

January-March 2019 Ministry Highlights

Swift Memorial United Methodist Church

10 Williston Rd. Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

April 2019

Sunday School

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



DISCOVERING JESUS – This class is for children ages 4-7, with up to 9 children participating. 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 will be starting a new study called “Faith Weavers.” We have been studying the Lenten Season since Ash Wednesday. The focus has been on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday,

finishing up with Easter Sunday and it’s true meaning. We are working on our presentation for Easter Sunday. The children also participate in the Children’s Service which is on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Our hour is filled with a lesson, crafts, songs or games.

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.” These Bible stories relate to our everyday life and how to be a good disciple. This Easter Season some in her class will be participating in the Easter Cantata by doing narration readings. This class has 6 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 have 3 youth attending. The teacher is Sharon Kantzer. (Julia Chick)

2019 Vacation Bible School

“To Mars and Beyond!” August 5-9, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

VBS Volunteers have begun planning our 2019 VBS program where children in our community will learn where God's power can take them! They will learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible and that God will always be with them too. We are ready to blast off and plan our budget and decorations. Keep an eye out on the bulletin on ways you can help with donations and volunteering opportunities leading up to this fun filled program! Please reach out to Ann Burnham or Pat Frost if you would like to join our decorating or VBS volunteer team! Next volunteer meeting will be on April 27th 9:00 am in Gibbs Hall. (Pat Frost)



Spiritual Practices Study: Acceptance and Gratitude



A Christian ought to be known by the life she or he lives. There are multiple ‘spiritual practices’ that set us apart from non-believers. Our Wednesday morning study group began exploring these practices, starting with acceptance and gratitude. Geri Rider led a group of 15 women through book and Bible reading and lively discussions. We discussed the practice of acceptance when confronted with events we cannot

control. During the rough patches in our lives, we recognize that God is in control. We trust His wisdom and His plan for us. External events cannot destroy our peace if we trust in God’s word.

We also studied the practice of gratitude, because we believe it is integral to the life of a Christian. Giving thanks is a key component of worship and prayer. Having an ‘attitude of gratitude’ not only pleases God, but it uplifts our soul and keeps our thoughts positive. It protects us from the devil’s snares of self-pity, despair and discontent. How would life improve if each of us practices acceptance and gratitude regularly in the days to come? We hope to succeed at this as we move on to study the spiritual practice of “Outreach” during April and “Faith” in May. Susan Scott will facilitate. Feel free to join us. (Susan Scott)



Lent Study-Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple

By Adam Hamilton



As I write this, we are entering the final week of a six-week study of the man who is mentioned over 120 times in the New Testament. The study begins with Jesus ‘recruiting’ Simon Peter and his friends as the first disciples. The study challenges us to reflect constantly on our own flaws and short-comings, the modeling that Jesus did, the connections between us and the man who would go on after Christ’s ascension to preach for 30+ years about Jesus and the kingdom. This

study asked us to consider the calling that Jesus may make of us at any time, including asking us to leave our comfort zone and, with Him at our side, venture forth with His command.

As we studied the various scripture references, along with the thought-provoking questions provided by Hamilton, we learned



to better appreciate the complex workings of the Lord. Through group discussions we shared the importance of listening to Christ, following His direction, and appreciating that our flaws and short-comings that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, are used by Him to aid us in bringing others to Christ and feeding/caring for them as we do so. The goal was “to help us to see ourselves in Simon Peter, the flawed but ultimately faithful follower of Jesus Christ.” (Cathy Sharon-Matthews)



Easter Cantata



The Swift Choir has been hard at work on our cantata for Easter Sunday. *My Easter Story* is a collection of contemporary songs based on first person interactions with Jesus. It will feature a guest guitarist and percussionist. We will have the pleasure of several children joining us as they narrate and sing parts of the cantata. (Ben Healy)

Finance Update & Mission

As of April 1st, the church is doing better than last year! There are several reasons for this: We received a grant from the New England Conference for \$14,000 this year to help us. It is a blessing to be part of a connectional system that helps each other; A big thank you to the people who signed up to mow the lawn and maintain the church landscaping as well as Pastor Joe and Christine who take care of the parsonage landscaping; and YOU, our faithful congregation for your tithes and offerings!



