

# The Towers Newsletter

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Website: [www.suffolkchristian.org](http://www.suffolkchristian.org)



Thank you, one and all, for your warm welcome. Everyone has gone above and beyond to help me get oriented and up to speed. Jay and I are grateful! It has been a beautiful and meaningful Advent and Christmas season and I am looking forward to all that 2022 will offer.

## The Transition Process

I know that many of you are eager to know what the transition process will entail. The transition team will resume meeting in January and I will work closely with them as we begin our work to lead the congregation through this significant time. Here is a brief overview of the first three steps in the process – you'll hear much more in the days ahead.

1. **Step One: Taking Stock.** Through a series of Town Hall meetings, we (the church family) will first look at our history. We'll identify what is at the core of our DNA and what things are important to bring into the future. Second, we'll take an honest look at where we are now, and then we'll discern who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do in the next chapter of our story.
2. **Step Two: Developing Church and Candidate Profiles.** Using the information gathered in the Town Hall meetings, the transition team will develop two profiles. The first, our church profile, will communicate information about SCC to potential pastoral candidates. The second, a candidate profile, will list the qualities and qualifications we believe God is leading us to seek in our new pastoral leader.
3. **Step Three: Calling a Pastor Search Team.** Once our profiles are ready, we will call together a pastor search team to begin the work of identifying the person God is already preparing to bring to SCC.

## What YOU Can Do

This season of transition is a critical one in the life of the church. We will be most successful in this process if we bathe every step of the way in prayer. Please pray for:

- The transition team as they plan Town Hall meetings, gather input, and work to create our profiles.
- Our next pastor. God is already at work preparing our next pastor. Please begin to pray for him/her now.
- Ways that you can contribute. Every voice is important in the process, so please plan to participate as often as you are able. Every person is also important to the work of the church, so ask God to show you where you can best use your gifts and passions in the New Year.
- Patience. This process will take time, and that's okay. As we talked about in worship the first Sunday of Advent, let's lean together into this liminal season and trust that God is at work among us!

I'm on the journey with you, Tracy

### Transition Team

As 2022 begins, the Transition Team will be in full swing working with Pastor Tracy to gather information from each of you as to how you see Suffolk Christian Church in the future. Our first Town Hall Meeting will be January 9<sup>th</sup>. Please remain after worship and Tracy will lead a presentation on what to expect in the transition process. During the next few months, if you have any questions, please contact a team member. It is our goal to keep our congregation fully informed on the process of searching for a new minister. As a reminder the team consists of Dana Bilby, Evelyn Jones, Billy Wyatt, John Kinsey, Curtiss Johnson, Joyce Trump and Vickie Wilson. Pastor Tracy will guide us through the process. We all look forward to see where God is leading us. Please pray for this process each and every day.

### A Message from the Board of Deacons



As we begin a New Year in the life of our Church, the Board of Deacons would like to thank the retiring members of our Board who have served faithfully for the past three years: Lynne Garner, Ed Roberts, Toni Shank, Jim Thorsen and Billy Wyatt

Also, a huge Thank You to Dana Bilby for her leadership during 2021. With the retirement of Rev. Halley after 25 dedicated years to our Church, we faced many challenges moving forward to the future of Suffolk Christian Church. Her guidance was a blessing. Additionally, we would like to thank Amy Peterson who kept us all going while we filled our pulpit with Supply Ministers. Her ministerial assistant background kept us focused and prepared for each Sunday.

We also welcome our newest members: Alan Garner, Robert Boyce, Tommy Queen, Beverly McGahee and Carman Goben. 2022 will bring new challenges and changes, and the addition of these members will be an asset.

Lastly, we welcome Pastor Tracy Hartman. We have already been blessed by her presence as she led us through Advent. We look forward to working with her as we anxiously await the person God will be sending us.

During this transition period, if anything is needed from the Board, please do not hesitate to let us know. We welcome questions as to the transition process and the search for a new minister.

