

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

The Suburban Connection

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Walking Wisely in 2025”

Ephesians 5:15-17

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God in the garden, darkness has dominated the days of humanity or in the words of Paul . . . “the days are evil.” The days will be dark until Christ returns. However, in these dark and evil days Christ is delivering his people from the kingdom of darkness and bringing them into the light . . . his light. Christ, the Light of the World, has commissioned us to shine forth his light. We are to walk in these dark days displaying his love and his light. This walk requires wisdom! Paul says in Ephesians 5:15, “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.” So, how do we walk in wisdom? How do we keep from being foolish?

***APPROACH EVERY DAY WITH GREAT CARE (Ephesians 5:15)**

The wise Christian looks with great care as they go about their daily lives. To look carefully how we walk means that we approach each day with a spiritual awareness! Last month, we enjoyed our first significant snowfall in several years. I will admit, I was thrilled. The next morning, I decided to put on several layers of clothing and go for a walk. Walking in the snow is quite challenging . . . just as driving a car. Whether you are walking in the snow or driving a car, you must “look carefully.” There must be a certain awareness of your surroundings.

The days in which we are living are evil. If the light of Christ is going to shine brightly through us, we must walk with an awareness: aware that we are weak, aware that Satan is a powerful deceiver, aware that he is no match for Christ, aware that we can't

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Save the Date!

Food Pantry

February 4th & 18th

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Men's Breakfast

February 1st & 15th

8:00 am in
Fellowship Hall

OCC Workday

February 17th

1:00 pm
(note time change)

continued from front page

walk alone, aware that we need a plan of action for each day, aware that we need to stay closely connected to Christ and his church!

***SNATCH UP EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW CHRIST (Ephesians 5:16)**

Wise Christians recognize and take advantage of every opportunity to make Christ known. It is so important that in these evil days we make the most of every opportunity to display the love of Christ. It would be foolish of us to waste or squander these opportunities.

In our relationships with unbelievers, Paul encourages us to “walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of our time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (Colossians 4:5,6) What opportunities do you have at work or in your neighborhood to share the gospel of Christ. Snatch up each one of these opportunities to make Christ known.

In our relationships with our church family, Galatians 6:10 says, “As we have opportunity let us do good . . . especially to those who are of the household of faith.” At Suburban, God has brought us together into a “family of faith.” Walking in wisdom means that we are constantly looking for opportunities to be a blessing to one another.

***APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO EVERY SITUATION (Ephesians 5:17)**

“Therefore, don’t be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

To **understand** God’s will includes **obedience** to his will. To walk in wisdom means that the Word of God is dwelling richly in us (Colossians 3:16), It means that we are trying to discern what is pleasing to the Lord (Ephesians 5:10), it means that we are actively applying God’s Word to every area of our lives (Ephesians 4:25-32), it means that we are not being conformed to this (evil) world, but we are continually being transformed by the renewal of our mind and able to discern the good will of God (Romans 12:2).

As followers of Christ, we can display his light in these evil days if we will walk in wisdom: approach every day with great care, snatch up every opportunity to show Christ, and apply God’s Word to every situation!

In 2025, Let us walk together in wisdom.

For His Glory,

Pastor Todd

**Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
Ephesians 5:15-17**

AWANA Ministry

We welcomed in the year 2025 by having a nice quiet(ish) night catching up on missed verses and each other. Although meeting every Sunday can sometimes be overwhelming in an already hectic schedule, we really do miss our time with the kids when we're away from them.

We watched short, animated stories about Jesus's life on movie night while enjoying some delish snacks! The kids made Valentine's cards for one of our military parents who is out on his last deployment in the Mediterranean Sea. Our Cubbies will be sending over a care package soon for him.

On 5 Senses night, we discussed how we can not only experience God using our senses but, in some cases, worship Him too! February means we only have 3 more full months of AWANA.... That doesn't seem right, does it? Where did the time go? Carol Brooks

February AWANA Calendar

February 2nd – Crazy Hair Night
February 9 th – Valentine's Night
February 16 th – Backwards Night
February 23 rd – Dot the Leader Night





Return your filled baby bottles by Sunday, February 16th!



SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



Derrick J. Sloan
Associate/Next
Generation 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

The Saturday Men's Breakfast & Bible Study February 1st & 15th

The men's prayer breakfast and Bible study is open to all men, and all are invited to enjoy a good homemade breakfast. Pastor Todd and Pastor Derrick will soon begin a study in the Book of James. The author of this epistle (letter) is James, also called James the Just, who is thought to be the brother of Jesus Christ ([Matthew 13:55](#); [Mark 6:3](#)). James was not a believer ([John 7:3-5](#)) until after the resurrection ([Acts 1:14](#); [1 Corinthians 15:7](#); [Galatians 1:19](#)). He became the head of the Jerusalem church and is mentioned first as a pillar of the church. We believe the book of James is the earliest written book of the New Testament, written perhaps as early as AD 45, before the first council of Jerusalem in c. AD 50. wh



Widows Ministry



Several years ago, Mrs. Charlotte Laws began a Widows Ministry at Suburban after experiencing the loss of her husband, Ed Laws. Her desire was to be an encouragement to others who have experienced the same loss and to remain active in the church.

She recruited Mitzi Ricks to help her in this endeavor. Mitzi encourages the ladies from God's Word and the group prays for our church family at every meeting.

It's Mrs. Charlotte's desire for the Widows Ministry to be active – outward focused. Their goal for 2025 is to meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am and to minister to others by visiting, sending cards, and completing various projects that come their way. They will begin with prayer and a devotional given by Mitzi which will include freshly brewed coffee and a special treat. Afterwards, they will divide into groups to be a blessing to others. If you are interested in joining Mrs. Charlotte and her team, she would be happy to meet with you. wh & Charlotte Laws

Operation Christmas Child Corner

Our first workday of 2025 will be Monday, February 17 at 1:00 pm. Please note the time change. We are going to try afternoons this year. Bring any ideas and/or materials for making things for the shoebox gifts. We have already had quite a few toys and other items donated. Thanks for your prayers. Lynn Cooke

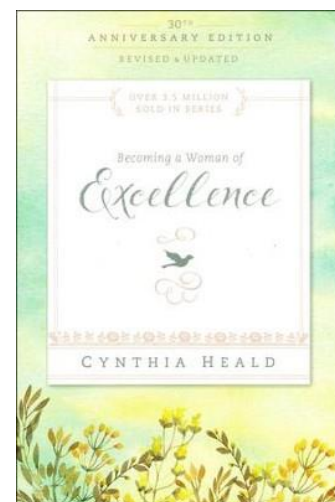


Belong Women's Ministry

The Belong Women's Ministry is hosting a baby shower for Chandra Sloan on Saturday, February 22nd, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All the ladies of the church are invited to attend.



Do you like to read? I seem to go through spells when I read A LOT and when I don't. I've been looking for a good book to read this year and this one was suggested by a friend so I thought I would pass it along to you. It's titled **Becoming a Woman of Excellence** by Cynthia Heald. The 11-week Bible study shares God's perspective on success in a society that bombards you with conflicting demands. The eleven chapters are divided into four parts: The Goal, The Cost, The Prize, and The Praise. The book can be purchased at Christianbook.com for \$6.99. If you decide to join me in reading it, let me know. I can't wait to hear what you learn. Wendy Haynes



Ambassador Youth Ministry Update – Let's Talk About It

Dear Suburban Family,

With the start of this new year, I find myself thinking about the beginning of Paul's letter to the Philippians. "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy" (Philip. 1:3–4). Every day that I pray for you all, my heart is filled with joy. Joy from our fellowship together. Joy from praising God through singing of His greatness together. Joy in sharing the Lord's supper and proclaiming His death, resurrection, and return, together. Joy in worshipping the Lord through hearing His Word and seeking to apply it to our lives together. I am ever grateful for the joy the Lord gives me through you all.

As you all know by now our focus for this year is on the church (1 Tim.3:14–15). By the grace of the Lord, we are working toward aligning our church structure with what is taught in Scripture. But what you may not be aware of is the current focus of ministry for AYM and the Young Adults. What I would like to do then is give an update on what we are studying in each ministry and the goal of that study.

AYM Update

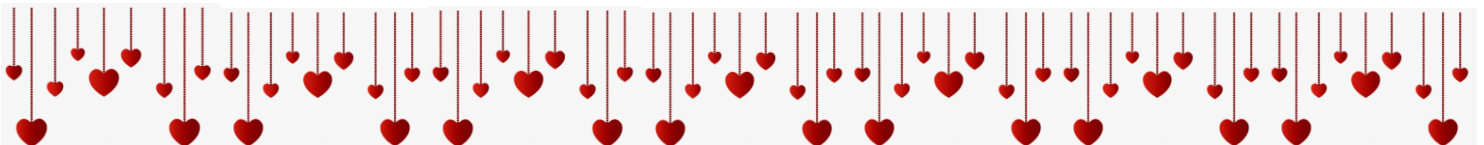
For the beginning of this year, AYM is working through *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald Whitney. The goal for this study can be summarized in one word, godliness. Whitney draws from 1 Timothy 4:7 as both the means and the goal for the Christian life. The text says, "Rather train yourself for godliness." As born-again believers, our aim is to become more like Christ. The way this comes about however is through training ourselves for godliness. This then begs the question; how do we train for godliness?

For Whitney, the answer is by doing the spiritual disciplines located in Scripture, with the proper motivation. God has given us certain disciplines in His Word that we are to cultivate in our life, for the purpose of becoming more like Jesus. Whitney says it this way, "The goal of practicing a given Discipline, of course, is not about *doing* as much as it is about *being*, that is, *being* like Jesus. But the biblical way to grow in *being* more like Jesus is through the rightly motivated *doing* of the biblical Spiritual Disciplines" (6). When those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit lean upon His power, and with Christlike motivation practice the spiritual disciplines that are found in His Word, the result is progress in godliness.

Each week as we gather, AYM will learn about the different spiritual disciplines God has given believers to practice. Some of these disciplines include Bible intake, prayer, worship, serving, and fasting. The purpose of these disciplines however is not simply to learn about them, but to apply them to our lives in order to grow in Christ. Each week therefore we will also include ways that we can begin to apply these disciplines in our life. By God's grace, spiritual growth will happen for the glory of His name.

Pastor Derrick

If you have a question that you would like to have answered in "Let's Talk About It," email pastor Derrick at derrickloan@sccvb.org.



