

# The Towers Newsletter



216 North Main Street, Suffolk VA 23434  
Website: [www.suffolkchristian.org](http://www.suffolkchristian.org) / **September 2021**

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My Dear Friends,

Though this will be my final newsletter greeting to you, you will always be dear friends to Carmen and me. It has been twenty-five plus years of working together and experiencing some of the greatest "highs" I've ever known . . . and, of course, some "low" times as well.

I never knew as a young eighth grader at McKinley Junior High School in St. Albans, West Virginia, that the sense of God's leading me to the ministry I was experiencing would ever lead me to leave "Almost Heaven" to come to the Old Dominion to make our home. And Suffolk will remain our home.

As you know, the ethics of pastoral ministry will not permit Carmen's or my continuing physical presence and participation in our church, but our hearts and our prayers will be with you always. I am very proud of our board of deacons for stepping up to the plate and seeking God's will and direction going forward. They have a good solid plan to implement and there are exciting days ahead.

In the 161 years of Suffolk Christian Church, I am only the 12th pastor. Dr. Staley, of course, had the longest tenure, 40 years plus an additional 10 years as the active Pastor Emeritus. And, our beloved Dr. Bob Marr was with us for 23 years. This says a lot about the strength and stability of our congregation and I could not be any more proud of you. When you have completed your thorough and thoughtful and prayerful review and study and analysis of your future ministry, I will be right there to welcome number 13!

My last Sunday in the pulpit will be on September 26, one service only, at 11 am. I would be more than honored and blessed to see you and your family that day. Carmen and I want to thank you for these good years. May you be blessed with continued and challenging and fruitful ministry as "A Beacon of Hope on Main Street"!

Love to you all,  
Michael



You can find the weekly services online at  
[www.suffolkchristian.org](http://www.suffolkchristian.org) , YouTube or  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SuffolkChristianChurch/>

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## *The Congregation of Suffolk Christian Church*

*requests the pleasure of your company  
as we commemorate the Retirement of*

*The Rev. Michael D. Halley and  
Carmen J. Halley*

*and to Celebrate their 25 years of Gospel ministry to our Church*

*2:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
September 25, 2021*

*216 North Main Street  
Suffolk, VA 23434*

*RSVP by September 8, 2021  
[amy.peterson@suffolkchristian.org](mailto:amy.peterson@suffolkchristian.org)  
(Phone: 757-539-9182)*



## Carmen J. Halley



It's often said that Carmen is the "better half" of the Halley Ministry. Michael claims she is the better 2/3rds of the Halley Ministry. She started playing the piano when she was six years old and started playing in her home church when she was twelve. When the Halley's came to Suffolk Christian Church 25 years ago, she began singing in the choir. Suffolk Christian has been blessed to have her playing the piano since March of 2008.

Michael and Carmen met in West Virginia at the Marshall University Music Department. Carmen was a piano major and Michael was a clarinet major. One day Carmen was assigned to play for his voice lesson, and the rest is history! When they got married on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1964, she knew Michael was going to seminary to be a minister, and she supported that and excelled as a pastor's wife.

As a military family, Carmen & Michael lived in West Virginia, Kentucky, Rhode Island, California, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Gaeta, Italy and Virginia. Suffolk is where they have chosen to retire.

On St. Patrick's Day in 1999, the ribbon was cut on the door of Saints Alive. Thinking of her own mother, Bridget Blair, Carmen envisioned the space as a place for seniors to hang out. She wanted a nice place where people could go each week to have fun and fellowship. Carmen donated the tables and chairs in honor of her mother. One of her great ideas was to provide a personalized coffee cup for each member. When a person passes away, the cup is retired and hung up on a special cup rack over the sink.

One of Carmen's most cherished moments is after their son, Jeff, was diagnosed with cancer. Suffolk Christian Church held a special time of prayer for him and did a major fundraiser for him and his family. When seven members of the church family drove all the way to Florida for Jeff's funeral, she feels like she was given one of the most loving gifts she ever got in her life.

Carmen said she will definitely miss her church family on Sunday Mornings. She believes that people are the church and singing, talking, laughing, and worshiping together make up some of the joy of every Sunday.

She's not sure what to expect during retirement but will probably take one day at a time and figure out the next chapter.

In the past 25 years, Carmen said she feels like she has learned so much and has grown so much as a Christian. She's been involved in Sunday School, Evening Circle, Children's Music, Saints Alive, The Prayer Team, Bible Studies and Prayer Group.

Michael and Carmen are a part of the Suffolk Christian Church Family. They will always be loved and missed.