God Bless each of you.  
Evelyn Jones, 2022 Chair

### **2022 Board of Deacons**

**Evelyn Jones, Chair; Alan Garner, Vice-Chair**

**Class of 2022:** Robert Abernathy, Dana Bilby, John Kinsey, Vicki Martin, James McCrary

**Class of 2023:** Mike Beale, Jim Judkins, Jr., Pat Bristow, Evelyn Jones, Jonathan Martin

**Class of 2024:** Alan Garner, Robert Boyce, Tommy Queen, Beverly McGahee, Carman Goben

**Deacons Emeritus:** James Bradshaw (2016); Paul Fowler, Jr. (2016);  
Jack Nurney, Jr. (2003); Becky Bradshaw (2021)



### A Step Back In Time

On December 15, 1933, a letter from the three daughters of Dr. Staley, Mrs. Bessie Staley Cheatham, Mrs. Annie Staley Calhoun, and Mrs. Willie Staley Holden, stated a desire on their part to present Dr. Staley's library to the church as a memorial. It was stipulated that the books must be kept together in bookcases, (the gift included those that had been Dr. Staley's property) or on bookshelves.

Except from "History Suffolk Christian Church 1860-1960"



### From the Prayer Team



There is a wooden box located outside the church office for unspoken prayer requests. This box has existed for over 20 years and we want to make sure that everyone knows about it and/or call your attention to the box once again. When The Praying Church began, Terry McGahee crafted this little box so that it does not open, as each request that's dropped in is known only to God and the one who offered the prayer. Many times, our prayer requests are too personal or too private to be shared and this is the place inside our church where you may offer a printed silent prayer. Sometimes the act of writing a request on paper helps us to connect to our Father in heaven in a more effective way. If you ever have such a request, simply write your prayer on a piece of paper and tuck it inside the box. One of our church's core values is that we believe in prayer. We hope you will take advantage of this prayer box.



## Coats for the Community Report

It looks a little different this year, but our church's "Coats for the Community" mission is running smoothly. We have received requests from several different places to provide coats for those in need. So far, we have given 5 adult coats to people associated with our church, 6 children's coats to ForKids, and 12 children's coats to Southwestern Elementary School. These were all new coats in the exact sizes requested. We will continue throughout the winter to provide coats where needed. If you know of someone we can help in this way, please call the church office. We will continue to accept your monetary donations and thank those who have already contributed to this project.



## JANUARY Birthdays

### Happy Birthday !!!!

Martha Young	Jan. 2
John Nemish	Jan. 2
Summer Rice	Jan. 3
Andy Cocco	Jan. 4
Bert Young	Jan. 6
Pat Byrum	Jan. 6
Latane Barton	Jan. 6
Phil Thatch	Jan. 6
Caden Fleming	Jan. 6
Ryan Fleming	Jan. 6
Jim Thorsen	Jan. 7
Gary Williams	Jan. 7
Richard Savage	Jan. 11
Jim Shank Sr.	Jan. 11
Muriel Shumate	Jan. 13
Jimmy Judkins, Jr.	Jan. 14
Jason Fanny	Jan. 17
Jane Marie Dailey	Jan. 19
Rylan Ashcraft	Jan. 22
Christopher Topping	Jan. 23
Pat Fowler	Jan. 25
Cameron Worrell	Jan. 25
Kelly Myles	Jan. 28
Ginnie Kinsey	Jan. 28
June Beale	Jan. 30
Debra Carr	Jan. 31



### CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE

The first of only two meetings a year of the Care and Concern Committee will be held on Monday, January 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at church. This Team helps our church family in their time of need whenever they can by delivering a meal, sending a card, visiting a shut-in or whatever the need may be. 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 on this worthwhile Committee. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Elaine Abernathy and Claudia Salmon -  
Co-Facilitators

### Game Nights @ 6:45pm

#### (New Time)

Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>



**Thank you all for your love and support this past year. It has been a challenge for all of us, but God has helped us through another year. Things are far from normal but at least we were able to resume some of our activities. Please pray 2022 will bring us many new blessings at Suffolk Christian Church. God bless you all and Happy New Year! Priscilla**



### Memorials

A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Margaret Harry Heuberger has been given by Jim and Linda Culliton, Jeff and Ann Davies, Jack W. Nurney.

Donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of Jack Harry have been given by Jack Kress, Marty Wilson, Nita Bagnell, Kevin and Margaret Balfe, David and Ames Tillar, Harden and Beth Barnett, John and Janet Nemish, Lin and Martha Callis, E. Todd Hyman, Alyce Morgan, The Staylor Family, Jeffrey and Toni Gardy, Courtenay Dodge and Richard Friedberg, William L. Nurney, Rob, Scott, Bradshaw & Rawls, P.C., John E. Pappas, Ashton and Bunny Lewis, William G. Walliser and his mother, Nancy S. Walliser, Dave and Tricia Dodge, Hubert and Christine Young, Jim and Becky Bradshaw, Jim and Linda Culliton, L. H. and Pat Byrum, Audrey Johnson, Joyce H. Trump, Suffolk Insurance, Mary Lawrence Harrell, Jeff and Ann Davies, Eloise Raine, John and Virginia Fisher, Harrell & Associates, Jack W. Nurney, Jim and Dot Gwaltney, the McLemore Family, Calvin and Evelyn Jones, Billy and Linda Drummond.

A donation to the Food Pantry in memory of Jack Harry has been given by Nancy Ballard



### **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 - \$935.00
- August 2021** - CAPS - \$1,085.00
- September 2021** - Food Pantry - \$830.00
- October 2021** - Meals on Wheels - \$725.00
- November 2021** - Night Stay for CAPS - \$1,015.00
- December 2021** - Veterans of the Cross - \$945.00

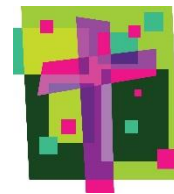
The 2022 boxes of tithing envelopes are available for pick up in the foyer outside of the sanctuary on the second floor. If you did not receive a box of envelopes and would like one, please notify Dae Nixon.

### 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!

**UPDATED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:** With the surge in new COVID cases, our COVID-19 task force met on to review our protocols for gathering. At this time, the team is encouraging us to wear masks and to renew our commitment to social distancing and hand sanitizing. Thank you for doing your part to help us remain healthy!



**Updated  
Covid-19  
Protocols**

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### The Season of Epiphany



**EPIPHANY**

We begin Epiphany, the season of light. Plan to join us each week as the Scriptures shed more light on who Jesus is and what his ministry will look like. Epiphany will culminate on Transfiguration Sunday when Jesus appears as light in all of His glory. Each step of the way, we trust that God will shed light on the next steps of our journey as individuals and as a family of faith as we seek God together.



The children had an awesome time-sharing God's Gift with the congregation on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Always remember the reason for the season.

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## Needed



We are currently looking for volunteers to hand out food on Tuesdays (except the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month) from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. The bags will be ready. All you have to do is hand out the bags to the people who come each week. If you can volunteer, please contact Cheryl Ashcraft or Priscilla Bunch.



**Meditate and journal about how God is doing something new in your life....**

**Day 1: 2 Corinthians 5:17**

**Day 16: 2 Chronicles 7:14**

**Day 2: Jeremiah 29:11**

**Day 17: Colossians 3:9-10**

**Day 3: Isaiah 43:18-19**

**Day 18: Psalm 73:25-26**

**Day 4: Ephesians 4:22-24**

**Day 19: Psalm 23:1-3**

**Day 5: Lamentations 3:22-24**

**Day 20: Romans 12:2**

**Day 6: Isaiah 40:31**

**Day 21: Romans 6:3-4**

**Day 7: 1 Peter 1:3**

**Day 22: John 10:10**

**Day 8: Ezekiel 36:26**

**Day 23: Isaiah 41:13**

**Day 9: Philippians 2:13-14**

**Day 24: Philippians 4:6-7**

**Day 10: Ecclesiastes 3:11**

**Day 25: Proverbs 16:9**

**Day 11: Matthew 7:7-8**

**Day 26: Isaiah 60:1-2**

**Day 12: Acts 3:19-20**

**Day 27: Psalm 40:1-3**

**Day 13: Isaiah 65:17**

**Day 28: Galatians 6:14-26**

**Day 14: Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Day 29: Psalm 98:1-3**

**Day 15: Malachi 4:2**

**Day 30: John 3:16-17**

**Day 31: Revelation 21:4-5**

**Questions to ask Yourself: What does He make new? How does He fulfill His purposes in our lives? How is He trustworthy?**



# Christmas Flowers 2022



Outside Front Wreath is in memory of **John C. "Jack" Harry, III** given by The Family

Outside Front Wreath is in memory of **Grace** and **Robert Bangley** and **Gretta** and **Paul Setnicky** given by Nancy and Chip Setnicky

Upstairs Balcony Wreath is in memory of **Deceased Class Members** given by The Adult Bible Class

