

The Towers Newsletter

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



Let's Make this Extraordinary Time



It's a new season—a new liturgical season that is. After Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we enter the liturgical season known as "Ordinary Time." The term "Ordinary Time" may be misleading. In the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The lectionary readings during Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives. The color for ordinary time is green, symbolizing hope and growth.

It is anything but an "ordinary time" here at SCC, but the words hope and growth are appropriate ones to describe our church family these days. We have concluded our Town Hall meetings, our Hopeful Imagination study will conclude soon, and we are indeed hopeful about our future. There is evidence of growth and hope as we congratulate our graduates and bless them on the next phase of their journeys.

I am confident that there is continued growth to come as we worship and serve together this summer. In service, we continue to offer our food pantry; care and concern, and Meals on Wheels ministries. Many of us will be involved in ministering to our children in Vacation Bible School later this summer. Soon we will form our Pastor Search Committee and they will begin working diligently to discern who God is calling to lead SCC forward in the months and years to come. Hope and growth abounds in this extra-ordinary season of "ordinary time." I hope you'll join us as often as you can!

As always, it is a delight to be on the journey with you!

Rev. Dr. Tracy Hartman



Find us on:
www.suffolkchristian.org
Facebook
YouTube

Here is the article Tracy mentioned at the Town Hall meeting Sunday, May 22, it's good food for thought!

Why bringing in young families is not a magic bullet for your congregation

Posted on May 20, 2022 www.cbfblog.com, By *Laura Stephens-Reed*

I have heard it many times in congregations experiencing stagnation or decline: *If we could just bring in more young families...*

This is an understandable thought. For churches with nurseries that once burst at the seams or with memories of youth choirs that went on tour in the summers, bringing in more young people seems like the obvious way to enliven a graying or shrinking church. Bringing in these families, though, is neither a simple task nor an easy solution. Here's why:

Young families are busy. This is not to say they are too busy to spend time with God. (It's important to refrain from judging how faithful anyone is by how much time they anchor a pew.) It is to say that demands on parents and kids are sprawling, no longer contained to certain days of the week. It is very challenging for them to push back on those pressures.

Young families don't want to be told what to believe. The mode of church that many of us are accustomed to is a didactic one in which a pastor or Sunday School teacher holds the wisdom and imparts it to hearers. It doesn't always leave space for or encourage discussion, questions, or creativity. Most young families – both parents and kids – are not interested in a one-way conversation.

Young families don't want to be gawked at. They know when they are the object of spoken (or unspoken) sentimentality: "Thank you for being a first-time visitor. Would you like to become a deacon?" "It's great that we now have people with energy to pick up what we're too tired to do!" "Aren't those kids so cute sitting on the platform during the children's message?" "I'm relieved to know that because of these young people, the church will outlive me." These are the messages of a congregation focused on survival, not on fully welcoming young families on their own terms, and they are not here for it.

Young families aren't interested in "how we've always done it." They can respect tradition and their elders without wanting to replicate old patterns. So if your church brings in young families, expect to be changed by them. They will ask why you do certain things. They will want to know how you are using your gifts to show Christ's love to the world. They will not join in ministries for which they see no relevance.

Young families don't have disposable income. Sometimes the stated or unstated hope is that bringing in a new demographic will not just increase attendance but also bolster the church budget. If you're looking for a financial boost, this slice of the population does not offer it. Young adults might have student debt or be paying an outpriced mortgage because of inflation. They might be working multiple jobs (some of which might overflow into Sundays) because what they are paid and how far that amount goes are misaligned, through no fault of their own.

Not all communities have a big demographic of young families. Your community might be aging, shrinking, or both. If industry has left your town or if there is no preschool or afterschool care, it's unlikely that there are huge numbers of young adults where you live.

