

West Swamp News

Volume 6, Issue 5

August/September '17

300th Anniversary: Community Picnic & Concert

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FYI

- Quilters and knot-
ters work through
the summer. Got a
spare Tuesday?
Come and join them.
- Pray for our students
and teachers as they
head back to school.
- Men's Bible Study
starts up again Sept.
23. All men are wel-
come.

As a continuing part of our 300th Anniversary celebration, our church will host a concert and picnic to thank the community that we have lived and served among for 300 years.

We've reserved the township park pavilion Molasses Creek Park at 2175 Krammes Road (off of Route 663 near the turnpike) for Saturday, **Sept. 30 from 11 am to 3 pm**. Bluegrass band Mountain Heritage will perform from 12-3 pm. Tim Scheetz is a longtime member of this group.

We'll be serving hot dogs and other light fare at prices sure to

please—hot dogs 50¢, and popcorn, drinks and cookies at similar affordable prices.

The day will include children's activities, featuring things like face painting, some local mascots, and balloon animals.

This event is OPEN to the PUBLIC. We will be doing lots of advertising and hope you'll invite your friends and neighbors to join you that day. It is West Swamp's way of saying "thank you" to the greater community for letting us be involved for three centuries!

The Anniversary Committee is excited to or-

ganize this event, but we could use your help! Could you spend 1 or 2 hours that day helping make the event a success? We need volunteers to help with serving food, directing parking, staffing the welcome and information booth, and helping keep the pavilion area tidy during the picnic. Also, if you have any ideas or connections for activities that may appeal to families and children, please contact the Anniversary committee with your ideas. They would be most happy to consider them!

~ *Don Rosenberger*

College students—we need your info!

Heading back to college? Please make sure the church office has the following info before you go:

College/University name, year of study,

major(s), address, phone number, email.

We want to know where to send those care packages!

Please get this information in to the church

secretary by Aug. 27. Parents of college students can turn it in too.

Don't make the secretary have to hunt you down!

Pastor's Corner:



"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey.
Your commandments give me understanding;
no wonder I hate every false way of life.

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Ps. 119:103-105 (NLT)

At different times in our lives we may have been called upon to name a favorite scripture verse.

Sometimes we are given special verses from others like at our baptism, our graduation, during illness, or at a time of transition. Other times we choose a special verse to help guide us, strengthen us, or to ground us during stressful or uncertain times.

I believe God affirms our desire to seek the scriptures and find ways to connect them with the events of daily life.

I have an old Bible riddled with marks and scribbled with notes and verses underlined in pen

and pencil. Most of my verses were selected for various hospital experiences or given by friends who walked with me during those days. Some were meaningful texts I discovered during my seminary days.

Since my most recent transplant experience, my favorite verse has been:

"I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10b

Having struggled for life, it is important for me to not take it for granted and to live it fully. This coming fall we have a number of special Sundays being planned:

9/10: Christian Formation Sunday
9/24: Peace Sunday
10/1: World Communion Sunday
10/8: Wedding Sunday
10/22: Chris Nickels
11/5: Mission Sunday

In between, from Sept. 17 to the beginning of Advent on Dec. 1, I would like to preach on **some of our favorite scripture verses** as a community of faith. We'll cover what we can.

Please complete the form below, detach, and put it in Pastor Kathy's mailbox by Aug. 20. (Forms are also available in the fellowship hall.)

~ *Pastor Kathy*

What is ONE of your favorite Scripture Verses?

Scripture Verse: _____ Special Translation? _____

Here's why this verse is special to me:

Name: _____

Please put in Pastor Kathy's mailbox by August 20. Thanks!

Worship: Men-O-Lan Sunday

Hurrah! It's time for Men-O-Lan Sunday! Join us at Camp on Aug. 13 for our worship service, fellowship meal, and games and activities.

Worship begins at 10:30 am in the auditorium. There is parking near the auditorium for those with walking issues. Everyone

else should park in the main lot.

