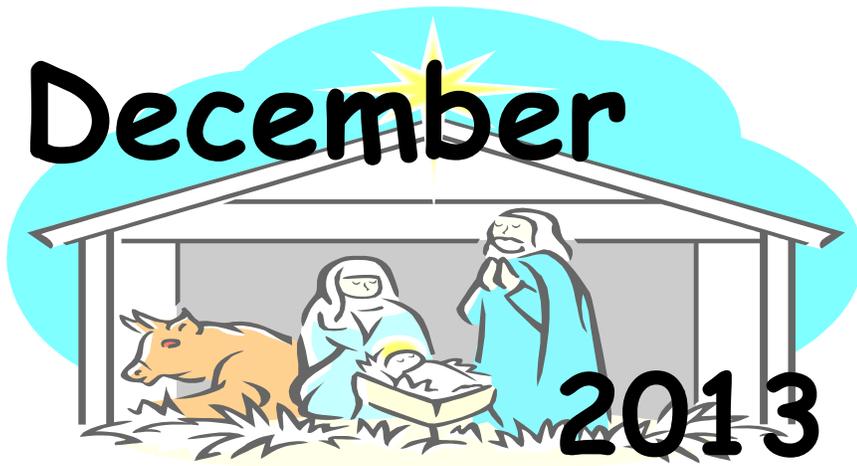


December

Swift Creek Chronicles



FROM THE PASTOR...

Swift Creek Baptist Church
9300 Penny Road
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 851-0112
Fax (919) 851-0171
Email:
office@swiftcreekchurch.com
www.swiftcreekchurch.com

Church Staff:

Dr. David Vess, Pastor
Rev. David Beaver, Minister of Music
Mrs. Robin Atkins, Minister of
Children and Youth
Dr. Bill Pruett, Pianist
Mr. Bobby Mills,
Grounds Maintenance
Mrs. Sandy Jones, Custodian
Mrs. Sandy Jones, Church Secretary
Mrs. Susan Moore, Financial Secretary

Church Office Hours:

Monday -- Friday - 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday Schedule:

Coffee Fellowship—9:30 a.m.
Bible Study—9:45 a.m.
Worship Service—11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Schedule:

Fellowship Meal—5:30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Study—6:30 p.m.
Children on Mission—6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsal—7:15 p.m.

Monthly Events:

1st Sunday—Men's Breakfast
1st and 3rd Sunday – Youth
2nd Friday - PNO
3rd Thursday - WOM
4th Tuesday—C.A.R.E. Ministry

Some events described in the Bible overwhelm us with their sheer size. In Genesis, God commands light and darkness to go their separate ways, and sends the water to their proper place like wayward children being sent to stand in the corner. With another word, the massive continents rise from the primordial ooze of the formless earth. That is massive. Or, hundreds of thundering Egyptian chariots dashing headlong after fleeing Hebrew slaves. Suddenly, the once dry gap in the sea disappears in a violent wall of water. Horsemen are thrown from their mounts. Charioteers are swept away by the swirling torrent. In that moment the Red Sea becomes the Dead Sea. Immense and Magnificent! Or John's vision in the Book of Revelation of the gathered multitude greater than the eye can see and larger than the mind can measure, an endless throng triumphantly singing, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God!"

Christmas is one of those events which threaten to overwhelm us by its scope. It begins, to be sure, in a small and gentle way, shepherds resting on a Judean hillside keeping wary watch over the flocks. But suddenly the sky explodes with the light of glory. First there is one angel, then another and another, until finally there is a heavenly host, putting on an angelic display so terrifyingly spectacular that the King James Bible seems deeply understated when it reports that the shepherds "were sore afraid." In the face of scenes of such magnitude, our attempts to make them come alive in worship have seemed like a thimble dipping out the ocean. Our best sermons, hymns, prayers and anthems are only a flickering light in the darkness. Our best attempts to convey the power of Christ's birth help us remember, not replicate the wonder of it all.

This Advent the theme of the sermons is, "Dr. Luke's Christmas Prescription." This year we will listen to the words of Dr. Luke as he leads us down the familiar path to the ultimate celebration of Christ's birth. Luke's perspective is unique, in that he probably got much of the story from Mary herself.

This is a busy season and that is good. With proper planning and commitment, it can be one of the best Christmases ever. We will provide not only weekly opportunities to worship, but also opportunities to help needy families, sing Christmas Carols to shut-ins, and gather on Christmas Eve to re-live and remember the wonder of it all. May God continue to bless you and your family this Christmas.

As I write this, we are in the middle of the Christmas Child Shoebox collection week. Just in the first couple of days more than 600 boxes have been processed. I offer special thanks to Lynne and Will Cullins for their dedication to leading this important mission.

Merry Christmas,
David Vess

ROBIN'S ROUNDTABLE

Christmas is the most joyful time of the year and the most stressful time also. All the lights, decorations, the shopping, get togethers with friends and family, and rehearsals for Christmas events at church and school. We all need to slow down and take time to enjoy the blessings Christmas brings with the birth of our Savior and love of friends and family. Please join us here at Swift Creek to celebrate Christ's birth at both our Christmas Cantata "Of Shepherds and Kings" presented by our Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and Children's Choir and join us again at our Christmas Eve Service. Praise God for His Love. Merry Christmas!

In Love and Christian Service,
Robin Atkins

December 7	Breakfast with Santa 9:30 am-11:00 am
December 8	Christmas Cantata 11:00 am
December 13	Parent's Night Out 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
December 15	Children and Youth Caroling 3:00 pm (all are welcome to join)
December 24	Christmas Eve Service



Deacon Update

On November 5, 2013, at the regular monthly meeting, in addition to the Family Ministry, the Deacons discussed the following items:

*Portico Update: Motion made, seconded, and carried to appoint Portico Building Committee: Charles Norton, Jim Walker, Pat Mills, Joe Jones, and Sharon Lawrence (Alternate-Shirley Livengood)

*LED Sign Update: A qualified lighting specialist has to certify our sign before county will re-issue the permit.

*Pastor Comments:

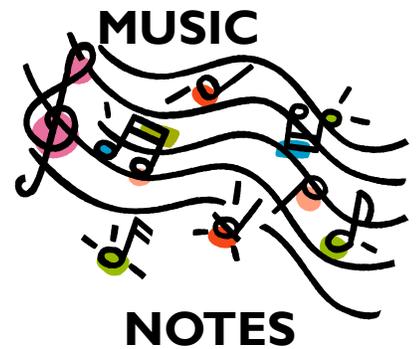
November & December calendars were issued. No budget meals scheduled for rest of year. Church conference is Wednesday, November 13, 2013. Only 2 Girl Scout Troops are meeting at the church now. Cantata will be December 8th at 11 am. C.A.R.E. has been changed to Wednesday, December 18th at 10 am. Lord's Supper will be Sunday, December 29th.



During this Advent season we lift our voices in song to the Messiah, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, Son of God! Be with us for the morning worship service on December 8, for the presentation of the cantata “ Of Shepherds and Kings, “ created and arranged by Marty Parks. The choir, handbells, and children will lead us as we celebrate the birth of a Savior! Come, be a part of the celebration, as we all combine to sing beautiful carols of Christmas!

...Mary you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father, David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end. Luke 1:30-33
David

Psalm 150: 3-4, 6 *Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet; praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*



Women on Mission News

As we approach the end of 2013, I hope everyone will remember the things that have been done during the year at SCBC. There have been fun activities, meaningful worship services, lots of good food, beautiful music played and sung to the Glory of God, and children cared for on Friday nights to name just a few. Remember that Jesus told us to minister in His name. Check the bulletins for your opportunities to minister in December. December 8-9— bring homemade cakes for the prison ministry and December 13—Parent’s Night Out. Also, we will provide Christmas gifts for the needy that are due by December 8. Take pleasure in the ministry of SCBC as you lovingly seek to meet the needs that arise.

God bless you, and keep you safe as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Lynne Cullins

Dear Church Family. . . .

Dear Pastor David,
Thank you for taking the time to visit with me last week in your office. The SCBC congregation has always been supportive of our migrant ministry, and welcoming to me. Many thanks to all of the love your fellowship in Christ and the wonderful witness to the Gospel that your offer.

Warmly,
Nancy Hagen
Director of Social Outreach
St. Bernette Catholic Church



Dear Church Family,
Thanks so much for the beautiful roses Charlie and Shirley brought to me from the Rose Garden at the church. I truly enjoy them.

I would like to thank my church family for all the prayers and calls during my stay in the hospital and rehab. Since I came home I am gaining my strength back slowly and I’m looking forward to the day when I can come back to church again.

Love,
Mary Alice



Irene Dayberry

Swift Creek Baptist Church
9300 Penny Road
Raleigh, NC 27606



December 22

FAMILY LIFE CENTER UPDATE



CURRENT FUNDS ON HAND \$101,568.38

NURSERY WORKERS FOR December

- 1- Christian Leggett, Diane Davis
- 8- Dorothy Smith, Judy Durden
- 15- Pearl Strickland, JoAnne King
- 22- Janet Yunkeer, Sharon Lawrence
- 29- LaRue Holmes, Lorraine Norton



Care Ministry will meet on Wednesday, December, 18th at 10 a.m. Many have been blessed with our calls, visits, cards and prayers. Thank you for your dedication to this important part of Swift Creek's outreach program.



Average Attendance and Giving October 27 -November 17, 2013

Bible Study Attendance	50
Worship Service	89
Tithes and offerings	\$4,177
Needed weekly to meet budget	\$4,434

Thank you for your gifts!

Online Giving

Available at www.swiftcreekchurch.com
You can now make secure donations on our website using a credit card, debit card, or Paypal account. This feature allows you to make contributions from anywhere internet access is available.

Swift Creek Baptist Church Clothes Closet and Food Pantry

~~AS OF NOVEMBER 19 WE HAVE FED AND CLOTHED~~
~~680 PEOPLE IN NEED THIS YEAR!~~

Don't forget the food pantry on your next shopping trip.
Anything you donate that is store bought is greatly appreciated.