

## **Swansboro Partner Churches History: Timeline 2013 - 2023**

### **Introduction:**

After 10 years of successful partnership, the members at Reveille United Methodist Church, Koinonia Christian Church, and Love Center of Unity decided to document the key events that allowed the joint ministry to flourish. Content for the timeline 2012 - 2023 was primarily sourced from oral history interviews conducted with 17 members from the three partner churches as well as newsletters, meeting minutes, event programs, and photos. More detailed information about the contributors can be found at the end of the timeline document.

### **Key Personnel in Swansboro Partnership:**

Koinonia Christian Church (Koinonia):

- Keith Edmonds, retired lead pastor
- Michelle Edmonds, minister and first lady
- Toni Allen, minister
- Phyllis Bell, deacon and member of SPIRIT Team
- Jackie Walker, deacon and member of SPIRIT Team

Love Center of Unity Full Gospel Church International (LCU):

- Larry Branch, bishop and lead pastor
- Lynette Branch, executive minister and first lady
- Sonya Thomas, minister and member of SPIRIT Team
- Charita Branch, SPIRIT Team member

Reveille United Methodist Church (Reveille):

- Sheelagh Davis, team leader and co-founder of Musical Mondays
- Kathy Rainey, team leader and co-founder of Musical Mondays
- Jill Gaynor, SPIRIT Team chair (**Swansboro Partners Inspiring Relationships in Christ Together**)
- Katie Gooch, former executive pastor
- Doug Forrester, former lead pastor
- Pete Moon, lead pastor
- Kelley Lane, former associate pastor of adult discipleship and community transformation
- Carol Hampton, Swansboro Partner Churches History lead

Key personnel will be referred to without their official titles throughout the timeline.

## **2012**

### **Summer**

- Under the leadership of senior pastor Jim Noland, Reveille committed funds (\$100k) to build a Habitat House in the Swansboro neighborhood.

- Reveille youth director, Dwayne Stinson, proposed redirecting resources typically allocated towards out-of-state summer trips for youth to instead focus service efforts in the local Swansboro community in hopes of allowing both adults and youth to minister together to create future opportunities and relationships that would continue long after the youth trip.

## Fall

- Katie Gooch took the GRTC bus to Swansboro to explore the area. She attended a neighborhood association meeting outside of Koinonia, met Keith Edmonds, and invited him and his congregation to join in the Habitat for Humanity build.
- Sheelagh Davis and Gail Bosta tasked with getting to know some of the churches in the Swansboro community due to the 14 year partnership with Swansboro Elementary. They called over 20 churches and received two return calls: Koinonia and LCU.

## 2013

### May

- May 18: Reveille members invited to help with a community-wide Swansboro clean up day



- May 19: Reveille Mission Benefit Concert held with proceeds contributed to Swansboro ministries

### June

- June 20: Reveille members and Swansboro community volunteers began work on the Habitat House, located at 3412 McRand Street. The homeowner and single mother of four children, Dina Harris, helped with the house in between her overnight shifts at the post office. Swansboro community members were also invited to volunteer at the Habitat House.



## July

- July 14-19: Youth camp focused on ministry in the Swansboro community
  - Donations from the youth performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* attendees went directly to the Swansboro ministry fund to aid in the Habitat House, building a community garden at Swansboro Baptist Church, and a neighborhood clean-up day.
  - Reville youth participant, Emma Farmer, shared her perspective: “Working in our own community meant that we were able to not only make connections with the people we worked with, but keep them as well.”



## August

- Habitat House volunteers completed work on the home.

## September

- September 11: Reveille's Wonderful Wednesday program, co-hosted with the CEO of Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity, dedicated to reflecting on the stories and experiences of building the home in Swansboro.

## October

- October 4: Swansboro Elementary School celebrated its 100th anniversary. Many Reveille members attended the festivities to commemorate the 15-years of successful mentorship at the school through the Micah initiative. Micah is an association for faith communities to help children by providing volunteer service in the public schools. More information available at the Micah website: <https://www.richmondhillva.org/programs-events/micah-initiative/> accessed 8/4/2023



## November

- November 2: Habitat House dedication ceremony with the Habitat family, Reveille volunteers, and Swansboro community members celebrating the partnership together. LCU's Larry Branch provided the dedication.



- Reville leadership asked Koinonia and Love Center of Unity leadership how they could help their congregations. Keith Edmonds and Larry Branch made it clear that joint ministry from all three churches on behalf of the Swansboro community would create the most fulfilling partnership. This conversation set the tone for the future of the Swansboro ministry.
  - Jill Gaynor added her perspective on the nature of the partnership: “We've been very intentional the entire time to try to make sure that it's a balanced partnership and that we're not the big church trying to squash the little church or the white church trying to tell the black church what to do.”