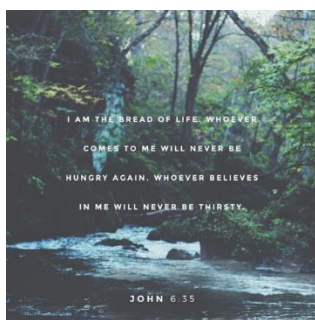


## September's Mission: Suffolk Christian Church's Food Pantry

During this past year with all the challenges of the pandemic, the Food Pantry has continued to operate in many ways. We have been able to provide our community two (2) food drives. We have been very fortunate to have been given donations from others than our church members to help with replenishing our Food Pantry when we needed it the most. We had a lady who had been a recipient of our Food Pantry bring us food to give to others. Rev. Halley has been giving food to The Suffolk Tower residents as they are awaiting other apartments/homes. We serve between 8 to 15 people each Tuesday and we give food to others during the week if someone shows up at the church doors. Without the monetary donations and contributions of food, we would not be able to continue our Food Pantry.



*If you wish to support this mission, please use your yellow envelope.*



***Our Mission** is to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing God's grace, love, and forgiveness.  
**Our Vision:** Because we love Christ we worship.  
Because we believe in His grace we disciple.  
Because we follow His commandments we serve.*



### A Step Back In Time

In April, 1891, our original church building was razed to make way for the new church building. At least one wall of our original church building was incorporated into the new construction, the north wall of the Baraca Class. This wall is at least four bricks thick. *This wall is currently by the entrance of Saints Alive!*

Homecoming and Dedication Service, 2000  
Photo by Beverly McGahee

### CALLED CONFERENCE, October 24

There will be a "Called Conference" after church services on **October 24**. The Called Conference will be a shorten version in which only the report of the Finance Board for the budget will be discussed. All other information will be in the normal Conference Report for information. If you have any questions regarding Board Reports please direct them to that Boards' Chairperson.



## CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE

The second of only two meetings a year of the Care and Concern Committee will be held on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at church. This group helps our church family in their time of need for an illness, birth of a baby, a death in the immediate family or anytime a need comes up. This could be delivering a meal, sending a card, visiting a shut-in or many other ways to offer help. These needs can be met only with the help of our church members. Please come out and learn of the many ways you could be of help. It is such a worthwhile experience. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Monday, September 20th, at 7:00 p.m.



*Elaine Abernathy and Claudia Salmon - Co-Facilitators*

**WELCOME  
BACK, CHOIR** 

*Praise the Lord with Singing*

Our wonderful choir has been missing from our services far too long!

That did not mean, however, that we were without special music in our services. A special thank you to each of you who shared your talents and provided special music during the choir's absence. Our church is truly blessed with all the musical talent in our midst.

Barring any changes in COVID guidelines, our choir practices will resume Thursday, September 9th at 7:30 p.m. for those who are fully vaccinated. Masks will be worn, and every effort will be made to keep us healthy and safe.

New members are ALWAYS welcome to join us. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, now is a good time. After our long absence, we will all be starting over.

As always, the choir and our entire Music Ministry requests your prayers as we prepare for worship each week. Watch the Sunday bulletin for updates on handbell and children's choir practice dates.

Feel free to contact Janet Rock if you have any questions or would like to request a favorite. [granjanr@verizon.net](mailto:granjanr@verizon.net) or phone 757-925-5777.

*There won't always be a song in your heart - Sing anyway!*



"Due to the current increase in the number of COVID 19 Delta Variant cases in our area, the CDC and the Governor of Virginia recommends that everyone, **vaccinated or unvaccinated**, wear a mask for indoor group activities. Exceptions apply for children under 5 and those with certain health issues."

Congratulations  
on Your  
New Baby!



**Colby Thomas McKinley, born 08/20/2021**

*He is the son of Caitlyn & Carden McKinley.*

*The proud grandparents are Benny & Beth Simpkins and the proud great grandparent is Pat Bristow.*

\*Items are needed for the weekly food pantry! Applesauce (individual cups); Snacks (Granola Bars, Nabs, Individual Packs of Nuts); Oatmeal (Individual Servings); Pop Tarts; Noodles; Spaghetti; Macaroni; Rice (1 lb. bags); Dried Beans; Macaroni and Cheese; Canned Vegetables; Spaghetti Sauce; Canned Pasta, Peanut Butter, Jelly.



*Our church is expecting company and we need to spruce up our church home!*

**Fall Clean up!**  
**Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 AM**



In conjunction with the House of Worship, come help spruce up the church property and building. We would love to have you join us. Sign up on the bulletin board or just show up!