Upstairs Balcony Wreath is in memory of **Margaret H. Heuberger** given by The Family

Upstairs Balcony Wreath is in memory of **Dot** and **Elvin St. Clair** and **Russell Garner** given by Lynne and Alan Garner

Upstairs Balcony Wreath is in honor of **Grace** and **Tom Atkins** given by Lynne and Alan Garner

Inside Front Column Wreath is in loving memory of **My Wife, Nita H. Wyatt** given by Billy

Inside Front Column Wreath is in memory of **Ann Ralph** given by Wendy, Art, Conner, and Bobby

Side Foyer Arrangement is in memory of **Our Son, Steven** given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson

Huntboard Arrangement is in memory of **James W.** and **Louise B. Dailey** given by Their Family

Piano/Organ Arrangement is in memory of **Dean M. Carter** and **Kelly Comeau** given by Sara Carter and Carol Syvrud

Upstairs Foyer Arrangement is in memory of **Emma, Warren, Larry** and **Jimmy Rountree, R. E., Geneva, and Bobby Johnson** given by Marion Johnson and Family

Downstairs Newel Post Swag is in memory of **Buck Hurley** and **Doris Hurley Williams** given by Cheryl, Kenny, Kyle and Shannon

Wreath North Entrance Column is in memory of **Ralph** and **Maurine Roberts** and **Ralph, Jr.** given by Ed and Sherry Roberts

Wreath North Entrance Column is in memory of **Thomas** given by Mom, Dad, Jamie, Jett and Ann

Wreath North Entrance Door is in memory of **Beverly** and **Janie Aston** given by Their Family

Wreath North Entrance Door is in memory of **Ron Aston** and **Kathy Aston Parker** given by Their Family

Wreath Iron Gates Front Entrance is in memory of **Helen** and **Guy Haslett** given by Their Family

Wreath Iron Gates Front Entrance is in memory of **Helen** and **Guy Haslett** given by Their Family

Wreath Iron Gate Walkway is in memory of **Our Parents, Eddie** and **Pearl** given by John and Ginnie

Wreath Iron Gate Walkway is in memory of **Our Parents, H. T.** and **Elizabeth** given by John and Ginnie

North Foyer Arrangement is in memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Haskins** given by Lee Trump and Renee Trump Hensler

North Second Floor Foyer Arrangement is in memory of **Corey Achstein** given by His Parents, John and Ginnie

Wreath Beside Office Door is in memory of **Richard E. Saunders, Abram and Edla Norfleet, Percy and Ida Saunders, William F. Norfleet, Robert A. Norfleet, Marianna N. Whitley, and P. Clifton Saunders** given by Margaret Saunders

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Deceased Circle Members** given by The Evening Circle

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Ruth Gibbs Sykes** given by Joyce Gibbs Ralph

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Kenny Martin** given by Vicki

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Leslie and Evelyn Nelms**, given by Vicki

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Georgie Lee and Frank Abernathy** given by Rob and Elaine Abernathy

Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Doris Cones** given by Rob and Elaine Abernathy

Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Lonnie Cones** given by Rob and Elaine Abernathy

Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Priscilla Bunch** given by Rob and Elaine Abernathy

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Sylvia Bilby and Paulette Cherry** given by The Bilby Family

Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Our Children, Jenny Lynne and Matthew Stroup, Sara Beth and Taylor Thomason, and Alana and Mark Carollo** given by Lynne and Alan Garner

Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Our Grandchildren, Brayden Matthew Stroup, Luke Alan Stroup, and Elizabeth Taylor Thomason** given by Lynne and Alan Garner

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Elton Boyce** and in honor of **Mildred Boyce** given by Robert and Marilyn Boyce

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Locke and Trythenea Baker** given by Robert and Marilyn Boyce

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Miss Susie I. Powell, J.W. Powell, John and Nancy Holland, Lillye I. Holland, and Emma F. Eley**

Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Rylan Paige Ashcraft and Allison Noel Ashcraft** given by Tommy and Cheryl Ashcraft

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Jim D. Hartman** given by Tracy and Jay Hartman

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Bonnie McCrary** given by The McCrary Family

