

Serving this Summer!



August 2017

INTERPRETATION

Newsletter of Sewickley Presbyterian Church



We aspire to be a CHURCH where the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ is
FAITHFULLY PROCLAIMED and FAITHFULLY LIVED
in grateful response to God's love.

OFFICE

Hours

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

Phone

412.741.4550

Fax

412.741.1210

Address

414 Grant Street
Sewickley, PA 15143

Web Address

www.sewickleypresby.org

MEMBERSHIP

New Member classes are held several times throughout the year. Please call Sharon Barber in the church office to sign up or you may sign up online.

NEWSLETTER

The SPC newsletter, **Interpretation**, is published once a month. The deadline for submitting content is the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please make submissions to Jennifer Johnson at jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org.

VISITATION

If you or a member of your family are in the hospital and would like a visit, please call the church office to let us know.



SPC STAFF

REV. KEVIN J. LONG

Pastor
home: 412.741.2075
klong@sewickleypresby.org

REV. SARAH BIRD

Associate Pastor
sbird@sewickleypresby.org

REV. STEWART LAWRENCE

Volunteer Parish Associate
jeanstewl@gmail.com

SHARON BARBER

Assistant to the Pastor
sbarber@sewickleypresby.org

DAVE BREIT

Media Engineer
dbreit@sewickleypresby.org

RICI BROCKINSON

Childcare Supervisor
rbrockinson@sewickleypresby.org

MIKE CREAMER

Director of Youth Ministries
mcreamer@sewickleypresby.org

R. CRAIG DOBBINS, CCM

Director of Music Ministries
cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org

JEREMY FISHER

Worship Leader
jfisher@sewickleypresby.org

JENNY HAY

Director of FriendShip Preschool
jhay@sewickleypresby.org

JENNIFER JOHNSON

Director of Communications
jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org

BRIAN MACK

Director of Children's Ministries
bmack@sewickleypresby.org

LAURA MIKUSH, CCA

Business Administrator
lmikush@sewickleypresby.org

BETH ROM

Volunteer Coordinator
bethrom@live.com

STEPHANIE SMITH

Administrative Assistant
ssmith@sewickleypresby.org

ELIZABETH SZUBA

Youth Program Coordinator
eszuba@sewickleypresby.org

CHARLIE BARNHART

WILL BETTS
JOEY TOMALES
Custodial Staff

SUMMERTIME WITH JESUS

by Rev. Kevin J. Long

Summertime is a wonderful season for so many reasons. It's a time to get away from the grind, spend time with family, enjoy the pool or the beach, receive some much-needed rest, and explore new places or enjoy old favorites. It's also a good time for us to reevaluate our relationship with God, to reconsider our priorities, and to start some new practices as we prepare to kick off the busy fall season. Hopefully, summer is also a slower time when we can learn to pay more attention to what Jesus is up to in our midst. When life is crazy, we are usually so consumed with all the stresses and details of life that we are not very good at noticing what Jesus is trying to say or do in our lives. The truth is, Jesus is always present and up to something, even on laundry day.

One of my seminary professors once said that if you add up all the days in the four gospels, it only comes out to a year at most, but Jesus was with his disciples for about three years. That means that for two out of every three days, Jesus looked at Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and said, "Don't even bother writing this one down." So what was Jesus doing for all that time? Well, he was probably doing some fishing, maybe a little construction, and getting some much-needed vacation. Even back then they had laundry day, so some days Jesus and his disciples just did laundry together. Now that might not sound all that exciting, but even while washing clothes Jesus was still teaching and loving his disciples -- shaping them into the people he created them to be. Could you imagine getting to spend the entire day with the Savior, even if it was just doing laundry? How amazing would that be?



The good news is that we do get to do that because Jesus has promised to always be with us on vacation, at work, at church, and even in the laundry room. He is there, still teaching us, still shaping us, and still saving us. With as loud and busy as our lives often are, maybe quietly washing and folding clothes is one of the easier places for us to listen to the voice of the Savior. The truth is, we can hear him anywhere if we are paying attention. So as you work and travel this summer, my hope is that you will take some time to slow down and consider your relationship with Jesus, and spend some quality time listening to his voice. He has already given you his Word. It makes for wonderful summer reading.

