

SWIFT CREEK CHRONICLE



"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2

Dear Church Family,

When it comes to this time of year, I so look forward to hearing Christmas music that is played on the radio. I enjoy listening to the Christmas Carols on the radio as I take my daughters to school. It has become a tradition that we look forward to every year. The Christmas music allows us to focus on Christ and what He has done for us throughout the year. I know the seasons can move fast, but for 10 minutes we allow the sounds of Christmas to refresh our souls.

If you ask me what my favorite Christmas Hymn is, I would tell you that it is "O Holy Night". It was composed by a French poet named Placide Cappeau in 1843 (he was a poet that walked away from his faith in Christ). Still, the thing that amazes me the most about this song was that God used a man that lost his faith along with a Jewish musician to tell the story of Jesus' birth. Also, the song stirred a lot of controversy in the church, to the point where it was banned. Could you imagine "O Holy Night" never being sung at Christmas in the church. But the lyrics show us something else, under the surface, once we know the history of the song. That through a man who lost his faith and a Jewish man who composed the music, that God's message can still shine through, and that faith can also be restored.

On Christmas Eve 1871, during the Franco-Prussian War, some historians recount a French soldier running into the fray and belting out the opening lyrics to "O Holy Night." A German soldier responded with a line from another Christmas tune, "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." They say the men honored a day-long peace treaty in observation of Christmas. The song continued to inspire ripple effects.

In 1906, Reginald Fessenden, a 33-year-old university

professor and former chief chemist for Thomas Edison, did something thought impossible. Using a new type of generator, he spoke into a microphone and for the first time in history a voice was broadcast over the airwaves. He read in clear strong voice from the book of Luke, "And it came to pass in those days, that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed." Shocked radio operators on ships and wireless owners at newspapers, used to Morse code heard over tiny speakers, were interrupted by a speaking voice reading Luke and had no idea where it came from. When the professor finished his reading, he picked up his violin and played "O Holy Night", the first song ever played over the air waves. Imagine the surprise of listeners everywhere, never suspecting such a thing was possible. But, we know with God all things are possible, even more so at Christmas time. I want you to take a moment and sing to yourself "O Holy Night"!

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.

The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

(continued)

The Meaning of 'O Holy Night' reflects on the night of Jesus' birth, as recorded in Luke 2:4-12: "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were

terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Who would have ever thought one of the most beautiful and spiritual songs ever written would have such a fascinating legacy. Only God!!! Merry Christmas and may your New Year be bright!!!

I love you all,

Pastor Jason Dunham

DEACONS UPDATE

Updates of church projects:

*Columbarium- name plate holes is in progress.

*Church security - No update.

*Playground status - Updating the current wooden structure by the company it was purchased from will be approximately \$5000. Companies who use more substantial materials are being contacted for estimates.

*Bond - Signature on policy covering volunteers is unknown. Jennie Jones will contact David Holmes, chair of Trustees.

Old Business:

Jennie presented communion process and deacon rotation for setting up and serving communion. After discussion, a few changes were made and an updated copy of the rotation will be available at the December meeting. At the January meeting there will be a practice to ensure everyone is comfortable with the serving process.

New Business:

*2023 budget request - due to an oversight, the request for the \$100 for the home bound was not turned in. Charles Livengood, chair, will work this out with Matt Leggett, church treasurer.

*Youth room - The youth have requested a room they can set up in a way that is more appealing to youth and less like a classroom. They have requested room 200 (old conference room), which is where they have been meeting on Sundays and Wednesdays. It was suggested they consider room 203 (1010 classroom). Jennie will

inform Daniel Metzger, Children and Youth Director of the suggestion.

*Safety lift - Noted the safety ramp on the lift is zip-locked in an upright position and is being used as a storage area. Jennie will investigate, contact Charles Norton, Building Committee chair, and have the items stored there removed.

*Church clutter - There have been multiple concerned comments received regarding miscellaneous items stored in empty classrooms and around the interior of the church. After discussion, Dianne Davis has recommended an Internal Beautification Committee be formed to address this issue. Suggested members were Agnes Lasher, Pat Mills, Sharon Lawrence and Rick Jones. Jennie will contact these individuals as well as the Building and Historical committees.

