

January 2021



The Towers Newsletter

216 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434
Website: www.suffolkchristian.org

You can find the weekly services online at www.suffolkchristian.org

My Dear Friends,

Each year for some time now I have related the story of the Roman god Janus, from whom we get "January". The story of Janus, I think, is even more appropriate as we move into 2021.

Janu -- the god of beginnings and transitions -- had two faces, one pointing forward and the other pointing toward the rear. That image of this Roman god always suggests to me that it might be a good idea for us to do the same.

Unquestionably, the year 2000 has been the most difficult year most of us have ever experienced. We each have been in a literal battle for our lives, and we all have someone for whom we grieve who lost that battle to The Virus. Unfortunately, many experts in the field tell us it will not be over soon.

So, what's the value in looking back to a year like that?

Well, we look back not to morbidly dwell on such a year, but to see what it has taught us. The fundamental thing we Christians must remember is that the year 2020 was under God's control, as is all time. Covid 19 did not take God by surprise and I do believe that there are lessons in our struggle that God wants us to learn.

First, let's remember that all of time is under God's control. In fact, "time" as we have ordered it here on earth -- minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years -- does not exist in God's economy. We have created these divisions of time, necessarily, so that we can (hopefully!) live an orderly life together as humans. Those divisions are not necessary in God's Kingdom.

Second, let's not forget that often, when God sends something our way, there are lessons to learn. We could look at it as a test or a reminder of what we should be doing as Christians. One of the lessons we have learned as a church family is the importance of staying in touch with each other and finding creative ways to reach out to our family . . . a lesson we are still working on!

Third, I think we have all learned or re-learned just how interconnected our world really is. We have been reminded that we all live on the planet called "earth" and that what I do can affect others on this planet, so well-illustrated by the matter of wearing a mask.

So, Christians, let's not fear. God gave each of us a brain and some talents and skills, so let's use them as best we can. Let's listen more closely and more sympathetically to those who have the enormous task of leading us through these tough days. The rest? God will handle that. *(continued on page 2)*

Let me also say a word to the many of you who have courageously, bravely, and diligently stepped up during this pandemic to keep our church on the right (health!) path. Not all of you heroes have been able to come together physically, but you have found so many ways to be supportive and encouraging. Our task force and our deacons have done a phenomenal job! Thanks to all!

Our Board of Deacons has appointed a small committee we call the "Celebration Sunday Committee". You can easily guess what their role will be when we get the clearance to return to full operations. It truly will be a time of celebration, but we don't have to wait to celebrate . . . there are so many blessings God has given us that we can celebrate right now.

And remember what Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father delights in giving you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)

In the love of Christ!
Love, Michael

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. Matthew 25: 44-45



JANUARY's MISSION: Food Pantry

As we approach the new year, we pray that the new vaccines will bring some relief from the effects of Covid-19. But, we know that will take time. In the meantime, many of our friends and neighbors are unemployed, homeless, and hungry.

The Board of Deacons, at its December meeting, voted to help those in need by holding a Drive-Thru Food Ministry, January 23rd from 11-1 pm (with the rain date of January 30). This could be extended if the need persists. Considering the safety of our church and the congregation, all Covid-19 safety guidelines will be observed.

This program does not replace the present Tues. Food Panty, but adds support. Both strive to meet the same need.

How can you help?

We need volunteers to work the distribution tables. We will have the cars enter the parking lot through the south side of the church. We will have tables on the north side with the items for distribution. You will only need to "safely" place the food item in their vehicle. Masks will be required.

Each guest will receive a Walmart gift card for purchasing a meat. They will also receive a 5-pound bag of potatoes, 2 large cans of string beans, a bag of navy beans, a 4 pound bag of sugar, a 5 pound bag of flour, a brownie mix, oil, eggs and tea bags. We do not need these items donated. It will be purchased in bulk.

If you would like to help, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can call one of us.

Thanks for your help and your prayers as we try something new to help those in need.

