# The Towers Newsletter

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

**Pastor's Column**

Isaiah 43:1-2 reads,
"But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you."

This was a passage I used to read to my patients when I worked in hospice as a chaplain. In fact, one of my patients actually told me to read it to her as it was one of her favorite passages of scripture. The context for this passage deals with God's people living in captivity under Babylonian rule. It was a reminder that God was still with them, even when it seemed like God had abandoned them. Working in hospice was one of the most difficult yet rewarding jobs I have ever done in my calling as a minister. And honestly, there were times where I clung to this passage of scripture because I was wondering where God was. Seeing such difficult things and having to minister to people in such arduous times really challenged my faith. I did not have the answers I needed, and I could not see the path God was guiding me on. I felt hopeless, scared, and uncertain, but I had to trust in God no matter what. During this time, I was commuting to Virginia from North Carolina as I could not find a hospice chaplain position in North Carolina. Every morning on my way to see my patients, I would drive on N. Main Street and pass this church that always stuck out to me. It wasn't the Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, or the Baptist Church. Though these churches are beautiful and I'm sure the people inside are beautiful too, it was the Christian Church that always had me turning my head to get a better look. I would think to myself, "What kind of church is that? I wonder what the people are like?" Never in a million years, would I think that in just 4-5 years after those commutes and looking at Suffolk Christian Church from my car would I answer God's call to minister to this beautiful church. Within such a short amount of time I have already gotten to know what kind of church this is. I have experienced what the people are like. Suffolk Christian Church is a Godly church with a heart for all of God's creation. Plus, the sanctuary is absolutely beautiful. But guess what? The people inside that sanctuary are even more beautiful! I am beyond excited to be your pastor. I can't wait to get to know you all more on a deeper level, to do ministry together, and to grow in Christ Jesus together. I thank God I answered the call, and I thank God you answered the call as well.

Grace, Peace, and Blessings in our Savior Jesus 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 August 13, 2025 meeting

The military honoree boards are currently in the library. There are several legal pads alongside them. We are asking our church members to stop in after Sunday services and check to see if their family member who served is on the board and if not, leave the information on the legal pad, including branch and dates of time served. This will be announced during Sunday services as well. The deacons want to get this done and get the boards back up on the wall for all to see.

The Kalamoo Lego Club will be meeting this week. They have moved to the third floor because more kids signed up. Currently a total of 26. They are bringing their own vacuum and cleaning supplies to clean up after themselves. That includes restrooms as well. They also said that they will be more than happy to help with future events at our church like the 911 appreciation cookout and the Fall Festival, to name a few. This is what our Building for Hope endeavor is all about, helping out our community.

Updating the church directory is still on going.

special monthly
missions

**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

# Stewardship Report

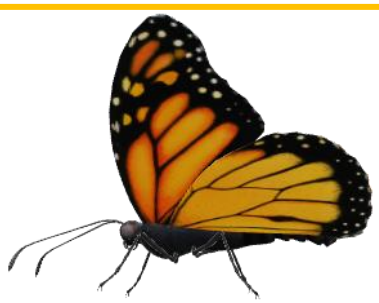
*"We are Walking by Faith through Commitment"*

**January-July 2025 income - $175,788.18**

(includes $40,000 from investments)

**January-July 2025 expenses - $157,036.46**

**Emergency Relief Fund - $83.00 (sent Mercy Chef's $2,188)**



Reporting on Missions….

September's Yellow Envelope Mission: Neighbors In Need

The mission we are supporting for the month of September is Neighbors in Need. This mission ministers to our community through handing out gift cards for food to those we encounter who are asking for help. It is a great way to be the hands and feet of Jesus! The money donated goes to buy gift cards in small denominations to grocery stores and fast food restaurants. Anyone from the congregation can volunteer to become part of this mission by carrying a few of these cards with you. When you are out and see someone who appears to need help or someone approaches you asking for help, you can share a gift card with them. Please let any deacon know if you would like to participate. We hope you will support this effort to share God's love and provision with those who need a helping hand.

