

The Towers Newsletter

216 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434

Website: www.suffolkchristian.org



2024



Pastor's Column

Join us for the Lenten Season

I hope that you will plan to join us for the season of Lent. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days of Lent represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptations and preparing to begin his ministry. This year, our theme for Lent is “Bless the Lent We Actually Have,” based on the work of Kate Bowler. Here are the topics for each week:

Ash Wednesday – February 14 th , 7:00 p.m.	Blessed are the Fragile
First Sunday of Lent	Blessed are the Imperfect
Second Sunday of Lent	Blessed are the Curious
Third Sunday of Lent	Blessed are those who Suffer
Fourth Sunday of Lent	Blessed are those who Feel Alone
Fifth Sunday of Lent	Blessed are those who Mourn
Palm Sunday March 24th	Blessed are the Rejected
Easter Sunday March 31st	Blessed are those who still Hope

Invite a friend to join you as we move through this sacred season together.

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

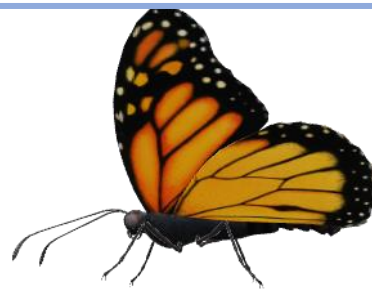
Facebook



Deacon's
Corner

The Board of Deacons Reports.....from the January 10, 2024 Meeting

- *Congregational updates were given by Dr. Hartman.
- *A new Missions Committee was established for 2024 with Rob Abernathy as chair. It was decided that the February yellow envelope mission will be "Coats for the Community."
- *The Pastoral Search team gave a report.
- *It was reported that the All Saints Presbyterian church had begun their double Sunday services.
- *A report was given by the committee looking into the feasibility of our church affiliating with a conference/denomination. They had met once to establish a plan as to how to proceed. Tracy reported that Mark Snipes from CBF could possibly come in March to talk about CBF and affiliation in general.
- *Tracy reported that she will soon meet with those who signed up to take leadership roles with the four initiatives established at a previous Town Hall meeting.
- *Deacons were given their committee assignments for the year.
- *A plan was made for how to conduct the Town Hall meeting on January 21 with the purpose of giving the congregation a better understanding of the rationale for the changes that were made to the SCC constitution. It was decided to provide a "Feedback" slip of paper so that members could give their opinions on several of the changes in dispute.
- *The annual Deacons' dinner was discussed and a Feb. event is being planned.
- *An Ash Wednesday service will be held on Feb. 14, which is a regular Deacon meeting night. The Feb. meeting for the board will take place Feb. 13, instead.
- *The next open session to which SCC congregants will be invited to attend with concerns or issues will take place at the April meeting.
- *Tracy made the board aware of a free seminar for small church leaders to be held in an online forum in February.
- *Tracy informed the board that Sharon Catala will join the church on January 14.



Reporting on Missions....

February's **Yellow** Envelope Mission: COATS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Our church has been giving away winter coats for over 30 years. Throughout that time, the mission has taken on different looks and the recent pandemic changed that look once again. We are now maintaining a coat closet on the third floor off of the Adult Bible Class Sunday School room. Gently used coats are still accepted, but the majority of the coats, are being purchased, sometimes to suit the specific requirements of someone in need. Coats were distributed this year in December and January on Food Pantry days, and at other times when we learned of a need. If you know of someone who needs a coat, please check the coat closet. You can help by donating your gently used coats, hats, scarves, and mittens, purchasing a new coat for the closet and of course, by your financial support through the yellow envelope for February. Thank you!!



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 - \$1,015.00
December 2023 -Supply & Multiply - \$1,030.00

Total 2023 missions giving to date - \$12,030.00

January 2024 - SCC-Suffolk Schools Partnership-\$1,115.00

Stewardship Report

"We are Walking by Faith through Commitment"

January - December 2023 income - \$253,530.12

January - December 2023 expenses - \$256,852.76

Dollars for Supply & Multiply - \$645.48



In Memory of

A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Paul J. Fowler, Jr. has been given by Audrey Johnson

Donations to the Memorial Garden in memory of Paul J. Fowler, Jr. have been given by Joyce Trump and Lee Trump, Calvin and Evelyn Jones, Jan Ellis and family, Curtiss and Betty Johnson

Donations to Suffolk Christian Church in memory of Doris H. Cones have been given by Robert and Marilyn Boyce, Mike Brinkley and Beth Brinkley, Kenneth and Betty Boham, Wayne True, West Memorial Bible Class, Bill and Dae Nixon, Jim and Jane Marie Dailey, Linwood Pope, Jim and Pat Mann, Jim and Gloria Judkins