Cheryl Ashcraft: 757-418-4553; Priscilla Bunch: 757-510-0347; Evelyn Jones: 757-636-2077

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

We would like to thank the Board of Deacons for the delicious bag of fruit we received at Thanksgiving. It was so good and we really appreciate them remembering us with this wonderful gift.
Claudia and Irvin Salmon



We would like to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, food and visits to Irvin when he returned home from the hospital recently. It meant so much to us both for the care and concern shown to him by our church family during his hospital stay. We appreciate your thoughtfulness so much.
Claudia and Irvin Salmon



We want to thank our church family for all the beautiful cards, calls, food and visits when my sister recently passed away. It was so comforting to us to be remembered in such a thoughtful way. Your kindness has meant so much to us and we appreciated it so very much.
Claudia and Irvin Salmon

Care and Concern Card Ministry

A special thanks to all who have continued to support this portion of the SCC Care and Concern Ministry. The cards sent throughout the year serve as a reminder that each of you are in our thoughts and prayers, during joyful times as well as times of sorrow. The card ministry is in need of additional volunteers to send cards. If you are interested in supporting this worthwhile mission, please contact Carman Goben at 757-650-7360 or via email at carmangoben@gmail.com

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
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

During the month of January, the church office will be staffed:
 Tuesday – Friday
 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
 Please call for an appointment. If you need assistance. After those hours, please contact Rev. Halley at 757-620-2628.



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Thank you all for your love and support this past year. It has been a challenge for all of us, but God helped us through the year “2020”. This will be a year we will never forget! Let’s all pray “2021” will be a much better year for all of us. God bless you all and Happy New Year! Priscilla



FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

We have several Facebook groups and pages. Over the next few days, we will be trying to delete some of the groups/pages. If you see you have been deleted from a group or page, it is because we are trying to make life easier for you. We only need one group/page where information is posted so hopefully you will not miss any information. The group which is used frequently is the Suffolk Christian Church page which the cover page is a picture of the sanctuary decorated for Christmas. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Priscilla Bunch.

WINTER SHELTER UPDATE

Thanks to everyone for your support during the week of November 29th through December 5th. The week began with preparing meals for 11 guests and ended with 20. The program is now up to over 30 guests and are being housed in two local motels. It is such a blessing to know on these cold days and nights we as Christians working together have been able to assist some of our fellow Christians who have been through very difficult times in 2020. Through your generous donations throughout the year, we were able to purchase breakfast gift cards so a hot meal could start their day. Groups of individuals and several of our Boards prepared hot meals each night and provide bagged lunches.

Additionally, all churches were given the opportunity to "Adopt a Guest" and provide Christmas gifts for all guests. We were able to adopt two individuals and bring to them a little joy of the Christmas Season. We purchased clothing, toiletry needs and a few special sweet treats.

As coordinators, we would like to express our sincere thanks to our entire congregation. Your donations and prayers made our week a success and the ability to participate in the "Adopt a Guest" program possible.

Priscilla Bunch and Evelyn Jones

CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE

The first of only two meetings a year of the Care and Concern Committee will be held on Monday, January 18, 2021, 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 18, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Elaine Abernathy and Claudia Salmon - Co-Facilitators





Daily Bible Reading

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:	Psalms 73:25-26
Day 4:	Ephesians 4:22-24	Day 19:	Psalms 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:	Psalms 40:1-3
Day 13:	Isaiah 65:17	Day 28:	Galatians 6:14-26
Day 14:	Proverbs 3:5-6	Day 29:	Psalms 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?



Memorials

A donation to the Food Pantry in memory of Kenny Martin has been given by George and Kay Weaver.

A donation to the Food Pantry in memory of Dr. Alfred R. Butler has been given by Joyce H. Trump.

A donation to the Food Pantry in memory of Michael L. Barrett has been given by Joyce H. Trump



Special Monthly Missions

January 2020- Coats for Community - \$577.00

February 2020 - Scholarship Fund - \$773.00

March 2020 - Western Tidewater Free Clinic - \$946.00

April 2020 - Children and Youth Fund - \$865.00

May 2020 - Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater - \$720.00

June 2020 - Genieve Shelter - \$860.00

July 2020 - Salvation Army - \$815.00

August 2020 - CAPS - \$1,125.00

September 2020 - Clothing Ministry - \$640.00

October 2020 - Night Stay - \$1045.00

November 2020 - Meals on Wheels - \$935.00

December 2020 - Veterans of the Cross - \$1,179.00

Special Monthly Missions giving to date - \$10,480.00

Stewardship Report

"We Are Walking by Faith through Commitment"

January - November income - \$249,565.53

January - November expenses - \$254,898.19

Dollars for Haiti - \$3,580.00

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

Christmas Flowers 2020



Outside Front Wreath is in loving memory of **Jenny Smith** given by Aubrey Smith

Outside Front Wreath is in loving memory of **Jenny Smith** given by Aubrey Smith

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

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

Upstairs Balcony Wreath is in memory of **Bonnie C. McCrary** given by The McCrary Family

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

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

Side Foyer Arrangement is in honor of **Mr.** and **Mrs. Jimmy Bradshaw** given by Hunter Haslett

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

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

Upstairs Foyer Arrangement is in memory of **Lisa Noel** given by David and Barbara Ascher and Greg and Michaela Noel

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 **Pearl Kinsey** given by John and Ginny Kinsey

Wreath North Entrance Column is in memory of **Eddie Kinsey** given by John and Ginny Kinsey

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 Gate Front Entrance is in memory of **Jack, Callie,** and **Blair Harry** given by Jack, Billie, and Family

Wreath Iron Gate Front Entrance is in memory of **Margaret** and **Bill Simons** given by Jack, Billie, and Family

North Foyer Arrangement is in memory of **Jack Byrd** and **Pamela Byrd Conklin** given by Eloise Byrd and Robin B. Huffman

North Second Floor Foyer Arrangement is in memory of **Commander Allen Wynne Graham, Jr., USN, Retired** given by His Loving Family

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

Wreath Iron Gates Walkway is in memory of **Nick Allen, II** given by Nick and Patty Allen

Wreath Iron Gates Walkway is in memory of **Homer Steiner** given by Nick and Patty Allen

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

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 honor of **Priscilla** given by The Myles Family

Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Doris Cones** given by Her Family

Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Grandmommie** and **Gee** given by McKenna, Bobby, and Lillie Belle

Boxwood Wreath is in memory of **Those Who Have Lost Their Lives to COVID**

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 memory of **Lonnie Cones** given by Rob and Elaine Abernathy

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

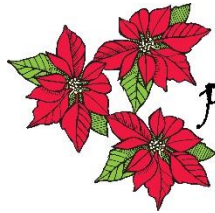


Boxwood Wreath is in honor of **Rylan Paige Ashcraft** and **Allison Noel Ashcraft** given by Tommy and Cheryl Ashcraft

Boxwood Wreath given by Calvin and Evelyn Jones

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



Poinsettias
IN MEMORY

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

David W. Halley given in loving memory by Carmen and Michael Halley

Jeffrey M. Halley given in loving memory by Carmen and Michael Halley

Rena and Raymond Halley given in loving memory by Carmen and Michael Halley

Bridget and Herman Blair given in loving memory by Carmen and Michael Halley

Robert Bangley given by Mary Huber

Helen and Guy Haslett given by The Family

Kenny Martin given by Vicki

Leslie and Evelyn Nelms and **James and Geraldine Martin**, parents of Vicki and Kenny given by Vicki Martin

Charles Johnson given by Audrey Johnson

Herbert and JoAnn Briggs and **Joseph and Nina Briggs** given by Sharon and Jimmy Fanny

Clinton and Christine Fanny given by Jimmy and Sharon Fanny

Our Grandparents given by Jim and Carman Goben

Hilda and Winston Meade and **Jo Ann Wills** given by Claudia and Irvin Salmon

Ethel and Claude Salmon, Jack Salmon, and Pat Salmon given by Claudia and Irvin Salmon

Corey given by John and Ginnie Kinsey

Elizabeth given by John and Ginnie Kinsey

H.T. given by John and Ginnie Kinsey

David given by John and Ginnie Kinsey

Rhea Carr given by John and Ginnie Kinsey

Clyde Allen Burford given by Sarah Burford

Margaret Parker Herring given by Sarah Burford

Billy Huskey given by Nick Allen

Our Son, Steven given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson

Gladys Heath given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson

Joyce Johnson given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson

Marlene Whittemore given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson

Bryan Cadwell given in loving memory by Wanda Cadwell

J.C. and Josie Brown given in loving memory by Wanda Cadwell

Bud and Mary Jane Writtenberry

Jobie and Marie Jones

Floyd Twiford given by Judy Twiford

Jane and Arthur Stone given by Judy Twiford and Donna McCoy

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wright and Family and Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Gayle and Family given by Mack and Brenda Wright

Mr. and Mrs. Hercules Byrum (L.H.'s parents) given by L.H. and Pat Byrum

Mr. and Mrs. Hallet Hurdle (Pat's Parents) given by L.H. and Pat Byrum

George E. Stuck, Sr. given by wife, Alice Stuck

Lonnie Cones given by Doris Cones

J.T. and Dorothy Judkins and Alfred Aegerter given by Gloria and Jim Judkins

Joseph and Georgie Judkins and Roy and Gussie Baines given by Gloria and Jim Judkins

Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Savage and Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Everett given by The Savage Family

Paige and Bill Redd, Stephen C. 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



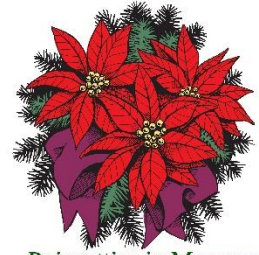
Sylvia Barnes Bilby given by The Bilby Family

Paulette Elizabeth Lassiter Cherry given by The Bilby Family

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

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

Terry and Tremilla Drew given by Tommy and Rita Queen



Poinsettias in Memory



Tammy Halley and Sarah Halley given by Carmen and Michael Halley

Our Wonderful Church Family given by Carmen and Michael Halley

Priscilla Bunch given by Audrey Johnson

Our Parents given by Jim and Carman Gobon

Carmen and Michael given by John and Ginnie Kinsey

Kelly Myles and Family given by Doris Cones

Lee Abernathy and Family given by Doris Cones

Genevieve Aegerter given by Gloria and Jim Judkins

U.S. Soldiers Over Seas given by Rebecca and John Sharrett

U.S. Soldiers Over Seas given by Rebecca and John Sharrett

U.S. Soldiers Over Seas given by Rebecca and John Sharrett

U.S. Soldiers Over Seas given by Rebecca and John Sharrett

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

Janet Rock given by Friends

Eddie Matthews given by Friends

Mary Huber given by Friends

Evelyn Jones given by Friends

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Office Closed 11:30am Meals on Wheels 	2
3 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm De-Decorating the Church	4	5	6 7:00pm Board of Christian Ed	7 10:00am Thursday Crafters	8 11:30am Meals on Wheels	9
10 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	11	12 2:30pm Food Pantry	13 7:00pm Board of Deacons	14 10:00am Thursday Crafters 2:30pm Prayer Team 	15 11:30am Meals on Wheels	16
17 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	18 7:00pm Care & Concern Meeting 	19 2:30pm Food Pantry	20 7:00pm Board of Finance	21 10:00am Thursday Crafters	22 11:30am Meals on Wheels	23 11:00am Drive-in Food Pantry 
24 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	25	26 2:30pm Food Pantry	27 7:00pm House of Worship	28 10:00am Thursday Crafters	29 11:30am Meals on Wheels	30
31 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service						