

The



Swansboro
United
Methodist
Church

Messenger

OCTOBER 2011

Building Program Proceeds With 84 Percent Vote

After four years of planning, interviewing, taking back to the drawing board a second proposal for a Ministry Center, and working with a consultant, the ministry center passes in a second called Church Conference with 84 percent approval of the congregation.

The Church Conference voted on a preliminary plan that will begin to determine the future direction of additional classrooms, worship and fellowship hall space, new kitchen...all serving in a multi-purpose addition to the church. This new building will become our family room in serving the needs of our church family.

The new Ministry Center will also open up much needed space in the present building that will serve the needs of our growing church. The Methodist Men will be able to expand their peanut cooking operation to additional rooms that will be vacated when the new building is finished. The choir can move to the current fellowship hall space to make for a music center, which is already being used by the Community Choir. The current choir room can make room for the first church library, conference room, and additional office space.

As shared during the Church Conference proceedings, it is vital to the success of this building program that we maintain the Christian Unity of our Church. The "no" votes are just as important as the "yes" votes for the future of our church. The "no" votes represent concerns that will serve as our reality check in making sure that the Ministry Center project stays focused on what was promised, and expected by this church family. This is not a perfect plan. We are not a perfect church. But in the midst of our imperfections, God will guide and direct our steps towards building a future for our children. As stated in the Church Conference, "We have drawn from a well from which we did not dig." The generation before us left to us a place of worship from which we take all that it has to offer every Sunday. We can now begin to dig the next well, and draw from it all the fellowship, education, and worship this new place will have to offer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Gunter

We Welcome New Youth Director George Gouge



With an exciting year of youth ministry planned, we welcome George Gouge as our new Director of Youth Ministry. After completing a six month search of many applicants for the position, George came to us with the most excellent credentials and references to serve an exciting and growing youth ministry program. George has his Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta. Raised in the United Methodist Church, George has worked with youth groups of all sizes, and has already been well received by youth and parents. We continue to pray for his success as he ministers to the needs of our youth and children in the coming years.

Please Visit Us At:

<http://www.swansboroumc.org/>

United Methodist Women Frozen Food Sale

Sunday, October 30, 2011

9:30 to 11:00 a.m. & 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

(OR until all the food is gone!)

Hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall

It's time for the Frozen Food Sale, sponsored by the "Do-It" Committee of the United Methodist Women. The proceeds will be used for local mission projects. The food will be supplied by our UMW ladies. The holidays are just around the corner, so it's a good time to stock up on a few items to help supplement your menus. If you are not a UMW member but would like to contribute a dish or two, please call Bobbi Edge at 910-326-5548.



SUMC Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 23, 2011

4:30 p.m.

- Fun, Food, and Games for the whole family
- Friendly Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest for Judging and Display
- Chili Tasting Contest
- Don't Miss the Trunk-or-Treating in our church parking lot!
- Fabulous Prizes to be awarded!
- If you are interested in helping with the festival or setting up a "trunk" for trunk or treating please contact:
 - Chris Wilson cstumpwilson@hotmail.com
- Donations of individually wrapped single serving baked goods needed

New Members & Baptisms



Jablonski

James Solomon Jablonski received the Sacrament of Baptism on October 2, 2011. James is the son of Jeffrey & Ginger Jablonski. James has two brothers, William and Michael Jablonski.



Voorhis & Cooke

Daniel Voorhis & Manda Cooke joined the church on October 2, 2011. Lainie Mae Murdock and Manda Cooke received the Sacrament of Baptism. The Voorhis and Cooke Family resides at 114 Lilli Circle #8, Swansboro, North Carolina 28584.

Altar Flowers



The Sunday Altar Flowers Sign-up for 2012 will begin in November to allow those who want to select an *exclusive Sunday* to honor loved ones. During the month of November 2011, those who wish to do so, may dedicate a particular Sunday's altar flowers exclusively for their loved ones on a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$80.00 per Sunday.

A 2012 flower sign-up poster will be located near the church office during office hours so you may see which Sundays remain available.

Beginning in early December, a list of open Sundays for 2012 will be made available. The cost will be \$40.00 with the understanding that many families may choose the same Sunday to dedicate flowers.



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

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

Lord's Ladies

Mike's Farm

The women of the Lord's Ladies will be traveling to Mike's Farm, outside of Jacksonville, for a scrumptious Southern cooked meal on Friday, November 4, 2011. We will carpool from the upper parking lot, leaving at 3:00 p.m. Along with the homemade biscuits served with molasses and all the other treats, they have a beautiful gift shop and great bakery. The dinner is \$13.99 plus tax, and it will be Dutch treat (each responsible for their own meal). If you want to join us please call Linda Mack, 252-393-6650, to make your reservation.