*Donuts, coffee and a light lunch will be provided.*

Thank you for your help,  
The Church Decorating Committee



**Happy Birthday !!!!**

Sept. 2	Charlie Rice
Sept. 4	Joshua Allen
Sept. 5	Annie Copeland
Sept. 8	Mary Lou Bradshaw
Sept. 8	Wendy Forbes
Sept. 9	Pat Mann
Sept. 10	Doris Cones
Sept. 10	Alex Banton
Sept. 12	Jim Culliton
Sept. 13	Kitty Martin
Sept. 14	Calvin Jones
Sept. 14	Michael Reid
Sept. 14	Lynne Garner
Sept. 15	Olivia Fleming
Sept. 15	Joyce Trump
Sept. 15	Vicki Winslow
Sept. 15	Chip Setnicky
Sept. 17	Irvin Salmon
Sept. 20	Adam Briggs
Sept. 21	Mike Brinkley
Sept. 21	Margaret Beamon
Sept. 21	Nancy Pichel
Sept. 22	David Darden, Jr.
Sept. 22	Bill Shumate
Sept. 24	Art Blausey, Jr.
Sept. 24	Nathan Wilson
Sept. 25	Mark Johnson
Sept. 25	David Parker
Sept. 25	Katherine Wilson
Sept. 26	Glenn Ellis
Sept. 26	Jenifer Griffin
Sept. 27	Kenny Griffin
Sept. 27	Jonathan Martin
Sept. 28	Claire Skillen



Attention Ladies: The **Afternoon Circle** plans to meet **OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>** at **1 pm** in The Saints Alive room. Mark your calendar and join us for fellowship.

## Congratulations Scholarship Awardees



On behalf of the SCC Scholarship Committee it is with great delight we recognize our 2021 scholarship awardees.

There is no greater gift we can give ourselves that to continuously learn – whether it be from a news article, reading a book, searching “Dr. Google”, advancing through a trade school, or any level of college courses. All levels of learning improve our mental health and provide us the skill sets needed to navigate every-day life.

Each of these awardees are to be admired for their hard work.

We were pleased to present the following awards:

Nathan Wilson - \$1200 Z. Turner and \$1000 Heuberger Scholarships. Nathan is attending Old Dominion University

Aiden Wick - \$1000 Darden Scholarship. Aiden is attending James Madison University

Maggie Copeland - \$1000 SCC Scholarship. Maggie is attending Paul D. Camp

Taylor Cherry - \$2000 – Elon University

Congratulations to each of you and may the Lord bless you throughout your academic endeavors.

*Carman Joben*

SCC Scholarship Chair

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## THANK YOU VBS Volunteers



**THANKS to Our  
VBS Volunteers!**

On behalf of the Board of Christian Education (BoCE) I wish to thank you and every member of the congregation for your love, prayers, support, and assistance with our Vacation Bible School.

It was with great delight we were able to host approximately 20 children each night. We were pleased to see new faces and make new friends as we welcomed back those that have been coming to VBS for several years.

A **very special** thank you to Priscilla Bunch for organizing all the events held during VBS, getting all the decorations in order that made the event extra special. The numerous hours spent making sure SCC's VBS was a great success is greatly appreciated.

We would also like to send out a special note of thanks to Holland Baptist Church for sharing their decorations with us.

Every ounce of labor was worth more than gold to see these children fill the church with their smiles and laughter.

*Carman Joben*

BoCE Chair

## Call to Prayer, September 21

The Prayer Team is planning a special time of prayer for all church members. On Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., we will gather in the sanctuary as the body of Christ to pray for the future of our church. There will be a very brief explanation of the process that our Deacons will put into place to guide us into the months ahead. Then we will pray silently and specifically for:



- \*God's will to be done at our church and that He will give us His direction for the future
- \*Unity in our church
- \*God's guidance for the Transition Team that will lead us
- \*Wisdom and discernment for the future search committee
- \*Blessings upon the one God will call to our church
- \*And blessings upon our dear Michael and Carmen as they begin their retirement.

We hope everyone will join us for this evening of prayer as we seek God's will and direction for our church and ask for His blessing and favor.

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## Coats for the Community



The Adult Bible Class is now making plans for the 2021 Coats for the Community project. In an effort to improve the effectiveness of the project and because of continuing concerns over the Covid virus, the project will look a little different this year. We no longer have any stored coats at the church. All were either given away last spring in the church parking lot or donated, afterwards. AND we will not be soliciting coats, used or new, to distribute here at the church. Instead, we will partner with other organizations to provide specific needed coats to individuals, and thankfully, we have some funds available to do that.

