The Towers Newsletter

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

November 2025

Pastor's Column

The month of November has arrived, which typically brings in a season of thanksgiving. If we were to write down a list of all the things we could thank God for I'm sure we could write a book. We should always pray to God when we are in times of need or times of struggle, because scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. However, we should always take time to thank God for all that we are blessed with. Colossians 3:17 reads, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." At the end of the month many of us will gather around tables with our loved ones to eat scrumptious food. We will laugh at the silly jokes told around the table. We will mourn those whose seats will remain vacant. We will hold each other a little bit tighter. Let us be thankful that God has brought us thus far. There is plenty of work to do as the Church, but one of those tasks is to take a break from the busy work of life and simply thank God. Finally, as we thank God for all we get to enjoy, let us not forget about those who are without, whose bellies are empty, and have nowhere to rest. Let us extend our thanksgiving into action of feeding the hungry.

Your friend in Christ,

Reverend Donald Waltz

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 October 8, 2025 meeting

As the arrival of Fall is upon us, a busy time lies ahead.
Rev. Waltz has been busy with his work towards his master's degree, writing sermons and visitations to homebound members of our congregation. He is working diligently to be the best pastor to SCC as he can be. We are thrilled with his progress so far.

Sara and Steven Keene are temporarily staying at the Hilton Garden Inn due to damage their home suffered through a leaking water heater. The Board of Deacons upon being notified of their situation voted to provide assistance with meals during this trying time. If anyone in the congregation wishes to help, please contact Debra Carr to coordinate a meal.

The additions to the Veteran's Board have been collected and the next step will be to have them engraved and add to the board. We hope to have this done by Veteran's Day.

The directory is still being updated.

As stated above, this season is always a busy one and if you are able to volunteer to help with upcoming festivals, trunk or treat or any activity in the church, please step up. We can always use everyone's help.

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 - $528.26
June 2025 – Meals on Wheels - $684.00
July 2025 – SCC/Suffolk Schools Partnership - $765.00
August 2025 – SCC Family Assistance - $535.00
September 2025 – Neighbors in Need -$545.00
October 2025 – Beacon of Hope in Western Tidewater -$705.00

Stewardship Report

"We are Walking by Faith through Commitment"

January-August 2025 income - $193,411.15
(includes $40,000 from investments)
January-August 2025 expenses - $171,741.36
Emergency Relief Fund - $246.00 (sent Mercy Chef's $2,188)

Reporting on Missions….

November's Yellow Envelope Mission: Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center

The mission we are supporting for the month of November is the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center. This organization works to bridge the service gap for under- resourced and food insecure communities in Suffolk and Western Tidewater. They provide food, ministerial and counseling services, hope and encouragement, as well as clothing and household items as they become available. Co-founder and Chief Operations Officer, Lorna Slaughter, continues to be creative in ways to expand food insecurity services in our area for those that cannot get to their food pantry, but are in need of food. In addition to their regular daytime hours, they have added evening hours and an evening shift in Northern Suffolk for working families. Please support this much needed ministry in our local community.

L.A.M.B.S. Club

Having children in the Church is a blessing, and it takes many of us to assist in nurturing their growth in Jesus. If you feel led to help with L.A.M.B.S. Club on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the office!

Care and Concern Ministry

The Care and Concern Ministry is a very active part of Suffolk Christian Church. We are so grateful for our monthly volunteers who deliver meals to our shut-ins and to those who might need a meal following hospitalization. We also thank those who take a month to send cards to our members. We thank all of our church members who graciously provide food for our funeral receptions and also help in the preparation of receptions. At a recent meeting, there were thirteen church members who attended, signed up for and will cover monthly meals and receptions for 2026. But there is always room for more! We invite you to join us as we continue to minister to our church family. Monthly meal volunteers and funeral reception coordinators are now listed in the weekly bulletin. Any of us would be happy to talk with you about the many ways you can help.

Elaine Abernathy and Claudia Salmon – Co-Facilitators

Tommy Ashcraft	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
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
Bethany Waltz	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
Linda Culliton	11/29

Thanksgiving Fruit Baskets

The Board of Deacons is once again sponsoring the distribution of Thanksgiving fruit baskets to the homebound of our church and to those who are having difficult times and need our love and care. We are inviting you to participate with us by bringing your gift of fruit to church on Sunday morning, November 23rd, and leaving it in the church library. Your contributions of oranges, apples, pears, grapes, bananas, grapefruit, etc., will help tremendously as we seek to remember those who are unable to be at church with us.

We will assemble the fruit baskets that morning and deliver them 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 (757-672-2429) or Janet Nemish (757-589-5772) if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of this mission to our members.

Thanks We would like to take a moment to thank everyone for the kindness shown to us after Janet's recent surgery. The Care and Concern Committee as well as the other individuals who brought food, visited, called and checked on our well being was most appreciated. Recovery is progressing slowly but surely and hopefully all will be back to normal soon. May God bless everyone and thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

Janet and Joe Simmons

SUFFOLK CHRISTIAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN INVITES

WOMEN, MEN, AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US FOR A

AND

Shopping at DeWayne's Christmas Land and Garden Center

Monday, December 8, 2025

Cost Per Person $100.00

Reservation and Final Payment Due November 2nd

We will travel by motor coach from the Church Parking lot at 8:00 AM

Returning Home at approximately 8:00 PM

Mid-Morning Breakfast Provided as we travel
Dinner on your own at
Smithfield Chicken and Barbeque
We will enjoy dessert on the way home

If you are not familiar with "The Rudy", it is a small hometown Theater located in Selma, NC. The show consists of various types of Christmas Music, a sing along and a comedian. DeWayne's is a Christmas shopper's delight with unique gifts and Christmas Décor. We will enjoy each other's company and enjoy beautiful Christmas Music, shopping and good food.

Hope you will join us.

There is a sign-up sheet outside the office.

Make checks payable to Suffolk Christian Church and leave in Jim Goben's Office Box

FOOD PANTRY *Needs*

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.
Also needed: Toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, deodorant, paper plates, laundry detergent, soap, tissues, napkins, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

Any items you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

A donation to the General Fund in memory of Jane and Bill Ellis has been given by Jan Ellis and Family.

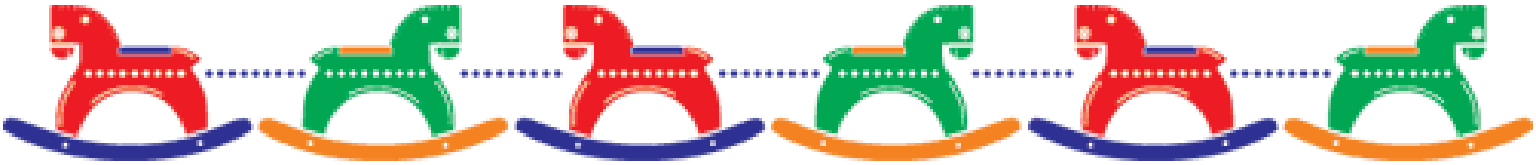
Make This Season Bright
ForKids Holiday Toy Drive
Suggested List

Teens, ages 13-18: Art supplies and craft kits • Friendship bracelet kits • Manicure and makeup sets • Perfume/body spray sets • Multicultural hair product sets • Jewelry, watches, purses, and belt bags • Skateboards, bikes, rollerblades, scooters with helmets • Electronics- Bluetooth speakers, wireless earbuds/ headphones, small cameras • Small drones • Lego sets • Sport items- basketballs, footballs, soccer balls • NFL + NBA merchandise • Posters/wall art • Cozy slippers and robes • Cozy socks • Cozy blankets • Hoodies

Ages 9 – 12: Arts, crafts, and slime making kits • Jewelry sets and purses • Multicultural dolls • Hair accessories • Lego sets • Musical instruments • Skateboards, bikes, scooters with helmets • Sport items- basketballs, footballs, soccer balls • Minecraft, Roblox, Fortnite items • Remote control cars • Sensory Toys

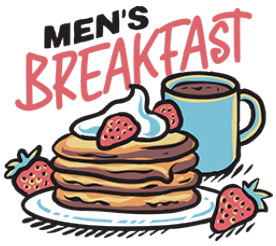
Ages 5-8: Arts and crafts kits • Dinosaur sets • Popular character dolls and figurines • Multicultural dolls • Hot wheels sets • Board games • Bristle blocks • Dress-up and nail decorating kits • Kitchen play sets • Skateboards, bikes, scooters with helmets • Sensory

Toys Infants & Toddlers: Popular character toys • Mega blocks • 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



FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN

The November/December “meeting” of FFW is a field trip!! Come, join us on Monday, Dec. 8, 2025 for a bus trip to Smithfield, NC to the Rudy Theater. (Please see flyer in this newsletter.) We will share a late breakfast/lunch on the way, enjoy their entertaining Christmas Jubilee, visit the huge DeWayne’s Garden Center and have dinner at Smithfield Barbeque. (The cost for this event is $100 per person, with dinner on your own.) Please sign up on the bulletin board by the office and make your payment to hold your spot. This event is open to the entire church and we hope you will consider joining us. Remember…. you are always welcome to bring a friend!



Men’s Fellowship

Suffolk Christian Men’s Fellowship is planning a breakfast event for Sunday, November 16th at 8:30 a.m. in our church fellowship hall. We invite our men to please join us for a morning of food and fellowship as we seek re-enforcement and strengthening of our Christian faith. A program will be presented by Josh Worrell and Seth Brown, co-founders of Crossover Global Missions. They both have been missionaries in other countries but are now focused on the Philippines as they strive to spread the word of God to others. The Deacons have designated Crossover Global Missions as one of the missions which is supported by Suffolk Christian Church. They have a remarkable story to share. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend. Please feel free to invite a friend. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the church office

Please Join Us for "A Thrill of Hope"

Sunday, December 14, 2025
at 5:00PM

Celebrate the season with *A Thrill of Hope*, a dynamic Christmas musical that retells the story of Christ's birth through four inspiring themes—**Hope, Love, Peace,** and **Joy**. Composer **Joel Raney** has woven together familiar carols into beautiful medleys that capture the heart of Advent and Christmas. The performance culminates in an uplifting celebration of the true joy of the season.

Come share in the music, message, and meaning of Christmas with us!

Community Clothes Closet News

The next clothes giveaway will take place Saturday, November 15th from 9:00am-12:00 pm. This event will include giving away coats and winter wear as well. How can you help this ministry?!!! While cleaning out and preparing your fall and winter clothes, we will graciously accept your unwanted winter items. We are in need of men's winter clothing to include sweaters, long sleeve shirts, pants, hoodies, sweatshirts, belts and shoes. We are also critically low in young boys and girls winter clothes. Also needed are donations of winter coats, socks, hats and gloves. Please be mindful that the donated items are gently used and without stains, rips, broken zippers and missing buttons. There are clothing donation drop off bins located in the library. If you could volunteer for this event please contact Lisa McLaughlin. Huge thanks to the congregation for always supporting this mission!

**Announcing another mission opportunity to serve our community members! We will now have the clothes closet open on the last Tuesday of the month from 12:00PM-4:00PM in conjunction with the Food Pantry from 3:00PM-4:00PM. Community members in need of clothing may now come during the new hours on the last Tuesday of the month.

As we begin a new era, a new church sign has been installed, and it looks wonderful hanging above our brick wall. We would like to thank Glynn and Janice Writtenberry for once again updating our sign. In 1986, the Writtenberrys gave this gift in loving memory of their newborn son, Matthew Alexander. Since then, they have continued to provide needed maintenance. Thank you for continuing to bless our Church.

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 23, 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 **$15.00** and will be available after worship service each Sunday beginning Sunday, November 02nd, and during the week in the church office. **The deadline to purchase a ticket is Wednesday, November 19th.**

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 19th.

