

The Sounding Board

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

February 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"

Dear Friends,

There has been much progress since our last newsletter, it is truly amazing!

At the end of November our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) was formed. They met in early January, were given instructions by our Lehigh Presbytery Committee On Ministry (COM) and have been working on completion of the Mission Information Form (MIF). The MIF has been completed by our PNC, approved by Session and is now in the hands of COM!

In addition to the PNC work, Session has been keeping the pulpit supplied with wonderful pastors. In this issue of The Sounding Board you will find a biography of those that have been serving us so well along with the Pulpit Supply schedule through the end of June.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Jackie Banahan as Part-Time Ministerial Assistant. Though she has been helping out on a volunteer basis with the production of the bulletin, this change adds more responsibility and tasks plus brings consistency to the office and administrative area.

Wherever this newsletter finds you this winter, I hope you are thinking warm thoughts and prayers for Shawnee Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Bill Dolph, Shawnee Presbyterian Church – Clerk of Session

Rummage Sale

Where: Shawnee Presbyterian Church
When: From 9:00am to 4:00pm,
Friday, April 28th 2017 and Saturday,
April 29th 2017. Volunteers are
welcome! Contact Sylvia Miller, Bill
Dolph or the church office.

Please bring your items for the
rummage sale AFTER the first of
March. Thank you for your support!

Inclement Weather Policy

Just a reminder - in the event of
inclement weather, please call the
church office 570-421-5518 on Sunday
morning, after 8:00am, to hear whether
services have been canceled for that
day.

Shawnee Presbyterian Church

Historical and Mission Video

It was with pride and pleasure that on
November 6th 2016 our congregation
and friends were informed that our
self-study had been completed. A
video was presented that was an
important part of the self-study. The
video, which was so warmly received,
is now available to all congregation
members, friends and the community.

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!

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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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Birthday List

Nicholas Keiper 2/5
Susan Horn and Kelly Horn 2/6
John Fetherman 2/10
Chelsea Keiper 2/12
Norman Fetherman 2/13
Peter Ferguson 2/13
John Moyer 2/14
Vincent Della Fera 2/14
Kayla Fish 2/16
Kelly Okula 2/16
Pam Wyckoff 2/17
Lee Bower 2/28
Chris Okula 2/28
Michael Albert 2/29.

Jon Liguori 3/1
Billy McClosky 3/2
Nancy Schuchman 3/2
Linda Jennings 3/5
Bob Schuchman 3/6
Malcolm Waring 3/7
Bob Walter 3/10
Nancy Fish 3/12
Christian Marasco 3/14
Brian Horn 3/16
Henry Meyer 3/16
Bill Dolph 3/22
Patti-Jo Dolph 3/24
Carole Fuller 3/29
Leroy Jennings 3/29
Steve VanWhy 3/30.

Nancy Goucher 4/9
Sylvia Miller 4/11
Mike Horn 4/12
Dee Poston 4/14
Charlotte Rooth 4/11
Timothy Marasco 4/28.

If we don't have your birthday, please
contact the Church Office at 570-421-
5518. Or, send an e-mail to the church
office: shawneechurch@verizon.net.
Thank you and Happy Birthday to all!

2017 EASTER LILY
ORDER FORM

Lilies will again grace our sanctuary this Easter season. To order your Easter Lily, please complete the form on the right and give it to the Church office, P.O. Box 145, Shawnee on Delaware, PA 18356 or call at 421-5518. The Lilies are \$8.00 each. Checks may be made out to "SPC Deacons" and the deadline for ordering is Tuesday, April 4th.



We Reach Out To The World

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

It is amazing how often we hear of people that have been listening to our station, WSCP-LP 104.9. They call and leave messages of thanks on our church phone and have even mentioned it to some of our Pulpit Supply Pastors.

Having control of our website, www.shawneechurch.net, has allowed our IT Committee to keep it updated more quickly and to add new and different features.

If you would like to help in these ministries, contact either of the committee chairpersons (Vince Della Fera – Radio Committee, Steve Walston – IT Committee).

Please Print Clearly

Dedication:

In Memory of

1st
Plant _____

From _____

2nd
Plant _____

From _____

3rd
Plant _____

From _____

Total "In Memory" ordered: _____

In Honor of

1st
Plant _____

From _____

2nd
Plant _____

From _____

3rd
Plant _____

From _____

Total "In Honor" ordered: _____

Total Lilies Ordered: _____

Total Amount of Money Attached:

\$ _____

Pastoral Nominating Committee

In November of 2016, at our Congregational Meeting, our Pastoral Nominating Committee was created. This committee will be working very diligently over the next few months on the call of a new pastor to our pulpit. The committee is made up of nine members - Barbara Ross, Mike Sodano, Steve Walston, Steve Clemmons, Ginny Kirkwood, Nancy Fish, Patti-Jo Dolph and Vince Della Fera.

At their organizational meeting on January 4th, 2017, they met with our Moderator, Ed Freeborn, and learned that he will also be our Lehigh Presbytery Committee on Ministry representative. The PNC learned what their responsibilities are, the tasks and processes that must be completed and appointed officers. Barbara Ross is the Chairperson, Michelle Siptroth is Secretary, and Mike Sodano is Treasurer.

Keep the committee in your prayers as they work together to bring a new pastor to Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

PULPIT SUPPLY

We have been truly blessed with the variety of individuals that have been leading us in worship the last few months. They have brought many different styles of presentation, provided wonderful thought provoking sermons and have maintained the time honored traditions of Shawnee Presbyterian Church that are so important to our congregational family.

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. No longer are these individuals strangers and no matter how often they are with us leading us in worship they are now part of our Shawnee Presbyterian Church family. We are so grateful for them.

Here is a little information on the individuals that have been, and will continue to be, leading us in worship during our transition.

Rev. Tom Bartha

Tom and Mary Bartha moved to the East Stroudsburg area in May, after serving for the last 14+ years as pastor of the Pompton Reformed Church in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. Prior to that Tom pastored churches in Ada, Michigan and in Riverdale, Illinois, just south of Chicago. Tom is a 1981 graduate of Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, one of the seminaries training pastors for the Reformed Church in America. Years prior to seminary Tom graduated from Heidelberg University in Ohio, and Mary is a graduate of the College of Wooster (Ohio).

Mary and Tom enjoy hiking and exercise, reading, travel, attending concerts and time with family. Their four daughters—three married, one single, two grandsons-- live in Michigan, Georgia, Pittsburgh, and Fargo, North Dakota. All spent Christmas together in Mary and Tom's East Stroudsburg home. (By the way, they purchased the home of former Shawnee members Andy and Mae Rienstra).

The Bartha's have made a good adjustment to retirement, with a priority of assisting churches in transition. They are delighted for opportunities to worship with the Shawnee congregation.

Rev. Elizabeth Baker-Smith

Betsy Baker-Smith was born and raised in Spokane, Wa. She graduated from Pomona College and the School of Theology, both in Claremont, CA; worked in campus ministry at Oregon State University, 1975-78. Met Skip at General Assembly in Philadelphia, 1977.

She served 3 small, 'very' rural churches with Skip as co-pastor in the Inland Northwest for 22 years. . Between church jobs Betsy and Skip served for a year as Mission Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity in Georgia and another 20 months at a Presbytery owned mission/farm site in Wapato, Washington.

Skip and Betsy are proud parents of two adult children: Christy (36, New York City) and Daniel (33, East Stroudsburg), both married, with pets. Skip & Betsy came to the Poconos in 2007 to take care of an elderly relative, to work at Kirkridge Retreat Center, and to be near their daughter in New York City.

Rev. Gerrit Baker-Smith

Skip Baker-Smith was born and raised in Lancaster, PA. Graduated from Millersville College, North Carolina State, McCormick Seminary and the Graduate Theological Foundation. He served 4 years in the Coast Guard during the Vietnam era in Asia & the Pacific. He served 3 small, 'very' rural churches with Betsy as co-pastor in the Inland Northwest for 22 years.

Between church jobs Betsy and Skip served for a year as Mission Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity in Georgia and another 20 months at a Presbytery owned mission/farm site in Wapato, Washington.

Skip and Betsy are proud parents of two adult children: Christy (36, New York City) and Daniel (33, East Stroudsburg), both married, with pets. Skip & Betsy came to the Poconos in 2007 to take care of an elderly relative, to work at Kirkridge Retreat Center, and to be near their daughter in New York City.

Rev. Dianne Kareha

Rev. Dianne Kareha earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and in Health and Physical Education from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA, where she met her husband, Dr. Michael Kareha (who died from cancer in 2004). She subsequently earned a Master of Science degree in Education from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA, as well as Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling degrees from Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA.

From 1993 through 2016 Dianne served as Chaplain for Luther Crest Senior Living Community in Allentown, PA, where she now lives her husband, the Rev. John Deisinger, a previously widowed Lutheran pastor whom she met at Luther Crest. Rev. Kareha continues to serve as a supply preacher and a supply organist/choir director for various congregations, a Parish Associate for First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, Convener and Publicity Chair of the Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk, and an Ambassador with the PC (USA) Special Offerings Leader Support Network, as well as delivering Meals on Wheels and singing with the Emmaus Chorale, Luther Crest Chorus, and Melodiannes.

Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim

Grace Ji-Sun Kim is an Associate Professor of Theology at Earlham School of Religion. She has a M.Div. from Knox College and a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. She is an ordained PC (USA) minister.

She is the author or editor of 10 books:

- *Making Peace with the Earth*
- *Embracing the Other*
- *Here I Am*
- *Christian Doctrines for Global Gender Justice* co-edited with Jenny Daggers
- *Theological Reflections on "Gangnam Style"* co-written with Joseph Cheah
- *Reimagining with Christian Doctrines* co-edited with Jenny Daggers
- *Contemplations from the Heart; Colonialism, Han, and the Transformative Spirit*
- *The Holy Spirit, Chi, and the Other*
- *The Grace of Sophia.*

She writes regularly for The Huffington Post, and has written for TIME, The Nation, and The Feminist Wire. She is a member of the World Council of Churches working group on Climate Change. She has lectured and preached in Korea, Myanmar, Canada, Spain, Germany, Peru, Geneva, Brazil, Qatar, South Africa, Turkey, and all over the United States.

Rev. Donald H. Prytherch

The Rev. Donald H. Prytherch served as our guest worship leader on New Year's Sunday, January 1. Don is a retired minister of Newton Presbytery in New Jersey, living now within the bounds of Lehigh Presbytery in Stroudsburg PA and sharing a home with his sister Carol Matthews. He has

served pastorates at the Schooley's Mountain NJ Presbyterian Church, The Presbyterian Church of Flemington NJ, Kenmore Presbyterian Church of Kenmore NY, and Bethel Presbyterian Church of Bethel Park PA – as well as four interim pastorates at The Presbyterian Church of Madison NJ, Old Bergen Church of Jersey City NJ, First Presbyterian Church of Blairstown NJ, and First Presbyterian Church of Stirling NJ. He is a graduate of Waynesburg University and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Among Don's interests are photography and aviation, and singing in the Jazz Mass Choir at the annual COTA Festival in Delaware Water Gap. He maintains a computer family list for over 220 folks in his extended Welsh-American Prytherch family in 20 states, and he and Carol were able to visit cousins in Wales in 2008. He is active in the St. David's Welsh Society of the Slatebelt, serves on the Board of Directors of the North American Welsh Foundation international scholarship organization, and will be participating in the North American Festival of Wales to be held Labor Day weekend of 2017 in Rochester, New York.

Rev. Andy Reinstra

Andy was born in Paterson NJ, January 14, 1935. As a pastor's son he lived in New York State, Michigan and Wisconsin during elementary and high school years. He graduated from Calvin College and Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and received a doctorate in ministry from Princeton Seminary.

He served for 32 years as a Chaplain in the US Air Force both on active duty and in the reserves.

Andy served churches in Miami, Florida, Clifton, NJ and Pompton Plains, NJ. Since retirement he has done part time interim ministry in South Bend

Indiana, New Brunswick, NJ, and Nutley, NJ. Presently he works for the Reformed Church in America as a Retiree Chaplain visiting retired ministers and spouses and widows of pastors of the RCA living in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

He is a survivor of prostate cancer and non-Hodgkins lymphoma, having had a stem cell transplant and right shoulder replacement in 2010. His wife of 55 years, Mae was killed in an auto accident in 2014. He now resides in Wharton, NJ and has 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

Ms. Nicole Vogel

Nicole is currently a student at Moravian Theological Seminary seeking her Masters of divinity. She is under care as a candidate of the Lehigh Presbytery and serving at East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church as a student pastor. She was ordained as elder in the PC(USA) in 2012.

She has served the church in many capacities including session member, chaired evangelism committee, co-chaired fundraising committee, presbytery commissioner, Presbytery shared gifts committee, youth group leader, choir member, peace and justice committee, and co-chairs prison ministry.

She is married to Christopher Vogel and together they have two children, Kylee age 9 and Gavin age 5, and reside in Easton, Pa. She is hard working and dedicated to sharing her faith journey with others. She enjoys spending time with family, reading, and spending time in nature.

Ms. Chera Wertz

Chera Wertz grew up outside of Bloomsburg Pa in the small rural area of Orangeville. She graduated from Central Columbia High School in 1988, received a bachelors degree in Rehabilitative Sciences with a concentration in Developmental Disabilities from Clarion University in 1992, her Masters of Social Work from Marywood University in 2003 and is currently a part time Masters of Divinity student at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University. Currently she works for a local hospice as a social worker and bereavement coordinator.

Chera currently resides in Reading, PA with her husband Michael and their son Caleb (16 months old). She and Mike and will celebrate 14 years of marriage this October. Currently Chera is a member of Pennside Presbyterian Church, where she has served both as an ordained Deacon and an Elder, and is the Vice President of Session and Chairperson for the Worship Ministry Team.

In her free time, which is limited with working per diem, going to school part time and loving every minute of being a mom to a 16 month old, she enjoys riding her purple Harley Davidson Sportster 883, photography, the beach, skiing, and being a mom. She looks forward to spending more time with our congregation and getting to know more of us.



Shawnee Presbyterian Church

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



SHAWNEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PULPIT SUPPLY SCHEDULE

February 5 th , 2017	Rev. Tom Barthä
February 12 th , 2017	Rev. Tom Barthä
February 19 th , 2017	Rev. Tom Barthä
February 26 th , 2017	Rev. Tom Barthä
March 5 th , 2017	Rev. Elizabeth Baker-Smith
March 12 th , 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
March 19 th , 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
March 26 th , 2017	Rev. Gerrit Baker-Smith
April 2 nd , 2017	Rev. Gerrit Baker-Smith
April 9 th , 2017	Rev. Andy Reinstra
April 16 th , 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
April 23 rd , 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
April 30 th , 2017	Ms. Chera Wertz
May 7 th , 2017	Rev. Gerrit Baker-Smith
May 14 th , 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
May 21 st , 2017	Rev. Dianne Kareha
May 28 th , 2017	Rev. Elizabeth Baker-Smith
June 4 th , 2017	Rev. Dianne Kareha
June 11 th , 2017	Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim
June 18 th , 2017	Rev. Matilda Chase
June 25 th , 2017	Rev. Erika Beer-Gerhard

(effective 1/15/17, subject to change)

