

INTERPRETATION

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Newsletter
November/December 2018



Knitting for Mission
See page 11 for details

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NEWSLETTER

The SPC newsletter, **Interpretation**, is published six times a year. Please make submissions to, or if you have any questions contact, 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.

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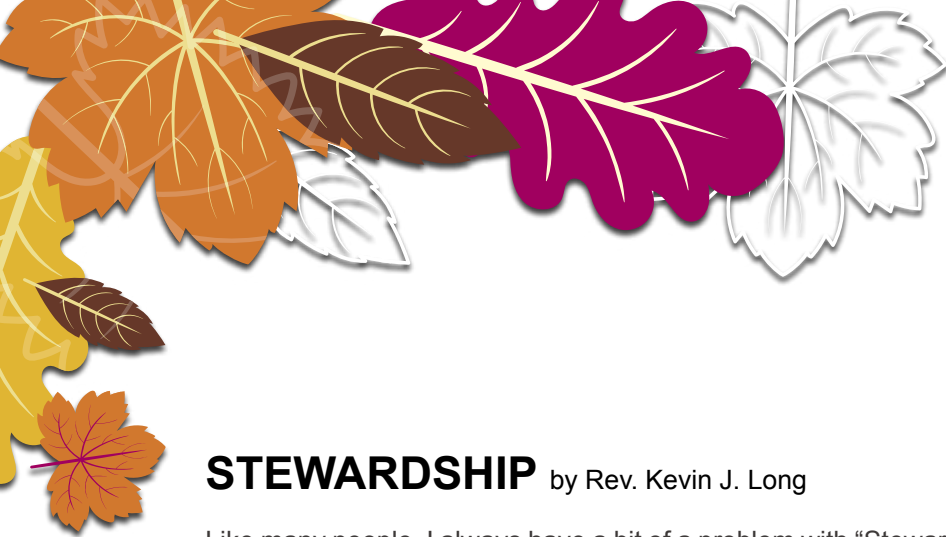
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STEWARDSHIP by Rev. Kevin J. Long

Like many people, I always have a bit of a problem with “Stewardship Season.” My problem with it, however, is not that the church is asking for money, but that it implies that stewardship is something we only do once a year. For Christians, stewardship is a way of life, something we practice 365 days a year. It is our way of recognizing and acknowledging that everything we have is a gift from God. We are simply stewards of those gifts, given responsibility to use them wisely and generously in service to our Lord Jesus Christ. This is true not only of our money, but also of our knowledge, our talents and our time.

Pledging is an important part of stewardship. It not only allows the church to prepare a budget and plan for the year to come, but it is also our way of demonstrating our faith and our trust in God. Pledging is our way of showing that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives, not only in words, but also in practice.

There is another important reason for us to pledge. We have a God whose nature is to give. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” (John 3:16). In giving us the Son, and in sending us the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, God has given us everything God had to give, pouring himself out for our sakes. One of the things Scripture teaches us is that human beings were made in the very image of God. Therefore, we are never more who we were made to be than when we are giving. It is what we were created to do.

My family and I have seen and experienced the generous spirit of this congregation time and again, and I am so excited to witness all the things that God will be doing in and through this church in the coming year as a consequence of your generosity. These are such exciting days for Sewickley Presbyterian Church! I hope you will join in and help raise the bar for what we can do for God’s kingdom and for the sake of Jesus Christ. But don’t give because you feel you have to. Give because you have been paying attention and are grateful for what God has been doing in your life and in this church. Give because you were made to be givers. Give because it is what you do best!

With great excitement and anticipation,
Kevin

WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking for a part-time janitor. If you know of anyone who would be a good fit, please direct them to our website. The job listing can be found at the bottom of each web page under **Employment Opportunities**. Here are the details:

Schedule & Duties:

Saturday 8 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 7 AM – 4 PM

Facilitate room set-ups and perform special duties. Perform housekeeping tasks as assigned. Perform cleaning and maintenance tasks as assigned for the upkeep and maintenance of buildings, ground and equipment. State and federal clearances are required.

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BIBLE BASH 3.0

November 7 | 6:30 - 8 PM | Ansby Hall

Have you been reading the Bible together with us this year? How have you been keeping up? Whether you're right on track or still back in Leviticus, you're welcome to join us for Bible Bash 3.0. We'll share dinner together and talk about the joys and challenges of reading through Scripture together. We'll play some games and have time for questions and conversation. RSVP online. See you there!

