



# The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. Ryan Irmer, Pastor

Director of Music: Shelley Zuckerman

April 2016

## *The Gift of a Lifetime*

One of the most memorable moments of my life came when I had the opportunity to meet what many consider to be the greatest basketball coach of all time, John Wooden. Coach Wooden was a great man, an amazing teacher, a faithful Christian, and a coach who won 10 national championships at U.C.L.A. in 12 years. So in the spirit of March Madness I share with you a gift that Coach Wooden's father gave to him on the day of his high school graduation:

*Dad gave me something that day that would shape my entire life: my work, my marriage, my goals, my entire philosophy. It was a card on which he had written a few guidelines...On one side was a verse by the Rev. Henry Van Dyke:*

*Four things a man must learn to do*

*If he would make his life more true:*

*To think with confusion clearly,*

*To love his fellow-man sincerely,*

*To act from honest motives purely,*

*To trust in God and Heaven securely.*

*The little verse was straightforward but profound: think clearly, have love in your heart, be honest, and trust in God. On the other side of the paper, Dad had written out his creed. At the top of the paper, it said, "Seven Things to Do." It read as follows:*

- 1. Be true to yourself.*
- 2. Help Others.*
- 3. Make each day your masterpiece.*
- 4. Drink deeply from good books, especially the Bible.*
- 5. Make friendship an art.*
- 6. Build a shelter against a rainy day.*
- 7. Pray for guidance and count and give thanks for our blessings every day.*

These timeless truths that were shared from father to son I found both uplifting and insightful. Here's hoping that these pearls of wisdom help you in your own life's journey...

Your Pastor,

Ryan I.

## WHO'S WHO AT SLACKWOOD CHURCH

### Bill Ward

I was born in north Jersey in 1939, and my family moved around to several towns before we settled in Hamilton Township in 1944. I went to Lalor Elementary School, Hamilton High School, and to Davis and Elkins College (1 year).

When I met Judy Allen, she was a member of Slackwood, and I started coming to church here in 1958. I had been the Camp Director of Camp Delaware in Hopewell Township that summer, and Rev. Alan Hagenbuch asked me to be the youth director at Slackwood Church. I became a member of Slackwood in 1959. I had been working for Harbourt Air Freight where I had worked since I was 12 years old, as a helper, driver, and dispatcher.

In 1959 I opened up a Mary Carter Paint store in Burlington, NJ, and in 1960 I started working at AAA. Carol and I got engaged in 1960, we were both working at AAA then, and married in 1961. I was working as the manager of the paint department in Valley Fair on Olden Avenue. I left the retail business and went to work for Sterling Drug (Bayer Aspirin), first in their plant and then in the advertising section, running and repairing address-o-graph machines. I was also working part time with Rich Moore (another member of Slackwood) in the building business. Rich and I did a lot of work at McGuire AF Base for Pete Walters, Base Engineer for the Air National Guard (another member of Slackwood, and in whose honor the church's carillon was donated). I was a member of Rusling Volunteer Fire Co. An opportunity came up when one of their paid drivers unfortunately died suddenly, and I got that job, continuing to work with Rich Moore.

In 1965 I joined the Hamilton Township Police Department and retired in August 1989 as a Lieutenant. The first Sunday after I retired, Betty Okeson asked me to remodel her kitchen, and when I had finished that project I had six months of work lined up which inspired me to start Ward's Property Maintenance in September 1989. I continued to work in the construction business until 2005. I also worked at Beebe Plumbing Supply while on the Police Force.

I re-joined the Civil Air Patrol in 2002. I had been a member when Carol and I got married, but the family came first and I did not have time for both back then. I have been flying since 1958, got my license in 1960, and became a mission pilot in CAP in 2003. CAP is also known as the U. S. Air Force Auxiliary, and I am a Major in charge of the Counter Drug Operation for the Northeast Region.

I am a Mason, Shriner, Tall Cedar, and have held offices in each of these organizations. I am currently the Chairman of the Tall Cedar Foundation (MDA is our charity), and serve as Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the Community Blood Council of NJ.

We have always enjoyed camping, and have camped with our three children in all 48 states, and five eastern provinces of Canada.

## SLACKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW will meet on Thursday, April 21 at 12 noon. Bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided. We will be discussing Lesson 8, based on the scripture John 4: 1-30, 39-42; Acts 2: 44-47.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The April meeting of the breakfast club will meet on Friday, April 15 at 9:00 am at the church. If you have time in your schedule join us for an enjoyable meal. We will continue our fellowship by completing small jobs around the church. Mark your calendar and join us on April 15, 2016!

## SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

The Synod of the Northeast is organizing a Service of Reconciliation to celebrate the healing of a century-old wound inflicted by the Presbytery of New Brunswick upon Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church involving the forced resignation of a former pastor, the Rev. William Robeson. The service will be held on April 24, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Witherspoon Street church in Princeton. Everyone is encouraged to attend. This service is the final step in a process which included a formal apology by the Presbytery and a grant from the Synod to pay off the mortgages on the Paul Robeson House. This will be a time to celebrate this congregation that is a vital part of our presbytery, and to help bring healing to an unfortunate long-standing hurt.

## "SPRING IN THE AIR" FLOWER EXHIBIT AND DEMONSTRATIONS Grace Church – April 23, 9:00 am

The Grace Church congregation would like to invite everyone to their "Spring in the Air" flower show on April 23. The exhibit will be open in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m., and demonstrations and workshops on flower making will be held from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. Please stop by to see the amazing talent of our Grace friends, and celebrate the springtime beauty!

## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE – May 13-14, 2016 ALL HANDS ON DECK!!