Lunch will be around noon. The kitchen committee will supply the main dishes and beverages. If you are able, bring a salad or dessert. Because the auditorium kitchen is so small, please bring only already prepared items in coolers. Kitchen use will be lim-

ited to the kitchen committee.

Afternoon activities include time at the waterslide and lake, hiking the trails, games, spectating and just hanging out together. Can we finally get a whiffle ball or softball game going?

We hope to see you there! And bring some friends.

Worship: Thank you, Louise!

After fifteen years behind the music stand, Louise Butcher has resigned from her choir director position.

Her musical career at West Swamp spans more than 50 years: Junior Choir (directed by her mother, Ruth Mohr); solos at weddings, funerals and worship

services; directing the Joyful Noise Choir in the 1990s; and of course, singing soprano in the Senior Choir (which she'll continue to do!).

So, thank you, Louise, for all the music you've provided and will continue to provide. Blessings on the next stage of your journey

and your other areas of ministry.

Louise in the choir circa 1970.



Worship: Is there a music group for YOU?

As the summer winds down and September rolls around, it's time to start thinking about singing and ringing.

Joyful Noise Choir is changing its practice time. JNC will now meet during the worship service on the **second and fourth Sundays** of the month (maybe on fifth Sundays too). Participating children will be dismissed just like they are for Children's Church. Children age 4 to grade 5 are invited to praise God with their voices and a variety of instruments. We hope this allows for greater participation, especially from children who live far-

ther away and can't make mid-week practices.

Choir begins on Sept. 13. Practices are **Wednesdays at 7 pm** (almost but not quite every week). The choir usually sings on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. There is always room for new voices!

Chimin' In begins Sept. 11. This tone chime ensemble practices **Wednesdays at 6 pm**, usually twice a month, and performs on the first Sunday of the month, October to June. So far this has been an all-female group, but men are welcome too!

Previous experience is not necessary. 8-10 people are needed. Please sign up in the fellowship hall (the sheet will go up sometime in August.)

Those are the set musical groups we have, but we want to make sure other musicians have opportunity to use their talents for God. Do you like to sing, but can't make choir practice? Look for **Impromptu Choirs** to participate in throughout the year. Do you play an instrument? Let Lynne know and we'll make sure you get a chance to use your gifts.

Mission: 300 Extra Hours of Service update

If you have been keeping your eye on the 300 extra hours of service clock in the fellowship hall you will notice we are at the 223 hours mark. I think there are still some people that need to turn in an “extra hours of service slip” from the MCC grocery box and prisoner care kits assembly and shopping. And let this be a reminder to anyone else who has done some extra service and needs to turn in a slip!

The total number of kits assembled the weekend of the big 300th celebration was 163: 100 prisoner care kits, thanks mostly to our neighbors at Swamp and 63 grocery boxes. Our ultimate goal for the year is 300 MCC kits, so now we know how many school kits we need to complete.

The past few years we have collected MCC school kits in Au-



Marsha High, Judy High, Kevin & Eileen Riley and Evelyn High assemble prisoner care kits before the Anniversary Pig Roast.

gust. We will be doing that again this year. Start looking for those back to school specials and let's get to our 300 kits goal. Just 137 school kits will get us there.

Some other service ideas that could count towards our extra hours of service: How about helping a neighbor with some yard work. You could ask a church trustee if there is anything you could do to help them out. You do

not have to do something beyond your abilities, but whatever you are good at could be a big help.

Summer time is often a time to relax, but serving others with some free time could also be rewarding and relaxing. Think outside the box, have fun with it and be sure to turn in a extra hours of service slip.

In the fall Mission commission should have some more projects to get involved with, so be on the lookout for those opportunities.

Keep serving the Lord in what you do and all will benefit!

~ Rod Rush

School kit items

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 1/2 x 10 1/2 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30 cm and 12 in)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser

Lori Farrell and Karen Parzych get cereal boxes ready for the grocery box assembly line.



Stewardship: Six month financial check up

June 30 marks the halfway point of a very busy year of celebration. It is a good time to see how we are keeping up with the 2017 Unified Budget.