HANDBELL FALL RETREAT

By Craig Dobbins, Director of Music Ministries

The Westminster Ringers and Calvin Handbell Choir held their annual retreat October 12 – 14. The clinician this year was Beth Judd of Austin, Texas, who recently retired from 40+ years in full-time Music and Arts Ministry. The ringers gathered to meet Ms. Judd, and our church visitors from Malawi, for dinner on Friday evening at the home of Susan and Craig Dobbins. Saturday was spent at the church making music, worshipping, and sharing breakfast and lunch. The weekend concluded with Ms. Judd conducting the ensembles in the 9 and 11 AM worship services on Sunday, October 14.



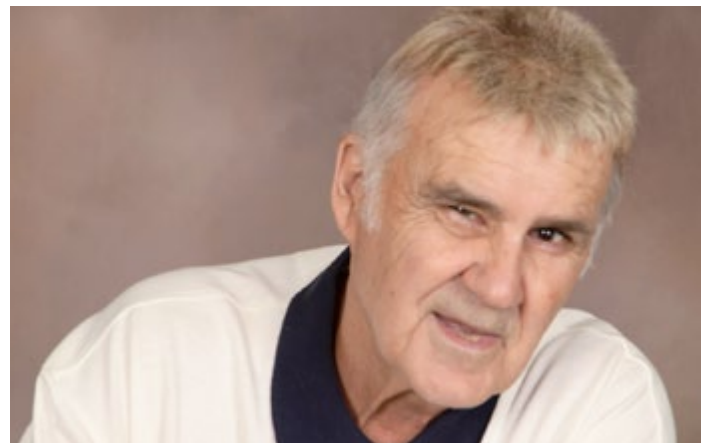
HOLIDAY DECORATING

We need one or two people to coordinate decorating the main floor of the church building (Robinson Room, Grant Street and Ansby entrances) for the holiday season. This would include decorating the large Christmas tree in the Robinson Room. There is a variety of other items that can be used: pencil trees, nativity sets, etc. Decorating would need to be finished by Saturday, December 1. Please let Jennifer Johnson know if you are interested: jjohnson@sewickleypresby.org/412.741.4550. Thank you!

CHARLIE BARNHART RETIRES

By Laura Mikush, Business Administrator

Did you know that Charlie Barnhart has retired from Sewickley Presbyterian Church after 37 years of service? We know you will join us in wishing Charlie well as he starts a new chapter in his life. Cards or notes can be left in the Church office if you want to wish him congratulations.



FRIENDSHIP PRESCHOOL

By Jenny Hay, Director of FriendShip Preschool

The FriendShip Preschool lives under the Fruit of the Spirit. *Faithfulness* was our special fruit for October. The FriendShip II class loved hearing the story of David and Goliath. David had faith he could beat the big, strong, giant Goliath and the children discussed how God was very faithful to David. FriendShip teaches the children that being faithful is part of God's character and that because He loves you, He will always be with you: "The One who has chosen you is faithful. He will do all these things." (1 Thes. 5:24)

October is such a fun month as FriendShip celebrates the fall season in many fun ways. Fire Safety is a very import-

ant topic the children talk about every fall. Our Sewickley Firemen visit, complete with their fire truck for the children to sit in.

The PreK children will experience a very fun trip to visit the fire station in early November. The FriendShip I, II and PreK classrooms enjoyed walking to the Sewickley Methodist Church to choose a little pumpkin. While at the pumpkin patch the children heard a few special stories about pumpkins.

The annual Halloween parade through the church office will take place on October 30 & 31. The children entertain their families and friends following the parade with a few little seasonal songs and enjoy a special school day wearing their costumes to school!



THE WORD SUNG

Sunday, November 18 | 11 AM

Mark your calendars for our November Word Sung, where the homily is sung. Music of Antonio Vivaldi will be performed by our soloists and Chancel Choir. They will be joined by members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra to perform Vivaldi's well-known sacred work *Gloria*, RV 589. The instrumentalists will offer Vivaldi's *Concerto in D Major for Trumpet, Oboe, Strings, and Continuo*, RV 563. Invite your neighbors and friends to join you.

HANDBELL SUBS NEEDED

Substitute ringers are needed for both adult handbell choirs: the Westminster Ringers, which rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 7:50 PM, and the Calvin Handbell Choir, which rehearses on Sundays from 12:15 to 1:30 PM. Previous handbell ringing experience is not required. However, ability to read music is.

This is a great way to learn how to play an instrument and to get to know others in our church family. You may stop by the church office during office hours to hold a handbell and to speak with Craig Dobbins about playing. Please contact Craig if you are interested: 412.741.4550, cdobbins@se-wickleypresby.org.



