



# The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. Ryan Irmer, Pastor  
Director of Music: Shelley Zuckerman

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January 2017

## Dr. King's Ten Commandments

As we remember the life and leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I'd like to share with you what became known as Dr. King's 10 Commandments. Before being allowed to participate in the peaceful protests in Birmingham, everyone had to sign a pledge affirming they would abide by these commandments. Here they are:

1. *Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.*
2. *Remember always that the nonviolent movement seeks justice and reconciliation—not victory.*
3. *Walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love.*
4. *Pray daily to be used by God in order that all people might be free.*
5. *Sacrifice personal wishes in order that all people might be free.*
6. *Observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.*
7. *Seek to perform regular service for others and for the world.*
8. *Refrain from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart.*
9. *Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.*
10. *Follow the directions of the movement and of the Captain on a demonstration.*

What was at the heart of Dr. King's message? Love. And not just any love but a Divine love, what some call Agape love. A love that is unconditional; a love that is the most powerful force in the universe.

With all that continues to swirl around in our world today, these wise words could make a profound difference if we would make our own personal pledge and follow these commandments. I would encourage us all to highlight a few of these commandments, post them on your refrigerator, and incorporate them in your everyday life. By doing so, it is my hope that they will make a positive impact not only in our own lives, but also in the lives of all those with whom we encounter.

Your Pastor,

Ryan I.

## SESSION ACTIONS – DECEMBER 21, 2016

At its December 21, 2016 meeting the session:

- voted to purchase a portable television and cart;
- voted to make a financial donation to the Religious Ministries Department of Princeton Health Care System;
- set the date for ordination/installation of new officers for February 5 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service;
- voted to continue the all church member subscription to *Presbyterians Today*;
- learned that the parking lot had been restriped;
- learned new vacant/occupied locks are being installed on two bathrooms;
- voted to hire Steve Stull to plow the church parking lot when there is two or more inches of snow;
- voted funds for a cap or directional cap for the chimney at the manse;
- learned of the plans for the Explorations Preschool to replace carpet in some of the rooms in the Christian Education building;
- approved a 2017 budget;
- learned that the Grace congregation has voluntarily increased its monthly donation for use of the facilities.

## MLK DAY SERVICE PROJECT

The Membership and Outreach Committee is hosting a service project on **Martin Luther King Day, January 16**. All who would like to participate will gather at the church at **10:00 a.m. and work till 1:00 p.m.** preparing birthday baskets for families who would not otherwise be able to celebrate their children's birthdays. Each basket (which is actually a laundry basket) will contain items needed for a birthday party – cake mix, frosting, vegetable oil, baking pans, gift cards – as well as items provided by Kids Helping Kids. The baskets will be distributed by Every Child Valued, the after school and summer enrichment program serving Eggerts Crossing. Donations of laundry



baskets, cake mixes, frosting, vegetable oil and baking pans, \$10 or \$15 gift cards to Walmart or Target, **need to be at the church no later than Sunday, January 15**. If you have any questions at all, contact Carol Belles. Also, the Messy Church activity at 9:30 a.m. on January 15 will consist of preparation work for the service project day.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will meet on **Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 12 noon**. Please bring a sandwich; dessert will be provided. Meet at the church. Curriculum will be on Lesson 5. Paul stresses that the cross of Christ is central to understanding true discipleship (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). Scripture is the key. Background scriptures 1 Corinthians 2:1-2  
2 Corinthians 5:17-20  
Phillippians 2:1-4  
Acts 18

Be prepared to share the meaning of the cross. Do you wear one?

Everyone is encouraged to remember to fill the rummage sale shed since our spring sale is just around the corner. There's plenty of room for your "stuff"! More information will be provided in the future.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The January meeting is coming up very quickly as the third Friday is **January 20!** The Men of the church are invited to join the activities. As usual the meeting will begin 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 January 20, and the February meeting will be held on Friday February 17, 2017!

## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation of Slackwood Presbyterian Church has been called by the session for **Sunday, January 29, 2017** immediately following the morning service

of worship. The meeting is called to elect elders, deacons, nominating committee members and members of the auditing committee, to approve the terms of call of the pastor, and to conduct any other business as set by the session.

## DEACONS LUNCHEON

The deacons will be hosting a soup and sandwich luncheon after the annual meeting on **January 29.**



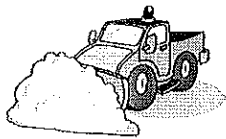
## ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

People elected to serve on session or the Board of Deacons at this year's congregational meeting will be ordained and/or installed during the morning service of worship on **Sunday, February 5, 2017.**

## 2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Most people have picked up their set of envelopes, however a few still remain. Please pick up your set and if a set has not be created for you, contact Bill Mansmann at 609-651-1321 and he will be glad to furnish you with a set of envelopes.

## SNOW! SNOW! SNOW!



This is the time of the year to move snow around when it arrives. Hopefully it will not be as frequent as last year. We have snow shovels, ice melt and a terrific snow blower available for use. Generally we are covered, but help is always welcomed at the church or the manse. If you are able to lend a hand in this task please speak with Bill Mansmann or call him at 609-651-1321.

