



# The Rolling Stone

August 2017

There are few words in the English language that could possibly express the gratitude that I have for Deb Artim for the work she has done during her ten plus years at Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church. To start, Deb took a small, simple, and largely insecure group of singers and turned it into a confident choir that was willing to try new and increasingly complex music. There were definitely some pieces that we thought we could never sing but, with her guidance, expertise, dedication, and patience, we were able to learn and eventually come to really enjoy singing them. Deb's role as our choir director can never be replaced, but I hope that each of us will be able to take what she has taught us and continue to grow as singers. On behalf of the choir, thank you Deb, for never giving up on us ... even when we whined, complained, and argued about what you selected for us to sing. We love you!

Secondly, Deb has outdone her self with the degree to which she has cultivated the handbell team. I remember when we were hesitant and even afraid to play any music over a Level 1+ and now, we play Level 2+ and Level 3 music without batting an eye. None of the ringers had ever rung handbells before joining the team, but Deb molded us into confident ringers who enjoy making music together. On behalf of the handbell team, thank you, Deb, for always encouraging us to do better, and for teaching us when we needed it. We will miss you!

Thirdly, Deb has taken the overall music ministry and worship experience at Sampson's Mills to a new level. Her amazing skills as an organist and pianist have glorified the Lord through music each Sunday morning for many years. When Sampson's Mills was without a Pastor, Deb created new and unique orders of worship for those Sundays. She encouraged individuals within the congregation to share their gifts and talents during the summer months and during special services and also directed many memorable choral presentations for Christmas and Lent. Deb has also enriched others with the gift of friendship during her tenure at the church. On behalf of Sampson's Mills, we greatly appreciate all that you have done. You will truly be missed!

On a more personal level, I am so thankful to have had the privilege of working with Deb in our music ministries. From the beginning, Deb helped me to expand my abilities as a singer and as a handbell ringer. I never had the confidence to sing solos or duets or trios or quartets, however with Deb's encouragement I thoroughly enjoy it now. There was never a time that Deb said we couldn't do something. I remember when I first rejoined the choir after taking time off from church because of my work schedule. I was incredibly shy then and was even somewhat intimidated by Deb when I

first met her. I came from a time when the choir had a “pick a note, any note” mentality, but Deb expected us to sing the correct notes and rhythms written for our parts. It took some getting used to, but she has definitely made me a better, more confident singer. I remember when I sang my first solo; it was for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and I was so scared. However, I knew that Deb would cover for me if I messed up. There were many times that I messed up a solo handbell piece, but Deb would help me recover every time. Through the years we have done many new and exciting things together like singing in a huge choir for the 2012 General Assembly, playing handbell solos and duets, performing in the Mystery dinner theatre, creating Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, attending the Western Handbell Festival, and the list goes on. What I think I’m most grateful Deb’s friendship. I am so lucky to call her a friend and I thank God and Sampson’s Mills for bringing this amazing person into my life. I will truly miss having her as our choir and handbell director, but I know that our friendship will continue through the years. Thank you Deb, for making me what I am today.

I would also like to give a huge thank you and shout out to Bob Levkus and the Fellowship Ministry Team for the incredible farewell dinner for Deb. Great job!

Sincerely in Christ,

-Lisa Addington

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### **Final Thoughts from the Pastoral Nominating Committee**

Over a year ago, we as a Pastoral Nominating Committee sat down in the choir room and started talking about the process of looking for a new pastor. After that first meeting, we met with representatives from Presbytery. We thought about who we are as a congregation. We asked you for your input during Pastor Palooza. We wrote and rewrote essays to share this vision. We read resumes. We listened to sermons. We interviewed candidates. During this long and complicated process, we prayed. We prayed that God would lead us to where our congregation needed to be. We prayed that God would bring the right person to Sampson's Mills.

We strongly believe that God has brought us Pastor Jessica McClure Archer. Our congregation, has been blessed by God, but the work of our committee and the congregation as a whole is not complete. We must continue to pray. Pray that God will be with us as we build and grow our ministry. We must give of our time, talent, and treasure. All of us must commit to making God and the church a priority in our lives. We must remember church is not a cruise ship where others work to make us comfortable, but a life boat, where everyone must row to keep us afloat and heading in the right direction.

We are thankful to the congregation for your help, words of encouragement, and prayers during this journey. Jessica McClure Archer was officially voted in to be our new full time pastor on July 23, 2017. She will begin her duties at Sampson's Mills on Monday, August 21, 2017.