OUR CHURCH HISTORY

SPC members Matt Doeblner and Tim Merrill recently made a trip to Philadelphia to deliver seven boxes of our church history archives to the Presbyterian Historical Society. When they presented the boxes (containing 30 volumes of archives) to the staff the boxes disappeared down a freight elevator and into a handsome 1966 structure built specifically for the archiving records. The boxes joined the records of 12,000 Presbyterian congregations across the land. PHS receives some 2,000 boxes of archives a year.

They were given a brief tour of the building, seeing their library and vaults of archives. PHS was created in 1852, and is one of two Presbyterian national organizations located in Philadelphia (the other being the Board of Pensions).

Speaking of our history, on the walls going down into the Dining Room, from the Ansby and Grant Street stairs, you can find large frames with photos and brief timelines of our church history. It's easy to pass these by without stopping to read what the frames have to say. Take a few moments and check them out.

Thank you to Matt and Tim, and the rest of our History Committee, for taking the time to care for our historical records.





Holiday Gifts = Mission

During the month of November, there are opportunities to give to those in need this holiday season. Purchases made or money donated will benefit community families, a scholarship in remembrance of a local youth, and your own holiday decorating or gift giving. Stop by the Robinson room throughout the month and check out the variety of mission opportunities!



#1 Christmas Food Baskets

November is the time of year when we give thanks, count our blessings, and anxiously anticipate the coming of the Christ child. It is also a time when our thoughts become more highly focused on giving rather than receiving.

One way of giving to needy families within our community is through the annual Christmas Food Basket Program. For over 25 years, SPC has partnered with Safran's to provide a week's supply of groceries to underprivileged families in the Quaker Valley/Ambridge area. There are three ways that you can contribute to this important project:

1

Purchase foods listed on the shopping list (below & on our website). Deposit these items in the baskets conveniently located at each entrance of the church.

2

Make a monetary contribution to underwrite the cost of purchasing perishable foods from Safran's. Be sure to write "Christmas Food Basket" on the memo line of your check.

3

Sign up online or in the Robinson Room to deliver food baskets on Saturday, December 15. This is an outstanding opportunity for the entire family to experience the joy of giving while interfacing personally with food basket recipients.

Shopping List

boxed cereal (please avoid high sugar cereals)
rolled oats (no instant packets)
tuna and/or chicken in water
canned kidney beans, black beans, chick peas (max 16 oz.)
canned soup: low sodium (max. 14 oz.)
mustard, mayo, ketchup (max. 14 oz. each)
spaghetti & sauce (max. 28 oz.)

peanut butter (max. 28 oz.)
jam or jelly (max. 18 oz.)
tea bags
coffee
cocoa
dried fruit: raisins, etc.
nuts



#2

Decorations & Gifts

Our church's knitting group has a broad selection of stocking stuffers including teddy bears, kittens, and dolls along with tree trimmings such as angels, ornaments, and Christmas pickles. Proceeds from these items go to support both the medical mission in Honduras that church member Stephanie O'Kane and her daughter, Jocelyn, visit each summer as well as the after-school program, Oasis, held at our local YMCA.



#3 Nativity Auction

You may place bids on two hand-knit nativity sets, complete with stables, handmade by church member Velma Saire. Proceeds will go to help underwrite a memorial scholarship in memory of Dulane Cameron, who attended the YMCA White House After-School program. Recently he was murdered in a random killing on the North Shore in Pittsburgh. Because the Y's OASIS Teen Center After-School program is an outgrowth of the SPC "White House", and because Dulane often played sports at the Y, the Youth Worker Advisory Committee members have identified it as the best place to carry on Dulane's spirit with an annually awarded Y youth scholarship.

Those interested in obtaining one of the Nativity sets can find where to bid on our [website](#) under **Events & Sign-Ups**. **Bidding begins on November 4.**

The highest bidders will be awarded a Nativity set at the close of bidding at 12 PM on November 21, 2018. The nativity sets will be on display in the Robinson Room.

UPCOMING DATES

Trick or Treating at the Faith House | October 31
Parents' Night Out | November 16



NO WORRIES THIS SEASON

By Brian Mack, Director of Children's Ministries

Stop what you're doing right now and look at your calendar. Seriously, stop reading and look at your calendar for the rest of 2018! If you're anything like me, these next two months are way busier than any other timeframe this year. As fall changes into winter I'm sure you're rushing to finish all the outside activities needed before the weather changes. Maybe you've pulled out your list of New Year's resolutions from January and realized you're way behind. And if you're fortunate enough to not worry about these first few things, then there is still Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, along with all the fanfare surrounding them. I'm sorry if pointing this out makes you anxious or fills you with stress, but have faith!

