SWIFT CREEK CHRONICLER



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory... full of grace and truth." *John 1:14*

Dear Church Family,

Every December, as the air turns crisp and festive, we embark on a cherished ritual of preparing our homes, our churches, and our hearts for the arrival of Christmas. We adorn our living spaces with twinkling lights and ornaments that tell stories of celebration. We gather around the warmth of crackling fires, sharing laughter and joy as we sing familiar hymns that resonate with the spirit of the season. Surrounded by loved ones, we recount the timeless tale of a God who drew near to us, embodying love and hope.

Yet, just as swiftly as it comes, Christmas seems to slip away. The vibrant trees, adorned with shimmering ornaments, are dismantled and tucked away. The dazzling lights that once illuminated our nights grow dim and fade into the shadows. Life resumes its usual rhythm, and we carry on, as if returning to the mundane. But what if Christmas were not simply a fleeting season to be celebrated and then forgotten? What if it was intended to be a way of living, a continuous thread of joy, grace, and togetherness woven into the fabric of our daily lives?

John tells us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The word dwelt means "pitched His tent," "made His home," "took up residence." Jesus didn't come for a holiday. He came to stay. Christmas is not the celebration of a moment; it is the revelation of a Person. And that Person - Christ Himself - does not leave when the calendar turns.

When we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas as God's profound choice to dwell among us, it transforms every mundane day into sacred ground. Every conversation we engage in opens the door to grace, inviting the possibility of connection and understanding. Each act of kindness resonates like a gentle reminder of the humble birth in Bethlehem, reverberating with hope and goodwill. Every moment of courage we muster shines like a spark of the same radiant light that pierced the depths of darkness, illuminating our path and inspiring those around us. Christmas never has to end because Emmanuel never leaves.

Here are three simple ways to "keep Christmas" long after the decorations are gone. First, Practice Presence. Just as God came near, choose to be fully present with the people around you. Put down the phone. Look someone in the eye. Listen deeply. Presence is one of the greatest gifts you can give.

Second, Carry the Light. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." Light doesn't announce itself; it simply shines. Offer encouragement. Speak peace. Bring hope into anxious spaces.

Lastly, Make Room. The inn had no room, but your life can. Make room for interruptions, for compassion, for generosity, for the Spirit's nudges. When you make room, Christ is revealed.

As we embrace the spirit of the holiday season, my heartfelt prayer is that the spirit of Christmas finds a lasting home within your heart and shines outward in all that you do. May joy, peace, and love fill your days ahead. Wishing each of you a wonderful New Year filled with hope and cherished moments.

I love you all!
Pastor Jason C. Dunham

Deacon Update

The Deacons met on December 2, 2025. Jennie Jones opened the meeting with a devotion asking, “What ought to distinguish Christians from the world?” According to the Advent devotional by David Jeremiah, it should be our “authentic love – love for one another, for enemies, and for neighbors”. John 13:12-17, 33-35

Old business: identified Phillip Burnett, Billie Jo Cochran, Jason Dunham, and Jennie Jones to serve on the Social Media/AI Committee to develop guidelines for the ethical and proper use of social media and AI within church business and materials. This work will begin after the first of the year. A second item discussed was the receipt of a new resume for the music director position.

New business included a welcome to Roy Lasher for his election to the deacon board and an update on deacon responsibilities, families, and various assignments. Other items discussed included approval of the request to purchase two cemetery plots for Dianne Davis and a single lot for Phyllis Rollins, and the placement of military grave markers on our veterans' tombstones.

Pastor Jason presented an update on upcoming sermon preparations and on surveys to be distributed to members for data collection for his dissertation. The surveys are for data only and may provide information to inform change, but not without the full support of Swift Creek Baptist Church members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennie Jones

Women On Mission

Happy New Year! W.O.M. would like to say Thank You to everyone who has assisted in our fundraiser in the past year. W.O.M. was able to send a check to the Budd family and the Dodge family in December to assist each family in their ministry. W.O.M. also assisted several families at Thanksgiving with a turkey and a Food Lion gift card and at Christmas with a ham and gift cards. We were able to provide gift cards for mothers to buy Christmas presents for their kids. You all blessed W.O.M. and in turn we were able to minister to families in need. God is Good! We look forward to what God has in store for 2026.

W.O.M. continues to pray for and support PreBorn with our personal donations. Pre Born’s mission is to save babies from abortion and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with their mother. If you want to know more about PreBorn, please contact Robin Atkins or Agnes Lasher.

We plan to volunteer at With Love From Jesus on January 22 (fourth Thursday). Everyone is invited. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 am to carpool.

In His Service,

Children & youth

On Saturday, December 6th, we had a great turnout for Breakfast with Santa! Children and their families enjoyed breakfast, a cute ornament craft, and met Santa! Big shout out to the volunteers who helped with set-up, cooking, and leading the crafts. Special thanks to our older students, Libby and Finn, for helping and modeling service to the younger ones!

In January we will be starting the year off with a Kid's Kickoff! This event is open to all children, youth, and their families. We will have lunch, family games, and a Minute-to-Win-It style competition! It's sure to be a blast! Kid's Kickoff will be at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 24th, in the Fellowship Hall.

Invite your friends and join us for a fun time that the whole family can enjoy!



~JANUARY~



January 2	Jennie Jones
January 3	Beverly Wheeler
January 8	Charles Norton
January 13	Christian Leggett
January 17	Kaden Patterson
January 25	Brianna Leggett
January 28	Savannah Dunham
January 31	Daniel O'Dell
January 31	Lauren O'Dell
January 31	Kaylin Holmes

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 21
Roy & Agnes Lasher

January 26
Charles & Shirley Livengood



Thank you all for the very generous gifts you have given to the Pastor and Staff during the holiday season. The cards, cookies, candies, gift cards, love offerings, and many other gifts have been appreciated more that you will ever know. Thank you is never enough.

It is our pleasure to serve the Lord at Swift Creek Baptist Church, and you all make it a blessing. We pray for a blessed 2026!

Pastor Jason,
Philip, Jae, Susan, Eloise, & Debra

NURSERY/ PRE SCHOOL MONTHLY SCHEDULE

January - Lorraine Norton
February - Sharon Lawrence
March - Sarah Jones
April - Dianne Davis

SWIFT CREEK KIDS SCHEDULE

1st Sunday - Pat Mills
2nd Sunday - LaRue Holmes
3rd Sunday - Sue Mulvihill
4th Sunday - Children in Service

Thank you!



Brotherhood Breakfast
January 4, 2026
8:45 am



Christmas decorations, as beautiful as they are, they do have to come down. It's never as much fun to take them down as it was to put them up, but we still need all of the helping hands to make this task go smoothly. Please make plans to meet at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 3, 2026 to help take down the decorations.

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

1	Happy New Year / Office Closed	
3	Take Down Decorations	10:00 am
4	Brotherhood Breakfast	8:45 am
6	Deacons Meeting	6:30 pm
7	Bible Study	6:00 pm
11	Finance Meeting following service	
14	Fellowship Meal	5:00 pm
	Bible Study	6:00 pm
15	WOM	10:30 am
17	Calendar Planning	10:00 am
21	Bible Study	6:00 pm
24	Children & Youth Fun Day	11:00 -1:00
28	CARE	9:30 am
28	Bible Study	6:00 pm



Calendar Planning
Saturday, January 17
at 10:00 am.

One person from each committee should attend this meeting if you need to add items to the calendar.

January Fellowship Meal

The 2nd Wednesday Fellowship Meal will be on January 14 at 5:00 pm.

This meal is by donation with the proceeds going toward designated church projects.

Please don't forget to sign at the information center if you plan to attend. Signing up helps determine how much to purchase and prepare.

Menu: Chicken Noodle Soup, Sub Sandwich and Dessert.

January 2026

Jason Dunham,
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