The dates for the 2016 Spring Rummage Sale are **Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14.** 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! Larger furniture items cannot be accepted until Wednesday, set-up day. Volunteers are needed in a variety of ways. **It helps planning the event if you sign up on the list in fellowship hall or let Bill or Terrie know you can help.** There are several ways you can support the rummage sale:

- Bring items to the church to be placed in the shed
- Items can be received at the church  
**Wednesday afternoon May 11 noon to 6:00 pm** and on **Thursday, May 12, 9:00 am to noon.**
- Help empty the shed. On **Wednesday, May 11 at 10:00 am** the men will begin setting up the tables and moving items into fellowship hall. Whenever you can make it after 1:00 pm 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, May 12 beginning at 9:00 am**
- Assist in the sale
  - **Friday, May 13, 9:00 am until 5:00 pm**
  - **Saturday, May 14 8:30 am until 1:00 pm**
- Help in the cleanup
  - **Saturday, May 14 beginning at 1:00 pm**

Thanks,  
Terrie and Bill Mansmann  
Co-chairs

## CHRISTIAN ED FLOORS CLEANED AND WAXED



Thanks to Sean Baker for his leadership on completing this task. The floors look terrific and it is yet another job we were able to do in-house. We are blessed to have so many people willing to lend their time and talent.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Lawrence Township Memorial Day Parade will be held on Saturday, May 28 in the morning. Once again our church bus will be in the parade and we need members of the congregation to walk alongside the bus. It is an easy walk, approximately one mile, and it is lots of fun. If you cannot walk, come and ride on the bus. Let Carol Belles know if you can participate. More specific details will be available later.

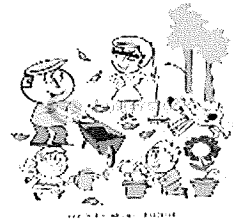


## TIME TO CUT GRASS

We maintain the church grounds and the manse grounds throughout the spring and summer. The Property Committee is always seeking a few good people! If you are available to help in cutting the grass this year please speak to Bill Mansmann or Frank DuMont. They would be glad to fill you in and help get you started.



## SPRING CLEAN-UP



Saturday March 19 was the time for the spring "Clean-up." The winter held off enough for many jobs to be completed. Over 20 people from Slackwood and Grace did a great job in completing our list of jobs! From edging the sidewalks to picking up many sticks and leaves ...the church grounds look terrific. Next we await the blooming of flowers and bushes. Thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful effort.

## THANK YOU!

Dolly Ettenger and Arlene Filson mentioned that they wanted to thank the deacons for their Easter flowers. They certainly brightened up their days!

## CURIOUS FAITH

By Cathy Salvatore Barrett

John 20:25

Seeing and believing, when Thomas heard the disciples say, "We have seen the Lord." Thomas answered, "Unless I see in His hand the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Jesus said to Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**ACTION STEP:** That we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

## PERFECT LIKE ME

By Penny Baumann

Of course my mom was my role model. We were very different in many ways, but our "core" was very much the same. Having a sense of humor was basic to survival in my family, and as an adult I fell into an easy-going relationship with my mom, my best friend, my biggest fan – no judgement, no criticism, just a real respect and life support for each other. Don't get us started on tearing some poor, unsuspecting soul down for some minor infraction that we didn't approve of though. Like that CVS cashier who forgot to put the Polident in mom's bag, or the waitress who forgot to bring us Sweet and Low for our coffee, or the ignorant mother of that crying baby who should just go home and give the poor kid a nap! Oh, there were so many of them out there – people who were clueless, flawed, or thoughtless. Boy, would we go off about them! We would share our disgust, shake our heads and proclaim our plans to find a suitable punishment for disgraceful crimes of forgetfulness, distraction, and weakness. But inevitably, as we ran out of grievances and rants, several moments of thoughtful silence followed our tirade, and one of us would quietly say, "Why can't they be perfect like us?" We'd shamefully giggle, each realizing what we sounded like, but forgiving ourselves for our moment of negativity and trivial criticism. We were far from perfect. Our harsh judgement and criticisms were so undeserved, but reflecting on our words gave us the clarity we both needed to realize how we sounded. And to acknowledge our own imperfections. And to forgive those who don't do everything we expect of them.



Mom is gone now but I am reminded almost daily of our moments of humility after our patience was tested by another's mistake. No, I don't need to be perfect...I just want to be forgiving and accepting when others aren't. Isn't that what Jesus would do?

# Slackwood Presbyterian Church

## April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:30 AM AA Meeting
3 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	4 7:30 PM AA Meeting	5	6 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee	7 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	8	9 8:30 AM AA Meeting 10:00 AM Grace Session Meeting
10 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	11 7:30 PM AA Meeting	12	13	14 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	15 9:00 AM Men's Pancake Breakfast 4:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	16 8:30 AM AA Meeting
17 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Deacons Meeting 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	18 7:30 PM AA Meeting	19 7:00 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	20 7:00 PM Session meeting	21 12:00 PW Meeting 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	22 EARTH DAY	23 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM "Spring in the Air" Grace Flower Exhibit and Demonstrations
24 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services 4:00 PM Service of Reconciliation (Witherspoon Street Church)	25 7:30 PM AA Meeting	26	27	28 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	29	30 8:30 AM AA Meeting

**Upcoming Events: May 13-14 - Spring Rummage Sale  
May 28 - Lawrence Township Memorial Day Parade**

*To submit articles, calendar events, or address changes, please e-mail [BaumannP@aol.com](mailto:BaumannP@aol.com)*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2016

*Do every act of your life  
as though it were the very last act of your life.*

— Marcus Aurelius

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Newsletter of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church