A donation to Saints Alive in memory of Doris H. Cones has been given by Mack and Brenda Wright

Donations to the Memorial Garden in memory of Doris H. Cones have been given by Joyce Trump, Calvin and Evelyn Jones, Jan Ellis and family, Curtiss and Betty Johnson

A donation to the General Fund in memory of Lena Ann Crutchlow Ellis has been given by Jan Ellis and family



Elizabeth Fanny	02/02
Alana Allen	02/03
Simon Munn	02/03
Jim McCrary	02/04
Jay Baines Jr.	02/04
Sean Bilby	02/08
Alana Carollo	02/08
Susan Rawls	02/10
Debbie Topping	02/10
Vernon Gayle	02/11
Amy Hott	02/11
Rita Queen	02/13
Louise Winslow	02/15
Jim Dailey	02/15
Jackson Harry	02/16
Howie Harris IV	02/16
Victor Griffin	02/17
Jay Baines Sr.	02/17
Carmen Halley	02/18
Judy Parker	02/19
Ryleigh Harry	02/21
Julia McBride	02/22
Eddie Hawn	02/23
Cliff Thomas V	02/24
Barbara Hannah	02/25
Elizabeth Topping	02/26
Steven Brown	02/27
Marty Debranski	02/28
Mary Jane Cathey	02/29



February 9th

February 23rd

Come join in the fun @ 7:00pm and play cards with us. Lots of laughs!

Shrove Tuesday



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Adult Bible Class will sponsor the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13th from 5pm to 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, apples and beverage. There will be NO cost for this, but donations are appreciated and will go to class missions.

Dear SCC family,
Words cannot adequately express our appreciation for your support following Conner's accident. The monetary contributions, cards, and prayers have helped us tremendously. Please continue to pray for Conner's recovery. Our church family has been a true blessing during this challenging time in our lives. We are so grateful for your support.

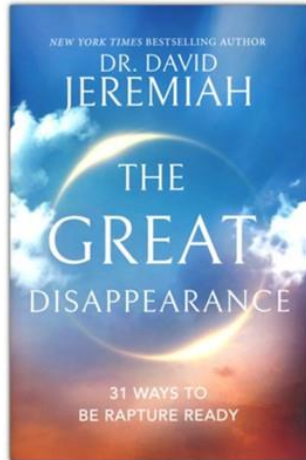


Love,
Art, Wendy, and Conner Blausey

SPECIAL NOTE:

** Communion Sunday in February will be moved to February 11th, instead of February 4th.*

The Great Disappearance
HOW TO BE RAPTURE READY
BY: Dr. David Jeremiah



Weekly Bible Study

We will start a new bible study in February. Men and Women are welcome to attend the study. There will be a group meeting on **Tuesday, February 20th, at 7:00 pm** and another group will meet on **Wednesday, February 21st, at 10:00 am**. This will be an **8 week study**. The cost of the book will be approximately \$20.00 and the study guide will cost approximately \$15.00. I will be looking for the cheapest books available at the time of ordering. Dr. Jeremiah unfolds for us the second coming of Christ and the rapture with stunning clarity, demonstrating how the correct interpretation of these moments should change the way we live here and now. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Please sign up prior to **Sunday, February 4th**, so we will have time to place the order for the books and study guide. If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.



Chili and Baked Potato Luncheon

We will have a Chili and Baked Potato Luncheon on Sunday, February 18, in the Fellowship Hall at 12 noon. Tickets will be \$10.00 each, and will be available beginning February 4, in the downstairs foyer after worship each Sunday and also in the Church Office, Tuesday-Friday.



ATTENTION: All Women of the Church..Fellowship for Women LAUNCH PARTY Feb.26

The first gathering for the restart of a women's fellowship group at Suffolk Christian will be held on Feb. 26 at 5:30pm with dinner being served in the fellowship hall at church. We are planning a new type of organization and the first event is a party, including fun and games! And we want you to be a part! Come.... be inspired, enjoy fellowship, food and laughter and let us know YOUR ideas for future events. Bring a friend...all women are welcome.

*Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Town Hall Update

On Sunday, January 21, the congregation gathered for an amazing pot luck lunch hosted by the deacons. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion about the proposed changes to the church constitution. At the Fall Conference, when the members of SCC voted not to ratify the new constitution, members were asked to list their concerns about the new document. The deacons reviewed all the feedback, and responded at this Town Hall with the rationale for each proposed change. Members had the opportunity to ask questions and once again provide written feedback about their preferences for the constitution. Forty-three members provided feedback. On the quorum, 25 members voted to leave it at 50, 18 voted to change it to 35. With regard to the ushers, 37 members voted to make them a committee, 5 voted for them to remain a board, and 1 had no preference. The deacons will make changes in the constitution based on your feedback.

At the Town Hall, several members also shared their concerns about hard feelings this process has caused and the resulting lack of unity in our congregation. Tracy fielded related questions and comments about these concerns and the meeting concluded with the hymn, "Bless be the Tie that Binds."

Knowing that we need God's help to heal, Tracy called for a special prayer meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. 22 attended this meeting which focused on healing and unity among us. Please continue to pray in the days ahead for Suffolk Christian Church as well as each member, lay leader and staff person.



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 Bottle

"Our Journey to Accepting Christ" Class

Formerly known as Pastor's Class

We will begin this class on **Sunday, February 18th, @ 6:00 pm** for all children ages 12 and above who would like to attend. We will have dinner and then proceed with the class each Sunday for **5 weeks**. All study material will be provided to each child. This class will be led by Sean Bilby and Priscilla Bunch. If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla or Sean.

Acolyte Sunday
February 11th



If you have been an acolyte this past year, please plan to attend this Sunday. We are looking for new acolytes. If you would like to be trained, please see Sean Bilby or Priscilla Bunch. This is a wonderful way to serve our church.

Souper Bowl Sunday
February 11th

The children and youth will be at the north and south doors collecting funds for our Food Ministries. The Food Ministries fund is to help provide food for our food pantry and other food ministries such as the Salvation Army and other food drives in our area. Thanks in advance for your support!



FEBRUARY

Daily Bible Readings

Day 1: John 3:16

Day 2: Romans 5:8

Day 3: Zephaniah 3:17

Day 4: 1 John 3:1

Day 5: 1 John 4:16

Day 6: Romans 8:37-39

Day 7: Galatians 2:20

Day 8: 1 John 4:19

Day 9: 1 John 4:8

Day 10: Psalm 86:15

Day 11: 1 John 4:7

Day 12: Ephesians 2:4-5

Day 13: Jeremiah 31:3

Day 14: Deuteronomy 7:9

Day 15: 1 Peter 5:6-7

Day 16: John 15:13

Day 17: Psalm 136:26

Day 18: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Day 19: 1 John 4:9-11

Day 20: Isaiah 54:10

Day 21: Romans 5:5

Day 22: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Day 23: Colossians 3:14

Day 24: Ephesians 3:17-19

Day 25: Psalm 63:3

Day 26: 2 Thessalonians 3:5

Day 27: Romans 8:28











Day 28: Lamentations 3:22-23

Day 29: John 3:16

**Commit to reading your bible
daily at least 10 minutes. Pray
over your scripture.**

FEBRUARY

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Thursday Crafters</p> <p>6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	2	
<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 2:00pm-8:00pm All Saints Presbyterian Church</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>1:00p Saints Alive</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous bus. meeting 7:00p Board of Christian Ed</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Thursday Crafters</p> <p>7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>7:00p Game Night</p>	
<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 2:00pm-8:00pm All Saints Presbyterian Church</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	12	<p>13</p> <p>1:00p Saints Alive 3:00p Food Pantry 5:00-7:00p Shrove Tues. Pancake Dinner</p> <p>6:30p Board of Deacons</p>	<p>14</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>5:30p All Saints Pres. Church 7:00p Ash Wednesday Serv. 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Thursday Crafters</p> <p>6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 12:00pm Chili & Baked Potato lunch 2:00pm-8:00pm All Saints Presbyterian Church</p> <p>6:00p-Deacon's dinner 6:00p-"Our journey to accepting Christ" class</p>	<p>19</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>*Newsletter articles for March due</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00p Saints Alive Potluck 3:00p Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00p-Bible study, The Great Disappearance</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00a-Bible study, The Great Disappearance</p> <p>6:30p Board of Finance 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Thursday Crafters</p> <p>6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>7:00p Game Night</p>	24
<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 2:00pm-8:00pm All Saints Presbyterian Church</p> <p>6:00p-"Our journey to accepting Christ" class</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30p-Fellowship for Women launch party</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:00p Saints Alive 3:00p Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00p-Bible study, The Great Disappearance</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00a-Bible study, The Great Disappearance</p> <p>5:30p All Saints Pres. Church 6:30p HOW meeting 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>29</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p>10:00am Thursday Crafters</p> <p>6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir</p>		