

# SWIFT CREEK CHRONICLE



I want to start by asking you a question? Is your life feeling cluttered, are you feeling overwhelmed by the amount of clutter in your life? I promise you, that you are not alone. When it comes to clutter in your life, the struggle is real. I have come to know that clutter slowly accumulates, and as it accumulates, clutter starts to fill every nook and cranny. You might not notice it at first, but give it a little time, it has a way of totally taking over your life. And it is not just the physical space, but clutter has a way of creeping into you soul.

Clutter in our homes can take over our lives. Too many disorganized heaps of stuff leave us looking for things we want but can't find. Those jam-packed closets and stuffed "junk" drawers (I have more junk drawers than I want to admit) seem to call out to us to organize them and that clutter can stress us out!

The same process can happen in our spiritual lives. We can build up spiritual clutter until the only places left for God are the little nooks and crannies between it all. How can He fill you up when there is no space for Him in your life? Here is the good news. With God, we can take control. With God, we can choose the victory and start getting rid of the clutter in life.

So, you're ready to declutter! Here are some steps to declutter your spiritual life.

The First step always should start with **prayer**. As you begin the process, ask God to do the cleaning. Ask God to show you what he wants you to let go of and what he wants you to keep. When I start the declutter, I ask God to *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10"*. Allow God to take the lead as you declutter. He may surprise you. What you might consider expendable clutter may be an area where He has great plans for you! Not all clutter is bad clutter. But we will not know that until we surrender

our will to God's will.

Next, **Release and Surrender everything to God**. There may be some activities that you may need to let go. The word "No" is not necessarily a bad word. Saying "no" to an opportunity is not un-Christian! If it's not feeding your soul or drawing you closer to the Living Christ, then release yourself. Remember, half of the troubles of this life can be traced to saying yes too quickly and not saying no soon enough." (Josh Billings) ... "Freedom comes when you learn to let go, and give God control!!

**Lastly, learn to organize your priorities For God.** Ephesians 4:22-24 tells us that *"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*

Spend some quiet time with God and let the Spirit lead you. Let God reorient and guide you. After all, His ways are better than our ways because His thoughts are not our thoughts. It is God's desire to equip you with all you need to be successful. Listen to God's voice and then decide what needs to take priority in your life and then incorporate them back into your life wisely. Remember, when you decide to declutter, choose faith in God over your fears.

I love you all,  
Pastor Jason Dunham

## DEACONS UPDATE

Kristin Frazier and Daniel Metzger were invited to the January meeting to formally meet the deacons. They each expressed how the church membership has welcomed them and how encouraging everyone has been. They are excited for the coming year and ask for continued support. They also asked that any suggestion that the deacons may receive be communicated to them. Kristin would like for everyone to know that the choir is open to everyone and encourages any previous members to return and also anyone else who wants to participate. Daniel was told there have been multiple positive comments about Swift Creek Kids.

### Updates on church projects:

- Columbarium - completed
- Church security - additional projects in January/February as funds are available.
- Playground - no update
- Bond for employees and volunteers handling church funds - in effect January 1, 2023.
- Pumpkin Patch - completed

### Old Business:

- Choir loft safety lift - Jennie Jones will discuss with Charles Norton, Chair of Building Committee.
- Church Clutter - Internal Beautification Committee members: Sharon Lawrence, Rick Jones, Pat Mills, Agnes Lasher as Chair of Historical Committee and

Charles Norton as Chair of Building Committee. There was a request from the committee to contact Bobby Soles for advice on audio-visual equipment currently not in use. Approval was granted.

### New Business

- Coffee Fellowship - there has been very little participation in the fellowship time. After discussion, it was decided that the fellowship time will be suspended for now and reconsidered at a later date.
- Wednesday night meals - with the uptick in Covid and respiratory infections, postponing Wednesday night meals was discussed. It was decided to postpone the meals until further notice. The meal for January 11 will be served since food has already been purchased.
- Ray Arnett explained that with the small number of Audio/ Visual members, there may be Sundays when live Facebook feed can't be done due to member illness or family concerns. He will prepare a message to be displayed if this should occur. He was reassured this is understandable and not a problem. Family concerns always come first.

**Pastor Time** - the sermon series will be Old Testament Characters, focusing on faith over fear.

Submitted by, Dianne Davis, Secretary

## WOMEN ON MISSION

Women on Mission met on January 19th for a time of prayer for our missionaries, a devotion, discuss ways we can help families with needs, and to plan upcoming events. We have several families we are focusing on assisting. One of the families has a seven year old son who is receiving cancer treatments and has already gone through surgery at Duke Hospital in Durham. We have provided the family with homecooked meals that were delivered to the hospital. We have also included gift cards for them to use at other times. If you would like to assist with a meal or a gift card for them, please contact Robin Atkins at 919.621.2400.

Our primary focus in February is seeking volunteers to bake cakes for the annual BBQ on February 24th. The ladies will have sign up sheets in the vestibule on Sunday mornings following the worship service. Also, we need volunteers to help with preparing potatoes on Thursday, February 23rd, any help is appreciated.

As always, we encourage all of the ladies to join us at any time for a W.O.M. meeting. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th at 10:30 am. We would love for you to join us.

Robin Atkins



Donations - Throughout the year various committees will request donations to support mission opportunities. However, if you plan to make a donation outside of these requests, please contact the committee chair of the committee you would like to donate to before delivering items to the church. This is a consorted effort to minimize excess clutter and still fulfill the needs of the church and community.

# ~ FEBRUARY ~



- February 1 Chris Mouchet
- February 9 Lorraine Norton
- February 9 Susan Moore
- February 10 Teresa Atkins
- February 10 Charlene Howell
- February 11 Eloise Walker
- February 13 Trudy Byron
- February 19 Lindy Dunham
- February 27 Lynn Pierce
- February 27 David Holmes

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 11  
Jack & Susan Rollins

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

- February 5  
Lynn Pierce, Eloise Garland
- February 12  
Tiffany Arnett, Teresa Atkins
- February 19  
Dianne Davis, Jennie Jones
- February 26  
Sarah Jones, Sharon Lawrence

## JAM SCHEDULE

- February 5 - Claudia Metzger
- February 12 - Sue Mulvihill
- February 19 - Pat Mills
- February 26 - JoAnne King

Thank you! 

## FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE

1	Wednesday Night Meal	5:00 pm
5	Brotherhood Breakfast	8:45 am
6	Finance Committee	7:00 pm
7	Deacons Meeting	6:30 pm
8	Wednesday Night Meal	5:00 pm
	Quarterly Conference	6:00 pm
15	Wednesday Night Meal	5:00 pm
16	WOM	10:30 am
22	CARE	9:30 am
22	Wednesday Night Meal	5:00 pm
	Ash Wednesday Service	6:00 pm
23	BBQ prep	
24	BBQ	11:00 am - until


*thank you!*

Dear Swift Creek Family

Thank you for your support and prayers during my recent recovery.

The Swift Creek spirit is certainly evidence of God's love.

Thankfully,  
Lynda Hinnant



The Annual BBQ Fundraiser is February 24th. We will need home-made desserts and plenty of help to make it all come together. Go ahead and mark your calendar now, and be planning on how you can help with this annual event.

11:00 am until we run out  
Take Out Only  
\$12 per plate  
(BBQ, Slaw, Potatoes, & Dessert)

By the pound:  
BBQ \$12, Slaw \$6, Potatoes \$6

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