

October-December 2019 Ministry Highlights

Swift Memorial United Methodist Church

10 Williston Rd. Sagamore Beach, MA 02562

January 2020

Christmas Pageant



The last quarter of 2019 was an exciting one. It is the time to give THANKS during Thanksgiving and then came the start of Advent, before Christmas arrives and we celebrate the birth of our Savior. On December 15th our two Sunday School classes (Discovering Jesus and Sunday School 101) presented a Christmas Pageant. The pageant was “The Night Before Christmas & ‘Twas the night before Christ’s Birth.” They were very excited and enjoyed

learning their parts. The children were amazing and the congregation loved the presentation. The costumes and props enhanced the performance.

Characters / Cast

Mr. Mouse: Jonathan Chick Angel: Morgan Phillips
Mary: Wyneth Wilcox Joseph: Liam Stennett
Little Angels: Katherine Chick, Audrey Jacintho
Inn Keeper & Angel Gabriel: Joseph Furtado
Shepherds: Garrett & Miles Newall
1st Reader: Charlotte Roy 2nd Reader: Garrett Newall



In our presentation “The Night Before Christmas” was read. The “Mouse” in the house is very irritated because he is working so hard and no one appreciates Christmas. They just want gifts. Bah Humbug. The play goes on to tell “Twas the Night Before Christ’s Birth.” This shows us that Christmas is so much more. Mr. Mouse hears about the angels singing, the shepherds hear about God’s plan. We hear Mary is expecting a baby. She stays in a stable because there is no room at the Inn. The angels announce “Jesus is Born, Jesus is Born” on that first Christmas Day. It is “A gift from the Father, He planned it that way.” Mr. Mouse and each of us now truly know “The Reason for the Season.” After the service was over, we all attended a Happy Birthday party for baby Jesus. Cake, balloons, banners, song and Reindeer games were so much fun. Praying that this coming year will be blessed as we continue to learn about the Bible and our Jesus.

(Julia Chick)





World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2019 was World Communion Sunday. It is the day that we celebrate the fact that all Christians in the world are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Rev. Jean-Claude Noah, a missionary from Cameroon (Coordinator at Living Word Missions) was the guest preacher. Dr. Won Park and his wife Unyoung sang the offertory anthem and Jennifer Jonay did a liturgical dance. (Pastor Joe)

Wednesday Book Study: Spiritual Practices

The women attending the Wednesday morning 10:00 Bible study focused on the spiritual practices of ‘simplicity’ and ‘silence’ during the months of October, November and December. The material highlighted the ever present busyness and noise, in our lives and in our thoughts, that drowns out the voice of the Holy Spirit. Our readings on simplicity portrayed greed as a form of idolatry. We don’t trust God to provide all we need, and so we push him aside in the pursuit of worldly gain. (Susan Scott)



The simplicity section challenged us to fill the God shaped void within each of us with Christ, to remove the extraneous things that come between us and God. We were encouraged to always keep God as the center of our lives, to rest in his care, to live with enough- not always need more, and to not allow possessions, a job, or prestige to replace him. We have become addicted to noise and all kinds of distractions. It’s up to each of us to find a place of silence away from these external distractions. It’s also necessary to quiet our inner distractions so that we can meet God in a place of silence and rest in his care. The group is starting a new study based on a John Ortberg book titled *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*. Please join us our fellowship. (Geri Rider)



Christmas Bazaar

On November 9th, we held our annual Christmas Bazaar. We had a silent auction. We had a baked goods table, lots of crafts, hand knitted and crocheted items and some lovely



donated items from a gift store that closed. We also served clam chowder from Rock Bottom Seafood along with coffee and apple cider donuts. Many church neighbors stopped by and it was a festive atmosphere. It was also a financial success! We netted almost \$2,900. I’m so grateful for all the makers, bakers and volunteers who made this happen. Thank you! (Wanda Crowell)

Adult Baptism

On December 22, 2019 Russ Cullivan was baptized. The day was the birthday of Russ' mother, Joanie Cahoon. His brother Jim Cahoon came from Brentwood, Tennessee to celebrate Russ' baptism on such a special day for their family. Joanie would be so happy to see that Russ was baptized. (Pastor Joe)



