

The



**SWANSBORO
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Messenger

JUNE 2011

A Year of Miracles

When my appointment was made to serve this church this time one year ago, the Superintendent said, "It was a miracle that this appointment worked out for you." Little did we know then that the real miracles were about to take place after the appointment was made. Looking back at the way this congregation has come together in the past year is truly a miracle. Looking at the records that have been broken in attendance, membership, giving, new families, and attendance in Sunday school, is truly a miracle.

Looking at the outreach achieved in providing missions both at home and abroad, is really a miracle. The sharing of new leadership taking the church in new directions, is truly a miracle. Envisioning a new building plan that will meet the needs of our growing congregation, is yet another miracle that gives our church a promising future and a new hope. With all of these miracles and more in the life of our church, it makes you wonder as to the possibilities for miracles in the coming year. This year will be the defining moment for the future of this congregation.

God has given us a challenge to meet the needs of a growing church. We must now see if our church has the faith to meet that challenge, especially during a time of such doom and gloom given the economic crises that still dictate the emotion of fear in the hearts of many people. It is in times such as these that the great hymns we sing were written, and that the word of God was given. These gifts were given to inspire hope and to not give up on our faith.

As we begin this next year together, let us build upon the foundation of miracles given to our church in the past year, with the expectation of more miracles to come. It is with all humility that I serve this church for another year, if this is the will of God and the people I serve. As long as we are about winning souls for the Lord Jesus Christ, the gates of hell will not prevail against us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Gunter

Stephen Ministers Commissioned

Swansboro United Methodist Church held a commissioning service May 15th recognizing the completion of 20 weeks of study by its newest Stephen Ministers: Bill Baker, Patsy Crawford, Joel Harrod, Ken Harrod, and Al Krutulewski. Since 1997, the church has trained over 50 Stephen Ministers and Leaders to support the pastors in caring for the congregation.

Stephen Ministers serve as an extension of the pastoral staff, sharing the love of Christ with people going through crisis or change in their lives through confidential one to one distinctively Christian caring relationships. Typically, a Stephen Minister will support a person facing illness, death of a loved one, job concerns, relationship issues or other life changes such as child birth, retirement or moving for months or even years. The training includes topics such as listening skills, process oriented goal setting, depression, grief, crisis management, assertiveness, speaking the truth in love, and resources available to the caregiver. Dr. Ed Gunter pastor explained, "When a church reaches about 80 members, it becomes impossible for a pastor to provide continuing care for all of the congregants who are experiencing difficult times. While the pastors can provide immediate care, Stephen Ministers assist with the sustained care that people require to regain wholeness. The program trains the congregation to serve as the hands of Christ to each other."



Pictured: Patsy Crawford, Rev. Rachel Moser, Bill Baker, Dr. Ed Gunter, Joel Harrod, Ken Harrod, Dave Johnson (Training Leader), and Al Krutulewski. (Photo: Linda Johnson)

UMKids



The UMKids made 40 "I Spy" bottles for the N.C. Children's Hospital at Chapel Hill earlier this year. During spring break, Kirsten Smoak, Susan Fulp, DeeDee Gradus and her children, Drew and Kristi, made a day trip to Chapel Hill to deliver the "I Spy" bottles to the Children's Hospital. The Department of Recreational Therapy and Child Life and the N.C. Children's Hospital were very appreciative of the gift to the pediatric patients. In the thank you letter from them, they said "It is really awesome that you would want to give back to other kids!"

VBS 2011

Adult VBS will be studying the Book of Galatians with Harold Fulp, July 11-14 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. In Room 29.

After class come visit the Shake It Up Café in the sanctuary for the closing assembly and see how the kids are carrying out God's recipe!

Calling all VBS Volunteers to the Shake It Up Café on Sunday, June 5th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Safe Sanctuary training will be held and an overview of the exciting ways kids can carry out God's recipe. Lunch will be served. Jesus calls us to "shake up" our lives and become His followers. The Bible gives us the recipe: Be Ready for God's Call, Give Happily to God and to others, Believe Fully in Jesus as God's Son, Remember Jesus' Life and Teachings, and Celebrate God Forever!



