



# The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. Ryan Irmer, Pastor  
Director of Music: Shelley Zuckerman

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April 2017

## ***Being Available***

During my time in Northern Ireland, I came to form a friendship with the "Great Stanley Jackson." He is called that because at one time, many years ago, he was considered one of the top rugby players in all of Ireland. Though it would be easy for a nickname like that to go to one's head, Stanley is actually one of the humblest men I know and is always a delight to visit with.

Stanley shared with me one day how as a young, cocky, and famous rugby player, he was living a life that was undisciplined, unfocused, and unsatisfying. Then he met an older gentleman who talked to him about what it meant to be a Christian. Stanley was intrigued and over time made the choice to place his faith in Jesus Christ. Soon after, Stanley reached out to the same gentleman who had first witnessed to him, shared with him that he had decided to become a Christian and then asked, "Now what do I do?" The gentlemen then replied, "Be available Stanley. Just be available."

As we have focused this Lenten Season on "*Walking the Path of Disciplined Grace*" and learned more about various Spiritual Disciplines, I hope we can recognize that practices like "Fasting", "Study", "Prayer", and "Meditation" simply allow us to be more available to God than we otherwise would. We don't practice them as an attempt to earn anything, nor are they keys to unlocking supernatural powers. No, when done with the correct intentions, they place us in an open posture where we are then more available to receive what God desires to give us.

As we celebrate Easter, let us find a way to be available for the best gift imaginable; the gift of God's grace! Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we now have the opportunity to receive the ultimate gift. Through God's grace we experience love, joy, peace, and forgiveness. My hope and prayer for each and every one of us this Easter season is that we would "be available" to receive such an amazing and wonderful gift; Grace!

Your Pastor,

Ryan Irmer

## SESSION ACTIONS – MARCH 15, 2017

At its March 15 meeting the session:

- voted to renew its subscription for bulletins for children;
- voted to renew the church video license with CVLI;
- authorized money for supplies for work on the vestibule bathroom and the stairs to the second floor;
- authorized money to purchase a baby changing station for the vestibule bathroom;
- authorized money for lighting upgrade work.

## FROM THE DEACONS

*"We need people in our lives with whom we can be as open as possible. To have real conversations with people may seem like such a simple, obvious suggestion, but it involves courage and risk."*

--Thomas Moore, Care of the Soul: A Guide for Cultivating Depth and Sacredness in Everyday Life

Do you know the name of your Deacon? If you don't, please contact Sandra Thomas or Amelia Irmer. We, your Deacons, want you to know that we are here should you like to talk, pray, or simply share any news that you may have. We may reach out to you by phone or schedule a visit at your convenience. Your privacy is of upmost importance to us and we would never share information without your consent.



I am honored to be one of your Deacons and what a privilege it is indeed. It is so wonderful to get to know each other outside of the church building. It is such a blessing to be a part of someone's life, and even more so when we can open up and just be ourselves. As I've grown older, I have come to realize that relationships are what's truly important. Our relationships with God, our family, friends and with all we encounter. God did not create us to live alone, to love alone, or to suffer alone.

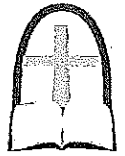
One of the greatest gifts that I have received was visiting a woman at Princeton Hospital. She was a volunteer at the hospital and dying of cancer. She was in her last week here on earth and although her spouse was nervous, scared, and grieving already, Lana was a faithful servant with the love of the Lord in her heart. She was at peace with dying, and instead of me providing comforting words to her, she was the one comforting me and all those around her. She needed to talk about her upcoming death,

her children and grandchildren that she would leave behind. She lived her life serving God and was able to leave it without regret and join God in Heaven. I hope that as a Deacon, I am able to be of comfort to others, and like Lana, am able to leave this life without regret and to be a faithful servant of God.

Amelia Irmer

## HOLY WEEK

Easter is right around the corner. Be sure to join us as we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.



- Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday – Alex Wimberly Preaching
- Thursday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday Service -- 7:00 pm
- Sunday, April 16 – Easter
  - 8:30 am - Early service in the Garden
  - 9:00 am – Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
  - 10:30 am – Easter Service in Sanctuary

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The next meeting of the Slackwood PW will be on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. Please bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided.

Lesson preparation will be from Lesson 8. Scripture background comes from Genesis 12:1-4; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:6-7; 4:23-29.

