

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER
100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
www.sherwood-oaks.com

January 2017 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. XVIII No. 1

*“Our swans...have gone south for the winter,
to the south end of our lake!”*



Title and photo by Phil Stebler

OUR SWANS WILL WEATHER THE WINTER FREEZE

Since March 21, 2016, we have all enjoyed the white swans as they gracefully glide across our lake. The two swans are brothers and they were named Sherman and Oakley by our residents.

When they first arrived they were shy and stayed at the upper end of the lake where their food, consisting of cracked corn and turkey pellets, is stored in a large rubbish can at the shoreline. The container has a food-entry hole cut into the side near the top so that the swans with their long necks can easily eat and the geese with short necks cannot steal their food.

Eventually our swans became braver and began wandering to the southern end of the lake where they discovered and enjoyed the fountain area. When dredging of the upper pond started, the swans' inquisitiveness took them to that area. They had to climb up the three-foot steep northern embankment and walk across 27 feet of land before they discovered our upper pond. They waddled in, explored the pond. Soon they found a two-foot wide meandering creek at the far end which they followed through the thick brush ending up at the hillside where the run-off rain water enters the pond. Their explorations enabled them to enjoy and take advantage of both our lake and the upper pond with its tributary.

They thoroughly enjoyed entertaining us all summer but now winter was fast approaching. Before we bought the swans, the previous owners had clipped their wings so that they could not fly away. The owners also had built a winter shelter for them; but the swans did not use it. They preferred to live outside in the frigid winter atmosphere as long as there was an unfrozen pond there. In preparation for the freezing winter,

our Grounds Supervisor, Steve Guth, moved their feeder from the western shore to the eastern bank next to the observation dock so that it would be closer to the fountain where a large circle of water around it never freezes. He then enticed them to the new feeding area with lettuce. This would be their winter home. The tall ornamental grass bush by the dock across from the fountain will not be pruned; so the swans have a little shelter if they wish to use it.

Ever wonder how our swans sleep? They can sleep on shore, even in the snow, while standing on one leg which minimizes loss of warmth. Switching legs during resting also helps prevent tissue damage from one foot touching the ground for too long. Fluffing out their feathers is another method to increase insulation and warmth during the winter.

Sleeping on the water, however, is safer: out of the reach of dogs, foxes, etc. And, yes, they float while sleeping. The floatation is due to the air trapped in between their well-oiled, water repellent feathers. They oil their entire body with the oil from their uropygial oil gland located near their rump. The oil allows the swan to stay afloat even when it is asleep, — along with the fact that its body is basically hollow (filled with air). They usually sleep with their heads tucked back under a wing.

Hopefully we should be able to enjoy more of our swans since they have gone south for the winter: to the south end of our lake!

Phil Stebler
715

P.S. The average life span of a swan living in the hazardous wilderness would be 12 years. However, since our swans live in a protected environment, they can live to be 30 years old.

BURL & BARBARA DAVIS

311

Interviewed by Jean Henderson



Think of lots of C's – college, coal, children, church, cultures, carolers, crèches and you'll discover the joyful, full lives of Burl and Barbara Davis!

They met in college in Illinois and married in 1954.

Burl is an internationally known expert in underground coal gasification and is still actively working (by internet) on projects in China and Australia.

Barbara, a home economist, taught school children in Burrell School District for 27 years; she studied in Japan as part of her teaching career.

Their four children in Monroeville, PA, Bucks County, PA, Erlanger, KY and Wells, ME, along with 9 grandchildren and one great grandchild, complete their family. The Maine son and his wife are Methodist ministers and that son's son and his wife are also Methodist ministers. For 50 years B & B lived in Plum after Koppers/Gulf brought them to Pittsburgh.

Oakmont UMC has been their beloved church home and has sent Barbara on several mission trips to Russia to lead Bible Schools there; they hope to become active at Dutilh UMC soon.

They've enjoyed work and pleasure travels to many cultures: Australia, New Zealand, and the British Isles, all topped off by a 10-week motor home trek through Alaska.

And their home is decorated with dozens and dozens of crèches and carolers – just lovely! Burl says they are both musical: Barbara sings and he applauds! (Burl is a very 'punny' person!) He is also the talented creator of manger scenes. We soon hope to welcome Barbara to the chorus and Burl to the WorkShop.

