



The Slackwood Grapevine

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

October 2016

Fall is in the Air

When we think of Fall, we are reminded of the beautiful Autumn colors, the crisp air that fills our lungs, or maybe we're simply glad that it is finally football season. Whatever the case, Fall is known as a season of change, something that some handle better than others. Yet as much of Fall signals change, we should also be reminded that it is also something we can count on; it is dependable. Each season comes and goes and we look forward to certain aspects of life that we love that we've forgotten about. Whether it's having a slice of pumpkin pie with whipped cream, sipping on hot cider, or simply enjoying the feeling of wearing one of your favorite sweaters, we come back to something that is familiar and pleasant. So Fall can be both a season of change and a reminder of life's healthy and constant rhythms.

God calls us as Christians to faithfully balance both change and constancy. And one of the best reminders of this balancing act comes from Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer." Many of us know the first part but were you aware of the entire prayer? Here it is:

*God, give us **Grace** to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things which should be changed,
And the **Wisdom** to distinguish the one from the other.
Living **one day at a time**, enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right, if I **surrender** to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in **this life**, and supremely happy with You **forever** in the next. Amen.*

Isn't that a beautiful reminder to hold loosely the life around us, to trust in God's will for our lives, and to, in the present moment, use our time and energy as wisely as possible? So what around you can and should be changed? How is God calling you to make an impact on these things? What lately has caused stress and anxiety in your life that, when you're honest with yourself, you recognize these are things that you cannot control nor change. The best we can do is offer these things up to God in prayer and trust He will handle it. When we do this, we will feel lighter and more liberated.

My hope and prayer for each and every one of us during this season, is that we have the grace, the courage, and the wisdom to know when and where to use our gifts and energies and when we should let go of whatever it is that may be weighing us down. Enjoy Fall and all its beauty!

Your Pastor,

Ryan Irmer

"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:34

WHO'S WHO AT SLACKWOOD CHURCH

Sandy Peters Murray

Born "Sandra Lu-Anne Peters" to Virginia (Bowers) Peters and Elmer in 1958, I was the last of the 3 "Peters girls", as the neighborhood liked to call us. In our neighborhood you were either one of the Philkill girls or one of the Peters girls, each family having three daughters.

We lived in the "Israel Stevens House" at 2167 Brunswick Ave. It's a beautiful federal style historic home. I'm pretty sure it's haunted, if you believe in such things, and a very fun house to grow up in. It didn't hurt that our grandparents lived across the yard from us. My grandmother was a descendent of the Slack family. (Yes, that Slack, as in "Slack" and "Wood") So I have attended this church my entire life.

The year I was born Slackwood Church was between pastors so I was not baptized until a year and 3 months later by Rev. Alan Hagenbuch. It turned out his daughter was born the day before I was so we ended up good friends for several years. I spent a lot of time playing at the manse when I was little.

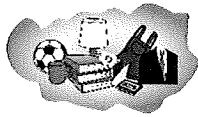
I joined church in, around 1974, after Rev Floyd Fletcher and his family came. They had two little girls so I offered to babysit. I ended up being one of their regular sitters (along with Doris Cravens) and, again, spent a great deal of time at the manse over a number of years. (Notice a theme here.) As many of you know, my husband John and I ended up living there for a year while we sold my mom's house and looked for a place to buy. So not only do I feel tied to this church, but I also feel pretty tied to that manse. Oh, and before the manse on President Ave. became the manse, it turns out that when it was across the street from the church - about where Leonardo's is now, it was the former home of my mom and her family when she was young.

I have lived in Lawrence Township my entire life, except for 2 years in Tennessee when I tried out Maryville College. I studied interpreting for the deaf. But I discovered I wasn't fast enough to be an interpreter so I changed majors, which ended up meaning I changed schools. So back to NJ I came. Eventually I graduated from what is now The College of NJ, then Trenton State College, in Art Therapy. I worked for the Harmony School as the art coordinator and then the Mercer ARC in the recreation department. Later I went back to school and got my certification in Art Education and began working at Grey Nun Academy in Yardley, PA, where I still work today. Apparently I'm not very adventurous.