Shake It Up Café

A few more volunteers are needed: Pre-K assistant, 1st and 4th Grade Leaders. Apply for positions by contacting Susan Fulp at rsfulp@vol.com or Chris Wilson at cstumpwilson@hotmail.com.

Shake It Up Café Registration forms are now being accepted as we prepare to get cookin'! Registration forms can be completed easily on the church's website and printed out or are available at the church office. A registration form Drop-off envelope is located just outside the church office. Don't forget to pick one up for your friends!

New Study

The Sojourners Sunday School Class invites you to join them as they begin a new study on First and Second Corinthians on May 29th.



Swansboro United Methodist Church
665 West Corbett Avenue
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584
910-326-4822

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World"

Old Fashioned Church Picnic

Family Ministries hosted an Old Fashioned Church Picnic on Sunday, May 15th on the church lawn. The lawn was full of church members and guests of all ages who shared burgers, hotdogs, conversation, and fun. The event was such a success that Family Ministries hopes to make this a yearly event.



Did You Know?

Did You Know that the SUMC website includes a page for Questions & Answers at: <http://www.swansboroumc.org/Questions-Answers.html> If you have questions about goings-on in our church or about the church in general, you can use the form on that page to ask your questions. If it is a question of general interest, it will be posted on that page, anonymously.

New Members & Baptisms



Adele Hyla-Brewster
408 Estate Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546



Baptism
Caleb Matthew Hodges
Son of Mark and Tiffany Hodges
291-A Goldenleaf Drive
Swansboro, NC 28584

United Methodist Women **Lula Hatsell Circle Celebrates Earth Day**

The Lula Hatsell Circle held a celebration of Earth Day, led by Naida Koraly at her home. Highlighting the theme, "Make Peace with Mother Earth," the group heard prayers, scripture, and other writings about respecting the earth, as well as practical suggestions about how to "do what you can" to care for the earth. Naida provided a delicious meal of "fresh and wild" foods, and circle members brought desserts made with local strawberries. Paxon Holz taught the group to identify the wildflowers she brought. Naida provided copies of the writings and gave everyone a reusable grocery bag. Naida closed the program with this prayer from an Anglican prayer book:

"For food in a world where many walk in hunger
For friends in a world where many walk alone
For faith in a world where many walk in fear
We give you thanks O Lord. Amen"



2011 Confirmation Class



William Ahlquist



Hannah Brown



Brock Smith



Thomas Woodul



Andy Bean



Marie Driver



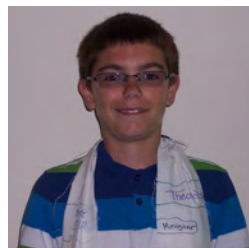
Sarah Staebler



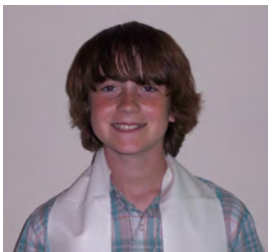
Barbie Benson



Olivia Ehler



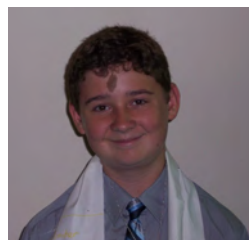
Tayler Thomason



Daniel Brewster



Caroline Henderson



E. J. Walsh

Frontlines...

"News from our Families and Friends in the Military"



~ In Honor of Father's Day ~

A Daughter's Story

Growing up in a family with strong ties to the military meant a life full of opportunities and adventures. I remember as a child, looking up to my Father as my own personal super hero. I was born after my father was out of the Marine Corps. This gave me the unique opportunity to have my father teach me the core values that he held dear. Various phrases such as being squared away, chow, the barracks, etc., were commonplace. Faith, love, honor, integrity, dependability, valor, courage and a "never quit" attitude were a part of my everyday life. My father had a unique way of teaching these values that made them not only fun, but life-lasting.

