



# The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church  
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Mr. Ryan Irmer, Pastor

The Rev. Kiran Young Wimberly, Part-time Pastor

Director of Music: Shelley Zuckerman

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December 2015

## ***An Advent Season Wish For All***

As I prepare to take another set of finals at Princeton Theological Seminary, it is hard to believe that yet another semester will soon come to an end. I am grateful for each of my professors, my classmates, and the various subjects that have been taught. However, there is an expression that is often used that describes 90% of the classes taught; it is that it is like "trying to drink out of a fire hose." So much information is attempted to be covered during lectures and so many readings are assigned each week. Because of this, one is forced to skim when reading and little if any knowledge actually gets absorbed. It is probably no surprise that a couple of my favorite classes were ones that took a much slower, more focused approach and allowed for time to absorb, reflect, and truly dig into the information that was being taught. The focus in these classes wasn't on quantity but on quality and space was provided to learn, ask questions, and truly engage with the content. These classes more closely resembled drinking a nice hot cup of tea with a friend by a warm fire on a beautiful, crisp autumn day.

During this Advent season, may we find a way to resist a lifestyle that resembles the typical seminary class, where we are rushing around in a frantic pace to get as much done, while buying as much stuff as possible. Instead it is my hope that we can be like my favorite classes; that we can find a way to take our time and enjoy life with one another and that we would utilize every sense that we have to appreciate all the good that surrounds us. Most importantly, it is my hope that we would fix our attention on the life of Jesus, and be able to have our relationship with Him grow and be nourished in a way that brings new life into our lives. Merry Christmas!

-Ryan Irmer

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Session is pleased to announce that, at its meeting on November 18, eight people were received into membership of Slackwood Church. They are: Christian Asare-Tuah, Sean Baker, Alexis Chu, Amelia Irmer, Debi Moore, Sam Morrison, Lilly Veeraraj and Ginger Wells. The public recognition of these new members will take place on Sunday, January 3. Please plan to be present at that joyful service.

The following is a short bio on each new member to help you get to know them better.

**Christian Asare-Tuah:** Christian is originally from Ghana, West Africa. He came to the United States in 2011, staying in North Brunswick, NJ. He moved recently to Hamilton. He is the third of his parent's kids. He had most of his education in Ghana but continues his education at Keller Graduate school of Management. He loves to cook and also watch soccer. He has developed some love for the Eagles and is trying to develop a love for the NFL. He currently works at Williams-Sonoma Inc. as an Administrative Assistant.

**Sean Baker:** Sean Baker is 48 years old and was born and raised in Lawrence Township. He has 3 children, a son 25 and two daughters 18 and 14. He also has an 8 month old granddaughter. They all live in Southern Georgia with their mother. Sean works for the state of New Jersey at the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital. He is a Department head in charge of the Grounds Department. This is his first time ever being involved in any type of religion, let alone becoming a member of a church. He felt very welcomed and comfortable both at the Sunday services and helping at the rummage sale. It made it very easy to make the decision to join. He is looking forward to getting to know everyone better.

**Lex (short for Alexis) Chu:** Lex was born in New York City, but moved to New Jersey when she was around one year old because the air is cleaner and less polluted here. She went to Lawrence Township schools, from Slackwood Elementary all the way up to Lawrence High. She just graduated from Cornell last May and is currently doing an internship while living at home. She loves food (except eggplant), discovering new places, and comedy. Some of her favorite shows are Modern Family, The Office, and Parks and Recreation. If anyone wants to do a marathon of any one of those with her, that can most definitely be arranged.

**Amelia Irmer:** Amelia Irmer, born in Trinidad and Tobago, lives in Lawrenceville, NJ with her husband Ryan, daughter Alison and dog, Dobbie. A veteran of the United States Army, and with over 30 years of experience in the non-profit field, primarily in the area of social justice, she is excited to be a part of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church family.

**Debi Moore:** Debi was born and raised in Mercerville and lived in Hamilton until moving to Hopewell Township 22 years ago. She married her high school sweetheart, Doug 42 years ago. They have three sons, JD (Kate), Jason (Laura), Jamie (Gayle) and two grandchildren, Emma and Colin. Debi graduated from Westminster Choir College and taught Elementary Vocal Music her entire career. She retired three years ago and continues to teach private piano and voice lessons. Debi held numerous part time church positions over the years as director of children's choirs, hand bells, adult choir, accompanist and director of music. She and Doug recently purchased an RV and look forward to some extended travel across the US.

**Sam Morrison:** Sam Morrison is a native Texan who lives in Lawrenceville, NJ, with his wife Alicia, who is from Lawrenceville, NJ, and their 2 year old son Sammy. Sam graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1996 with a degree in Economics, and has done many things since then. In 2008, Sam met his wife Alicia while serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the tiny West African country of Togo. Upon return, Sam earned a M.Ed. Special Education and a M.Ed. Educational Leadership from Arcadia University and Chestnut Hill College, respectively. He now works at a charter school in Philadelphia, and plans to be there for a long time. Sam's favorite hobby is Saturday morning yoga with his wife.