Over the years I have occupied my time with a number of things: painting, gardening, doll making, I built a doll house, baking, I even used to cross country ski, but not anymore. I've enjoyed a little bit of traveling over the years, Canada, Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. I've been up and down the east coast from Quebec to Key West, but no further west than the Mississippi in New Orleans. I have a sweet dog named Mabel, she's pretty attached to me so I don't travel too much these days. I have a great family -- husband, sisters, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephew, three beautiful great nieces, and a really super extended family. I love coming to church, even after all these years. I live a pretty simple life, boring by some standards I guess. But the older I get, I find the less I need.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE IS HERE!

Just a reminder about the rummage sale! By the time of this newsletter, we may be in the middle of the sale, but just in case, you can still help out!



THE SHED IS ALMOST FULL! The dates for the 2016 Fall Rummage Sale are **Friday October 14 and Saturday October 15 (set up on October 12 and 13)**. 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:

- Save your Halo Farms bags to be used for the sale
- Smaller items can be dropped off any time prior to the sale or **Wednesday afternoon until 6pm October 12 and up to 1:00 PM on Thursday October 13. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THE HELPERS AND DO NOT BRING DONATED ITEMS TO THE CHURCH AFTER 1 PM.**
- Call Bill (609-651-1321) to arrange for a pickup on Wednesday or Thursday of the sale.
- Help empty the shed: **Wednesday October 12, 11:00 AM** the men will begin setting up the tables and moving items into fellowship hall. Whenever you can make it after 11:00 AM would be helpful. We will begin to sort "White Elephant" items, etc. **until 6 PM – HELP IS NEEDED**
- Help set up for the sale **Thursday October 13 beginning at 9:00 AM**
- Assist in the sale –
Friday October 14, 9:00 – 5:00 PM
Saturday October 15, 8:30 – 1:00 PM
- Help in the cleanup – **Saturday October 15 beginning at 1:00 PM**

Thanks,
Terrie and Bill Mansmann
Co-chairs

"MESSY CHURCH" STARTS NEXT SUNDAY



Sunday, October 16 at 9:30 a.m., everyone is invited (children's Sunday school, youth group, adult forum, choir, and everyone else) to participate in an intergenerational time that we are calling "Messy Church." This will take place on the third Sunday of every month. From 9:30-10:00 an

intergenerational activity will take place that should be fun for all ages. Depending on the day, people of all ages will work together on an art/craft project, service project, or pageant preparation time. At 10:00 a.m. the choir will adjourn to the sanctuary where they will prepare for the anthem for the day's worship. All others are free to finish up the projects, clean up, and continue to enjoy fellowship with one another until 10:30 worship begins. This will be a fun time where we get to know one another better, no matter your age. The first "Messy Church" will focus on favorite Bible verses. Think about which one is yours, and bring your own Bible if you like.

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY – NOVEMBER 5, 2016

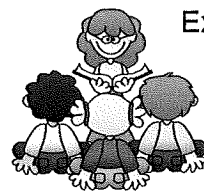
A clean-up day has been scheduled for Saturday November 5, beginning at 9:00 AM. By then most of the leaves will have fallen to give us plenty of work to do! In addition to the leaves we can clear the brush along the driveway, edge the front sidewalk, clean up the meditation garden and other garden areas around the church. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to join in for an hour or two for some work, fun and fellowship. Hope to see you there.



MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The next meeting of the Club will be Friday October 21, 2016 at 9:00 AM at the church. Pancakes, camaraderie and completion of some small jobs are the order of the day. So mark your calendar for the meetings to join in the great breakfast, fellowship and work of the church!

EXPLORATIONS COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL



Explorations Community Preschool is currently enrolling 2.5 and 3 year olds! We offer a play-based, full day preschool program for children 2.5-6 years old. We believe that children learn through the experiences of touching, moving, listening, seeing, and hearing. This results in a hands-on approach to our day. We encourage children to interact with each other and their environment and provide them with endless ways to explore their world and express themselves.

Please contact Shana for more information
(609) 647-4214.

Upcoming Events:

October 22, 5:00 to 9:00 PM: Parents Night Out
Drop off your children ages 2.5-10 for an evening of crafts, games, movies, and more. Pre-registration is required. Contact Shana for more info.

