

# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Bedford REC

P.O. Box 335

Bedford, PA 15522

814-623-5101

Email: [support@bedfordrec.com](mailto:support@bedfordrec.com)

Website: [www.bedfordrec.com](http://www.bedfordrec.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President &

### Allegheny Director

C. Robert Koontz

Colerain, Snake Spring and  
South Woodbury Twps.

### Vice President & PREA Director

Donald Hoenstine

Kimmel and King Twps.

### Secretary

Ronald W. Wilkins

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New Paris, Manns Choice and  
Schellsburg Boroughs

### Treasurer

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Juanita Twp., Bedford County, and  
Allegheny Twp., New Baltimore Borough,  
Somerset County

### Assistant Secretary

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and Brush Creek Twp., Fulton County

### Assistant Treasurer

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William Howard Atkinson

Monroe and West Providence Twps.,

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John A. Oldham

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County

Dale Sprigg II

West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.,

Pleasantville Borough

### Attorney

James R. Cascio

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## From the General Manager



## Season's greetings

By Brooks Shoemaker

## Season's Greetings from all of us at Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

**Board of Directors:** Bob Koontz, Don Hoenstine,  
Ronald Wilkins, Reuben Lafferty, Earl Garland,  
Paul Rummel Jr., Howard Atkinson, John Oldham,  
Dale Sprigg II

**Employees:** Dave Allison, Scott Bischof,  
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Lacy Decker, Sara Detweiler, Emile Feuillet,  
Kathy Gates, Brad Glessner, Ed Hankinson,  
Al Hileman, Brent Kauffman, Gary Lafferty,  
Tim Mellott, Wade Mellott, Greg Miller,  
Curtis Mitchell, Troy Mock, Dawn Mowery,  
Jenna Reffner, Jim Seymour, Brooks Shoemaker,  
Scott Shook, Becky Truax, Christie Weaverling,  
Cindy Wise, Ryan Young

# Claycomb lights to glow again

By Linda Williams

IF YOU'VE never been there, you are in for a treat. If you have, you will want to return this holiday season.

It's the Christmas lights at the Claycomb Farms in Alum Bank, all started by a man with many talents, Stanley Claycomb. Both Stanley and his wife, Dale, are now deceased, but their legendary Christmas lights live on through the hands of their three children: Jim, Joe, and Linda.

"It all grew from a few lights on the bushes in front of the house," Jim recalls.

Later, a local 4-H club asked if they could do a live nativity scene. People came to see the display, and the seed was planted. Linda remembers that year and how they felt as if they were going to freeze because it was so cold.

At 75, Jim still climbs the Claycomb trees to place each and every light so it will provide the most glimmer. He is helped by his brother, Joe, a computer expert; sister, Linda; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. While most locals are hunting deer, the Claycombs are stringing lights.

Joe has hooked the lighting system to music. He buys a program he can modify so the family's lights can dance



**LIGHT THE NIGHT:** These scenes of lighted farms on the Claycomb properties near Alum Bank are visible for a long way.

to the beat. He also added a short distance FM transmitter so spectators can listen to Christmas music. LED lights have helped to curb the cost of electricity, but the family has more than \$1,000 worth of extension cords.

One 90-foot tree has 3,000 lights. Jim, who admits that sometimes he has to "create" a branch where there is none, says it takes him about five hours to do the tallest tree. While he climbs among the branches, several family members on the ground work to straighten the lights. Christmas lights are strung on at least 40 trees up and

down lanes of the various Claycomb farms. Nearby buildings, trees and log fences also are decorated with lights.

Linda says her favorite is the old log cabin, which is the original homestead on the Claycomb farm.

Starting each January, Joe begins looking for bargains on strings of lights, timers, extension cords and any other Christmas accessories that might add to the display. Joe recently created a Christmas tree design from a PVC pipe he put together. The tree twinkles with various lights as part of his computerized program. He also outlined his entire roof with strips of wood. Each strip is drilled with tiny holes for a string of lights to peek through. They each blink in different colors. Lights are powered by 48 circuits, each of which has its own power cord.

Installation of the decorations begins soon after harvest. If all goes well, the "turn on" date is Dec. 10. The lights remain up until after New Year's Day.

The children all like to fondly think of their dad, who they say would be so pleased to know they are continuing his tradition. A man of many talents, Stanley was involved in farming, raising cattle and crops, owning school buses, auctioneering, and operating an ice cream stand known as "The Cow."

Next year, The Cow will celebrate



**INTRICATE WORK:** Linda Claycomb works to untangle Christmas lights.





its 60th anniversary, and Linda says they are planning a surprise for the public. In anticipation, the Claycombs had a float in the Bedford Halloween parade and took home a prize for first place. The Cow is open from April through October with good, specialty ice cream. 🍦



**BEHIND THE SCENES:** Joe Claycomb is the computer expert who designs the computerized decorations for the various displays.



**SCALING THE HEIGHTS:** Jim Claycomb climbs high up in the tree as a grandson stands guard.



**HARD WORK:** Jim Claycomb starts up a tree as grandson, Justin, and a great-granddaughter help to stretch the lights.

## Holiday gift certificates available

Make your gift-giving easy this Christmas by purchasing an electricity gift certificate. The gift of electricity would be welcomed by anyone. If you would like to present a relative or fellow member with a gift certificate, just fill out the coupon below and return with payment enclosed to Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative. We can send the certificate to you or, if you wish to remain anonymous, we can send the acknowledgment to the member.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 814-623-5101.

To: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to purchase a \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
gift of electricity to be credited to the account above.

From: \_\_\_\_\_



I wish to remain anonymous

Phone No.: (If we have any questions) \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember to enclose payment.

Mail To: Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 335

Bedford, PA 15522

## OUTAGE REPORTING

### In case of an outage...

- 1** Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2** Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3** Call the 24-hour number, 623-7568, OR call 800-808-2732\* during office hours.

*\*(Please help us save money – only use this number if toll charges apply.)*

Please give the person receiving the call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

**To report an outage call:  
(814) 623-7568**

*During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient, and try again in a few minutes.*

## NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at [www.bedfordrec.com](http://www.bedfordrec.com) and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

*All applications and required information must be received no later than Feb. 1, 2018.*

**Mail application to:**  
**Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative**  
**P. O. Box 335**  
**Bedford, PA 15522**

**Bedford REC will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas and Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day**

## DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric directors and employees are asking the members to join in and make donations to the area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring them to the Bedford Rural Electric office on Lincoln Highway between now and Dec. 18, 2017.



Items needed include: canned goods, paper products, soap and other hygiene-related items, food products such as noodles, cake mixes, spaghetti, or boxed foods of any kind. The items will be donated to local food banks throughout the county.

Your help and kindness will be appreciated during this holiday season.

Anyone making a donation will have their name entered for a \$25 gift certificate toward their electric bill.

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric.

For an application, go to our website at [www.bedfordrec.com](http://www.bedfordrec.com) and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

*All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2018.*

**Mail application to:**  
**Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative**  
**P. O. Box 335**  
**Bedford, PA 15522**