

July-September 2019 Ministry Highlights

Swift Memorial United Methodist Church

10 Williston Rd. Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

October 2019

2019 Vacation Bible School



VBS 2019 *To Mars and Beyond* was a BLAST for all Volunteers and travelers! Children discovered the wonders of God's universe through games, crafts, science, music, and Bible stories. They learned of God's love and to travel through life's challenges with Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness, and Hope.



Throughout each night, we all recited the theme Bible verse "Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could or imagine by his power at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20). Our VBS program brings such joy to all that attend and is the opportunity for children in our community to feel the love of Jesus. We had lots of volunteers and many new assistant volunteers that were able to share in this fun filled week. As volunteers, we are blessed to be part of such a rewarding experience.

(Pat Frost)



Sunday School

SWIFT MEMORIAL CHURCH has two Sunday School classes.



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. There was a change in Sunday School for this quarter. We had only one class for all the children during the months of July and August. This enabled Amanda and myself to enjoy being part of the congregation and to hear the sermons and songs upstairs.

Many thanks to Cheryl & Adam Newell, Erin Wilcox & Jen Healy for volunteering to lead a class during the summer months. What a wonderful job they did for these two months.

Regular Sunday School started in September. We are continuing our Faith Weaver study. In this study we are learning about Jesus and growing in our faith and how to apply it in our everyday life. Our hour includes a lesson, craft, games and sometimes a movie. What fun we have.

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. What a wonderful job they do for our older children. There are six children attending this class. They finished the Gospel Light curriculum and have started an exciting new study called “Action Bible” meant just for pre-teens. They each have new Bibles just for this study. They will learn how God moves in the lives of his people in the Bible, what He is doing in their lives today and get to know Jesus, God’s son who is Christ the Lord, who is all powerful, a healer, the Messiah and more.



We are all so excited for the coming year. Our doors are open and we have empty seats to be filled. Bring your grandchildren, invite your friends and neighbors’ children. Jesus wants them for a SUNBEAM to shine for him each day. (Julia Chick)

Messy Church



The Swift congregation participated in their first Messy Church on July 21st and then again on September 8th. "Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration, and hospitality."



Worshippers participated in rock painting, Bible skits, music sing alongs, and knitting - just to name a few activities. Swift will be hosting Messy Church once every 2-3 months. The next Messy Church is Sunday, November 17 at 10am. Our hope is that you can invite someone new to God and join us for this informal worship service. We hope to see you there! (Ben Healy)



Blessing of the Backpacks



Our Sunday school children, youth, a graduate school student, teachers, and administrators were invited to bring their backpacks to Sunday worship service for a special prayer and blessing as they began a new school year on September 15, 2019. We prayed that each student be reminded of the love and care of our congregation that surrounds them each school day. We also prayed as well for the teachers and administrators to be reminded that our church embraces their call to teaching and surrounds them with love and care as well. This idea came from Sunday School and we were so happy to bless them.

(Pastor Joe)

Wednesday Book Study: Spiritual Practices

Our Wednesday morning study group has been exploring spiritual practices that set us apart from non-believers. We have progressed through ‘gratitude and acceptance’, ‘faith and worship’, ‘hospitality’ and ‘outreach’. We are now discussing ‘forgiveness and reconciliation’. This group of a dozen women shares anecdotes, ideas, and interpretations guided by



a book and selected bible readings.

When we bring Christ more intimately into our lives, we recognize a desire to be more like him, to achieve the peace that he bequeathed us through the Holy Spirit. Practicing forgiveness, for hurts small and large, is a key step in gaining peace and in obeying Christ’s teachings. We know that Satan loves divisiveness and uses his lies to fuel our resentments. Our October study of Reconciliation will help us to achieve the peace God promises every believer. Please join us each Wednesday morning at 10:00 at the church. Susan Scott facilitates. We’re open to suggestions for our November topic. (Susan Scott)



Backpack Ministry

We will be continuing the Backpacks for Kids Program this week with donations going to the Bournedale School. This school teaches children from all the villages in Bourne from Pre-K to Second Grade. This year, the Backpack Program will serve 26 families and provide 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners and 2 snacks for all the family members to be used over the weekend. The donations supplement what the families get from the Food Pantry and the Boston Food Bank. Needed items include: mayo, jelly, cereal, fruit cups, soup, snacks, granola bars, cookies, crackers, juice boxes, bread products (English muffins, bagels), pasta, sauce, canned chicken. (Diane Magnuson)



Swift Leadership Launches Strategic Plan



The Administrative Council met on September 18th to flesh out some goals for the years 2020 through 2023. These would form the backbone of our next strategic plan, as required by the Methodist Church. The Council, which has representatives from multiple committees and groups, was asked to focus its suggestions on ways our church can fulfill its mission to serve the people of the congregation and the community at large over the next three years.

