

# 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  
Website: www.bedfordrec.com

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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New Paris, Manns Choice and  
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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



## Annual meeting notes

By Brooks Shoemaker

ON APRIL 13, Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) hosted its second drive-thru annual meeting. We weren't sure what size crowd to expect because, for the first time, we offered both mail-in and in-person voting. We ended up having a great crowd at the fairgrounds — our largest in 15 years!

Most important, we are pleased to report that 257 members voted in person and 1,087 by mail. That means 14% of the membership voted. Over the last 15 years, we have averaged between 2% and 3%. When the decision was made to offer voting by mail, the board of directors stated the goal was to increase democratic participation in the cooperative's elections — mission accomplished!

### Restoring power safely and efficiently

Power outages are a fact of life. We do our best to avoid them, but they happen. For most Bedford REC members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. However, when major storms hit, longer outages are unavoidable.

When the power goes out, how do crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the

shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to our primary distribution lines, which serve numerous homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. We stay well-stocked on extra poles, transformers and other equipment so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews are out in the field, simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. In extreme situations, we can also coordinate with nearby electric cooperatives to bring in additional crews.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages. I'm sure you have seen our crews and contractors' crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. It only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community.

In addition to managing vegetation, we are continually rebuilding our system by replacing poles and wires from the 1950s and 1960s with newer, stronger equipment. We also regularly *(continues on page 12d)*

## Clarence Whetstone publishes book on Bible understanding

By Linda Williams

CLARENCE “Arch” Whetstone of Egolf Road, Bedford, grew up in a Christian home with a minister father and a mother who taught him the Scripture. But it took some convincing for him to allow Jesus into his own heart.

There were numerous incidences that led him to the Lord at age 18. One of the most dramatic was the near loss of his beloved trombone.

While attending Bedford High School, Clarence saved his pennies and bought his own trombone from the Koontz Music Store. He took it with him to college, where he played in various musical groups.

One afternoon, he returned from a function and carefully stored his trombone in the closet.

“If it wasn’t with me, it was in the closet,” Clarence remembers.

He was very tired and wanted to nap, so he crawled into his bunk only to be awakened several hours later by the smell of smoke. As he stumbled out of bed and into the hallway, someone handed him a raincoat, and he traipsed outside with a throng of students. It was then he thought of his trombone.

“I began to pray,” Clarence says. “I thought it would take a miracle to save my trombone, but I prayed and I prayed.”

The next day, a roommate brought the instrument to him — it was unharmed — and said it had been found just inside the room’s door. Clarence says he has no idea how it got there, but the only part of the room that survived the fire was the area just inside the door. It is a story he has often told when performing with a group called Heaven Bound. He still plays that same trombone.

While he opted to become a speech therapist, he was a student pastor for many years. He has spent many years teaching others about the love of Jesus. For 64 years, he has taught Sunday School and is presently leading a class called, “The Lord’s Table,” at Bedford



SPREADING THE WORD: Clarence “Arch” Whetstone of Bedford holds a copy of his 2014 book, “Help Me Understand the Bible.”

United Methodist Church. He has always written his own material. At 92, he isn’t slowing down, and in 2014, published a book, “Help Me Understand the Bible.”

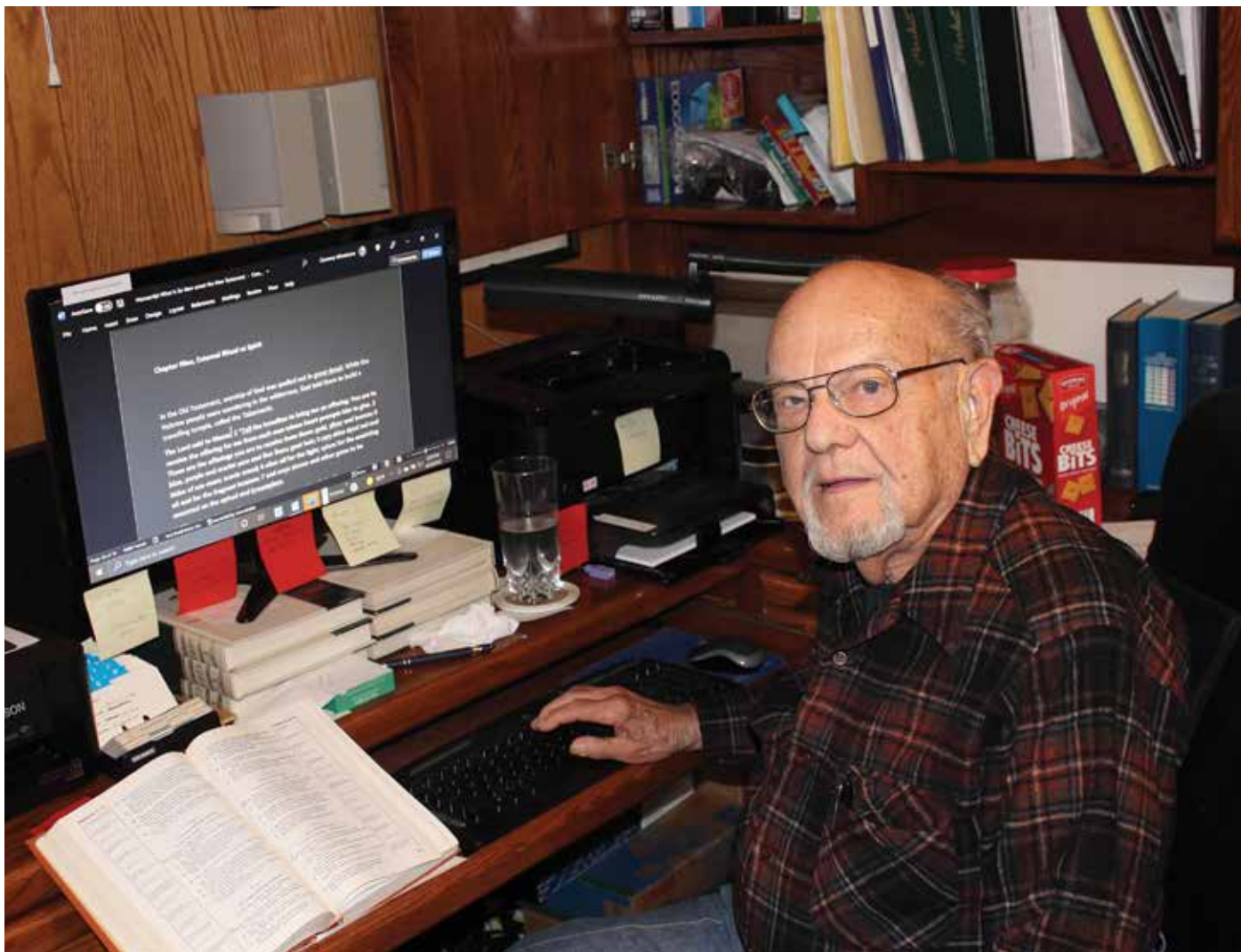
Clarence is a language expert, having studied Latin, French, German and Greek. “A word can have so many different meanings, depending on how it is used,” he points out.