Kalamoo LEGO Program Monthly Summary

September 25, 2025

Summary of

Monday Mornings

General Club

We have three groups: PreK-K, 1st – 3rd, and 4th- up

We are using the LEGO Brick-Q curriculum this fall, which emphasizes physics. • Twenty-six children, from pre-K to 8th grade, are registered for the club. • Parent/guardian participation. They are helpers, teachers, and assistants. • Parents created a Slack account to stay connected.

• Students are mostly homeschooled.

FIRST LEGO League Teams (FLL)

- Two teams are participating in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge
  - FLL Division 1 has four members,
  - FLL Division 2 has eight members.
- They haven't confirmed their names yet.
- The first challenge meet is on December 6th in Newport News.

Thursday Evenings (6:00 to 7:30 PM)

General Club

We have three groups: PreK-K, 1st – 3rd, and 4th- up

We are using the LEGO Brick-Q curriculum this fall, which emphasizes physics.

- ROOM for more students - twenty-six registered, from pre-K to 8th grade, but have lower attendance.
- Parent/guardian participation. They are helpers, teachers, and assistants. • Parents created a Slack account to stay connected.
- Mix of students from homeschool, private, and public schools

FIRST Teams

- One **FIRST LEGO League Challenge Division 1** with four members,
  - They haven't confirmed their names yet.
  - Parents/Guardians are also using Slack for communication.

- **FIRST Tech** has 6th to 12th graders and has seven members.
  - Team name is Great Dismal Robotics.
  - They are now meeting on Saturday morning as well to build their bot.
  - Team Lead Mentor is James Hobbard, an Engineer from Huntington Ingles.
  - Other mentors include Rick Hamlin, a retired USCG Electronics Warrant Officer; IT specialist Patrick Gilson; and Coder Ms. Nicole Izquierdo. The Team Secretary is Catherine Fisk.

- The Tech Team challenge is scheduled for January 11th in Powhatan and January 18th in Norfolk for qualifiers.
- Tech team contact is catherine@kalamoo.org

Current Needs

We can use a few Thursday evening mentors for both teams. The FIRST LEGO League Teams still need to raise about $400 each. And the Tech needs a little more than that and requires some basic parts and tools for their team.

The commitment is for the evenings. Currently, they meet on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30pm and will need to gather at least once more in the fall before competitions.

Here's more information on FIRST Tech: https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc

LEGO Program contact Brittany Hamlin: brittany@kalamoo.org.

Would you like to attend one of our sessions? Call Cusi or Brittany to set that up. 757-263-0406 I appreciate your support.

Cusi Hamlin cusi@kalamoo.org

BUILDING FOR HOPE

Greetings from the SCC Building For Hope Team!

As most of you are aware, SCC went "all in" when we had the opportunity to be a part of the first cohort of Building For Hope (B4H) at the beginning of this year. This is a two-year commitment and as hard as it is to believe, we are already nearing the end of the first year.

Throughout the past year, SCC has formed a six-member B4H Team from within our congregation (Jim Goben, Carman Goben, Evelyn Jones, Beverly McGahee, Jim Judkins, and Bracey Parr). Beginning the year under the guidance and leadership of Rev. Dr. Tracy Hartman, we now continue with Pastor D.J. Waltz at the helm. Just recently Jim Goben, Carman Goben, and Pastor Waltz attended the final 2-1/2 day in-person plenary session in Alexandria with 12 other churches from across the country. As always, it was an incredibly informative, uplifting, and rejuvenating experience. While we will certainly miss all the great new friends we've made throughout the year, we know that we will still engage with them virtually throughout 2026 as we continue to discern what God would have us do at SCC and put some things in motion.

