

Swansboro Church Partnership Interview

Interviewer and Video Editor: Noah Sarmiento

Interviewees: Jill Gaynor and Reverend Kelley Lane

Transcript Editor: Jill Gaynor [00:00:00]

Noah: Recording now. I'm just gonna start with a quick introduction. My name's Noah Sarmiento. I'm a VCU student and I'm majoring in cinema and history, and it's really nice to meet both of you guys today.

Kelley and Jill: Nice to meet you too. Yeah.

Noah: Would you like to introduce yourselves?

Kelley: I'm Kelley Lane. I am the Minister of Adult Ministries and Community Transformation, and I have been here at Reveille for eight and a half years and so, participated in the partnership for that entire time.

Jill: My name is Jill Gaynor and I have been a member of Reveille since 1999. I've been a part of Outreach Ministries in lots of different areas around the church but I've been the chair of our Swansboro ministry for about the last eight or nine years.

Noah: It's nice to meet both of you guys. So the first question's going to be how are you currently personally involved in the partnership between Koinonia, LCU< and Reveille. If any you guys would take that.

Kelley: Yeah, so we're on a lot of the same committees. So we meet with Jill knows the names of the teams. I keep getting mixed up, but we have a team that meets once a month, of the three partner churches. And so we kind of check in on how everyone's doing at the different churches and then try to plan prayer events, study events, fellowship events, and worship Oh yes. Thank you.

Jill: Yes. So I chair the Swansboro ministry team. And that encompasses both our work in Swansboro Elementary School and also our work with our partner churches. So we meet monthly and Kelly's a part of that as well. And we meet monthly to go through all of aspects of the ministry cuz there is crossover.

We have members of our partner churches who are working in the school, for example. And we try to publicize events back and forth between. But the area, I, I don't volunteer [00:02:00] directly in the school as much, but the area that I volunteer in personally a lot is more in the partner church ministry area.

Unless I'm out of town, I'm pretty much at every event that we do with them. And have been, honestly since I started getting involved. I went through my files to remind myself of when that was, and that was back in 2014.

Kelley: Oh, that's when I came, was 2014. Yeah. That's why I, I've pretty much been involved since it started.

Jill: Yeah. We, it technically started in 2013 with the musical Mondays and the Habitat House. But I didn't get involved until 2014 and now to do, yes, yes, yes. But I'm also a part, as you mentioned, of the Spirit team Task Force. Yes. That's the exciting name. The Spirit team task force with our partner churches.

So getting together with them, as Kelly mentioned, and, and planning out ministry together.

Noah: So when and why did you first get involved with this partnership and for how long have you guys both been involved?

Kelley: Well, I mean, I first got involved because I'm I think we both are, were very involved in outreach. And I also [00:03:00] have an art background, so I went to Musical Mondays and helped with their crafts. And that was just fun and I got to know it was at Koinonia, so I got to know a lot of people from that church in particular. And my daughter who was in high school then, she's in college now, and I helped with music there as well.

Kate is a violinist and taught violin lessons and so we were very involved with Musical Mondays and also Tony Allen leads the Girl Scouts there, and we went a couple times and did projects with the Girl Scouts too. But like Jill, I've been more involved with the partner churches than the school. I've helped with some events, like welcoming students back to school and field days, but I don't go on a regular basis to mentor.

Jill: The question was how we originally got involved. Correct?

Noah: Yeah.

Jill: Okay. So I was the outreach chair at Reveille. And most leadership roles like that are a three year term, and my term was coming to an end [00:04:00] and I really wanted to get involved in a particular outreach ministry.

I was kind of drawn to the Swansboro ministry and at that point Sheelagh Davis and Kathy Rainey were co-chairs of it, and they were ready to kind of shift out of being co-chairs of the whole ministry team. So I sat down with them to talk about it. I was already involved with the Swansboro Ministry somewhat as the outreach chair.

And so I sat down to talk with them about possibly moving into that role and I really was excited about it. So I moved into that and I've been a part of it ever since. That was 2014.

