



The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Ryan Irmer, Pastor

Director of Music: Shelley Zuckerman

September 2016

How Surfing Relates to the Life of the Church

Have you had a chance this summer to get down to the Jersey Shore and watch the surfers in action? Rick Warren, the author of the best-selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, once used surfing as an analogy for the life of the Church. He said it's important to remember that only God can be the one to generate the waves that we are called to enjoy. Likewise, only God's Holy Spirit rushing through a church can:

- create spiritual receptivity in the life of someone;
- transform lives, give people a new beginning and give a person a new life;
- bring renewal and new life to a church.

Warren also describes the role of the pastor as the surfer who needs to effectively navigate the ocean's current and the incoming waves and position the surfboard to be in the best possible spot to catch the wave. Though I am no expert, I have enjoyed the exhilarating experience and joy of being in the right place at the right time and catching a wave!

Since the time that Rick Warren first put this analogy out there, the life of the Christian church has changed as much as the ocean's daily surf report. Though God is still at work, when looking at our country in general, the waves coming in are getting smaller. When I was in Southern California on vacation, my father and I sat in on a congregational meeting of a friend's church who had to deal with the reality of these smaller waves within his own church. Now a general rule of thumb in surfing is "the bigger the wave, the smaller the surfboard." So shortboards are designed for big waves and fancy tricks while longboards are designed for smaller waves and a gentle, gliding style of surfing. After observing my friend's congregational meeting, I could tell they had significant challenges on their hands. It wasn't that my friend, as their new pastor, wasn't navigating the waves correctly, the issue was the size of the surfboard that they'd been using for so many years; their church resembled a fancy shortboard when now they realized they needed to make changes. So by cutting staff and making other difficult financial choices, they are now attempting to switch to a longer board that will suit the incoming smaller waves.

And that leads me to Slackwood Presbyterian Church. After one year as your pastor, I believe we are in a good and healthy position because our church already resembles a longboard that is perfectly suited for smaller waves. Since we have a small church staff, a well thought out annual budget, no mortgage, and because we have many members who help out around the church performing various tasks and forms of maintenance, we are able to maximize our tithes and other income while remaining in a healthy place. Though we are a bit behind where we hoped we'd be on our overall expected giving at this time of the year, I trust that if we continue to give cheerfully and generously, we will be in just the right position to catch the Spiritual waves that are coming our way, and enjoy the exhilarating ride that lies ahead!

Your pastor and fellow surfer,

Ryan Irmer

WHO'S WHO AT SLACKWOOD CHURCH

Carl Belles

My life as I know it started in 1944 at a hospital in Camp White, Medford, Oregon. After my father was discharged from the Army, the three of us came to Columbia Co., Pennsylvania. There my parents built a house next to my grandparents' farm where my two sisters and I grew up. (I am not sure if I ever did.) I was my grandfather's helper until he retired and sold the farm.

In 1962, after high school, I came to Levittown, PA to live with my aunt and uncle and their three children to see if I could get work in the area. I helped "uncle" on his potato chip route in New Jersey. In due time I was hired to work at the same place, Utt Distributors (Wise Potato Chips) in Trenton. The manager there had an apartment building on West Hanover Street where I rented a two room apartment. I needed laundry service once in a while, so I used a service on Perry Street next to the fire headquarters. That is where I met (thanks to her) Carol. That was the beginning of great time for me.

In 1965 Carol and I were married at the Greenwood Ave. Methodist Church by her brother. We started life together in Hamilton Township in a second floor apartment. Carol attended Slackwood Presbyterian Church and in due time I started to go with her, which started my work at Slackwood.

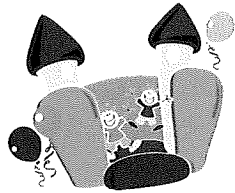
We bought my in-laws' house and moved to Slack Ave. That got me more involved with God's work because of being so close to Slackwood Presbyterian Church. I retired in 2014 after 22 years driving an 18-wheeler around the northeast. That gave me a little more time to help out at Slackwood Presbyterian Church, and more time to watch ball games and help with taking care of two grandchildren.

My story is a work in progress. Thanks to Carol. I have been blessed.

SLACKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The next meeting of the Slackwood Presbyterian Women will be held on September 15th at 12 noon; bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided. The lesson will be from our Bible Study Curriculum, "WHO IS JESUS?": Lesson 1, According to Mark. Background Scripture, Mark: Chapters 1 – 8.

