



The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
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Nobody Remembers 2nd Place.... But What about 12th?

I remember being a highly competitive child and having to win every contest and how upset I got whenever I didn't. I also recall participating in competitive sports and coaches trying to provide extra motivation by saying, "Nobody remembers 2nd Place!" While that is mostly true, this morning I learned about an exception to the rule that I would like to share:

ESPN aired a special featuring a 4-person Swedish team who was competing in a 400 mile cross-country adventure race in Ecuador. At one of the rest stops a mangy stray dog with open sores on its back approached this team. At first they didn't even want to touch it for fear of what it might be carrying. But then one of the team members decided to feed him a meatball. As they resumed the race, they noticed the dog following them. For days and for hundreds of miles the dog followed them through muddy trails and up and down mountains until it came to the segment of the race where they needed canoes. The race officials said that they were not permitted to allow this stray dog to travel with them any further. So they got in their canoe, said goodbye to the dog (by this time they had named him Arthur), and then heard a "splash!" There was Arthur swimming alongside their canoe. The team pulled Arthur onto their boat and officially decided that they had acquired a new teammate and could care less about the repercussions. Days later, there was Arthur crossing the finish line with this Swedish Adventure team. They came in 12th place (and ESPN never mentioned who actually came in first.)

As my faith matures and I learn more and more about who Jesus is, what He taught, and how He wants us to live, I found this story to be compelling. Yes, there are times when competition drives us to be our best, but there are also times when competition and the drive to be #1 also can cause us to ignore the lives of those around us. These four Adventure racers were great examples of how we are called to live as Christians. For they also went on to bring Arthur back to Sweden, paid for the operations and cared for him until he was brought back to full health. Then a team member adopted Arthur and started fundraisers and a foundation to help save the lives of other stray dogs.

This Adventure team's actions reminded me of Philippians 2:5-9:

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name...

Yes, by doing the right thing and valuing the life, even of a stray dog, this Swedish adventure team ended up achieving worldwide fame and admiration for their acts of kindness and generosity. It's my hope that as Christians we don't let the rat race and competitive nature of our society ignore those who are suffering, those who have been abused, and those who simply need a helping hand. For when we recognize those who are hurting and demonstrate compassion and kindness, then we are doing something extraordinary; we are following the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Your pastor,
Ryan

WHO'S WHO AT SLACKWOOD CHURCH

Arlene Filson

I have been a life-long member of Slackwood Sunday School, Youth Group, and member of the church. I lived on Carr Avenue, attended Slackwood School (kindergarten through 8th grade), Junior High School #3 on West State Street for 9th grade, and Trenton High School 10, 11 and 12th grades. My Mom and Dad were members of Slackwood Church also. I was an auxiliary member of Slackwood Fire Company. I was married in Slackwood Church in April 1959, and I had two children baptized at Slackwood, and also three grandchildren baptized at Slackwood. I was a church school teacher for many years, and also taught vacation church school and helped with youth groups, etc. I have been active in Presbyterian Women's Group. I became an elder on Session in 1959 and a deacon in the 1960's. I was involved in the fund raising efforts for our sanctuary after our original church burned down in 1951.

As a deacon your duties are to help out in preparing communion on a rotating basis monthly. Also to keep in touch with our shut-ins by visiting while in the hospital, rehab center or home, etc., making phone calls to check on members, and to keep in touch, mailing cards and just giving words of encouragement to them.

SESSION ACTIONS – MAY 24, 2017

At its May 24 meeting the session:

- learned that the signs on entrance doors and around the property were installed, with thanks to Sean Baker;
- voted to renew the contract with Explorations Preschool for two years;
- voted to sign a two year contract with Great Eastern Energy as the church energy supplier;
- voted to purchase Kiran Young Wimberly's Celtic Psalms for use by the choir and congregation.

At a **special session meeting** held on June 4, session voted to received Chase Thomas and Helen Zuckerman into church membership.

THANK YOU FROM A NEIGHBOR

The following note was sent to the church session:



*Dear Slackwood Elders,
I wanted to thank you and let you know that I love hearing the church bells ring at noon and five every day. I come home from work for lunch every day and I am greeted with the awesome chime sounds – as well as at 5:00. The beautiful music makes me stop and enjoy the beauty around me. Also I say a little prayer for my family and loved ones, something I wouldn't normally do otherwise without the reminder of the bells. Please continue to ring them. They bring much joy to my day!
Thank you.
Jane Tomsho*

A TRIP TO THE FARM

The Membership & Outreach Committee is working with Professor Nate Stucky of Princeton Theological Seminary to visit the farm which is part of the seminary. The farm is located off of Princeton Pike



and we are planning to use the church bus to transport people. We'll be going on **Saturday, July 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. There will be various outdoor agricultural projects in which to participate and a time for food, beverages and conversation with Professor Stucky. For purposes of food it will be necessary to know just who plans to go on July 8. Watch for a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall or let Carol Belles know you wish to attend.