## Executive Board Meeting

**The Executive Board will meet on Monday, September 29th at 7:00pm, in Saint's Alive, to review the Board nominees for the upcoming year. Please review the church constitution regarding the number of persons for each board, as well as the nominating criteria.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Charlie Rice | 09/02 |
| Joshua Allen | 09/04 |
| Annie Copeland | 09/05 |
| Mary Lou Bradshaw | 09/08 |
| Wendy Forbes-Dunaway | 09/08 |
| Pat Mann | 09/09 |
| Alex Banton | 09/10 |
| Kitty Martin | 09/13 |
| Calvin Jones | 09/14 |
| Lynne Garner | 09/14 |
| Michael Reid | 09/14 |
| Michelle Phillips | 09/15 |
| Joyce Trump | 09/15 |
| Vicki Winslow | 09/15 |
| Chip Setnicky | 09/15 |
| Olivia Fleming | 09/15 |
| Carol Edwards | 09/18 |
| Adam Briggs | 09/20 |
| Nancy Pichel | 09/21 |
| Mike Brinkley | 09/21 |
| Bill Shumate | 09/22 |
| David Darden Jr | 09/22 |
| Art Blausey Jr. | 09/24 |
| Nathan Wilson | 09/24 |
| David Parker | 09/25 |
| Mark Johnson | 09/25 |
| Katherine Wilson | 09/25 |
| Elowynn Matthews | 09/25 |
| Jenifer Griffin | 09/26 |
| Kenny Griffin | 09/27 |
| Jonathan Martin | 09/27 |
| Claire Skillen | 09/28 |
| Marion Murphy | 09/30 |

*Dear Suffolk Christian Church,*

*Thank you for all your prayers, cards, texts and gifts during the time of my husband, Donald's heart surgery. It has really been a comfort to us. He is doing better each day and the doctor says he will be able to return to work in 3 months. Thank you for continuing to keep us in your prayers.*

