

# The Towers Newsletter

216 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434  
Website: [www.suffolkchristian.org](http://www.suffolkchristian.org) /

December   
2021 



I am delighted to become a part of the Suffolk Christian Church family and to walk alongside you in this season of transition. I am enjoying getting acquainted with the transition team and the church staff, and I am looking forward to getting to know you as well! My goals are to help the transition team prepare you to call a new pastor, and to provide continuity, stability, and leadership in the interim time.

My husband and I make our home in Richmond, VA. I will be in Suffolk on Sundays and then again on Wednesdays. I would love to meet you for lunch or coffee, and I will be available for pastoral care calls on those days. I am also available by phone throughout the week at 804-928-8695 or via email at [tracy.hartman@suffolkchristian.org](mailto:tracy.hartman@suffolkchristian.org).

During the Christmas season, our thoughts often turn to gift giving. Here are a few gifts we can offer to God and to each other as we begin our season of ministry together.

## **Gifts I Offer to You.** As your pastor, I covenant with you to:

- Serve alongside you until your new pastor is in place.
- Work with the staff to continue providing biblically based, creative and thoughtful worship services.
- Provide pastoral care and special services as the need arises.
- To work with the transition team to help prepare you for a new leader.

## **Gifts You Can Offer to Me.**

- Help me learn your name and your story! Please tell me your name every time you see me until I can name you from memory. I am looking forward to fellowship opportunities that will allow me to get to know each of you better.
- Be patient with me! I am learning about Suffolk Christian Church, and your story and traditions. I'm a fast learner, but I'll make a few missteps along the way. Thanks in advance for helping me get up to speed!

## **Gifts We Can All Give God and the Church**

- Stay engaged and active! We are often tempted to see an interim as a period of "down-time" in a congregation. Nothing should be further from the truth. We will all need to be committed and engaged as we clarify our mission and vision and continue to carrying on the work of the gospel all around us.
- Pray! Pray for one another, for the church, and for the new leader that God is already preparing to bring our way.

I'm delighted to be on the journey with you,  
Tracy

## Songs of Christmas



Christmas carols. We hear them on the radio, in stores, and just about everywhere we go at this time of year. The Music Ministry of Suffolk Christian invites you to celebrate the season with us on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> during the 11 a.m. service. The story of Christ's birth will be presented through music, old and new.

Our Churchwide Fellowship Committee will provide a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

We hope you will join us – and bring a friend!

*Come celebrate the wonder of Christmas – Jesus is born!!*



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

### DECEMBER's MISSION: Veterans of the Cross



Our December missions emphasis is "Veterans of the Cross". This special offering has been received in December in our church for many years and honors our retired ministers and their spouses.

The Christmas season is an especially good time to remember the ministers who played a significant role in our lives, guiding our spiritual development, providing words of encouragement in difficult times, and celebrating with us those special moments such as weddings and funerals.

This Christmas would be a good time for each of us to reach out to a retired (or active!) minister who was or is a part of our growing up in the Christian faith. Meanwhile, your gift to the Veterans of the Cross offering will say "thank you" to those who served so faithfully in years gone by.



Do you have a prayer request? Please contact Amy in the church office at [suffolkchristianchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:suffolkchristianchurchoffice@gmail.com)

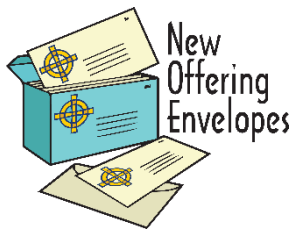


### A Step Back In Time

In the early 1970's, Pat Branche was visiting the Miller & Rhoads and Thalhimers Christmas events in Richmond. She saw a poinsettia tree, purchased it from the people that made it, and brought it to Suffolk Christian Church. Prior to that, the church celebrated Colonial Christmas, where the choir dressed as Colonists and people from the church made all of the decorations to decorate the church.

Photo by Beverly McGahee

"Due to the current increase in the number of COVID 19 Delta Variant cases in our area, the CDC and the Governor of Virginia recommends that everyone, **vaccinated or unvaccinated**, wear a mask for indoor group activities. Exceptions apply for children under 5 and those with certain health issues."



The 2022 boxes of tithing envelopes are available for pick up in the foyer outside of the sanctuary on the second floor. If you did not receive a box of envelopes and would like one, please notify Dae Nixon.

### Lap Robes

Last year the Suffolk Christian Church family donated fabric to Muriel Shumate to make ditty bags for the Portsmouth Baptist Association's port ministry. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they could not use ditty bags. Muriel took the fabric and made eleven quilted lap robes to donate to Autumn Care home. Thank you to all who donated material to make the lap robes.



