

# The Towers Newsletter

216 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434  
Website: [www.suffolkchristian.org](http://www.suffolkchristian.org)

  
*November*  
**2024**



## Pastor's Column

I hope that you are enjoying the cool, crisp days of autumn and the beauty around us as the leaves begin to change. As we move into November, we have much to be grateful for. Here are some of the things on my list:

- I remain grateful for each of you, and the many ways you minister within our congregation and in our community.
- I am grateful that Grace is back at the organ and that Dana has stepped up to lead the choir while Janet recuperates. I am grateful for your prayers and care for Janet and for Richard.
- I am grateful for the commitment and hard work of our Pastor Search Team. They continue to pray and work diligently to identify the person God has been preparing to be our new pastor.
- I am grateful for our staff and the hard work they all do to care for us and advance the ministries of our church. I am grateful for Dae and her many years of service to SCC.
- I am grateful for all those who said "Yes!" to serving on our boards and ministry teams.
- I am grateful for our building and those that work so hard to keep it clean and in good repair. I am especially grateful that we get to participate in Building for Hope and pray that it will advance our mission and help us to thrive in the days ahead.
- I am grateful for our children and youth who serve as our acolytes and bell ringers, help in our food pantry, and in many other ways.
- I am grateful that one of the freedoms we enjoy is the privilege of gathering each week for worship. I encourage you to exercise your right and privilege to vote.

What would you add to this list? God has richly blessed us, please join me in offering thanks!

This is a busy season in the life of the church. I hope that you will be able to support the Church Bazaar on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also, plan to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> –it will be a great evening of feasting and fellowship.

As always, it's an honor and a joy to be on the journey with you, Tracy



**You may now watch our service LIVE Sunday mornings!**

Go to: [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

[Suffolk Christian Live Worship / Subscribe](https://www.youtube.com)

**You also find us on:**

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

Facebook



The Board of Deacons Reports....from the October 9, 2024 Meeting

\*Congregational updates were given by Dr. Hartman. Deacons approved a Congregational Outreach initiative where by those church members with medical concerns or other needs would be contacted (phone or visit) by a deacon during the following month. (This is in addition to the cards that are sent by Carman Goben, Sunshine coordinator.)

\*The yellow envelope mission for November is Beacon of Hope and December, Crossover Global Ministries

\*The Pastoral Search Team reported that they are continuing to talk with a candidate as well as another interested person.

\*Our "Building for Hope" program application with the Old Town Community Church of Alexandria was accepted and one person has volunteered to be a part of the team. Another individual is still needed.

\*The deacons will work on distributing "welcome" bags to the new residents of the Elliott on Main St.

\*The deacons authorized the collection of financial support from the congregation to be sent to Samaritan's Purse for immediate hurricane relief efforts. (Helene and Milton) This collection will take place for four Sundays, Oct. 13-Nov. 3.

### Stewardship Report

*"We are Walking by Faith through Commitment"*

**January-September 2024 income - \$197,508.63**

**(includes \$20,000.00 from investments)**

**January-September 2024 expenses - \$199,850.84**

**Dollars for Supply & Multiply - \$1,921.48**

**(includes special monthly mission)**

Join us for  
Journey Sunday  
School Class

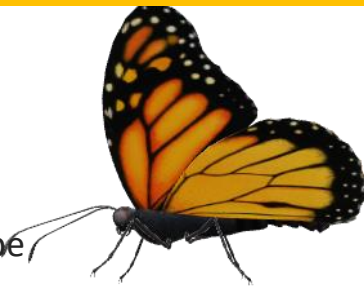


Journey Sunday School Class (formerly Son Worshipers/Crusaders), has a new classroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, room #225 off the commons area (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom). Come join us for a lively discussion on the book of John.



Reporting on Missions....

## November's **Yellow** Envelope Mission: Beacon of Hope

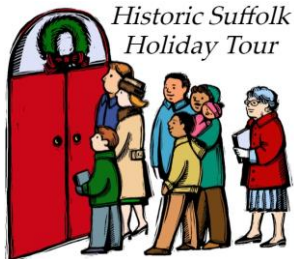


Beacon of Hope in Western Tidewater, Inc. was created to bridge the sheltering gap for individuals facing homelessness in Suffolk and the Western Tidewater region. When congregate shelters closed their door due to the Covid pandemic, founder Cheryl Griffin utilized her 8 years' experience in shelter management, and strong network of support to organize an alternative, non-congregate shelter. As such, Beacon of Hope in Western Tidewater emerged as a refuge for those seeking shelter and has served over 155 individuals within the first 4 years.