October 28, 7:00 PM: Trunk-or-Treat
Bring your children for an evening of trick-or-treating out of the trunk of our cars! This is a free event and all are welcome. Please contact Shana if you would like to participate in the "trunk decorating" part of this evening. It's a ton of fun!!!



Explorations will be collecting diapers, wipes, diaper cream, etc. **between October 10 and October 21.** All items will be donated to HomeFront. (Please place donations in the box next to the library.)

Thursday, October 20, 6:00 PM: Operation Christmas Child information meeting
Explorations will be participating in Operation Christmas Child beginning October 24. This information meeting is for anyone interested in getting more information about this amazing community service opportunity.

ADVENT SOCIAL EVENT – SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars now for a fun Advent social that will be held on Saturday, December 10 at the home of Lilly and Anand Veeraraj. More specific details will be coming but it promises to be a fun evening of food and fellowship.

NEW MEMBER

On Sunday, September 11, Amy Valentino was publicly received into membership during the morning service of worship. To help you get to know Amy, here is what she had to say about herself and her family:

I'm Amy Valentino and I am very excited to be a new member of Slackwood Presbyterian Church. I was born and raised in Ewing, New Jersey and continue to reside there as well. I am married to Robert (Bob) Valentino and have three amazing children, Peyton (age 9), Oliver (age 5) and Colette (age 3). I just started my 16th year of teaching and currently am a

second grade teacher at Slackwood Elementary School and I am privileged to say "I love my job!" I love to spend time with my family; in fact, most of my extended family lives locally so we are lucky to visit with them often. I enjoy spending time at the beach in Cape May with my family. I like to bake, read, sew, craft, color, and organize. I'm looking forward to being part of this wonderful church family!

Welcome to the Valentino family.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sincere congratulations to Ginger Wells and Sean Baker who were married at Slackwood on Saturday, October 8.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you from Worship Committee for all the work from so many members to make our World Communion Sunday a wonderful service.

The worship committee is currently planning some special services in the coming months. Details will follow in future newsletters.

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE From Cathy Salvatore

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN Read Luke 25-37

A scholar by law stood up and asked, "Teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your being with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself, do this and you will live.

Then the scholar asked, "Teacher who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered, "When you are a good Samaritan by helping others and taking care of them with mercy and compassion, then, when I come again I will repay thee."

The Lord tells us to "Go and do likewise and show mercy to others".

PRAYER:

Lord help us to keep the two commandments that we love Him and that we love one another.
John 13-34-35

Slackwood Presbyterian Church

October 2016

Please note: For the most up-to-date schedule of events, please check our website: www.slackwoodchurch.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 World Communion Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Joint Worship and Communion with Grace Taiwanese Church	3 7:30 PM AA Meeting <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	4	5 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee Mtg	6 6:30 PM AA Mtg 7:45 PM DA Mtg	7	8 8:30 AM AA Meeting
9 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	10 Columbus Day 7:30 PM AA Meeting	11	12 Set up for Rummage Sale <i>Yom Kippur</i>	13 Set up for Rummage Sale 6:30 PM AA Mtg 7:45 PM DA Mtg	14 9:00 – 5:00 Fall Rummage Sale	15 8:30 AM AA Mtg 8:30 – 1:00 Fall Rummage Sale 1:00 - Cleanup
16 9:30 AM "Messy Church" Activity 10:00 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Deacons' Meeting 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	17 7:30 PM AA Meeting	18 7:00 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	19 7:00 PM Session Meeting	20 12:00 PW Mtg 6:00 PM ECP Mtg on Operation Christmas Child 6:30 PM AA Mtg 7:45 PM DA Mtg	21 9:00 AM – Men's Breakfast Club	22 8:30 AM AA Meeting 5-9 PM – Parents Night Out (ECP)
23 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 Property Committee Mtg. 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	24 7:30 PM AA Meeting	25	26	27 6:30 PM AA Mtg 7:45 PM DA Mtg	28 7:00 PM Trunk or Treat (ECP)	29 8:30 AM AA Meeting
30 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	31 7:30 PM AA Meeting					

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 5 – Fall Clean-up Day
December 10 – Advent Event

{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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*What if you woke up today
with only the things that you thanked God for yesterday?*

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Newsletter of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church