Dana, Abigail, Phœbe, and I are most appreciative for the beautiful flowers placed on the altar to the Glory of God and in our honor November 14th. We are fortunate to join you all in worship and ministry in a congregation with such thoughtful members. Not only did we enjoy them at home, we were able to dry some that will live on in Colonial Christmas decorations.

Peace and blessings,

Sean C. Bilby



Dear Church Members and Friends,

Thank you so much for the delicious fruit and dinners you share with the shut-ins. I am, as all of us, have been granted God's sweet love.

In Jesus precious name,  
Emily R. King

# DECEMBER

## Birthdays

### Happy Birthday !!!!

Randy Rhodes	Dec. 3
Saniya Allen	Dec. 5
Evelyn W. Jones	Dec. 6
Debbie Alexander	Dec. 6
Charlie Mathias	Dec. 8
Savannah Marx	Dec. 9
Bennett McBride	Dec. 11
Grace Garner-Atkins	Dec. 11
Sara Keene	Dec. 11
Conner Blausey	Dec. 12
Joyce Pond	Dec. 12
Chip Joyner, Jr.	Dec. 12
Carman Goben	Dec. 13
Susanne Reid	Dec. 15
Terry McGahee	Dec. 19
Margaret Saunders	Dec. 20
Wanda Cadwell	Dec. 20
Travis Myles	Dec. 20
Bill Carr	Dec. 22
Mary Blythe McLaughlin	Dec. 22
June Hood	Dec. 25
Richard Rock	Dec. 26
Patty Allen	Dec. 26
Pam Briggs	Dec. 27



*\*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, Protein Drinks.

Attention Ladies: The **Afternoon Circle** plans to meet **December 6th at 12 pm** in The Saints Alive room. Mark your calendar and join us for fellowship.



The **Evening Circle** will meet Monday, December 13th at 6:30 PM.



**Churchwide Potluck Lunch**  
**and a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus**

**Immediately following the 11:00 am Worship Service**

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

We will have our annual potluck lunch and visit from Santa on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the church office. We need to know how many children will be with us so we can have presents for each child.

The Board of Christian Education will provide fried chicken and beverages. Please bring a side dish to share with others.

If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.

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**Christmas Caroling**  
**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00 pm**

**We will meet at the church on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, to go caroling. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we won't leave anyone behind. After we go caroling, we will go to dinner at a local restaurant. We hope you will be able to join us!**

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**Children's Christmas Workshop**

**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**



The children are invited to attend a Christmas workshop being held at the church. Parents you can drop your children off at the Beginner's Dept. door. We will have stations set up to make Christmas ornaments, bake cookies, make a foam gingerbread house and other fun things. We will provide the children lunch from Chick-Fil-A. Please let Priscilla Bunch know by Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, so I can make sure we have enough supplies for each child. This will be a fun time for the children.

# Children's Christmas Musical

## "God's Gift to Us"



**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

The children will perform during the 11:00 am service. What is God's gift to us? Even though we enjoy giving and receiving gifts at Christmas it is not the true meaning of Christmas.

**There will be a practice on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, @ 6:00pm. Please make sure your child is there for the practice.**



### Game Nights

**6:45 pm**

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

December 17<sup>th</sup>

*advent* CALENDAR

<p>Perform a random act of kindness</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p><i>two</i></p> <p>Donate food to a local food bank</p>	<p>Have a coloring contest</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p><i>four</i></p> <p>Buy socks for a homeless shelter</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Watch a favorite holiday movie</p>
<p>Make or buy a new Christmas ornament</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p>Let someone go in front of you in line</p> <p><i>seven</i></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Clean out and donate outgrown toys</p>	<p>Build a snowman out of cotton balls</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p>Take cupcakes to your local fire department</p> <p><b>10</b></p>
<p>Decorate a gingerbread house</p> <p><i>eleven</i></p>	<p>Help wrap a Christmas present</p> <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><i>thirteen</i></p> <p>Leave a happy note for someone to find</p>	<p>Have a game night in your PJs</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p>Make paper snowflakes</p> <p><b>15</b></p>
<p>Drink hot cocoa</p> <p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Make Christmas cards</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Bake Christmas cookies</p>	<p>Sing Christmas carols</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p>Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree</p> <p><i>twenty</i></p>
<p>Read your favorite Christmas story</p> <p><b>21</b></p>	<p>Take a car tour of your local light displays</p> <p><b>22</b></p>	<p>Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors</p> <p><b>23</b></p>	<p><i>twenty-four</i></p> <p>Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service</p>	<p>Read the Nativity story</p> <p><b>25</b></p>

## Memorials

Donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Margaret Harry Heuberger have been given by Marjorie McLemore and family, William and Linda Drummond, Sue P. Barton

A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Ora Yates Barnett has been given by Maxine Barnett.