Through the collective support of the City of Suffolk and various nonprofits, faith groups, foundations, and community members; Beacon of Hope continues to serve and advocate for the homeless population in Suffolk and Western Tidewater. We are steadfast in our mission to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have a warm and safe place to stay during the coldest months.

This winter, the city will again be funding a hotel shelter program. Beacon of Hope needs funds from the community for things such as licenses, insurance, supplies, accounting, phones, occasional transportation costs, and the usual business expenses.

We will be asking churches to provide meals again this year, as we have in the past. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Cheryl Griffin at 757-304-2883.



Historic Suffolk  
Holiday Tour

*Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and  
Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 - 5:00 pm*



*The Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society is sponsoring a return of the Holiday Tour in downtown Suffolk on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00 pm. The Historical Society has invited Suffolk Christian Church to participate in the tour by opening our sanctuary to the tour guests. The Board of Deacons has approved our participation. We need volunteers to help prepare for the tour as well as volunteers to help on the two days of the tour. Please let Beverly McGahee or Joyce Trump know if you are willing to participate in this special event.*



## Fall Bazaar

Our annual Fall Bazaar is quickly approaching. Please look at the bulletin board outside of the Board of Christian Education office and sign up to help. We always need baked goods, candies, bread, homemade pickles, jams, jellies, etc. The proceeds from our bazaar will be given to our church's General fund. If you are not sure how you can help the day of the bazaar, please contact Priscilla Bunch.



## *In Memory of*

**A donation to the General Fund in memory of Fannie and Albro Ellis  
has been given by H. Jan Ellis and Family**



*Thanksgiving  
Baskets*

## **Thanksgiving Fruit Baskets**

The Board of Deacons is once again sponsoring the distribution of Thanksgiving fruit baskets to the homebound of our church. (Sometimes we also take fruit to those who are having difficult times and need to know we care.) We are inviting you to participate with us by bringing your gift of fruit to church on Sunday morning (November 24) and leave it in the church library. Your contribution of oranges, pears, apples, grapefruit, grapes, bananas, etc. will help tremendously as we seek to remember those who are unable to be at church with us. We will assemble the fruit that morning and deliver following the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would like to help by making a delivery or two, we would appreciate that as well. You may volunteer that Sunday morning or call Robert Boyce (757 255-4867), Janet Nemish (757 589-5772) or Beverly McGahee (757 934-1398) if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of this mission to our members.



Greetings,

**Cards**  
from  
**Care & Concern**

The Care and Concern Committee serves the church in various ways to include our card ministry. We are seeking volunteers to assist in this mission by sending cards to our church members offering support, get well wishes, condolences, etc. Cards and postage stamps are provided. Each volunteer handles the cards for their assigned month. Anyone wishing to participate in this ministry please let me know.

Blessings,

Carman Goben

[carmangoben@gmail.com](mailto:carmangoben@gmail.com)

757-650-7360



Tommy Ashcraft	11/01
Bryce Jones	11/01
Joyce Ralph	11/02
Lee Bradshaw	11/02
Lindsey Young	11/03
John Kinsey Jr.	11/04
Christopher Ashcraft	11/04
Toni Shank	11/05
Judy Gardner	11/06
Janie Darden	11/06
Catelyn Joyner	11/06
Tyler Bunch	11/08
Lucca Rice	11/08
Lynne Copeland	11/09
Charles Parr Sr.	11/09
Pat Wyatt	11/10
Brandon Ashcraft	11/10
Brayden Stroup	11/11
Audrey Johnson	11/12
Dae Nixon	11/12
Marissa Banton	11/12
Billie Harry	11/13
Shae Masters	11/13
Thomas Savage	11/16
Wanda Thorsen	11/17
Andra Bailey	11/17
Aubrey Smith	11/18
Jim Topping	11/20
Mary Beth Carden	11/21
Alex Scott	11/22
Nola Jiles	11/23
Bobby Ralph	11/24
Brenda Wright	11/27
Tim Johnson	11/28
Alex Brown	11/28
Linda Culliton	11/29
Samantha Brown	11/29

## Special Offering for Samaritan's Purse

Our special offering for Samaritan's Purse, designated for Hurricane Relief, has reached \$1,655.00 so far. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please respond by Sunday, November 3. Checks should be made payable to Suffolk Christian Church.