In Christ,
Kevin

SUMMER WORSHIP

May 28 - September 3

**8 AM & 10 AM Worship Services
Held in the Sanctuary**

No Sunday School Classes

SAVE THE DATE

- September 9..... Day on the Lawn
- September 10..... 10 AM Worship Service Only
- September 16..... Organ Dedication
- September 17..... Fall Worship Schedule Begins
Organ Dedication
- September 23..... Duffy Robbins Seminar
- September 24..... Mission Fair

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- About SPC.....2
- Summertime with Jesus.....3
- Summer Worship.....3
- Save the Date.....3
- New Chapel Organ.....4
- FriendShip Preschool.....4
- Montreat Review.....4
- Try Something New.....5
- Youth Ministry.....6
- SPC Kids.....8
- Mission Matters.....9
- Chonde CCAP..... BC

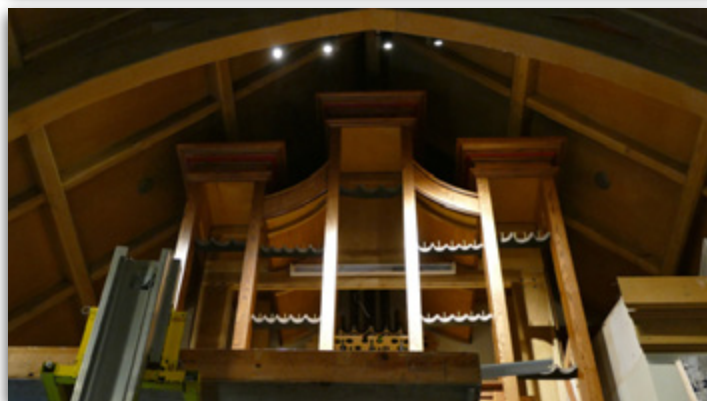
NEW CHAPEL ORGAN HAS ARRIVED

Following the 8 AM service on Sunday, May 21, the chapel was closed for the summer and preparations were made for the arrival of the new organ. The long-decaying and fraying carpeting was removed and the room was painted for the first time (according to church maintenance records) in more than thirty-three years.

In addition, preparations which began in the chapel balcony in the winter were completed. These included installing a new door for balcony access, removing the old risers, reconstructing the flooring, installing new lighting and electrical service, relocating the sound equipment, and adding space for soloists on the west side of the balcony.

On Friday, July 21, a large truck from the Bedient Pipe Organ Company pulled up to the church. Several volunteers from the congregation assisted with moving the organ components into the chapel on Saturday morning, July 22. The formal installation process began later that day and is expected to be completed by July 28. The tonal finishing of the instrument will be completed the first week of August, with installation of a new railing system for the balcony to follow shortly thereafter.

Be on the lookout for additional news about the upcoming organ dedication in September.



FRIENDSHIP PRESCHOOL

Although the FriendShip Preschool 2016-2017 school year came to a close the end of May, June was still very busy in FriendShip with many preschool activities.

The Children's Corner room hosted nine Summer Fun days in early June. Outdoor play and daily themes provided for lively mornings. Also in June, the FriendShip Land of Make Believe summer camp was held from June 24-28. Under the guidance of the Children's Corner staff, the younger camp of 18 children had fun learning to use their imagination exploring daily themes with the beloved *Three Little Pigs and Three Bears*, *Pinkalicious*, *Dinosaur Danny* and *Ginger Baby*.

Teachers Susan Fox, Jenny Hay and Heather Taylor-Martin led the preschool camp for the 3 to 5 year old children. *Where the Wild Things Are*, *the 7 Chinese Sisters*, *Jack in the Beanstalk*, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* and *Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy* provided daily imaginative themed activities, crafts, music and games every morning. The summer camps are always enjoyed and nice to have a mix of children together forming new friendships.