And our SCC B4H Team is prepared to do just that….put some things in motion. At our last meeting on October 12th, we all agreed on an initial social enterprise plan and it is our intention to bring our ideas before the congregation soon! In the meantime, we would like to share with you a few things we've learned along this journey:

1. **We are not alone**. Every church in the first cohort of B4H had basically the same story to tell: they have large church buildings with declining congregations, they have A LOT of unused spaces within their church buildings, and while they all do incredible mission work, they feel that there is more they could do.
2. **Not every community is the same** and, therefore, the needs of those communities vary. It is up to us, as a church of God and disciples of Jesus Christ, to determine what those needs are in our own community and find ways to fulfill them.
3. **This journey of creating a social enterprise is a marathon, not a sprint**. It may take several more months, or even years, to get where we want to be. And we may have several failures along the way. But we will overcome them with God's help and continue to forge ahead.
4. **This isn't rocket science, but it is heart surgery!** Working toward a social enterprise that will better serve our community has the potential to profoundly impact the hearts of many!
5. **What is SCC's passion and what do we want our legacy to be?** These two questions were asked by the Senior Pastor at Old Town Community Church to each of the churches in attendance at the very beginning of our first in-person meeting in February. He followed that up with this question: "If your church were to shutter its windows and permanently lock its doors tomorrow, who in your community would miss it?

While we still have a lot of work to do and decisions to make, we feel that we are on the right track and look forward to seeing God's plan (not ours) unfold. Thank you and God bless you all for your support and prayers!

November Daily Bible Readings

Day 1: Colossians 4:2

Day 2: 1 Chronicles 29:13

Day 3: Daniel 2:23

Day 4: Jermiah 33:11

Day 5: Philippians 4:6

Day 6: Philemon 1:4

Day 7: Luke 22:19

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: Psalm 107:1

Day 17: Psalm 28:7

Day 18: Revelation 7:12

Day 19: Psalm 95:2-3

Day 20: Ephesians 5:20

Day 21: Colossians 3:15

Day 22: Psalm 100:4

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

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

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15am Handbell Choir 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service	3 10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club	4 1:00p Saints Alive 7:00p Bible Study-Twelve Women of the Bible	5 10:00a Bible Study-Twelve Daring Women of the Bible 6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous bus. meeting	6 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:00-7:30p Kalamoo Lego Club 7:15pm Chancel Choir	7 9:30am-12:00pm Kalamoo Lego Club 7:00pm Game Night	8
9 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service	10 10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club 	11 1:00p Saints Alive 3:00p Food Pantry 7:00p Bible Study-Twelve Women of the Bible	12 10:00a Bible Study-Twelve Daring Women of the Bible 6:45p Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	13 10:00am Thursday Crafters 2:00p Prayer Team 6:00-7:30p Kalamoo Lego Club 7:15pm Chancel Choir	14 9:30am-12:00pm Kalamoo Lego Club	15
16 **8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast** 9:15am Handbell Choir 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service	17 10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club	18 12:00p Saints Alive Potluck 3:00p Food Pantry 7:00p Bible Study-Twelve Women of the Bible	19 10:00a Bible Study-Twelve Daring Women of the Bible 6:30p Board of Finance 7:00p Board of Bldg. & Grounds 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous *Newsletter Articles for December due	20 10:00am Thursday Crafters 6:00-7:30p Kalamoo Lego Club 7:15pm Chancel Choir	21 9:00am Set-up Thanksgiving dinner → 9:30am-12:00pm Kalamoo Lego Club 7:00pm Game Night	22
23 9:15am Handbell Choir 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service 5:00pm Thanksgiving Dinner	24 10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club	25 1:00p Saints Alive 3:00p Food Pantry 7:00p Bible Study-Twelve Women of the Bible	26 No Bible Study 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28 9:30am-12:00pm Kalamoo Lego Club	29
30 9:15am Handbell Choir 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Sunday Service **"Day of Extra Giving"**						

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 8th

	2 Outside Front Wreaths	$85 each
	4 Upstairs Balcony Wreaths	$85 each
	2 Inside Front Column Wreaths	$50 each
	1 Side Foyer Arrangement	$40
	1 Huntboard Arrangement	$50
	Piano/Organ Arrangement	$40
	Upstairs Foyer Arrangement (outside of Sanctuary)	$40
	1 Downstairs Newel Post Swag	$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 (51 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