Church Doctrinal Statement

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as verbally inspired of God inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of the supreme and final authority in faith and life. ([2 Timothy 3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#); [Matthew 24:35](#))
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ([Genesis 1:1](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [Matthew 3:13-17](#) and [28:19](#); [John 1:1-3](#) and [14:25-26](#))
3. We believe that in His incarnation, Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly man. ([Matthew 1:18-25](#); [Luke 1:26-38](#); [Romans 9:5](#); [Titus 2:13](#))
4. We believe that man was originally created in the image of God as a sinless being. By voluntary transgression, he fell from that sinless state by rejecting God's word and submitting to the deception of Satan. As a result, all mankind are now sinners by nature and by conduct and thereby incur not only physical death, but also that spiritual death, which is separation from God and are justly under His condemnation. ([Genesis 1:26-27](#), [2:16-17](#) and [3:6-7](#); [Psalm 51:5](#); [Romans 1:18-23](#), [3:9-18](#), [23](#) and [5:12-19](#))
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, that He arose victorious from the grave on the third day, that He ascended into heaven, and that His present life there for us is as High Priest and Advocate. ([Isaiah 53](#); [Matthew 28:6](#); [John 3:16](#); [Acts 1:9](#); [Romans 3:24-25](#); [1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16](#))
6. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood and thereby become children of God. True faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin and pursue Christ and obedience to Him. ([John 1: 12-13](#) and [3:3](#), [5](#); [James 1:18](#); [1 Peter 1:23](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#); [Luke 13:3](#), [5](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:9](#); [Matthew 11:28-30](#); [John 17:3](#); [1 John 2:3](#))
7. We believe that every saved person is involved in a daily conflict – the new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh – but adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The spiritual struggle never completely ends. Eradication of sin is not possible in this life, but the Holy Spirit does provide for victory over sin. ([Galatians 5:16-25](#); [Ephesians 4:22-24](#); [Philippians 3:12](#); [Colossians 3:9-10](#); [1 Peter 1:14-16](#); [1 John 3:3-9](#))
8. We believe that God has instituted marriage as the union of one man and one woman as husband and wife in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. ([Genesis 2:15-25](#); [Matthew 19:3-9](#))
9. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. ([John 5:24](#), [6:37-40](#), [10:27-30](#); [Romans 5:9-10](#), [8:1](#) and [31-39](#); [1 Corinthians 1:4-8](#); [Ephesians 4:30](#); [Hebrews 7:2](#); [1 Peter 1:5](#); [Jude 24](#))
10. We believe that God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth which is our blessed hope; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. ([John 5:28-29](#); [Acts 1:11](#); [1 Corinthians 15](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Matthew 25:31-46](#); [Revelation 20: 11-15](#))

Food Pantry Ministry

As we step into the month of February, a month often associated with love and togetherness, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the compassion and support you have shown towards our food pantry ministry. In our church family we all pull together to greet newcomers, pray for each other and help each other through our daily lives. In our church family love isn't just a feeling, it's an action! This month, we encourage each of you to continue sharing your love and compassion with our community via our food pantry. Because of you we in the food pantry get to greet the newcomer, pray for their needs and help people get through tough times.



We give thanks to God for the love and compassion that flows through our church family. May He continue to bless our efforts and guide us in serving those in need. Let us remember the words of Jesus: And the King will answer them, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) Thank you for your continued support and for being a shining example of love and compassion within our community.

With gratitude and blessings,
The Food Pantry Team

Seniors Ministry



In our January meeting, our guest speaker was Richard Kay, a converted Jew. He spoke with great emotion about God's work in his life. As a young man, he lived in Kernersville, North Carolina where he attended a small Lutheran church. After getting in gambling trouble, the pastor prayed with Richard. Shortly after this, a kindhearted manager of a Shell station paid off the debt. Around this time, he met Lane Adams in the church vestibule. Lane worked for the Graham organization that was presently in town. Richard attended and accepted Christ into his life.

The Lord continued changing him. Richard abandoned gambling and found great use for his childhood education in history and the Hebrew language. After realizing who the Sacrificial Lamb is, Richard was grounded with a real purpose. Praise God for his mercy!

For our February meeting, we will have a representative of the Virginia Beach Fire Department. Chicken sandwiches will be served for lunch. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Larry Thomas

**"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."
Jeremiah 31:3**

College and Young Adult Ministry Update



Can I trust God? In a life that is filled with uncertainty and adversity, we find ourselves wrestling with this question. Can I trust God when I lose that secure job I had? Can I trust God after being hurt in a relationship? Can I trust God in a world that has war and death? In his book, *Trusting God*, Jerry Bridges shows us that the answer is, yes. So then, how can we trust God with all of our life?

For Bridges, the answer to this question lies within Scripture. Psalm 9:10 says, "And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you." In order to trust God with all things in our life, we must know God. First, we must know Him in salvation. Only those who belong to God have their faith in Him (Rm. 10:17). Second, we must know Him personally. We must know who God is through Scripture and grow in our relationship with Him by knowing Him more. For Bridges, there are three truths Christians need to know about God to grow their trust in Him. That is, God is completely sovereign, God is infinite in wisdom, and God is perfect in love (7).