### **December**

- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## **2014**

### **January**

- January 26: Swansboro Celebration Lunch for those who participated in ministry efforts in 2013
  - Members planned future ways to stay connected and further relationships in the Swansboro community

### **February**

- Kathy Rainey and Sheelagh Davis, co-chairs of the Swansboro ministry, asked Koinonia leadership how Reveille and Koinonia could partner together in ministry. Koinonia

recommended a music program for the youth. Volunteers from Reveille and Koinonia provided weekly piano and drum lessons to children at the church known as Musical Mondays.

- The goals of the partnership were “for each congregation to share its gifts and work together to bring God’s kingdom to the Richmond community.”

### **March**

- Koinonia and LCU youth visited Reveille for a joint youth game night

### **April**

- Koinonia received a baby grand piano for music lessons, thanks to the generous donation by Bethia United Methodist Church in Chesterfield. Bethia identified the need from ClergyNet, a list-serve where United Methodist clergy shared information, including items churches may be trying to donate.

### **May**

- Swansboro ministry leadership worked on long term plans to continue the piano lessons at Koinonia, raise money for a new roof at LCU’s youth center, hold annual food drives, and host joint ministry events to benefit the Swansboro community.
- May 7: Reveille Mission Benefit Concert held with proceeds contributed to Swansboro ministries
- May 25: A few Reveille youth and adults attended worship services at LCU and received a warm welcome from the members
- Food drive held at Reveille to support the food pantries at Koinonia and LCU

### **June**

- June 1: Koinonia hosted an end-of-year piano recital for all students who participated in lessons with Kathy Rainey, Mary Ann Ramage, and others from Reveille.
- June 24: Members from Koinonia joined Reveille in worship at The Point, a modern worship experience.
  - Keith Edmonds gave the final blessing in the service.
  - Reveille’s Jill Gaynor and Sheelagh Davis shared how they were “blessed by their visit and felt that they had taken another step towards being in relationship with one of their partner churches in the Swansboro community.”
- Keith Emonds shared a public note of appreciation to the members at Reveille for their love and support in regards to the music lessons and food drive. He thanked the members for having shown “what the love of Christ is all about.”



## July

- July 1: Doug Forrester began his ministry as Reveille's senior pastor.
- July 14: Kelley Lane began her appointment at Reveille as the Minister of Adult Ministries
- Food drive held for Koinonia and LCU food pantries
- Koinonia and LCU highlighted as "partner churches"
  - Reveille leadership shared how the "seeds have begun flourishing" and the attitude of giving and receiving began to evolve into a joint ministry with "a common bond - the love of Jesus Christ."

## August

- The partner churches organized into teams to enhance the joint ministry, named the SPIRIT Team (**S**wansboro **P**artners **I**nspiring **R**elationships **I**n **C**hrist **T**ogether):
  - The Swansboro steering committee led by Sheelagh Davis, known as the SPIRIT Team Taskforce, was organized to assemble members to help with monthly ministry opportunities as well as when immediate needs arise. The taskforce included at least two representatives from each partner church:
    - Koinonia: Jackie Walker, Phyllis Bell, and Georgia White
    - LCU: Charita Branch and Alicia Taylor
    - Reveille: Kathy Rainey and Sheelagh Davis
  - Swansboro Steering Committee set out to meet monthly to plan future ministries in the Swansboro community
  - Music/Academic Tutoring Ministry, located at Koinonia and led by Kathy Rainey, was established to organize piano and drum lessons as well as academic tutoring and board games and crafts with students as they waited for their slotted music lesson.

## September

- Reveille's Fall Focus: "Redefining Poverty: We're All Broke(n)"
  - Reveille hosted Wednesday night studies to discuss *When Helping Hurts: Alleviating Poverty Without Hurting the Poor* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikker. The format included dinner, short videos, and small group discussions.
    - September 14: Dominic Barrett, Director, United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond and Shalom Farms
    - September 21: Reverend Benjamin Campbell, Director, Richmond Hill; author of Richmond's Unhealed History
    - September 28: Reverend Joseph Torrence, Minister to Youth and Church Relations, United Methodist Family Services, Richmond, VA
  - Swansboro ministry discussed the the pros and cons of implementing the model laid out in *When Helping Hurts: Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)*
    - Understand what issues the people in the community want to work on
    - Identify what strengths they already have
    - Work together to develop a plan to use their strengths to tackle the issues that are most important to them

## October

- Coat drive held for Koinonia, LCU, and Swansboro community
- "Redefining Poverty: We're All Broke(n)" continued with participation from all three partner churches.
  - October 5: Lawson Wijesooriya, Executive Director, Blue Sky Fund
  - October 12: Reverend Glenn Rowley, Director of Justice and Missional Excellence, Virginia Conference UMC
  - October 19: Reverend Andy Jones, Director of Development and Communications for the Chalmers Center
- October 26: Partner churches hosted "Commit to Serve, Commit to Relationships" in response to the *When Helping Hurts* poverty study
  - Keith Edmonds preached at the joint worship service which took place at Reveille UMC. Liturgical dancers from Koinonia and musicians from all three churches helped to lead the worship.