These might be hard truths to receive. If you have ears to hear, however, don't despair. In 2010 the Pew Research Center conducted a study of millennials (who would now be in roughly the 30-40 age range). Findings indicated that millennials were just as likely to believe in God as preceding generations and that they engaged in regular spiritual practices. This means that there are probably unaffiliated young adults open to a faith community. If your church is truly ready to welcome them, here are some things to keep in mind:

Young families need a place to find their center. Over-programming, which is often what we assume will bring in families, won't accomplish that. Families are already dealing with that outside the church. Instead, young adults and kids need a container in which they can develop relationships across generations and with a God who calls them to transformation through delight and rest and community.

Young families want to participate in meaning making. They have big questions and need a place to ask them. Every generation has lived through "unprecedented times" and had to figure out where God is in all of it and how faith could help them navigate their circumstances well. Younger generations are no different.

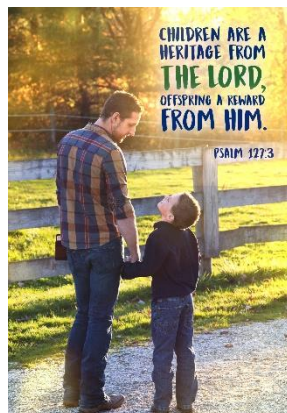
Young families want to be seen, welcomed, and supported. They need a village. Many young families live distantly from support from extended family, and it's tough to juggle a lot of commitments without it. They can benefit greatly from spiritual friends and family, people who invest in and show up for them when they need help.

Young families want to make a difference. Many younger people are hesitant about the church because they see it as standoffish toward, if not downright hostile to, the world around it. But if your congregation offers hands-on avenues to minister in the larger community and is open to anyone who might walk through the doors, that piques the interest of many young adults and kids.

Young families want to contribute in ways other than financially. They want to collaborate and create. They want to bring their talents and wisdom and energy to bear. So while they might not turn in a pledge card, they could be enthusiastic about other opportunities to engage.

Making space for young families involves hard, holy, self-reflective work on the part of church. What future is God inviting us to consider? What changes, not just in how we do but also in how we think and feel, will this involve? Pray for God's wisdom and then wait on God's unexpected but always good work in your midst.

*Laura Stephens-Reed is a clergy and congregational coach based in Alabama.
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HAPPY
Father's Day

A Note from the Transition Team...

During the past month, we continued with two Town Hall Meetings as we discussed where we see Suffolk Christian Church in the future. We now have discovered as a congregation, where we came from, where we are now and where we would like to see ourselves in the future. The Transition Team will now use the information provided by the congregation to compile our Church Profile and Ministerial Profile. Your input has been invaluable. We thank everyone who has attended and participated in these meetings. A very special thank you to the Churchwide Fellowship for preparing meals and to everyone that has volunteered to set up and take down tables.

As the Transition Team works on the final two documents during the next couple of months, we will begin assembling our Pastoral Search Committee. Our constitution requires a representative from each of the following boards: Deacons, Finance, House of Worship, Christian Education and Music. In addition, two or more representatives will come from the congregation at large. It is important that the search team be as diverse as possible to represent our entire congregation. If any church member would like to be considered as an at large representative or nominate a representative, please let Dr. Hartman or Evelyn Jones know by June 10th.

The search process should begin by early September and may take up to six months. We would ask that all search team members be willing to serve until our new pastor is called. Dr. Hartman will be meeting with the Boards during their June meetings to go over the process and duties of the search team. The Center of Healthy Churches will provide us with a short list of potential candidates when we get to this point, and we will begin the recruitment process at that time.

As always, we ask for your prayers and we are thankful for your continued support. We know God has been with us throughout this process, and we know he has already chosen our next minister. It's now up to us to recognize and welcome his choice.

God Bless each of you.
The Transition Team

**Dana Bilby, Evelyn Jones, Billy Wyatt, John Kinsey, Curtiss Johnson,
Joyce Trump and Vickie Wilson**



MEALS ON WHEELS – Anyone interested in volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels, please contact Kitty Martin to find out more information! (Call the office for her contact information)

Combined
“Hopeful Imagination”
Book Study
Sunday, June 5th – 10:00 am
Location: West Memorial

All book study classes will meet together on Sunday, June 5th, to have a recap of the book study.

Reporting on Missions....