*Poinsettias In Memory*

**Charles Johnson** given by Audrey Johnson

**Harold and Louise Bradshaw** given by Mary Lou Bradshaw

**Ed and Barbara Klages** given by Ed and Sherry Roberts

**Rhee Carr** given by Ed and Sherry Roberts

**Betty's Mother, Gladys Heath** given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson

**Curtiss' Mother, Joyce Johnson** given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson

**Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Briggs** given by Jimmy and Sharon Fanny

**Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Fanny** given by Jimmy and Sharon Fanny

**Joseph T. and Ellen Louise Pierce and Dr. J. Michael Nemish and Margaret Nemish** given by John and Janet

**Mr. and Mrs. Claud Queen** given by Tommy and Rita Queen

**Mr. and Mrs. Robert Drew** given by Tommy and Rita Queen

**Danny Goben** given by Carman, Jim, Lindsay and Emma

**Mildred and C. C. Bracy** given by Charlie and Diane Mathias

**Lonnie Cones** given by Doris Cones

**Floyd Twiford** given by Judy Twiford

**Jane and Arthur Stone** given by Judy Twiford and Donna McCoy

**Jack, Callie, and Blair Harry** given by Billie and Family

**Margaret and Bill Simons** given by Billie and Family

**Kay Byrum Council** given by L. H. and Pat Byrum

**Hallet and Carrie Hurdle** given by L. H. and Pat Byrum

**Robert Bangley** given by Mary Huber

**Our Deceased Family Members** given by Claudia and Irvin Salmon

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**J. T. and Dorothy Judkins** given by The Family

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**Paige and Bill Redd, Steve Redd, and Mildred Brown** given by Cheryl and Tommy Ashcraft

**Joan and George Noel and Frances and Herbert Delk** given by Cheryl and Tommy Ashcraft

**Mary Jane and Bud Writtenberry** given by Evelyn and Calvin Jones

**Marie and Jobie Jones** given by Evelyn and Calvin Jones

**Anna Goode Turner and Mr. and Mrs. Z. Turner**

**Mike and Lisa** given by Barbara and David Ascher and Michaela and Greg Noel



**William Hart Parker** and **David Benton Parker** given by Jean Saunders and Joan Harrell

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**William Hart Parker** and **David Benton Parker** given by Jean Saunders and Joan Harrell

**Sonnie** and **Doc Hughes** given by Frances and Bill Carr

**Lucy** and **Buster Carr** given by Frances and Bill Carr

**Jack Harry** given by Frances and Bill Carr

**Margaret Heuberger** given by Frances and Bill Carr

**Jim D. Hartman** given by Tracy and Jay Hartman

**Jim D. Hartman** given by Tracy and Jay Hartman

**Talmadge Darden** given by Robbie Butler, Karen Brickey, and Sid Neighbours

**My Parents, Earl** and **Margaret Rountree** given by Benita Rhodes

**Sarah Fletcher**

*Poinsettias In Honor*

**Priscilla Bunch** given by Audrey Johnson

**Jody, Steve, Charlie, Summer, Luca, J. M.** and **Gwynne** given by John and Janet

**Our Parents** given by Jim and Carman

**Priscilla Bunch** given by Charlie and Diane

**Kelly Myles** and **Family** given by Doris Cones

**Lee Abernathy** and **Family** given by Doris Cones

**Rev. Dr. Tracy Hartman** given by The Transition Team

**Our Grandchildren** given by Jean Saunders and Joan Harrell

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**Michael** and **Carmen Halley** given by Ginnie and John Kinsey

**Tracy Hartman** given by Ginnie and John Kinsey

**Priscilla Bunch** given by The Myles Family

**Doris Cones** given by The Myles Family

**Our Grandparents** given by McKenna, Bobby, and Lillie







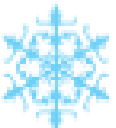
**Tracy**, As she Guides Us Through This Journey

**Jenny Smith** given by Aubrey Smith

**Jenny Smith** given by Aubrey Smith



# January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> New Year's Day 
<b>2</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service and Deacon Installation 12:00pm De-Decorate the Church	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Board of Christian Ed 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>6</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:45pm Game Night 	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Transition Process Presentation	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>13</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 10:00am Prayer Team 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Transition Team Meeting	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Care and Concern 	<b>18</b> 1:00pm Saints Alive Potluck 3:00pm Food Pantry 	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Board of Finance 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>20</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:45pm Game Night	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry	<b>26</b> 7:00pm House of Worship 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>27</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels	<b>29</b> 
<b>30</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	<b>31</b>	