## November

- Mt. Horan UMC (Natural Bridge, VA), Mt. Pigsah UMC, and the Petersburg Cooperative Parish donated guitars to the youth at Koinonia for music lessons and practice
- November 23: Reveille and Koinonia attended Pastor and Church Anniversary for LCU





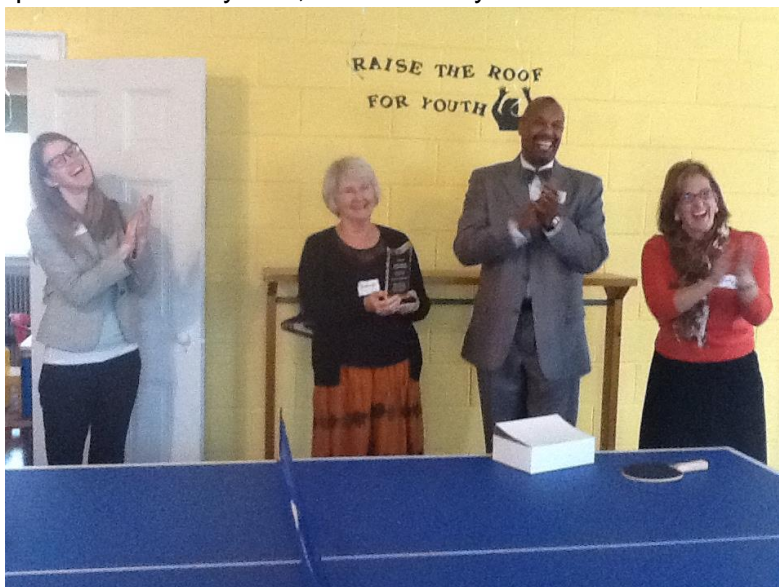
## December

- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## 2015

### January

- LCU held a "Raise the Roof" dedication to celebrate the new roof and renovated space for the youth center, thanks to the donations from Reveille and help from their congregation. Reveille members attended and joined in the celebration.
  - Reflecting on the partnership, Doug Forrester shared: "what was beautiful was how over time, starting really from the beginning, watching this relationship morph into a ministry *with*, not a ministry *to* or *for*."





### March

- Food drive held for Koinonia and LCU food pantries
- March 19: In response to the joint study of *When Helping Hurts*, the partner churches all “felt God’s call to build relationships with the people of Swansboro” and held a “What’s Next?” meeting to make future plans for joint ministry
- March 22: LCU hosted a joint worship service for members from all three partner churches
- Koinonia’s youth director, Toni Allen, received the Presidential Community Service Award for her work in joint ministry, Musical Mondays, and connecting the partner church youth groups.



## April

- April 15: Swansboro Elementary School Choir and Reveille Children's Choir put on a joint concert with proceeds benefiting Swansboro ministries.
- April 25: A Rebuilding Together event allowed Reveille members to spend time in the Swansboro community as they helped rehabilitate homes of the elderly and disabled.



## May

- May 17: Reveille Mission Benefit Concert held with proceeds contributed to Swansboro ministries, specifically for Swansboro children to join Reveille's summer youth camps

## June

- June 7: Spring musical recital held for all piano, drum, and guitar students at Koinonia



- June 15-17: Reveille Kid Campers completed mission projects in Swansboro with the help of children from the community

**July**

- July 2: Koinonia, LCU, and Reveille met at LCU with representatives from the City of Richmond Police Department to address safety for African Americans when dealing with police.



## August

- August 19: Partner church family cookout was hosted to celebrate the joint ministry



## September

- Koinonia's Toni Allen invited partner church members to help teach skills and share hobbies with Koinonia Girl Scouts. Reveille youth Hannah Sjovold helped Koinonia Girl Scouts to earn their art badges.
- September 20: LCU held a Family and Friends Day worship service with partner churches. Toni Allen and Kathy Rainey invited members to help with Musical Mondays. Several youth from Reveille (Anna Lyle Collette, Caroline Daniel, and Kate Sjovold) began offering violin lessons. Rob McAtee and Bo Bowden taught guitar while Cole Rainey and James Daniel taught drum lessons. While kids were waiting for their music lessons, Sheelagh Davis and Joe Ramage led games and tutoring sessions. Carol Ann Lea led crafts with the help of Kelley Lane.

## October

- Partner churches worked together to arrange monthly food deliveries from Goochland's Shalom Farms to Koinonia and LCU food pantries
- October 11: Baking for Bibles
  - Reveille's third graders held a bake sale and used the proceeds to purchase Bibles and Christian storybooks for distribution through Koinonia's food pantry
- October 17: Partner churches participated in Reveille's Day of Service. As part of the event, they decorated cake boxes for the Fall Festival Cake Walk at Swansboro Elementary and created encouraging cards for the Koinonia and LCU food pantry clients.