**ForKids is one of the largest service providers to children and families experiencing homelessness in Virginia. They serve 14 cities and counties in Hampton Roads by providing housing solutions, education and critical services.**

**The ForKids organization helped numerous children last year to have a brighter Christmas morning. We will be collecting toys this year for this organization. The tubs will be put out by the Christmas tree in the south foyer on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor by Sunday, November 24th. Please return the toys (unwrapped) to the church no later than Wednesday, December 11th. All toys will be taken to the organization on Thursday, December 12th.**

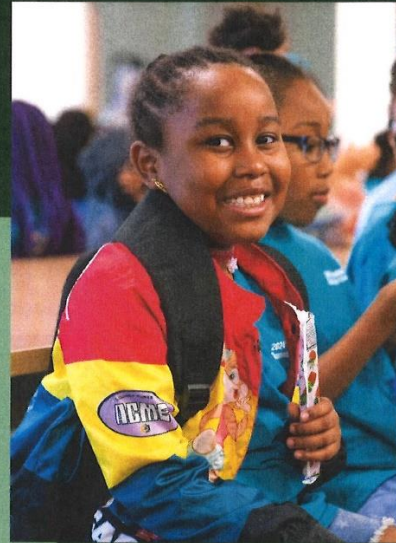
**There is a list of suggested toys/items in the newsletter. Your support of this organization is greatly appreciated by those in our community and will bring smiles to children who may be less fortunate that we are at this time. If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.**



**Mark your Calendars!  
November 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>  
Come join in the fellowship!**

# Make This Season Bright

ForKids Holiday Toy Drive



## Teens, ages 13-18:

- Art supplies and craft kits
- Manicure and makeup sets
- Small drones
- Jewelry, watches, purses, and belt bags
- Skateboards, bikes, rollerblades, scooters with helmets
- Electronics - Bluetooth speakers, wireless earbuds
- Lego sets
- Sports items- basketballs, footballs, soccer balls
- Cozy slippers, robes, eye masks
- Multicultural hair product sets
- Hoodies
- Cozy Socks
- Cozy Blankets
- NFL team merchandise

## Ages 9-12

- Arts, craft, and slime making kits
- Jewelry sets and purses
- Multicultural dolls
- Hair accessory sets
- Lego sets
- Musical instruments
- Skateboards, bikes, roller blades, scooters with helmets
- Sports items- basketballs, footballs, soccer balls
- Minecraft, Roblox, Fortnite items
- Star Wars, Transformers, superhero items
- Remote control cars

## ForKids

**Donations accepted**  
**Nov 27 - Dec 15**  
**M - F, 9 - 5**

ForKids Chesapeake  
 1001 Poindexter St.

ForKids Suffolk  
 119 W. Constance Rd.

## Ages 5-8

- Arts & craft kits
- Dinosaur sets
- Popular character dolls and figurines
- Multicultural dolls
- Hot Wheels sets
- Board games
- Bristle Blocks
- Dress-up and nail decorating kits
- Kitchen play sets
- Skateboards, bikes, roller blades, scooters with helmets

## Infants & Toddlers

- Popular character toys
- Mega Bloks
- Baby Einstein
- Counting or stacking toys
- Fisher Price toys
- Little Tikes
- Musical Instruments
- Wooden puzzles
- Scooting toys
- Tool and construction sets
- Tonka Trucks
- Wagons
- Vtech and LeapFrog



**Skip the holiday lines and order items easily using the Amazon ForKids Holiday Wishlist.**

**Thanks to you, every child will receive 3 toys this holiday season.**

**New and unwrapped items and brand new coats only. Please no toy weapons, weapon accessories, squirt guns, swords, machine guns, or ninja sets.**

**To download this flyer visit: [ForKids.org/host-a-drive](http://ForKids.org/host-a-drive).**

**For more information**  
**Call (757) 622-6400**  
**E-mail [donations@forkids.org](mailto:donations@forkids.org)**

Donate to ForKids at:  
[www.forkids.org](http://www.forkids.org)



Thanksgiving  
Dinner

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 24, at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will serve the traditional thanksgiving dinner of turkey, dressing, gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans, roll and dessert.

Tickets are \$14.00 and will be available after worship service each Sunday beginning Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, and during the week in the church office. The deadline to purchase a ticket is Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Following the dinner, we will have a dessert auction. The proceeds will be given to a Mission of our church.

If you would like to donate a dessert for the auction, please contact Cheryl Ashcraft @ 757-418-4553 or Priscilla Bunch @ 757-539-8930. We would like to know if you can make a dessert for the auction by Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.



*"Blessing and glory and  
wisdom and thanksgiving and  
honor and power and might  
be to our God  
forever and ever! Amen."*

Revelation 7:12, NRSV

### Thanksgiving Bag Drive

We would like to give our Food Pantry recipients a "Thanksgiving Bag" this year to go along with their gift cards which were approved by the Board of Deacons. The following is a list of items needed for each bag. Please return your items to the church no later than Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, so we can fill the bags and distribute them on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

- 2 canned vegetables – corn, green beans, peas, carrots
- 1 large can collard greens
- 1 box of instant mashed potatoes
- 1 box stuffing mix
- 1 large or 2 small cans of yams
- 2 packets of turkey gravy mix
- 1 can cranberry sauce





**The little red wagon will be at the North entrance every first Sunday for food pantry donations. Our food pantry is running low on items. Below is a list of items needed for our food pantry:**

**Individual cups Applesauce; Canned fruit or individual cups of Fruit; Nabs; Individual packets Oatmeal; Pop Tarts; Small boxes of Cereal; Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles; Macaroni & Cheese; Canned Meats; Canned Vegetables, Canned Beefaroni or Spaghetti; Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers; Protein Shakes, Boxed Milk, Bottled Water.**

**The above is just a suggested list...if you can think of other things, please feel free to bring to our Food Pantry.**



**January 2024 - SCC Suffolk Schools Partnership - \$1,465.11**  
**February 2024 - Coats for Community - \$870.00**  
**March 2024 - Western Tidewater Free Clinic - \$916.00**  
**April 2024 - SCC Scholarship Fund - \$775.00**  
**May 2024 - Crisis Pregnancy Center-\$510.00**  
**June 2024 - Meals on Wheels - \$825.00**  
**July 2024 - SCC Family Assistance - \$975.00**  
**August 2024 - Genieve Shelter - \$610.00**  
**September 2024 - Neighbors in Need - \$480.00**  
**October 2024 - Suffolk Christian Fellowship Ctr -\$445.00**



Have you moved? Telephone number changed? Email address changed? In order to keep our Church Family Directory current, please contact the church office at [suffolkchristianchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:suffolkchristianchurchoffice@gmail.com) or by phone at (757) 539-9182 to update your contact information.



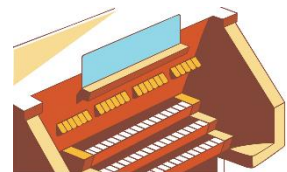
Looking ahead.... the Nov./Dec. meeting of FFW will take place on Monday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please join us for dinner and a Christmas wreath-making program presented by Helen Johnson. More information to follow.... Please sign up on the bulletin board and remember you are always welcome to bring a friend.



### SCC at the Cathedral

Due to other commitments, our usual corps of acolytes and parents could not attend the 2024 National Acolyte Festival celebrated at the Cathedral Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Washington National Cathedral, on October 12<sup>th</sup>; however, Abigail Bilby and Luca Tondin carried our cross and banner down the aisle in procession. In front of us sat a delegation from South Dakota. Several churches were not able to attend due to hurricane damage to their areas, although some congregations affected persevered to send their delegations. More than 600 acolytes attended from across the US, with the delegation from Paris having traveled the farthest. The sermon delivered by The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1JLIXqCvRM>.

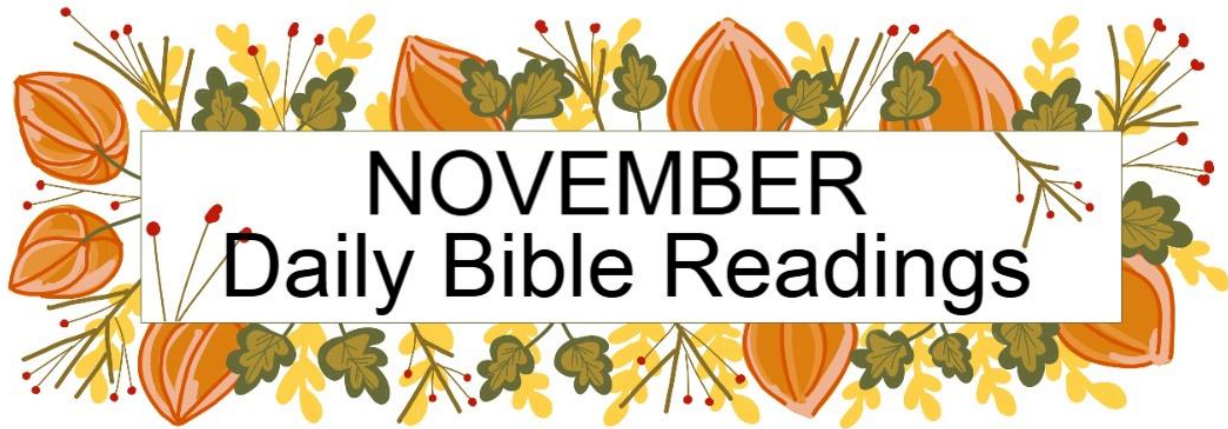
### From the Board of Music:



Grace Garner has been hired as our part time organist. Please welcome her when you see her. We're glad to hear the sounds of our organ. She started playing on October 13th. Thank you Grace!

