

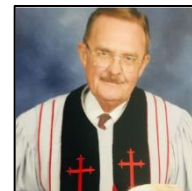
The Towers Newsletter

216 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434
Website: www.suffolkchristian.org / **August 2021**



My Dear Friends,

It seems like only a short time ago that I received a phone call from Jack Chapman, who was chair of our Board of Deacons, asking me to come to Suffolk to interview for the position of Supply Minister. It was, in fact, in March of 1996. The pulpit of Suffolk Christian Church was to soon be vacant upon the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Bruce Havens, who had accepted a call to Peace United Church of Christ in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Several months into my weekly duties as Supply Minister, Jim Thorsen, chair of the church's pulpit committee, asked if I would be interested in interviewing for a call as full-time pastor. I didn't want to reveal just how eager I was to begin those interviews . . . I tried to be "cool" but I am sure I failed miserably. I was very eager to have that conversation!

As you know, our church did, indeed, extend to me a call, which I accepted, and the rest, as they say, is history. The months became years and all too soon Carmen and I were approaching twenty-five years with you here in Suffolk.

I truly regret not being able to share the news of our impending retirement with each one of you personally, but there was no way that could be done. I made the announcement to the church at the 11 am worship service on July 18, and followed that up with a ChurchCast telephone call just after that service concluded.

I announced our intentions confidentially to Dana Bilby, chair of our deacons and Evelyn Jones, vice-chair of our deacons well in advance of the public announcement. This has given them time to consider next steps and make plans for leadership going forward. I am indebted to my (and your) good friend, the Rev. T. Floyd "Skip" Irby, who has been serving as a consultant as to steps to be taken going forward. Skip has special training in interim ministry and has been a valuable resource.

Carmen's and my last Sunday with you will be September 26.

We will remain in Suffolk. We have lived here longer than any other place in our lives and this is now "home" for us. You will see us out and about, but please understand that ministerial ethics require that we completely step back from the church and allow those who will follow to establish their own ministry.

Special mention and deep gratitude is due to Dr. Bruce Havens, my immediate predecessor; the late Rev. Tom Britton, who had been an interim pastor here on several occasions; and the late Dr. Bob Marr, our beloved Pastor Emeritus and faithful mentor to me. Their encouragement, guidance, and friendship has been wonderful.

If there are special requests for my presence or participation in weddings or funeral services, or other church events, those requests will be with the approval of our deacons. We both, Carmen and I, care very much, of course, about the health and welfare of our great church and will continue to be your great supporters and prayer partners.

May God bless you and God bless Suffolk Christian Church!
Love, Michael



September 25, 2021, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Commemorate the Retirement of
*The Rev. Michael D. Halley and
Carmen J. Halley*

Celebrate their 25 years of faithful service to our church

More information will be forthcoming.

Suffolk Christian Church
216 N. Main Street • Suffolk • VA • 23434 • (757) 539-9182
www.suffolkchristianchurch.org





“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward them for what they have done.” Proverbs 19: 17

August’s Mission: Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS)

Our Vision

We envision Suffolk churches and organizations united and empowered to accomplish Christ’s commission. We envision individuals and families living with dignity as they participate in CAPS ministries and experience holistic gospel transformation.

Our Mission

CAPS is a group of churches and organizations working together for poverty alleviation and community development. By sharing resources, information and support our efforts are synergized for the development of our city.

www.capsuffolk.org/

“Working together as one body makes us more effective in seeking the welfare of our city, imaging Christ in our community, and helping residents of Suffolk who are going through a crisis”

The Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk has served over 1000 individuals since we began in August of 2012. When CAPS receives requests for assistance, the staff assesses the situation, discusses financial issues, talks with the individual about long-term solutions, prays with the individual and assists financially if appropriate. CAPS partners with local help agencies, creating a network that ensures individuals are served in the best way possible.

In addition to providing crisis assistance, CAPS started the Night Stay Program as a rotating shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness during winter months. Churches would come together to host homeless guests and provide food, shelter, and safety during the coldest months of the year. Due to Covid-19, the housing procedure for 2020 had to be adjusted. Last year the housing was handled through local motels. The procedure for this year has not been determined. No matter the housing procedure, the need is there, and Suffolk Christian Church will be involved.

If you wish to support this mission, please use your yellow envelope.



A Step Back In Time

Sunday, April 22, 1928 the first service was held in the newly remodeled and redecorated sanctuary. The new Chancel Chairs, Pulpit, Communion Table and Baptismal font were donated. The plaque reads, "In memorium – Curtis Albert Shoop, born 1869, died 1928."