## December

- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## 2016

### January

- Food drive held for LCU and Koinonia food pantries

### February

- LCU made plans to host youth services twice a month and invite youth from Reveille and Koinonia.
- February 3: Strong Men and Women of Virginia Event, sponsored by Dominion Energy and The Library of Virginia, was attended by members of partner churches.



- February 17-March 23: Members of all ages from the three partner churches met at Reveille during the six weeks of Lent for dinner and a study on prayer facilitated by leaders of all three churches.

### March

- March 1: Reveille's United Methodist Women's general meeting featured guest speakers Lynette Branch from LCU and Phyllis Bell from Koinonia to share the history of their churches' roots and beliefs



- March 13: LCU hosted a joint worship service for partner churches
  - According to one Reveille member, the service was "bursting with praise and love."

## April

- April 13: Swansboro Elementary and Reveille Children's Choir put on a joint concert with all proceeds benefiting Swansboro ministries.
- April 16: Reveille yard sale and youth bake sale donated proceeds to Swansboro ministries.

## May

- May 7: Koinonia and LCU invited Reveille members to join in a work day at Shalom Farms in Goochland.



- May 22: Annual Mission Benefit Concert held with proceeds contributed to Swansboro ministries.
- May 28: Koinonia held a special service: "Uniting Church and Community through Fellowship" followed by a cookout for partner churches

## June

- June 19-24: Reveille sponsored 25 children from Swansboro Elementary to attend Westview on the James summer camp. This included some children from Koinonia and LCU partner churches.
- June 29: Reveille Kidz Campers (rising 3rd - 6th graders) delivered flower pots to members of the Swansboro community.
- June 30: Katie Gooch departed Reveille as executive pastor to go to her new appointment as Director at the PACE Center, VCU's United Methodist Campus Ministry.

## August

- Sheelagh Davis stepped down as the Reveille Swansboro ministry champion and Jill Gaynor moved into the role.
- August 15: Partner church cookout held at Reveille with over 80 attendees from the three congregations





## October

- October 9: Baking for Bibles
  - Reville's third graders held a bake sale and used the proceeds to purchase Bibles and Christian storybooks for distribution through Koinonia's food pantry

## November

- November 6: SPIRIT Team members attended LCU's anniversary service



- November 27: SPIRIT Team members attended Koinonia's anniversary service
- Reville held a school supplies and clothing drive for Swansboro Elementary to help with the school's new "Dress for Success" initiative.
- Reville Weekday School provided Thanksgiving baskets for families at Swansboro Elementary School.

## December

- December 21: Reveille members were asked to bring canned foods to the Wonderful Wednesday meal to support the January food drive for the LCU and Koinonia food pantries.
- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## 2017

### January

- Food drive held throughout the month of January for LCU and Koinonia food pantries.
- January 28: Reveille hosted a Knockout Hunger 3-on-3 basketball tournament to collect items for the food drive. Non-perishable food donation was required for entrance.

### February

- February 1: Strong Men and Women of Virginia Event attended by members of partner churches
- February 5: Dr. Melvin Ely, Reveille member and professor of history at William & Mary, held a Sunday school program about African American history and race relations in preparation for the dialogue series with Swansboro partner churches.
- February 8, 15, and 26: "Welcome One Another as Christ has Welcomed You: Dialogues on Race - Past, Present, and Future"
  - February 8: Rev. Benjamin P. Campbell, author of *Richmond's Unhealed History* presented at the first race relations discussion.
    - 140 attendees from the three partner churches
  - February 15: Larry Branch from LCU gave a talk titled "Present Climate of Race in our Country."
    - 120 attendees from the three partner churches
  - February 26: Youth and adult workshops titled "Our Future - Being the Church Together" held in addition to a worship service led by the pastors of the three partner churches ( Larry Branch, Keith Edmonds, and Doug Forrester).
    - Doug Forrester at Reveille encouraged members to get involved in the Swansboro partnership: "Momentum is so difficult to build and so easy to lose, and if this moment is to persist, then it is up to us, the people of Reveille, Koinonia, and LCU to make it so."
    - Sheelagh Davis acknowledged the successes as well as the barriers with the partner churches by sharing: "...we are conscious of an unspoken divide between us, due to historical injustices, fear of a different culture, and geographical separation." She encouraged all to participate in the 3-part dialogue series on race in order to improve relationships and understanding with the partner churches.
- February 12: Partner churches invited to celebrate Keith Edmonds' eighth pastoral anniversary held at Koinonia

## **March**

- As a result of the discussions on race and poverty, Reveille leadership shared the following: “We need to discern what the needs are of the people we serve, especially in Swansboro, so that we are not simply doing what we think needs to be done, but developing relationships with the people we serve, so that we are truly meeting their actual needs in our local missions.”

