



The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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Goodbye Summer. Hello Fall!

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

-Ecclesiastes 3:1

Did you have a great summer? Did you go anywhere? Do anything memorable? I hope that you all took some time to get away, recharge your battery, relax, and take in something beautiful. As Ecclesiastes says, there is a season for everything and when we have long, warm days, it's a great opportunity to be outdoors and enjoy God's creation.

And we sure did that at Slackwood all summer long! Whether it was our *Outdoor Movie Nights* or our recent *End of the Summer Festival*, it was great to enjoy life together with our neighbors on our back lawn. Great Weather + Great People + Great Events = Great Fun!!! Thanks again to everyone who volunteered and/or planned these events as we couldn't have done it without you!

Now, as our children, grandchildren and teachers prepare for another school year, we also prepare for another season in the life of our church. Here are some upcoming highlights:

- **September 9th: Welcoming Back our 9:30am programing.**
 - o **Choir** will resume practicing. All are welcome to participate in the choir.
 - o Our **Adult Forum** will begin a new book that explores how we can better recognize where God is at work in the world and determine where God wants to use our ordinary lives to make an extraordinary difference. All are welcome!
 - o Our children will resume **Sunday School & Children's Choir.**
- **September 30th: Outdoor Worship Service:** Worship together surrounded by God's creation in our back lawn (if weather doesn't agree, we'll remain in the sanctuary)
- **October 7th: World Communion Sunday.** An opportunity every year to worship and share communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Grace Taiwanese Presbyterian Church

So while it may be sad to say goodbye to summer, there is a lot this Fall to be excited about! Dealing with change can be difficult but when we have something to look forward to, it makes life so much better.

May God continue to use our small but mighty congregation to impact one another's lives as well as our neighborhood. God has done great things and will continue to do great things here at Slackwood!

Your Pastor,

Ryan

Feeding the Fish.
By Nan Dodge, August 25, 2018

The long, hot summer is nearly over! Some of you might sigh because you love summer so much, but for me, it's nearly pumpkin spice season. As my son Oliver once said, and I took it (and continue to quote it on my Facebook wall every September,) "I want cleansing rain, changing leaves, dry cool weather, crows, church bells ... it's never failed me before." Although the mandevilla at the mailbox is a thing of beauty still, the petunias are starting to look wan and listless, and it is nearly time to get out the large wooden pumpkin the kids brought me from a trip to Knoebels Amusement Park years ago, hand made by an Amish man.

It's Carol Ward's birthday, and the Mansmanns will be coming home from the lake for the last time this year very soon. Sunday School and the other activities at Slackwood will be going full tilt before we know it! These are sure signs that autumn is in the air. The deacons will do what deacons do, and we will meet monthly to discuss it and to pray about it.

The Book of Order puts it this way: "The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is a ministry of caring; a ministry of love; a ministry of compassion; and a ministry of prayer, and community service." In other words, be **mindful**, and be **kind**.

I don't know about you, but it's hard to remember to be mindful, because fretting and anxiety is so much more fun. And kindness is easier at some times than at others. My Facebook wall is full of "memes" put up by kind people -- some famous, like Anne LaMott and Fred Rogers and Jimmy Carter, and others not so famous, like Dirk's daughter, Karen Parr. Her posts lift my spirits so often, and I don't think I've ever told her. I think it's safe to say that being encouraging on Facebook is one of Karen's kindness ministries, and she does it well. In addition to cute dogs, cats, and kids, here are a few of Karen's recent posts:

- "Note to Self: You're not too old, and it's NOT too late."
- "One of the most courageous decisions you'll ever make is to finally let go of what's hurting your heart and soul."
- "May your weekend be full of inappropriate behavior and fun!"

I had started out writing this article with one idea, which is why the title, and got off on an important tangent about a prime human example of kindness. Back to feeding the fish.

I have a friend, Kevin, whose parents were married in this church. His grandmother, Vivian Ireland, was a member for years. He's now a minister at a Presbyterian church out in Pennsylvania, and he's been given official permission to write a very special and specific book about Fred Rogers, who was also a Presbyterian minister known for his way with children, his kindness, and his goodness. Along with the Peace Pilgrim, and the Peanuts gang, he is one of my inspirations.