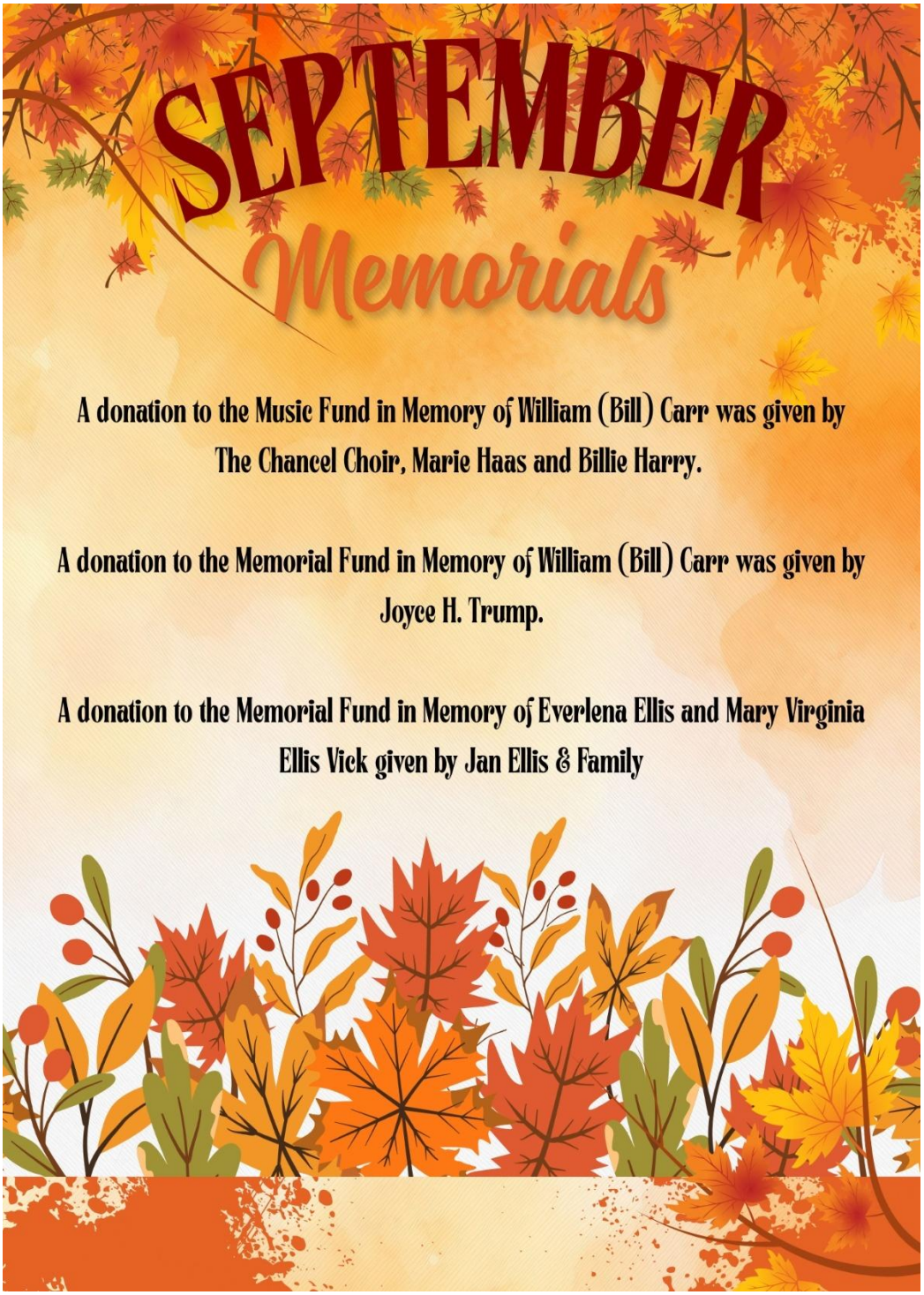
*Sincerely,*

*Suzanne Flemming*
*Church Secretary*

The Transition Team would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to everyone who came together on August 4th to move Rev. Waltz to Suffolk. After a wonderful lunch provided by Debra Carr, many hands of love proceeded to DJ's house to unload boxes and other items into his new home. It was a good day—even though hard work-- and the fellowship was wonderful. **Welcome to Suffolk Waltz Family.**

***Sunday, September 7th during the 11:00 am Worship Service***

All students, teachers and administrators – please bring your backpacks for the blessing!



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.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 946 SILVER AWARD
SUFFOLK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# FOOD PANTRY EXPANSION PROJECT

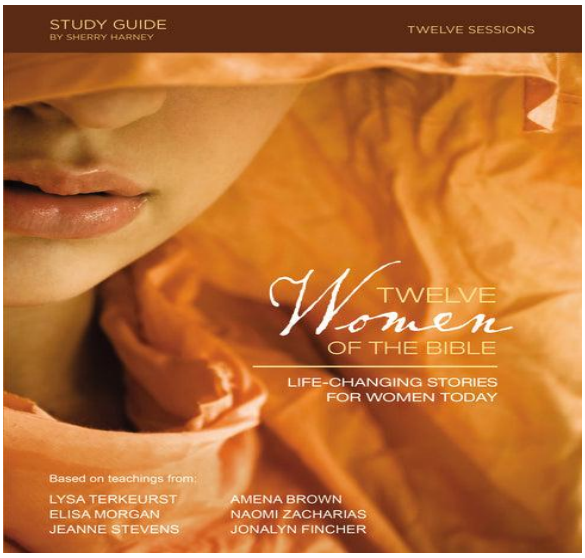
WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

| | |
|---|---|
| Toilet paper | Soap |
| Paper towels | Shampoo |
| Paper plates | Conditioner |
| Tissues | Tooth paste |
| Napkins | Deodorant |

As you all know by now, McKenna Myles and Katherine Wilson, along with two other troop members have been working on their Girl Scout Silver Award Project. The Silver Award is a take action project where you team up with a small group from your Girl Scout Troop and find an issue that you care about and make a difference in your community. The Silver Award is one of the highest awards in Girl Scouting. By doing this they will assist needy families with obtaining household paper products and toiletry items, in addition to the weekly grocery items that are offered to them. ***Effective Tuesday, September 9th***, we will be offering paper products in addition to the food items through the food pantry, such as toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, and hygiene products. The girls "thank you" for your support of bringing these items to the church and hope you will continue to help supply the items.

