

# The Sounding Board

P.O. Box 145, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356

April 2019



## SPC Mission Statement

*“To be a friendly congregation where all people can freely come and worship, experience family fellowship, feel the presence of God’s love in a historical and recreational setting, and be a beacon of God’s light to the world”*

Dear Friends,

I know that there have been a lot of questions lately about when we will be getting a new pastor. I am excited to say that we are getting closer to starting the process. We felt, as a Session, that there were many things that needed to be taken care of before we could begin this process. We have been fortunate to have a number of excellent Presbytery people helping us get our “ducks in a row”. They are Rev. Betsy Baker-Smith, Rev. Michael Drake, Sharon Laverdure, Bill Campbell and Bob Nickels, along with our moderator, Rev. Beth Utley.

The Property Message will bring everyone up to date on many of the projects that we have worked on over the last year. With many of the repairs completed or in the works, we felt it was time to start the process of finding a permanent pastor. This can take a while and we believe that our church needs some continuity. Therefore, we have decided to first hire a Transformational Pastor. This person will be here for a defined period of time and will have specific training and skills to help us through these challenging times with consistent preaching, pastoral care, stewardship and long range planning.

This month, we will be forming a committee made up of Session members, Deacon members and members at large, to write our Ministerial Information Form (MIF). The MIF is like our resume and will be used to begin our search with the help of the Presbytery. After that, we will form another committee to begin interviewing candidates.

The Church Sounding Board newsletter will be sent on a regular basis to keep members and friends of Shawnee Presbyterian Church informed about the changes and progress. Initially, it will be mailed but we will be sending it electronically in the future. Please send me your email address so we can update our records.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please talk to any Session member or you can email me directly at [barb514@ptd.net](mailto:barb514@ptd.net). Please continue to prayer for our church and its leadership. We are strong and we will get through this hard time with your help and your prayers.

In His name,  
Barbara Dickinson, Clerk of Session

## ***MESSAGE FROM OUR PROPERTY GROUP***

### **CE BUILDING**

Over the past 12 months many repairs and remediation have been made to our old historical buildings and grounds. Air and water quality were tested and necessary actions taken. Mold, in the basement of the manse and in the CE Building, was taken care with a 10-year guarantee for the work performed.

We discovered a major bat hotel in the attic of the CE Building and started eviction procedures for more than 20 bats and one flying squirrel, and we rid the attic of all the bat guano. This required the complete removal and replacement of all the insulation in the CE building. Openings in the building that allowed bats to enter were closed off and hopefully the bats and other animals will no longer be able to find a home in our CE building.

The roof of the CE Building had some missing slate that needed to be replaced. Fortunately, we had extra slate in the basement that could be used and minimized the repair expense.

Periodic flooding in the basement during heavy rains and frozen grounds has been an issue for several months. The flooding problem seems to be caused by the unpaved back parking lot. Temporary fixes have been put in place and new drainage ordered. There will be new grading of the back, unpaved parking lot which will alleviate the buildup of water by the back door of the CE building. In addition, a drain will be built in front of the rear door that will feed into the existing gutter drain.

### **MANSE**

The Manse remains vacant and Session is evaluating the needed repairs required to bring the building up to standards. The Manse, as with any old building, requires significant care and updates. We are gathering pricing for currently identified repairs and will be having a home inspection to identify hidden problems that we have not yet identified.

This is a taxable building and this operational expense and the cost of required repairs on the building will be taken into consideration when reviewing the actual cost of the Manse to the church and our congregation.

### **CHURCH BUILDING**

After painting the outside of the Church last year, we tackled the interior painting of the Church this year. In preparation to the interior painting, the crack that had resulted from the separation of the 1890 addition from the original church was closed, internally and externally, prior to painting. At this time the entire interior church has been painted.

### **OUTSIDE**

We will continue with landscaping and maintenance plans. There will be a property clean-up day announced soon to help with the cleaning up of fallen limbs and removal of the garbage that has been accumulated over the last year. We hope to utilize the Township May Cleanup Day to remove most of the larger items.

Repair of the old picnic tables with relocation into the cleared area behind the Manse is currently under review. We still have the large grills and hopefully we can utilize them this year for some fellowship events.

### **CHURCH FOUNDATION UPDATE**

We are getting closer to developing a plan to stabilize the 1890 addition with no plan to raise the addition as that may cause additional damage to the addition and/or the original church. .

In late March, the Property Group met with Ken Sandri, Preservation and Resource Manager at Grey Towers NHS, to evaluate the building. It was his opinion that graves are under the addition. With the help of East Stroudsburg University, we hope to conduct a radar study of the exterior perimeter of the addition to provide additional information regarding possible grave locations and implications to this project. We are working to complete this project early this summer. Updates on the progress will be posted in the next newsletter.