Welcome back!





Day 1: Psalm 107:1

Day 2: 1 Chronicles 29:13

Day 3: Daniel 2:23

Day 4: Psalm 95:2-3

Day 5: Philippians 4:6

Day 6: Philemon 1:4

Day 7: Psalm 100:4

Day 8: Isaiah 12:4

Day 9: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Day 10: Psalm 106:1

Day 11: Colossians 3:16

Day 12: Hebrews 12:28

Day 13: Psalm 118:1-8

Day 14: Psalm 69:30

Day 15: Psalm 105:1

Day 16: Colossians 4:2

Day 17: Psalm 28:7

Day 18: Revelation 7:12

Day 19: Jeremiah 33:11

Day 20: Ephesians 5:20

Day 21: Colossians 3:15

Day 22: Luke 22:19

Day 23: Jonah 2:9

Day 24: Revelation 4:9-11

Day 25: Psalm 75:1

Day 26: Daniel 6:10

Day 27: Psalm 136:1-3




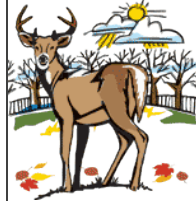



Day 28: 2 Corinthians 1:11

Day 29: Psalm 30:12

Day 30: Revelation 11:17

These verses will give us a grateful attitude daily. Commit to reading these verses and how they can help you be grateful each day.

# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2  FALL BAZAAR 9:00 am to 2:00pm
3 9:15am Handbell Choir 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service  Fall Back	4	5 1:00p Saints Alive       7:00p Bible Study-Angels	6 10:00am Bible Study      6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous bus.meeting 7:00p Board of Christian Education	7 10:00am Thursday Crafters      7:15pm Chancel Choir	8	9 
10 9:15am Handbell Choir 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service	11  <b>VETERANS DAY</b>	12 1:00p Saints Alive 3:00p Food Pantry     7:00p Bible Study-Angels	13 10:00am Bible Study      6:30p Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	14 10:00am Thursday Crafters   2:00p Prayer Team    7:15pm Chancel Choir	15  Game Night   7:00 pm Game Night	16 7:00am-1:00pm Holland District Ruritan Convention
17 9:15am Handbell Choir 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service	18  *Newsletter articles for December due	19 12:00p Saints Alive Potluck 3:00p Food Pantry     7:00p Bible Study-Angels	20 6:30p Board of Finance 7:00pm Board of Bldg. & Grounds 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	21 10:00am Thursday Crafters     7:15pm Chancel Choir	22 9:00am Set up for Thanksgiving Dinner	23
24 9:15am Handbell Choir 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service    5:00p Thanksgiving Dinner	25	26 1:00p Saints Alive 3:00p Food Pantry	27 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	28  Happy THANKS GIVING	29  Game Night  7:00 pm Game Night	30 

The Christmas season is approaching quickly, and it is time to be thinking about placing your order for Christmas greenery, arrangements, and poinsettias. If you would like to place an order for any of the items listed below, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please contact Cheryl Ashcraft at 757-418-4553.

The DEADLINE for orders is Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

	2 Outside Front Wreaths	\$85 each
	4 Upstairs Balcony Wreaths	\$85 each
	2 Inside Front Column Wreaths	\$50 each
	1 Side Foyer Arrangement	\$40
	<del>1 Huntboard Arrangement</del> Sold	\$50
	<del>Piano/Organ Arrangement</del> Sold	\$40
	<del>Upstairs Foyer Arrangement (outside of Sanctuary)</del> Sold	\$40
	<del>1 Downstairs Newel Post Swag</del> Sold	\$40
	2 Wreaths North Entrance Columns	\$50 each
	2 Wreaths North Entrance Doors	\$50 each
	2 Wreaths Iron Gates Front Entrance	\$30 each
	17 Boxwood Wreaths Outside Windows	\$30 each
	North Foyer Arrangement	\$40
	North Second Floor Foyer Arrangement	\$40
	Wreath Beside Office Door	\$50
	2 Wreaths Iron Gates Walkway	\$30 each
	Miscellaneous items (greens, candles, etc.)	\$100

Greenery/Arrangements in Honor/Memory of: [Circle one]

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettias (55 poinsettias are needed to fill the poinsettia tree)

Quantity	Total (\$15 each)

Poinsettias In Honor/Memory of: [Circle one]

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mark your check "Christmas Flowers" and return with your order form to the church office, Attention: Cheryl Ashcraft