A bunch of great suggestions were received, grouped, sorted and assigned in a draft version of the plan that was distributed to the congregation for review. Although some proposed goals fall squarely under established committees, many will require

‘Event Teams’ to organize, promote, and staff the activities. Members of the church have been asked to indicate which of the proposed activities they wish to work on – giving time, money, and/or physical labor. Events that elicit no congregational support will have their feasibility re-evaluated. Additional suggestions may also be submitted before the plan is finalized in November. Although the church must always be guided by the Holy Spirit and the word of God, having a plan that focuses our use of time and resources reduces conflict, waste and missed opportunities. Pray for God’s guidance and blessing as we move forward with our strategic plan. (Susan Scott)

The image shows a screenshot of a 'STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2023' document. It is a multi-column table with headers for 'Goal', 'Action Item', 'Responsible Party', and 'Timeline'. The table lists numerous specific goals and the corresponding actions to be taken, such as 'Develop a vision statement for the church' and 'Conduct a financial audit'. The document is dated 'Page 1 of 3'.

Christmas Bazaar



Our annual Christmas Bazaar is Nov. 9, 10am to 2pm in Gibbs Hall. We will be selling home baked goods including pies and apple cider donuts. We will be serving clam chowder from Rock Bottom Seafood. Also, a silent auction will be held this year sponsored by AJ Marks Jewelers. There will be hand knits along with many crocheted items along with hand painted ornaments and bird houses. Come and check it out! Enjoy the best clam chowder around! (Wanda Crowell)

Swift Choir

The Swift Choir will be performing this year’s Christmas Cantata *Joy! He Shall Reign* by Cliff Duren on Sunday, December 22 at 10 am. The choir has been hard at work (who doesn’t like singing Christmas carols in September?) to bring you their newest and best work yet. Cape percussionist extraordinaire, Michael Dunford, will be joining us once again on drum set. (Ben Healy)



Finance Update & Mission



Here we are with only a few months left in the year – Thanksgiving and Christmas rapidly approaching! It has been a successful year thus far in so many ways: We have had several wonderful fundraising events, a fun-filled Vacation Bible School week with the children contributing \$257 to World Vision Kid to Kid, we gave a helping hand to a single mom with 3 children who had just lost her job and was facing shut-off of her utilities and just today, I saw Wanda Crowell filling her trunk with donated coats and jackets!! Of course, we have continued our other outreach projects; our sponsor Watoto child, Teen Challenge, Cape Winds Rest Home, Bourne Food Pantry and the Backpack Project (helping those children who receive food from school during the week have food for the weekend).

As most of you know we are in process of selling the Activity Center for a full-price (\$289,900) offer - Praise the Lord! The Finance Team knows many have been concerned that we will use the funds to “pay bills”. Our plan is to pay off the mortgage on the parsonage, pay our back Apportionments (mission shares), and replace funds that were drawn from our savings in the United Methodist Foundation. Yes, we still have lots to do and we are concerned that our income budget reflects a shortage of tithes and offerings of \$8,400, but we are full of faith that our beloved congregation will help us with this shortfall. We hope you will pray about this and if you are able, you will give joyfully so that we may continue our good works. The Finance Team thanks you for your continuing faithfulness and support. (Ann Burnham)



The Trustees



It has been a busy and productive few months for the Trustees. Throughout the Summer a rotation of volunteers has been taking care of the lawn so we don't have to pay a lawn service which is a great savings. Signmaster Dave Stockbridge built us a fancy new sign which he and Ted Burnham installed at the corner of Old Plymouth and Scusset Beach Rd.

