



The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Ryan Irmer, Pastor

Director of Music: Shelley Zuckerman

September 2017

Callings

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

- Romans 12:4-6

In the book, *Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work* by Dave Isay, a conversation takes place between two longtime partners, Angelo Bruno and Eddie Nieves, in New York City. They worked side by side for decades picking up garbage. But it wasn't just a job for them, it was a calling. They didn't just work to get through the day or to get paid, they did their work with a great sense of pride. They were never too busy to help a mother who needed her stroller lifted up the steps. They took the time to say "hi" to everyone. Angelo said, "I didn't look at it as going down the block to pick up garbage. I was going down the block to see my friends."

Angelo shared a story about a time when an old-timer by the name of Gordy stopped their truck as they turned on to his street and said, "Angelo, look down this block. See all this garbage? Sidewalks all crowded up?" Angelo listened to the old man and then went about his work. It took them 45 minutes to finish the block. Then Gordy stopped them again and said, "Get out of that truck. Look back. Nice and clean right? People could walk on the sidewalk. Baby carriages could go through. Guys could make deliveries. Be proud of yourself. You did that!"

It is easy to look at our world today and see nothing but a giant mess. With all that is going on, it may seem overwhelming, frustrating, and upsetting. Yet God has given us each unique gifts to live out our own callings. God has placed us specifically in this time and in space for a purpose. Yes, we have work to do as we move into the Fall.

But as summer ends and another school year begins, I want you to take a quick look back. Our nation entered into 2017 with a great deal of uncertainty, anxiety, and fear as to what this year would bring. But over that time, Slackwood has had our first MLK Day Service Project, our Children's Choir and Sunday School continues to grow, we've had a baptism, Confirmation, weddings, and yes, a couple funerals. We've had two outdoor movie nights, an indoor movie day, a rummage sale, and another amazing "End of the Summer Festival." We've taken the time to eat together, laugh together, welcome in new faces, and pray for one another. And we've made our halls and sanctuaries accessible to all who may have a disability, as they can observe you utilizing your gifts in worship, choir, and Christian Ed. Your calling extends out beyond our walls and into your work, your schools, the marches and protests you've attended, and into your neighborhoods.

Be proud of yourself because, with God's help, you did that! And like Bruno and Eddie, now it's time to turn on to another block and do it all over again. Yes, it will be a lot of work and it will not be easy, but as we are living into our callings, I hope we recognize that we are coming together and making a difference.

Your Pastor,

Ryan

SESSION ACTIONS – June 21, 2017

At its June session meeting the elders voted:

- to donate the church's portion of the Peacemaking Offering to Every Child Valued;
- to authorize the Property & Finance Committee to accept the lowest bid it obtains for completing the fire inspector's exit lighting requirements;
- to hire ATS Mechanical to replace the heater in the Christian Education building;
- to hire Dan Barker to do necessary tree work at the manse;
- to replace a second of the church's three air conditioners.

The elders learned of a generous donation from Presbyterian Women which will cover the cost of several property-related expenditures.

Session did not meet in July or August.

SLACKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will be meeting Thursday, September 21 at 12 noon. Please bring a sandwich.

Curriculum "Cloud of Witnesses".
Lesson 1: Genesis 13:24; Genesis 1:26-27;
Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 1:1-4;14--5:10.

MOVIE EVENTS

Thank you to everyone who attended, helped publicize, and worked at the three movie events held over the summer months. On June 16, 60+ members, friends and neighbors enjoyed the animated film "Zootopia," on the lawn behind the church. It was a beautiful night and young people enjoyed playing games and getting to know each other before the movie began.

The weather did not cooperate well on July 14, but Fellowship Hall was filled with laughing and singing as the animated film "Sing" was shown indoors. Rain did not dampen the spirits of all those who came out – many singing along with the familiar songs in the movie.

And on August 9, several people came out at 3:00 in the afternoon to watch the classic John Wayne/Maureen O'Hara film "The Quiet Man."

Thanks to Amelia Irmer and Fred Mitchell for the special refreshments that afternoon.

All three movie events were great times and a chance to welcome neighbors and friends to our church.

END OF SUMMER COMMUNITY FAIR

There could not have been any better weather than what we had on August 26 for the End-of-Summer Community Fair. The temperature was perfect, the humidity low, and the sunshine beautiful. And the event itself was another great time. Members, friends, neighbors, Exploration Community Pre-School attendees, all came out to have fun, play games, listen to live music, have a chance to shower water on the pastor, ride a pony, have their faces painted and enjoy good food.

So many people should be thanked for the successful program. First and foremost is Amelia Irmer for all her work overseeing every detail of the day. Amelia puts in hours and hours of her time on this event and we owe her a huge "thank you." Karen Nolan, Lex Chu and Ginger Baker worked alongside Amelia organizing events and volunteers and soliciting donations from area businesses. Many, many church members came out on Saturday to help set up, work the event itself, and clean up afterward. There is no way to name everyone, but we are grateful to each of those hard working people. The Valentino Family provided signage and the "Splash-a-pastor-nator", which was a big hit. And, we are grateful, too, to Explorations Pre-school for helping out and jointly sponsoring the event with us.

Please support the many, many businesses that contributed to the day:

Captain Paul's Firehouse Dogs
Leonardo's II
Route 1 Diner
Dominic's Pizza
Candela Pizzeria and Restaurant
Knapp's Cyclery
Marhaba Restaurant
Willis Greenhouse
Anne's Hot on D Spot Roti Shop
Rita's Ice
Foley's Family Market
Esquire Graphics (Roger Melick)
Staples

In addition to those businesses, Explorations Pre-school provided gift cards from Starbucks, Tanning Zone, Pump It UP, Bath & Bodyworks, Pizza Barn, and RedBerry Frozen Yogurt and Smoothie Bar.