Kelley: I think by you stepping into that role, it allowed Kathy and Sheelagh to be very involved with Musical Mondays also.

I think that was a space for the churches to really get to know each other in the beginning. Yeah. And then we also did, when I very first got here, so it was fall 2014 the When Helping Hurts. Yep. We studied with our partner churches and then the next year in Lent we did Companions in Christ, the Way of Prayer [00:05:00] study.

So we've had studies usually almost every February. Yep. That we've done. Until Covid and then we started having more.

Jill: Then we increased.

Kelley: Yes. Yep.

Noah: And I guess that kind of leads into the next question of what were some key moments in the development of this partnership and when did these take place?

Jill: I'll jump in on that. I went back through, we put together a nice PowerPoint to kind of outline some key points of the ministry. And we've shared this with a couple other local churches who've been interested in doing something similar. Mm-hmm. And I actually just got contacted by a church in Charlottesville who also wants to learn more about that. So I, I needed to look back at it again for that anyway. As I look back and I reflect and I look at some of those major points, I think a real turning point was in 2017 when we did our first racial dialogues work together. We had, as, as Kelly mentioned we started with musical Mondays.

And that was the first ministry that we worked on together because Pastor Keith at [00:06:00] Koinonia, who was our first minister to say, yes, I want to do something in partnership with you. That's, that's an area that he identified as a need, and we had gifts in music and it was a great partnership and that was starting to blossom.

We had started to talk with Bishop Branch at Love Center of Unity, and he was kind of interested. But we, we worked with food pantry food drives first, and he wasn't quite sure like what that would look like for his church to partner a little bit more. But we came together for that first joint study in 2014 and I think Bishop Branch started to see like, there was, there was something really interesting there.

And for three more years we did, I'll call it more church related, very, not, not that everything else that we're doing is not church related, but, but very typical I think would be a better way to put it, studies that, that we would do.

Kelley: I like the prayer study is very typical.

Jill: Exactly. Exactly. But Bishop Branch then in 2017 said, you know, I really would like to do a racial dialogue type work.

And so he was very instrumental in us doing that together. And I think it was important that he was the one who brought that to the table and wanted to do it. And he was one of the speakers. We had a [00:07:00] series of three events together on Wednesday nights during February.

Again, cuz that was our typical time and it was also Black History Month, so it was appropriate in multiple ways. And he was one of the speakers, Ben Campbell from Richmond Hill was one of the speakers talking about transportation inequities in the city of Richmond. And the third speaker, I cannot remember offhand. But at any rate that was a beautiful format because like our others, we had a fellowship time with a meal together beforehand.

Then we would have the speaker and then we would have breakout times where we could talk together about some of the things that we had learned and heard. And I think doing that really was eye-opening and a beautiful experience for all of us. And so in 2018 we repeated that. And so we started to do more intentional work together.

But the other beautiful thing that happened out of 2017 is people were so excited about where we had come and what we were just doing there. That we took that momentum and we took feedback from folks about what would you dream for us to do next together. And it became clear that there were kind of five core areas for us to focus on.

Three of them we'd already been working on together. We'd already [00:08:00] done some worship services together, but we wanted to do, continue to focus on that. So we made a joint worship team. We'd already done lots of joint studies, but we made, you know, we wanted to be more intentional there as well. So we did a joint study team, the same thing on fellowship.

So we had worship, study, and fellowship that we'd already done before. And the two new teams we formed were prayer, doing some more intentional prayer work together, and then transportation inequities in the city because everybody was inspired by Ben Campbell.

So we, we put out signup sheets for everybody after that worship service that concluded that work together in that February of 2017, and we got a lot of great signups. We looked through the roles to make sure that we had people from each of the three churches on each of the five groups. And then we worked to find leaders for each of the five and make sure that we had leaders from each of the three churches as well.

So we were really intentional in how we moved forward after that. And that really laid the great groundwork for even more relational work together because we were working in teams together and we were working in five core areas and lots [00:09:00] of things started to develop from there. So from then on out, we had a worship, a fellowship, a prayer event, and a study each year.