How fortunate we are to welcome such talented and sweet spirited folks to Sherwood Oaks!



CURIO CABINETS

Marilyn Altman's splendid Santa collection will be coming down on January 10. With winter ahead of us, let's celebrate a place where winter never comes, a place of wonderful diversity, rich cultures and unique wildlife. On January 12 please bring in your souvenirs and treasures about AFRICA.

Gussie Dimmick
160

WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

Reports and actions at the December 2016 SORA Board meeting included:

Gary Brandenberger reported a current balance in the Memorial/Special Projects Fund of \$60,348.00 after the purchase of a new Christmas Tree. The Employee Appreciation Fund distributed \$156,100. Ray Friedel reported a balance of \$29,577.46 in the Operating Budget.

Trips and Tours: The Westmoreland Museum tour with lunch is January 20.

Health Affairs: Michael Sedon, Cranberry Township Manager of Plant Operations spoke regarding drinking water quality and sewage disposal. Medication collection and disposal will occur January 10. A scooter safety presentation is being planned.

Special Needs: Volunteers are needed to transport residents to Sing-alongs.

Library: The Follette Computer Program is being purchased for the library's use.

Grab and Go Book Club: \$20 will be placed in the SORA budget for this activity.

By-Laws: Proposed changes to the current By-laws were presented and are posted on the SORA bulletin board in the Center as part of the December SORA meeting minutes. They also will be distributed to residents in February before the vote at the March Quarterly Residents' meeting.

Annette McPeek reported the new telephone system installation will begin January 20. Residents are to provide the billing office with updated health insurance information for 2017.

President Bill Paul visited Dining, Library, Landscape and Focus on the World committee meetings. He thanked those involved with the Veteran's Day Celebration, the Bake Sale, the Egg Nog Party, the Poinsettia Sale, the Curio Cabinet Santa Clauses, and the Knitters.

WINTERFEST will be held January 31, 1-3 p.m. at the Center — an event to introduce all residents to SORA committees and activities.

Next SORA Board meeting:
January 3, 2017

Correction: Workers in the Workshop do not personally receive \$2.00 an hour for their services. All workers are volunteers. Funds accumulated for work are used to cover expenses associated with operating the Workshop.

Jean Henderson

611



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SEMI-ANNUAL YELLOW JACKET VOLUNTEER MEETING

Thursday, January 26, 2017
1:15 PM - Auditorium

This meeting is for all of our Yellow Jacket Volunteers to review the past year's events, and to discuss the upcoming year's goals and to participate in educational training.

The training is to help identify "Elder Abuse" and is required for all of our Volunteers. This educational session will be offered by Theresa Murillo.

So mark your calendars to attend this important meeting. All potential volunteers are welcome!

Questions or concerns – call me at 8471.

Laura Childress



FOOD COLLECTION

The quarterly collection of food and sundries for the Cranberry Food Bank will be held January 15-21. Place items in the boxes provided in the scooter room. The stock is pretty well depleted after Christmas; so your generosity will be appreciated.

Ellie Castle, 307
Focus on the World



SORA PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 26, 2017
7:15 PM
Auditorium

Our January program will feature Pittsburgh Pirate color commentator* John Wehner. John is a Pittsburgh native and was a utility player for both the Pirates and the Florida Marlins. He has a World Series ring won with the Marlins in 1997 and shares a major league record of 99 consecutive errorless games at third base. He has played every position except pitcher at least three times and hit the final home run in Three Rivers Stadium. John will tell us about his life as a Pirate and will be open to questions from the audience.

Jim Miller
142

*A **color commentator** is a North American term for a sports commentator who assists the main commentator, often by filling in any time when play is not in progress. In other regions this role is variously referred to as an **analyst** or **summariser**. The color analyst and main commentator will often exchange comments freely throughout the broadcast, when the play-by-play announcer is not describing the action. The color commentator provides expert analysis and background information, such as statistics, strategy and injury reports on the teams and athletes, and occasionally anecdotes or light humor. Color commentators are often former athletes or coaches of the sport being broadcast.

SCENE FROM MY PATIO

Veni, vidi, vici

I came, I saw, I compacted!



Then:

Nada, Nil, Nothing ...



Even the earthmoving equipment has been removed, but preparation of the site for construction was completed before winter weather set in.