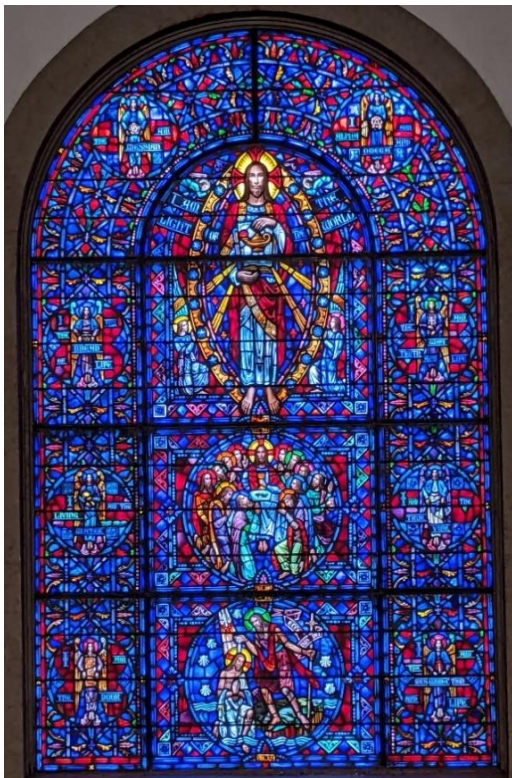
June's Yellow Envelope Mission: Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk, CAPS

The mission we are supporting for the month of June is Suffolk's Coalition Against Poverty. Its purpose is clearly stated in its name. This organization helps clients in need with things like rent and utilities, deposits, short hotel stays when no other housing is available, etc. A main goal of this group is to help clients become self-sufficient; they work with many of the homeless in Suffolk. The yearly budget is about \$180,000 which comes from member churches, personal donations, various grants and their annual BBQ Fundraiser. CAPS operates from an office on N. Main St., which is now open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9:00-4:00, by appointment. They can be reached at 757 935 5497. Priscilla Bunch is our church's representative on their board. We encourage you to support this very worthy local mission with your generous donations and your prayers.



Beyond Our Shores:

*Shear, the child we are helping in Haiti began his physical therapy the week after Easter. It is reported that he is doing well as his PT sessions continue. Please pray that he responds well and will regain his ability to walk. Also, please pray that his therapist will continue to be able to travel from St. Marc to Monwi, where Shear lives. And please pray for all of the people of Haiti.



A Step Back In Time

Christ the Light of the World is the theme of the window above the pulpit area. Designed by Henry Lee Willet of Philadelphia, the window is made in the finest tradition of medieval stained-glass artistry. The window was given to the church by Miss Buena Griggs as a memorial to her brother, Mr. Clarence O. Griggs. It was dedicated on November 9, 1952.

Suffolk Christian Church Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 am ~ 2:00 pm
Tracy.Hartman@suffolkchristian.org
suffolkchristianchurchoffice@gmail.com
Daenixon@gmail.com
Pbunch121@gmail.com

Bible Quiz

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables. Which of the following is not one of them?

- A. The Parable of the Lost Sheep
- B. The Parable of the Lost Son
- C. The Parable of the Lost Pearl
- D. The Parable of the Lost Coin



Answer: C (See Luke 15:1-32.)



OUR GRADUATES

Conner Leary Blausey will graduate from Nansemond Suffolk Academy as an Honor Graduate. He is the son of Wendy & Art Blausey and the grandson of Ann Ralph & Bobby Ralph. Conner plans to attend Hampden-Sydney College in the fall majoring in business.

Howard “Howie” Hamilton Harris, IV will graduate from King's Fork High School as an Honor Graduate. He is the son of Jill & Howard Harris. Howie plans to attend Georgia Tech in the fall majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

Phoebe Saint Catherine Bilby will graduate this summer from Tidewater Community College. She is the daughter of Dana & Sean Bilby. Phoebe plans to attend Longwood University in the fall to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders studying Speech-Language Pathology.