-- Jenny Hay, Director of FriendShip Preschool

REPORT FROM MONTREAT

This June a group of singers and handbell ringers from our congregation traveled to our denomination's national conference center in Montreat, North Carolina to attend of the Conferences on Worship and Music. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains thirteen miles east of Asheville, Montreat lies nestled in a narrow valley under the watchful eyes of the Lookout and Rattlesnake Mountains.

Those participating this year were Toby Graham, Yvonne and Don Zier, and Craig Dobbins. Don Zier had this to say about his experience: "The bell choir classes really challenge me and help me grow as a ringer." In addition to participating in handbell and choral ensembles, we attended Bible studies, and classes on congregational song, to name a few, as well as making glass beverage stirrers and experiencing other art media.

-- Craig Dobbins, Director of Music Ministries



"The spiritual and physical atmosphere is so uplifting and relaxing that I am never ready to come home at the end of the week."

Yvonne Zier

Try Something New!

HANDBELL CHOIRS

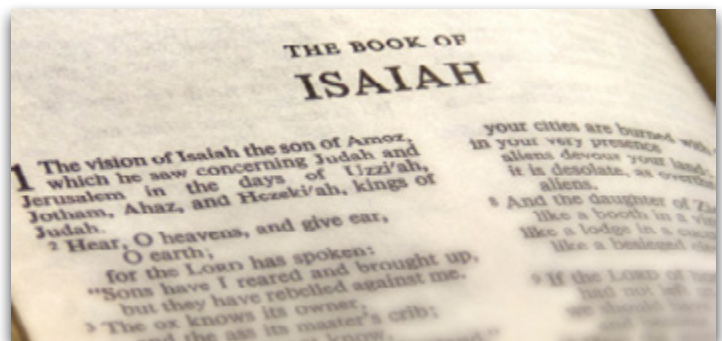
We are fortunate to have two wonderful bell choirs at SPC -- the Westminster Ringers and the Calvin Handbell Choir. The choirs are always looking for new people to join them. Learning how to play the bells isn't difficult and it's a lot of fun to prepare and to play beautiful music during worship. Both substitute ringers and permanent ringers are needed.

If you are interested in being a part of the choirs, please contact Craig Dobbins at cdobbins@sewickleypresby.org or 412.741.4550.



SCRIPTURE READERS

During every worship service, a lay reader reads scripture from the podium before one of our pastors delivers a homily. Lay readers are an integral part of our worship service as they read specific Bible verses based on the pastors sermon. It's easy to sign-up! Lay reader opportunities are posted on our website on the Sign-Up Here page. We'd love for you to be a part of this special time on Sunday mornings. Questions can be answered by contacting Rev. Sarah Bird at sbird@sewickleypresby.org or 412.741.4550.



AMAZON SMILE

How many of you shop on Amazon? Did you know that Amazon offers a program called Amazon Smile that donates .5% of eligible purchases to a charity of your choice?

The only thing you need to do is to register Sewickley Presbyterian Church as the non-profit that you would like your donation to go to. Visit Amazon Smile and the site will lead you through the VERY EASY process!

If 100 people at SPC shop on Amazon each week and spend \$50, then approximately \$250 would be donated to the church. It's that easy!





HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP TO BUCKHANNON, WV

This year our high school students joined our adults for our annual mission trip down to West Virginia. We spent the week building decks off of trailers, replacing ceilings, sorting and organizing clothing donations. Although we were working against the rain the first few days, we still were fortunate enough to finish all of our work before heading back home.

Beyond learning how to hammer nails and work power tools for the first time, our students also had the opportunity to build relationships with the adults in our church family. One of the coolest parts of the week was having Noah, a teen that lived at one of the work sites, join us for work each day.

Each morning and evening we had a time for devotions and a time for debriefing about the day's work, sharing with one another our thoughts about what we were doing and why. On top of that, it was a blast playing some Spikeball and throwing the frisbee around in the evenings. Our time together in Buckhannon was very special and we are grateful to our entire church family for supporting us both financially and prayerfully to get us there.

-- Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries





MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP: PITTSBURGH PROJECT

Over the last three years we have been building a relationship with The Pittsburgh Project. We've taken our middle school students to the North Side each summer to contribute to the great work they are doing there.

This year, we returned again and had a blast. With over 200 other students around us we were in great company for a fantastic week of service. Alongside our fearless leaders, Caryn Doege and Andrea Hayden, we had two great teams of teenagers going out to work on two separate work sites. Our jobs included replacing ceilings, walls, painting both walls and ceilings, building a small ramp, replacing a bad faucet, and plenty more in between. One of the most special moments of the week was when Rae (a homeowner's son) joined one of our crews to work for the week! He was so excited to see the team each day and join them for work on his own house. He definitely left a lasting impression on our teens.

Each night we came back from our work sites, showered (thank goodness the importance of this was stressed), played some

games like 4-Square and Gaga Ball, then we all worshiped together during Club. The speaker for this week was Mark Williams, a Pittsburgh native that works on the North Side as an elementary school teacher, Urban Gardener, musician, and much more. While challenging us about what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves, Mark pointed out how special trips like these are because teens walk away telling you about how they painted walls, fixed leaking pipes, and trimmed weeds. His point was that if their parents said "hey, go paint those walls and fix those leaky pipes, and when you're finished trim the lawn" that just about every one of us would complain and resist. There is something about joining together to serve others in the name of Christ that brings us excitement for the mundane.

Loving our neighbors is not always glamorous, but we have been commanded to do so regardless. This week was filled with laughter, dancing, hard work, and worship. We cannot wait to do it again next year.

-- Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries





ABIGAIL BRINGS PEACE

Chances are that on the same day you're reading this, our church is filled with dozens of children for our Vacation Bible School. Yet as I'm writing this, we're still a few weeks away, which means I'm about waist deep in decorations, catalogs, gadgets, and lesson plans.

The curriculum we use for VBS uses popular Bible stories each year, as well a few lesser known ones. The final lesson this year is "Abigail brings peace," and it's one of David's stories in the Bible. While David is still in the midst of his feuding with Saul, he and his men are hanging out by Nabal's property. Nabal was a very wealthy man. While there, David's men protected Nabal's shepherds while they were tending to their goats and sheep. Soon after a feast day, David sent some servants to ask in peace if they could attend the feast with Nabal. However, their request was met with harsh words and insults. On hearing this, David grew angry and vowed to gather his men and destroy Nabal's house. This is where Abigail comes in. Having heard of the exchange her husband had with David's men, she quickly set out to remedy the situation. She gathered bread and wine, cakes and raisins, and prepared sheep for a feast and rushed out to meet David. She offered him peace and reconciliation. David quickly saw the error in his ways, realizing he would have immediately regretted attacking Nabal. In the face of anger, malice, and pride, Abigail countered with peace, understanding, and "good sense."

In one single action, Abigail saved her family, prevented the future king, David, from committing a terrible sin, and her life was blessed. God made each of us for a reason: for Abigail, it was a great act of peace, for David, it was to rule as King, and for each of us it could be any number of things. In a world that at times is full of sin and violence, a single act of kindness can make a world of difference to someone.

God made you for a reason, so go out and live accordingly.

-- Brian Mack, Director of Children's Ministries

MISSION MATTERS

DAY ON THE LAWN



September is quickly approaching! Day on the Lawn will be here before we know it. This is our biggest mission project of the year and we need your help to make it a success!

Helping with Day on the Lawn might seem like a chore, but it's actually a lot of fun! The day of the sale brings so many people to our church. Hundreds wander around the property looking for bargains -- and they do indeed find them. We need help in many areas: donation days, preparation week, and the day of the sale.