Stuart Knoop
261

BREAKING NEWS

Sherwood Gifts Donates \$20,500

A hearty THANK YOU to all who have generously donated items, large or small, and to all who have shopped in the store and annex and/or donated their time and talents to make Sherwood Gifts the prosperous and attractive little niche at the entry of our Community Center. Our success is largely dependent upon the (tax deductible) donations from residents, their friends, and families. Your support is invaluable.

You may see some of our financial staff working in a section of the 1st floor Computer Room. The generosity of the computer staff has helped facilitate our record-keeping procedures and reduce the overflow in the “back room” of the shop — greatly appreciated by all.

Women: Don't let the doldrums of winter get you down! We have a large selection of warm winter gloves, scarves and attractive fringed knit shawls to brighten up your outfit and keep you toasty warm. Our new jewelry will make that tired outfit sparkle.

Remember, we have an extensive collection of lotions, potions and medications to help you fight that winter infection. Can't find what you need? Personal request slips are always available.

Stop, shop, chat and keep those donations coming!

Marianne Davis, 351
Card Manager

THE HOLY NIGHT

Three dark figures moved out of the night.
Sands shifting, winds blowing on an ancient desert site.
Shades of green, copper, gold, magenta in hue
Shone brightly as the starlight illuminated the few,

Great kings from the Orient and countries afar.
From great palace halls came the Magi and Malabar.
They knew not what moved them though written in the sand
The power of the Almighty — it was God's plan.

Some great Spirit within them, is what one said.
News of a great king thru palace halls spread.
Some believed in the stories, others more skeptical,
These three believed moving toward the great spectacle.

Day after day on their journey of love,
The sun burned bright and the mighty star above
Moved ever so slowly, then stopped in its path,
Over Bethlehem, ended their journey at last.

When the kings slowly stopped at this glorious scene,
Not believing their eyes, it seemed like a dream.
As they unwrapped gold, frankincense and myrrh
They knew this was no ordinary king wrapped in fur.

For there He lay wrapped in swaddling clothes,
The mighty boy-child which scriptures foretold.
His coming would be very quiet and subdued,
His life shook the world as centuries have proved.

His life was only a very short span.
Holy Spirit remained His gift to man.
On this night of nights when one looks at the star
We give thanks for this holiest gift from afar.

Jean Wasniewski, 211

*Epiphany — Three Kings Day — is celebrated on January 6th.
In addition to Kings Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar and their gifts, on January 16, we celebrate the gift of another King, Martin Luther King Jr, and his gift of “a dream” .*

rbb



2017 MARKS THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY FOR SHERWOOD OAKS....

In September 2017 Sherwood Oaks will celebrate our 35th birthday...and looking good we are! Not showing our age at all, just wisdom that comes with some experience.

During the coming months, The ACORN and Archives folks intend to work together to publish bits and pieces of our story. It's like asking your grandparents to tell you about their childhood.

rbb

GLIMPSES from our past: Rome wasn't built in a day

The 2nd newsletter of the Pittsburgh Lifetime Care Community (which became Sherwood Oaks) dated January, 1979, included a statement that still rings so true:

"A secure older age carries the challenge to move out into a new appreciation of life. In it one can develop new skills, meet new friends, take up yoga, watch birds, or continue professional life at a more leisurely pace. With lessened

demands, there's time, and like-minded people to spend it with. This is a period for seeing the past and the future in a new perspective, and for appreciating the present."

The newsletter, sent to prospective residents, also included a section called "you asked about" which included the following goals and ideas for what would become Sherwood Oaks. It is interesting to see how some ideas developed — and how some did not.

** Ample space will be set aside for such pursuits as weaving, wood shop, photography, painting...seminars, and exercise.
**Yes, 80 or 90-year olds are indeed welcome...

**Medicare A and B 65 Special are required. Essentially all non-reimbursed medical services, including long-term care, are paid for by the community...

**We plan to furnish minibus service to nearby shopping and to public transportation.

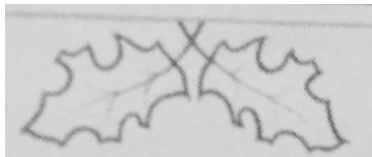
**Three meals a day will be served and paid for in the monthly fee, with credit for two meals if not taken...

