

# 2018 Fall Ministry Highlights

## Swift Memorial United Methodist Church

10 Williston Rd. Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

January 2019

### Happy New Year



Happy New Year! We Praise the Lord for the blessings that we have received in 2018. As you see below, in the fourth quarter of 2018 we have so many activities and programs at Swift Memorial United Methodist Church. Our sanctuary has been full many times with lots of people. We have more children in Sunday school, new people joined the church, Sunday worship attendance and offerings grew. We thank God and are grateful for the dedication of the church family. We would like to thank you for your prayers, presence, service, and witness. Lastly but not least we thank you for your generosity bringing and sending offerings to the Lord. Your contributions have been making a big difference in our ministries. May God keep blessing you and your family to be a blessing to others.

(Wanda Crowell, stewardship chair, Ann Burnham, finance chair, & Pastor Joe)

### Sunday School

SWIFT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH has two Sunday School classes and a Confirmation Class.

**DISCOVERING JESUS** – This class is for children ages 4-7. The teacher is Julia Chick and her assistant is Amanda Stennett. Together we so enjoy this class. Introducing Jesus to our young students is so rewarding. We remain in Genesis for our Bible studies. Learning how Noah listened to God and how Abraham obeyed God. Even little children can listen and obey. Our hour is filled with a lesson, crafts, a song or game. We have anywhere from 3 to 8 children.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL 101** – This class is for children in 3rd to 6th grades. The teacher is Melissa Furtado with Mary Hunt-Cifrino as the substitute. Their study is called “From Gospel Light “WHICH IS HOW THE Bible stories relate to our everyday life and being a good disciple. This class has 4-5 children attending.



**CONFIRMATION CLASS** – This class has developed into a structure of first reading and studying the Bible text and then together figuring out how to apply it to daily life. It is a privilege and a blessing to work with our youth. Helping them discover that Jesus is always with them and that their faith can grow and be vibrant and active in their lives every day. We can have 4-5 youth attending. The teacher is Sharon Kantzer. (Julia Chick)

## Gospel Study: The Gospel of Luke

As Christians we learn from scripture that Jesus not only wanted us to make disciples of the Lord but we have the responsibility to “feed His sheep.” During the fall Christine Kim led a study of this Gospel writer. Luke wrote to Theophilus (one who loves God), Gentiles, and people everywhere. He is the only known non-Jew writer in the New Testament. His purpose was to present an accurate account of the life of Christ and to present Christ as the perfect human and Savior. His writing is comprehensive, uses general vocabulary and diction. It shows that author was educated, makes frequent references to illnesses and diagnoses. It also stresses the relationship that Jesus had with people, emphasizes prayer, miracles, and angels, records inspired hymns of praise, and gives a prominent place to women. This Bible study offered participants a deeper understanding of the theological side of the study. Cathy Sharon-Matthews offered the cultural side of the times. Participation was great and we all came away with a better understanding of Jesus Christ, God’s mercy, and our purpose to be disciples. Proposals have been made for small group studies and at least one Lenten study for 2019.



(Cathy Sharon-Matthews)

## Concerts and Christmas Bazaar



What a busy fall we had at Swift Memorial Church. In October, we hosted Watoto African Children’s Choir from Uganda. The concert was filled with praise for our Lord and it was lively and fun. The love offering amounted to about \$1,800 and several people sponsored a child. The church will also be sponsoring a child.

In November, we held our annual Christmas Bazaar. There was delicious clam chowder from Rock Bottom Seafood, hand knits and other crafts along with a room full of bargain Christmas decorations. The bazaar

brought in over \$3,000. At the end of November, we had Hanging of the Greens at the end of service. It was a fun time especially with Bill Held and the children leading the congregation in the singing of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

On December 17, we hosted Korean musicians and the Drew University Seminary Men’s Choir. The music was wonderful and set the right mood for a reverent and joyous Christmas season. We raised \$348 for the Needy Fund that helps Cape Codders in time of emergency. We also had our Angel Christmas Tree to support a local homeless shelter. The base of the tree was overflowing with gifts! Thank you all for your service and generosity.

(Wanda Crowell)



## Advent Study & Women's Breakfast



In December the Wednesday Morning Group participated in an Advent Study based on the Upper Room daily devotionals. This group is beginning a new study titled Acceptance and Gratitude. New members are always welcomed. We meet at 10:00 A.M in the nursery room at Swift. Come and worship, learn, and fellowship with an amazing group of supportive Christian women. After a short hiatus our Swift Women's Breakfast is meeting on the second Saturday of each month. Our current outreach project is for Cape Winds Rest Home in Sandwich. We are collecting personal care products for the women and men living there. The next project is individual goodies bags for the nineteen residents. (Geri Rider)

## Christmas Cantata & Easter Cantata

The Swift Choir recently wrapped up the Christmas season with this year's cantata, a culmination of the last seven Christmas cantatas. We took our favorite songs from past cantatas and created a work of our 'greatest hits'. I hope you enjoyed hearing these songs again! One of our goals for 2019 is to improve the quality and variety of our Offertory Anthems. We recently purchased two song books of contemporary Christian songs. My hope is to start performing a brand new anthem once a month. These songs often include solos, guitar, and bass. My hope is that by 2020 we have enough of a repertoire that we can perform a contemporary song every week.



Within the next two weeks the Swift Choir will begin work on our Easter Cantata. If you have felt the call to sing in church, but didn't know when or how, now would be the perfect time! We rehearse Sundays 9-10 and 11-12. Starting in February we will have evening rehearsals twice a month. After these rehearsals we usually go out for dinner and fellowship. Come and join us! (Ben Healy)

## Prayers: Praise and Concerns



Except for Communion Sunday, there is a time that folks can raise up thanksgivings as well as concerns. There is also the prayer chain numbering 80 folks who pray for these people. Praises of thanksgiving included the grace and gifts of the Lord, our church, births of grandchildren and great grandchildren, and healings. We had several requests for those suffering and battling serious illnesses, deaths in family or of friends, and urgent requests when an unexpected event occurred. Prayer requests also included intercession from the Lord for those struggling with addictions, looking for employment, and for strength and stamina as caregivers. The prayer chain is simply a listing of those willing to offer up prayers as they are requested.

How folks do this varies from a prayer immediately to adding the requests to an on-going list. If you pray and like to praise the Lord as well as pray for folks with needs then contact Cathy to receive the prayer requests as they are received. The participants' email addresses are not shared. Contact: [cathys\\_36@yahoo.com](mailto:cathys_36@yahoo.com) 508-274-1864. (Cathy Sharon-Matthews)

## Mission and Finances

Although finances are still quite tight, people have stepped up and joined in to make donations to the Cape Cod Needy Fund, the Barnabas Fund, to provide Christmas gifts to a large number of children in a homeless shelter and donations have been coming in to allow us to support a child from Watoto. Our goal in 2019 is to continue and expand our mission work but it is important that we be able to do so without tapping in to our savings as we have done over the last two years.



(Ann Burnham)

## The Trustees



Many good things were accomplished by the Trustees in 2018 including taking over the lawn care at the Church, rehabilitating the handicap ramp and arranging the painting of the badly peeling gable ends (peaks) of the church for a very reasonable price. We have an ambitious list for 2019 and will continue to get as much done with volunteer help as is practical. Projects that need contractors to complete will be undertaken only if funds are available. The exciting news for this year is the very real possibility we will be able to sell the

old activity center. This will provide us with some much-needed revenue and if all goes as planned the new owners will allow us use of the facility (after rehabilitation) for our events requiring a larger space than Gibb's Hall such as the Strawberry Festival or the Christmas Bazaar. Many things need to fall into place for this to happen but we are working with the potential buyers and the town to facilitate this process.

(Bill Cifrino)

## Welcome New Members

In December 2018, twelve people joined the church. Of the twelve, several had been attending and already involved in church ministries. In 2019, some of our new church members will serve on committees as they grow through worship, Bible study and fellowship.



We thank God for our new members and pray that our church continues



to welcome new members to our congregation and become more like Jesus in 2019. We warmly welcome Dorothy Caipie, Elizabeth Cullivan, Ben Healy, John and Cheryl Kmetz, Jan Landers, Carol Lynch, Bruce & Bette Prouty, Rebecca Roy, Amy and Derek Strohschneider.

(Pastor Joe)