VACATION

Pastor Irmer will be on vacation for one week beginning June 22. If you need pastoral care while he is away, contact the Rev. Kiran Young Wimberly at 609.858.1876 or Clerk of Session Carol Belles. Preaching next Sunday, June 25 will be the Rev. Alex Wimberly.

SUMMER EVENTS

Make sure you put the following dates on your calendar for events happening over the summer months:

Friday, July 14 – 8:30 p.m.

on the lawn behind the church. Watch the family friendly movie "Sing." Bring a lawn chair or blanket; popcorn and beverages will be provided. Invite your neighbors and family members. In case of rain, the movie will be shown indoors.



Wednesday, August 9 – 3:00 p.m. in air conditioned fellowship hall. Watch the Movie "The Quiet Man," with John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald. The movie is the story of a retired American boxer who returns to the village of his birth in Ireland where he finds love. Refreshments provided. Beat the heat by coming into the air conditioning and enjoying time with friends.



Saturday, August 26 – 3:00 to 6:00

7:00 p.m. – End of the Summer Community Fair. Games, ponies, food, fun and prizes for all ages – all free! Come out to fun. For more information, volunteer to help, contact Amelia Irmer.



CALLING ALL GARDENERS



If you enjoy being outside to do gardening and like viewing the results of your effort, your help is needed at your church. We have numerous small garden areas around the church property that need tending to from time to time. We are in great shape now but those pesky weeds often make a comeback. We could designate a small area for you to maintain and with many involved we can make it much more manageable for all of us. If you are interested, please speak to Fred Mitchell. If you are able to help with cutting the grass, please see Ginger Baker.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY: WHEELS FOR WORSHIP

During May of 2014 Slackwood took ownership of our minibus. Since then it has become a visible sign of our church's ability to serve the transportation needs of those needing a ride to worship, transportation in Unity marches, Lawrence



Community days, assisting other churches in mission trips, church activities and the Lawrence Memorial Day parade. All worthwhile items that foster the reach and visibility of Slackwood in our community. A transportation ministry requires more than just a minibus. Funds are required for fuel, maintenance, registration and insurance.

Looking for a way to support the church without another church meeting? Donate to the Wheels for Worship fund! Consider making a donation to this worthwhile outreach. Envelopes are found in the church pews or indicate "Wheels for Worship" on your donation.

CHURCH FINANCES

We are generally in sound financial shape after six months of the current fiscal year. But.....Please keep up the great support through the summer months! We still have the normal expenses and bills will need to be paid. So plan on continuing to support the work of your church even though you may not be around each Sunday. Have a wonderful summer!

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE – CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

After a summer of respite, we will be starting up the Church School year and Adult Bible Study on **Sunday, September 10 at 9:30am**. Be sure to join us as we begin the new Christian Education calendar year. If you have friends and neighbors who are looking for a church, be sure to invite them to join us!!!

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

As the summer fast approaches we will be taking off the months of July and August. We will resume our Breakfast Club on **Friday September 15, at 9:00 am** at the church. Enjoy your summer and mark your calendar for the September meeting!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Slackwood PW will meet on September 21 at 12 noon. Bring a sandwich we will provide dessert. Our 2017-2018 Bible Study will be Hebrews.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

It may seem early, but we would like to provide you with the dates for the sale! Mark your

calendar and save the dates of **October 11 – 14, 2017** to help in this great activity!

COMING IN THE FALL

The Membership & Outreach Committee is working with Lawrence Community Center and Every Child Valued to hold a Youth Basketball Clinic on four consecutive Mondays in the fall – **Oct. 16-Nov. 6 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** The clinic will be geared to boys and girls who are part of the Every Child Valued After School Program as well as being open to the public for boys and girls 4th to 7th grades. The event will be held at the Lawrence Community Center gymnasium and will be led by Ryan Imer. Watch for more information on this program and ways you can assist with the clinic.



through our transgressions. Through His great love he made it possible for those who are dead in sin to have life and purpose through His Son.

Reflection:

The word that prompts us, God is always at work in us.

This is the last issue of
The Grapevine
until September.

Enjoy your summer and
please keep in touch by
visiting our website:

<http://www.slackwoodchurch.org/>

CONGRATULATIONS

Sincere best wishes from their Slackwood family go to Jim and Sherry Branson on the birth of their grandson, Luke Shaun, on Friday June 16. Luke's parents are Ben and Ann Branson.

And if you're in the area,
please come see us every
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

By Cathy Salvatore

By Grace Through Faith
Read EPHESIANS 2:1-10

By grace through faith we are made alive. We are afflicted in every way: perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed. However, no matter how many trials in life we face and tribulations, we "go" on.

St. Paul went through so much, but yet he went on. Why did he "go" on? He went on because of his great love for Jesus. God is rich in mercy and ur transactions. Through Christ we are brought from death to life.

God is always at work in us, and it's in his loving actions which make our gritty hearts into warm clay. God's loving blessing on each and every one of us protects us and guards us

We have music, 
we have friendship, 
 we have spiritual
gifts,
we have coffee 
and snacks,
and we even have
air conditioning!! 

Now all we need
is YOU!