And our transportation task force was working on various things. So I, I view that as a really pivotal, pivotal time and everything that we have done since then kind of branched out.

Kelley: Yeah, that's what I was thinking back to. Yeah. Also when we, when we had everyone sign up for their interests. Yep. Yeah. And then the transportation, once they, transportation really has improved here in Richmond.

There's many things still a ways to go, but we transitioned to being the police task force.

Jill: Yes. And that came out of George Floyd's death.

Kelley: Yeah. And now I don't know what. Sort of focusing on homelessness maybe and food inequity. But it's not official really yet.

Jill: Yeah, we're still, we're still kind of evolving out of that because the City of Richmond did take a step forward.

It just was not as robust of a step as many of us would've liked. So yeah, the police task [00:10:00] force is a little bit in the hold area at the moment as a result of that. But I, I would say another pivotal point really was George Floyd's murder, because one of the beautiful things about our partnership together was that within days of George Floyd being murdered, we were calling each other and saying, what can we do?

What, what can we do to, to make an impact here in Richmond? What can we do together? And that's where our monthly work together. And you, you were a pivotal part of making sure that happened. You wanna talk about that: Conversations for Change.

Kelley: Well, it was all during Covid. Yeah. Right. And so we could have these conversations on Zoom. And we invited like, great guest speakers. One actually is a professor at V C U, I'm forgetting his name though, about food in the city of Richmond. And so we, we talked about not just racial you know, though we did talk about the monuments coming down.

Jill: Yeah. And I think one of the really cool things is we had great people who are history experts in black [00:11:00] history in Oh yes. Virginia, who shared amazing history behind that. That was illuminating, not just us at Reveille, but also to members of our partner churches, Koinonia and LCU. And one of the things that really showed to me is Black History has been hidden or, or buried almost in many ways, not just to us, but to, to Black people as well, because the stories just haven't been told.

Kelley: And yeah, Faithe Norrell

Jill: Right, so I think it was just crucial for that to happen. And it was a, I think it was great for all of us to learn together and we all learned something, which was really beautiful.

Kelley: Mm-hmm. Yeah. And it was a really good time because people, I think were craving community, but not able to come together.

So we were able, even though the three churches are kind of spread out and people live far away, sometimes from each other on Zoom, we could come together. Yeah. And then we continued that work this fall with our, we had three authors who told [00:12:00] about the Lumpkins Jail here in Richmond, and one was a more historical account by Kristin Green called the Devil's Half Acre, and another was the Yellow Wife by Sadeqa Johnson.

And we also had Faithe Norrell from the Black History Museum coming in and tell the actual history. So I, I mean, that's part of our collective history. Mm-hmm. Like Jill said, that a lot of people don't really know about. Right. No matter what the race is. Mm-hmm. Yep.

Noah: And I guess, were there any barriers in the beginning or that maybe still are like sorry, what barriers were there and or continue to exist I guess with the partnership, if there were any?

Kelley: I think in the beginning we had to build trust.

Jill: Yeah. And I, I, I will say just getting the partnership started. I think one of the, one of the key things reflecting back and I wasn't there in those actual meetings. [00:13:00] So this, this is from stories that Katie has shared, shared with us, but as we were building the Habitat House in Swansboro, and we'd been working already in Swansboro Elementary for at least 10 years at that point.

Oh yeah. 15 I think. So the, the fact that we were building that house in Swansboro was no mistake. We were doing that because it was, it was in a neighborhood that we were already invested in. Katie and then our youth minister at the time, Dwayne, worked together to say, all right, how can we get even more involved in the community?

And so they went to a lot of community meetings to try to meet people and, you know, see what the opportunities were. Ideally we wanted to partner with another church. We're a United Methodist of course, and so it would've been a natural partnership if there was a United Methodist Church in that neighborhood, but there is not.

So we were looking you know, for all the churches who were there to see if there were other partners or if there were other type of community organizations that we could have partnered with. But Katie met Pastor Keith of Koinonia at one of those meetings. Those meetings still today are held in Koinonia.