**Weekly cleaning, bed and bath linen service, and all indoor and outdoor maintenance will be provided.

So, many of the original ideas came to fruition and others were altered along the way. These, though, were some of the original "bones" of Sherwood Oaks. *(Which is to say ... some of this went back to the drawing board and didn't make the cut.)*

Julie Eden
290

**FROM
THE
ARCHIVES**



It's a new year and it begins our opportunity to serve as archivists of Sherwood Oaks history and memorabilia. Betty McCown was the first Sherwood Oaks archivist. She developed the framework of the Archives that has continued to this day. Betty saw the importance of preserving the history of Sherwood Oaks; we are grateful today for her foresight.

Today the Archives are located in the Music Room. The cabinet contains an array of historical items including original notes in planning Sherwood Oaks, photographs, chronicled events, and other vital documents. For research needs, we may be contacted to arrange a time to gain access to the cabinet.

Some historical videos are kept in the Computer Room. They are listed in a notebook and available for viewing in the Computer Room.

You can help us preserve the history of Sherwood Oaks by putting any program handouts, notices of events, Sherwood Oaks or SORA information, photographs, or magazine/newspaper articles about Sherwood Oaks in Mail Slot 297. We appreciate your support.

*Joe and Peg Rychcik
297*

Winter 1985-86



Frank Hess playing ice hockey on the Sherwood Oaks Lake. Now the fountain prevents the lake from freezing.



Even guests skated.



Frank Hess and Stanley Harrison skating.

YEAR IN REVIEW

rbb & ta

January

Hail and Farewell to Mark Bondi



Welcome to the corner office,
Annette McPeck

March

Welcome, Sherman and Oakley



*“And here’s a hand, my trusty frien’,
“And gie’s a hand o’ thine;
We’ll tak’ a cup o’ kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We’ll tak’ a cup o’ kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.”*

September

Pond Dredging



November

Here We Again...



Thank you, Veterans



WINTERFEST

Tuesday, January 31, 2017
1:00 to 3:00 PM
Auditorium & Card Room

A SORA sponsored event for all residents -- new and not so new. The event will showcase the committees and activities under the SORA umbrella. Some committees are planning exciting stage presentations while others will create unique card table displays – or maybe do both.

You will see the Marketing video that features many of the activities and events of life at Sherwood Oaks – you need to see this – you might be in it! You can even play a game of Corn Hole.

You'll have opportunity to meet and enjoy conversation with people you don't see every day. Have some warm cider and crunchy munchies. Most of all: Have a good time at this mid-winter event! Don't miss it.!

Betty Eichler
355

CAPS FOR KIDS GRAND TOTAL 1,130

Since the mid 90's our residents have been a part of the local Caps for Kids campaign. Each year, all year long, a group of residents makes caps and scarves to contribute to this charity. And employees get involved with donations of either handmade or purchased items at their annual Christmas party.

The caps are then picked up by a representative of the Caps for Kids program and distributed throughout the area and beyond. Special items also go directly to World Vision and St. Ferdinand Church for Children's Hospital.

For the 2016 campaign, residents have made 878 items including caps, scarves and blankets. Employees donated an additional 252 items for a grand total of 1,130. The "Cap Tree" is decorated for one week, around Thanksgiving, to show off the residents' handiwork and to showcase the Caps for Kids program.

Bobbie Cleland



Bobbie Cleland



Worth the Time
by Ed Vidt

Razor Girl by Carl Hiaasen (F) Hia

Razor Girl is part of a scheme! Drivers of expensive (BMW, Cadillac, etc.) cars pay to get out of their involvement in minor "fender bender" type accidents with old junk kinds of cars, all caused by Razor Girl. You need to read the book to find where the razor is being used and how that scheme works. Hiaasen's stories are chock full of wonderful and horrible ways that Key West natives use to separate us "snow birds" from our money. The plots and characters in this book are in turns funny and stupid, but almost always entertaining.

Original Sin by P. D. James (F) Jam

The author, Baroness James, neatly places us in beautiful Venetian style office buildings on the left bank of the Thames downstream from Tower Bridge. A publishing firm there wants to relocate from those buildings to a modern office at Dockside. The new "gung ho" managing director of the firm is found dead in the firm's archives room from apparent suicide. But, soon murder is clearly the case. How Detective Commander Adam Dalgliesh pursues this fascinating and unusual story makes this book a lot of fun to read.

