



The Slackwood Grapevine

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
2020 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648-4606

Office: (609) 392-3258

Fax: (609) 392-1650

Website: www.slackwoodchurch.org

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

February 2017

The Key To Loving Others

February: Groundhog's Day. Valentine's Day. Presidents' Day. Black History Month. The Grammys. The Oscars. I'm sure I forgot something but there is a lot going on in February. For the moment, I'd like to write about the Oscars (but it's also related to Valentine's Day and Black History Month). My favorite movie that I have seen in the past year is "*Fences*." Not only is the acting sensational, but the story is raw and powerful and heartbreaking. I'm not going to play "spoiler" because if you haven't seen the movie yet, it is one that I highly recommend. I will simply say that I found the main character, Troy Maxson, played by Denzel Washington to be a tragic figure in that **he could not give love to others because, for some reason, he was unable to receive love himself.**

Last month I concluded our sermon series on "*Living Faithfully in a World of Fear*" by focusing on the famous text found in 1 John 4:10-12:

In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Do you believe that God loves **you**? Do you really?

Do you believe that God loves you so much that He sent His son Jesus into this messy world?

Do you believe that Jesus loves you so much that He laid down His life for **you** (and for every single person no matter who they are or where they are from?)

God loves **you**. Yes you! No matter who you are. No matter what you've done. No matter what! Joseph R Cooke said, "*Grace is the face that love wears when it meets imperfection.*" We are all far from perfect, nevertheless, we are all loved by God solely on account of God's grace.

My hope and prayer is that you know within your heart and your mind and your soul that you are deeply and unconditionally loved by God. For if we do not come to the understanding that we ourselves are loved, we cannot love those around us.

Your Pastor,

Ryan I.

SESSION ACTIONS – JANUARY 18, 2017

At its January 18 meeting the session:

- learned that a number of elders and deacons would be attending the Leadership Training Event at Princeton Theological Seminary on January 21;
- approved the annual statistical report to the Presbyterian Church USA as prepared by the clerk;
- heard that the Adult Forum is reading the book *Ragamuffin Gospel*;
- learned that NJ Direct will be conducting an energy audit on the church building;
- learned that pledges received so far for 2017 are approximately \$4,000 less than 2016.

SESSION ACTIONS – FEBRUARY 15, 2017

At its February 15 meeting the session:

- learned that a directional cap for the chimney at the manse has been ordered;
- authorized the hiring of Dan Barker to do tree work at the manse
- scheduled an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m. on March 1.

Also at this meeting the following one year appointments were made:

Clerk of Session – Carol Belles
Christian Education & Spiritual Growth
Co-Chairpersons - Terrie Mansmann & Debi Moore
Membership, Outreach & Hospitality
Chairperson - Carol Belles
Property & Finance
Co-Chairpersons – Bill Mansmann & Sean Baker
Stewardship Campaign Chairperson – Kate Moore
Worship Chairperson – Sandy Murray
Personnel Committee Chairperson - Mark Thomas
Members - Jill Beebe & Carol Ward
Nominating Committee Chairperson – Kate Moore
Commissioner to Presbytery – Carol Belles
Alternate Commissioner to Presbytery – Fred Mitchell
Liaison with the Grace Congregation – Terrie Mansmann
Church Treasurer – Ginger Baker
Trust Funds Treasurer – Bill Mansmann
Memorial Fund Treasurer – Bill Ward
Financial/Recording Secretary – Susan Gibbs
President, Board of Trustees – Sean Baker
Vice President, Board of Trustees – Fred Mitchell
Newsletter Editor – Penny Baumann
Deacon Liaison – Fred Mitchell

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2017

Election of elders and deacons was held at the January 29 annual meeting of the congregation. We welcome Sean Baker, Terrie Mansmann, Fred Mitchell and Debi Moore to the session and Sherry Branson, Lex Chu, Marilyn Stebbins and Sandra Thomas to the Board of Deacons.

The Session for 2017 is:

Kate Moore
Bill Ward
Terrie Mansmann
Carol Belles
Bill Mansmann
Sandy Murray
Sean Baker
Fred Mitchell
Debi Moore

The Board of Deacons for 2017 is:

Carl Belles
Jim Branson
Amelia Imer
Tami Branson
Marilyn Stebbins
Lilian Young
Sherry Branson
Lex Chu
Sandra Thomas

Also at the January 29 meeting of the congregation, Ginger Baker, Susan Gibbs and Mark Thomas were elected to the congregation's nominating committee, and Arlene Filson, Bob Lesslie and Thomas Okeson were elected to the auditing committee.

We are grateful to all these people for their service to the church.

THANK YOU

Many, many thanks goes to Penny Baumann and Mark Thomas who have completed their term of service on the session, and to Theresa Suanno and Fred Mitchell for their service on the Board of Deacons. Each of these people has given a great deal of time and energy to serving God, our congregation and the community. We are grateful for all they have done and look forward to their continued service.

“THE SHACK” MOVIE NIGHT-MARCH 10TH



Membership and Outreach is planning a family movie night outing to see the movie “The Shack” on Friday evening, March 10th.

The adult discussion group read the book by author William P. Young and found it most interesting. A brief synopsis on the movie: “After his young daughter is murdered during a family camping trip, Mack Phillips spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to the shack where the crime occurred, deep in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack goes there and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.” Please contact Terrie Mansmann (609-510-8225) or sign up in the church fellowship hall. We need a count for the group arrangements. We will be using the bus for transportation to the AMC theatre along with personal cars. Although movie times are not available at this time, we are looking at a time around 7:00pm. If you need assistance with the ticket price (approx. \$12.28 for regular tickets, \$10.68 for seniors and students with ID, and \$9.07 for child), a church member has agreed to help with ticket prices. See Terrie if you need help. Hope you will join us!



for a child’s birthday party. Each basket contained cake mix, baking pans, frosting, candles, decorations, invitations, goody bags, and a gift for the birthday child. Thirty-eight baskets were assembled and donated to Every Child Valued, the after school and summer enrichment program at Eggerts Crossing. Personnel at that program will distribute the baskets to needy families so that every child can enjoy the fun of celebrating their birthday with friends.



The project actually began on Sunday the 15th during the Messy Church time. Participants in that program assembled the goody bags and sorted other donated items so all was ready when workers arrived on Monday. Present on both Sunday and Monday were the founders of the birthday basket program – Julia Davidson Meyers and her daughters. It was those two girls who originally came up with the idea of helping all children celebrate their birthday, and they got their parents on board to help them get the project up and running.

Thank you to everyone who donated so many items for the baskets, as well as the baskets themselves. Thank you to every person who worked on Sunday or Monday assembling baskets. And our thanks to the Meyers family for working with us as we serve our community.

PHOTOGRAPHY LIBRARY

The Membership & Outreach Committee is working on keeping an up-to-date photography collection of events taking place at our church. Sean Baker has agreed to see that photographs are taken at a variety of events, and also to keep a file of digital pictures. If you have any pictures of recent events at Slackwood that you can send to Sean via email, or as you take pictures of events, please send them to sean.baker0610@gmail.com.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

On Monday, January 16 a number of Slackwood members, together with folks from Explorations PreSchool gathered in fellowship hall to assemble birthday baskets. The baskets, which were actually laundry baskets, were filled with everything needed

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, MARCH 1, 2017



At 7 pm on Wednesday, March 1st Slackwood will hold a brief service for Ash Wednesday. For those who would like to receive ashes, this is also an opportunity to do so.

MEN’S BREAKFAST CLUB

Our “Breakfast Club” continues to meet on the third Friday of each month with great success. Join the next meeting on Friday March 17 at 9:00 am at the church. Following an enjoyable meal – maybe green pancakes - we will continue our fellowship by completing small jobs around the church. Mark your calendar and join us on March 17, 2016.



SPRING CLEAN-UP DATE SET

This year Easter Sunday is April 16th. As a result, we will hold a spring "Clean-up" around the church on Saturday April 1, 2017. The harsh winter will hopefully be gone by then. With much to do



around the property, we are hoping for "real" spring weather to get many jobs done. We will gather at 8:30 am and any time you may have to help pitch in would be gratefully appreciated! All that is needed is your willingness to join in the "fun!" So mark your calendar and hope to see you on the 1st!

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE MAY 10-13 – HOLD THOSE DATES!!



Don't forget to mark your calendars for the spring rummage sale. Spring---- yes, it's just around the corner! Right now the shed is 60% full, so if you do some early spring cleaning right now, you can get rid of your "treasures" and put

them in the shed. As we get closer to the sale and the shed is full, we sometimes have to ask folks to hold on to their items until that week. At this time, we are able to accept large pieces of furniture or larger items, thanks to the generosity of Betty Okeson who will lend us her garage storage area. If you have larger items, please contact Bill (609-651-1321) so we can arrange for trucks and help for pickups. But, now is the time to beat the rush! Next month we'll focus on the specific dates, times, and call for help. The dates of the Spring Rummage Sale are **Weds, May 10 – Saturday, May 13 (public sale days are Friday and Saturday).**

Terrie and Bill Mansmann
Co-chairs

EXPLORATIONS PRESCHOOL



Explorations Community Preschool is now accepting applications for summer and fall 2017. Please visit our website or contact Shana for more information. (609) 647-4214

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

by Cathy Salvatore

A WORKER APPROVED BY GOD

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-19

Jesus is our anchor!

Our hope!

We are made to be holy and embraced by God's faithfulness.

We ask Jesus for us to be comfortable and flexible with him around the sanctuary of our lives. We ask him to save us from rigid obedience and decrease harden hearts.

God is Spirit and only the ones who live in the Spirit, will abide in the Spirit and have eternal life.

Action Step:

Let our mind and faith be a worker for God and have an open mind explaining the word of truth.

Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"He preaches on love too much.
That makes me mad!"

Slackwood Presbyterian Church

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	2 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	3	4 8:30 AM AA Meeting
5 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship and Communion 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	6 7:30 PM AA Meeting	7	8	9 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	10 1:00 PM Daughters of Scotia Time TBD – Movie Night, “The Shack”	11 8:30 AM AA Meeting
12 2:00 AM DAYLING SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – Turn clocks ahead!!! 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	13 7:30 PM AA Meeting	14	15 6:00 Personnel Committee 7:00 PM Session meeting	16 12:00 PM Pres. Women’s Meeting 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	17 St. Patrick’s Day 9:00 AM Men’s Pancake Breakfast	18 8:30 AM AA Meeting
19 9:30 AM Messy Church Event 10:00 Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	20 7:30 PM AA Meeting	21 7:00 PM Membership and Outreach Committee	22	23 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors’ Anonymous	24	25 8:30 AM AA Meeting
26 9:30 AM Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Worship Committee 2:00 PM Grace Taiwanese Service	27 7:30 PM AA Meeting	28	29	30 6:30 PM AA Meeting 7:45 PM Debtors Anonymous	31	

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 1 – Spring Clean-up Day
 May 10-11 – Spring Rummage Sale Prep
 May 12-13 – Spring Rummage Sale

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February/March 2017

Let all that you do be done with love

1 Corinthians 16:14

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Newsletter of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church