

The Sounding Board

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

August 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”

A Bright Future Awaits!

Dear Friends,

I am very happy to share with you the good news about our new pastor, Anthony San Filippo. Our PNC nominated him for our Congregation’s consideration and approval. Anthony preached at SPC on June 25th and was approved by the Congregation during a Congregational Meeting that same day. Following our approval, Anthony was examined by Presbytery on July 11th and was approved by and accepted into Lehigh Presbytery. Many members of our congregation were in attendance to support him.

Anthony has chosen SPC to be the location for his Ordination Service! This special service, which will also be an Installation Service installing him as Pastor of SPC, is scheduled for Saturday, August 19th at 2:00pm. Many of Anthony’s family members, friends and representatives of Presbytery will be there. All members and friends of Shawnee Presbyterian Church are invited to attend and there is a copy of the official invitation on the last page of this issue of the Sounding Board.

Anthony and his wife, Hope, will begin moving into the Manse in mid-August. Anthony’s first Sunday in the Pulpit will be September 3rd. Our journey to get to this point has re-instilled a comradery among our members and enlightened us about how our church, both locally and nationally, works for the betterment of all.

Thank you for your support during the past year! Welcome Anthony and Hope!

Sincerely,

Bill Dolph, Shawnee Presbyterian Church – Clerk of Session

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PASTOR - ANTHONY SAN FILIPPO

Our new pastor, will be moving into the Manse this month! If you were with us at worship in June you may have receive a handout about Pastor Anthony and his family. We are happy to share this with you now to introduce our new Pastor!

Where are you from? Most recently, Gettysburg and Mercersburg, PA. Before moving to Pennsylvania in 2011 to attend seminary, we lived in Davie County, NC, just west of Winston-Salem. It had a population of about 37,000. Only one high school, though!

But you don't sound completely Southern. Nope- I was born and raised in New Jersey until I went off to college in North Carolina. My mom is from North Carolina and my dad was first-generation American. His parents were from Sicily.

Do you have a family? Yes. Hope, my wife, and I have been married twenty eight years this July. We have two kids, John and Katie. John, 23, graduated from Wesleyan University in Connecticut last May and is living and working in Denver, CO. Katie, almost 22, was a junior at Guilford College in North Carolina, majoring in English. She is now seeking a college to which to transfer so she can minor in Linguistics. Hope and the kids are some of the finest folks that I know. I'm blessed!

How did you and Hope meet? Volunteering as leaders with our church's high school youth group. I initiated a Habitat for Humanity building trip for the youth group and Hope and I got to be best friends on it. (I love telling folks who are going on their first Habitat trip that story and watching their eyes as they think, "Could that happen to me?").



INTRODUCING OUR NEW PASTOR -

ANTHONY SAN FILIPPO... (cont'd)

Does Hope have a career?

Hope has taught students from kindergarten to community college, and has won several awards for her teaching. Her specialties are ESL (English as a Second Language) and Spanish. Most recently, Hope has taught Spanish and coordinated international exchanges at Mercersburg Academy, an independent boarding school in Mercersburg, PA. We have been living in a dormitory with sixty boys and three other faculty families.

Have you always believed in God?

Yep! And I have been “churched” since I was a child. I went even when my parents didn’t go. I’ve been blessed by the church families to which I’ve belonged. Blessed by people like a Sunday School teacher, Mr. Johnson, and my own high school youth group leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Whitlock. They’ve had a life-long impact on me. They showed me what it means to be in a community with the faithful and helped me experience the love, security and joy that comes with people who, together, are exploring and living our Christian faith as best we can.

Why are you Presbyterian?

I was actually raised Episcopal and Lutheran. I then attended Presbyterian colleges and fell in love with Presbyterian worship. Over the past forty years since then, I have come to value deeply our theology and form of church government, too. Hard not to value a denomination where our Living, Loving, Triune God is sovereign, the members govern and pastors are servant-teachers, not rulers.

What did you do before you started the journey to pastoring?

General contracting and real estate development and investment. Way back, also farmland preservation and environmental education and policy work. Basically, my professional life has centered around trying to answer the call, commands and examples of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to live in love and harmony with one another and Creation.

How did you decide to be a pastor?

I didn’t really “decide,” even though faith and church have been vital to me since I was a little boy; I was called. In the fall of 2009, we were visiting Pennsylvania boarding schools for John, took the wrong road, and drove by Gettysburg Seminary. That’s when God planted the seed, “*Think about going to seminary.*” The field was already plowed, for I was overflowing with the tremendous grace and love we had received from folks while I was fighting cancer. So not a choice really in the end; God wouldn’t leave me alone. I got tired of saying “No” and felt God’s peace when I finally submitted and said “Yes” in June, 2011. I started in the fall. That wrong road turned out to be the right road!

What was one of the most important parts of seminary to you?

Being a pastor-intern for almost two and a half years at a Presbyterian church. The church had about 250 members and a total of about 500 women, men and children. My responsibilities included preaching, and preparing and leading worship; helping reimagine, preparing lesson plans for and facilitating a multi-generational Adult Sunday School class; pastoral care; participating in Session meetings; serving on the steering Sub-Team of the Future Planning Team (including construction project

planning); assisting the Habitat for Humanity effort and increasing its visibility in the congregation; Men's Breakfast; helping restructure the Youth Ministry Program; helping the healing to start on a festering wound from before I arrived; aiding the Interim Process, as the congregation moved from the retirement of their pastor of sixteen years into the present and future, including strategic planning and implementation; and acting as the *de facto* solo pastor for one month between the departure of the installed pastor and the arrival of the interim. The real-world experience of my internships have been invaluable to me. Perhaps the church's Internship Committee's Final Evaluation of my tenure there says it best: "Anthony was thrown a lot of curve ballsall of which he handled well. He dealt with unique circumstances like the retirement of a pastor, the building of an addition, and even sour attitudes surrounding the departure of the previous leader [the Associate Pastor] of the small group he was assigned to lead. He navigated each challenge and turned every trial into a learning opportunity. Anthony has an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, and we can think of no better trait in a pastor, who as a spiritual leader is called not only to teach his flock, but also to learn from them."

What do you for fun?

Hike, bike, exercise, read, travel, and watch movies and sports. I have also coached middle and high school wrestling, both professionally and as a volunteer.

What are your favorite sports?

Amateur wrestling and football.

**PASTORAL NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

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

Our entire Congregation and the friends of Shawnee Presbyterian Church truly appreciate the committee for all of their dedication!

***Don't forget - Starting in September,
worship begins at 11:00am***

PULPIT SUPPLY

While we have been in the period of transition from one pastor to another, we have been blessed by wonderful individuals filling our pulpit every Sunday. These individuals arrived as strangers and have become inspirational friends to all of us at Shawnee Presbyterian. We are grateful for the following individuals...

Rev. Elizabeth Baker-Smith
Rev. Gerritt Baker- Smith
Rev. Thomas Bartha
Rev. Matilda Chase
Rev. John Heinsohn
Rev. Dianne Kareha
Rev. Dr. Lloyd Kenyon
Rev. Dr. Grace J-Sun Kim
Rev. Donald Prytherch
Rev. Andy Reinstra
Ms. Nicole Vogel
Ms. Chera Wertz

As an additional thank you, each of these individuals has been sent a Shawnee Presbyterian Church Historical and Mission Video as a remembrance of their time here at Shawnee.

GOLF TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The 16th annual Shawnee Presbyterian Open was held on May 3 at Shawnee Inn and Golf Club. 66 golfers were in attendance this year.

We had a record 20 Tee Sponsors which included ***Burak Chiropractic Center (2), Waring Bowman Realty, Rudy's Tavern, Minisink Hotel, Shawnee Mountain Ski Area, Saen Thai Cuisine, Stony Brook Inn, Smith Surveying, Julian Kirk CPA, Ken Miller Electric, Walt Prigge (Good Job Nancy), Jackie Banahan (SPC Members and Friends), Pocono Wellness & Sports Center, Home Heating Associates, Shawnee General Store, Law Sound and Lighting, Covenant Insurance, First Keystone Bank, and VFW Post Watnong 3401.***

Also, the tournament generated a ***record \$5200*** this year for the church...always a good time and always great fellowship! Thank you everyone for your support!

Next year's tournament has been slated for May 2, 2018. Mark your calendars!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have led us in worship during this time of transition. Thank you to the PNC for your work and dedication. Thank you to the Building and Ground Committee and their volunteers for all you have done. Thank you to the Cemetery Committee for your prompt responses to the needs of the bereaved. Thank you to Session for all of your support. Thank you to our Moderator – Ed Freeborn for his guidance and wisdom. Thank you to the ***many*** unnamed who quietly made things happen. Thank you to the Congregation for your continued care for and support of Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

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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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HOSTEL PREVIEW

2017/2018 Season Preview

Yes, it is still summer but it is not too soon to think about how you could help with our Hostel Program. During the winter months, we offer our CE Building to groups that want to stay here and ski at Shawnee Mountain. Last year there were 13 groups who stayed from January through March.



We are looking forward to another successful season this winter. While final plans are being put in place for this season, you may want to consider being a "Hostel Host" where you will greet the group when they arrive, show them around and then are on call in case something happens. You will be given an orientation on what to do so that you feel comfortable being a "Hostel Host". If you would like to be a greeter and part of this important fund raiser for the church, please contact Barb Ross.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has completed more projects since our last newsletter, more than can be mentioned here. The hours and hours of time they have spent, along with volunteers from the Congregation and the community, have made a lasting impression. Many projects and tasks go unseen, but are nonetheless necessary. Others are quite visible. Here is list of SOME of the work that work that has been done...

- Painting of the outside of the church and the steeple and repair of the weather vane on the steeple.
- Removal of overgrown shrubs and trees around the manse
- Re-wiring of the electrical in the shed and installation of new LED spot lights on shed to illuminate the rear parking area and garage
- Grooming of the yard and removal of the play equipment
- Cleaning and repair of the Manse Fish Pond
- Removal of the front steps to the manse porch and addition of new rail on the Manse Porch
- Power Washing of the Manse and touch up paint of the exterior of the Manse where power washing removed the paint from the aluminum siding
- Painting of the complete interior of the Manse as well as the Manse Porch and Railing
- Cleaning of the Manse basement
- Replacement of most of the incandescent lights in the Manse, inside and out, with LEDs to save electricity

- New Porch off of the Kitchen
- New Appliances for the Kitchen and Laundry room
- New Sidewalk from driveway to Manse
- New Paving of Parking Lot
- All Gutters on the Church, CE Building and Manse have been cleaned
- Mulched the lawn in front of the Manse Porch

At the end of this summer, we will have the driveway area along the side of the CE building graded and re-stoned... at no cost to us!

To help defray the cost of the work on the Manse, an appeal was made to the



Congregation for “Angels of the Manse”. We are very thankful that we received over \$1500 in cash donations in response to this appeal. A special thank you to the Thanos and Scott families for their contribution towards making the new appliances happen.

We are also thankful to the contractors and vendors that helped by reducing our costs for items like the appliances and by providing extra service, like repair of the weather vane, at little or no additional cost.

Other projects are in the works and volunteers are always welcome. Contact Mike Sodano or Lee Bower!

FALL DATES TO REMEMBER

Rally Day September 24th, 2017
Tricky Tray November 19th, 2017

**LEHIGH PRESBYTERY
MODERATOR'S GATHERING**

We will be hosting the Lehigh Presbytery Moderator's Gathering on October 22nd from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. This will be the second time this year that Shawnee Presbyterian has hosted a meeting for Lehigh Presbytery. In May we hosted the Annual Reading of the Minutes for Clerks of Session from churches in the Northeast District of the Lehigh Presbytery.

The October Moderator's Gathering meeting is open to congregation members, session members and clergy from the Northeast District of the Lehigh Presbytery. This includes Shawnee, East Stroudsburg, First Stroudsburg, Brodheads ville, Mt. Bethel, Delaware Water Gap, and Pen Argyl.

The primary purpose of the meeting will be for the Stated Clerk, Marsha Heiman, and the Moderator, Dr. John Felch, Jr., to listen, answer questions and bring what they learn back to share with Presbytery leadership.

In anticipation of Presbytery's request for RSVP information about attendees, if you would like to attend please send an email to our church office or call and leave a message. We will keep track of the numbers and notify Presbytery at the appropriate time.

Birthday List

Wow, do we have a lot of birthdays between now and October. Happy Birthday to one and all!

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Midge McClosky 8/1
Karen Kishpaugh 8/1
Richard Kishpaugh 8/1
Charles Kirkwood 8/3
Emma Kirkwood 8/6
Nik Salamone 8/8
Barbara Liguori 8/11
Carlena Back 8/13
Scott Dietrich 8/15
Peter Kirkwood 8/18
Tim Kirkwood 8/19
Alyssa Holland 8/25
Rich Hickman 8/28
Marc Sulinski 8/28
Connie Meyer 8/29.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amy Marasco 9/3
Mary Horn 9/4
Steve Clemmons 9/6
Dan Siptroth 9/8
Mike Sodano 9/10
Kathy Darr 9/11
Nan Needham 9/13
Ginny Sodano 9/13,
Dixie Wilson 9/13
Steve Walston 9/14
Christy Sulinski 9/22
Bonnie Frock 9/23
Gus Fleck 9/24
Audrey Rooth 9/24
Amy Albert 9/25
Nelka Poci 9/25
Chris Ross 9/25
Chris McClosky 9/29
Bev Waring 9/30.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Mia Okula 10/2
Stefan Poci 10/3
Carol Pollack 10/11
Bobby McClosky 10/11
Ginny Kirkwood 10/12
Reilly Marasco 10/12
Craig Fish 10/13
Owen Dietrich 10/13
Nancy Shoemaker 10/15
Christian Holland 10/18
Andrew Marasco 10/21
Bill Roulette 10/22
Sean Bower 10/29.



*The Lehigh Presbytery
and
Shawnee Presbyterian Church
cordially invite you to the*

Ordination & Installation

of

Anthony J. San Filippo

as Pastor

on

Saturday, August 19, 2017

At 2:00 p.m.

***At the Shawnee Presbyterian Church
1129 Shawnee Church Road
Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356***

*Reception at the historic Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort after the service.
Please plan on joining us to share food and fellowship!*

*Please RSVP to the church by Sunday, August 13, 2017
if you will be attending the service, the reception, or both.
570-421-5518 or shawneechurch@verizon.net*