

# The Sounding Board

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

May 2017



## 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”*

## ***We are flying now!!!***

Dear Friends,

Spring has arrived and it has been a very active time at SPC! Consistent progress has been made through the efforts of the PNC and Session on so many different tasks that we truly are flying!

The PNC has had their Mission Information Form (MIF) approved by Lehigh Presbytery Committee On Ministry (COM) and now the PNC is actively reviewing potential candidates. Your prayers for them and their efforts are truly welcomed and appreciated.

Our church has received the Monroe County Historical Society PEP Award! This is a wonderful acknowledgement and is an important step towards other acknowledgements, all of which are the foundation for potential financial assistance to address the physical needs of our church building.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Midge McClosky as Part-Time Music Director. Midge has been helping out on a volunteer basis. This change adds more responsibility and tasks plus brings consistency to our music ministry.

Spring is a time for renewal and new growth. With your prayers and support, it is also a perfect time to think about what you can do for the Church as we continue our transition process. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Bill Dolph, Shawnee Presbyterian Church – Clerk of Session

## ***WHO IS OUR MODERATOR, WHY DO WE HAVE ONE, WHAT DOES THE MODERATOR DO?***

Our Moderator is the Reverend Edmund T. Freeborn. He has been with us since the fall of 2016. But what does he do and why is he “our” moderator.



Session meetings are normally moderated by a called and installed pastor with the minutes being recorded by a Clerk of Session. The installed pastor, serving as moderator, presides over the Session as “first among equals” and must be present for all Session motions, votes and decisions.

When a congregation does not have an installed pastor, as is the case here at SPC, the Presbytery appoints a minister member or elected member of the presbytery as moderator with the concurrence of the local church session. This presence of the appointed moderator provides guidance to Session as it meets to discuss the many issues that need to be handled in the life of the church and the ability to make decisions.

Our moderator also works with and guides the PNC in their efforts, providing additional assistance that is instrumental to the smooth transition to our next chapter in the life of SPC.

Beyond the administrative guidance that the moderator provides, our moderator has also offered himself to us for additional pastoral care responsibilities. He has visited members when possible to offer comfort and has performed such services as occur in the life of a church and its members. We are thankful that our moderator has been so involved with and supportive of Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

Currently serving as the Pastor at East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, our moderator, Rev. Freeborn, is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and has been a Presbyterian minister for over 40 years, serving congregations in Iowa, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia.

After serving a Presbyterian congregation in upstate New York for 17 years, and immediately prior to coming to the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, Rev. Freeborn served Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and School, a large, military family oriented parish in Hampton, Virginia, for eight years as Executive Associate Pastor and Associate Headmaster. He is committed to ecumenical relationships and interfaith dialogue while maintaining his core Presbyterian beliefs.

Rev. Freeborn graduated from Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the department of religion and philosophy and from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa with the Master of Divinity degree. He completed all courses for the doctor of ministry degree at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, but through that process discovered his love for pastoral counseling and clinical supervision. He completed clinical certification and is a Diplomate in Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy of the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy.

He has supervised the training of clergy and religious professionals in hospitals and parishes in New York and Virginia. He is Clinical Supervisor of the Wycliffe Institute of Pastoral Care in Virginia Beach, Virginia, making use of internet technology to train clergy.

**WHO IS OUR MODERATOR...**  
**(cont'd)**

Rev. Freeborn does extensive pastoral care and counseling at East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, and within the East Stroudsburg University and local community. Leading his church's campus ministry mission, Rev. Freeborn is regularly seen on the ESU campus connecting with students, faculty and staff. He also supports and serves the larger church in numerous capacities and often provides counsel and support to clergy as a "friend in ministry"

Rev. Freeborn and his wife Deborah have been married for more than 40 years. They are the parents of three adult sons and their wives, of whom they are very proud, and four adorable granddaughters and soon, if not already, a brand new grandson. Rev. Freeborn and Debbie enjoy time with family and friends, sporting events, the arts, museums, history, and reading.

**PASTORAL NOMINATING**  
**COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is made up of Barb Ross, Chairperson, Michelle Siptroth, Secretary, Mike Sodano, Treasurer, Nancy Fish, Steve Walston, Ginny Kirkwood, Vince Della Fera, Patti Jo Dolph and Steve Clemmons.

Our Ministry Information Form (MIF) was approved by Presbytery in the beginning of March and we have been matched with numerous applicants since then. We have been reading through their resumes and have contacted a few that we have especially liked. This is a process that will take time as we work to ensure that we find a pastor that works well with our church and congregation.

Please continue to keep the committee in your prayers as we work together to bring a new pastor to Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

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**Don't forget..... July and August -  
worship begins at 9:30am!**  
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**HOSTEL COMMITTEE**

**2016/2017 Season Review**

The hostel is a fundraiser where we charge groups to stay in our CE building in conjunction with Shawnee Ski Mountain. The group sales department at the mountain does all the paperwork and gets the groups. The groups are mostly Boy Scout troops, though we sometimes get cub scouts or church youth groups. Barbara Ross, Chair of The Hostel Committee, reports that winter 2016/ 2017 was a great season!

In preparation for this season, members and friends of the congregation spent many hours cleaning the CE building. In addition, the bathrooms were given a makeover, including new sinks and faucets. We thank Michelle and Dan Siptroth and Barbara Ross for the donation and installation of the new sinks and faucets.



There were 13 groups who stayed from January 7 through March 12. Every weekend there was a group and on three different weekends we had two different groups!

We have "Hostel Hosts" for each group who greet each group when they arrive, show them around and then are on call in case something happens. This year's greeters were Michelle Siptroth, Steve Clemmons, Pete Ferguson, Chris McClosky, Linda Jennings, Lee Bower, Mike Sodano and Barb Ross. Thank you to each of them for helping out and making this fundraiser run very smoothly. Pete also was a big help in the billing department and making sure the propane was always full.

**A total of \$6700 was raised for the church!**

## UPDATE FROM BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

There are a multitude of projects that have been identified and prioritized for attention regarding all of our facilities. Here is an overview of some of these projects.

With the search for a new Pastor underway, the Manse has been targeted for major projects in the first half of 2017. Removal of the trees and bushes from around the Manse late last year revealed several areas of concern. These included the siding, the porch and front steps. Additionally, we noted that interior rooms are in need of painting updates. We also identified asbestos in the basement and a minor problem with the boiler. The asbestos was professionally removed this winter and we were provided with a state approved certification of mitigation. The boiler was also repaired.



The exterior aluminum siding will probably have to be repainted rather than cleaned. We are working on solutions for this. Lastly, the front porch will be scraped and painted, the front steps will be removed with a new railing put in their place. We will be planting a ground cover



along the hillside in front of the manse to eliminate the need for cutting grass on the slope, thereby eliminating the potential for accidents or gouging of the hillside.

With the Manse currently unoccupied, we chose to maintain a minimum temperature of around 50 degrees to protect the interior plaster walls from potential freeze/thaw damage. A Temperature/Water alarm was

placed in the front window so that, as happened on February 1<sup>st</sup>, if the heat falls below 40 degrees the alarm's warning light will blink to make us aware of the problem so corrective action could be taken.

Thanks to the efforts of Steve Clemmons last year, the garage is newly painted and has since been cleaned out. Currently it is being used for storage of items to be removed during spring cleanup. Signs, Snow Blower and Generator for the CE building are also currently being stored in the garage.

Behind the manse is a shed which we plan to paint white to match the manse and garage. We look forward to having this project completed by members of the congregation, just like was done with the garage, to help keep our costs down. The shed is currently being used to store additional Rummage Sale items and Sign committee equipment.

As for the church itself, we have been meeting with various engineers and contractors to identify a cost effective and permanent solution to the crack. We are also planning on repainting the steeple, window frame, trim and doors this year as well as repairing the weather vane at the top of the steeple.



Thanks to the newly recognized historical status, we are now able to apply for grants that we previously were not eligible for. While we don't know what, if any grants we will be awarded, knowing that there is the possibility gives us additional encouragement.

We welcome input, both the intellectual kind and the sweat equity kind, from members and friends of SPC. Contact Lee Bower or Mike Sodano to learn more about what is planned and how you can help!



***SHAWNEE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH RECEIVES 2017 P.E.P.  
AWARD FROM MONROE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION***

The Monroe County Historical Association accepts nominations each year for Annual Historic Preservation Awards. The historical association presents three Historic Preservation Awards to business and/or individual owners of historic buildings who have shown their dedication to preserving and enhancing Monroe County's wealth of historic structures.

The three categories to be judged are: private residence, non-profit 501(c)3 organization/publicly-funded, and commercial properties. The Monroe County Historical Association recognizes property owners that have continued upkeep, rehabilitated and/or restored their structures in a manner that preserves and respects the historical character of those buildings.



Our church was selected as the 2017 NONPROFIT/PUBLICLY-FUNDED WINNER! We received recognition from the State Senate and the State House of Representatives along with a plaque that we will frame and install once the weather breaks. Thank you to Mike Sodano for his efforts throughout the lengthy application process.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

We have the final numbers for One Great Hour of Sharing 2017... \$348.25! Thank You!

Keeping with the tradition here at SPC of giving, but giving for specific purposes, here is where the money will be going. Descriptions are from the OGHS 2016-2017 Giving Catalog.

**Pair of Goats...** "Goats enhance food security through milk, cheese, butter, and yogurt. These valuable foods offer nutrition to those when need it most. The gift of a pair of goats is one that will keep providing." Cost for a pair of goats is \$178.00.

**Family of Chickens...** "A high-production chicken can lay on egg almost every day. Families of chickens could provide a family with an ongoing source of food and nourishment." Cost for five (5) families of chickens at \$25.00 each is \$125.00. This will help five different families!

**One share of a cow...** "By supporting sustainable and humanely-raised livestock production, you reduce the negative impact of factory farms and strengthen family producers who are implementing responsible farming practices". Cost is \$45.00

Bee hive kits were considered but that was \$240 and it was thought that based on what we received, the choices we made gave us the biggest bang for our bucks! Piglets were also considered but they would require the family to spend money raising it until it can be sold at market which is a speculative benefit.

Oh, the remaining \$0.25, we will use that to defray the cost of postage for sending in the order form!

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***Want to receive this Newsletter via  
email? Send your email address to us at  
shawneechurch@verizon.net***  
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**We (continue to) Reach Out To The World!**

Thanks to the efforts of our Radio Committee and it's support from the IT Committee, we continue our mission of reaching out and providing God's message beyond the four walls of our beautiful church.

*We are very pleased to announce two new sponsors of our radio station, The UPS Store in the Eagle Valley Shopping center and Sonia's Sweet Inspirations located at 927 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Stroudsburg, PA. We thank them for supporting us and hope that you visit them to let them know how much we appreciate it.*

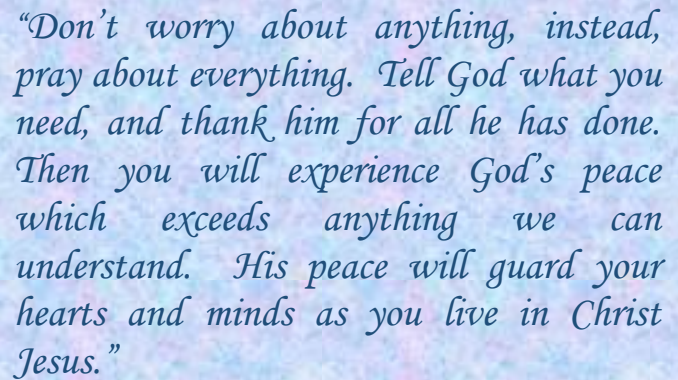
**Birthday List**

Matthew Siptroth 5/1  
Harold Needham 5/5  
Rachel Siptroth 5/14  
Barbara Ross 5/14  
Greg Back 5/15  
Debbie Ballinger 5/16  
Jack Kirkwood 5/19  
Michelle Siptroth 5/28  
Theresa Rooth 5/30  
Don Miller 5/31.

Dale Viernstein 6/3  
Joe Marasco 6/7  
Tim Ross 6/10  
Judy Williams 6/17  
Simon Albert 6/20  
John Liguori 6/20  
Bella Okula 6/28.

Cory Fish 7/7  
Annabelle Albert 7/15  
Ellie Liguori 7/16  
Steve Della Fera 7/17  
Charles Kirkwood 7/20  
Rose Ann Whitesell 7/24  
Maggie Della Fera 7/24  
Tom Kirkwood 7/24  
Mary Wolbert 7/25

If we don't have your birthday, please contact the Church Office. Thank you and Happy Birthday to all!



*“Don't worry about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”*

**PULPIT SUPPLY**

Our pulpit continues to be filled by truly wonderful individuals, each bringing their own styles of presentation.