The Lord's Ladies is a group of unattached women (widowed, divorced, or just want to go out with the girls) who meet every Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. worship service and visit various local restaurants for a meal and time of fellowship. A good time is had by all.....lots of company.

Seniors Aglow

Carolina Opry Christmas Show

Come join fellow church members on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, as we go by motor coach for a day trip to Myrtle Beach, SC, to see the festive "Carolina Opry Christmas Show." The bus will leave the upper parking lot at SUMC at 8:15 a.m. and will return about 6:00 p.m. that evening. The cost for this day is \$60. This includes the bus fare, a scrumptious buffet lunch at Ryan's Steakhouse and the ticket for the show. We will collect a tip for the bus driver on the bus.

This trip has been enjoyed by many over the years. Call Linda Mack at 252-393-6650 for any questions and to add your name to the list. Checks will be collected at the church office (must be paid to confirm reservations) and should be made payable to "Seniors Aglow." Get your reservation in soon because the seats will go fast. Reservations must be in no later than Friday, November 18th. We sure hope you will join us for a special, fun day.

Sunday School

"What Parent, Knowing Their Children Need Bread, Would Give Them a Stone?"

THE BENEFITS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By Neil McQueen

What if I told you there was a well-researched and statistically proven program that on average can:

- Provide children with a caring extended family
- Increase the average life expectancy of children by eight years
- Provide them with a life-long moral compass
- Improve their odds for a very happy life
- Statistically improve the odds that they will lead an active church life in their adult years
- Help them rebound from depression 70 percent faster

Is there such a program?

YES, THERE IS!

What if I told you it was free, and only took about two hours a week?

IT'S SUNDAY school!

In study after study, after study (Duke University, Indiana University, the University of Michigan, The Center for Disease Control, Barna Research Group, Gallup, Pew, and the National Institute for Healthcare Research), children who actively engage in a faith community on a regular basis are rewarded with significantly reduced likelihood of life problems and risky behaviors, and stand to significantly improve their odds of a happier, healthier, and longer life.

And yet, a whole host of problems plaguing young people have only gotten worse over the last 30 years. Perhaps not so coincidentally, Sunday school and church attendance has fallen over this same period. What we've learned is that many supervised activities for children, while helpful, are poor substitutes for parents and family and the development of the spiritual self.

This issue of this newsletter is devoted to our Sunday school program. We wish for you to see the faces and the faith of the people who provide a loving, extended family for all age groups in our church every single Sunday. They have taken to heart the pledge that the Body of Christ makes at each child's baptism, " ...this child will be surrounded by steadfast love, established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal." Their lessons and love given each Sunday challenge those that they teach to lead less self-centered lives, not to mention assisting them to know a forgiving and loving God.

By Louisa Ringo

The History, Role & Challenges of the Contemporary Sunday School

In his book High Expectations, Thom Rainer identifies seven primary methods and programs that contribute the most to effective assimilation in church life. His research revealed that the Sunday school remains as the most effective method of assimilating individuals into the life of a congregation. His research is backed by researchers Bird (1994), Piland (1980) and Bailey (1910), the latter who wrote that Sunday school "puts the open Bible into the open hand of every opening heart that is quickened by life from God."

Today, the contemporary Sunday school faces many challenges and critics who believe that this method of growing new disciples is no longer relevant or effective. Sunday school began as a reform movement within the Protestant Church as a means of the protection and education of the poor. In the Methodist church its roots lie in John Wesley's work in the slums of London. It was a response to the Industrial Revolution and its very ugly practice of child labor. Children worked in factories six days a week and the Protestant churches saw a way to serve the needs of poor children on their only day off from the harsh working conditions of factories.

As Sunday schools evolved in American Protestantism they developed a very strong evangelical purpose. What began as an organization primarily for children, became a means of spreading the Gospel to all ages. "Sunday school became the open door to the church." However, today, many studies now point to the fact that involvement in Sunday school is not as prevalent as it used to be. (Hemphill, 1996.) According to him, the change has occurred because the evangelistic emphasis has waned and is no longer a means of reaching the lost.

In spite of these changes, for most Protestant churches, Sunday school classes remain the primary small groups. According to Charles Arn, church growth specialist, "a healthy congregation with extensive committees and boards does not automatically have an expanding Sunday school, but a **thriving Sunday school nearly always guarantees increased church membership.**"

The trend in Methodist churches today is that the average United Methodist is 57 years old. United Methodists under age 18 account for only 4.6 percent of church membership. It is in the Sunday school that we grow Methodist Christians and if we treasure our faith traditions for community, missions and social justice, we will nurture children, youth and adults in Sunday school. At Swansboro UMC we have been fortunate to defy the current trends of many other churches of our denomination. In the recent study done by Cargill, 50 percent of our congregation is under the age of 30 and our Sunday school program is on a pattern of steady growth. We are experiencing the joy of packing our classes with those who wish to know more about God and his infinite love.