## **April**

- April 26: Joint Swansboro Elementary School and Reveille children’s concert

## **May**

- May 10: Dialogues on Race follow-up dinner held to review the February sessions.
  - LCU’s Lynette Branch led a worship service after the discussion focused on unity in the Swansboro partnership
- Jill Gaynor, Swansboro SPIRIT Team leader, shared the feedback received from the Dialogues on Race and recommended the formation of five new joint ministry teams. Members were invited to sign up as volunteers for the new teams. 40 members signed up to help with the new joint ministry teams, and SPIRIT Team leadership worked to ensure each team had representation from all three churches and at least one team leader from each church:
  - Joint Prayer - led by Sonya Thomas (LCU)
  - Joint Studies - led by Kelley Lane (Reveille) and Michelle Edmonds (Koinonia)
  - Transportation Taskforce - led by Lynette Branch (LCU) and Bob Downs (Reveille)
  - Joint Fellowship - led by Carol Hampton and Wendy Malamphy (Reveille)
  - Joint Worship - led by Chauncey Bell (Koinonia)
- May 21: Annual Reveille Mission Benefit Concert held with funds donated to the Swansboro ministry.

## **July**

- July 15: Swansboro partner churches volunteered together at Shalom Farms, a regional food access and community development project. The mission of Shalom Farms is to ensure access to healthy food and help feed Richmond families in need.



- July 29: Prayer Tea at LCU
  - Women joined up as prayer partners with members from other churches
    - LCU's Sonya Thomas expressed, "...how can you get closer to somebody than to pray?"



## August

- August 3: Swansboro partners family cookout at Byrd Park





### **September**

- Reveille's Director of Children's Ministries, Tammy Tipton Nay, and Youth Director Elisabeth Sjovold began offering dance lessons at Musical Mondays.

### **November**

- November 1: Special screening of the film *In Our Words* and a talk by director Cameron Harris. The documentary and conversation explored what it's like to be black and whether or not racism still exists.
- Reveille donated its used bus to Koinonia

### **December**

- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## **2018**

### **January**

- Swansboro food drive for Koinonia and LCU food pantries.

### **February**

- February 7, 21, 28 and March 7: Partner church series titled "Making a Difference Toward Social Justice and Peace. The format included a meal and a guest speaker:
  - February 7: Police Sergeant Michael Bender, "The Police Department and Issues of Race"
  - February 21: Sheriff Antoinette V. Irving, "The Sheriff's Department and Issues of Race"

- February 28: David Johnson, Executive Director of Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, “Virginia’s Public Defense System and Issues of Race”
- March 7: Judy Clarke, Executive Director of Virginia Center for Restorative Justice, “How can you help those experiencing conflict in school and prison?”



- February 14: Partner churches joint Ash Wednesday service hosted by Koinonia

**March**

- March 21: Partner churches joint worship service and dinner held at Reveille.

**April**

- April 21: Swansboro partner churches volunteered together at Shalom Farms.



- April 25: Swansboro Elementary and Reveille Children’s Choir put on a joint concert with proceeds donated to Swansboro ministries.

## May

- May 4: Prayer partner meeting held at Koinonia to discuss spiritual gifts.
- May 6: “Light in the Community” service awards ceremony hosted at Koinonia where Sheelagh Davis was honored for her contributions to the Swansboro community.
- May 20: Reveille’s 25th Annual Mission Benefit Concert held on May 22 with proceeds contributed to Swansboro ministries.

## June

- June 17-22: Reveille sponsored 25 children from Swansboro Elementary to attend Westview on the James summer camp. Children from Koinonia and LCU were invited to participate.
- Reveille children helped beautify Swansboro Elementary friendship gardens and collect non-perishable items for Swansboro ministry food pantries.

## August

- August 16: Swansboro ministries family cookout at Byrd Park







- August 4, 11, 18, and 25: Kathy Rainey, Tammy Tipton-Nay, Kiana Bradford, and Toni Allen hosted a Swansboro Summer Sidewalk Bible School held on the Swansboro Elementary School playground.



## September

- September 12: Reveille hosted a joint worship service with Swansboro partner churches



- September 15: Swansboro partner churches volunteered together at Shalom Farms.
- September 19: Partner church joint prayer service at Reveille.
- September 28-29: "Pastor for Pastors" Network Workshop hosted by New Sharon Baptist Church to discuss pastor/congregational relationships. Reveille members including Doug Forrester attended, at the invitation of LCU's Larry Branch.

## October

- October 7: Ellen Flicker, Communities in Schools (CIS) site coordinator for Swansboro Elementary, gave a presentation about how the Swansboro ministry can partner with CIS to benefit the church partnerships, the school, and the larger Swansboro community. Reveille had entered into an agreement with CIS to support a full-time CIS site coordinator at Swansboro Elementary for three years (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2021). This position was made full-time rather than a previously funded part-time position. Funds came from Reveille's \$1M gift fund, totaling \$120k (\$40k for each of three years).

