

The Towers Newsletter

216 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434

Website: www.suffolkchristian.org



2023



Advent 2023 How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

This year our theme for Advent will be, “How does a weary world rejoice?” This is certainly a fitting theme as we continue to experience the pain and violence in our community and around the world. We’ll begin the season by acknowledging our weariness-but making room for joy in the midst of our struggles. In the series logo, notice how weariness and joy exist together.



Join us each week as we explore together:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Dec. 3rd: | We acknowledge our weariness |
| Dec. 10th: | We find joy in connection |
| Dec. 17th: | We allow ourselves to be amazed |
| Dec. 24th: | We sing stories of hope |
| Christmas Eve: | We make room |

Please join us for these special events and services:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Dec. 3rd: | Churchwide Potluck and visit with Santa – 12:00 |
| Dec. 10th: | Christmas Celebration in Music – 5:00pm |
| Dec. 24th: | Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – 6:00pm |

Invite a friend (or two) to join us for this meaningful and relevant season!

On the journey with you, Tracy



You may now watch our service LIVE Sunday mornings!

Go to: YouTube.com

Suffolk Christian Live Worship / Subscribe

You also find us on:

www.suffolkchristian.org

Facebook

Town Hall Meeting Launches New Initiatives

Thank you to the deacons for hosting our recent Town Hall meeting, and to everyone who brought food and participated in the lively discussions. After an amazing meal, we divided into four groups to dream and begin to plan the four initiatives we identified earlier this year. Here is an update on the work of each team:

Church Focused Initiatives:

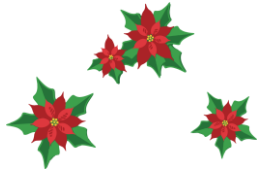
- 1. Beginning an alternative worship service.** This group dreamed about a new service that would reach younger people for Christ. They acknowledged that this service might need to be offered in the evening – perhaps on Friday or Saturday night. They also imagined that the service would be held in a different setting than the sanctuary and offer different types of music. Contemporary worship and dinner church were listed as models. This group also discussed some type of fellowship or service designed for youth.
- 2. Increasing our membership and fellowship.** This group acknowledged that these two issues should be divided into two different teams. They chose to start with increasing our internal fellowship, noting that we needed to continue to unify our church family before we reached out to invite others in. This group focused in on developing new men's and women's fellowship groups and dreamed of a monthly fellowship breakfast. Members of this team will gauge wider interest and availability in the congregation and determine how to proceed.

Community Focused Initiatives:

- 1. Increased ministry at Elephant's Fork Elementary.** With input from principal Dana Bilby and volunteer Elaine Abernathy, this group quickly identified several practical needs at the school: school supplies for students/classrooms, encouraging the teachers, and volunteering. This group plans to host a lunch for teachers in early 2024, propose yellow envelope funding for school supplies, and recruit volunteers for special events at the school.
- 2. Increased ministry to the unhoused in Suffolk.** This group identified the need to educate the public about homelessness and the stereotypes many hold about the homeless. On a practical level, they dreamed about restarting our monthly community dinner and providing a shower trailer and laundry facilities for our guests. This team will begin to explore these possibilities in more detail.

As a large group, we discussed how all four of these initiatives are inter-related. Working together on ministry projects will unify us around a common mission, increasing our fellowship will naturally draw others to our church family. We also acknowledged the need for strong lay leadership in these initiatives. Tracy will be meeting with each team in the weeks ahead, and you are welcome to participate! If you were not able to be at the Town Hall meeting but would like to help with one of these teams, please let Tracy know. Together we can continue to be a beacon on Main Street and the hands and feet of Christ in the world!





Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 10th – 5 pm

This year's Christmas Cantata will be presented by our Children, Youth, Chancel Choir and Handbell Choirs as we retell that familiar story of the birth of Christ.

Please join us as we present "The Silence and the Sound".

Can you imagine how dark and quiet that night was in the fields of Bethlehem? Can you imagine the sound of angel voices singing in the sky? Can you picture the brilliance of that star? Could anyone have imagined that this tiny baby was the Prince of Heaven, the Messiah, the Savior who came to deliver us?

Please plan now to attend this special presentation of the Christmas story. This is also a wonderful opportunity to introduce someone to our church, so bring a friend!

Our annual Christmas reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Friday, November 17th the Chancel Handbell Choir and the King's Ringers collaborated with Bethlehem Christian Church and Magnolia Methodist to perform a selection of Christmas music at Suffolk's Grand Illumination. The Massed Handbell Choir was directed by Bellmasters Sean Bilby and David Salerno. It was an exciting way to connect to our community. A special thanks to those that came out to hear our ringers spread Christmas cheer.

Also, the handbell choirs will participate in our annual Christmas Cantata "The Silence and the Sound".





Board of Deacons Report: 8 November 2023

The input received regarding the concerns of our Church Constitution was reviewed. The committee assigned to this review will address the concerns which will be presented to the congregation during a town hall on Sunday, January 21, 2024.

Food Ministry continues to serve approximately 20 families receiving bags of food each week. The ministry is researching alternatives for where to purchase the food that will provide a more reasonable cost.