Every time we gather, the Young Adults will walk through what it means that God is perfectly sovereign, wise, and loving. More importantly, we will learn how these truths about God are to be applied to every area of our life. Rather than becoming overwhelmed with the difficulties that we face, the goal of this study is to learn that all things come about by the providence of our good God. This does not take away from the pain we face, but it does lead us to say at the end of the day, I can trust God.

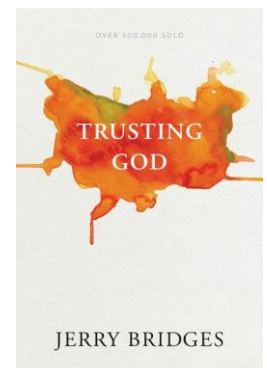
What to Pray For

Suburban family, as we work through these studies I ask for your prayers. If you would, each week be in prayer for the following:

- For God to be glorified through the proclamation of His Word.
- For the lost to be saved through the gospel.
- For those who are in Christ to grow and mature in the faith.
- For AYM and the Young Adults to evangelize to those around them.
- For the families of both AYM and Young Adults.
- For the Lord to bless me in my time of preparation and teaching.

In Christ,

Pastor Derrick



Sunday School

Hide *God's Word*
in your heart.



Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Our Sunday school program works hard each week to deliver the truth of God's Word. May each Bible lesson that is taught be a lamp and a light to every heart in our program. May it lead to salvation and growth! And may we praise God when we see His works! *Laura Tyler*

Adult Sunday School

The Discovery Class – Fellowship Hall A Taught by Chris Tyler & Bill Cofer

We are walking through the life of Jesus in a careful study of the book of Matthew. Nowhere in Scripture is the beauty of Christ more supremely demonstrated than in the Gospel. The King of Heaven, the image of the invisible God and the radiance of His Glory, emptied Himself by taking on the form of a servant. So that we might enter into His joy. Join us for teaching, discussion, and fellowship as we humbly learn to follow Him more closely and love Him more truly.

The Cornerstone Class – Fellowship Hall B Taught by Ron Raymer

Ron Raymer is presenting a study to compare and contrast the various denominations in the Christian church and follow on with a study of the beliefs of major non-Christian faiths and cults. The study is based on information from "Handbook of Denominations in the United States" by Roger E. Olsen and "Kingdom of the Cults" by Walter Martin.

***If you would like to join in the Adult Sunday School class via conference call, please call 612-746-7360. The conference code is 809549.**

— END OF YEAR —

GIVING
STATEMENTS

Your 2024 giving statements were made available after the church services on January 12 & 19, 2025. If you did not receive your statement on one of those Sundays, they were mailed to the address we have on file. To update your address, phone number, or email address, please notify the church office. Also, if you would like to give to Suburban Christian Church, you may do so by placing your offering in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, through your postal service, or through our website: sccvb.org.

Children's Church

Have you ever noticed that cats take naps all the time? My daughter and her husband have two cats named Louis and Vader. They search for places around the house to curl up to snooze. Did you know that there was a Miraculous Catnap that took place in the book of Daniel? Daniel was an obedient servant of God under the reign of King Darius. Other rulers were jealous of Daniel, so they tricked the king into forbidding his subjects to only pray to him for 30 days or be punished. Daniel chooses to only pray to God which caused the king to have Daniel thrown into the lion's den. God caused the hungry lions to take a catnap, and Daniel was saved and freed. However, the men who tricked the king were thrown into the lion's den and guess what? The lions woke up and did their worst. What a great lesson for us – To serve God alone, no matter who is watching.