Many of the individuals that have been leading us in worship were highlighted in our January newsletter. Below and on the next page we bring you information on additional individuals that have been, or will be, leading us in worship. We thank each of them for their wonderful support

In our last newsletter it was said that many times a church in our position will find it difficult to fill the pulpit, but in our case we have been able to reach out to highly dedicated individuals that have a true caring for us as we go through our transition. The latest pulpit supply schedule, subject to change of course, is included with this newsletter.

**Rev. Matilda Chase**

Rev. Matilda Chase lives in East Bangor PA with her husband and is an Honorably Retired Teaching Elder in the PC(USA). Rev. Chase serves as the chair of the Lehigh Presbytery Committee on Ministry. She works part-time for the Iona Community – New World Foundation in the US and is an Associate Member of the Iona Community. Rev. Chase is trained as a Spiritual Director using the discipline of St. Ignatius in her work.

In her spare time, Matilda is learning to be a potter and plays the violin in the Pocono Community Orchestra and loves to lead tours around the world with Rev. Roney. The next tour is scheduled for September of 2017, traveling to Germany to learn more about Hildegard of Bingen and celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

### **Rev. John Heinsohn**

John was born and raised on a dairy farm outside of Bangor Pa. He graduated from Penn State in Forest Science in 1967. He received a Master of Divinity from

Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque Iowa.

After over three years as Associate Minister at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church in Liberty Corner, NJ. In the early 1970's, John became the pastor of the Kingston Presbyterian Church near Princeton NJ for 36 years.

Upon retirement, John and his wife moved to Nazareth, Pa in 2010. For the last three years John has been working part-time at the Community Presbyterian Church of Mt Bethel and Portland as a Visitation minister.

John's hobbies include gardening and beekeeping. John and his wife have four children and eight grandchildren.

### **Rev. Dr. Lloyd H. Kenyon**

Dr. Kenyon was born and raised in Rhode Island and educated at Eastern Baptist College and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Later, he received an honorary doctorate from that institution for outstanding church leadership.

He has served three churches: Richmond Hill Baptist Church in Long Island, NY; Calvary Baptist Church in Allentown, PA; and Preakness Baptist Church in Wayne,

NJ. Upon retirement, he served as interim pastor at many churches, concluding with First Baptist Church in America, founded by Roger Williams in 1636, in Providence, Rhode Island.

In addition serving local churches, Dr. Kenyon has been president of both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Baptist Conventions, President of the National Home Missions Society, Chairman of the Board of the Senior Sisco Village, and Chairman of the Wayne Clergy Fellowship. He has taught at Toalc, a community outreach program of East Stroudsburg University, for the last 15 years with, typically with more than 50 students in the class.

Traveling to more than 51 countries, he has led tours to Israel, Greece, and Turkey. Dr. Kenyon and his wife, Elizabeth currently reside in Dingmans Ferry, PA. They have been married for 63 years and have three children and six grandchildren.

### **Shawnee Presbyterian Church**

#### **Historical and Mission Video**

Contact any Session member and for a \$10 donation to the Shawnee Presbyterian Church Building fund you will receive your own CD of the video to treasure for years to come. If paying by check, please have the check made out to Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

***Thank you for your support!***



# Shawnee Presbyterian Church

P.O. BOX 145  
Shawnee-on-Delaware, PA 18356  
(570) 421-5518



## SHAWNEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PULPIT SUPPLY SCHEDULE

May 7th, 2017	Rev. Gerrit Baker-Smith
May 14th, 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
May 21st, 2017	Rev. Dianne Kareha
May 28th, 2017	Rev. Tom Bartha
June 4th, 2017	Rev. Dianne Kareha
June 11th, 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
June 18th, 2017	Rev. Matilda Chase
June 25th, 2017	Rev. Erika Beer-Gerhard
July 2nd, 2017	Rev. Elizabeth Baker-Smith
July 9th, 2017	Ms. Chera Wertz
July 16th, 2017	Ms. Nicole Vogel
July 23rd, 2017	Ms. Chera Wertz
July 30th, 2017	Ms. Nicole Vogel
August 6th, 2017	Rev. Dianne Kareha
August 13th, 2017	Ms. Chera Wertz
August 20th, 2017	Ms. Nicole Vogel
August 27th, 2017	Rev. Dr. Lloyd Kenyon
September 3rd, 2017	Rev. Dianne Kareha
September 10th, 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
September 17th, 2017	Ms. Chera Wertz
September 24th, 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim

(effective 05/01/17, subject to change)