One day, Mr. Rogers received a letter from a 5-year-old girl named Katie. She was blind, and she was writing to Mister Rogers because she was worried about his fish. Since she couldn't see him with his fish, she was concerned that he wasn't feeding them. Her father sent Fred Rogers a note, saying that Katie often cried over worrying about whether the fish were being fed.

Fred Rogers read every single letter that came across his desk. (I wrote to him when I was a young mother with two children, and he wrote me a thoughtful, personal letter back.) He began to mention it out loud on his program when he was feeding his fish. He listened to Katie, as he listened to all children. He was an example of kindness, and of mindfulness.

By putting himself in Katie's shoes, and really listening, he was able to change one small thing for one blind girl and bring about her healing and happiness.

The Board of Deacons might be described most generally as "the caring arm of the church." (Earl S. Johnson Jr., *The Presbyterian Deacon*, August 31, 2008) If we are the caring arm, I like to think of Slackwood as the caring other arm, head, neck, body, and legs. Small kindnesses are big to the person on the receiving end, and we all have a fresh opportunity each day to be kind.

Smile at that woman in the checkout line with the fractious, screaming toddler, instead of sighing or giving her "a look." Ask the waitress how she is doing, since she's probably been on her feet for at least six hours, has put in eight miles in pinchy shoes, and been yelled at at least a few times. Buying a fancy coffee? Put the change in the barista's tip cup. It's an expensive cup of coffee anyhow -- the spare change probably won't hurt. Welcome the new person at the door on Sunday morning, even if she smells, or he looks like he might be mentally unbalanced or homeless.

Be like Arlene Filson, who welcomed my two children and me VERY exuberantly when we came to Slackwood for the first time. Because of this, we came the following week, and she welcomed us again, this time by name. (We had been church shopping for a while, and this clinched the deal, and we joined Slackwood Church.) Let's be more like Arlene.

"There are three ways to ultimate success.

The first way is to be KIND.

The second way is to be KIND.

The third way is to be KIND."

-- Fred Rogers, 1928-2003

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 2018 Fall Rummage Sale are **Friday October 12, and Saturday October 13 (set up on Oct. 10 and 11)**. It's time to clean out your closets, attic or basement and gather those items, clothes, 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 23, 2018.

- 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 10 until 6:00 PM and up to 2:00 PM on Thursday October 11. 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 (609-651-1321) to arrange for a pick up on the Weds/Thurs of the sale
- Help empty the shed – **Wednesday October 10 11:00 AM** we 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 PM – HELP IS NEEDED:**
 - Help set up for the sale
 - **Thursday October 11** beginning at 9:00 AM
 - Assist in the sale
 - **Friday October 12, 9:00-5:00 PM**
 - **Saturday October 13, 8:30-1:00 PM**
 - Help in the clean up
 - **Saturday October 13** beginning at 1:00 PM

Thanks,
Terrie and Bill Mansmann
Co-chairs

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

After taking the summer off to enjoy the "heat", the next meeting of the Club will be Friday September 21, 2018 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!

PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Property & Finance Committee will meet following worship on Sunday September 9, 2018 in the library. There will be numerous items to discuss. Those on the committee and those wishing to attend, mark your calendar.

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, Roger Melick, Ken Mitchell and Sam Morrison for maintaining the church grounds.

SUMMER MOVIES

Once again this year members, friends and neighbors enjoyed watching movies outside under the stars on the church property behind the parking lot. Family friendly movies were shown on June 16 and July 14 to enthusiastic groups of people. And, in case you missed it, the July 14 event was featured on the front page of *The Lawrence Ledger* newspaper. Thanks to everyone who helped and participated in these fun evenings.

TRENTON THUNDER GAME

On August 17, 22 Slackwood people attended the Trenton Thunder baseball game. It was a good game, including a homerun, and ending with fireworks. This annual event has become a favorite with many of our members.

END OF SUMMER COMMUNITY FAIR

The third end-of-summer community fair took place on Saturday, August 25. The church grounds were filled with food, games, music, a bouncy house, a dunk tank, and lots of people having a good time. This free outreach program takes a lot of planning and a lot of work – but it is well worth all the time and energy of our people. A very special thank you to the committee that worked for months to make this event happen – Amelia Irmer, Ginger Baker, Lex Chu and Karen Nolan. They put in many hours before, during and after the fair. Thank you also to every person who worked, contributed financially or materially, welcomed guests to the church and made sure everything was cleaned up afterwards. The community fair is truly a wonderful event and we hope you will all participate again next year.