The December yellow envelope will be Supply and Multiply. The Deacons have asked that Josh Worrell speak to the congregation to provide an update on Supply and Multiply.

The Deacons approved Douglas Parr's request to use the building for the Ruritan's Annual Conference on 18 November 2023.

If any member has a concern or wishes to address any matters to the Board, please contact any Deacon for assistance.

May we all be reminded of God's blessing during this Holiday Season.

In Christ,

SCC Board of Deacons

Reporting on Missions....

December Yellow Envelope Mission: Supply and Multiply



The letter below which appears in Supply and Multiply newsletter explains that mission:

Precious Friends,

It is no exaggeration to say that we could not do this work without any of you. your prayers and generosity have allowed us to continue 24/7 care for 7 residents at the Matthew 25 House. Their food, shelter, and medical care are the direct consequence of your investment in the Kingdom of God through this ministry. This also means that the dozen staff Members who provide care and security for those residents maintained employment. That means their families are cared for and their children are enrolled in school. Not only that you provided the resources necessary for the water, agriculture, school, housing, church partnerships, and other compassion and evangelistic projects to continue. As the end of 2023 draws near, would you prayerfully consider an end-of-year special donation to help us go into the New Year strong? We value your friendship and deeply appreciate your ongoing support.

In The Grip of His Grace,
Pastor Chris Surber



January 2023 – Church Family Assistance - \$1,108.00
February 2023 – Coats for Community - \$865.00
March 2023 – Western Tidewater Free Clinic - \$987.00
April 2023 – SCC Scholarship Fund - \$1,567.00
May 2023– Tornado and Storm Damage - \$943.00
June 2023– Meals on Wheels - \$765.00
July 2023– Crisis Pregnancy Center - \$904.00
August 2023 – Genieve Shelter - \$921.00
September 2023 – Neighbors in Need - \$855.00
October 2023 - Sheltering the Homeless - \$1,070.00
November 2023 – Church Family Assistance - \$715.00

****The boxes of 2024 tithing envelopes will be available soon****

Stewardship Report

"We are Walking by Faith through Commitment"

January – October 2023 income - \$212,639.98

January – October 2023 expenses - \$215,225.98

Dollars for Supply & Multiply - \$2,247.48



In Memory of

**A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of
Jack W. Nurney has been given by Claudia Salmon**

**A donation to the Memorial Garden Fund in memory of
Raymond Jernigan has been given by
Charlie and Diane Mathias**

**A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Glenn Ellis has
been given by Claudia Salmon**

**Donations to the Memorial Garden Fund in memory of
Donnie Johnson have been given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson,
Calvin and Evelyn Jones, Billy Chorey,
Suffolk High School Class of 1969**

**Donations to the Care and Concern Ministry
in memory of Jack W. Nurney, Jr. have been given by
Robert and Roberta Digby, David and Brenda Harlow**

**A donation to the Care and Concern Ministry in memory of
Jack and Ann Nurney has been given by Frank and Sally Rawls**

**A donation to the Building Repair and Maintenance Fund in
memory of Herbert and Jo Ann Briggs has been given by
Jimmy and Sharon Fanny**

**Donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Adam R. Barnett
have been given by Joyce H. Trump, Harden and Beth Barnett
and Family**



Randy Rhodes	12/03
Saniya Allen	12/05
Hunter Haslett	12/05
Evelyn Jones	12/06
Debbie Alexander	12/06
Charlie Mathias Jr.	12/08
Savannah Marx	12/09
Suzanne Cox	12/11
Bennett McBride	12/11
Grace Atkins	12/11
Sara Keene	12/11
Conner Blausey	12/12
Carman Goben	12/13
Chip Joyner Jr.	12/13
Susanne Reid	12/15
Terry McGahee	12/19
Wanda Cadwell	12/20
Travis Myles	12/20
Margaret Saunders	12/20
Mary Blythe McLaughlin	12/22
Bill Carr	12/22
June Hood	12/25
Richard Rock	12/26
Patty Allen	12/26
Pam Briggs	12/27



Church Meetings during the week:

Please use the South parking lot/entrance.
It has adequate handicap parking and lighting,
and lighting under walkway is on at night.



Friday Game Nights 6:45pm:

December 1st

December 29th



The Barnett Family wishes to send a warm "thank you" to Reverend Tracy and the members of the church for providing a lovely and meaningful memorial service for our son and brother. The Christian love that was shown to us has helped to ease the sorrow of saying goodbye to Adam. We thank you for your love and support.

Harden, Beth, and family



ForKids is one of the largest service providers to children and families experiencing homelessness in Virginia. They serve 14 cities and counties in Hampton Roads by providing housing solutions, education, and critical services.

The ForKids organization helped numerous children last year to have a brighter Christmas. We will be collecting toys this year for this organization. The tubs will be put out by the Christmas tree in the south foyer on the 1st floor by Sunday, November 19th. **Please return the toys to the church no later than Sunday, December 10th.** All toys will be taken to the organization on Monday, December 11th. There is a list of suggested toys/items in the newsletter. Your support of this organization is greatly appreciated by those in our community and will bring smiles to children who may be less fortunate than we are at this time. If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.

