

December 15, 2014



Dear Members and Friends,

"On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing, to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us." ("Personent Hodie" a Christmas carol published in *Piae Cantiones*) This beautiful song from the Middle Ages led into our special Worship experience, *A Medieval Christmas*, on Sunday, December 14th. So many hours of preparation involving more than forty adults and children made this celebration of Christ's birth one that touched the hearts of the congregation. Thank you to all who shared their talents to bring glory to God and focus our attention on the birth of the Christ Child.

As we reflect upon this year, there is so much for which we are thankful! We are blessed by the love, support, and generosity demonstrated by our RGUC members and friends. Our grandsons, Jordan and Julian, bring so much joy to our lives. We are thankful that they and their parents (Jennifer and John) live nearby.

Jordan is 4½, very active, and loves coming to Sunday School and church! He attends PreK at DKH Academy and has been enrolled in swimming and a sports class during the fall semester. Singing is very important to Jordan, and his favorite color is blue. He enjoys Legos, cars, trains, planes, and computer games.

Julian is 16½ months old and really enjoys playing in the church nursery. He is Popi's biggest fan! New words are frequent, and blue is probably his favorite color (of course, it's the only color word he says at this point!). Julian likes just about everything big brother likes including swimming classes.

Round Grove is a unique church family. Families with children will find "a village" of helping hands. We speak from experience. Thank you to everyone who has helped or cared for our grandchildren - rocking Julian to sleep, helping at meal or refreshment time, playing games with Jordan, encouraging, teaching, nurturing, and leading them in the right direction.

We rejoice and give thanks for our wonderful church staff and their contributions to RGUC. We are grateful to all of the Boards and church volunteers.

Christmas Sunday, December 21st, will be special as the Children's Choir sings three Christmas anthems. During this service, we encourage your support for the Christmas Fund Offering which assists retired ministers.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Altar Communion Worship Celebration is always a memorable service. Continue or start a tradition by inviting your family and friends to the Christmas Eve Celebration at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24th, and celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. A special offering for EdenHill Communities (formerly Eden Home), our denomination sponsored retirement/nursing home facility in New Braunfels, will be received.

The year 2015 shows great promise for our church family as we grow in supporting each other and invite others to come to a church where "all are welcome." God has truly blessed us at Round Grove United Church. Share the excitement of your church with others knowing that "God is still speaking."

Yours in Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Byron and Margaret".

Byron and Margaret Wells