

Swift Creek

Chronicles

JULY

2013

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. Kim Sharp, Church Secretary
Mrs. Susan Moore, Financial Secretary

Church Office Hours:

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

FROM THE PASTOR...

Looks can be deceiving. An experience Rev. Neil Parker of Burnaby, British Columbia had underlines this point. Rev. Parker says he insists on only two things when he performs a wedding: He must meet with the bride and groom before the ceremony, and he doesn't do weddings in unusual places, like parachuting or underwater, for example. But he broke both rules once.

He'd agreed to do this wedding on 2 days' notice when the minister who was to officiate was unavailable due to a family emergency. He had the details of the location (well out of town, on a farm); he knew the names of the bride and groom; and he knew that they'd done pre-marital sessions with the other minister. He also knew that the congregation would consist of 140 bikers who had come up for the weekend. And the wedding was to be a surprise to all but a handful of the guests.

Rev. Parker had considerable misgivings as he turned off the highway and caught his first glimpse of the site. Motor-cycles filled the parking lot. Most were Harley-Davidsons, the choice of serious bikers. Very loud music filled the air from a tent and refreshment area. It looked, he said, like a heavy-metal Woodstock.

Rev. Parker parked his Jetta and headed up to the house. To his relief, things seemed to be in order there. He was introduced to the bride's parents and the groom's parents while the bride was getting dressed. It didn't take long; she wore jeans and a black T-shirt and a few flowers in her hair. The groom was introduced to him as "Bear." He outweighed the pastor at least two-to-one. Bear's beard was thick and bushy, and his arms were heavily tattooed. Bear didn't say much.

Once Rev. Parker checked to see that the license was in order, and everything was ready, he headed down to the big tent. Struggling through the crowd of bikers he asked for a microphone, waited for the music to go silent, introduced himself, and announced that he was here for a wedding. He wasn't quite sure what reaction he was going to get.

Several of the bikers immediately headed to the parking lot. The air was filled with the throb of powerful engines. Then, with almost military precision, the bikes streamed out of the parking lot and straight toward the pastor. Only a few feet from him, they turned off to form a double row facing each other as an honor guard to create an aisle for the bride. With engines at full throttle, their roar echoed across the valley.

As the bride walked slowly and gracefully down this aisle, each bike she passed switched off its engine. As she passed the last pair, and all the engines were stilled, you could hear a pin drop. The bride walked shyly up to Bear. His eyes were overflowing with tears. Then the birds started to sing. All around the host couple were the congregation of their friends, members and families of the Sober Riders, each one a recovering alcoholic, each one a biker. Each was bowed in prayer in this holy moment.

The bride had given Rev. Parker only one instruction for the service, "Make sure you have a sermon," she said. "These people want to hear a word from God." Parker stood in the middle of the field, in a congregation of T-shirts, jeans and tattoos, in front of a groom and bride who knew exactly what they were doing and why, in a cathedral of fencepost and Harleys, and they gave thanks to God together.

God always seems to show up in the most unexpected places. The more we grow in our understanding of what it means to follow Christ, the more we realize that God wants us to be willing to go to the places where people live. Church is important – obviously I believe that, but if we are going to truly follow Jesus, he isn't always going to lead us to church. We just might find ourselves surrounded by people who are different from us. In those sometimes uncomfortable moments, we need to remember that God has called each of us who follow Christ **not** to "always be comfortable", but to always be "on mission".

Wherever your summer time takes you remember to look for opportunities to be on mission with God.

In God's Grace, David Vess

ROBIN'S ROUNDTABLE

June was a Roller Coaster Ride of a month ending with a fun filled vacation bible school. This was a great opportunity to reach children and their families with the love of Jesus Christ. Our VBS Mission this year was to assist local kids in need and assist Alliance Medical Services. We received generous donations from all the families in attendance and members here at SCBC. This will be a blessing to all recipients. Thanks to all that volunteered their time to make VBS: Colossal Coaster World a success.

July brings vacation time for many families. May God be with you in your travels and summer-time fun. As we enjoy our summer remember and pray for kids and families less fortunate than us and continue to pray for our church family.

In Christian Service,
Robin



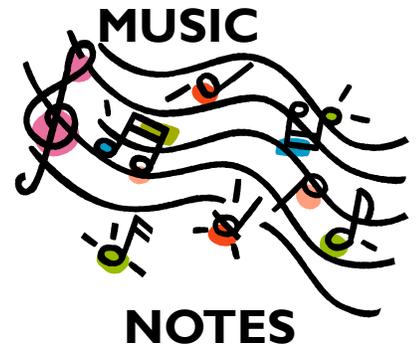
Deacon Update

At the regular June meeting in addition to the Family Ministry concerns, the deacon group discussed the following items:

- *Dr. Livengood commented on building update of portoco and vestibule
- *Playground equipment cleaned, re-stained and leveled. This is an annual up-keep item.
- *Memorial for veterans is in place.
- *A meeting was held yesterday with the county zoning director and a compliance officer. Dr. Vess, Dr. Livengood, Buddy Moore and Bobby Mills were representing the church. They were informed that the LED portion of the new sign is no longer in compliance with their new interpretation of the guide lines. We will have to cut it off by June 10. Deacons voted to table till next meeting when more information could be gathered.
- *Communications lapse with church members and pastor not knowing about sickness or members being in hospital. Updates on sick and needy to be distributed to church body.
- *Lynn Cullins mentioned the NC Baptist Aging ministry needing box fans.
- *Dr. Vess presented the calendars for the next 2 months.

Psalm 150; 3 Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet...

A brass quintet will play during our worship service on the 28th and we are blessed to have 3 members of our church that will be participating: Whitney Beaver, Steve Cox and David Vess Jr. Completing this ensemble are Bill Collins and Kyle Malone. They will play arrangements of familiar hymns as well as accompany the congregational singing.



The sound system has been installed! We are truly grateful for the generous gift to the music ministry that has made this possible. Along with the expert recommendations of Creative Acoustics located in Raleigh, the church will also benefit from the training and technical support they will provide to the church. A class will be scheduled soon for anyone interested in learning more about the new sound system and other aspects of this important ministry.

David

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

FAMILY LIFE CENTER UPDATE



CURRENT FUNDS ON HAND \$109,745



Swift Creek Baptist Church
 9300 Penny Road
 Raleigh, NC 27606



July 17



**Average Attendance and Giving
 May 26, 2013—June 16, 2013**

Bible Study Attendance	41
Worship Service	69
Tithes and offerings	\$3,827
Needed weekly to meet budget	\$4,434

Thank you for your gifts!

NURSERY WORKERS FOR JULY

- 7- Christian Leggett, Jo Anne King**
- 14- Sharon Lawrence, Lorraine Norton**
- 21- Pearl Strickland, Sandra Cox**
- 28- LaRue Holmes, Barbie Brown**



**The C.A.R.E.
 Ministry**

Care Ministry will meet on Tuesday, July 23rd 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.

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 JUNE 19 WE HAVE FED AND CLOTHED
 356 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.**