Yates, Gladys Harrell, *A History of Suffolk Christian Church*, 1960
Photo by Beverly McGahee

CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE

The second of only two meetings a year of the Care and Concern Committee will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at church. This group helps our church family in their time of need for an illness, birth of a baby, a death in the immediate family or anytime a need comes up. This could be delivering a meal, sending a card, visiting a shut-in or many other ways to offer help. These needs can be met only with the help of our church members. Please come out and learn of the many ways you could be of help. It is such a worthwhile experience. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Monday, September 20th, at 7:00 p.m.



Elaine Abernathy and Claudia Salmon - Co-Facilitators



*Fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear face coverings at Suffolk Christian Church. If you are not fully vaccinated, please help protect others by continuing to wear face coverings over your nose and mouth and social distance. Exceptions apply for children under 5 and those with certain health issues.

Bound by grace

Grace binds you with far stronger cords than the cords of duty or obligation can bind you. Grace is free, but when once you take it you are bound forever to the Giver, and bound to catch the spirit of the Giver. Like produces like, Grace makes you gracious, the Giver makes you give.

—E. Stanley Jones

You can find the weekly services online at www.suffolkchristian.org , YouTube or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SuffolkChristianChurch/>





Choir practice will begin on Thursday, September 9th at 7:30 PM. New members are always welcome!!

**Items are needed for the weekly food pantry!* Applesauce (individual cups); Snacks (Granola Bars, Nabs, Individual Packs of Nuts); Oatmeal (Individual Servings); Pop Tarts; Noodles; Spaghetti; Macaroni; Rice (1 lb. bags); Dried Beans; Macaroni and Cheese; Canned Vegetables; Spaghetti Sauce; Canned Pasta, Peanut Butter, Jelly.



Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners!

Maggie Copeland – Suffolk Christian Church Special Mission Scholarship

Aidan Wieck – David and Dorothy W. Darden Family Scholarship

Nathan Wilson – Z. Turner Family Memorial Scholarship, Heuberger Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Sunday will be August 8, 2021



Happy Birthday !!!!

Allen Clements	Aug. 1
Sergio Galan	Aug. 1
Donna Henderson	Aug. 1
Beverly McGahee	Aug. 1
Dana Bilby	Aug. 1
Peyton James	Aug. 3
Jean Saunders	Aug. 4
Joan Harrell	Aug. 4
Bill Bailey	Aug. 4
Julie Masters	Aug. 8
Thomas Queen	Aug. 9
Lee Trump	Aug. 9
Betty Johnson	Aug. 9
McKenna Myles	Aug. 11
Edward Roberts	Aug. 11
Mary Emily Dailey	Aug. 12
L.H. Byrum Jr.	Aug. 13
Gin Staylor	Aug. 13
Emma Wyatt	Aug. 13
Chloe Underwood	Aug. 15
Mary Ralph	Aug. 16
John James	Aug. 17
Diane Mathias	Aug. 18
Joe Simmons	Aug. 18
Rachel Bradshaw	Aug. 20
Joey Briggs	Aug. 23
Brian Saunders	Aug. 23
Susan Judkins	Aug. 23
Barbara Griffin	Aug. 25
Corky Harry	Aug. 27
Jim Mann	Aug. 27
Cathy Nelms	Aug. 28
Renee Trump Hensler	Aug. 31

Bible Quiz

How many times in the Old Testament do people cross a body of water on dry ground?

- A. once
- B. twice
- C. three times
- D. four times



Answer: C (See Exodus 14; Joshua 3; 2 Kings 2)

Memorials

A donation to the Bus Fund in memory of Larry Rountree has been given by Frank and Sally Rawls.

A donation to Care and Concern in memory of Peggy Hemphill has been given by the West Memorial Bible Class.

A donation to the Care and Concern in memory of Ann Phillips Harrell Nurney has been given by Tommy and Jane Arthur.

Donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Ann Phillips Harrell Nurney have been given by Jim and Linda Culltion, Jim and Becky Bradshaw, Dabney H. Carr, George Y. Birdsong, Thomas and Virginia Savage, Mike and June Beale, Joan Garton, Susan Higinbotham Conner, Pat House Church, William R. Savage, III, Frank and Sally Rawls, Mills and Gin Staylor.

A donation to the Food Pantry in memory of Ann Phillips Harrell Nurney has been given by Glynn and Janice Rhea Writtenberry.

A donation to the Music Fund in memory of Ann Philips Harrell Nurney has been given by Jack and Billie Harry.