A number of maintenance items at both the church and parsonage were completed. At the parsonage Ted painted the front door trim and arranged for the septic to be pumped. A problem with a leak under the kitchen sink was addressed by the installation of a new faucet. During a heavy July downpour water got into the basement. This was traced to an overwhelmed gutter overflowing into a window well. Gutter guards were installed to prevent debris build up in the gutters. This will also alleviate the need to clean the gutters twice a year. An annoying beeping in the basement was traced to battery back-up system for the sump pump. Installation of a new storage battery solved that issue.



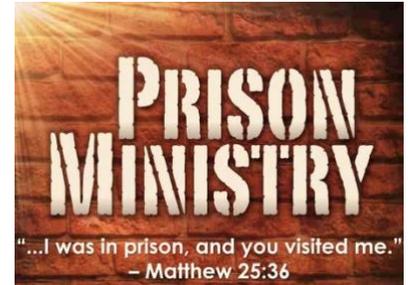
At the church the long continuing issue of water infiltrating the pre-school was addressed by the installation of an internal french drain along the east wall. This worked excellently during the recent heavy rains so we will consider extending the system along the south wall if the problem occurs there. In response to a request by the preschool, Ted scraped and painted the outside lower level windows. Helena was concerned about children having access to peeling paint. Just recently the parking lot and sidewalks were re-sealed. This will prevent further deterioration. Also, the parking lot space size was increased from nine to ten feet which should make getting in and out easier. Finally, a contract has been awarded for the re-finishing of the floor in Gibbs' Hall.

The Trustees have also been working with Church leadership on the process of selling the Activity Center property. Various church related items have been removed for safekeeping. At the request of the prospective buyer, jersey barriers were emplaced at the property line next to Gibbs' Rd. This was done by the church neighbor, Mike Sorrenti, and his brother Jim at no cost to the church. A very kind gesture of support as we were quoted \$1000 to have this done by a contractor. Soon we will be calling for volunteers to help with the Fall cleanup before we hunker down for the winter. (Bill Cifrino)



Prison Ministry

I began to meet with other members of the *Solid Rock Ministries* at the Barnstable County Correctional Facility in Bourne on Monday, September 9th. I had applied for volunteering at the facility and had completed the orientation program that is required. The ministry is small at this time having only four of us- two men and two women. We go in together usually around 6 pm. Protocol demands that we wear business attire, have no weapons, including paper clips and/or staples. After passing through a sensor like the one at airports, we are then checked with a wand passed over our bodies.



At this point we wait for a Correctional Officer to escort us to one of two ‘pods’ that house inmates. There is a third pod for incoming, a solitary confinement area, and an area that houses only women. We have only had the staff to go to Pods B and C. Pod C is a two tiered affair with a recreational room at the center. The conference room is off to the side with a locked door that only the CO on duty can open. We are there from about 6-7:30. The men in this pod are very transient and the men who attend each week vary in number so that a lengthy study of any kind is not productive. The ministry sets it up that one of the volunteers will lead a study on either a passage of the Bible or topic. In B there is one young man who has come to Christ and is very serious about his studies. He and one of the male volunteers have been doing the book of Romans together.

I have no concerns about my physical safety. The facility is really very tight and strict with security precautions for all- COs and other staff, inmates, and volunteers. The COs that I have met are young gentlemen and are always aware of their surroundings. The inmates have also been gentlemen with the exception of a ‘class clown’ showing up once in a while. The sentenced inmates get no time release credit for Bible studies as they do when they attend AA, NA, or some work program. In B it is the same as they are not sentenced yet. I am enjoying the experience so far and hope this is what the Lord wants me to do for quite a while. (Cathy Sharon-Matthews)

Honoring Parishioners



Recently the elder team began to honor and celebrate the dedicated members in Swift Memorial Church. We want to express our thanks for their faithful service for our congregation. On September 1, Susan Scott, our lay leader, presented the “Certificate of Appreciation” and gifts to Ginny Daigle and Vicki Heckman. We will continue to give thanks to those who work for God’s kingdom with the love of our Lord. We are so thankful

that there are so many disciples of Jesus Christ who deserve to be praised for their unceasing and invisible labor of love every week for the church. May God continue to bless them and use them to share the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. (Pastor Joe)