Teacher Profiles

Swansboro United Methodist Church has been most fortunate to have an education program with a team of faithful Christian educators. Two of them, Roger and Susan Fulp, stated it best when they said, "We both have a strong feeling that the way you grow in faith is through service." The purpose of this section is to introduce you to these faithful servants who give joy, wisdom, love and light in service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who was the greatest of all teachers.

The children's program that begins at age two and guides the children along a spiritual journey until they graduate from high school is complete with teams of Christians, most of whom have taught for at least five years to the longest tenured one of 30 years. Some of our teachers have children in the program, but most treasure the trust that parents place in them. Our pre-school class or our two year olds are taught by Erika Harlacher, Susan Fulp, Joanne Scholl and Carla Gardner. Erika grew up in Forest Hills, New York and relocated to a less-congested and friendlier living environment. She continues to be strengthened by our church family, and nurturing toddlers reminds her that we must come to Him in faith and trust like a child. Susan Fulp, who teaches our second and third graders, grew up in Buchanan, Missouri and met Roger Fulp when her family moved to Statesville, N.C. She serves as chair of the entire education team and believes that our faith is deepened when we serve others. Joanne Scholl comes to us by way of Long Island, New York. Having taught this class for 15 years, she was reared in a Christian home, but her parent's denomination never really focused on how much Jesus loves us. It brings her pure joy to share His love with her "little lambs." Carla Gardner grew up in a Christian

home, but her faith became alive as the result of a dynamic youth leader. The fire ignited there has given her the passion to teach so that moms with young children can experience faith within a Christian community. The two year old class has grown from four to five children to 10 to 14 children each Sunday in a room that used to house the choir robes.

Loretta Olmstead, Abby Young, Terri Ashby and Angie Bean are the team in our pre-kindergarten classroom. Loretta grew up in Elizabeth City, NC and she traveled with her husband Chip to Marine Corp duty stations before retiring to Swansboro. Growing up in a Christian family, the Book of Psalms helped her through some turbulent times. This love of the scriptures and her elementary school teaching experience brought her to the Sunday school class room. Teaching Sunday school is a way, she says, that she honors God. Abby Young grew up as a Methodist in Goldsboro, NC and attended youth conference events as a teenager. She feels strongly that God's love can no longer be taught in the public school system, but through her service as a Sunday school teacher she can reach out to children and fulfill Jesus' message of, "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Angie Bean is a life partner with Jimmie Bean who teaches Senior Highs. She grew up near Fuquay Varina, NC. After marrying Jimmie they settled in Swansboro. Because many of her own Sunday school teachers and pastors impacted her life, she loves sharing God's word with music and seeing their childlike faith grow. Her mission trips to Jamaica have been particularly transforming in her life. Having grown up as a very involved Baptist (vacation Bible school teacher and GA's) in a small community outside of Asheboro, Terri Ashby's family searched for a church

after moving to Cape Carteret. She stated that when they decided to become members of SUMC, it was then that it all began to fall into place. She loves teaching children and involving herself in their unquestioning faith. That faith is inspiring in a world where everything is questioned.

Our kindergarten and first grade class is taught by Christine Wilson and Bob Cummings. Christine has been a Methodist all her life, having been reared in a small country church in Danville, Pennsylvania. She considers being entrusted with children a privilege and a gift, and that she has accomplished God's will by providing a comfortable, safe and growing environment. Bob Cummings, affectionately known as "Mr. Bob," has been teaching for 17 years. He grew up in Long Island, New York and when a previous member of the church asked him to teach Sunday school he agreed. Because music was a part of his childhood experience in Sunday school, he began the "angel choir" and SUMC children enjoying singing with "Mr. Bob."

The second and third grade team consists of Roger Fulp, Angee Stewart and Wanda Marks. Angee grew up as a Christian and her early faith experiences were shaped in Christian church camping. She sees being a Sunday school teacher as a way to serve God and his church. Having been a child of the military, Wanda determined that she would settle in Swansboro and never move. Her faith journey really began when she studied the Bible and this is the fundamental reason she began teaching. She says, "Teaching the children how exciting the Bible can be and how wonderful our Lord is... is nothing short of a privilege." Roger was influenced by his father, Harold, who has been teaching Sunday school for close to 50 years. When he realized the need for teachers of children he began to teach the 2nd 3rd grade class. He especially enjoys showing the children how to learn to read God's Word and look up scripture each Sunday.

