

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Bedford, PA 15522

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kimmel and King Twps.

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Attorney

James R. Cascio

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

From the General Manager



The cooperative's annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE COOPERATIVE'S 83rd annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds, 108 Telegraph Road, Bedford. The fairgrounds are located just west of downtown Bedford on Business Route 30, which is also West Pitt Street, and are adjacent to the Bedford exit from Interstate 99.

The "drive-thru" meeting begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. (Please do not arrive before 10. We cannot have traffic backing up onto Route 30.) You may arrive at any time during those hours and remain in your vehicle while you register, pick up an annual report, receive a ballot to vote in the election of directors, enjoy free refreshments, pick up an attendance gift and finally turn in your completed ballot. Registered attendees will also be eligible to win door prizes. Lucky winners will be announced after the meeting.

Naturally, if you have already voted by mail, you will not be able to vote again at the annual meeting. You will, however, enjoy all of the other attendance benefits.

Please make plans to join us. At this point, if you haven't returned your ballot by mail, it is probably too late for it to be received by the due date of April 11, so come to the meeting and cast your vote in person. Whether you are voting in-person or not, you should have received the official notice of the meeting in mid-March. It is very important, to simplify registration, that you please tear off the top section of the notice and bring it with you to the meeting. Remember, every vote counts!

The power behind your power

I'm sure that you have noticed our crews working around the system, maintaining, rebuilding or constructing new power lines and other electrical equipment. It's no secret that a line-worker's job is tough. However, it is a job that is essential and must be done, often in the most challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, our lineworkers may be required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30- to 70-foot tall. If you have a fear of heights, it is not the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career — because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the Top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors, in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills,

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Pennwood Bible among 46 churches served by Bedford REC

By Linda Williams

BEDFORD Rural Electric Cooperative provides power for 46 churches in the area. There are small churches with a few members, and large churches with a lot of members. On April 17, Easter morning, they will all be celebrating the glorious resurrection of every Christian's lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

Services and customs vary from church to church, but all find Easter to be the most significant of religious observances. Pennwood Bible in Everett, an independent church, is overseen by Senior Pastor Stephen W. Scruggs and Pastor Zachary Grimm, who supports the children, youth and young adult ministries.

It is an active church with 100 to 150 members and, like all churches, attendance has been greatly affected since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020.

"Slowly people are coming back," Scruggs says. "We are looking forward to a good Easter this year."

If 2022's Easter morning dawns as a beautiful spring day, Pennwood will



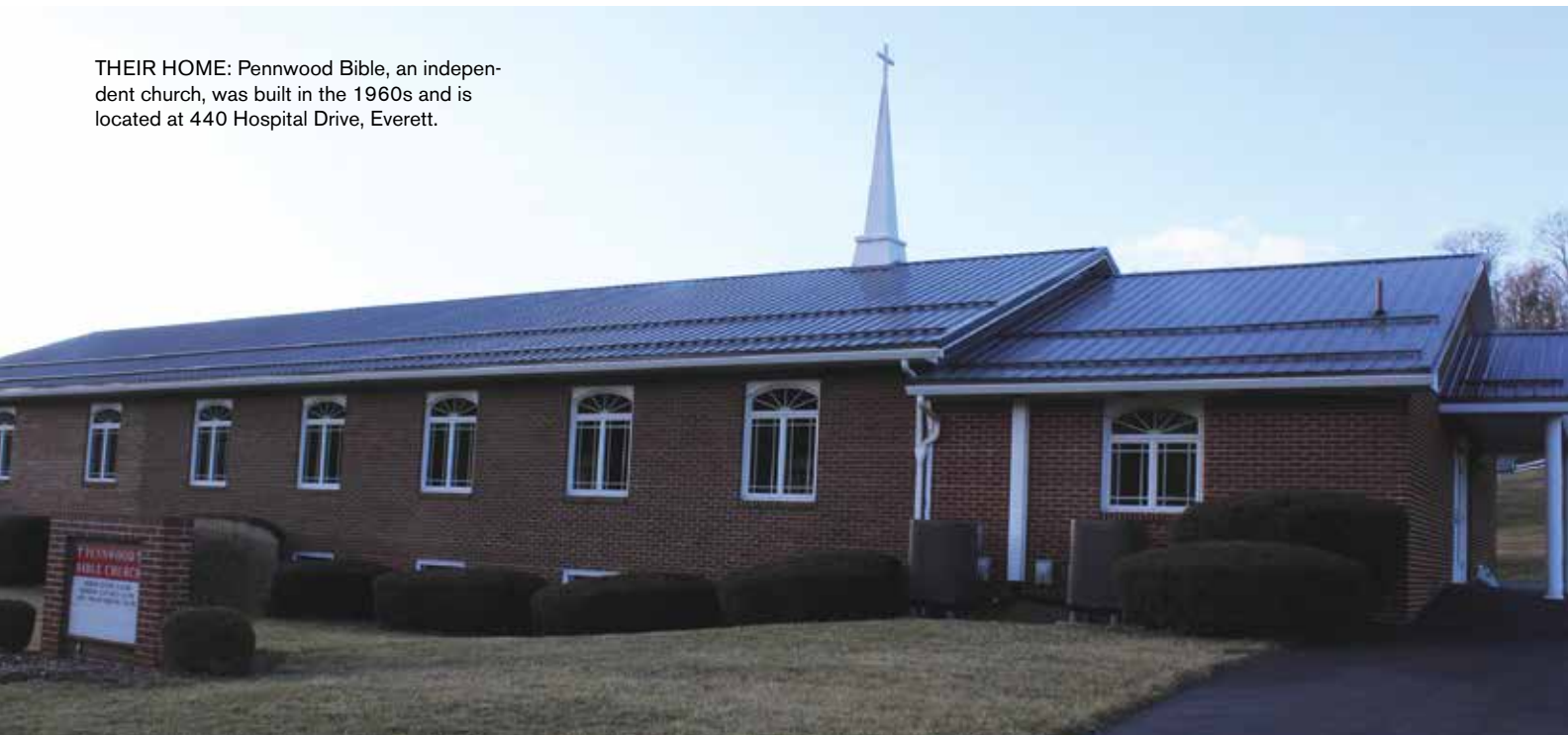
SPREADING THE WORD: Pastors Stephen Scruggs, left, and Zachary Grimm decide on the week's Bible studies.