During this time of year, I find it comforting to lean on God's word. Christ says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28), and Matthew 6:25-34 reminds us that worrying adds nothing to us, but that God will provide for us, just as he provides for the flowers of the field and the birds of the air. Remember this good news and hold close to God's word as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth!

Now that I've directed you away from worrying about being overbooked during the holiday season, let me tell you about some of the events here at SPC that we'd like you to attend! On November 16 from 6-9 PM, we're offering you a night of respite before things get too crazy. We're hosting a Parent's Night Out where we'll be providing dinner, games, activities, and a movie for children in grades 5 and under. The youth of our church will help lead some of our programming to raise money for their Center for Hope stockings project this year. Therefore, we're asking that instead of a set price, you make a donation to support the youth in this annual mission opportunity. RSVP by November 11.



Iron Chef: Pumpkin Cookies



Visiting with our Malawi guests.

FALL FESTIVAL: A BLAST!

By Brian Mack, Director of Children's Ministries

Thanks to everyone who came out to our Family Fall Festival in October. We had over 80 people in attendance! The weather was perfect as we dedicated our new firepit and enjoyed s'mores and hot dogs over the fire. We also played games and had activities that were fun for everyone involved. There was never a dull moment! Chili was eaten, pumpkins were decorated, and I was chased by a child wielding a balloon dragon. The night was a huge success and we can't wait to see even more of you next year!



Confirmation Fall Gathering

A FUN START

By Mike Creamer, Director of Youth Ministries

It's been a fun year already with the youth as we kicked off with a tailgate party with Minute-to-Win-It games at the Faith House. From "Elephant March" to "Cookie Face," there were plenty of things to compete in and laugh about. We're also very excited about having 16 students in Confirmation this year! As we look ahead to the rest of 2018, we're all pretty excited about making our return to Laurelville in just a few weeks (so make sure you've gotten your forms turned in!).

SPAGHETTI LUNCH

Sunday, November 4 | 12 PM | Dining Room

We will be having a spaghetti lunch to raise money for the Center for Hope Stocking project, so please join us! Every year our middle schoolers take the lead on this project to raise funds to buy Christmas stockings for kids at the Center. We hope you will come out and support us so we can continue serving the community this way. RSVP online by October 31. There is no set cost for lunch-- donations accepted.



Sunday Worship Time

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 16 | 5 - 7 PM | FH

It's hard to believe Christmas is so close already, but we'd be lying if we said we weren't excited for the Christmas party this year. We have some surprises in store for you this year, with prizes on the line -- you don't want to miss it!

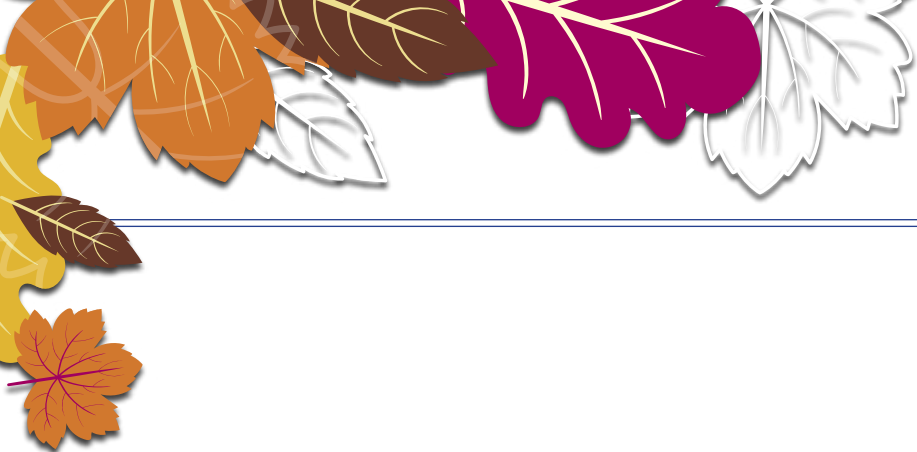
COLLEGE REUNION

Tuesday, December 18

Going away for college can be scary -- being in a new place, meeting new people, and trying new things. But no matter how far you've gone you're still family to us! So join us this December after the stress of finals and reconnect with everyone. We want to know how it's going, what's changed, what's the same, and what's next. Hope to see you there!