## MEN'S APRIL BREAKFAST



The April meeting of the breakfast club will be held on Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. 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 21, 2017!

## SPRING CLEANUP

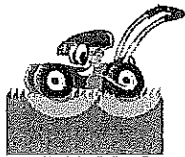


Saturday April 1 was the time for the Spring "Clean-up." Although torrential rains on Friday put Saturday in jeopardy, Mother Nature provided a very cool but rain-free day to complete needed tasks. A determined group of people from Slackwood and Grace did a great job in completing our list of tasks! From edging the sidewalks to

cutting the grass to sprucing up the gardens 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.

### TIME TO CUT GRASS

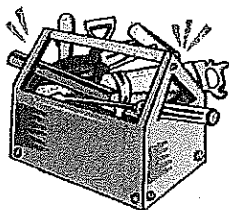
We maintain the church grounds throughout the spring and summer. The Property Committee is always seeking a few good people! If you are available to help in cutting the grass this year please speak to Ginger Baker. She will be glad to fill you in and help get you started.



### 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER STATEMENTS

The first quarter 2017 statements have been distributed and mailed. If you have any questions about your statement please contact Susan Gibbs or Bill Mansmann. They will be glad to assist you with your concerns.

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE



The Property & Finance Committee has been busy this past month. As we all know, there is always something that needs to be done! This past month we have completed

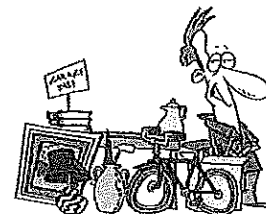
numerous jobs: wind cap installed on the chimney at the manse thanks to Bill Ward, the vestibule bathroom was painted and a baby changing station installed thanks to Carl Belles and the stairs in the vestibule have been refinished thanks to Jim Branson and Bill Mansmann. We are very fortunate to have the in-house ability to do lots of things to keep our facility looking great!

### SPRING RUMMAGE SALE ALL HANDS ON DECK!

The dates for the 2017 Spring Rummage Sale are **Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13**. 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, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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

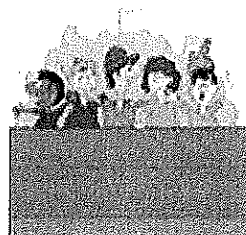
help. There are several ways you can support the rummage sale:

- Bring items to the church to be placed in the shed
- Items can be received at the church **Wednesday afternoon, May 10, noon to 6:00 pm, and on Thursday, May 11, 9:00 am to noon.**
- Help empty the shed. On **Wednesday, May 10 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 on **Thursday, May 11 beginning at 9:00 am**
- Assist in the sale on **Friday, May 12 9:00 – 5:00 pm** and on **Saturday, May 13, 8:30 – 1:00 pm**
- Help in the cleanup **Saturday, May 13 beginning at 1:00 pm**



Thanks,  
Terrie and Bill Mansmann  
Co-chairs

### TRENTON THUNDER GAME

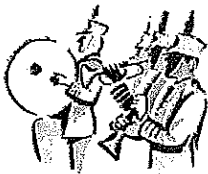


In response to all those who had such a great time at the Trenton Thunder game last year, a trip to the park is planned again this season. A block of tickets has been reserved for Saturday, May 20 for the 7:00 p.m. game against the Portland Sea Dogs. Fireworks will follow the game. Tickets are \$8.00 each. The church bus will be available for those who wish a ride. Reservations must be made by April 30. If you wish to join others in your church family at the ballpark, let Carol Belles know, or sign up any Sunday on the sheet that will be in fellowship hall. You can sign up anytime – you need to pay by April 30.

### MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Slackwood Church will again participate in the Lawrence Township Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 27. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. from the Lawrence High School parking lot. The bus

will leave the church approximately 8:55 a.m., so if you want to go on the bus you need to be at the church by that time. If you plan to parade but don't want to leave that early, there is plenty of parking at the high school and you can meet up with others and the bus by 9:45 a.m. Exploration Preschool will be marching with us. The parade route is an easy walk and a fun time. Plan to come out and let our neighbors in Lawrence see who we are.



## CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

Make sure you check out the great job Lex Chu did on updating the bulletin board in fellowship hall. The Membership & Outreach Committee is working to keep information on that board up-to-date and to display items in a way that will be easy for members and visitors to find and read. If your committee or group has anything it would like posted on the board, please get it to Carol Belles or Lex Chu so it can be included.