We are paying all our bills on time as well as supporting Papalib Mutebi Mujuni from Uganda through Watoto Church. This young boy lost his father and his mother who did not have enough money to feed him, let alone pay his school fees. If you watch the news in the past few days, you have seen how dangerous Uganda can be and how wonderful that we can help this young boy attend school and be part of a good Christian life. Thanks to all of you who are changing his life! We had our books audited for 2017 and 2018 and our Finance Committee welcomed three new members this year: Susan Scott (Lay Servant), Bruce Prouty and Russ Cullivan. We are all working together to keep our church fiscally sound. We thank all of you for your faithfulness to our church. (Ann Burnham)

Baptism



Wyatt Orson Wilcox was baptized on February 10, 2019. He is the son of Colin and Erin Wilcox. Emory Evelyn Sandra Ellis was baptized on February 17, 2019 by Rev. Jean Trench-Ellis. She is the daughter of Keith & Maura Ellis. (Pastor Joe)



The Holy Land Pilgrimage

Charlotte Hopper, Ellen & Pascal Cushing, Barbara Duggan, Christine Kim, Pastor Joe, and myself visited the Holy Land in March.

My moment came when we were in Bethlehem, at the Shepherd's field. We were inside a grotto, a nursery where baby lambs were nurtured for one year, before going out to pasture. I became aware that we were near the place God chose to announce to Shepherds that the Long-expected Messiah, Immanuel, had been born! God's son born of a woman! His angels brought the good news of salvation to All People, (including me!). They sang, "Joy to the World!" I started to weep as I realized we were standing near the place God had chosen to bring His announcement to ordinary Shepherds. And there I was standing at the very place God had chosen to make His announcement to His children, whom He loves with an everlasting love. Thanks be to God! (Sara Connolly)



Spring Cleanup



On Saturday, March 23rd church committee members gathered to perform a Spring cleaning of the church. The cleanup we preceded by a meeting a few weeks earlier and individuals were assigned areas of the church that needed attention and sprucing up. Areas identified and assigned were Gibbs Hall, Narthex, Choir Room, Hallways, Craft Supply Room, Ladies' Parlor, Classrooms, Nursery, and Boiler Room. Each person or group of persons was assigned to contribute ideas to make each of the areas of the church cleaner, more presentable and more efficient. The results of the cleanup dramatically improved the entire Church building.

When entering the church via the Narthex it was immediately noticeable to all that things were rearranged and major changes had taken place. Gibbs Hall, our gathering hall, was completely rearranged and organized to improve flow throughout the space. A major goal was to allow for the large doorways between Gibbs Hall and the Sanctuary to be opened after service and make the area feel more open and welcoming. Another major goal for Gibbs Hall was to clean and reorganize the coffee hour supplies.



The Choir room was completely reorganized and the large piano that was no longer functioning was broken down and sent away for disposal. The breaking down of the piano was a major task and required a cooperative effort to remove the remaining extremely large and heavy components from the basement. Hallways were cleaned and reorganized. The craft supply room was cleaned out and greatly improved. The ladies' parlor was given a special touch to make it feel airy and open. Classrooms were cleaned and organized for the children as well as the Nursery. Even the boiler room was cleaned and reorganized.



Our church has limited space for storage and over time and it was clear that this major cleanup and organization was required. The entire group of volunteers worked tirelessly and with a cooperative spirit to work together to clean and organize our place of worship. The end result was a greatly improved Swift Memorial Church. We will likely be cleaning again this fall and so keep an eye out for the Church calendar as cleaning our Church was a fun and productive day that gave everyone participating a great sense of accomplishment. (Bill Held)

The Trustees

The Trustees welcome Josh Stennett to our committee. He'll be a great asset as we move forward with our many planned projects. We are currently organizing our outdoor lawn and garden care for the warm months and will be looking for volunteers to help throughout the season. As a first step we will be holding a yard cleanup from 8:00 to noon on April 13. We will continue to try and improve the lawn through regular watering, feedings and weed control. As always there is painting to be done and we will be organizing some group efforts to help. Other projects wait in the wings as we assess our finances for 2019. (Bill Cifrino)