My father saw a lot of combat. Yet through all that he endured, he was able to take those life lessons and use them to transform him into the greatest man I have ever known. No matter what situation he was in he remained calm. I watched in amazement and awe as he would rush to assist persons in need. Whether it was administering first aid to accident victims or quietly listening to the concerns of someone in distress, he always maintained a calm presence and confidence that seemed to stabilize the situation. Rescuing people and offering a helping hand were intrinsic values deep within my father. He was a warrior for sure, yet his heart was filled with peace. As I grew up, I discovered

it was my father's deep and unwavering faith that guided him through the white waters of life and invariably back to the peaceful shores.

Some of my most memorable experiences were from camping. It was during these excursions that I experienced the greatest lessons and live action super hero moments imaginable. When I was four years old my father was teaching me the art of building a fire. We did everything from finding our own kindling to chopping wood. It was during one of these adventures that my first recollection of "Super Dad" occurred. I was skipping down a dirt path, deep in a forest, when my father told me to freeze. I honored my father and knew I must immediately obey. I heard a strange sound and froze in my tracks. Like a flash my father leapt in front of me. As he turned to face me, I saw a knife in his hand. He quickly sheathed his knife, picked me up and said "Honey thank you so much for stopping. Do you know what that was?" I looked at the ground and saw a large snake with its head chopped off. He said, "That is a rattlesnake. It was coiled up and could have really hurt you." He then proceeded to give me a big hug. He carefully picked up the head and buried it. He taught me that even though it was dead the poison in its fangs could still hurt someone. Then he unsheathed his knife picked up the carcass and we carried it to a nearby bridge so we could "feed the fish." The lightning speed and agility with which my father executed this rescue, confirmed to me he was like Captain America.

During these camping trips I learned to navigate by the stars, track animals, keep my bearings, never panic, and stay focused. I also was taught how to pick the best spot to pitch a tent, what plants you could eat in the wild and what plants were poisonous, how to fish and yes clean them too. Cooking food over an open fire and of course campfire songs, were one of the highlights of the evening! There were so many more life lessons I learned as I was growing up, but the greatest of all was the power of staying calm amidst the storm.

When people would tell my father what a hero he was, he would grow quiet and softly say, "The real heroes were those who gave their lives for their country and never made it home." As a family, we knew firsthand the tragedy of losing loved ones in combat. For those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom were the true heroes. We were taught to never take any day for granted and to always pray for our military and their families. When one member in the military community falls we all feel some degree of loss. It is this common bond which transcends the ranks that helps us strengthen and uplift each other during the difficult times.

My Father, my hero, passed away a few years ago. However, I have come to realize that he still lives. For the values he imparted to me are what I have become. Though I may not possess the technical warrior training, the core values and an attitude to never quit are an integral part of my innermost spirit.

In honor of Father's Day, I wanted to not only relay a personal story, but also pay tribute to those who serve. The inner strength of military personnel is tested by fire many times. The heart of a Father who serves is often burdened by the feelings of loss during the times of separation. The strain on families that have to exist without their fathers for extended periods of time, can be quite stressful. It takes an exceptional, courageous man to be both in the military and a father. The level of dedication and commitment that these men exhibit to their

country and families is unparalleled. These tried and true warriors are what real heroes are made of. It is in honor of them that this month's column is dedicated.

I would ask that as you read this article please take a moment to pray for our military personnel and their families. Please pray that they will feel peace and comfort amidst the storms that they encounter. Your prayers, letters, words of assurance, and acts of kindness mean so much to those of us in the military community, we cannot thank you enough for your support.

My Father, My Marine, My Hero

Strong and steady,
Always ready,
No test is too great,
For you've been trained
And you've been strained
Always early, never late,
Though far away your path may lead,
The end result you will succeed,
Core values you're committed to
For quitting you shall never do,
Echo of the Man you are,
Whether near or whether far,
Strength and honor full of peace,
Kindness that will never cease,
I thank God in heav'n above,
for my awesome Father,
strong and steady full of love,
like him there was no other.

-Semper Fidelis-

Personal identifying information has been redacted for the security of our military personnel/families