## November

- Musical Mondays at Koinonia transitioned into “Marvelous Mondays” at Swansboro Elementary as part of the after school program for students. Volunteers from partner churches provide arts/crafts, games, and dance weekly.



- November 3: Members from all three partner churches and the greater Swansboro community came together to recognize and celebrate LCU’s Larry Branch for 30 years of ministry.





### **December**

- December 1: Joint bus trip with Koinonia and Reveille to attend a presentation of “Christmas Comes to Love” in Lynchburg, Virginia.
- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## **2019**

### **February**

- February 6, 13, 20 and 27: Partner church series held at Reveille titled “Reconciliation: Crossing Racial Barriers One Relationship at a Time.” The format included a meal and a presentation about the history and traditions of each partner church.
  - February 6: History and traditions of Koinonia
  - February 13: History and traditions of LCU
  - February 20: History and traditions of Reveille
  - February 27: Joint worship service



- February 16: Anniversary celebration and banquet held at Reveille in honor of Koinonia's Keith Edmonds' 10th pastoral anniversary.



- Food drive held throughout February to restock food pantries at Koinonia and LCU

## May

- May 7, 18, and 19: Partner church activities with Koinonia
  - May 7: Spring Revival worship service with Bishop Darryl Husband: "We Have a Work to Do - We Will Not Come Down."
  - May 18: Community Cookout for Koinonia's Community Day
  - May 19: Reveille Doug Forrester preached with Jill Gaynor at Koinonia's worship service.
- May 8: Swansboro and Reveille children's choir concert, proceeds donated to Swansboro ministry.
- May 19: Mission Benefit Concert held with proceeds contributed to Swansboro ministries.

## June

- June 9: Ellen Ficker and Debora Holliday from Community in Schools (CIS) presented at adult Sunday school to share updates about Reveille's successful partnership with Swansboro Elementary and the greater community.



- June 16-21: Reville sponsored 25 children from Swansboro Elementary to attend Westview on the James summer camp. Children from Koinonia and LCU were invited to participate. Camp counselors shared comments from children, “This was the best week of camp I have ever had.”





- June 19: Swansboro partner church Juneteenth cookout hosted at Reveille







## August

- August 6: National Night Out hosted at Koinonia

## September

- September 7: Swansboro partner churches volunteered at Shalom Farms with a fellowship lunch the work day
- September 14: Swansboro Prayer Walk
  - Members from the three partner churches met at Koinonia for a group prayer and then small teams walked throughout the Swansboro neighborhood and prayed together with community members on their porches, on the street, at the gas station, and beyond.
  - Kathy Rainey said of the prayer walk: "When we're joining together and serving together, that's what creates relationships that are really lasting and make a big impact on all of us."





### **November**

- Reville members distributed Thanksgiving food bags for Swansboro Elementary School students

### **December**

- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reville's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## **2020**

### **February**

- Food and clothing drive for Swansboro families throughout the month of February
- February 5, 12, and 19: Swansboro partner churches Wednesday meal and worship services held to explore joint ministry and the call of God. The worship theme was faith, hope, and love with a focus on 1 Corinthians 13.
  - Jill Gaynor shared "The passing of the peace was a joyful time that displayed the love our congregations have developed as our partnership in ministry has grown over the last seven years. I reflected on how appropriate the worship themes of faith, hope, and love were, and how beautifully they have been lived out by everyone present."



### **March**

- COVID-19 pandemic forced many partnership activities and events to be held via zoom, yet progress continued with Conversations for Change.

### **May**

- May 25: Murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota
  - In regards to the Swansboro partnership, Lynette Branch explained how the murder of George Floyd “put racism right there so that you could see it, feel it, internalize it.”

### **June**

- June 7: Conversations for Change
  - Partner church small group discussions held via zoom in response to the murder of George Floyd and racial injustice in Richmond and the country at large.
- June 23: Conversations for Change
  - Further zoom dialogues exploring possible responses to racial injustice.
    - Larry Branch reflected on the open discussions about race relations in regards to moving past stereotypes: “...breaking down these barriers was not just one sided, but with both sides.”

### **July**

- July 1: Doug Forrester was appointed to be the District Superintendent of the Valley Ridge District in the Roanoke area and Pete Moon appointed the new lead pastor at Reveille

### **August**

- August 9: Conversations for Change
  - Seator Ghazala Hasmi and Richmond City Councilman Michael Jones Representatives hosted a virtual town hall meeting for the partner churches to discuss policing and legislative proposals for policing reforms.



- August 19 and 26: The Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church hosted town hall conversations titled “Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom” to hear from seasoned leaders and how the church can help the movement for progress.