*Christmas Day worship service - Pastor Jason is planning a modified service 10:30-11:00.

*During children's functions being led by a husband and wife team, there will be another adult present.

Pastor update - thank you to all for the prayers, concerns and support during the recent illnesses of Pastor Jason and family. Hanging of Greens is scheduled for November 22 at 6:00 pm. Jason and wife, Lindy, will be out of town November 10,11,12 to chaperon a retreat for the Wake Christian Academy choir. He will be available by phone or text if needed.

Submitted by Dianne Davis, Secretary

~ D E C E M B E R ~



- December 3 Linda Gibbons
- December 5 Sharon Lawrence
- December 9 Jeremy Howell
- December 11 Joe Jones
- December 15 Agnes Lasher
- December 22 Katie Leggett
- December 25 LaRue Holmes
- December 27 Rick Jones
- December 28 Jason Dunham

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 4
Ray & Tiffany Arnett

December 30
Peter & Eloise Walker

NURSERY SCHEDULE

December 4
Claudia Metzger, Sharon Lawrence

December 11
Lorraine Norton, Lynda Hinnant

December 18
Lynn Pierce, Eloise Garland

December 25
Tiffany Arnett, Jennie Jones

JAM SCHEDULE

December 4
Sue Mulvihill

December 11
Dianne Davis

December 18
Claudia Metzger

December 25
No Children's Church

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

2 Senior Banquet	5:30 pm
3 Breakfast with Santa	9:30 am - 11:00 am
4 Brotherhood Breakfast	8:45 am
4 Christmas Cantata	6:00 pm
6 Deacons Meeting	6:30 pm
9 Youth Christmas Party	5:00 pm
11 Coffee Fellowship	9:30 am
12 Finance Meeting	7:00 pm
15 Women On Missions	10:30 am
24 Christmas Eve Service	6:00 pm
28 CARE	9:30 am

Thank you!



WOMEN ON MISSION

W.O.M. started the holiday season with our annual Christmas Shopping Spree and Bake Sale. We had a wonderful day of fellowship and good food. We had some great vendors, awesome hotdogs and desserts. Thanks to George and everyone else who made a donation of homemade baked goods. I spoke with each vendor and one thing they all told me was they loved the hotdogs and really enjoyed the fellowship of everyone here at Swift Creek. Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas Shopping Spree possible.

The money we made from the Yard Sale and Shopping Spree will assist families in need with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. W.O.M. plans to also assist a young family with a child who is receiving cancer treatments at Duke Hospital. Please be in prayer for this family.

Swift Creek has a wonderful and busy month ahead as we prepare for Christmas. Take time to enjoy the activities and be ever so thankful for the birth of Jesus - The Reason for the Season.

Merry Christmas,
Robin Atkins

A quick glance at
January 2023

Taking down all of the
Christmas Decorations will be
on Saturday, January 7th at
10:00 am. Please come help.

Brotherhood Breakfast will be
January 8, 2023 at 8:45 am

Jason Dunham,
Senior Pastor
pastor@swiftcreekchurch.com

Kristin Frazier, Music Director
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Jae Kim,
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Daniel Metzger,
Children & Youth Director
youth@swiftcreekchurch.com

Susan Moore,
Financial Secretary
finance@swiftcreekchurch.com

Debra Vick, Ministry Assistant
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919.851.0112

*thank
you*

Dear Swift Creek Baptist Church,

What a wonderful, loving, caring and ministering church you are! We cannot thank you enough for the many, many acts of kindness shown to us and the family upon Whitney's passing. Bringing breakfast on the day of her funeral was such a blessing. We do appreciate it so much. SCBC always is a special place ministering to the needs of so many. We cherish our days there and Whitney loved you all too!

The cards, calls, food, texts and visits are all so special in helping us deal with this awful tragedy.

We need your continued prayers as we look for God in this.

Our love to each one and again than you for everything.

To God Be The Glory,
David and Cindy Beaver

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