Stewardship Report

"We Are Walking by Faith through Commitment"



January - June income - \$135,979.25
January - June expenses - \$133,141.01

Dollars for Haiti - \$3,990.00

Total funds given to Haiti missions to date - \$2,300.00



Special Monthly Missions

January 2021 - Food Pantry - \$1,200.00
February 2021 - Scholarship Fund - \$840.00
March 2021 - Western Tidewater Free Clinic - \$845.00
April 2021 - Children's/Youth Fund - \$965.00
May 2021 - Crisis Pregnancy Center - \$651.00
June 2021 - Genieve Shelter - \$657.00
July 2021 - Salvation Army - \$710.00

Children's Wednesday Morning

Bible Study

We have had a great time the last 3 Wednesdays of July at bible study. We will meet again on Wednesday, July 28th, for our last time this summer. Lots of laughs, games, crafts and learning about how Jesus can help us if we ask for his help! We have had several guests to join us, and we hope they will join us at Vacation Bible School this year.



All Aboard the Rocky Railway
Vacation Bible School
August 8th – 12th



Climb aboard the Rocky Railway to learn how to stay on track with Jesus. **Dinner will be served at 5:30pm** to the children and **VBS will start at 6:00pm.** **VBS will end at 8:00pm.** We are asking all children to **bring a towel or blanket** to sit on since some of our stations will be held outside this year. There are some registration forms on the bulletin board outside of the church office or you can register your child online on our website at suffolkchristian.org. We are also in need for groups/ people to provide dinners for VBS. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board as well. If you can volunteer or provide a meal, please let Priscilla Bunch know as soon as possible.

September 11th Cookout
For the First Responders



We will be having a cookout for the First Responders of our city on Saturday, September 11th, from 11:00am – 2:00pm. We will need people to help set up, cook, provide items and help during the day. We would need to be at the church no later than 9:00am to set up for the cookout. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office. If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.



Saturday, November 6th

Mark Your Calendars

More details in the September Newsletter



Halloween Party for the Children

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Trunk-a-Treat

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Saturday, October 30th

More to come in the September newsletter!



Daily Bible Readings

Day 1: Luke 7:1-10

Day 2: Luke 8:9-15

Day 3: Luke 8:40-48

Day 4: Luke 18:1-8

Day 5: Hebrews 6:1-5

Day 6: Hebrews 11:1-10

Day 7: Hebrews 11:11-21

Day 8: Hebrews 11:22-31

Day 9: Hebrews 11:32-39

Day 10: Matthew 6:28-34

Day 11: Matthew 8:24-27

Day 12: Matthew 9:1-10

Day 13: Matthew 9:18-26

Day 14: Matthew 9:27-31

Day 15: Matthew 17:14-20

Day 16: Matthew 21:19-22

Day 17: Matthew 25: 12-23

Day 18: Acts 11:19-23

Day 19: Acts 15:5-11

Day 20: 1 Corinthians 16:13

Day 21: Proverbs 3:1-6

Day 22: Romans 1:1-7

Day 23: Romans 1:9-17

Day 24: Romans 10:9-17

Day 25: Mark 9:14-29

Day 26: Mark 11:20-25

Day 27: John 3:27-36

Day 28: John 8:31-38









Day 29: John 14:8-14

Day 30: John 20:24-29

Day 31: Proverbs 3:5-6

Commit each day to reading the scripture and meditating for at least 10 minutes. It also helps to write the scripture on a piece of paper and what it means to you. Happy Reading!

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 	2	3 2:00pm Saints Alive	4 7:00pm Board of Christian Ed 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	5 10:00am Thursday Crafters 	6 11:30am Meals on Wheels	7 
8 Scholarship Sunday 8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 5:30pm VBS Dinner 6:00pm VBS	9 5:30pm VBS Dinner 6:00pm VBS	10 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:30pm VBS Dinner 6:00pm VBS	11 5:30pm VBS Dinner 6:00pm VBS 7:00pm Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	12 10:00am Thursday Crafters 2:30pm Prayer Team 5:30pm VBS Dinner 6:00pm VBS	13 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Game Night 	14
15 8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	16	17 1:00pm Saints Alive Potluck 3:00pm Food Pantry	18 7:00pm Board of Finance 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous 	19 10:00am Thursday Crafters	20 11:30am Meals on Wheels	21 
22 8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	23 	24 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry	25 7:00pm House of Worship 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	26 10:00am Thursday Crafters	27 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Game Night 	28
29 8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	30	31 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry	