

SWIFT CREEK CHRONICLE



“Faith over Fear: Focus on the Church & Missions!”

Every year the streets ring with the same lilting song. Sweet, peaceful, hopeful; “Auld Lang Syne” has become an absolute tradition in New Year’s Eve celebrations across the globe. And so, we sing. Or, at least, we sing the first couple of lines and then we politely mumble the rest of the song. Despite its vast popularity, it’s a song that very few people can actually recite the entirety of, including myself. The song, of course, derives from a 1788 Scottish poem by Robert Burns; now set to the tune of a traditional folk song. The phrase “for auld lang syne” essentially boils down to “for the sake of old times”. It’s a word which essentially calls for the preservation of our oldest, dearest friendships; perhaps observed in the reflective quality of New Year’s Eve itself. A time when people come together to recall past joys and sorrows, specifically those spent in each other’s company.

To me, this song means more than just for “the sake of old times”. It’s a time of reflection and a time of renewing. IMPACT 2022 was a success as we fed people, clothed them, and ministered as well. We also stepped up to help two families whose children are battling cancer. I can say that our little church has made an impact within the community. Now, it is time to renew our hearts, mind, and soul, as we focus on our new theme for the year; “Faith over Fear: Focus on the church and missions”.

In **Matthew 14:22-33** (please open your Bible) an incredible story unfolds before our eyes. A storm brews, and Jesus, well He decides to walk on water. Peter decides to walk on water too, but not quite as well. Peter ends up sinking and Jesus must now save him. It’s an amazing story. But there’s more to the story than just what we read. If we go a little deeper in the Bible, we will find there’s some powerful and practical lessons that we can tune in for 2023. Let’s see what we can learn from Peter and see what it holds for us in the upcoming year. First, faith requires us to step out of the boat. We love comfort and safety, and that’s not a bad thing at all, but too often we over inflate our desire for these things. Too often, we become the Peter’s of the storm. We look for safety instead of focusing on the shelter from the

storm that is called Jesus. In the new year, Jesus is going to ask you to take a risk and to trust him. We are going to have to overcome our fears and step out of the boat.

Secondly, peace is not found in the absence of the storm, but in the presence of Jesus. When Jesus told Peter to come to him, Jesus did not calm the storm for Peter. Instead, Jesus invited Peter out into the storm into the rough seas with him. Jesus rebuked Peter’s lack of faith because he took his eyes off of Jesus. News Flash!!! We are going to experience storms in 2023. As a church, let’s keep our eyes on Jesus as we focus on his church and his ministry. Peter’s walk on the water teaches us that in the middle of storms we can have peace if we focus our eyes on Jesus.

Lastly, when you follow Jesus, He does the impossible through you. I’m convinced God wants to tell an incredible story through His church. He wants to do things in us and through us that you can’t even imagine. Just like Peter, God has “walk on water” moments for us at Swift Creek Baptist Church. God wants us all to tell a great story about the life of our church. This means we are going to have to choose faith over fear. As a church, we are going to have to find our “walk on water movement within the storm”

I know in my heart that Peter talked about the time he walked on water for the rest of his life with everyone he encountered. Why? Because Peter learned that faith over fear wins every time. God wants the same for us as a church. God wants to tell an amazing story about Swift Creek Baptist Church. Will you let him? Let’s reflect and remember the things we accomplished from IMPACT 2022! And let us prepare our hearts for God in 2023! Happy New Year and may God use you in an amazing way.

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And auld lang syne,
For auld lang syne, my jo, For auld lang syne.
We’ll take a cup o’ kindness yet, For auld lang syne.*

Happy New Year and I love you all,
Pastor Jason Dunham

DEACONS UPDATE

Updates of church projects:

Columbarium - waiting for the cap. The incorrect cap was sent. Questioned if church has to pay for the new cap since the incorrect one was delivered. This will be forwarded to Grounds Committee.

Church security - first stage projects are on hold until after the New Year.

Playground - Jennie Jones has contacted several companies for estimates. Quote from Playground Boss was \$18,000. Waiting for additional quotes and will take to Grounds Committee.

Bond for employee liability begins January 1, 2023.