And so he's always been very involved in that organization. And he [00:14:00] was, he was open to the idea of partnering and that that was one barrier that could have been a barrier for a long time. Mm-hmm. It could be that maybe nobody really wanted to partner or everybody was a little suspicious, you know, why are you coming and wanting to partner?

But I think having had a long term presence in the elementary school, having, you know, had the opportunity to, to build that house, I think it gave us some credibility. That we weren't just, you know, coming in randomly looking for partners, that we really were committed to the neighborhood and wanted to grow our partnership there.

So I think that was really helpful that we had a foundational element and, and, and intentional work that we had already been doing there. So I think that was helpful in eliminating some of the barriers that could have been there. But I think Pastor Keith taking that chance on us was huge. Because Bishop Branch, who was also interested.

But he followed Pastor Keith's lead and the two of them know each other well. And I think Pastor Keith having a good experience with us spoke a lot to Bishop Branch, but I don't know if he would have taken that chance on his own [00:15:00] without Pastor Keith having blazed that trail. But I would say barriers since then, I mean, we, we intentionally, we've been very intentional the entire time of, we're a much larger church than either of them.

And so we've been very intentional in the entire time to try to make sure that it's a balanced partnership. And that we're not the big church trying to, you know, squash little church or the white church trying to tell the Black church what to do. Like none of that was ever part of what we wanted to do anyway, but we were very intentional in, in checking ourselves and trying to make sure that that didn't happen.

And so I think that was an important element as well. We wanted to make sure this was a true equal partnership and that we were all bringing our gifts and graces to it. And so I think all of that was really helpful in making sure that it's been a pretty smooth progression and following the lead of our partner churches and really being open and excited about their ideas.

For example, Bishop Branch, bringing that first you know, racial dialogue to us in 2017. But a lot of other beautiful things have come from our partner churches since then. The prayer walk and things that we have done have been from [00:16:00] them. Our study that we did just most recently has been, so many elements of this along the way have been from them.

Kelley: Well, they had the connection to the Black History Museum.

Jill: Absolutely. And that's been huge. That was so, so pivotal for us during the 2020 timeframe. And since then, yeah, I mean, they, they've brought a richness to this that we never would have been able to do on our own. And I'm, I think we're all the better for it.

Kelley: Oh yeah. I feel like even though we're the big church, they've given a lot.

Jill: Oh yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely. And we've learned so much from them too. Yes. I mean, their, their deep faith and the way they express it is just, I think, inspirational sometimes to us. Cuz as Methodist sometimes we can kind of sit in our, our little seats in, in church and be kind of quiet.

And I think just the, the, the joy and the vibrancy with which they worship and operate in general in their church setting, I think has been really beautiful for us to experience as well. So there's just so many elements to

Kelley: And their true community. [00:17:00] Yes. Last weekend we went to a celebration of Pastor Keith's retirement and it was just so joyful.

People shared all these testimonies.

Jill: All the stories were just beautiful. Yeah.

Kelley: And you know, the food was great and the music was great, and it was, they know how to have a really good time.

Jill: Yes, they do.

Kelley: Maybe sometimes we don't.

Noah: The recording. Okay. Okay. Where were we? Sorry. Did you want to take that question?

Kelley: Oh, no, we were talking together. You said to be casual, so we're good.

Noah: Right, right. Sorry, I didn't know. Casual. Okay. Okay. So what successes were there and continue to, or maybe continue to exist with this partnership?

Kelley: Well, I think the successes were a lot of the ones we just talked about, right? Forming the different teams, having leaders. We had a great worship service, well we've had several, like joint worship services, but last spring we had one [00:18:00] outside, for Pentecost. And we had a member of Koinonia.

You weren't there.

Jill: I know.

Kelley: Oh. It was like amazing.

Jill: I saw the pictures.

Kelley: I have great pictures. They have so Koinonia has a member and she does flags, liturgical flags. And for Pentecost, I don't know if you know, like it's the celebration of when the church begins and the Holy Spirit comes, but there's flames.