## WANTED

If you know of available living space for Theresa Suanno, please call her at 609-989-9409. Theresa would be interested in a one-bedroom, one bathroom apartment in the Bordentown City area, preferably with a washer/dryer and baseboard heat. She would also be interested in a rent-to-buy opportunity in Bordentown City. Maximum rent \$730. Theresa would have to give 60 days' notice to her current landlord.

## WITH SYMPATHY

### *John Philkill*

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of John Philkill who passed away in St. Petersburg, Florida on February 1<sup>st</sup>. John was a long-time active member, elder and trustee of Slackwood Church, along with his late wife, Ruth, and three daughters, Donna, Cyndi, and Nancy. He was also very active in Lawrence Township during the many years he lived in this area serving as a member of the American Legion, the Elks Lodge, and Meals on Wheels. Our memories of John's many contributions will live in our hearts for years to come.

### *Jean Akers*

Our sympathies are also extended to the family of Jean Akers who passed away on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Jean was a lifetime member of Slackwood Church. During her early years in Lawrence Township, Jean and her late husband, Hetzel, worked and served in the township until they moved to California in 1966. Jean continued her volunteer work in Crescent City, working with Habitat for Humanity, Crescent City Historical Society, and many

other organizations. Please keep Jean's sons, Keith and Hetzel, and daughter, Diane, in your prayers, as they mourn the loss of their very special mother.

## THANK YOU

The following note was received from Theresa Suanno for the birthday celebration held in her honor on April 2<sup>nd</sup>:

*Dear Slackwood Church Family,  
My sincere appreciation for all you have done for me, and your lovely gifts. I love you all and will always have you in my prayers. Thank you, Jim and Sherry, for the lovely cake and party.*

## SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

By Kathy Salvatore

The Rich Man

Read: Mark 10-17-27

In our Gospel today, a man ran up to our Lord, and asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Our Lord said, "You know the 10 commandments?" He replied, "I observed these from my youth." Jesus said, "You are lacking in one thing, go and sell what you have, and give to the poor, then you will have treasures in heaven, then come follow me." He looked and walked away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God." With men it is impossible, but not with God for all things are possible with God.

Today, there is a show on TV called, "Let's Make A Deal." We win certain things, but then we are asked, do we want to give up what we have or win the big deal? We have that choice, but it is so difficult for us to give up what we have or pick the big deal!

When we have possessions it becomes hard to give it up and share things. In life we must continue to pray and follow Christ. Give thanks to the Lord with a grateful heart and be satisfied for everything he has given us.

Prayer:

Lord be present with us in our daily life and be able to share our possessions that he has given us for we know all things are possible with God.

**Slackwood Presbyterian Church  
April 2017**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Spring Cleanup 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 7:30 PM AA Meeting	4	5 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee	6 6:30 PM AA Mtg 7:45 PM Debtors' Anonymous	7	8 8:30 AM AA Meeting
9 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	10 7:30 PM AA Meeting	11	12	13 6:30 PM AA Mtg 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service 7:45 PM Debtors' Anonymous	14 GOOD FRIDAY	15 8:30 AM AA Meeting
16 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 AM Early service in the garden 9:00 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 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 12:00 Presbyterian Women 6:30 PM AA Mtg 7:45 PM Debtors' Anonymous	21 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast Club 1:00 PM Daughters of Scotia	22 8:30 AM AA Meeting
23 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 Property Committee 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	24 7:30 PM AA Meeting	25	26	27 6:30 PM AA Mtg 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 Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Services	31 7:30 PM AA Meeting					

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Rummage Sale: Set-up, May 10-11; Sale May 12-13  
Trenton Thunder Game: May 20, 7 pm  
Lawrence Township Memorial Day Parade: May 27, 10:00 am

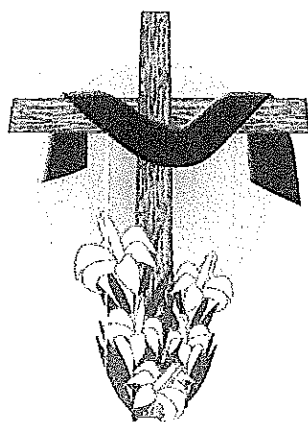
{To submit articles, calendar events, or address changes, please e-mail [BaumannP@aol.com](mailto:BaumannP@aol.com)}

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2017



*He is Risen!!*

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Newsletter of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church