Margaret “Maggie” Copeland has graduated from Paul D. Camp Community College with an Associate Degree of Arts and Sciences General Studies. She is the daughter of Lynne & Tim Copeland. Maggie will be attending the University of Mary Washington in the fall to pursue a Major in Historic Preservation and a minor in Museum Studies.

Mary Blythe McLaughlin has graduated from Greensboro College with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater with a minor in dance. She is the daughter of Lisa & Andy McLaughlin and the granddaughter of Claudia Salmon & the late Irvin Salmon.



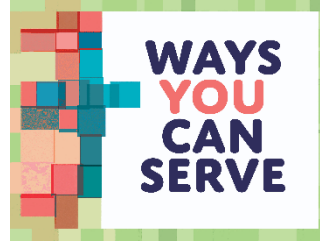
Game Nights

6:45 PM

June 10

June 24

If anyone would like to join the Board of Ushers, there is a sign-up sheet outside the office! You may also sign up on the bulletin board to be a greeter or worship leader!



Happy Birthday !!!!

Meredith McLaughlin	June 1
Johnnie Winslow	June 3
Hannah Fleming	June 4
Robert Whitmore	June 6
Steve Rice	June 6
Lili McNeil	June 7
Jennifer Hott	June 9
Zachary Harry	June 11
Janet Rock	June 12
Michele Bryant	June 12
Mark Winslow	June 13
Julie Maschino	June 13
Scott Munn	June 14
Judy Twiford	June 15
Debbie Spivey	June 15
Kim Parr	June 16
Lilliee Myles	June 19
Luke Stroup	June 20
Cheryl Griffin	June 21
Vickie Wilson	June 21
Amaya Allen	June 22
Raina Allen	June 22
Tim Copeland	June 22
Joe Jones	June 26
Len Cox, Jr.	June 26
Barbara Ascher	June 27
Andy McLaughlin	June 28
Janet Nemish	June 29
Neal Davis	June 29
Pat Hawn	June 29
Alexis Underwood	June 29

Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram puzzle, using the clues R=l and M=T, to complete Psalm 111:10, NIV.

M Y L C L O Q Z C M Y L
 P Z Q N R V M Y L
 H L D R F F R F D Z C G R V N Z U ;
 O P P G Y Z C Z P P Z G
 Y R V B Q L T L B M V
 Y O K L D Z Z N
 J F N L Q V M O F N R F D
 M Z Y R U H L P Z F D V
 L M L Q F O P B Q O R V L

PSALM 111:10, NIV

Answer: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10, NIV

*Suffolk Christian Church,
 Thank you so much for the
 after service reception for Chuck's
 funeral. It was very special to
 bring all of the family together
 over the food you prepared for us.
 June Hood & Family*



Donations to Care and Concern in memory of Chuck R. Rountree have been given by Emily King, Tommy and Jane Arthur, June Hood

Donations to the Food Pantry in memory of James (Jim) M. Culliton, Jr. have been given by Tommy and Jane Arthur, Glenn and Karen Hughes, Mike and Fran Duman, Martha Westbrook, Jason and Jessica Drake, Bill and Diane Saunders, Margaret "Billie" Harry, Robert and Beverly Holland, Joyce H. Trump, H. Jan Ellis, Willis and Mary Lou Pope, Mark McGahee, W. Bogart Holland, Mack and Brenda Wright, Billy and Linda Drummond, James and Rebecca Habel

Donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of James "Jim" M. Culliton, Jr. have been given by William and Dawn Lassiter, Joe and Lynn Barlow, David and Janie Darden, John and Mary Ann Eure, Sue P. Burton, Alan and Lynne Garner, Carroll G. Frohman

Donations to the Memorial Garden Fund in memory of James "Jim" M. Culliton, Jr. have been given by Curtiss and Betty Johnson, Jim and Wanda Thorsen, Marjorie McLemore

Stewardship Report

"We are Walking by Faith through Commitment"



January 2022 - Church Family Assistance - \$615.00

February 2022 - Meals on Wheels - \$785.00

March 2022 - Western Tidewater Free Clinic - \$815.00

April 2022 - Winter Shelter - \$730.00

May 2022 - SCC Scholarship - \$705.00

New Adult Sunday School Class



If you are looking for a Sunday school class, come join a new class meeting on the 3rd floor in the former Son Crusaders room. We will dive into studying the book of Philippians. We will focus on what God's word is telling us and how we can apply it to our personal lives. We will enjoy fellowship in a discussion-style class. Kim Parr will be the class facilitator.



Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 26th – Thursday, June 30th

5:30 pm Dinner – 6:00 – 8:00 pm VBS

VBS is quickly approaching! Please look at the sign-up sheets outside of the Board of Christian Education office and sign up to volunteer. Without volunteers, we would not be able to have a VBS each year. Please have your children invite friends to come with them this year. If you have someone you would like to send an invitation to, please let Priscilla know. This is a fun week sharing God's word with the children of our church and others from the community! If you have any questions, please contact Priscilla @ pbunch121@gmail.com.



VBS Giving Tree

To help offset the cost of Vacation Bible School this year, we will have a Giving Tree. The tree will have tags with items needed for VBS and will be placed on the table outside of the Board of Christian Education office. Most of these items can be purchased at Dollar Tree or Walmart. These items will be used to make decorations for the church and crafts. If you can take a tag, please return the item to the church no later than Sunday, June 5th. There will be a tub outside of the Board of Christian Education office for your items. If you have any questions about your tag, please see Priscilla Bunch. The Board of Christian Education appreciates you supporting our Vacation Bible School this year.



June

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Day #1:	1 John 1:5-7	Day #16:	Luke 17:3-4
Day #2:	1 John 1:8-10	Day #17:	Matthew 6:12,14-15
Day #3:	1 John 2:1-4	Day #18:	Psalm 86:3-5
Day #4:	1 John 2:5-8	Day #19:	Psalm 103:1-4
Day #5:	1 John 2:9-11	Day #20:	Psalm 32:1-5
Day #6:	1 John 2:12-14	Day #21:	Ephesians 1:3-7
Day #7:	Matthew 18:21-22	Day #22:	Colossians 1:9-14
Day #8:	Matthew 5:23-24	Day #23:	James 5:15-16
Day #9:	Mark 11:24-25	Day #24:	Romans 3:21-24
Day #10:	Colossians 3:12-13	Day #25:	Romans 3:25-26
Day #11:	Ephesians 4:26-27	Day #26:	Luke 7:44-50
Day #12:	Ephesians 4:31-32	Day #27:	Micah 7:18-19
Day #13:	Psalm 103:8-12	Day #28:	Acts 2:37-39
Day #14:	2 Corinthians 2:5-8	Day #29:	Romans 8:1-4
Day #15:	2 Corinthians 2:9-11	Day #30:	John 8:1-11

Commit to reading your bible 10 minutes each day and meditate on the scripture you have read.

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 			1 3:30pm Grief Support Group 7:00pm Board of Christian Ed 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3 11:30am Meals on Wheels	
5 Trinity Sunday Observed 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	6	7 1:00pm Saints Alive	8 3:30pm Grief Support Group 6:30pm Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	9 10:00am Prayer Team 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	10 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:45pm Game Night	11
12 9:30am King's Ringers 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	13 	14 1:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry	15 3:30pm Grief Support Group 6:30pm Board of Finance 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	16 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	17 11:30am Meals on Wheels	
19 Father's Day 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	20 Newsletter Articles Due 	21 12:00pm Saints Alive Potluck 3:00pm Food Pantry	22 3:30pm Grief Support Group 6:30pm House of Worship 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	24 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:45pm Game Night	25
26 Vacation Bible School 6pm-8pm 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 5:30pm VBS Dinner	27 Vacation Bible School 6pm-8pm 5:30pm VBS Dinner	28 Vacation Bible School 6pm-8pm 1:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:30pm VBS Dinner	29 Vacation Bible School 6pm-8pm 3:30pm Grief Support Group 5:30pm VBS Dinner 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 Vacation Bible School 6pm-8pm 10:00am Thursday Crafters 5:30pm VBS Dinner 6:45pm Chancel Handbell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir		