

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 1

The Suburban Connection

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: How To Keep Ourselves in God's Love

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life." Jude 20,21

In this little book, which is only one chapter, Jude teaches that God keeps his children and that we have the responsibility to keep ourselves in his love. In verse 1 Jude says that we are kept for Jesus Christ and in verse 24 that God is able to keep us from stumbling. These verses clearly emphasize the keeping power of God. However, in verse 21, we are commanded to keep ourselves in the love of God. So, God not only promises to keep us but he also commands us to keep ourselves in his love. Here we see a balance of God's sovereignty and human responsibility. Yes, God keeps his own and yet believers are called to keep themselves in God's love. God desires that we ultimately rest his keeping grace, while at the same time exerting every ounce of spiritual energy to remain in his love.

continued inside...



**Keep yourselves in the
love of God, looking for
the mercy of our Lord
Jesus Christ to eternal life.**

—Jude 1:21

Save the Date!

Promotion Day
September 5th

9:00 am
Sanctuary

Seniors Mtg.
September 16th

11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Men's Breakfast
September 4th & 18th

8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

AWANA Training
September 18th

10:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Continued from front page

Jude 20, 21 show us three ways to keep ourselves in God's love.

1. By building ourselves up in our most holy faith. (vs. 20)

Jude is saying that we keep ourselves in God's love as we grow in our understanding of the gospel. The faith that he is referring to, is the content of Christian belief, the gospel. Every Christian has the personal responsibility to grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no end to gospel discovery. In this life and into eternity we will continue to discover more of God's glory and grace. Through our personal devotions, through Sunday school, through worship and other Bible studies we build ourselves up in our most holy faith... and we keep ourselves in God's love.

2. By praying in the Holy Spirit. (vs. 20)

We keep ourselves in God's love by a life of Spirit-empowered prayer. To pray in the Holy Spirit means that the Spirit is: guiding our prayers, enabling us to pray, assisting us while we pray and interceding for us as we pray. Believers cannot keep themselves in God's love without depending on him through regular prayer. Thomas Schreiner says, "Love for God cannot be sustained without a personal relationship with God and such a relationship is nurtured by prayer."

3. By waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (vs. 21)

Here Jude says that we keep ourselves in God's love by looking to and longing for the mercy Jesus Christ will give us when he returns. The mercy that we will receive in that day is eternal life with our Lord and Savior. Yes, we possess eternal life now, but we will not fully experience all the glory and blessings of it until Jesus returns. This verse clearly connects love for God and longing for God. The more we long for his return, the more we will love him. However, if we find ourselves longing for the things of this world, we will also find our love for God growing cold.

As Christians we know that we are eternally secure in God's care, that no one can snatch us out of the Father's hand (John 10:29). But as we have seen, Scripture also teaches that we are to keep ourselves in his love. May the Lord help us both to abide in him as we actively pursue him.

Looking to Jesus with you,

Pastor Todd

Belong Women's Ministry

What does it mean to trust in the name of God? What is so great about God existing all by Himself? Do you ever doubt God? Is God sufficient to supply all my needs? Is there anything God is asking me to do? These are just some of the questions we have been asked during the summer women's Bible study titled, "How Majestic Is Your Name." We have grown together in our knowledge of who God is and in our love for Him. We have grown as sisters in Christ in our love for one another. We have prayed and shared our hearts with one another. We have laughed, cried, and praised God for answer prayer. What a way to end the summer! **"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."** Philippians 1:6

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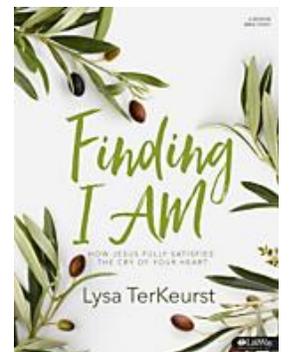


We would like to thank everyone for their input regarding the weeks to come. The Belong team has been prayerfully seeking God to guide us as to when and what topic or book to dive into. So, what are we doing next? Beginning **Thursday, October 7th, at 7:00 pm**, we are going to dive into the Gospel of John. Remember all those I AM statements of Jesus? Through this interactive, in-depth study, you will learn to:

- *Trade feeling of emptiness and depletion for a more personal fulfillment from knowing who Jesus is.
- *Stop living like a slave to your circumstances by training your heart to embrace the life-giving freedom God wants for you.
- *Gain a better understanding of how Jesus' words 2,000 years ago are so very applicable to the answers we are searching for today.

We hope you will join us for this six-week study. We will be ending our study before the holiday season begins. Please sign up in the foyer so we will know how many books to order.

(Cost \$17.00 per person for personal book/payment made to the church earmarked Women's Bible Study)
Payment is due by October 1st.



FALL FESTIVAL



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

**HOT DOGS, POPCORN, TRUNK OR TREAT, INFLATABLES,
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



MISSION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

To glorify God, by making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VISION: WHAT WILL THAT LOOK LIKE?

A growing faith in God
A growing love for God
A growing love for others

ACTION: HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

Drawing near to God
Pursuing community
Reaching our world

Visit us on Facebook! Search for "Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com

We want to hear from you! Contact us at newsletter@sccvb.org

What's Happening In.... Suburban Kids

AWANA Ministry

We are so excited to start another AWANA program year!!! Although our 2020-2021 club year threw out some logistical challenges – God provided us with everything we needed to make it a HUGE success. There is nothing our God can't do, and I know that our 2021-2022 club year will be just as great!



The AWANA club is a great way to share the Gospel with kids in a fun and life-changing way. This ministry is a tried-and-true program that brings kids to Christ through participatory “theme” nights (wacky hat night, crazy sock night), handbooks with memory verses, group discussions and games! They earn completed section awards and AWANA bucks that they use to “buy” gifts in our store twice a year.

There are so many different ways you can become a supporter of Suburban's AWANA ministry (just in case you were wondering...). You can donate items to our AWANA stores (1 at Christmas time for family gifts & 1 for themselves for fun), come and help wrap Christmas gifts during the Christmas store night (always a VERY busy night), **PRAY** for our club and our clubbers or volunteer to do any of the positions listed below:

***Group Leader** – works directly with age specific groups; leads small group time; guides & shepherds children in group & oversees other volunteers

***Verse Listener** – assists leaders in listening to verses or helping children work through handbooks; give individual attention to kids who may struggle with understanding; willing to work with all age groups

***Games Leader** – demonstrate, run & encourage participation in game time and do it all ENTHUSIASTICALLY!! Games are already planned out in a guidebook so there is no need to “wing it”

There are countless testimonies of grown AWANA clubbers who, because of this program, were able to recall meaningful verses during some difficult seasons in their lives. In times like these, our children need our help in putting on their armor of God to battle evil that seems to be all around them. How is God calling you to help?

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering, we will be having an informative training session on Saturday, September 18th from 10am-11am here at Suburban (coffee & snacks provided). We hope to see you there!



Suburban Christian Church AWANA club will be held on Sunday evenings from 5pm – 6:15pm.

Registration night – September 26 @ 5pm (flyers for distribution will be available in coming weeks)



Nursery Ministry

| Date | Sunday School | Worship Service | Helper |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 9/5/21 | Melissa Tucker Betty Owens | Stacie Raymer | Nathaniel Schnurr |
| 9/12/21 | Melissa Tucker Betty Owens | Jeff Herring Susan Haynes | Sophia Deuell |
| 9/19/21 | Melissa Tucker Stacey Super | Nancy Herbst Christopher Bulaski | Abby Deuell |
| 9/26/21 | Melissa Tucker Rebecca Beckner-Driver | Ara & Lou Miller | Samara Saucedo |

Nursery Volunteers Needed

The Suburban nursery is bustling once again during the Sunday school hour and the 10:15 church service. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who care for the young children. Anyone who is interested in helping one Sunday per month during Sunday school or church service, please contact Stacie Raymer (sraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). Young teenage helpers are also welcomed to help. "But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 19:14)

Music Ministry

If you like to sing, join in with one of the choirs. We will begin to rehearse holiday music (Thanksgiving and Christmas) during the latter part of September.