GREAT COMMUNITY EVENT



On Saturday, August 27, Slackwood Church held its first "Community Fair." With the financial support of a grant from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, our beautiful property became the site of pony rides, carnival games, live music, lots of food, raffle prizes and much more.

Many church members worked the event and welcomed members of the community, and Explorations Preschool partnered with us as hosts. Many, many, many thanks goes to Amelia Imer for chairing the event. Amelia put in a lot of hours of work leading up to the event, and, of course, on the day of the fair. Thank you, too, to Alicia Morrison for working with our teenage girls to take charge of the carnival games. And then there were roughly thirty members of the congregation who contributed time and energy to make this event a huge success. Thank you to each and every one of you. Let's make this an annual event!

COMMUNITY FAIR LOCAL CONTRIBUTORS

The generosity of some of our local businesses contributed immensely to the success of our first Community Fair, and we would like to thank them for their willingness to donate towards the prizes and refreshments we were able to offer our guests. Slackwood Church is proud to be located among some very civic conscious retailers, and our thanks go to all of them:

Route 1 Diner	Leonardo's Restaurant
Captain Paul's Firehouse Dogs	AMC Movie Theatres
Hamilton Supply Company	Knapp's Cyclery
Beebe Plumbing	Dominic's Pizza & Ristorante
Sesame Place	Marhaba Restaurant (Lambertville)
Rita's Ice	Philly Pretzel Factory
Foley's Family Market	Explorations Community
Preschool	

FALL SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, September 11, the Sunday morning schedule will be:

- Sunday School, Adult Forum and Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m.
- Service of Worship – 10:30 a.m.

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

After taking the summer off to enjoy the "heat", the next meeting of the Club will be Friday September 16, 2016 at 9:00 am at the church. Pancakes, camaraderie and completion of some small jobs are the order of the day.

We will meet on the morning of the third Friday of each month. So mark your calendar for the meetings to join in the great breakfast, fellowship and work of the church!

MOVIE NIGHTS

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or worked at the two movie nights held this summer on the lawn behind the church. A large number of people came out to enjoy "The Good Dragon" and "Star Wars: A New Hope." It was good to welcome church members, families from the Explorations Preschool and residents of the community. Both nights included beautiful weather, good fellowship and enjoyable snacks.



LAWRENCE COMMUNITY DAY

The annual Lawrence Township Community Day will be held this year on Sunday, October 2 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. at Village Park. Slackwood Church will have a table with a display of our many programs. Volunteers are needed to stay at the table and talk with people about the important ministries taking place at our church. If you can volunteer an hour or two or more, speak with Carol Belles.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, Slackwood Church will once again receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Donations to this special offering enable peacemaking initiatives around the world. One fourth of the offering is given to a local organization and this year that organization will be Isles, Inc. Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization based in Trenton, New Jersey. With a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities, they design and develop effective services that support this mission and share what they learn with others who can make a difference. Isles:

- **revitalizes communities** by working alongside local residents to plan their neighborhoods' future, and by developing energy efficient, affordable and healthy homes, parks, gardens, shared facilities, and more
- **trains and educates** adults and youth through an alternative high school, vocational center, and family support services
- **builds wealth** through innovative financial services and loans that help restore credit and increase savings
- **promotes healthy living** by tackling environmental hazards, fostering energy efficiency, improving open space, and expanding access to locally grown food

Please give generously to support the peacemaking efforts of our denomination and the important work of Isles, Inc.

CHURCH GROUNDS MAINTAINED

The grounds of the church have been kept looking good by a group of volunteers willing to lend a hand. Thanks to Sean Baker, Carl Belles, Jim Branson, Bill Mansmann, Ken Mitchell and Sam Morrison for doing the trimming to support Frank Dumont, who ran the John Deer tractor!



EMAIL CONTACT

Clerk of Session Carol Belles maintains an email contact list which is used to let members know of prayer requests and/or needs of those within our church family, as well as other important reminders. If you are not on that contact list, and would like to be, let Carol know by emailing her at carolb125@aol.com.

FALL IS HERE! TIME FOR THE FALL RUMMAGE SALE!