### September

- September 6: Reveille held a sermon series entitled “2020: What Have We Learned?” to discuss COVID-19 and racial tension through the lens of scripture
- September 13: Conversations for Change
  - Faithe Norrell of the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia discussed “Dispelling the Lost Cause Narrative” with the partner churches
- September 20, 27, and October 4: Reveille adult Sunday School read and studied *Be the Bridge* by Latasha Morrison about racial justice and unity
- Women of the Spirit (WOS), a longstanding Reveille small group bible study led by Gail Bosta and Jean Donaldson, select bible studies that run for 4-6 weeks with study guides, short videos, and weekly meetings. Beginning in September of 2020, friends from Koinonia joined the group and added prayers, sharing, and friendship. 2020 study topics are listed below:
  - “We Saved You a Seat” with Lisa-Jo Baker
  - “Be the Bridge - Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation” with Latasha Morrison
  - “Incarnation - Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas” with Adam Hamilton

### October

- October 11: Conversations for Change:
  - Swansboro 2nd precinct Lieutenant Greene of the Richmond Police Department shared his experiences in law enforcement and took questions from partner church members
- October 24: Swansboro Drive-Thru Prayer Event
  - Partner churches met at Koinonia to pray with people in their cars, while other members drove throughout the Swansboro neighborhood praying for the community from their cars



## November

- November 8: Conversations for Change
  - Michael Paul Williams, a Richmond Times-Dispatch journalist and 2021 Pulitzer Prize winner, led a zoom discussion about peace and reconciliation with the partner churches
- Food drive for Koinonia and LCU food pantries

## December

- December 13: Partner church Christmas celebration held via zoom with crazy Christmas sweaters, jokes, traditions, and stories.
- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## 2021

## January

- Women of the Spirit (WOS) Bible study with members from Reveille and Koinonia continues with six studies throughout the year. Study topics are listed below:
  - "Grace Still Works" with Pete Moon
  - "Plenty Good Room with Marilyn Thornton
  - "When Women Pray" with TD Jakes
  - "Walking With the Wind" with John Lewis
  - "First Corinthians - Living Love When We Disagree" with Melissa Spoelstra
  - "Because of Bethlehem" with Max Lucado

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## February

- February 27: Anniversary drive-through parade at Koinonia to celebrate Keith Edmonds' pastoral anniversary
- Food drive for Koinonia and LCU food pantries



## March

- February 23 and March 3, 10, 17: Evensong Lenten preacher series held via zoom with partner churches
  - February 23: Katie Gooch shared a sermon about how God redeems our suffering when we reach out and connect with others who are suffering
  - March 3: LCU's Larry Branch shared a sermon titled "Lord, Teach Us to Pray"
  - March 10: Koinonia's Keith Edmonds shared a sermon titled "Simplicity of Prayer"
- March 7: Partner church open forum about COVID-19 vaccinations with Richmond City Health District's Deb Zimmerman and Stephanie Toney held via zoom.

## April

- April 11: Conversations for Change via zoom
  - Book group discussion for *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham, a book about longtime congressman John Lewis who dedicated his life for racial and social justice in the United States.
- April 21: Partner church Facebook live prayer event
  - Clergy took prayer requests for individuals, the community, the nation, and the world



### May

- May 26: Annual mission benefit concert held via zoom with proceeds contributed to Swansboro ministries

### July

- Summer food drive held for LCU and Koinonia food pantries

### August

- August 24: Kimberly Greenshields took over as the Community in School (CIS) site coordinator at Swansboro Elementary and became the contact for volunteers who supported the school. She was introduced at the Swansboro volunteer luncheon to show appreciation and to help recruit volunteers.



## October

- October 9: Partner church joint prayer event titled “Prayer Warriors.” Participants joined on four teams for the event:
  - Drive-Thru Team: Prayed with neighbors who drove or walked past Koinonia.
  - Driving Brigade: Drove through the Swansboro neighborhood and prayed for neighbors on each street
  - Foot Patrol: Invited customers outside neighborhood convenience stores to pray
  - Chapel Guard: Met in Koinonia’s sanctuary to pray for the Swansboro neighborhood
    - Jill Gaynor reflected on the success of the prayer event: “You [could] feel the spirit moving as the prayer is happening. And it was just a beautiful experience on every level.”







- October 17: Messy Church and Concert with partner churches at Reville
  - Kimberly Greenshields, Church in Schools coordinator, was commissioned as a Reville missionary in Swansboro school and community. She spoke at the worship service about the impact made in the Swansboro community.
  - Outdoor concert featuring musicians from the three partner churches
  - Dinner, crafts, games, and a service project





- October 30: Swansboro Elementary garden clean up

### November

- Thanksgiving food drive for Koinonia and LCU food pantries.
- November 21: Partner church Thanksgiving celebration and Messy Church at Reveille with sweet treats, music, faith stories, and worship led by all three churches



## December

- December 5: Partner church Christmas celebration held via zoom
- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## 2022

### January

- January 16: Partner church program held via zoom with guest presenters Dr. Eli Coston and Angela Fontaine, co-chairs of the Richmond Task Force on Establishing a Police Citizen Review Board, shared an update on the progress of the task force.
- Women of the Spirit (WOS) Bible study with members from Reveille and Koinonia continues with five studies throughout the year. Study topics are listed below:
  - "This I Know For Sure" with Babbie Mason
  - "Seven Words- Listening to Christ from the Cross" with Susan Robb
  - "Acts - Awakening to God in Everyday Life" with Melissa Spoelstra
  - "Unafraid - Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times" with Adam Hamilton
  - "The Angels of Christmas" with Susan Robb

### February

- Food and clothing drive for Koinonia and LCU food pantries and Swansboro Elementary School



- February 13: Anniversary celebration held via zoom in honor of Koinonia's Keith Edmonds' pastoral anniversary.