## JULY SESSION NOTES

- ⇒ Devin Tomko is looking into air conditioning for Fellowship Hall and a new microphone system/auto mixer for the sanctuary.
- ⇒ We are applying for an Enhancement Grant from the Presbytery to help finance air conditioning Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ Devin donated and will install an automatic mixing unit in the Sanctuary sound system.
- ⇒ We will purchase two professional grade wireless cavalier microphone system for \$950 with Karen Tomko paying for half of it.
- ⇒ We will have a new program at our Church - *Better Choices, Better Health* with your own Jan Harrison teaching it. More info will follow.
- ⇒ VBS had 46 kids attending. Thanks to all who made this possible
- ⇒ We are still looking for a replacement for Deb Artim.
- ⇒ We are applying for an Enhancement Grant from the Presbytery to help finance air conditioning Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ Our new minister, Jessica Archer will begin her calling at our church on August 21.
- ⇒ Pastor Jessica's office is being spruced up for her arrival. It is located in the current Pastor's Office. A fresh start all the way around!

### Nancy Swanson, Clerk of Session

	Open	Close	Offering Counters	Greeters
<b>August 6</b>	L. Addington	N. Swanson	R. Peters, K. Tomko, F. Gilchrist	B. Ekaitis, N. Sylvander
<b>August 13</b>	B. Andrews	M. Keefer	R. Peters, K. Tomko, F. Gilchrist	“
<b>August 20</b>	J. Andrews	B. Kissel	B. James, S. Lawrence	“
<b>August 27</b>	J. Harrison	G. Lepsch	B. Andrews, B. James	“

## DEACON NEWS

Thanks to Heather Butker and her committee of Deacons for organizing a great Picnic in the Park. The Christian Ed Ministry Team provided games and face painting to go with great food and fellowship. What a great end to VBS 2017!

The next Deacon meeting will be August 27<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 service in the overflow room.

Bev Ekaitis, Moderator

## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM NEWS



Let's join together and welcome  
Pastor Jessica and her family  
on her first official Sunday  
with our annual

# CORN ROAST

Sunday, August 27  
Following Worship Service

Corn and Hot Dogs will be  
provided, bring your favorite  
side dish to share.  
(there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex)

The 2nd Annual Mystery Dinner — *Next of Kin* — will be held on October 7. If you would like to help our in any way — acting, setting up, wait-staff, clean up, basket donations, selling tickets — please see Joanie Andrews. All help would be greatly appreciated. We are also asking for donations of baskets for the Chinese Auction. All proceeds from the Mystery Dinner this year will go towards putting air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall.



BTW does anyone know who this Big Daddy character is??! First person to guess correctly will get 50% off the price of a ticket. (no fair for actors to guess!)

### MINISTRY TEAMS

**Building and Grounds** • Devin Tomko, Chair. Meets at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month.

**Christian Education** • Liz Jones, Chair. Meets at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

**Church Growth & Outreach** • George Lepsch, Chair. Meets at 7:00 pm on the fourth Sunday of the month.

**Community & Mission** • Bill Rhodes, Billie Kissel, Co-Chairs. Meets at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month.

**Fellowship** • Joanie Andrews, Chair. Meets at 6:00 pm on the fourth Monday of the month.

**Personnel** • Jan Harrison, Chair. Meets at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of the month.

**Stewardship and Finance** • Butch Andrews, Chair. Meets at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

**Worship** • Max Keefer, Chair. Meets at 7:00 pm on the second Sunday of the month.



Dates to keep in mind:

August 14 - 6:30-8:00- WATER GAMES!!!

All preschool - 5th graders should come prepared to get wet! Snacks will be provided!

Youth Club (K-5th) starts up again on September 13. Keep an eye out for registrations to be mailed this month!

Youth group (6th-12th) will begin September 10! Our kick off will be from 6:30-8:00! Look out for more information in your mailbox!!



THANK YOU!!!! Thank you to all of those who helped make *Maker Fun Factory* VBS such a great time! We had 46 kids come to know Jesus's love for them through, not just the lessons, games, snacks, music, and crafts, but through all of the adults and teens who helped! So, again, thank you to all of you!



**Sampson's Mills  
Presbyterian  
Church**

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Worship Sunday at 10:00 am  
Rev. Jessica McClure Archer

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## GOINGS-ON & *Whatnots*

**LADIES BREAKFAST CLUB** ... Please join the Ladies Breakfast Club on the first Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at Denny's in North Versailles.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP** ... Please join the Men's Breakfast Fellowship on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at King's Restaurant on Route 30. All are welcome.

**THE MILLER'S DAUGHTERS BOOK CLUB** ... The Miller's Daughters Book Club meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.. Call Linda Lawrence for more information.

**ZUMBA** ... Zumba class meets every Monday and Thursday evening, 7:15—8:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$20 a month or \$4 a session.