I'm looking forward to singing to the Lord with you! Lynn

Operation Christmas Child Corner



The collection for September: Washcloths, gloves, and air pumps. We have received 110 play balls which will need a way for the kids to inflate them. The pumps need to have the needle used to fill basketballs or soccer balls and the Dollar Tree does carry them. You may have to order them online if the stores are out of them. The other needs are PRAYER and money to help ship the shoe box gifts. Remember, every single box means another child is touched by God's love.

Lynn Cooke



An OCC Story to Ponder: Gergana and a Juggling Set

The set of colorful bean bags that I keep on display in my living room brings me joy every time I see it, reminding me of the shoebox gift I received in Bulgaria when I was a child.

The juggling set draws my friends' attention, and I show them what's in the game box and tell them why it's so important to me. "I loved the juggling set because it was a gift just for fun."

A GIFT TO CALL MY OWN

The gift reminds me of my grandmother, who told me and my twin sister, Nadia, about Jesus and brought us to church with her to learn about Him. When we were 8, the church held an Operation Christmas Child outreach event. Fascinated by the stacks of shoebox gifts, my eyes went right to a white shoebox with a green lid. I hoped for that one. When it was my turn to get a shoebox gift, that's the one I received.

It contained what I had been praying about for a while—an array of school supplies to call my own. My sister and I each received pencil pouches and decorative stickers, things we had seen our classmates with but that our family couldn't afford to buy for us. We rarely had new school supplies and frequently had to share what we had. We cherished the pencil pouches because they made it easier to transport school supplies without losing the smaller items. We used the stickers to decorate the pouches, delighted to be able to personalize them.

In addition to receiving some hygiene items, what really caught my attention was the individualized gifts in my shoebox gift—a reindeer stuffed toy, animal-shaped stencils, children's binoculars, and a juggling set. Each item filled me with excitement and wonder. I had never received such a gift before—and all of the contents of the shoebox were mine!

Every item in my box was meant for me, and it was exactly what I needed. I loved that God put it on someone's heart to pack a shoebox full of items that would impact my life even today.

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"Juggling Set" continued....



FUN AND FUNCTIONAL

One of the joys I experienced was showing my sister and cousins the gifts' uniqueness, taking out each item for them to see. While Nadia showed them the items in her shoebox, including a jewelry box that she still has today, I tried my hand at juggling the colorful bean bags to the children's delight. Though I didn't speak English at the time, the picture-based instructions on the box made it clear that the bean bags were meant to be tossed and caught in the air one by one. I loved the juggling set because it was a gift just for fun.

Today, I like to pack a mix of functional and fun items in the shoebox gifts I pack. For the past several years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, my sister and I hosted shoebox packing parties for family and friends. This past year, we made shoebox packing a family affair when our mom joined us and some cousins in assembling the gifts. My sister and I enjoy including

pencil pouches full of school supplies and decorative stickers like we received, as well as fun, individualized items according to age group, such as stuffed animals, clothing, and costume jewelry. "The shoebox gift made me feel special and loved by God."

Giving became a big part of my life partly because of the joy the Christmas box brought to me as a child. The shoebox gift I received as a child was like a seed. It wasn't just a Christmas present. It made me feel special and loved by God.

He showed me that He cared so much He made sure He answered every need, not just the big ones. That is why I love packing shoeboxes and praying over each and every one of them, hoping they will do the same for other children. Every box counts and so does every prayer.

OCC Website



Seniors Ministry

The August meeting featured our all-time favorite speaker – Bob Grymes! He took us to Israel and showed us several of the mounts that were so prominent in the life of Jesus. Afterwards we all enjoyed pizza for lunch. We also wished Ethel Holloway a very happy birthday – her 99th!



The next meeting will be Thursday, September 16th at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lynn Cooke and Dana Mosteller will present a program about Operation Christmas Child and the shoebox gifts that ministry sends to children all over the world. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for information about the luncheon to follow the meeting.

These programs are planned and sponsored by the Seniors Ministry, but they are open to all ages. If you have suggestions for programs, please talk to one of the members of the Steering Committee. We are always looking for new ideas!

Dana Mosteller

Ambassador Youth Ministry

The Issue: INTEGRITY



With school beginning in just a few days, let's investigate the topic of **integrity**. Integrity refers to a willingness to do what is right in any situation. A person of integrity does not do what is right for the purpose of impressing people or avoiding trouble, but rather, they do right simply because it is the honorable thing to do. Integrity is an issue of character that demonstrates our faith is real and our desire to obey God is genuine. Let's see what Scriptures has to say about the topic of integrity. What does the Bible say?

*Note what these verses say about the importance of integrity:

- > Prov. 5:21 – God sees all we do, even things done in secret.
- > Prov. 21:3 – Doing right pleases God more than sacrifices.
- > Luke 16:10 – Integrity in small things = integrity in big things.

Note what these verses say about the benefits of integrity:

- > Prov. 11:3 – It will guide you and keep you on a good path.
- > Titus 2:7-8 – People won't have bad things to say about you.
- > Psalm 18:20; Matt. 6:4 – God rewards your acts of integrity.



What should I do? Integrity is a choice. It is a choice to be truthful, even if it means you may get in trouble. It is a choice not to cheat on a test, even when no one is watching. It is a choice not to watch an inappropriate video, even if people around you think it is no big deal. As we do what God wants of us at all times, in all circumstances, and at all costs, we will become people of integrity. Acts of integrity are what God has "required of us" (Micah 6:8), and it is through such acts that we demonstrate true Christian maturity. May our faith be proven to be genuine as we live lives of integrity!

minibiblelessons.com



AYM September Calendar

6:00 pm in Youth Room

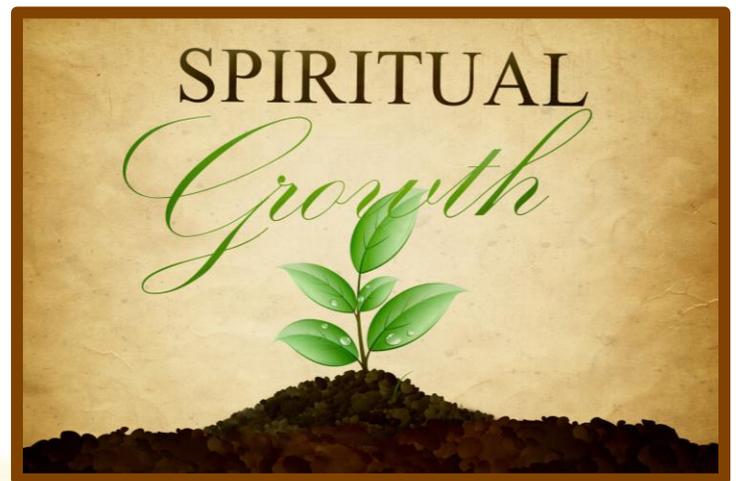
(if locations changes, we will advise)

- September 5th: NO AYM – Labor Day Weekend
- September 12th: AYM with Pastor Todd and Wendy
- September 19th: Pool Party/Bonfire at Fry's home
- September 26th: TBD

Sunday School

Welcome to a new Sunday school year! We are excited that new children's and youth classes will be starting September 5th. We are praising God for the teachers He has called and equipped and the students who will be learning to love and trust God more and more. Truly, God is "faithful from one generation to the next"!

Jan Grills



Our classes and teachers are:

PreK - K – Kathy Herring & Phyllis Wiggins
 1st - 2nd Grade – Mary Justis & Robert Rameriz
 3rd - 5th Grades – Carol Brooks & Lou Miller
 Middle School – Jim Fry & Nancy Daniels
 High School – Chris Mowery
 Adults – Ron Raymer (Book of Romans) &
 Pastor Todd Haynes ("Knowing God")

This would be a great time to commit to coming and learning God's Word with us!

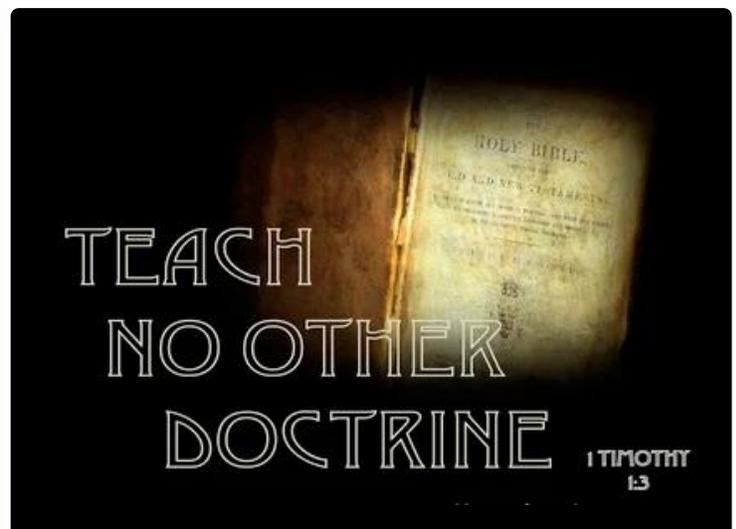


Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

The Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets on the first and third Saturdays of each month. This month we will meet on September 4th and September 18th and as always, it will be a chapter by chapter, verse by verse, word by word, comprehensive study.

We will be completing our study of Paul's First Letter to Timothy and introducing Paul's Second Letter to Timothy.

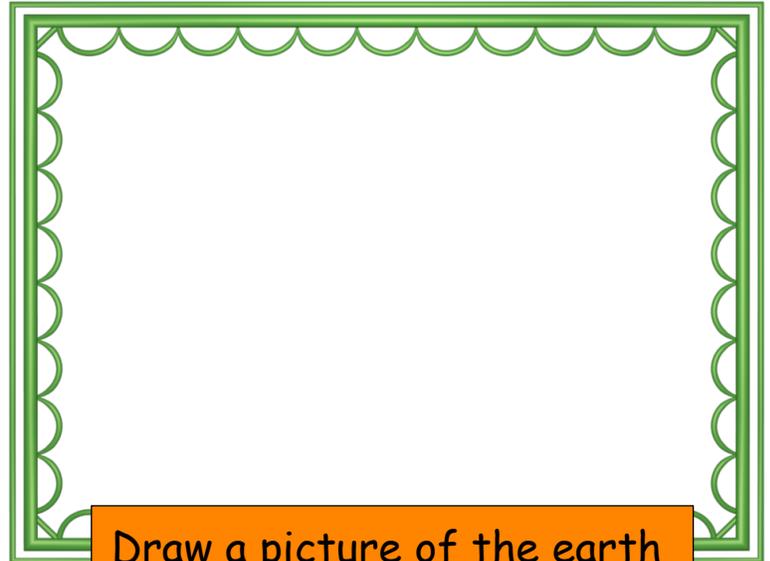
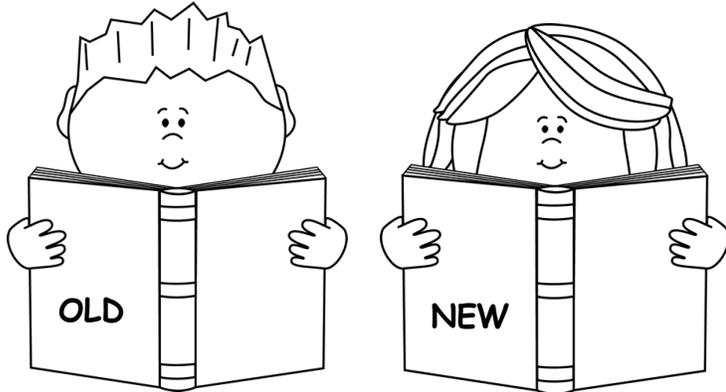
Breakfast begins at 8:00 am and is followed at 8:30 with Bible study and prayer. It concludes by 9:30 am, leaving plenty of time for Saturday morning obligations.



Who wrote the book of Genesis?

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

Is the book of Genesis found in the Old Testament or New Testament? Color the picture below to show your answer.



Draw a picture of the earth

How does this verse show me God loves me?



Look in Genesis 1 and write down all the things God created.

- Day 1 _____
- Day 2 _____
- Day 3 _____
- Day 4 _____
- Day 5 _____
- Day 6 _____
- What did God do on the 7th day? _____



Write the verse and reference in your favorite color.