And so she had these huge flags that were orange and red, and everyone was dressed in those colors. We had great music outside and we had food trucks and crafts, and it was just really fun. We've done a lot of things like that where it's just the worship and community together. Mm-hmm. It's very celebratory.

Jill: I was thinking too, like, one of, one of the most interesting, unique experiences that I've had as part of our, our time together was the first prayer walk. So a member of Koinonia, Lilli An, had had a vision that God gave her to [00:19:00] do. Actually, it started as a prayer run. And I, I, I talked with her about it and we kind of brainstormed and worked together.

Cause I wasn't quite sure our prayer run was gonna work cuz not everybody can run and I'm not sure if everybody's gonna be praying while running,

Kelley: May not be praying to finish the run.

Jill: That's right. That's right. So we, we, we, we worked together and we kind of brainstormed and it, it, it evolved into a prayer walk.

And so we had, we made prayer warrior t shirts. And we, we got everybody together and we had a, a, a beautiful team that was, was working through all the details because nobody at Reveille had ever done a prayer walk like this before. And we were doing it in Swansboro and we were gonna walk and go in teams and go door to door.

Knock on doors, you know, ask people if they if they had anything that we could pray for them for. And we were gonna share a little handout about the three churches and invite, invite them to worship. And Methodists are not really go door to door, kind of kind of a people just in general. And it was great because it got all of us out of our comfort zones.

And I have to say, like every single group, [00:20:00] again, we, we were intentional in making sure every group as much as possible, there were a few groups that didn't quite get there, but every group had a member from each of the three churches. So that, you know, we were mixing it up a little bit and I don't think there was a single group that came back and didn't have at least one transformative experience because being able to pray with somebody you've never met before for, in some cases needs that are just life or death for this particular person, be it a relationship issue that's really a crisis, a drug struggle, you know, an addiction struggle you know, a, a financial need that's really in trouble, whatever it might be.

Being there for that person and, and being there when they felt vulnerable enough to open up about that. And I, I gotta tell you again, we were talking about how some of our partner church folks, we can learn so much from them.

I mean, their prayers are just amazing. I mean, the, the, the heart that goes into those prayers, You can feel the Spirit moving as, as that prayer is happening. And it was just a beautiful experience on every level. [00:21:00] And it was uncomfortable at some points. You know, I mean, knocking on doors of people that you've never met before you know, going up and down the street.

It's not an easy thing to do, but it was, it was, it was beautiful as it evolved because people got comfortable that this was okay. They, they saw some, some element of transformation at some point along the way, and it just, just a beautiful experience.

Kelley: And we had an amazing worship service in here too. I mean, we've had more than one together, but I just remember one in particular where it's just the, there is an exuberance to the worship that might not always be there, but I do, I don't know if you remember the first time we had a joint worship service. And Keith preached.

Jill: Yes. I was just thinking about that.

Kelley: That was in 2014. Yeah. I had just gotten here and Kathy and I planned the worship service with them. Kathy was the music director then, and so we had people from all the churches singing and helping to lead worship, and [00:22:00] Keith preached, and I think we

actually celebrated communion because what came to my mind was remembering like, I was like, okay, this is what the heavenly banquet really will look like. Like it's people of all ages and races gathered together around Jesus' table.

Jill: I, I think the other beautiful thing too was Keith sharing. I think he shared this behind the scenes, but.

Kelley: Yeah, he was sweating.

Jill: Yeah, but he, I mean he, he was, he said he, oh yeah. Well, understandable. But he said he never would have imagined as growing up in, in the south side as, as a Black preacher, he never would have imagined that he would be preaching at a white church on this side of town. Right. And that, again, speaks volumes. And it also speaks to the, the beauty of this partnership that he felt comfortable enough to do it.

And to share that with us. And I just, that, that still just touches me and makes me tear up when I think about it. Yeah. Yeah. [00:23:00]

Noah: Would you guys think of this partnership as a success?

Kelley and Jill: Oh yeah. Yeah.