Swift Choir



The Swift Choir recently completed their performance of Joy! He Shall Reign by Cliff Duren, our latest Christmas cantata on December 22. It was a great success! Next week the choir will start weeknight rehearsals in order to improve upon our service anthems. We are hoping to expand our repertoire to more genres. If you are interested in joining the choir, now is a great time! We will begin work on our Easter cantata and Lenten anthems next week. (Ben Healy)

Scholarship Award

Josh Stennett was awarded a scholarship on December 12, 2019. After my sister, Anna, died, the Anna Gibbs Brush Scholarship was set up in her name. She had graduated from Bridgewater State Teachers College. Although she didn't pursue a teaching career, she believed in the importance of young people furthering their education. The memorial money was to go to a graduate from high school who was going on to college. As time went on, the Red Roost Thrift Shop donated money to the fund regularly. During Anna's life at Swift Memorial she was active in the life of the church.

The Roberta Ellis scholarship was set up by Edward R. Ellis, a loyal member of Swift Memorial in memory of his wife "Bobbie." Bobbie also graduated from Bridgewater State Teachers College and taught before she married. She also was active at Swift Memorial. She taught Sunday School for many years, sang in the choir, and participated in other events. Later, both scholarships were turned over to the NE Foundation where they earned higher interest. (Rev. Jean Trench Ellis)



Backpack Ministry



I have been in touch with the food coordinator from Bourne Public Schools and she greatly appreciates all that our church is donating to the Backpack Program at the Bournedale School (Pre-K to Gr. 2). Food items needed weekly include: mayo, jelly, cereal, fruit cups, granola bars, juice boxes, cookies, crackers, pasta, pasta sauce and canned chicken. Make sure there are NO glass containers. You may drop off your donations in the container provided at the back of Gibbs Hall. Also, a generous donation was made at Thanksgiving from a former church member, in memory of her husband, that went to buy turkeys for people served by the Bourne Food Pantry. (Diane Magnuson)

Swift Women

The Swift Women met December 14 at Swift to enjoy a super potluck brunch, have devotions, and create a few crafty treats for our mission project at Cape Winds rest home in Sandwich. We created candy cane reindeer and glittery icicles. The more adventuresome of us were elbow deep in birdseed and something very sticky so that the residents would have a treat for their feathered friends.

After church on the Sunday before Christmas we



assembled gift bags for each resident.

Through the generous donations of our entire congregation each person received activity books, a hat, candy, fruit, and personal care items. The staff at Cape Winds was very appreciative of our efforts to make their residents' holiday a bit cheerier. Thank You to everybody who made this possible! The Swift Women meet the second Saturday of every month at 9 am. in Gibbs hall. (Geri Rider)



Prison Ministry

I personally missed most of December as I was visiting with my son in MD. However, I did have some updated and corrected information for you. First, the inmates that I have seen so far are in orange jumpsuits. That color indicates that they are awaiting the deposition of their alleged crime. The ones housed in C pod are in for more minor offenses, and although not all, most have committed a crime under the influence of some drug/alcohol. They are the most transient population as they may be there until they can raise bail, their case comes up quickly, or they make bail and are out until their trial. Those men in B pod are awaiting trials on more serious charges such as felonies like murder, armed robbery, rape. They do not have bail offered as a rule so they are there longer. Once they do get a conviction, if it is over 2 ½ years they are transferred to another facility.

I found out from those in C pod that they do not have services offered such as AA or NA. (Remember this group is very transient.) I am hoping to meet with the chaplain to discuss offering more of a study like we do with those who are actually serving time now. Please pray that I am hearing the Lord right on that. I hope to be able to do this during the day when they do not have



AA or NA or other meetings. I would continue the Monday night sessions as needed but would rather the continuity of a book study. I also hope to be able to offer a women's study to the female population. I need your prayers that I am following what the Lord wants me to do. Please also continue to pray for all involved in our justice system: the police, the correctional offices, the inmates, the volunteers, and the inmates families. (Cathy Sharon-Matthews)



Parishioner Recognition

The elder team continued its practice of recognizing members of the congregation for their service to the church, whether visible or behind the scenes. In October Susan Scott presented a plant and certificate of recognition to both Ted Burnham and to Cathy Sharon Matthews. Ted has served as one of the trustees for several years as well as assisting in vacation bible school and helping behind the scenes in numerous ways. Cathy has long been coordinating the prayer chain as well as leading bible studies and organizing the blood drives. She recently began working in prison ministry in Barnstable. In November the elders honored Charlotte Hopper for her work on the worship committee as well as behind the scenes in caring ministry. December's recipient was Bill Cifrino,



another member of the trustees who has gone above and beyond in personal labor for the church, its events and its facilities. The church leadership is grateful to every single member who works with others to create the fellowship, outreach, and worship experience we all enjoy, for the glory of our Lord and savior. Please contact any one of the elders if you wish to suggest a member of the congregation for recognition in the coming year. (Susan Scott)

Finance Update & Mission

Happy New Year! It is difficult for those of us who remember the angst in 1999, as Y2K was about to happen that it is now 2020! That being said, how did Swift Memorial do financially in 2019? We were a few thousand dollars over budget however, there is good news in that number: We paid 95% of our apportionments (mission shares) which comprised of 75% toward World Missions, 100% of our New England Missions and 100% of our Ministry Support. This is the best we have done in the 10 years I have been at this church.



Now to be honest, the \$14,000 grant we received from the N.E. Methodist Conference was a huge help and I have reapplied for the year two portion of the grant as well. If the grant is accepted, we will receive a lower amount, but something that should help us. The other good news is that we have enough money left over from the Men's Breakfast group to sponsor a second man from Teen Challenge, and enough money left over to sponsor a second child from Watoto. I have contacted Watoto asking them for a girl next. This means due to you, our wonderful congregation, we are helping to change the lives of four people as well as helping to feed children in the Backpack program on the weekend, helping the elderly at Cape Winds with supplies they need, and supporting the Bourne Food Pantry.



I will be doing a presentation on our 2019 finances and our budget for 2020 in a couple of weeks. Also, at that time, I wish to explain what our apportionments (mission shares) pay for as some of you have questions. I personally want to thank you all for your generosity as we strive to be a church who represents our

Lord, Jesus Christ, teaching the gospel, changing lives and helping those in need. (Ann Burnham)

The Trustees

During the past year the Trustees have continued to strive to meet our overall goal of caring for the Church properties responsibly at the least possible cost to the congregation. Toward this end Trustee Committee members and other volunteers perform as many of the maintenance and repair tasks as possible without hiring outside contractors. An example this year was the construction of an extensive inside and outside French drain system to alleviate the chronic issue of flooding into the preschool during heavy rainstorms. Our ongoing volunteer lawn and garden maintenance program is another example which saves us several thousand dollars every year. Many probably noticed the new sign built at the corner of Scussett Beach Rd. and Old Plymouth Rd. This was done entirely with donated materials and the expertise of Trustee Dave Stockbridge at no cost to the Church.



Unfortunately some things need to be contracted out. When this happens a designated Trustee contacts no fewer than three contractors and chooses the one who will give our Church the best value. This year we had the sidewalks and parking lot resealed and the lot relined, The Gibbs Hall floor was refinished and some septic and plumbing issues resolved at the parsonage. We also had leaf guards installed on the parsonage gutters which alleviates the need for twice annual gutter cleaning. There were innumerable other needs that arose and were handled by Trustees throughout the year all done to keep our Church home safe and welcoming to all. (Bill Cifrino)

Certified Lay Minister

We are happy to announce that Rhode Island/Southeastern MA district approved Ann Burnham as a Certified Lay Minister in December 2019. The followings are what Ann shares with us about “a Certified Lay Minister.” “A Certified Lay Minister is a qualified United Methodist layperson called to congregational leadership as part of a ministry team under the supervision of a clergy person. This person enters the certification process, which includes training, support, supervision and accountability while serving in a local church assigned by the District Superintendent. CLMs may preach the word, and guide the program ministry and mission of a congregation. However, CLMs may provide leadership in many other contexts and have responsibility for other expressions of mission and ministry both within the congregation and in the community, district, or annual conference. While



CLMs can provide the essential guidance and pastoral leadership and services necessary for effective mission and ministry in churches, they are not intended to replace clergy, but rather to work beside them and with them as part of a team ministry.”

If you are interested in becoming a Certified Lay Minister in the United Methodist Church, you’d better contact Ann. She would love to share with you about the process.

(Pastor Joe & Ann Burnham)