When presented in January, the 2017 budget included about \$6,000 for the 300th Anniversary and capital improvements, making it a challenging year. So far, we are tracking very close to our 2017 budget plan. As of June 30, offerings and other receipts are

approximately 49% of the annual budget and disbursements are running at 51% of budget, putting us in a deficit position of about \$4,000.

As for the capital improvements, we have completed the stairwell painting and the carpet cleaning. The elevator shaft conversion to closets is scheduled for late summer. Pig roast ticket sales and other financial support for the 300th Anniversary activities have

been good, with more money coming in July. Keep up the good work as there are a few more events to finance the rest of the year.

The Stewardship Commission would like to thank you all for your continuing financial and prayer support as we strive to be good stewards of the physical blessings the Lord has provided us here at West Swamp.

~ *Randy Rush*

DISCO: Fall Sunday School classes

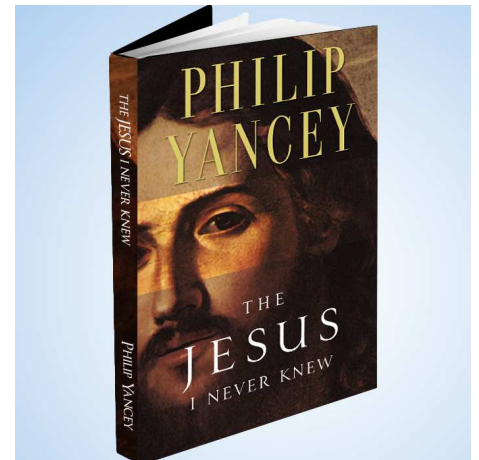
It's hard to believe the summer is over half way over. September will be here before you know it. The Discipling Commission has been getting ready for the new school year. The Children's and Youth SS classes will begin again Sept. 3. The Quarterly class for adults will resume that Sunday as well.

The Adult Discussion class will start a new resource entitled "The Jesus I Never Knew" by

Philip Yancy. We welcome your suggestions for discussion materials for the adult class and as always we hope you will join us.

Children's Church will resume Sept. 17 and meet on the third Sunday during the worship service. We are looking for volunteers to lead this vital ministry. Please contact Lori Farrell if you are interested or have questions.

~ *Lori Farrell*



Cemetery Work Day—Here we go again!

After a complete washout of all attempted spring work days, we're hoping for better weather this fall. A cemetery workday Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9 am to noon, weather permitting. We'll start our work in the new cemetery and with enough help will

be able to work on the old section as well.

Bring your shovels, garden rakes, pry bars, wheelbarrows and work gloves. Everyone from teenagers on up is welcome—there are tasks for everybody. Remember, if you haven't volun-

teered for this before, your time can go toward the 300th Anniversary's 300 Extra Hours of Service.

See Earl if you have any questions.

~ *Earl Miller*

300th Anniversary Celebration Weekend in pictures



(Clockwise from top left) Mary Bittenbender and Cindy Raub check in for the pig roast. Barb Moyer and Lori Farrell staff the welcome table. A special choir sings "We Are Called." Sue Shelly and Pastor Kathy pose with the Anniversary cake (Sue designed the note card pictured in icing). Dean Mohr shares more West Swamp history during Sunday School. George Mellan and Scott Moyer play horseshoes at the pig roast. May Keiser shares early memories of her time at West Swamp during the Children's Spot. Lynne and Emily Rush welcome people at Camp Men-O-Lan.



Kid's Page



BE HAPPY IN THE LORD

Happiness and joy are frequent themes in the Old Testament book of Psalms.