Our fourth and fifth graders are led by Margaret Lloyd and Dee Dee Gradus. Margaret is our real veteran, having been teaching 30 years. She is the famous "cookie lady," as she remembers each student with a huge cookie on his/her birthday. She is also famous for Bible baseball and can be seen on the front lawn running with her students. Dee Dee grew up in Swansboro. Even though she moved away her faith journey began in Sunday school at SUMC, continued

during UMYF and although there were times when she struggled with her faith, she has come full circle to the faith foundation received from her church family when she was young. She says that teaching Sunday school is her opportunity to finally be able to give back to the church that provided so much for her when she was growing up.

With the addition of the contemporary service to our Sunday morning worship schedule, the education team created a second tier of Sunday school classes during the 11 o'clock hour. The teachers of the elementary class are Carrie Ayres and Jessica Orendorff. Carrie was born and raised in Anniston, Alabama. Her husband is in the USMC and after tours of duty, they have chosen to rear their children in North Carolina. She loves teaching children that the Christian life is a journey and it pleases her to serve families by teaching the Word of God with affection and creativity so that children may seek and find Him in their own lives. Jessica is a classroom teacher at Morton Elementary school. She grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana and in a Christian family. She feels fortunate to have so many faith mentors. Teaching Sunday school enables her to see children's eyes light up when they learn about God's never-ending love.

The youth classes are led by Hal Silver, Rachel Moser and Jimmie Bean. They consist of a middle and senior high Sunday school class as well as the confirmation class for sixth graders. They meet on Sunday mornings with the 7th grade class and the future confirmands continue their studies on Sunday evening. Hal Silver grew up in Marion, North Carolina and was unchurched for a long period of time after disillusionment with organized religion. He drifted into the upstairs church after being in the downstairs church. He feels that there is a calmness and peace or a closeness to God that comes to him when he is teaching the middle school kids. Rachel Moser, our associate pastor is his team member. She leads the confirmation class. A graduate of Duke Divinity school, she grew up as a Methodist and during her youth was inspired by youth activities. Jimmie Bean who leads the high school group grew up in Swansboro. He was reared in the church but took an extended leave of absence. He re-kindled his relationship with God through AA. He wishes to impress the youth that a leave of absence is not the way to go - that life with God is better than life without Him at any age. The 11:00 class of middle and high schoolers is taught by Cynthia Moorefield. She is a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy and a Navy dentist.

Pre-School



Erika Harlacher, Susan Fulp & Joanne Scholl



Carla Gardner

Pre-Kindergarten



Loretta Olmstead & Abby Young



Terri Ashby & Angie Bean

Kindergarten & First Grade



Christine Wilson & Bob Cummings

Second & Third Grade



Wanda Marks, Roger Fulp & Angee Stewart

Fourth & Fifth Grade



Margaret Lloyd & Dee Dee Gradus

11 O'Clock Class

Elementary



Carrie Ayers



Jessica Orendorff

Youth Classes

Middle School



Hal Silver & Pastor Rachel Moser

Senior High



Jimmie Bean

Frontlines...

"News from our Families and Friends in the Military"



~ Welcome Home! ~

As many of you are aware, several of our military personnel have recently returned from their deployments. Please be encouraged by the following comments from our "military families."

"I am so thankful that my husband is home. We felt the prayers from our church family so much. Knowing that we had that kind of support behind us was so important."

- Loving Wife

"Having Daddy home is great! We can play ball together again. I'm just glad he is here. I missed him a lot. He told me we're going to buy pumpkins soon."

- Young Son

"It is great to be back. It was great being able to watch the Contemporary Service online while I was gone. Being able to attend church with my family is a great blessing. I know I speak for many when I say how much the love, support and prayers from church meant to us. Thank you for all you have done for the military families."

- Service Member

"It's great to have my Husband home. It was tough while he was gone, but we have gone through this before and you adapt. We are currently in our transition phase. This is the time when I get to go from being both Mom and Dad to just Mom. I smile when I realize the little things, such as my husband tracks mud in without realizing it. Let's face it, he lived in the desert/dirt for months. Who cares about tracking that stuff there? It's like Hansel and Gretel following the bread crumbs. I am so thankful that he is home and grateful to our church family for all of their prayers and support. It means so much knowing there is a support network of people praying for us. Thank you!"

- Loving Wife

How great it is to have our military families reunited. The love and prayer support from our church is so critical in the lives of our service members. Let us be ever mindful to keep them in our prayers and to continue to pray for those who recently deployed.

- Semper Fidelis -