DONATION DROP-OFF DAYS

Saturday, August 5 | 9 AM - 12 PM
Saturday, August 19 | 9 AM - 12 PM
Wednesday, August 23 | 5 - 8 PM
Friday, September 1 | 9 AM - 12 PM
Saturday, September 2 | 9 AM - 12 PM

There are still five donation drop-off days left until the big day. Please consider signing up to help. Each day consists of receiving donations, sorting, and taking donations to various areas of the church campus to hold until the day of the sale.

PREPARATION WEEK

September 1 - September 8

Each department is responsible for setting their own set-up schedule. Sign-up for a department and you'll be contacted about the schedule.

DAY OF SALE

September 9 | 9 AM - 3 PM

Join us for this great day! Volunteers begin the day with a breakfast served by men of the church. After breakfast, we all meet at the front of the church and pray for the day. Then the sale begins!

We need cashiers, those to help customers, security, and clean-up. Get to know others in the church by taking part in this mission project. You won't be sorry!

Visit our website to sign-up or you may sign-up in the Robinson Room too. If you have any questions, please contact Art Bomberger at 412.480.1558 or Becky Senior at 412.741.7274.

CALCULATORS NEEDED

Have your kids graduated leaving behind school supplies no longer needed? The Center For Hope could use your unwanted TS80, or similar, graphing calculators to be kept at CFH for use by students there. Contact tinathomas99@verizon.net if you are able to help.

MAY DINNER BY THE NUMBERS

Dinners Served: 104
Seconds Served: 28
Take Home Meals: 49
Volunteers who shopped & cooked: 24
Volunteers who served: 30

JUNE DINNER BY THE NUMBERS

Dinners Served: 91
Seconds Served: 22
Volunteers who shopped & cooked: 3
Donation of Indoor Summer Picnic: 1 family
Food prepared by: Safran's Supermarket
Volunteers who served last night: 25
Of the 25, 9 were first time volunteers at CFH

JULY DINNER BY THE NUMBERS

Dinners Served: 88
Seconds Served: 32
Take Home Meals: 24
Volunteers who served: 39



Thank you for the great turn out on Saturday, June 17. We had a bit of a surprise with the ramp construction in the front of the building, but everyone recovered quickly once the decision was made to run the distribution from the loading dock in the back of the school. Thank you for looking around to find the distribution and rolling with the changes!

For those that are new to the distribution, clients must register household information to receive food. We served 416 clients and the food will feed 936 people in their households. It is great work to help so many neighbors with food insecurities in just 3 1/2 hours! Please share these numbers with others in your group that may not receive this email and pass along our appreciation for their efforts to fight hunger! Our next distribution date will be October 21. We'll be in touch in September with a call for volunteers.

-- Bill & Diane Glas

MISSION MATTERS

PEACE HOUSE REFLECTION

We were both born in Guangxi Province, China, and through Holt International, were placed into our forever home in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Over the years, our parents said they wanted to take us back to visit China before we left for college. We were okay with this idea, but still were apprehensive. So many unknowns! But, this was finally the summer for China.

Talking and thinking about the upcoming journey over the winter months, we decided that our first trip back to China should include the elements of thankfulness and giving. Thanks to the people who cared for us in our early life and giving to those who still live in orphanages as we once did. Reaching out to Holt International for ideas of how to give, we were directed to Tara Pell, Sponsorship Representative. Tara took the time to make some inquiries and find the perfect match for us: the Peace House in Beijing. Serving orphans across China with special needs, the Peace House provides care to strengthen children so they can have successful surgeries. They also provide post-operative support and help on the way to adoption.

Going into this service project, we knew it would be a unique and an unmatched experience on so many levels. What we didn't expect, however, was just how meaningful our fundraisers and presentations would prove to be. In the beginning, we had set one goal: to raise three thousand dollars to fund one orphan's heart surgery. What we actually received was four thousand dollars and a staggering amount of donated gifts for the orphanages we were to visit. We also were fortunate to receive beautiful, unforgettable welcomes from toddlers and caregivers alike.