Many people try to take the Bible literally, he says, noting the Old Testament is filled with Jewish law and was written in Hebrew. When Clarence joined an online Bible study group, he was dismayed to find the members were hung up on observing the Lord’s Day on the seventh day because that’s

what the Ten Commandments say.

“It is not a sin for the Lord’s Day to be on Sunday,” he says. “That idea goes back to Jewish law. The most important part of the Christian religion is the resurrection. When Christ was resurrected on the third day, it was actually the first day of the week. That is the reason most Christians have chosen to praise God on Sunday.

“Many of the laws in the Old Testament, such as how to cut your hair or wear certain clothes or not eating pork, are obsolete,” he adds. “They were Jewish laws. The New Testament is filled with the stories of Jesus, and after his death and resurrection, his teachings were carried on by the 11 disciples.



Think about it: A group of unknown, common, uneducated men brought about the greatest religion the world has ever known.

“And Jesus did not leave women out of the picture,” Clarence says. “Even though women were not important in biblical times, Jesus made them an important part of his teachings — from the woman at the well ... to Mary and Martha ... [and] to his own mother.”

Clarence feels that all translations of the Bible are important as words change their meanings. He presently uses more than 50 translations in his studies.

“The King James version is an old Middle Eastern book,” he says. “The Scripture is beautiful, but so easily misunderstood.”

Clarence feels God has led many

scholars to translate the Bible into a more easily understood language.

His book was self-published by WestBow Press, but he recently had a call to reprint it with Parchment Global Publishing. The book has been sold in Spain, Italy and Washington, D.C., at the American Library Association. The new publisher has been helping with marketing.

“I know the interest is a small niche,” Clarence says. “I don’t know if I will ever get all the money I have invested back, but that doesn’t matter. The important part is leading others to Christ.”

He has nearly finished the first draft of a second book, “What’s So New About the New Testament,” and is working on another, titled “Bible Words Explained.” “How to Hear the

**MORE TO COME:** Author and language expert Clarence “Arch” Whetstone works at his computer, where he does intensive research for his books.

Holy Spirit’s Voice” and “Bible Principles for Daily Living” are being outlined.

You can learn more about his books online by searching for “Clarence Whetstone books.” Published titles are available on Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com in hardcover and paperback, and on Kindle. Soon, the titles will be available as ebooks, too. Clarence has an upcoming interview on a Bible Belt Network television show. To contact him directly, call 814-494-8136.

Clarence was married for many years to the love of his life, his best friend and life partner, Eileen, who is now deceased. ❁



**From the General Manager**

*(continued from page 12a)*

inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor has reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make that easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is to call our outage reporting number at 814-623-7568.

If you have a medical condition that requires emergency electrical equipment, please let us know. However, if it is life-sustaining equipment, always have a backup plan in place. This plan may include having a portable generator and extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a Bedford Rural Electric member, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

**Energy efficiency tip of the month**

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system.

If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered. ❁

**OFFICE CLOSING**

Bedford REC's office will be closed on Monday, July 4, for Independence Day

**The following were recipients of a \$1,000 scholarship from Bedford Rural Electric:**

- Jonah Hillegass – Chestnut Ridge H.S.
  - Kenzie Smith – Everett H.S.
  - Josie Shuke – Bedford H.S.
- Hailey Miller – Chestnut Ridge H.S.
  - Ella Hinish – Everett H.S.
- Rebekah Claar – Claysburg Kimmel H.S.
- Amy Costigan – (non-traditional winner)



**CONGRATULATIONS** to all of our winners and keep up the good work!!!

**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.*