People attending the End-of-Summer Fair filled out evaluations with glowing comments and hope that we will do this annually. We'll let you know as soon as the date is set for next year so you can get it on your calendar and plan to help out again! Good job, Slackwood folks!!

CHURCH SHIRTS

The Membership & Outreach Committee has purchased church t-shirts for each member to be worn at church events such as the End-of-Summer Fair, rummage sales, Memorial Day parades, etc. There is no charge for the shirts, but if you would like to help with the cost, donations are welcome. Any amount you would like to donate is fine; a suggested amount is \$5.00. If you have not picked up your shirt, speak to Amelia Irmer or Carol Belles.

CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM BEGINS AGAIN!

Calling all youth and adult learners! Remember, **Sunday, September 10** we return to our usual Sunday schedule of Adult Forum and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. We look forward to another exciting year for our youth and enjoying the songs they share with us during worship. Also, if you wish to be part of the adult forum -- and all are welcome -- and have not picked up your copy of the book we will be reading (Reading John for Dear Life, A Spiritual Walk with the Fourth Gospel by Jaime Clark-Soules), see Mark Thomas for a copy and read Chapter 1 for our Sept. 10th discussion.

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

After taking the summer off, the next meeting of the Club will be Friday September 15, 2017 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!

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

For a number of years our church has participated in the Peacemaking Offering received on World Communion Sunday – the first Sunday in October. Now called the Peace and Global Witness Offering, monies received go toward the work of the PCUSA denomination as well as toward a local program designated by the session.

This year the session has voted to contribute its portion of the offering to Every Child Valued, the afternoon and summer enrichment program at Eggerts Crossing Village. The mission of Every Child Valued is to motivate the young residents of

Lawrence Township to reach their highest potential as educated and fulfilled adults, to strengthen families, to combat racial, cultural, and socioeconomic isolation, and to build a sense of community.

Envelopes for your contribution will be available on World Communion Sunday, or you may write a check to Slackwood Church and write Peacemaking on the memo line. Please consider generously supporting the work of Every Child Valued and the PCUSA.

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 2017 Fall Rummage Sale are **Friday October 13, and Saturday October 14 (set up on Oct. 11 and 12)**. It's time to clean out your closets, attic or basement and gather those items, clothes 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 24, 2017.

- 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 11 until 6:00 PM and up to 2:00 PM on Thursday October 14. 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 before the sale
- Help empty the shed – **Wednesday October 11, 11:00 am** 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 pm – HELP IS NEEDED**

- Help set up for the sale **Thursday October 12 beginning at 9:00 am**
- Assist in the sale
- **Friday October 13, 9:00 – 5:00 pm**
- **Saturday October 14, 8:30 – 1:00 pm**
- Help in the cleanup – **Saturday October 14 beginning at 1:00 pm**

Thanks,
Terrie and Bill Mansmann
Co-chairs

BASKETBALL CLINIC

In conjunction with Homefront, Lawrence Community Center and Every Child Valued, Slackwood folks will be providing an after-school basketball clinic this fall. On four consecutive Mondays, October 16 to November 6, Pastor Irmer will direct a Youth Basketball Clinic from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. for boys and girls fourth through seventh grade. The clinic will be held in the Lawrence Community Center gymnasium and will be free of charge. If you would like to help out, speak to Ryan. And watch your Sunday bulletin, and weekly email announcements, for more details.

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, Bill Mansmann, Fred Mitchell, Ken Mitchell and Sam Morrison for maintaining the rear of the church and thanks to Carl Belles for doing the front yard of the church. Also, a special thanks to Sean Baker for repairing our tractor when the muffler snapped off the mounting bracket and at the flange attaching it to the motor and sharpening the blades!

Thanks to Fred Mitchell for leading our gardeners: Jerry Baumann, Carol Belles, Debbie Moore, Kate Moore, Nancy Murray, Karen Nolan and Theresa Suanno who maintained the gardens around the church! Another large maintenance job made manageable with many willing hands.

CONDOLENCES

It is with great sadness that Slackwood lost another of its treasured members with the passing of Iona Snyder on August 9th. Our sincerest sympathies go out to her family as we thank God for her faith and her life of service in Christ.

We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Ellen Cranstoun, wife of Doug Cranstoun, on her death August 18th. Doug was a long-time member of Slackwood Church, and his life with Ellen in Cape May, NJ, even during the hardest struggles they faced, included a deep abiding love of Jesus. We ask God for a healing presence.

THANK YOU

Dear Slackwood Family,

I truly do not have the words to thank you enough for the love, prayers and support you extended to me during my recent 3-week hospitalization and continuing recuperation. The prayers, kind words, cards, telephone calls, and visits were overwhelmingly therapeutic for me – I felt your strength and thrived just knowing I was being held every single day in the arms of my prayer “warriors” – my church family. Thanks to Ryan for his visits and his words of encouragement; thanks to those who took the lead to pass along daily updates as things developed. I am so blessed to have you all in my life. You are my heroes and my angels, and you have made this journey so much easier just by walking at my side.

Penny Baumann

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

By Cathy Salvatore

Interests of Others
Read Philippians 2-1-11

In today's reading we value others above ourselves by not looking to our own interests.

Paul tells us to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain self-love. People who turn their attention to others and not on themselves have one's standard of what is satisfactory.

When we value others above ourselves we demonstrate Christlike humility. We see to model Jesus, who came not "to be served, but to serve."

When we interact with others today, let us not show interest with ourselves but the interest towards others.

The song, "Soul Rebels" is a song that reminds us how important to spread our love to everyone and start giving.

Serve God by serving others.