## FALL BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday morning Bible Study will begin their fall study on September 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at church. We will continue our look at women of the Bible by using the study guide, *Twelve Daring Women of the Bible.* (This Bible study was (previously sold as *Twelve More Women of the Bible* and appears to be an extension of last spring's study and with the same format.) It features well known Bible teachers such as Margaret Feinberg and Lisa Harper. The study will look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve daring women in the Bible and what they mean for us today. There will be a DVD presentation each week and a study guide is available. (It looks like the book will be around $17.00.) Each week's lesson is separate unto itself so if you have to miss a week you will not lose the continuity of the study. Please sign up on the church bulletin board if you are interested in participating. All are welcome.




## *"Twelve Women of the Bible"*

*We will start a new bible study on Tuesday, September 16th, @ 7:00 pm. This is a twelve-session study.*

*You will meet a group of amazing women who are real. At moments you might wonder why God captured these stories in the pages of his Holy Word. But, as you press on, you will discover that the raw and revealing accounts are a gift to women today. As you meet these real women, open your heart to what God wants to do in you.*

*The cost of the study guide will be approximately $12.00.*

*Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the church office by Sunday, September 7th, if you would like to attend the study. If you have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.*

On Monday, September 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. FFW will meet in the fellowship hall of Suffolk Christian Church to kick off our new year. A barbeque dinner will be served and we will be entertained by musical selections from some of the men of our church. Our new pastor, Rev. D.J. Waltz will also be in attendance and have a few words for us. We will be sharing some information about the coming year as well as introducing the book we have chosen to read and discuss later on at a future meeting. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the office and that helps us greatly in planning. We hope you will plan to attend and perhaps invite a friend. Everyone is welcome!

**Save this FFW Date, December 8, 2025*

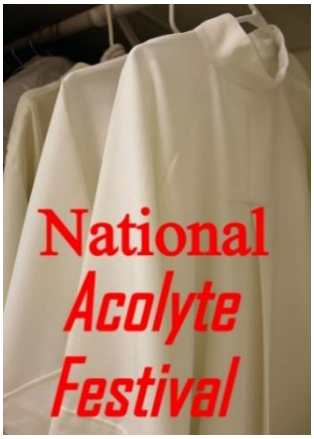
*FFW is planning a field trip to the Rudy Theater in Smithfield, NC on December 8, 2025. These are our tentative plans: attend the Christmas Jubilee production, visit DeWayne's Garden Center nearby and have dinner together at Smithfield BBQ. It will likely be an 8:00am to 8:00pm day. The cost for this day trip (including the bus ride) will be $100, with dinner on your own. A light, early lunch will be provided on the bus. There is room for 48, so please sign up early and bring your check to hold your spot. (Make the check out to SCC and put FFW, Dec. 8 trip on the memo line). More information and confirmation of plans will come later. THIS TRIP IS OPEN TO ALL CHURCH MEMBERS.*

## CARE AND CONCERN MEETING

The Care and Concern Committee will meet on Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at church. There are several items to discuss and we hope everyone will be able to attend. This Committee continues to serve meals to our shut-ins as well as send cards to our church family. This is a team effort and we encourage everyone who can to attend this meeting. Your help is always needed. Thank you and look forward to seeing you on September 8th.

Elaine Abernathy and Claudia Salmon - Co-Facilitators

**Tickets are available in our church office or contact Priscilla Bunch.**




Saturday, October 11th

The Washington National Cathedral is welcoming acolytes from across the country again this year. The day includes the Grandest of Processions, in which we participate, and the celebration of a festival Holy Eucharist, followed by opportunities for exploring the Cathedral and joining a variety of workshops.

There will be a sign- up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office. **Please sign up no later than Sunday, September 28th, so we can plan our transportation.** If you have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.

## Thursday,September 11th

**Cookout For the First Responders**

We will be having our annual cookout for the First Responders of our city on Thursday, September 11th, from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm. We will need people to set up, cook, provide items, help during the day and clean up.We would need to be at the church no later than 9:30 am to set up. All church members are welcome. If you plan to come, please bring a covered dish to share. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office. If you should have any questions, please contact Priscilla Bunch.

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS
# September

Day 1: Galatians 5:22-23
Day 2: Zephaniah 3:17
Day 3: John 3:16-17
Day 4: John 15:9-10
Day 5: John 15:12-13
Day 6: Habukkuk 3:17-18
Day 7: 1 Peter 1:8-9
Day 8: Luke 15:7
Day 9: Psalm 30:5
Day 10: 1 Peter 3:10-11
Day 11: James 3:18
Day 12: Psalm 29:11
Day 13: Romans 12:18
Day 14: Exodus 34:6-7
Day 15: James 1:2-4
Day 16: Romans 5:1-2
Day 17: Romans 5:3-4
Day 18: Proverbs 31:20
Day 19: Colossians 3:12
Day 20: Titus 3:1-2
Day 21: Ephesians 4:1-2
Day 22: 2 Peter 1:5-6
Day 23: 2 Peter 1:7-8
Day 24: Hebrews 11:1-2
Day 25: Hebrews 12:1-2
Day 26: Romans 14:19
Day 27: Proverbs 25:28
Day 28: Proverbs 16:32
Day 29: Titus 2:11-14
Day 30: Philippians 4:8

Commit 10 minutes each day to read each verse, write it out in your journal, meditate on it, and reflect on what it means to you.

# SEPTEMBER 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1<br>10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club | 2<br>1:00p Saints Alive | 3<br>7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 4<br>10:00am Thursday Crafters<br>6:00-7:30p Kalamoo Lego Club<br>7:15pm Chancel Choir<br> | 5<br>7:00p Game Night | 6<br> |
| 7<br>9:15am Handbell Choir<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service<br>Blessing of the backpacks | 8<br>10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club<br>7:00p Care & Concern meeting | 9<br>1:00p Saints Alive<br>3:00p Food Pantry, toiletry distribution | 10<br> <br>6:30pm Narcotics Anonymous bus. meeting<br>6:45p Board of Deacons | 11<br>10:00am Thursday Crafters<br>11:30a-2:00p First Responders Cookout<br>6:00-7:30p Kalamoo Lego Club<br>7:15pm Chancel Choir | 12 | 13 |
| 14<br>9:15am Handbell Choir<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service | 15<br>10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club<br> | 16<br>12:00p Saints Alive Potluck<br>3:00p Food Pantry<br>7:00pm Bible Study | 17<br>10:00am Bible Study<br>6:30p Board of Finance<br>7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 18<br>10:00am Thursday Crafters<br>Hope Center Ministries<br>9:00a-2:00pm<br>then 5:00p-9:00pm<br>6:00-7:30p Kalamoo Lego Club<br>7:15pm Chancel Choir | 19<br>7:00p Game Night<br>*Newsletter articles for October due | 20<br> |
| 21<br>9:15am Handbell Choir<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service<br>CAPS BBQ Fundraiser<br>11:00a-2:00pm | 22<br>10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club<br> <br>6:00p Fellowship for Women-dinner<br>Program to follow | 23<br>1:00p Saints Alive<br>3:00p Food Pantry<br>7:00pm Bible Study | 24<br>10:00am Bible Study<br>7:00p Board of Bldg. & grounds<br>7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous | 25<br>10:00am Thursday Crafters<br>6:00-7:30p Kalamoo Lego Club<br>7:15pm Chancel Choir | 26 | 27 |
| 28<br>9:15am Handbell Choir<br>10:00am Sunday School<br>11:00am Sunday Service | 29<br>10:00-11:30am Kalamoo Lego Club<br>7:00p Executive Board Meeting (Saints Alive) | 30<br>1:00p Saints Alive<br>3:00p Food Pantry<br>7:00pm Bible Study | | | | |