ODE TO RETIREMENT

Did you ever stop to wonder,
As the years were slipping by,
What you would be doing
When you were not so young and spry?

"Oh the snow is so beautiful."
You might have said, back then
But now you think, Alas, alack,
To shovel that will break my back.

It really is much better,
If you stop and think a bit,
To let others do the shoveling
Then you can watch and sit.

Now the joys of growing older,
Are a challenge through and through,
As we limo about and grumble,
For sometimes that's what we do.

We must keep our sense of humor,
Just forget our aches and pains
And remember "to remember",
For we all have shaky brains.

Just give a thought to vintage wine,
It grows better every day
That's really what we're doing
Even though our hair is gray.

Let's not fuss about this aging
Its such an inconvenient bore
We have so much to fill our lives
And not too many chores.

A gray haired Lady,
With glasses and cane

Lois Williams

Verses by Sherwood Oaks Rhymester's

Spotlight on New Books
The Book Selection Committee
Tom Fararo, Chair

These recently purchased books are on the new book shelf in our library. If a book you seek is not there, you can fill out a reserve slip.

The Conclave by Robert Harris. This novel centers on Vatican politics after a fictional pope (not unlike Francis) suddenly dies. “There is only one possible word to describe Robert Harris’s new novel ...unputdownable.”
(*The Guardian*).

News of the World by Paulette Jiles. In post–Civil War Texas, a 10-year-old girl is on an eventful journey to a relative’s home after living with an Indian group that captured her 4 years earlier. A short novel that is “lyrical and affecting”
(*Kirkus* starred review).

The Mothers by Brit Bennett. A novel dealing with issues of race, abortion, and religious faith in America. *The Washington Post* review headline proclaims it a “fantastic debut novel.”

This Was a Man by Jeffrey Archer. Readers of the popular author’s multi-volume **Clifton Chronicles** will want to read this final volume in the series.

The Fall Guy by James Lasdun. A “terrific novel of suspense ... a literate tale of love, jealousy and revenge”
(*Publishers Weekly*).

No Man’s Land by David Baldacci. The latest thriller by a very popular author “maintains tension throughout”
(*Publishers Weekly*).

Escape Clause by John Sanford. Two tigers are abducted from a zoo for the sale of their body parts in this gripping novel in which Virgil Flowers races against time to foil the criminal plot.

Night School by Lee Child. This is a Jack Reacher prequel novel in which he’s a member of an Army team racing against time to stop a major terrorist operation.

Le Parisiennes: How the Women of Paris Lived, Loved, and Died Under Nazi Occupation by Anne Sebba. Reviewers praise this nonfiction book for its appealing use of diaries, letters and other sources.

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SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES
7:00 PM, Auditorium

January 7 - Florence Foster Jenkins
(PG 13) 1 hr. 36 min.

January 14 - Sully
(PG13) 1hr. 36 min.

January 21 - Secret Life of Pets
(PG) 1 hr. 30 min.

January 28 - Magnificent Seven
(PG13) 2 hr. 12 min.

Diane Neely
337



**COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY
ACCESSIONS**

FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE:

The Christmas Riddle

Susan Sleeman © 2016.F/SLE

***Conclave**

Robert Harris © 2016.F/HAR

Death of a Policeman

M.C. Beaton © 2014.F/BEA

***Escape Clause**

John Sandford © 2016.F/SAN

***The Fall Guy**

James Lasdun © 2016.F/LAS

The Gardens of Covington

Joan Medlicott © 2001.F/MED/L.T.

The Last Mile

David Baldacci © 2016.F/BAL/L.T.

Love Letters from Ladybug Farm

Donna Ball © 2010.F/BAL/L.T.

***The Mothers**

Brit Bennett © 2016.F/BEN

***News of the World**

Paulette Jiles © 2016.F/JIL

***Night School**

Lee Child © 2016.F/CHI

***No Man's Land**

David Baldacci © 2016.F/BAL

The Secret Letter

Mary Blount Christian © 2016.F/CHR

Small Great Things

Jodi Picoult © 2016.F/PIC

***This Was A Man**

Jeffrey Archer © 2016.F/ARC

Truly Madly Guilty

Liane Moriarty © 2016.F/MOR

*See Spotlight

**NON-FICTION, INCLUDING
BIOGRAPHIES:**

Boys in the Trees: A Memoir

Carly Simon ©2015. Bio/SIM

By Faith, Not By Sight

Scott MacIntyre ©2012. Bio/MAC

Celiac Disease: A Hidden Epidemic

Peter H.R. Green ©2010. 616.3/GRE

Constitution of the Commonwealth of

PA. Pennsylvania ©2014. REF/342/PA.

The Acorn

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**The next ACORN deadline is
Monday, January 16.**

All submissions to Tabby Alford,
preferably by email.

CHAPEL NOTES

The first Chapel service of the year will be a traditional service of Lessons and Carols. Please join us at 2:00 on New Year's Day.

Leading worship for the rest of the month will be:

January 8 - The Rev. Benda Barnes, New Hope Lutheran Church. This will be the quarterly Communion service.

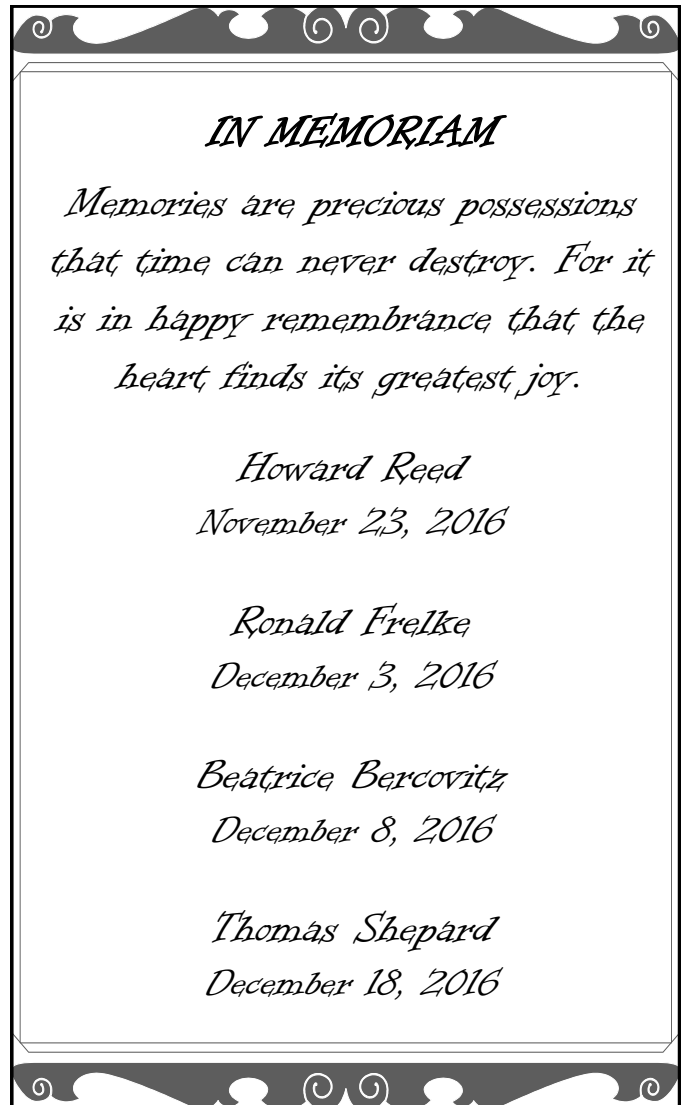
January 15 - The Rev. Paul Cooper, All Saints Anglican Church, Cranberry Twp.

January 22 - The Rev. Dan Corll, Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Warrendale.

January 29 - The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, Anglican Church, Sherwood Oaks resident.

We welcome your participation in these services, held in the auditorium each Sunday afternoon at 2:00. Thirty-nine pastors from areas churches and from Sherwood Oaks will provide leadership throughout the year. We are grateful to them for their ministry with us.

Agnes Peebles
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ACTIVITIES IN THE CHAPEL

Women's Bible Study
First and Third Mondays
10:45-11:45 AM

Men's Bible Study
Weekly, Wednesdays
10:00-11:00 AM

Holy Communion, Episcopal Rite
Second Monday of the month
11:00 AM

Quaker Meeting for Worship
Fourth Sunday
10:30-11:30 AM

THEN



Archive photos

NOW



Swan photos by Phil Stebler and Joe Asin