Clean, crisp air and cool nights.....and our annual fall rummage sale! The dates for the 2016 Fall Rummage Sale are **Friday October 14, and Saturday October 15 (set up on October 12 and 13)**. It's time to clean out your closets, attic or basement and gather those items, clothes, and etc. that you no longer use and bring it to the church! Getting rid of old, unused items serves two purposes: It makes you feel good to have less "things" in your house, and provides a new home to those who will need the items. The proceeds of the sale support the mission outreach of the church. Volunteers are needed in a variety of ways. Determine how you can assist in making this a successful effort. Signup sheets will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday September 26, 2016.



- Take a flyer advertising the sale to give out or post
- Bring items to the church to be placed in the shed
- Save your Halo Farms bags to be used for the sale
- Items can be received at the church:
Smaller items any time prior to the sale or the afternoon of **Wednesday October 12 until 6:00 p.m. and up to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday October 13. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THE HELPERS AND DO NOT BRING DONATED ITEMS TO THE CHURCH AFTER THE TIMES INDICATED.**
- We cannot accommodate larger items in the storage shed, so please call Bill (651-1321) to arrange for a pick up on the Wednesday/Thursday before the sale
- Help empty the shed – **Wednesday October 12 11:00 a.m.** the men will begin setting up the tables and moving items into fellowship hall. Whenever you can make it after would be helpful. We will begin to sort "White Elephant" items, etc. **until around 6 p.m. – HELP IS NEEDED**
- Help set up for the sale **Thursday October 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m.**
- Assist in the sale **Friday October 14, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday October 15, 8:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.**
- Help in the cleanup – **Saturday October 15 beginning at 1:00 p.m.**

Thanks,
Terrie and Bill Mansmann, Co-chairs

IN SYMPATHY

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family of Alma Bramley who passed away on July 13th. As a long-time member of Slackwood Church, Alma will always be remembered as a faithful and loyal friend and steadfast worshipper. Please continue to pray for peace and comfort for her loving family.

THANKS

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for the many prayers, get well wishes, flowers, gifts and visits from all of you during my stay in St. Lawrence Rehab. I am now home and have been doing well. My left side is still weak, but it is improving daily. Thanks to Reverend Ryan for bringing communion to me during my stay. It was all very much appreciated.

Yours in Faith,
Arlene Filson

NATURE By Cathy Salvatore

*Summer is gone and spring is showing her face in the autumn
air.
The birds are singing in the air while the daffodils blow in the
wind.
Our days on earth are like grass, like wildflower, we bloom and
die.
The squirrels remain on earth and swish by like birds in the sky.
Spring gushes forth from running streams and flow between the
valleys and the hills
to give drink to every beast of the field.
The current channels of the sea and surging waves are gone
with the breeze.
Summer is gone and the heat has blown away.
When it is gone it's like the distant look of expiration.*

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE From Cathy Salvatore

In the Fog
Luke 24-13-35
The Dark Night of the Soul
Job 6-13

The things that God has prepared for those who love him are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Lord leads us through the fog back into the light and the beauty of life once more. Suddenly our eyes are opened and we understand the direction and purpose. Let us know that God is with us always and to trust in him.

Job had more despair and pain and made to suffer greatly. Job reaches out till the end of his rope asking God to "crush" him. He lost his friends who were less than helpful and he felt had no help in him.

Think, have we ever been there? Let us think of St. John of the cross and called "the dark night of the soul." We feel there is no help in us. We must hold on to God's promises when life becomes difficult and avoid easy answers from friends. Listen to our purpose and direction and trust in God.

Prayer: Eternal God give me hope in your light. Amen.

Slackwood Presbyterian Church

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Meeting	2	3 8:30 AM AA Meeting
4 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	5 Labor Day 7:30 PM AA Meeting	6	7	8 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Meeting	9 1:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	10 8:30 AM AA Meeting
11 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	12 7:30 PM AA Meeting	13	14	15 12:00 - PW meeting 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Meeting	16 9:00 AM Men's Pancake Breakfast	17 8:30 AM AA Meeting
18 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	19 7:30 PM AA Meeting	20 7:00 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	21 7:00 PM Session Mtg.	22 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM DA Meeting	23	24 8:30 AM AA Meeting
25 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	26 7:30 PM AA Meeting	27	28	29 6:30 PM AA Meeting 8:00 DA Meeting	30	31 8:30 AM AA Meeting

Upcoming Events: October 2 – World Communion Sunday
October 2 – Lawrence Community Day
October 14-15 – Fall Rummage Sale

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2016

*I would rather walk with God in the dark
than go alone in the light.*

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Newsletter of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church