Class members will do the purchasing, but we also invite and encourage any church member to help in this procurement process. We will be given the size and general specifications of each needed coat. We will make the purchase and then give it back to the organization to pass on to the intended recipient. This is the first year that we will try to do it this way and we certainly solicit your ideas and input to make this ministry successful and to glorify God in the process.

*Ways you can help:*

- \*Make a financial donation to the coats fund, to make these and future purchases possible.
- \*Volunteer to shop for a needed coat. (You do not have to pay for the coat yourself, but can turn in a receipt to be reimbursed.)
- \*As always, pray for this project and all individuals in our community in need. Thank you!





## Memorials

A donation to the Food Pantry in memory of Kenny Martin has been given by Vicki Martin.

A donation to the roof repairs needed at the church is given in loving memory of Herbert and Jo Ann Briggs by Jimmy and Sharon Fanny

## Stewardship Report

*"We Are Walking by Faith through Commitment"*

January - July income - \$152,877.25

January - June expenses - \$154,092.03

Dollars for Haiti - \$4,022.00

Total funds given to Haiti missions to date - \$2,300.00



## **Special Monthly Missions**

January 2021 - Food Pantry - \$1,200.00

February 2021 - Scholarship Fund - \$840.00

March 2021 - Western Tidewater Free Clinic - \$845.00

April 2021 - Children's/Youth Fund - \$965.00

May 2021 - Crisis Pregnancy Center - \$651.00

June 2021 - Genieve Shelter - \$657.00

July 2021 - Salvation Army - \$935.00

August 2021 - CAPS - \$960.00



The Board of Christian Education will be sponsoring a cookout on **Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**, from 11:00am – 2:00pm to honor all the First Responders of the City of Suffolk. We need help to set up the morning of the cookout and to clean up afterwards. If you have a pop-up tent we can use, please bring it to the church. If you can help in any way, please contact Priscilla Bunch ☺  
pbunch121@gmail.com.

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**Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 – 7:00 PM**



Bring your children to our fall festival and invite your neighbors. We will have a Haunted House and lots of games for the children to play. We will have hot dogs, chips, drinks and popcorn. There will be a cake walk for all ages. This will be great fun and fellowship!

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**Trunk or Treat**

**Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 – 8:00pm**



Bring your children for our Trunk or Treat following our Fall Festival. We will need people to decorate their cars!

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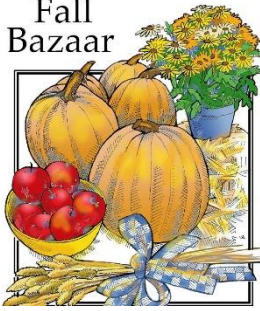


**Saturday, October 30th**

- 1) **Help with setting up and taking down Fall Festival**
- 2) **Items for the calk walk**
- 3) **Decorated cars for our Trunk or Treat**

See sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the office and indicate how you can help!

Fall  
Bazaar



Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

North Parking Lot

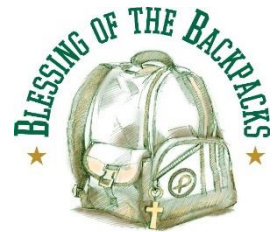
The Board of Christian Education will be sponsoring our annual Fall Bazaar. If you have any items you can donate for our Country Store, please contact Priscilla Bunch. If you know anyone who would like to be a vendor, please have them contact Priscilla Bunch by email @ [pbunch121@gmail.com](mailto:pbunch121@gmail.com). You can also give them Priscilla's home phone #. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Please invite your friends to come out for some good food, fun and fellowship.

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Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

9:45 am

We will be having our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, at 9:45 am in the church sanctuary. Please have your children bring their backpacks for this ceremony.



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## Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School



**We had a great time at VBS this year. A big thank you to all the volunteers who made it all possible. "Jesus will pull us through!"**



**September 17 at 6:45 pm**

**Children are invited to come to movie night in the church's fellowship hall. You can bring your dinner with you. We will have a few snacks and drinks for you during the movie. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the church office if you plan to attend.**



**Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**



## "Mysteries of the Messiah"

Tuesdays @ 7:00pm

Wednesdays @ 10:00am

Starting Tuesday evening, September 14<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday morning, September 15<sup>th</sup>, we will start a new bible study entitled "Mysteries of the Messiah" by Rabbi Jason Sobel. Rabbi Jason co-authored the book "The Rock, The Road, and The Rabbi" with Kathie Lee Gifford. This is a 6-week study. In this study he will help us to:

- Understand the Jewish roots of our faith and begin to see Jesus' life and ministry from a different perspective
- See the signs everywhere in the Old Testament that point to the coming of the Messiah in the New Testament
- Continue to dig and find mysteries and new discoveries hidden in God's Word

The cost of the book at [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com) is \$18.99 and the study guide is \$9.49. I will try to get free shipping.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office. If you would like for Priscilla to order your book and study guide, please indicate on the sign-up sheet by Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.