Kelley: Right. Absolutely. And, and, and I think we're, the next stage of it, it's kind of in transition, sort of like everything after Covid.

Mm-hmm. But in particular, because Pastor Edmonds is retiring and they're getting a new pastor at Koinonia. And so with that transition, just looking forward to hopefully making the connections with new people. And so it, it's an organic relationship because based on, you know, as people we change.

And it's been 10 years, which is great. But in the last 10 years, our society has changed a lot too.

Jill: Yeah. But I think the beautiful thing is there's relationships at all levels now, and that's, that's really the lovely thing. So there's, there are a lot of other things kind of going on here and there on the side, and people are involved in different things in different churches now.

Oh yeah. You know, while still obviously maintaining your own church identity. [00:24:00] You know, we've got members of, of Koinonia and LCU volunteering with us in Swansboro. We've got members of Koinonia and LCU who participate in other Bible studies and events and things, and, you know, we're over at their churches for different celebrations and different, you know, special events and things.

So it's, there's, there's so many connections. It's such an interconnected web in multiple different ways that, yeah, it, it continues to move and evolve. But I'm excited to see where we continue to go from here. Yes.

Noah: I think something that struck me was when I interviewed Bishop Branch, no, he described it was an ongoing success. Oh. And how he hopes that with Keith Edmonds retiring, that he hopes that this isn't just a one generational thing that it can see. Right. Yeah. Because things will change and hopefully the message stays the same. Right? Yeah. And I think that really, I don't know that had that struck something at me.

I was like, wow. But I guess for you guys, what did you like best about the partnership? I think you [00:25:00] guys mentioned a couple things earlier, but if you had to pick maybe one, I know it's kind of hard, which, what would, what did you like best about it?

Kelley: I mean, I think it's been transformational for our church, but just personally, I've enjoyed the friends that I've made. Yeah. And you know, I would not have necessarily met these people except through the church because, you know, they work in schools or hospitals or banks that I don't necessarily go to.

Jill: That's exactly what I was gonna say is the relationships. Yeah, I mean that, that, that's just been really, really beautiful. Mm-hmm.

Noah: And connected to that, I guess, what do you think has been most beneficial? I guess specifically for the community as a whole, between all the three churches?

Jill: I think the growth that we have done spiritually together has, has really [00:26:00] been transformational for all of us and all of the learning that we have done too.

I mean this, this has provided all of us an opportunity to get to know each other better to break down barriers and stereotypes and for all of us to grow. So I think that's been like pivotal.

Kelley: I think if everyone in Richmond could have an experience like this, it would be transformational because, I mean, way back when we, when I first started here, I invited Phyllis and Michelle and Lynette to dinner. And we, as we were eating together, we all just said, you know, we all want the same thing. Mm-hmm. We're all mothers and what we want is for the world to be a place where our children can thrive.

And, you know, it's, it, it really is Martin Luther King Jr's dream to have a world where children can play and they're not guns, and they can go to school and have [00:27:00] educations, and they can use their gifts. Yep.

Noah: That was well said. And I think you mentioned earlier there was a church in Charlottesville mm-hmm. That contacted you. And the next question was basically if another church basically asked you guys and they wanted to do a partnership similar to this one, what advice would you give them?

Kelley: Takes time.

Jill: Yes. Yeah.

Kelley: And intention.

Jill: Yes. Yeah, I think, and, and the last time somebody reached out to me was within, within a year or so of George Floyd's murder, and it's, it's clear that justifiably and understandably that was another wake up call for everybody to say, things have got to change, and what can I do about it?

But I don't think you can wake up one day and, and walk up to a, a Black church or a Black community place and say, Hey, I'm a white person and I really wanna change stuff. Like, let's do things together. Like that's not gonna come off well, for understandable reasons. I don't think it would work well the other [00:28:00] direction either.

And so I think I encourage churches in other organizations who would wanna do something similar is to, is to be honest with yourself and say, what are your intentions and what are your connections already? And where can you grow from? Because I think just randomly, you know, picking somebody and calling them is probably not the right way to do it.