**Lily Veeraraj:** Lily's family emigrated from India to the US in the 90s; her husband came over to do a doctoral program at the Claremont School of Theology in California. A year after his arrival, the family joined him. After their three children graduated high school in Claremont, they moved to New York City where Lily worked in healthcare while her children attended college. The family moved again and resettled in Lawrenceville as her husband was involved in pastoral ministries to the Asian Indian community in and around Princeton. They started an Indian Church and gave leadership to the congregation for over 17 years with the support of the Presbytery of New Brunswick. After Anand retired from the church, they felt the need to be part of a Presbyterian church closer to home in walking distance. One bright Sunday morning, Lily & Anand just walked into the Slackwood Presbyterian Church and immediately felt at home. Ever since that Sunday they have come to love the Slackwood congregation and consider it their extended family. Anand and Lily are happy to be part of this congregation, sit in the pews and worship together which they hardly ever did since the day they were married. They have always been active in church ministries both in India and here in the US; but hardly worshipped together as a family. Lily recently retired from the Princeton Medical Center. Since their children and their families live close by in Philadelphia, she spends time with their families and grandchildren. Anand continues to work in New York City, and hopes to retire in the next couple of years. They hope to be actively involved in the fellowship and the ministries of Slackwood for many years to come. They send their thanks for being warmly welcomed at Slackwood.

**Ginger Wells:** Ginger Wells is an Office Manager at TKG Components. She was born and raised in Lawrence and at Slackwood Church. Both of her boys, Ian (20 years old) and Brent (18 years old) were baptized at the church and attended Sunday School until they transferred to Hopewell Presbyterian Church since they lived in Hopewell. She is now living back in Lawrence and has started attending church at Slackwood with her boyfriend, Sean. She says it is great to be back in her "home" church, where she loves the people and the fellowship. And yes, Bill and Terrie Mansmann are her parents....and she gladly admits that!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETING

Slackwood's Presbyterian Women will meet on Thursday, December 17 at noon. Bring a sandwich, and dessert will be furnished. Read Lesson 4, Dangerous Waters--God's Deliverance, f Joshua 3 and Psalm 69:1-3. Please let Marilyn Stebbins know if you plan on attending (609-587-7986).

## PW NEWS

On October 20, I took 441 items of clothing, etc. to Ewing Presbyterian Church on behalf of your Presbyterian Women's Group. NGA (Needlework Guild of America New Garments Always) organization was the recipient of these articles. This is a national organization that distributes to needy in the local areas that they serve. Our Slackwood PW has supported this project as one of our outreach mission projects for approximately 15 years now. Some organizations who distribute our donations this year are: Mercer Street Friends; Mount Carmel Guild; Children's Future, Inc.; Anchor House; Angel's Wings; Children's Home Society of NJ; Mill Hill Child and Family Development Center; United Progress, Inc.; and Trenton Psychiatric Hospital.



Thanks to all for the many donations given.

Arlene Filson

*The NGA Prayer*

*Father of all mercies, we are clothed, we are fed, we are sound in mind and body. In gratitude for these great blessings, we offer material things to those less fortunate. Add thy blessings, we beseech thee, to the work of our hands and hearts so that each garment may carry to the wearer not only decency and warmth, but courage, comfort and hope for brighter days.*

*Amen*

## SESSION ACTIONS – NOVEMBER 18, 2015 MEETING

Session voted:

- to receive into membership Christian Asare-Tuah, Sean Baker, Alexis Chu, Amelia Irmer, Debi Moore, Sam Morrison, Lilly Veeraraj and Ginger Wells;
- to make a donation to the Religious Ministries Department of the Princeton Health Care System;

- to approve the request of Explorations Pre-school to replace carpet in one of the classroom at their expense;
- to approve the baptism of Alexis Chu on January 3, 2016.

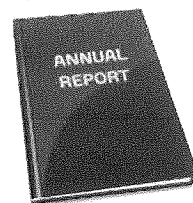
Session members also learned:

- that the minutes of the session were approved by the presbytery without exception on November 5, 2015;
- that the present church membership stands at 107 people.

The date of the annual congregation meeting was set for January 31, 2016.

## ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

If you are a committee chairperson, moderator or treasurer of a committee or ministry group, or represent Slackwood at any church-connected program, you need to submit a report to be included in the annual report to the congregation. All reports must be in the hands of the clerk of session no later than January 15, 2016. You can submit your report by handing it to Carol Belles or by mailing it to her, or you can send it via email to [carolb125@aol.com](mailto:carolb125@aol.com). If you have any questions at all, speak with Carol.



The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on January 31, 2016 following the morning service of worship.

## 2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2016 are now available for pickup in the church sanctuary. If a set has not been created for you and you would like one, contact Bill Mansmann at 609-651-1321 and he will be glad to furnish you with a set of envelopes.

## 2016 PER CAPITA FEE

The Per Capita fee for 2016 is \$32.50 for each member of each church in the Presbytery. These funds support the work of the greater church – Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. It is important that each member of our church participate and contribute their Per Capita Fee. Any shortfall in receiving the Per Capita fee is paid from the general funds of the church that reduces funds available for other needs within Slackwood Church.

## PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the committee will take place following worship on Sunday December 13, 2015. We will be discussing items that can be completed over the winter. If you have any suggestions for these topics contact Bill Mansmann at 609-651-1321 or feel free to attend the meeting and share your thoughts.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men of the church are invited to join in our breakfast meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the church on Friday, December 18, 2014. Following an enjoyable meal we will continue our fellowship by completing small jobs around the church. Mark your calendar and join us on December 18, 2015!



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT FOR EVERYONE!! DECEMBER 20th



Our pageant time for everyone is almost here! The pageant committee has been busy making costumes for adults and children. This year you will have an opportunity to be an active participant in the nativity scene. During the morning worship service, we will have an "interactive Christmas service". **Worship attendees are asked to arrive 10:00 a.m. that Sunday** for the 10:30 a.m. church service. In fellowship hall we will have tables of costumes and people to help you get dressed for the nativity story. There will be costumes for angels, shepherds, various barn animals, and townspeople. Once the worship service begins, a narration based on the Gospel of Luke's telling of Jesus' birth is shared with the congregation. At various breaks in the narration, while the congregation sings a corresponding song, folks with certain costumes will go to the front of the sanctuary and help create a live nativity scene. There will be instructions in the bulletin when your group is to join the nativity scene. **THERE ARE NO SPEAKING PARTS.** If you only want to sit in the pews and watch the story, that is ok too. We hope you will mark your calendars for this special worship service and be a part of the Christmas spirit of joy, hope, peace, and love.

## CHURCH VAN

Don't forget, as the cold weather approaches and it becomes even more difficult to get out of the house, our

church bus is always available to pick up worshipers for Sunday morning services. To arrange a ride, please call Theresa Suanno at 609-989-9409.

## CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS CAROLING VOICES DECEMBER 20TH, 6PM

We continue the holiday spirit on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> with a Christmas Caroling Party, visiting our church shut-ins to bring the Christmas message through caroling. We will gather at the church at 6pm and use the church mini-bus and other cars (if the group is large enough) for transportation to their homes. You don't need a great singing voice, just an interest in spreading the holiday cheer to others. Afterwards we will return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies. Hope to see you then!



## TREE OF HOPE

The Membership and Outreach Committee is asking your help with their mission project – the Tree of Hope. During the Advent/Christmas season they are asking for your contributions toward some very tangible needs of our less fortunate community, and as each donation is received, another ornament will be added to our Tree of Hope. Stop by the table they have set up in Fellowship Hall and you will find many ways, big and small, that you may be able to help.


*I expect to pass through this world but once; any  
good thing therefore that I can do, or any  
kindness that I can show to any fellow creature,  
let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it, for  
I shall not pass this way again.*

---John Wesley

## RYAN IRMER - INSTALLATION SERVICE

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 10 when we will be holding Ryan Irmer's installation service at Slackwood Church at 4:30 p.m. Dr. Darrell Guder, Professor of Missional and Ecumenical Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, will be the preacher. More information will be coming about this very special day and our celebration after the service, so please plan to attend. We also wish Ryan well as he is ordained by the Presbytery of San Diego on December 20.

# Slackwood Presbyterian Church December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee	3 6:30 PM AA Meeting 8:00 PM Debtors Anonymous	4		5 8:30 AM AA Meeting
6 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship and Communion 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	7 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Hanukkah 7:30 PM AA Meeting	8 7:30 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	9 7:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	10 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	11 8:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	12 8:30 AM AA Meeting
13 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Property & Finance Committee 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	14 7:30 PM AA Meeting	15 7:00 PM Session meeting	16 12:00 PM Pres. Women's Meeting 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	17 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Club	18	19 8:30 AM AA Meeting
20 9:30 AM Choir Practice, Adult Form and Sunday School 10:00 AM Prepare for Christmas Pageant 10:30 AM Worship and Christmas Pageant 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service 6:00 PM Christmas Caroling	21 7:30 PM AA Meeting	22 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Winter	23 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	24 NEW YEAR'S EVE 6:30 PM AA Meeting 8:00 PM Debtors Anonymous	25 Christmas Day 	26 8:30 AM AA Meeting
27 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	28 7:30 PM AA Meeting	29	30	31		

### Upcoming Events:

January 3 – Reception of new members  
January 10 – Ryan Irmer installation  
January 31 – Annual Meeting

To submit articles, calendar events, or address changes, please e-mail [BaumannP@aol.com](mailto:BaumannP@aol.com)

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U.S. Postage Paid  
Trenton, N.J.  
Permit #150

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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For unto us  
a child is born...



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