## 2017 PER CAPITA FEE

The Presbytery set the Per Capita fee for 2016 at \$33.00 per member. These funds support the work of the greater church. Slackwood had around 100 members on the roll at the end of 2016 and our church's total fee will be over

\$3,000. It is important that each member of our church participate and contribute the 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 of the church.

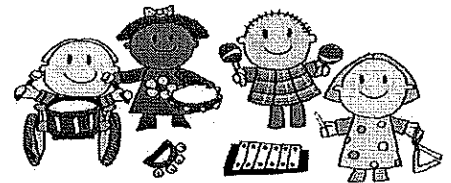
## HELP NEEDED

For many years Marc McRipley, son of Bernadine McRipley, lived with and cared for his mother. He was devoted to her and was essential in allowing her to continue to live at home. Because the apartment they rented is for senior citizens, Marc will be forced to vacate that residence in early February. He recently began working at a new job and now he needs to find housing. A studio apartment or a single room would be ideal. If you know of a place that is available, or any person who could use someone living with them, please let Ryan know or call 610-246-7719 or email [origron@aol.com](mailto:origron@aol.com). Helping Marc find housing would be a wonderful way for us to continue to show our affection for Bernadine. Please give this prayerful consideration.

## NEWS FROM EXPLORATIONS COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Welcome 2017! The staff and children of Explorations Community Preschool have been working hard this school-year to have the best preschool experience possible!

We have explored a wide variety



of art, science experiments, hands-on math and literacy activities, we've learned about fire and stranger safety, participated in various community service projects, enjoyed fellowship with family and friends, and so much more! We are currently in the process of re-enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year. If you or someone you know are looking for a full time preschool option, please contact Shana at 609-647-4214. As a reminder, we always provide a 10%

discount to Slackwood Presbyterian Church members.

ECP will be participating in the Kids Helping Kids Collection and Packing Party on January 16 from 10-1. This is a wonderful organization created by local 7- and 9-year-olds, that provides less fortunate children with memorable birthday wishes. Please feel free to donate now through January 12 [the church is collecting through January 15], and we hope to see you at the packing party!



ECP is having a Parents Night Out fundraiser on February 11, 2017 from 6-11 p.m. (Valentine's Day weekend). We are opening this event to members of the community with children ages 3 months to 12 years. The cost for the event is \$35/one child, \$50/ two, \$60/three or more from the same household. The proceeds will help pay for the new flooring to be installed in the preschool classrooms over President's Day weekend. Registration is required by 2/9. Please contact Shana at 609-647-4214.

Summer Camp information will be available soon.

Thank you so much!  
Shana Schiavo (Director)

## MEMORABLE MOMENTS

December 10, 2016 – our congregation was cordially invited to Lilly and Anand Veeraraj's home for an advent get-together. All of us in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the friendship we all shared plus games, prayers, and scripture readings, and lots of music and lots of food and beverages. We all invited ourselves for next year's advent season, giving our wonderful hosts a year to plan for us. Ha-ha!! It reminded a few of us of our old fun with fellowship groups



that met many years ago. Next time don't be shy about coming out. Thank you very much, Lilly and Anand Veeraraj. A great time was had by all! God bless you for the invitations to your lovely home,

Arlene Filson,  
on behalf of the whole group

## SPIRITUAL MESSAGE From Cathy Salvatore

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MY FAMILY AT  
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### PRAISING GOD !

A New Year begins which is the last day of the year, the final hour that we live in the presence of a new start. But, by having been embraced by God's presence and by the strength of the Holy Spirit, we give thanks to God for all of his precious gifts.

It is through our truth, life and hope we embrace and share because of Him. He is our light from the beginning of dawn until the fullness of a new day.

He is our enduring light on our human experiences to share His Spirit and expand His presence to others.

He will cast out any darkness in our life and bring eternal light in our lives. He will show us open doors of opportunities to lead, guide and direct us by the Holy Spirit.

In this New Year, ask our Lord to help us to appreciate each moment of our time the gifts he provides for us.

### Action Steps:

Let us practice praising God in this New Year even through the darkness of our lives and forget the things behind us and reach out to the things ahead of us. Amen.

## Slackwood Presbyterian Church January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! 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	2 7:30 PM AA Meeting	3	4 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee	5 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA	6	7 8:30 AM AA Meeting
8 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	9 7:30 PM AA Meeting	10	11	12 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA	13 1:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	14 8:30 AM AA Meeting
15 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 Messy Church 10:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 10-1PM MLK Service Project 7:30 PM AA Meeting	17 7:00 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	18 6:00 Personnel Committee 7:00 PM Session meeting	19 12:00 PM Pres. Women Meeting 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA	20 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Club	21 8:30 AM AA Meeting
22 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Worship Committee 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	23 7:30 PM AA Meeting	24	25	26 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA	27	28 8:30 AM AA Meeting
29 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Annual Congregational Mtg. 12:00 PM Deacons' Luncheon 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	30 7:30 PM AA Meeting	31				

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U.S. Postage Paid  
Trenton, N.J.  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2017

*Only Christ could build a bridge to God  
with only two pieces of wood.*

*The Slackwood Grapevine*  
Newsletter of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church