All papers have been signed.

Pumpkin Patch-

Total sales = \$6,236,

Church's share = \$1,559

Church's profit plus donations = \$2,200.

Old Business:

2023 Budget request- \$100 for homebound has been resolved. Will be covered by non-budgeted funds.

Choir loft lift - items being stored on lift have been removed. Wedge is still in place. Follow up with Charles Norton.

Church clutter - Jennie talked to Charles Norton, chair of Building Committee and Agnes Lasher, chair of Historical Committee. Both are in agreement that ridding the church of clutter is needed.

Internal Beautification Committee: Agnes Lasher, Sharon Lawrence, Pat Mills and Rick Jones have agreed to serve.

Youth room - the teens have agreed to use room 203 for their meeting room.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day services will be 10:30 am with no Sunday School on either day.

New Business:

Gift Cards for Penny Road Elementary for students in need - the cards have been provided by another source. At this time there is not a need for cards.

Dianne Davis asked if the church should have a way to document accidents. Jennie suggested that an incident report be completed in the event of an accident and be kept internal. If medical treatment is required, an accident report will be completed. Pastor Jason will obtain a business incident report form to create a church incident report.

Pastor update - Sermons based on Romans is ending. The next series of sermons will be based on exploring major characters of the Old Testament. In March 2023, Pastor Jason will begin a doctoral program through Regent University. He will be working toward a Divinity Doctorate with a focus on leadership.

January deacons meeting will be January 10.

Submitted by Dianne Davis, Secretary

WOMEN ON MISSION

Happy New Year!!!! The ladies of W.O.M. are looking forward to the plans God has for us in 2023.

We will meet on Wednesday, January 19th to share prayers for our missionaries, devotion, and plans for upcoming events. Please join us if you can.

W.O.M. would like to thank everyone who made donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas for assistance to some local families. They were very appreciative of what they received.

Also, I want to say thank you to the ladies of W.O.M. who prepared a meal and donated a gift card to one of the families at Duke Hospital whose child is receiving treatment for bone cancer.

God blesses us so we may bless others. God is Good!

Happy New Year,
Robin Atkins



Brotherhood Breakfast has been moved to the second Sunday for the month of January.

January 8, 2023 at 8:45 am

~ JANUARY ~



- January 2 Jennie Jones
- January 3 Wayne Dewar
- January 8 Charles Norton
- January 13 Christian Leggett
- January 16 Angel Shelton
- January 17 Kaden Patterson
- January 25 Brianna Leggett
- January 28 Savannah Dunham
- January 31 Kaylin Holmes

NURSERY SCHEDULE

- January 1**
Eloise Garland, Teresa Atkins
- January 8**
Sarah Jones, Pat Mills
- January 15**
Claudia Metzger, Sharon Lawrence
- January 22**
Lorraine Norton, Lynda Hinnant
- January 29**
JoAnne King, LaRue Holmes

JAM SCHEDULE

- January 1** - Claudia Metzger
- January 8** - Sue Mulvihill
- January 15** - JoAnne King
- January 22** - Pat Mills
- January 29** - Dianne Davis

Thank you! 

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 21
Roy & Agnes Lasher

January 26
Charles & Shirley Livengood

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

- 1 Happy New Year - Worship 10:30 am
- 2 Office Closed
- 7 Take Down Decorations 10:00 am
- 8 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:45 am
- 8 Coffee Fellowship 9:30 am
- 9 Finance Committee 7:00 pm
- 10 Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm
- 19 Women On Missions 10:30 am
- 25 CARE 9:30 am

Wednesday Night Menu for January

Please sign up in advance. It's very helpful for the team so they will know how much to prepare.

January 4, 2023
Chicken Noodle Soup
Grilled Cheese or PB&J
Fruit & Dessert

January 11, 2023
Spaghetti with Meatballs
Garden Salad
French Bread
Dessert

January 18, 2023
Deli Sub Sandwich
Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles
Chips
Fruit & Dessert

January 25, 2023
Hot Dogs
Chili, Slaw, Onions
Chips
Fruit & Dessert

\$2.50 Per person.
Children 5 and under free.



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