have an outdoor service beginning at 8 a.m. If it is not so springlike, the service will be held inside followed by breakfast. The last time the

congregation had an outdoor service was in 2019.

On Good Friday, Grimm is in charge of an "around the world eating event"

THEIR HOME: Pennwood Bible, an independent church, was built in the 1960s and is located at 440 Hospital Drive, Everett.





CHURCH FESTIVAL: Horseback riding at the church fall festival.



HELP FOR KIDS: Collecting packages for Operation Christmas Child

that will include Chinese, Mexican and other types of global food.

Pennwood has an active youth group that meets every Sunday from 5:35 to 7:15 p.m. The evening includes games, music, fellowship, a lesson and more. Pennwood youth have long been active in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. The church is one of the local collection sites and in 2021, it processed 3,000 boxes. Pennwood itself collected nearly 200 Christmas shoeboxes. On several occasions, the youth have traveled to the Baltimore packing center. Worldwide, more than 10 million boxes were gathered for distribution.

There is also a young adults group, Pathfinders, that meets every Monday evening and is aimed at high school seniors to those in their late 20s.



CELEBRATING COUPLES: Listening to the pastor at a couples dinner at Penwoods Bible Church.

Sundays begin with Bible study at 9:45 a.m. and the regular service at 10:45 a.m. There is also a midweek service and a Kids Club on Wednesday evenings at 7.

Bible study classes are conducted for men and women, and there is also a mixed class. Never to be left out are the OWLS, the older, wiser, loving seniors — or “saints,” as Scruggs calls them. This group meets monthly for a covered dish dinner and mission work.

Each month, something special is planned for the entire congregation. In March, the church held a bonfire.

May 15 will be a Friends Day with music, games, fun and food. Scruggs says the church is hoping to attract many who have not come back since the pandemic as well as newcomers. Invitations will be mailed or hand-delivered for this event.

“We welcome all,” he says.

Like all churches, Pennwood could not exist without volunteers. It has a part-time secretary and a part-time cleaning crew. The rest is done by the pastors or by volunteers.

A building separate from the church includes a gymnasium and basketball court for the youth to enjoy on Sunday evenings. Grimm says they will be having a “lock-in” in May. The youth are sometimes asked to help with chores for older church members, such as stacking wood or raking leaves.

In 2020, a team of volunteers, including adults and youth, worked together to remodel the church’s basement, where the classrooms were turned into cheery areas for Bible learning.

Pennwood Bible welcomes all to attend its services. ❁

OFFICE CLOSING

Bedford REC’s office will be closed
Wednesday, April 13, 2022, for our annual meeting.

The office will also be closed April 15, 2022, for Good Friday.

From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)
 experience and ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, the co-op's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are typically the first ones called. It seems that the call invariably comes at 3 a.m., not 3 p.m. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative has 14 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing around the clock, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,300 miles of power lines, primarily in Bedford County, but also in portions of Somerset and Fulton counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use iPads and many other modern technologies to map outages, survey damage, and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking employees, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So the next time you see one of our lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we

recognize them on April 11 and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tuneup for

your home's cooling system. April is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors, and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system. ❁

Generate Safely

Safe Generator Operation

Keep this information in your home's emergency kit or with your generator.

Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:

Stationary Generator: An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator: Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is DEADLY.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first BEFORE connecting appliances.



Source: SafeElectricity.org

Developed jointly by the Energy Education Council & Rural Electricity Resource Council

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, 814-623-7568, 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.