During the month of February, we will also be studying "A Marriage Made in Heaven" from Hosea 1-3, "Let Justice Roll Down" from Amos 5, "Famine and Feast" from Amos 8-9, and "Big Fish, Bigger Mercy" from Jonah 1-4. All of these lessons from the Old Testament point us to Christ, the Snake Crusher! Children, K5-3rd grade, are welcome to join us in Children's Church. Hope to see you there! ^{wh}

Children's Church February Schedule



Date	Lead	Assistant	Service Helper
2/2/25	Lois Ritger	TBA	Samara Saucedo
2/9/25	Jan Grills	TBA	Liam Cooke
2/16/25	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
2/23/25	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Elena Tyler



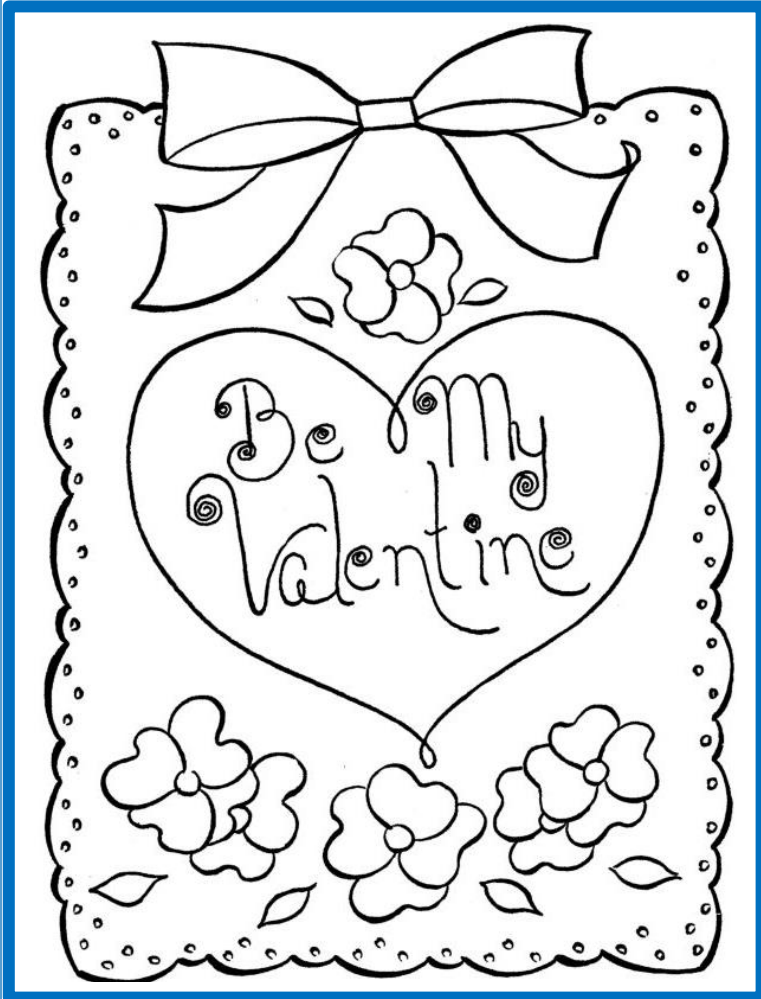
Nursery News

If you would like to join the nursery ministry by helping one Sunday per month – during Sunday School or Worship service, please contact Stacie Raymer (757-589-5731; sraymer@odu.edu). Young teenage helpers are also welcomed to help.

February Nursery Schedule

Date	Sunday School 9:00 am	Worship 10:15 am	Worship Helper
2/2/25	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Stacie Raymer Barbara Skarupa	Donovan Saucedo
2/9/25	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Jeff Herring LaToya Rakes	Liam Cooke
2/16/25	Melissa Tucker	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	William Schnurr
2/23/25	Melissa Tucker	Laura Tyler Christine Rogers	Nathaniel Schnurr

Just for... **Suburban Kids**



Directions: Look up the following verse and fill in the blanks.

This is my _____,
 that you _____ one
 _____ as _____ have
 _____ you.

John 15:12

Did you know that

your heart beats about **100,000 times in ONE DAY**, it pumps about **1 MILLION BARRELS OF BLOOD** during an average lifetime, it does the **MOST PHYSICAL WORK of ANY MUSCLE** in the body, and that a woman's **HEART BEATS FASTER** than a man's heart?

WOW! God is amazing! That's why it's really important to keep our hearts healthy. Start each day with a **grateful** and **healthy** heart.

