Cathell** for strength for her current trials. **Bernice Bare** for strength during her cancer treatments, **Brandy Potter** is having seizures and headaches and is undergoing tests (unsigned prayer card). Please keep **Rowdy Carper's mother** in your prayers, she has been experiencing heart-related difficulties. **Kim Blanck** (friend of the Heinly's) had major surgery to remove a mass on her spinal column and will undergo radiation. Kim & Erik's son suffers from "Lorenzo's Oil," a dystrophy that attacks the nerves. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Expectant Mothers

Please pray that **Amanda Coble**, **Lacey Latterman** and **Leanne Ramos** give birth to healthy babies. Also pray for **Erin Hower** (Earl & Barb's daughter-in-law) who is expecting twin girls.

In the Military

Eric Bankert (Emily Russell's brother) is in basic training for the National Guard, **Jamie Lawson**, **Shane Markle** and **Seth Robertson**.

Cancer Patients

Frank Stong (Albert's brother) will undergo treatments five days a week for six weeks for throat cancer. **Harvey Blevins** is home recovering from his cancer surgery. Pray for his continued healing. **Shontay Hower's** cancer has returned (lungs) after her Hodgkins disease had been in remission. She is the 17 year old great niece of Earl and Barb Hower. Please pray for **Mike DeVeny** (June Clayton's cousin) whose cancer has been progressing. **Barb Tennant** (Beckie Sine's sister) has a severe infection related to her cancer. **Melba Neidens** (Lori Lonard's grandmother) underwent major surgery and will receive several months of chemo treatments. **Ruby Hickman** has been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for **Warren Yuspa** (given by Crystal Thomas) who has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. Also **Diane Witt** (given by Koskey's) who has been diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer. **Elizabeth Ettinger** (Anna Humphrey's cousin) has cancer in her bronchial tube. **Richard Adams** (given by Glenda Cummings) has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Please pray for **Barb Tome's** 8 year old niece who has been diagnosed with Leukemia. Please pray for **Melvin Rineholt** (friend of Dennis Cummings), who has stomach cancer. Please pray for **Stephen Royer**, father of one of Caleb Robertson's friends, who has brain cancer. Also **Carl Lawson** (leukemia), **Travis Flynn**, **Wanda Yost**, **Sherry McCracken**, **Donna Heim**, **Dave Mitchell**, **Jean Saez**, **Kevin Snyder** and **Dewey Renfro** have cancer.

Meal Preparation

We will be providing meals for Robin Hart at her parents home in Stewartstown. Dates for meals are: January 2, 4, 10, 12, 14 and 16. Meals will be for 5 to 6 people. Please call Lisa Laughman with your date selection. (717 229-2863). The address is 11 Ecker Avenue, Stewartstown, PA.

Sunday, December 30

Attendance - Regulars: 158
Attendance - Visitors: 22
Attendance - Total: 180
Offering to God: \$3,341
Budgeted Amount: \$5,192

Upcoming Events

January 5 - Ladies "Rock" Group Meeting - 8:30 am (see the December issue of *Family Matters* for details)

January 6 - LIFE Groups Meet - no evening service

January 18 - Craft Night - 6:30 pm (note change of date is for January only)

January 20 - VBS Meeting after service

January 26 - Family Game Night - 6:30 pm. Bring snacks to share and games to play. See Allen or Tammy Brittell with questions.

January 27 - Recycling Sunday

For Mothers With Children Under Age 4

The Moms and Babes group is gearing up for the New Year. If anyone with children under 4 years old is interested in participating in play dates and other activities, please contact Stacey Lewis or Sarah Walker.

Regular Contribution and Campaign Receipts

If you need a replacement receipt for an individual contribution of \$250 or more made during 2007, please give Jim the date, check number and amount to verify & re-issue your receipt. Detailed Capital Campaign receipts will be mailed within the first two weeks of January for total campaign contributions of \$250 or higher. Contact Jim Jackson with questions.

Men's Worship Assignments

Please see Adam Markle to add your name to the list of men serving on Sunday morning and Sunday evening, or to add any additional service roles to what you are already doing. Thanks.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to Bill Bury and his family in the passing of Bill's Aunt Rose on December 28. She was the sister of Bill's mother, Jane.

Can You Help our Mom's & Babe's Group?

Two teachers are needed for a children's Bible study twice a month. These studies will be held during the day, approximately one hour long, and geared toward children ages 1-4 years. We would like the studies to begin in mid January. If anyone is interested or has any questions, please contact Stacey Lewis or Sarah Walker.