# The Towers Newsletter

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

JUNE 2025

## Pastor's Column

**Mark Your Calendars!!**

It is hard to believe that we are turning the corner towards summer this month! Please plan to join us for the following special events in June:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sunday June 1** | Lunch and Learn | Potluck lunch after worship, a brief church conference, and a fun activity related to Building for Hope |
| **Sunday, June 8** | Pentecost Sunday | |
| **Sunday, June 15th** | Music Sunday | |
| **Sun June 22- Thurs. June 26 VBS!** | | **Invite your friends and neighbors for a great week of fun and learning!** |

**Please Pray!!**

Please pray for:

All of our VBS volunteers that God would speak through them and for all who attend that they would be drawn to and respond to God's love and care for them.

The Search Team as they are actively interviewing several new candidates.

The Building for Hope Team as they continue to prepare to lead us in discerning God's direction for our congregation!

Our congregation to remain open and attentive to how God is at work in our midst.

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

*The Board of Deacons Report*....from the May 14th 2025 meeting

The Girl Scouts from Troop 946 were guests at our meeting. They came with a plan to add paper products and toiletries to the current food pantry. This is their Girl Scout Silver Award project. This project is a take action project where they team up with a small group from their troop and find an issue that they care about and which makes a difference in the community. They presented a detailed plan for how to go about this. It was received well by the board and was approved. This will require the generosity of our congregation as well as the community.

The Veteran's board is still being worked on as well as updating the directory of the church.

## Stewardship Report

*"We are Walking by Faith through Commitment"*

**January-April 2025 income - $74,540.55**

**January-April 2025 expenses - $81,244.23**

**Emergency Relief Fund - $341.00**

**January 2025** – CAPS - $450.00

**February 2025** – Genieve Shelter - $730.00

**March 2025** – Western Tidewater Free Clinic - $930.00

**April 2025** – SCC Scholarship Fund - $415.00

**May 2025** – Crisis Pregnancy Center - $523.26

The cooling season is here! Please remember to close doors to maintain the temperature while the air conditioning is running.

## *Memorial Donations*

Donations to the Memorial Fund in **Memory of Martha Ligon Savage** given by: Joyce Trump, Karen & William Branche, Frank Rawls, Joan Byrd-Grimes, John McLemore and Nancy & William, Jr. Walliser.

Donations to the Memorial Fund in **Memory of David Ascher** given by: Charles & Kim Parr and Benita Rhodes.

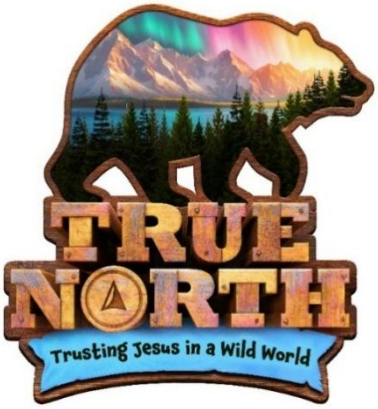
Donations to the Memorial Fund in **Memory of Mary Jane Cathey** given by: William King, Jr., Thomas Johnson, III, Linwood & Martha Callis, Suzann Stimpert, Steve & Anne Cabell Pearce, George Y. Birdsong, Joyce Trump, Charles & Kim Parr, Lynn Nelson, Robert McCall, Marshall & Cathey Brown, Ed Walter, Frank Rawls, Benita Rhodes, John McLemore and Basil & Mary March Yost.

A donation to the General Fund in **Memory of Lena & Buxton Ellis** given by Jan Ellis.

Reporting on Missions….

June's Yellow Envelope Mission:  Meals on Wheels

The mission we are supporting for the month of June is Meals on Wheels. The Meals On Wheels network is comprised of more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation. The need is great, but together we can deliver. It is currently helping over 2 million seniors annually. Meals On Wheels delivers so much more than just a meal, so please donate to this mission to help ensure no senior is left behind.




**June 22nd – 26th**

**I have people ask – how can I help with VBS?  There are several opportunities for you to help.**

1) **Provide funds for dinner**
2) **Lead children from station to station**
3) **Participating as a Station Leader**
4) **Invite children to attend**
5) **Encourage children**
6) **Pray for a successful VBS**

**It takes numerous people to make it a successful Vacation Bible School.  Please look over the bulletin board outside of the Board of Christian Education office and sign up! If you have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Meredith McLaughlin | 06/01 |
| Johnnie Winslow | 06/03 |
| Hannah Fleming | 06/04 |
| Robert Whitmore | 06/06 |
| Steve Rice | 06/06 |
| Jennifer Hott | 06/09 |
| Zachary Harry | 06/11 |
| Janet Rock | 06/12 |
| Michele Bryant | 06/12 |
| Julie Maschino | 06/13 |
| Olive Drames | 06/14 |
| Judy Twiford | 06/15 |
| Debbie Spivey | 06/15 |
| Kim Parr | 06/16 |
| Lillee Myles | 06/19 |
| Luke Stroup | 06/20 |
| Cheryl Griffin | 06/21 |
| Vickie Wilson | 06/21 |
| William James | 06/21 |
| Tim Copeland Jr. | 06/22 |
| Raina Allen | 06/22 |
| Amaya Allen | 06/22 |
| Len Cox Jr | 06/26 |
| Barbara Jacobs-Ascher | 06/27 |
| Andy McLaughlin | 06/28 |
| Janet Nemish | 06/29 |
| Pat Hawn | 06/29 |
| Neal Davis Jr. | 06/29 |
| Alexis Underwood | 06/29 |

Fridays
June 13th
and
June 27th
Come join us for fun & fellowship.

Suffolk Christian's Music Ministry will lead our morning worship service on **Sunday, June 15**, as we worship and praise God through music.

We are blessed to have an abundance of musical talent in our church! The congregation, choir, handbells and other instruments will focus on songs we sang as a child.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family and friends to worship with you. Please plan now to attend. Our prayer is that you will leave the service uplifted, inspired and with "a song in your heart".

## Vacation Bible School

**Sunday, June 22nd – Thursday, June 26th**
**5:30 pm Dinner**
**6:00 – 8:00 pm VBS**

**Come join us for fun & fellowship.**
**Trust Jesus in this Wild World**

Our Food Pantry needs several items for our weekly pantry. Some items needed are: Applesauce (individual cups); fruit cups; Snacks (Granola bars, Nabs, Individual packs of Nuts); Individual serving packets of Oatmeal & Grits; Pop Tarts; small boxes of Cereal; Spaghetti Sauce w/ meat; Spaghetti Noodles; Macaroni & Cheese; 1 lb. bags Rice; Flavored Rice; Stove Top Stuffing; Scalloped Potatoes; Au gratin Potatoes; Dried Beans; Canned Meats; Canned Vegetables; Canned Pasta w/ Meat; Peanut Butter; Jelly; and Crackers.

Any items you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN

June 2, 2025 will be the last Fellowship for Women meeting before we break for the summer. We will have a potluck picnic in the fellowship hall, starting at 6:00 p.m. Bring your best dish to share. ☺ We have invited a beekeeper to give a short talk about that fascinating hobby/occupation and the amazing qualities of honey. It is not too late to sign up for this event on the bulletin board outside the office. And as always, feel free to invite a friend. We hope you will join us.

## Community Clothes Giveaway

A Community Clothes Giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, June 7 from 9:00 AM -12:00 Noon. Volunteers are needed for this event. If you could help for an hour or the whole event, it would be so appreciated.
Contact Lisa McLaughlin or Claudia Salmon for details.
Thank You!

## *UPDATE FOR KITCHEN SUPPLIES*

While down in the kitchen supply area, it was noted that several items were just laying around instead of being where they needed to be placed. **PLEASE**, if you are helping with an event, please put the supplies away in their appropriate space. I have had to throw away several items because they are left out and we all know we have creepy crawlers in the kitchen area. Thank you for helping to keep our kitchen area tidy! Also, if you feel we need to order supplies, please let Priscilla know by either seeing or calling her.

**Brady Wieck** graduated from Grassfield High School. He plans to attend Radford University pursuing a degree in Business in the fall. He is the son of Jane Marie & Ryan Wieck and the grandson of Evelyn & Calvin Jones.

**Cameron Worrell** graduated from Lakeland High School. She plans to attend Liberty University in the fall pursuing a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in English as a second language. She is the daughter of Jennifer & Josh Worrell and the granddaughter of Evelyn & Calvin Jones.

**Bryce Jones** graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Turf Management. He will be working at Hilton Head Golf Course in Myrtle Beach, SC. He is the son of Sandy & Joe Jones and the grandson of June & Mike Beale.

**Aidan Wieck** graduated from James Madison University with a BS in Sport and Recreation Management. He plans to pursue a Graduate Degree in Sports Management from Sam Houston University in Huntsville, Texas. He is the son of Jane Marie & Ryan Wieck and the grandson of Evelyn & Calvin Jones.

**We wish all the graduates the best of luck as they continue their education and pursue their careers.**

**BUILDING FOR HOPE**

Greetings, fellow Christians! As we write this, we have just returned from our second in-person Building For Hope retreat in Alexandria, VA. As expected, it was an excellent time of fellowship and spiritual growth as we met, conversed, and worshiped with nearly 40 of our newest Christian friends from across the country.

In conversations amongst our small 3-person group (Dr. Hartman, Carman Goben and Jim Goben) as well as with larger groups throughout the weekend, we felt that there are still some misconceptions within our own congregation regarding what Building For Hope is and what it is not.

Building For Hope is an initiative being hosted by Old Town Community Church in Alexandria in which there are currently 13 churches of various denominations, including Suffolk Christian Church, from all across the country (2 of the churches are located in Oregon) who are all facing similar issues: they are all passionate about mission work and helping their communities overcome social barriers, they have large church buildings with diminishing congregations, they have a lot of unused or under-utilized spaces within their church and its property, and, like us, they are all praying and seeking God's guidance to discern exactly what it is that He is leading us to do. Among other things during the past two retreats, we have listened to some incredible guest speakers tell their own stories of how they and their congregations have heard God speaking and the awesome social enterprises that have been created as a result.

Building For Hope is NOT a preordained program in which we go to Alexandria and they tell us what project or social enterprise we should undertake back here in Suffolk and then send us on our way. Aside from information we have provided during our group sessions, they know nothing else about Suffolk Christian Church or the community around us.

Suffolk Christian Church has a larger Building For Hope Team from within the congregation (Dr. Hartman, Carman Goben, Jim Goben, Evelyn Jones, Beverly McGahee, Benita Rhodes, Jim Judkins, and Bracey Parr). We are using a curriculum called Rooted Good and so far we have completed sessions 1-4. To date we have:

1. Been introduced to the process
2. Identified Suffolk Christian Church's assets and challenges
3. Walked through downtown and our neighborhoods, observing and interviewing folks we met about needs in the community, and
4. We have mapped our spaces and identified areas that God may be calling us to repurpose.

As we continue through this process, we will lead the church in determining what, exactly, our community needs most (leaning into the results of our Visioning Meetings and our passion for the homeless and local schools) and whether there are things we can do as a church to help fulfill some of those needs. Whether it is creating partnerships with other non-profit organizations, enhancing some of our own missions (Food Pantry, Clothing Ministry, Coats of the Community, etc.), or realizing a need that we didn't even know existed within the community, the Building For Hope Team will be doing some intensive brainstorming **with all of you** over the next few weeks and months as we explore ideas that may enable us to better serve our community and better use the many assets that God has provided us. We eagerly invite all of you to share your thoughts and ideas with us, as well. Perhaps God has revealed something to you…if so, we'd love to hear about it!

On June 1st, 2025 we will have a potluck dinner following the Spring Church Conference that will be held immediately following our worship service. We are planning to use this time as a "Lunch and Learn" session that will focus on Building For Hope (and we'll even form teams and play a pretty cool game called "Mission Possible"). It is our hope and prayer that you will join us for this great time of fellowship and learning more about Building For Hope.

God bless you all!

Jim, Carman, and Tracy

***Commit to reading your bible at least 10 minutes daily and meditate on your readings.***

Day 1: Proverbs 17:22

Day 2: Matthew 6:21

Day 3: Psalm 51:10

Day 4: Philippians 4:7

Day 5: Ezekiel 36:26

Day 6: Jeremiah 17:9

Day 7: Colossians 3:2

Day 8: 1 Peter 5:8

Day 9: James 4:8

Day 10: Romans 12:2

Day 11: 2 Corinthians 10:5

Day 12: Psalm 119:11

Day 13: Ephesians 6:16

Day 14: Galatians 6:9

Day 15: 2 Timothy 1:7

Day 16: Psalm 34:18

Day 17: John 14:27

Day 18: Psalm 19:14

Day 19: Hebrews 4:12

Day 20: 1 John 4:4

Day 21: Psalm 73:26

Day 22: Proverbs 4:23

Day 23: Isaiah 26:3

Day 24: Luke 6:45

Day 25: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Day 26: Romans 8:28

Day 27: Matthew 22:37

Day 28: 2 Chronicles 16:9

Day 29: Psalm 37:4

Day 30: Psalm 139:23-24

# JUNE 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1<br>9:15am Handbell Choir<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service, Scholarship Sunday<br>12:00pm Potluck lunch & learn-Church conference | 2<br>6:00pm Fellowship for Women picnic | 3<br>1:00p Saints Alive | 4<br>6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous bus.meeting<br>7:00p Board of Christian Ed. | 5<br>10:00am Thursday Crafters<br>7:15pm Chancel Choir | 6<br> | 7<br>9:00a-12:00p Community Clothes giveaway |
| 8<br>9:15am Handbell Choir<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service | 9 | 10<br>1:00p Saints Alive<br>3:00p Food Pantry | 11<br>6:45p Board of Deacons<br>7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 12<br>10:00am Thursday Crafters<br>7:15pm Chancel Choir | 13<br> <br><br>7:00pm Game night | 14<br> |
| 15<br>9:15am Handbell Choir<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service<br>MUSIC SUNDAY<br> <br> | 16<br> <br> | 17<br>12:00p Saints Alive Potluck<br>3:00p Food Pantry | 18<br>6:30p Board of Finance<br>7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 19<br>10:00am Thursday Crafters | 20<br> <br><br>*Newsletter articles for July due | 21 |
| 22<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service<br>Vacation Bible School | 23<br>5:30pm Dinner<br>6:00-8:00pm VBS | 24<br>1:00p Saints Alive<br>3:00p Food Pantry | 25<br>7:00p Board of Bldg. & grounds<br>7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 26<br>10:00am Thursday Crafters | 27<br> <br><br>7:00pm Game night | 28<br> |
| 29<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service<br>"Day of Extra giving" | 30 | <br> | | | | |