We were truly able to understand the purpose of our work when we had the opportunity to visit the Peace House headquarters in Beijing, China. Unlike our suburban world, we anxiously arrived at the 26th floor of a city skyscraper for our visit. The woman in charge, Sue, warmly welcomed us, showing us around the office, introducing us to her friendly staff, and easily answering any questions we had for her. She was so generous with her time, but what surprised and pleased us the most was that she allowed us to visit the children staying and recovering at the Peace House.

It's true that several things most noticeable about these children were their frailness and physical deformities. However, when we walked down the hallway and entered the nursery, several toddlers enthusiastically ran or scooted to the door to greet us. If their wide smiles and playful demeanors were anything to go by, as they played with their dozens of toys, it was clear that every single child was well cared for and looked after. The children were all so adorable and sweet, and we got to play with them! It was so much fun being able to laugh with them as they tugged on our hair and wonderfully demanded attention. Several, very young, laid in little bassinets; their job is to grow strong enough for surgery. What a gift to see exactly for whom the money raised was benefiting. And it was wonderful to see how devoted the nannies were, attending to the ten children currently in their care.

**Sunday, August 13
9 AM | Dining Room
Anya & Mishon will be on-hand to
talk about their trip to China.**

Now, that being said, it was still heartbreaking to realize how these kids had been abandoned just because of their disabilities; it just doesn't seem fair. And yet, at the same time, it was unequivocally heartwarming to know that organizations like the Peace House and Holt International are doing all they can to properly care for these orphaned children and to make sure they receive the medical services needed. It was inspiring to see how dedicated the staff members were to improving the lives of children in need, working every day to take care of them and eventually finding them permanent homes. By the time we left, there was no doubt that those children were in the best hands.

As for the donated gifts, including crayons, makeup, coloring books, toys, etc.; they were all safely delivered to the two orphanages we had once lived in. Every item joined us on our Chinese tour through Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, and Guilin before arriving at their destinations! At our two orphanages, the work, as in the Peace House, is impressive; nannies and teachers with big hearts and big smiles work in creative ways with these children, most with special needs, many who will never be adopted. The warmth of these caregivers and appreciation of the gifts and our visit was evident by parting tears.

This journey was an eye-opener for us. Really! Most of the time, when you make donations and give funds to different organizations, you don't get the chance to personally see how your contributions are helping to make the world a better place. However, starting this project and personally seeing it through, as thoroughly as we could, has been a gift. It has given us a taste of environments much different than our own, but to which we are connected and for which we care.

In summary, the support for this project was incredible; it amazed us how quickly everyone stood behind us, whether they were friends and family, fellow students, or our congregation. We had people we hadn't met who wrote us notes thanking us for the opportunity to be a part of such a mission. We had a mother of a mentally impaired child ask if the Peace House serviced such children, to which we were able to answer "yes". We felt that our presentation for this project touched people in different ways; they found a personal connection or gained insight into a situation they wanted to help. Therefore, we knew when we were in China, that we were just the representatives of all the kind and generous people whose hearts supported this mission. With people like them in the US and the wonderful people working for children in China, the world is a little better!

-- Anya and Mishon Levine

View pictures from our trip on the next page.

MISSION MATTERS

PEACE HOUSE REFLECTION



Mishon visiting her orphanage



Two babies at Peace House with physical and mental challenges



Mishon at the Peace House



Anya presenting gifts to her orphanage



Anya at Peace House – fun playing with her hair



Wonderful nanny with sweet baby



Sewickley Presbyterian Church

LIVE · GROW · SERVE

414 Grant Street • Sewickley, PA 15143

Dated Material

PLEASE EXPEDITE!

This newsletter is published by
Sewickley Presbyterian Church
www.sewickleypresby.org

MISSION PARTNER: CHONDE CCAP

Recently, SPC sent our partner church in Malawi, Chonde CCAP, a banner for their church building. We also have the same banner displayed in the Robinson Room. Pictured below are some members of the church with the banner!