WORLD COMMUNION/SPECIAL OFFERING

World Communion Sunday will be observed this year on October 7. In addition to celebrating the Lord's Supper with Christians all over the world, Slackwood Church receives the Peace & Global Witness Offering – formerly referred to as the Peacemaking Offering. This special offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission with those around the corner and around the world, as active peacemakers at all times and in all ways.

One quarter of the money received is contributed to a local organization that promotes peace in this troubled world. This year the session has designated Anchor House as the recipient of the Peace & Global Witness Offering. The mission of Anchor House is to provide a safe haven where abused, runaway, homeless, aging out and at risk youth and their families are empowered to succeed and thrive. Anchor House Shelter was founded in 1978 to move homeless and runaway youth off the streets of Trenton and reunite them with their family. Today, Anchor House Inc. provides shelter, school outreach, transitional and supportive housing, and street outreach to youth ages 12 to 21 from Mercer County and throughout the State of New Jersey.

Peace and Global Witness Offering envelopes will be available at the church, or simply write "Peacemaking" on the memo line of your check, or the outside of an envelope containing your donation. Please give generously to support this important ministry to local young people.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY GUESTS

Once again this year we are happy to host incoming students from Princeton University as they complete mission work in the Lawrence Township area. A group of students, together with their university leaders will arrive at the church the afternoon of September 3 and stay with us till the afternoon of September 7. These young people will be using our facilities as their home base – sleeping in the upstairs rooms and eating and meeting in fellowship hall. During the day they will be off doing community service. If you happen to see them around the buildings, please extend a warm welcome to them.

Once again this year members, friends and neighbors enjoyed watching movies outside under the stars on the church property behind the parking lot. Family friendly movies were shown on June 16 and July 14 to enthusiastic groups of people. And, in case you missed it, the July 14 event was featured on the front page of *The Lawrence Ledger*

newspaper. Thanks to everyone who helped and participated in these fun evenings.

IN SYMPATHY

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Marion Combs on August 31st. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family as they deal with this loss. Marion was a long-time member of Slackwood Church and, even after moving to California, always stayed in touch with her many friends here. She will be fondly remembered for her kind ways, her thoughtfulness, and her sense of humor.

THANK YOU'S

The Hunter family wish to thank the members for their prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during Bill's lengthy recovery from his fall. It has been a very stressful time. Also, special thanks to Ryan and Amelia for their support.

Jean, Bill, Douglas, Neil, and Sharon

Betty Okeson recently celebrated her 95th birthday, and she wants to thank the Slackwood family for the special party they had following the worship service on August 19. She appreciates the cards, the visits, and all the kind words, prayers and thoughts from the special people at Slackwood.

It was so good to see Betty at our worship service on August 19 and also at the end-of-the-summer community festival the following week! Thanks for coming, Betty!

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE By Cathy Salvatore

A GIRL RESTORED TO LIFE AND
A WOMAN HEALED
Read: Matthew 9:18-26

Perhaps the flute players in today's Gospel felt similarly when a girl was restored to life and a woman healed, a woman suffering hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the tassel on his cloak. She said, "If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured." When she touched Jesus' cloak, her faith had saved her.

These two miracles happened at the same time. The man taking charge was the Son of God.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

When a person gets into the yoke with Jesus his burdens become easy.

Slackwood Presbyterian Church September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 AM AA Meeting
2 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship and Communion 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	3 LABOR DAY 7:30 PM AA Meeting	4	5 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee	6 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors' Anonymous	7 Housed at Slackwood Church	8 8:30 AM AA Meeting
9 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Property and Finance Committee 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	10 7:30 PM AA Meeting	11	12 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee	13 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors' Anonymous	14 1:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	15 8:30 AM AA Meeting
16 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Deacons Mtg. 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	17 7:30 PM AA Meeting	18 7:00 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	19 6:00 PM Personnel Committee 7:00 PM Session meeting	20 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors' Anonymous	21 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Club	22 8:30 AM AA Meeting
23 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Worship Committee Mtg. 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	24 7:30 PM AA Meeting	25	26	27 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors' Anonymous	28	29 8:30 AM AA Meeting
30 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services						

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 7 – World Communion Sunday
October 12-13 – Rummage Sale

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