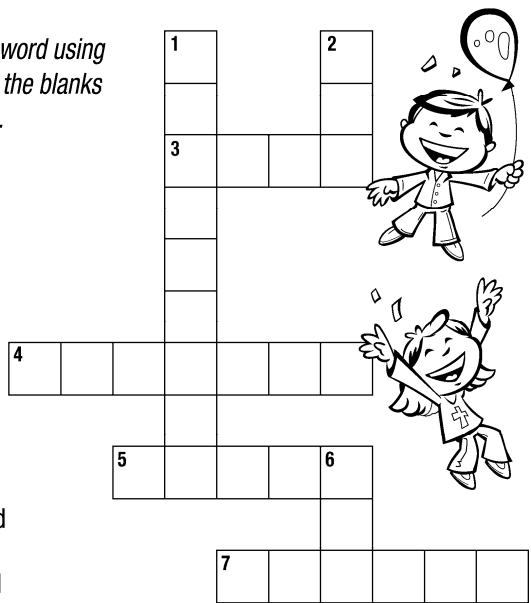
Directions: Solve the crossword using the clues below. Then fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse.

ACROSS

- 3. A word for happy (rhymes with had)
- 4. What you do when you're very happy
- 5. A song written by David
- 7. Full of joy

DOWN

- 1. People who obey God
- 2. Our Creator
- 6. The month after April



"But may the 1. _____ be 3. _____ and
 4. _____ before 2. _____; 6. _____ they
 be happy and 7. _____." 5. _____ 68:3, NIV



These healthy chips make a yummy back-to-school snack.

What you need:

- 4 apples, cored and cut into 1/8" rings
- Large bowl
- Spoon
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Baking sheets (sprayed)

What you do:

1. Place apple slices in the bowl. Add cinnamon and sugar. Stir so apples are coated evenly with the mixture.
2. Place apple slices on the sprayed baking sheets in a single layer.
3. Bake at 200 degrees for two to three hours, until chips are dry but still slightly soft.

Answers: (across) 3. glad, 4. rejoice, 5. psalm, 7. joyful; (down) 1. righteous, 2. God, 6. may
 "But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful." Psalm 68:3, NIV



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Reflecting God in our
living, loving and serving

Calendar of Events

August

- 8, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 10, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
- 13—Men-O-Lan Sunday
- 15, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 20—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 22, 7 pm—DISCO
- 22, 7 pm—Anniversary Com.

September

- 3—Children's S.S. begins again
- 3—Worship in Pavilion
- 5, 1 pm—Worship Com.
- 5, 7 pm—Community Com.
- 7, 1 pm—Senior Luncheon
- 9-16—Pastor on vacation
- 12, 7 pm—Mission Com.
- 13, 6 pm—Chimin' In
- 13, 7 pm—Choir begins
- 14, 7 pm—Stewardship Com.
- 19, 7 pm—Ministry Team
- 23, 8 am—Men's Bible Study
- 24, 12 pm—Sunday Lunch Bunch
- 26, 7 pm—DISCO
- 26, 7 pm—Anniversary Com.
- 30, 11 am—300th Anniversary
Community Picnic

Regular Activities

- Tuesdays, 8 am—Quilting & Knotting
- Wednesdays, 7 pm—Adult Choir (starting in September)



Birthdays

August

- 8/2 Bonnie Kiesel
Gary Parzych
- 8/4 David W. Green
- 8/6 Priscilla Rosenberger
Ben Rush
- 8/7 Jeff Rice
Madison Wojs

- 8/9 Marsha High
Carl Raub
- 8/13 Scott Moyer
- 8/15 Anita Husvar
- 8/16 Christine Allem
- 8/20 Karen Parzych
- 8/22 Katie Auckland
- 8/23 Darlene Deecher
- 8/29 Lynne Rush
- 8/31 Elizabeth Deecher

September

- 9/1 Ashlynn Rice
- 9/2 Loretta Keiser
- 9/5 Ethan Farrell

- Gladys Hamilton
- 9/9 Margaret Marth
- 9/10 Joslyn Kirkpatrick
- 9/15 Marlene Stauffer
- 9/18 Ann Stauffer
- 9/19 Doug Propst
Alyana Riley
- 9/20 Jason Kirkpatrick
Carolyn Rush
- 9/23 Donnie Aldinger
- 9/24 Elsie Wolownik
- 9/26 Emily Rush
- 9/27 Joan Hallman
Blake Mininger
- 9/28 John Gwilliam