# September

## Daily Scripture Reading Plan

Day #1:	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	Day #16:	Luke 6:27-28
Day #2:	1 Timothy 2:8	Day #17:	Ezra 8:20-23
Day #3:	Hebrews 4:14	Day #18:	Jeremiah 33:3
Day #4:	James 4:1-3	Day #19:	Romans 12:12
Day #5:	James 5:12-16	Day #20:	Romans 8:26
Day #6:	Philippians 4:6-7	Day #21:	1 Peter 4:7
Day #7:	Jeremiah 29:12	Day #22:	11 Chronicles 7:12-14
Day #8:	Psalms 5:1-3	Day #23:	Job 42:10
Day #9:	Psalms 19:10-14	Day #24:	Proverbs 15:29
Day #10:	Psalms 18:1-6	Day #25:	1 Chronicles 16:11
Day #11:	1 John 5:14-15	Day #26:	Ephesians 1:18
Day #12:	Mark 11:20-24	Day #27:	Ephesians 6:18
Day #13:	Matthew 26:41-42	Day #28:	Matthew 6:9-13
Day #14:	Matthew 18:20	Day #29:	Psalms 145:18
Day #15:	Colossians 4:1-3	Day #30:	Psalms 141:2

Commit to reading your bible 10 minutes daily. Write down the scripture and how you can apply it to your life.

pick-up a plate of

# BBQ

to support the

**Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk**

— C A P S —



**\$12**

**CAPTAIN BOB'S**

Fried chicken, BBQ, coleslaw,  
hush puppies, mac 'n cheese


**SUNDAY  
SEPT 19**

**11:00 - 2:00**

**PURCHASE TICKETS**

Go online to  
[capsuffolk.org/bbq](http://capsuffolk.org/bbq)  
or call the  
CAPS Office | 757-935-5497

Drive through plate pick up at:  
Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church  
3488 Godwin Blvd Suffolk, VA 23434  
Questions? Contact CAPS 757-935-5497



Flowers to commemorate the Retirement of  
Rev. Michael D. Halley and Carmen J. Halley  
and to Celebrate their 25 years of Gospel  
ministry to our church

Altar.....	\$60
Pedestal.....	\$45
Chancel Pedestal.....	\$45
Huntboard.....	\$60
North Foyer.....	\$40
South Foyer.....	\$40
Second Floor Elevator Foyer.....	\$30
Credenza Outside Sanctuary.....	\$30
Large Mum (Front Entrance).....	\$25
Large Mum (Fruent Entrance).....	\$25

If you would like to place an order, please contact  
Cheryl Ashcraft at 757-418-4553.



## September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:00pm Board of Christian Ed 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>2</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters	<b>3</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 9:45am Blessing of the Backpacks 11:00am Worship Service 	<b>6</b> LABOR DAY 	<b>7</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Board of Deacons 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>9</b> 8:30am Fall Clean Up Day 10:00am Thursday Crafters 2:30pm Prayer Team 7:30pm Chancel Choir 	<b>10</b> 11:00am First Responders Cookout 11 - 2 pm 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Game Night	<b>11</b> 
<b>12</b> 8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Reception of New Members 11:00am Worship Service 	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting 	<b>14</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Bible Study "Mysteries of the Messiah"	<b>15</b> 10:00am Bible Study "Mysteries of the Messiah" 7:00pm Board of Finance 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>16</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels 4:00pm Bells will play in honor of Constitution Day 6:45pm Children's Movie Night 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:45am Worship Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Care & Concern Meeting	<b>21</b> 1:00pm Saints Alive Potluck 3:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Bible Study "Mysteries of the Messiah" 7:00pm Call to Prayer 	<b>22</b> 10:00am Bible Study "Mysteries of the Messiah" 7:00pm House of Worship 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>23</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>24</b> 11:30am Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Game Night 	<b>25</b> 2:00pm 2-5 pm Reception for Rev. Michael & Carmen Halley 
<b>26</b> 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 2:00pm Saints Alive 3:00pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Bible Study "Mysteries of the Messiah"	<b>29</b> 10:00am Bible Study "Mysteries of the Messiah" 7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>30</b> 10:00am Thursday Crafters 7:30pm Chancel Choir		