- February 27: Partner church zoom with VCU professor Joseph Cates titled “Food Insecurity in RVA and Beyond” where members from all three churches discussed ways to end hunger in Richmond

### March

- March 6: Partner church Rise Against Hunger event at Reveille

### April

- April 30: Swansboro garden clean up with partner churches and other community organizations



### May

- May 14: Partner church tour of Richmond’s Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia
- May 22: Annual benefit concert, “A Celebration of Psalms” Concert to Combat Hunger, including singers from Koinonia and LCU. Donations supported the food pantries at Koinonia and LCU, and two other local food insecurity nonprofits.

### June

- June 5: Partner church celebration at Reveille with Messy Church, crafts, food trucks, activities and music from all three churches.
- Summer food drive held for LCU and Koinonia food pantries



**July**

- July 31: Partner church pool party and cookout at Kanawha Recreation Association





### September

- Koinonia's Jackie Walker shared via video interview with Pete Moon about the contemporary miracles that have occurred as a result of Swansboro ministry food drives.

### October

- October 5: First event of a 4-month partner church book study and discussion of *Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson. Each month started with a fellowship dinner followed by a guest speaker.
  - Guest speaker Faithe Norrell from the Black History Museum shared the history and context behind the story of the enslaved woman who inspired the book.





## November

- November 2: Partner church book study and discussion of *Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson. This month focused on table discussion of questions about the book.
  - Toni Allen said of partner church book studies: “We get to know each other on a different level, but know that we are all God’s children, all God’s people, and we have more in common than we have differences.”
- November 22: Koinonia’s 50th Anniversary celebration, held at Reveille



- Partner church holiday food drive held for Love Center of Unity and Koinonia food pantries

## December

- December 7: Partner church book study and discussion of *Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson
  - New York Times bestselling author Kristen Green was the guest speaker. She talked about her book, *The Devil's Half Acre*, the historical account of Mary Lumpkin, the woman who inspired the fictional story in *Yellow Wife*.
- The Swansboro Ministry was included in Reveille's annual Glorious Gifts program, which raises money to support outreach.

## 2023

## January

- January 11: *Yellow Wife* author Sadeqa Johnson joined the partner churches to discuss her book



- Women of the Spirit (WOS) Bible study with members from Reveille and Koinonia continues with studies throughout the year. Study topics are listed below:
  - “Navigating Isaiah” with Bryon Thomas
  - “The Lord’s Prayer - The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught” with Adam Hamilton
  - “Sermon on the Mount” with Amy Jill Levine

## February

- Partner church food drive held throughout the month of February for LCU and Koinonia food pantries



## March

- March 17: Koinonia held the retirement service for Koinonia's Keith Edmonds in the Reville Fellowship Hall.



## April

- During March and April, VCU history intern Noah Sarmiento conducted and edited eight oral history video interviews with 17 individuals from the three partner churches in order to document the history of the 10 year partnership.



**May**

- May 10: Swansboro Elementary and Reveille children joint concert performance with proceeds donated to Swansboro ministries



- May 21: Partner church 10-year anniversary celebration held at Reveille to celebrate a decade of ministry partnership.



## June

- Summer food drive held for Love Center of Unity and Koinonia food pantries
- June 11: Partner church joint worship service celebrating the 10-year anniversary held at Reveille with music and sermons from all three churches. The service was followed by a fellowship meal.
  - Sheelagh Davis shared a testimony on the success of the partnership: “For myself, I feel there is a rightness in all that has happened, and I thank God that I am a part of this, that in some small way we really are working towards reconciliation and God’s perfect world.”
  - VCU history intern Noah Sarmiento’s summary video of the oral histories was presented sharing some of the highlights of the 10-year partnership.



## July

- July 16: Farewell Reception for Kelley Lane who played an instrumental role in the Swansoro partnership.



## August

- August 30: Partner church cookout at Reveille

**Credits:**

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Special thanks to content contributors, reviewers, and editors of the Timeline:

- Gail Bosta
- Lynette Branch
- Sheelagh Davis
- Bob Downs
- Terri Edwards
- Carol Hampton
- Jill Gaynor
- Kelley Lane
- Lilli Ann Love
- Bonnie Overacre
- Kathy Rainey
- Rachel Sanders
- Noah Sarmiento

**Citations:**

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