## Stewardship Report

*"We Are Walking by Faith through Commitment"*

**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 - \$935.00

**August 2021** – CAPS - \$1085.00

**September 2021** – Food Pantry - \$830.00

**October 2021** – Meals on Wheels - \$730.00

**November 2021** – Night Stay for CAPS - \$880.00

## **Closing our Post Office Box**

Due to the rise in postal costs and the fact that we do not receive that much volume of mail delivered at the post office, we will close our **P. O. Box 1457** and have all mail delivered here at our **216 N. Main Street** address.

Several of you have used an auto payment method from your banking institution to send funds to the church. Please notify them of this change, beginning in early 2022. Thank you!



“On behalf of the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater, I would like to thank you and the congregation at Suffolk Christian Church for your most recent contribution. We are so thankful you thought of us for your church’s focus mission for May.”

The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater was the Special Monthly Mission for May. A total of \$651.00 was given to this mission.

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“Many domestic violence victims and their children come to our shelter with nothing but the clothing they are wearing. It is up to us to provide them with life’s basic necessities. ...This is the difference you have made! Those you have touched with your kindness are now on their way to a full recovery and a happier, healthier life! ...On behalf of all of those that The Genieve Shelter serves, we thank you!”

The Genieve Shelter was the Special Monthly Mission for June. A total of \$657.00 was given to this mission.

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“On behalf of The Salvation Army and those we serve, we would like to thank you for your generous gift...It is only through our good friends, such as yourself, that we are able to continue our work...Your donation is used in the ongoing mission of The Salvation Army, helping us serve others through the Suffolk Corps, which includes Suffolk, Franklin, Smithfield, Surry County, Southampton County, and Isle of Wight County.”

The Salvation Army was the Special Monthly Mission for July. A total of \$935.00 was given to this mission.

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“Please express our heartfelt thanks for your congregation’s generous giving in August presented to CAPS. We depend so much on the support of our area churches and especially our member churches. Suffolk Christian Church has been faithful to our organization since its inception. Again, thank you to all who gave so generously to this mission focus.”

CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk) was the Special Monthly Mission for August. A total of \$1,085.00 was given to this mission.



The Christmas season is approaching quickly, and it is time to be thinking about placing your order for Christmas greenery, arrangements, and poinsettias. If you would like to place an order for any of the items listed below, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please contact Cheryl Ashcraft at 757.934.1646.

**Deadline for all orders is Monday, December 6.**  
**(please check what you are ordering)**



1 Outside Front Wreaths	\$85 each
3 Upstairs Balcony Wreaths	\$85 each
<del>2 Inside Front Column Wreaths - sold</del>	\$45 each
1 Side Foyer Arrangement	\$40
<del>1 Huntboard Arrangement - sold</del>	\$50
<del>Piano/Organ Arrangement - sold</del>	\$40
Upstairs Foyer Arrangement	\$40
<del>1 Downstairs Newel Post Swag - sold</del>	\$40
1 Wreaths North Entrance Columns	\$45 each
<del>2 Wreaths North Entrance Doors - sold</del>	\$45 each
<del>2 Wreaths Iron Gates Front Entrance - sold</del>	\$25 each
13 Boxwood Wreaths Outside Windows	\$25 each
<del>North Foyer Arrangement - sold</del>	\$40
<del>North Second Floor Foyer Arrangement - sold</del>	\$40
<del>Wreath Beside Office Door - sold</del>	\$50
<del>2 Wreaths Iron Gates Walkway - sold</del>	\$25 each
Miscellaneous items (greens, candles, etc.)	\$100

Greenery/Arrangements In Honor/Memory of: [Circle one]

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Given by:

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**Poinsettias (50 poinsettias are needed to fill the poinsettia tree)**

Quantity	Total (\$12 each)

Poinsettias In Honor/Memory of: [Circle one]

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Given by:

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If you would like to place an order, please contact Cheryl Ashcraft at 757-418-4553 or mail a check to: Suffolk Christian Church / Attn: Cheryl Ashcraft / 216 North Main Street / Suffolk, VA 23434  
Please make your check marked "Christmas Flowers" payable to:

**Suffolk Christian Church**



## ForKids Holiday Toy Drive

**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 to more than 70,000 individuals a year.**

**The ForKids organization helped 946 children last year to have a brighter Christmas. We will be collecting toys this year for this organization as we did last year. The tubs will be put out by the Christmas Tree in the South foyer on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor by Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Please return toys to the church no later than Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. All toys will be taken to the organization on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. 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:

**NFL TEAM MERCHANDISE** Washington Football Team, Carolina Panthers, Pittsburgh Steelers, Dallas Cowboys, Seattle Seahawks, New England Patriots, New York Giants, Green Bay Packers

