



The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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March 2015

Forty Days Only?

"The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, repent and believe in the good news. (Mk. 1:15)"

This is both a call and a promise. It was an ominous time for the Jewish people. Jesus came with an urgency in his message. Once again God acted in human history as the Almighty had done in the exodus. This time Jesus came to proclaim the good news to all. John the baptizer had proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus preached a more powerful message of repentance. This repentance, however, was not simply to be an individual act but required action in and for the whole community. This was not a snap decision. After he was baptized by John, Jesus spent time to reflect on serving God and resisting temptations. After that he began his public ministry living out his ministry and spreading his words and works to those he was sent into the world to save.

Today as I think of my need for repentance, I know it cannot be just for Lent nor can I think of it apart from being in the community of believers. I know I need some quiet time to disengage from worldly things but I also know I must reengage in the world. If Jesus could spend time in the wilderness, there is no need for me to feel that I must constantly be doing without ascertaining why or with whom. During Lent it may become easier to focus on repentance and neglect the promise that comes with it. The call to repent does not mean this is our first encounter with Jesus. It may have begun with the prayers our parents taught us as children to say before going to bed at night. Somehow even then we knew when we did something to offend a parent we should say "I'm sorry." But repentance as Jesus taught means no longer turning from God but returning to be led by Jesus to reconcile with God.

The repentance that returns us to God may be a relationship that has been nourished by mothers and fathers throughout the ages. Thus the call to repent should not be seen as a last response to a one-time call so now we can assume we have moved past the need to practice repentance. So long as there are "we" in the body of Christ, the call to and for acts of repentance remains. But so does the promise, even in 2015. We celebrate the glory of those forty days so long ago because the promise is timeless.

Rev. Bernadine McRipley

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The New Brunswick Spring Gathering of PW will be held on Saturday, April 11 at the Westminster Church on Greenwood Avenue, Trenton, NJ. Registration will start at 9 a.m. and the program begins at 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. A \$5.00 registration fee will be collected.

ACTIONS OF SESSION AT THE FEBRUARY 18, 2015 MEETING

Session voted to:

- restore Dirk Hofman to active membership status; (Welcome back, Dirk!)
- hold a spring covered dish dinner on Saturday, March 21;
- replace a broken window at the manse;
- install a Knox Box on the outside of the Christian education building to hold a key to the building for emergency personnel;
- purchase a new board for the sign on the outside of the doors to fellowship hall;
- purchase automatic towel dispensers and automatic soap dispensers for the three bathrooms in the Christian education wing;
- celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month beginning in April of 2015.

CHANGE IN COMMUNION DATES

At the February session meeting, the elders voted to change the day of the month when communion is celebrated. Beginning in April, communion will be on the first Sunday of the month. Over the past several months, it was discovered that pretty much every Christian church celebrates communion on the first Sunday of the month. No one knew, nor could we find out, why Slackwood celebrates communion on the second Sunday. This difference really did cause some confusion as we work with guest preachers and as we welcome visitors. So, beginning in April, and

each month thereafter, we will have communion on the first Sunday of every month.

"A LITTLE MADNESS IN THE SPRING" COVERED DISH DINNER AND FUN NIGHT SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 6:00 PM

"A little madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King
But God be with the Clown-
Who ponders this tremendous scene
This whole Experiment of Green
As if it were his own!"

Emily Dickinson

To celebrate the end of a very long and cold winter and the blossoming of life, the sunshine, and the warmer weather of the spring, please join us for "A Little Madness in the Spring" on Saturday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will all join together for some great food and the company of church family. Please plan to bring your favorite dish to share and come prepared to relax and enjoy yourself.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES OF WORSHIP

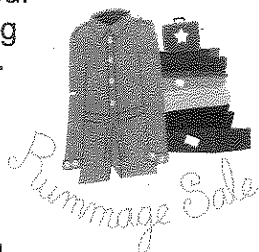


Palm Sunday, March 29 - 10:30 a.m. Service of Worship
Maundy Thursday, April 2 - 7:00 p.m. Service of Worship
Easter Sunday, April 5 -

8:30 a.m. Early service in Meditation Garden
9:00 a.m. Easter breakfast in Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Service of Worship in Sanctuary

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE MAY 15 AND 16, 2015

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the spring rummage sale. Spring----- yes, we **all** are ready for spring after this snowy winter. Right now the shed is 20% full, so if you do some early spring cleaning right now, you can get rid of your "treasures" and put them in the shed. As we get closer to the sale and the shed is full, we sometimes have to ask folks to hold on to their items until that week. At this time in order to have room for smaller items, we cannot accept large pieces of furniture or larger items. So beat the rush! Next month we'll focus on the specific dates, times, and call for help. The dates of the Spring Rummage Sale are **Weds, May 13 – Saturday, May 16 (public sale days are Friday and Saturday)**.



Terrie and Bill Mansmann
Co-chairs

NEW STORAGE AREA FOR HANDICAPPED ITEMS

The storage area under the steps in the vestibule has been cleaned out and will be used for storage of such items that can be loaned out or used in our facility. We have a portable toilet, a bed pan, three sets of crutches, a four legged cane, a walker and a wheel chair. If you or someone you know could make use of these items until they are no longer needed, speak to a Session member and we will be glad to help you out.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Amid the cold and dreary day of February 20, we gathered to share a meal and fellowship. "Men's Breakfast Club" is in its 5th month and all men are invited to join the next meeting on Friday, March 20 at 9:00 am at the church. Following an enjoyable meal we will continue


our fellowship by completing small jobs around the church. Mark your calendar and join us on March 20, 2015!

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

At the congregational meeting on February 8th, Penny Baumann, Jim Branson, Terrie Mansmann, Fred Mitchell, Sandy Murray, Mark Thomas, and Bill Ward were elected to the Pastor Nominating Committee. This committee is charged with searching for new pastoral leadership for Slackwood. The PNC has begun its work with our weekly meetings. At our first meeting, the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) representatives to Slackwood provided guidance about our work. The search for a new pastor is an 8-step process: Mission Study, Organize, Create, Search, Review, Select, Nominate, and Celebrate! We are on the **third step – Create**. This step means we are filling out the Ministry Information Form (MIF) by drawing on the Mission Study already completed, producing a job description, compensation range, and description of our congregation, mission and ministry. If you would like to keep track of our progress, you will find the 8-step process chart just outside of the sanctuary. The chart provides information on what is done at each step of the timeline. We will also provide updates in our newsletter. This is an important process in the life of the church! Please pray for us as we discern Slackwood's vision for the future along with the selection of our new leadership. Thank you.

Terrie Mansmann, Chair

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

 Hopefully there will be no more need to cancel Sunday morning worship this season, but in case there is, here is how the decision is made and how members know that worship is cancelled.

The decision to cancel a service because of weather is made jointly by the pastor, the chairperson of property & finance, and the clerk of session. Once that decision is made, the cancellation notice appears on the church website: www.slackwoodchurch.org. In addition, each elder presently on session has a list of names to call about the cancellation. So each member should receive a phone call in enough time for them to know not to come to worship.

It is the goal of the session to make decisions that are best for the safety of members, and to get that information out as quickly as possible. If you have any questions about the policy, speak with Clerk of Session Carol Belles.

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone from the Janoski family for the cards and special prayers during Mike's recent surgery. As always, your concerns were very much appreciated.

THANK YOU FROM ARLENE FILSON

I would like to thank my many friends at Slackwood for the many cards, phone calls, flowers and goodies during my many weeks of recovery. I am coming along fine, but I still need weeks of therapy and remain at St. Lawrence as I gain strength and learn to walk with my prosthesis.

You have all been very kind and generous to me and my family. Thanks also to my Grace Taiwanese Family for the many visits and flowers and goodies, etc. Thanks Rev. Peter and family for the many prayers for me.

Hope to see you all soon.

Arlene Filson

UPDATE ON ARLENE

Arlene Filson is still at St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center but is now in Room 313A. Her telephone number is 896-9500 extension 4499. She will be there for the next couple of weeks. She has received her prosthesis and is now focused on learning to put it on and to walk with it. As you can imagine, this is difficult therapy and requires a lot of work on her part. Please continue to pray for strength and patience for Arlene.

Crow Talk

Researchers for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority found over 200 dead crows near greater Boston recently, and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu.

A Bird Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehicular impacts.

However, during the detailed analysis it was noted that varying colors of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws. By analyzing these paint residues it was determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by an impact with a car.

MTA then hired an Ornithological Behaviorist to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills. The Ornithological Behaviorist very quickly concluded the cause: when crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger. They discovered that while all the lookout crows could shout "Caw," not a single one could shout "Truck."



Isn't the animal world amazing?

Slackwood Presbyterian Church

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	2 7:30 PM AA Meeting	3	4 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee	5 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM PNC 8:00 PM Debtors Anonymous	6 8:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	7 8:30 AM AA Meeting
8 Daylight Savings Begins 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	9 7:30 PM AA Meeting	10	11	12 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM PNC 8:00 PM Debtors Anonymous	13 8:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	14 8:30 AM AA Meeting
15 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 1:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 12:00 Property and Finance Committee Mtg. 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	16 7:30 PM AA Meeting	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:00 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	18 6:00 Personnel Committee 7:00 PM Session meeting	19 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM PNC 8:00 PM Debtors Anonymous	20 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Club	21 8:30 AM AA Meeting 6:00 PM "A Little Madness in the Spring" covered dish dinner and party
22 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	23 7:30 PM AA Meeting	24	25	26 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM PNC 8:00 PM Debtors Anonymous	27	28 8:30 AM AA Meeting
29 Palm Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	30 7:30 PM AA Meeting	31				

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday service

Easter Sunday, April 5, 8:30 AM: 8:30 AM Early Service in Meditation Garden

9:00 AM Easter Breakfast

10:30 AM – Worship service and Communion

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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*A good deed is never lost;
he who sows courtesy, reaps friendship,
and he who plants kindness, gathers love.*

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Newsletter of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church