ForKids Suggested Toy List

Please New Items Only Unwrapped

Teens, Ages 13-18 • Art supplies and craft kits • Video games (nonviolent) • Manicure and makeup sets • Small drones • Jewelry, watches, purses, and belt bags • Skateboards, bikes, rollerblades, scooters with helmets • Electronics - Bluetooth speakers, wireless earbuds • Lego sets • Sports items- basketballs, footballs, soccer balls • Cozy slippers, robes, eye masks • Multicultural hair product sets • NFL team merchandise

Ages 9-12 • Arts, craft, and slime making kits • Jewelry sets and purses • Multicultural dolls • Hair accessory sets • Lego sets • Musical instruments • Skateboards, bikes, roller blades, scooters with helmets • Sports items- basketballs, footballs, soccer balls • Minecraft, Roblox, Fortnite items • Star Wars, Transformers, superhero items • Remote control cars

Ages 5-8 • Arts & craft kits • Dinosaur sets • Popular character dolls and figurines • Multicultural dolls • Hot Wheels sets • Board games • Bristle Blocks • Dress-up and nail decorating kits • Kitchen play sets • Skateboards, bikes, roller blades, scooters with helmets

Infants & Toddlers • Popular character toys • Mega Blocks • Baby Einstein • Counting or stacking toys • Fisher Price toys • Little Tikes • Musical Instruments • Wooden puzzles • Scooting toys • Tool and construction sets • Tonka Trucks • Wagons • Vtech and LeapFrog

Please no toy weapons, weapon accessories, squirt guns, swords, machine guns, or ninja sets.

Please only brand new coats.



Dear Suffolk Christian Church Family,

Thank you so much for your cards, prayers, phone calls and texts during the past weeks. This has been a difficult journey, but I'm on the mend! I'm now in therapy to gain the strength and mobility back in my right hand. I'm blessed to have so many good friends here at Suffolk Christian Church. God is good!

A very Merry Christmas and blessings to all of you,

Dae

thank you

Meals on Wheels was our June special monthly mission

Dear Friends of Meals on Wheels of Suffolk & Isle of Wight,

*“Today, I’m writing to sincerely thank you for your recent donation of \$765 to Meals on Wheels of Suffolk & Isle of Wight. I continue to be so touched by the generosity of my community. Because of your contribution, we can continue to deliver **More Than a Meal**® to seniors and disabled individuals living throughout the city of Suffolk and Isle of Wight County. Often our clients are battling chronic and acute medical conditions along with food insecurity and social isolation....*

As of today, September 28, 2023, we have delivered 25,480 meals to 195 individuals...

Thank you, again, for investing in our organization and the people we serve... “

Sincerely,

Jessica M. York, Executive Director

Churchwide Potluck Lunch

and a Visit from Santa



Following the 11:00 am

Worship Service-Sunday, December 3rd

We will have our annual potluck lunch and a visit from Santa immediately following the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, December 3rd. The Board of Christian Education will provide fried chicken and beverages. We ask that you bring side dishes and dessert to the potluck. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the church office before Thursday, November 29th, so we will know how much chicken to order. If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla.



A special thanks to Mrs. Billie Harry for the chair she donated to the church that is located in the parlor. The chair originally belonged to Mrs. Harry's mother, Margaret W. Brothers.

Thank you!



Food Pantry Needs

The little red wagon will be at the North entrance every first Sunday for food pantry donations. Below is a revised list of needed items:

Food Pantry Needs - Applesauce (Individual Cups); Canned fruit, Snacks (Granola Bars, Nabs, Individual Packs of Nuts), Oatmeal (Individual Servings), Pop Tarts, Small boxes of cereal, Noodles, Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Macaroni, Rice (1 lb. Bags), Dried Beans, Canned Meats, Canned Vegetables, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Pasta, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, Protein Shakes, Boxed Milk, Bottled Water, and Flavor Packets for Water Bottles

Daily Bible Reading



Beginning December 1st, read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each day. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  6:45p Game Night	2
3 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 12:00pm Potluck lunch and visit from Santa 4:00pm All Saints Pres. Church	4	5 1:00p Saints Alive	6 6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous bus.meeting 7:00p Board of Christian Education	7 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	8	9 
10 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 4:00pm All Saints Pres. Church 5:00p Christmas Cantata 	11 	12 1:00p Saints Alive 3:00p Food Pantry	13 6:00pm All Saints Pres.Church 6:30pm Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	14 10:00am Thursday Crafters 2:00p Prayer Team 7:00pm Chancel Choir	15	16
17 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 4:00pm All Saints Pres. Church	18	19 12:00p Saints Alive Potluck 3:00p Food Pantry	20 6:30pm Board of Finance 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	21 10:00am Thursday Crafters	22	23 
24 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 4:00pm All Saints Pres. Church 6:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve service  <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 	26 1:00p Saints Alive 3:00p Food Pantry	27 6:00pm All Saints Pres.Church 6:30pm HOW Meeting 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	28 10:00am Thursday Crafters	29  6:45p Game Night	30
31 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 4:00pm All Saints Pres. Church						

