



# The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. Ryan Irmer, Pastor  
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November 2018

## ***Giving For Every Generation***

Slackwood's youth program is at a vital moment in our church's life. With younger age children, our numbers are growing! Unfortunately, with older age youth, our numbers are dwindling. At our last "Youth Sunday", we had eleven children participating while only one Jr./Sr. High School youth involved. This presents unique challenges moving forward.

Next year we project to have at least six children who are in the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade. At the same time, we will have at least four children, who are much younger, in Preschool-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Continuing to have one large Sunday School class is not conducive for the needs of both groups of children. Therefore, we should probably split that class into a Preschool-4<sup>th</sup> grade class and a separate class of 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders.

Another genuine concern comes from having turnover every year in leadership. Our teenagers meet someone new, establish a trusting relationship, then at the end of the year our leaders leave and our youth have to start the process all over again. This is difficult for anybody but especially for teenagers who are figuring out themselves, the life around them, and who they can depend on.

### **So what might a part-time *Director of Youth Ministries* do?**

- Create a level of consistency by having someone there year after year
- Provide someone to organize all classes on Sunday mornings and teach a class themselves
- Engage our community and local schools to bring more kids and families into our church
- Contribute new talents, creative ideas, & fresh perspectives to our church and ministries
- Coordinate Special Sundays such as Youth Sunday, Christmas Pageant, & Easter
- Actively be a part of community events such as the MLK Service Project, Outdoor Movie Nights, and the End of the Summer Festival
- Effectively communicate and involve parents with children and youth ministry programs
- Lead or assist with Intergenerational Fellowship Time (a.k.a. Messy Church)
- Assist with Children's Sermons and other aspects of our worship services

As you can see we face an exciting and pivotal moment in our church's life. Failing to address the needs of our youth would create the possibility that they would stop coming or find their needs met elsewhere. We are hoping to find a way to meet all of these needs so that our youth not only stay involved but also invite their friends to be a part of what is happening here!

As we enter into Consecration Sunday where we will pledge our level of sacrificial giving for 2019, please prayerfully consider how your generosity will not only support our church's current needs but also factor into whether or not we will be able to take a significant step in creating and funding a *Director of Youth Ministries* position. I'm sure you agree that we want to see people of every generation come to know the love and grace of Jesus Christ in their lives. Doing so will enhance the life and faith of every single member of our church today and for generations to come.

Your Pastor,

Ryan

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 11**

Sorry for the late notice due to a delayed newsletter issue, but the next meeting of the property committee took place following worship on Sunday November 11. If you have a suggestion or any concerns, contact Bill Mansmann.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

The PW donated 500 pieces of new clothing to NGA (Needlework Guild of America) to commemorate 123 years of the service to Trenton Area charitable agencies on October 10, 2018 at Ewing Presbyterian Church, 100 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ.

In 2017, 6,819 items were distributed to our registered agencies through NGA. Thanks to all who donated to our cause.

Arlene Filson  
Slackwood's Chairperson

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB**

The next meeting of the "Breakfast Club" will be held Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast and conversation. Following breakfast we will complete a few "little" jobs around the church. Hope to see the men of the church there!

## **CHURCH CLEANUP NOVEMBER 17!**

Fall weather is finally in the air – cool temperatures and heavy breezes. It is time to do an outside cleanup of the church grounds. From raking leaves, trimming gardens, edging the sidewalk and generally preparing for the winter will be the order of the day. We will meet at the church on Saturday November 17, 2018 beginning at 8:30 and concluding at 12:00! If you have an hour or two to lend a hand, it would be greatly appreciated! Hope to see you there.

## **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Celebration will be held on Tuesday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Adath Israel Congregation, 1958 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville. The theme this year is "Light in the Midst of Darkness." All are welcome and invited to stay following the service for refreshments. An offering of non-perishable kosher food donations will be received for the Jewish Family & Children's Service, and non-perishable food items for the Lawrence Community Food Pantry. The event is hosted by The Clergy Organization of Lawrence Township.

## **THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON**



Everyone is welcome to join together at 12:00 p.m. for a Thanksgiving luncheon on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the church. If you will be alone on Thanksgiving or if you would like to enjoy dinner with members of your church family, know that you will be welcome. And, if you know someone who would like to have a place to have dinner that day, please invite them. Also, whether you attend or not, if you would like to donate a dish to be served that day, please let Amelia Irmer know.

## **ST. ANDREW'S**

The traditional St. Andrew's evening service held annually at Slackwood will not be held this year. Instead, elements of our Scottish tradition will be included in the 10:30 a.m. service of worship on Sunday, November 25.

## **ADVENT SOCIAL**



This year's Advent Social will be held on Friday, December 7 at the home of Lilly and Anand Veeraraj, 22 Colonial Lake Drive, Lawrence. This is a lovely time for church family and friends to gather together for fun and good food in a relaxed setting. Watch the Sunday bulletin, and the Sunday email announcements for time and other specifics. But, mark your calendars now so you don't miss this special event.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift – the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. For those of us gathered together in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ – a perfect gift from a gracious God. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering knowing as the New Testament letter of James says, “every generous act of giving...is from above.” Fifty percent of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges and fifty percent of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. Christmas Joy Envelopes will be available in the Sunday bulletin, or you can make your check out to Slackwood Presbyterian Church, and write “Joy Offering” on the memo line.

## FALL RUMMAGE SALE

Another successful rummage sale ---- this one was our 29<sup>th</sup> as leaders---someone asked us and I looked back at records starting from October 2004!! Thanks to members and friends who give their time, donations, sore backs, and energy to this worthwhile outreach program. This October the weather was a factor in numbers of attendees. Friday was windy and cold. Once again the outside men were struggling with keeping the tents from blowing away. Then Saturday we began the day with rain. But, thanks be to God, we made **\$2,808.45** to support the outreach programs of the church through the UPW. This sale our clean up efforts were augmented by 6 young gals who volunteered as part of the Lawrence High School Interact Club (the community service club at the high school). Their help, energy, and enthusiasm were much appreciated when we all were spent from the sale. Thanks again to all our helpers! And, go ahead and mark your calendars for our next sale --- God willing --- **May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

## LOOKING AHEAD

Martin Luther King Day will be observed on Monday, January 21, 2019. Once again this year members of Slackwood will participate in a day of service to be held at Lawrence Middle School. Specific details will be available later.

## IN SYMPATHY

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Kathy Steinouer who died on October 13 at her home in Virginia. Kathy was a long time member of Slackwood and fondly remembered by many. Those left to mourn her passing include her daughter, Janet Kraus, her son, Fred Steinouer, her granddaughter Kate Moore and her great-granddaughter Emma Moore.

## THANK YOU

John and I want to thank everyone for their cards and kind words as we said good-bye to our sweet friend Mabel. It was extremely hard, we raised her from a puppy and she gave us her love devotion for 13 years. You expect people to be thoughtful and kind when losing a loved one. But we are grateful to be a part of a community that understands loss, even if it's a furry loved one.

Thanks again,  
Sandy and John Murray

## PRAYER FOR OUR VETERANS

“Almighty God, You know every veteran by name. You know their deeds, their hard work, and their perseverance. You know their needs, both material and spiritual. Please draw each one closer to you and grant them all the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7), the peace of Christ to rule in their hearts (Colossians 3:15), and ‘joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand’ forevermore (Psalm 16:11).”