## INFANTS & TODDLERS:

Brand New Coats, Baby Shark Toys, Peppa Pig, Paw Patrol, Mega Blocks, Mozart Effect, Baby Einstein Counting Toys, Fisher Price Toys, Little Tikes, Magna Doodle, Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head, Musical Instruments, Wooden Puzzles, Scooting Toys, Tool sets, Tonka Trucks, Wagons, V- Electronics

## **AGES 5-8:**

Brand New Coats, Arts & Crafts Items, Dinosaurs, Disney's Frozen Items Dolls – Multicultural, Hot Wheels, Board Games. Diva Dolls, LOL Surprise, My Little Pony, Bristle Blocks, Dress-ups, Girls Nail Decorating Kits, Kitchen Play, Rescue Rangers, Figurines, Superhero Toys/Items, Purses, Scooters

## **AGES 9-12:**

Brand New Coats, Arts & Craft Items, Jewelry Sets, Purses, Baking Sets, Slime Kits, Cameras, Dolls – Multicultural, Hair Accessories & DIY Kits, Legos, Musical instruments, Skateboards, Bikes, Roller Blades, Scooters w/ Helmets, Sports Items & Games (basketball hoops, mini foosball), Minecraft, Roblox, Fortnite, Star Wars Items, Transformers, Superhero Items, Remote Control Cars, Comic Books, Book Sets

## **TEENS, AGES 13-18:**

Brand New Coats, Art Supplies, Alexa Echo Dot, Batteries, Video Games (nonviolent), Nail Polish/Manicure Sets, Small Drones, Watches, Purses, Belts, Jewelry, Skateboards, Bikes, Rollerblades & Scooters w/ Helmets, Bluetooth Speakers, (water bottles, beanies, etc.), Karaoke Microphones, Wireless Headphones/Ear Buds, LED Lights, LED Mirrors, Tripod, Ring Light, Selfie Stick, Wireless Keyboards, Smartphone Camera Lens, Moon Lamp/Lava Lamp, Bluetooth Beanie, Face Mask DIY Kits, Cozy Slippers/ Robes, Eye Masks, Multicultural Hair Masks/Hair Kits (such as a soft hood blow dryer/ microwaveable hair bonnet), String Lights/ Picture Frames/ Cinema Light Box/ Tapestries, Small Duffel Bags/ Satchels (male & female), Portable Chargers, Workout Equipment (weights, resistance bands, floor mats), Big Kid Bikes

**Please No Toy Weapons/Weapon Accessories, Squirt Guns, Swords, Machine Guns or Ninja Sets.**



## Daily Bible Scripture Reading

Day 1: Isaiah 7:14-17

Day 16: Matthew 2:7-12

Day 2: Isaiah 9:6-7

Day 17: Luke 1:26-29

Day 3: Isaiah 11:1-5

Day 18: Luke 1:30-34

Day 4: Isaiah 11:6-10

Day 19: Luke 1:35-38

Day 5: Isaiah 40:1-5

Day 20: Luke 1:46-50

Day 6: Isaiah 52:7-10

Day 21: Luke 1:51-56

Day 7: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Day 22: Luke 2:4-7

Day 8: Psalm 72:1-7

Day 23: Luke 2:8-12

Day 9: Psalm 72:8-14

Day 24: Luke 2:13-16

Day 10: Psalm 72:15-20

Day 25: Luke 2:17-20

Day 11: Psalm 95:1-7

Day 26: Galatians 4:4-7

Day 12: Malachi 3:1-3

Day 27: Philippians 2:5-8

Day 13: Matthew 1:18-20

Day 28: Philippians 2:9-11

Day 14: Matthew 1:21-25

Day 29: James 1:16-18



Day 15: Matthew 2:1-6

Day 30: Titus 3:3-7

Day 31: Choose your own verse

Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to reflect and meditate on God's word. Write down your thoughts on what you have learned from the scripture every day.

# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6:00pm Board of Christian Ed 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>2</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>3</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:45pm Game Night 	<b>4</b> 9:00am 9-2 Children's Christmas Workshop
<b>5</b> 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	<b>6</b> Christmas Flower Order Deadline 12:00pm Afternoon Circle 	<b>7</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>9</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 10:00am Prayer Team 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>10</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:00 Children's Musical Practice	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> ForKids Toy Drive Deadline 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Children's Musical & Worship 12:00pm Potluck Lunch & Special Visitor	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Evening Circle 	<b>14</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Board of Finance 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>16</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:45pm Game Night 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Songs of Christmas Worship Service 12:00pm Churchwide Fellowship Light Luncheon 4:00pm Christmas Caroling	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1:00pm Saints Alive Potluck 3:00pm Food Pantry 	<b>22</b> 7:00pm House of Worship 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>23</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters	<b>24</b> Church Office Closed 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service 	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas 
<b>26</b> 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry	<b>29</b> 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>30</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve 	