Cookie Face during the Fall Tailgate party



KNITTING & CROCHETING

By Stephanie O'kane, SPC Member

Every knitter over time ends up with lots of partial skeins of yarn from completed projects. Our church knitting group has repurposed these leftovers for mission. This summer our group sent over 400 handmade drawstring bags and over 100 knitted dolls to Honduras. Stephanie O'Kane and her daughter, Jocelyn, carried and distributed these gifts. They traveled with a medical mission organized by AcE (action4education.org), a group started at the College of the Holy Cross to bring education and medications to those in need in Honduras. The mission saw 2,602 patients and distributed 5,890 prescriptions in a 2-week period.

This November the knitting group will be selling handmade items in the Robinson Room before and after the services. Some of the money earned from this sale will go to AcE to help buy medications for next year's mission. The rest of the money earned will go toward supporting Floyd Faulkner, the Sewickley Community Youth Worker. Please stop by to support their efforts and find out more about their missions.

The group is presently knitting hats and scarves to donate to Crossroads Men's Shelter in Beaver Falls and to HEARTH, transitional housing in Glenshaw. They also continue to make bags and dolls to send to Honduras next year.

The group meets every Thursday from 1-3 PM in the Faith House and welcomes everyone. Please come and laugh and stitch with us while we use our talents to help others who are less fortunate.



CENTER FOR HOPE DINNER

By Gretchen Burnham, SPC Member

A grateful thanks to Mike Creamer and the fabulous teen team of servers who helped with our September dinner service. We loved your enthusiasm and smiles as you greeted and served 82 patrons. We look forward to having you join us at other Center for Hope dinners.

Once again we received rave reviews of the yummy dinner. Fortunately, there was enough food for seconds and take outs. Sloppy Joe and Mac 'n Cheese is a definite CFH favorite!

Thank you all for your generosity of cooking, providing food, serving and clean up, we couldn't do it without you.





LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION!

By Carol Weir, SPC Member

Every year in early December, the Center for Hope holds its only major fundraiser, the CFH Christmas Auction. This event includes lunch along with a Chinese auction, a silent auction and a live auction, and typically attracts over 100 people.

As our most broad based local mission partner, the Center serves the low income Ambridge community in a myriad of ways, one being its food pantry. All auction proceeds go to support the food pantry. This pantry serves 500-700 individuals each month, including an average of 170 children. Last year's auction proceeds enabled the Center to distribute an adequate supply of Ensure to its cancer patients on a monthly basis.

Please consider getting together with a friend or a group of friends to create a basket for this event. The baskets are auctioned off at the event. Have fun coming up with a theme! Past baskets have included breakfast goodies, a wine sampler, Apple products (think iPad!), family movie night items and more!

The Center would like to receive the baskets by Thanksgiving. You can drop your creations in the church office or take them directly to the Center for Hope by November 21.

Questions: Carol Weir, mcmweir@gmail.com.



TICKETS FOR CFH AUCTION

Saturday, December 1 | Ambridge High School

Tickets to attend the Center for Hope Auction are available from Sharon Barber in the church office. They are \$10 each, which includes the cost of lunch.

The auction is held in the gymnasium at Ambridge High School. The doors will open at 10 AM, and lunch is at noon. The live auction begins at noon, followed by the Chinese and silent auctions.

You may also purchase tickets at the door on the day of the event.

PRODUCE TO PEOPLE RECAP

by Diane Glas, SPC member

Thank you to all that volunteered at Produce to People on October 20. We had 39 volunteers and I think everyone left tired, but hopefully with a warm feeling in their hearts for those we served. Our runners worked extra hard -- so an extra shout out to those that pushed carts filled with produce and milk. We also send a big thank you to the Mussomeli Family for being inspired to join us as first time volunteers just as we needed their extra hands at 10 AM! With everyone's help we served 351 clients by noon!

For those of you new to the distribution, clients must register general household information with us. The potatoes, cauliflower, onions, carrots, celery, beets, apples, lettuce, milk, bananas, acorn squash, & blueberries will feed 744 household members! Please share this message with others that may have attended with you. It's important for all that worked so hard to know the kind of impact they have in such a short amount of time!

Thanks again for spending your Saturday morning with us serving our neighbors on the North Side. Our next distribution date will be in January 2019! We'll be in touch in late December with a call for volunteers.

In Appreciation,
Diane & Bill Glas
P2P Coordinators for Sewickley Presbyterian Church





Sewickley Presbyterian Church

LIVE · GROW · SERVE

414 Grant Street | Sewickley, PA | 15143

www.sewickleypresby.org

Dated Material

PLEASE EXPEDITE!

This newsletter is published by
Sewickley Presbyterian Church



Mark Your Calendar's

Light in the Darkness Service

Wednesday, December 5 | 7 PM

Advent Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday, December 9 | 4 PM

All-Church Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 23 | 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 | 5, 8 & 10 PM