But the good news is there's, there's different organizations in the community you could get involved in. So for example, in the Richmond area, Clergy against Racism would be one area that I'd recommend churches consider, because through that group you will get to know people from other churches and you might then naturally start to talk about what partnerships could come, come from that.

So I would say, If you don't have, like we had, we had relationships in the Swansboro community that were long standing, and that's a predominantly Black and growingly Hispanic community. And so that gives us a, you know, a, a reason to be in that community and credibility that we mean well, and that we're doing good work and that we just want, you know, to partner with other people, other churches might have things like that too.

And so looking at your, your [00:29:00] relationships, your gifts, your strengths, and if those don't exist right now, being intentional about thinking what groups you could start to become a part of, to get to know other people. Because I really do think, as Kelley mentioned, this has to be real and genuine and grow slowly over time.

And don't just, you know, jump into the hard stuff. You have to get to know people first. And you have to start where you have natural connections and build from there. Mm-hmm.

Noah: And I guess in a short sentence, what's the story of your church

Jill: Want a short sentence?

Noah: The story of, or short? Or short? I don't know the word. Like basically what is the story of the church, I guess is the last question.

Jill: Our church or the partnerships together?

Noah: Yes. Like Reveille, the story of Reveille and where you guys came from. We don't have to answer this one.

Jill: Wait, I'm sorry. The story of Reveille and what?

Noah: And where they came from.

Kelley: We don't, it's, it's a really long story.

Jill: It's a very long story. Yeah. Okay. It's not a pretty story in my personal opinion.

Noah: But we don't have to answer it. Then [00:30:00] other people, okay. We can skip over that.

Jill: But neither of us was here.

Noah: Right, right. That makes sense. Yeah. And I guess really quick were any of you involved with the Swansboro Elementary school in like the Micah Project or anything like that? No, that's just extra. Okay.

Jill: That was before our time.

Noah: Right. Okay.

Kelley: Well, I mean, it's continuing, but we Well, yeah, but I mean the, you mean the founding of it, right?

Noah: Yeah, both. Yeah. Yeah. It was just extra. I don't know.

Kelley: Sometimes, I mean, sometimes we do extra things. Actually I went, we have in the fall a thing called Gather and Go and we went to several different places.

One was Pace at VCU, one was UMFS where Jill works, but another was Swansboro Elementary. Mm-hmm. And so, you know, we'll have opportunities like that where there was a whole group of youth and adults who went and cleaned up the garden area. So, you know, we're continuing to have things there that might not necessarily be just limited to the tutoring.

Mm-hmm. But the tutoring is continuing, but we're not as involved cuz we [00:31:00] have jobs during the day. Right. Of course.

Jill: Yes. We tend to go to more the extracurricular type things. They have. Yes, yes. Like I love when they had dancing classrooms, for example, yes. Like that was really fun to go watch the kids in the evenings do the dancing with classrooms.

Kelley: And they'll be coming over here for a concert.

Jill: I have to say, the Swansboro Elementary concerts at Revelle are amazing.

I, that is one of my favorite, favorite, favorite things because those kids have amazing heart, amazing voices. Their music teacher is just so talented. She has those kids like organized. Singing with gusto, and I'm just gonna say it. They sing our kids under the table.

Kelley: All right, so our kids sing with them.

Jill: Yes. Right. They are so good and it's just the joy that they have and what they're doing.

Kelley: But they all have a spaghetti dinner first.

Jill: They all have a spaghetti dinner. Yes, they do. So, but the spaghetti dinner is not [00:32:00] the exciting part. It's the concert. Spaghetti dinner. To me, I'm not a spaghetti dinner girl.

Kelley: Was somewhat exciting as far as trying to keep the kids' white shirts clean.

Jill: That is true. Oh gosh, yes. We've developed an elaborate bib system.

Noah: Sometimes I can't even do that myself. Yes. Well, I'd like to thank you both for coming out today. It was a pleasure to interview you both. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much. It was easy.