



# The Slackwood Grapevine

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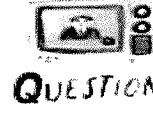
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February 2019

## **Valuing and Appreciating Traditions and Perspectives Different from Our Own**

I graduated from UC Santa Barbara many years ago with a Religious Studies degree. No, my emphasis was not in *Christianity* but in *Native American Religion*. Class after class taught by Professor Ines Talamantes allowed me to learn so many different truths that not only were foundational to Native American religion but also to Christianity. I learned that I could continue to be a Christian and also have other traditions help me be a more faithful follower of Jesus Christ. This recognition helped me to not be afraid of different traditions but learn to appreciate and learn from them. So this month, I don't have any Bible passages or personal insights to share, but something that I found on the @WishfulLiving site titled "The ABC's of 2019":

# The ABC's of 2019:



Wouldn't you agree that every letter above, though not taken directly from the Bible, can help us more faithfully practice our Christian faith? It would be a fun project to try to find a corresponding Bible verse to go along with each individual letter. May we be willing to learn from perspectives and traditions that are not our own. Have a great 2019 and do as much of the alphabet as you can!

Your Pastor,

Ryan

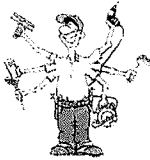
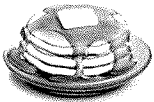
## PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The February meeting of the committee will take place following worship on Sunday February 10, 2019. If you would like to be part of the committee speak with Bill Mansmann.

Another project at the manse has been completed. A new roof has been installed. The issues with leaking have finally been solved! Funding for the new roof was made possible from a grant received from the New Brunswick Presbytery!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The Men of the church are invited to join the next meeting of the "Men's Breakfast Club." February's meeting will begin at 9:00 am at the church on Friday February 15, 2019. Following an enjoyable meal we will continue our fellowship by completing small jobs around the church. Mark your calendar and join us on February 15, 2019!



Bill Mansmann man the snow blower and snow shovels. We can always use some help and we have snow shovels, ice melt and a terrific snow blower available for use. If you are able to lend a hand in this task please speak with Bill Mansmann or call him at 609-651-1321.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation was held following worship on Sunday, January 27. The following people were elected to serve on the session, deacons, auditing committee and nominating committee:

### Session:

Bill Mansmann for 1-year term  
Ginger Baker, Carol Belles and Karen Nolan for 3-year terms

### Deacons:

Lilly Veeraraj and Lilian Young for 3-year terms

### Auditing Committee:

Arlene Filson, Bob Lesslie and Tom Okeson

### Nominating Committee:

Penny Baumann, Sandy Murray and Mark Thomas

## 2019 PER CAPITA FEE

The Presbytery set the Per Capita fee for 2019 at \$34.50 per member. These funds support the work of the greater church. Slackwood had around 100 members on the roll at the end of 2018 and the 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.

## SNOW!

Fortunately, this year has only been cold, very cold! We have yet to have an accumulating snowfall but, even though Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring, there is still the potential for lots of snow on the way! Cleanup usually happens when Carl Belles and



Thank you to each of them for responding to God's call and agreeing to serve the church in leadership roles. Ordination and installation took place during the February 3 service of worship.

And a big thank you goes to Sean Baker and Sandy Murray for their service on the session and to Tami Branson and Marilyn Stebbins for their service on the Board of Deacons.

## FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Sunday, February 10 there are two opportunities to learn and talk about mental health and wellness. Plan to be at Messy Church at 9:30 a.m. to talk about emotions, what to do when we don't feel like ourselves, and how meditative prayer can help manage mental wellness. Following the 10:30 a.m. service of worship, the Board of Deacons will

be holding a training in the sanctuary concerning what to do when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis and how to best support them. The training is open to all. Plan to be at both events.

## **MLK DAY OF SERVICE**

Thank you to everyone who donated items for this year's Martin Luther King Day of Service which was held in conjunction with Ben Franklin Elementary School. Thank you, too, to everyone who came out and worked that day. Pictures are on the church website. Once again it was a great time of service to others.

## **SLACKWOOD WEBSITE**

If you haven't checked out the Slackwood website (<http://www.slackwoodchurch.org/>) please do so today! Our home page has a terrific slide show of some of our recent events, and I know you're going to love it!

## **COMING EVENT**

Mark your calendar for this year's St. Patrick's Talent/No Talent event which will be held on Saturday, March 9 beginning at 6:00 p.m. More information, including a way to sign up to attend and/or offer talent will be coming soon.



## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to James Klotz who passed all his comprehensive exams and is now officially a candidate for the Ph.D degree at Princeton Seminary. We are all very proud of you, James. Keep up the good work.

## **THANK YOU**

Dolly Ettinger wants to thank everyone for the celebration we held for her on December 16<sup>th</sup> in honor of her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. She says she feels very fortunate to be so healthy and to be a part of such a loving church family. We all feel very

fortunate to have Dolly as a very special part of our family and for all her years of service to our church and Sunday School.

## **SPRITUAL MESSAGE**

By Cathy Salvatore

### **HE MAKES THE DEAF HEAR AND THE MUTE SPEAK**

Read: Mark 7:31-37

In today's Gospel, Jesus successfully heals a man who cannot hear or speak. But, how many are lepers, sick with fever and who are blind and lame? We praise our Lord of all his healing.

He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue, then looked up to heaven and groaned, and said, "Ephphatha!", that is, "Be opened!" Then the man was immediately overcome to be able to speak the Word of God clearly. Many were astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." Jesus is performing a physical miracle.

We ask ourselves, what are we deaf with the teaching of the church today? We seem to shut off all the sacraments of the church. If we don't speak or hear the word of God clearly, then your capacity to speak is also severely involving concessions on both sides.

People who follow God as having the "pleasing aroma of Christ." Paul says, the people of God carry a pleasing fragrance to those who believe. It is not something we create on our own but something God gives us and leads us in spreading the knowledge of Him. Mark 7 tells us how Jesus treated others. God is our builder to renew and restore the world!

The seven sacraments are gifts of his grace, signs Jesus wants us to open ourselves and exercise to benefit the mighty works of God.

Praise our Heavenly Father for leading us in triumph and spreading the fragrance of his truth to all.

Who smells like Christ to you?