

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 4

The Suburban Connection

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From the Pastor's Desk: Our Year Verse 2024

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
Romans 15:7

Save the Date!

AWANA Resumes

January 7th

Normal Sunday
night activities
resume at 5:00 pm

Derrick & Chandra Sloan Visiting

January 11th - 14th

Senior Ministry Mtg.

January 18th

11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Winter Music Night

January 28th

6:00 pm
Sanctuary

The unity of the church in Rome was a major concern for the apostle Paul. There were a number of obstacles hindering the church in Rome from coming together. One such hurdle was their different upbringings. The church in Rome was populated with both Jew and Gentile. The Jews of course, were brought up with their traditions and regulations based on the Old Testament Scripture. The Gentiles on the other hand, being mostly pagan, had no context for Jewish holy days, rituals, or dietary restrictions. You can imagine how these incredibly diverse groups would have a difficult time in accepting one another.

Our year verse for 2024, Romans 15:7, summarizes Paul's teaching on unity that began all the way back in chapter 14. In Romans 14:1 Paul says, **"As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions."** For nearly 2 chapters, Paul has been making a case for, and encouraging the Roman believers to develop a culture of accepting one another. Why does Paul spend so much time addressing this issue? There are a number of reasons, but one is the reality that achieving this harmony will not be easy peezy. Paul knows that in order for the church at Rome to truly welcome one another it will require the power of the Holy Spirit.

Continued...

continued from the Pastor's Desk...

So, when Paul calls us to welcome one another in Romans 15:7, what does he mean by that, and what does that look like? The meaning of the word **welcome** in the original is to grant access into one's heart; to receive into one's home with kindness; to take as one's companion; to take hold of and bring face-to-face; to draw other people into your inner circle of relationships. Welcoming one another is much more than putting on a smiling face. Welcoming one another means to embrace one another in spite of our different upbringings, personalities and preferences. This is Paul's message not only to the Christian church in Rome but to Suburban Christian church in Virginia Beach.

My prayer for our Suburban family in 2024 is that God will open our hearts to truly welcome one another. Think about how Jesus Christ has opened his heart, his home, and welcomed each and every one of us. With all of our sin and baggage Jesus opened his arms and fully embraced us. As Christ has welcomed us, we also are to welcome one another. Paul says that when believers open their hearts to one another, it brings glory to God. One of the greatest ways that Suburban can display the glory of God in 2024 is through pursuing the warm embrace of family...God's family!

Now may the God of endurance and encouragement grant us to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together we may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen (Romans 15:5,6)

God is so good!

Pastor Todd



What's Happening In... Suburban Kids

Children's Church

January Children's Church Schedule

Date	Lead	Assistant	Helper
1/7/24	Lois Ritger	TBA	Samara Saucedo
1/14/24	Susan Cofer	Bill Cofer	Lois Ritger
1/21/24	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
1/28/24	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Elena Tyler



In December, we discussed the importance stars play in our lives. The beauty and brilliance of stars have been used as guidance for many travelers, fishermen, sailors and so many others since creation. On that one special night, the shepherds marveled at the stars when Jesus was born . . . and that one very special Star, Which led the Wise Men to the precious baby Jesus, the baby who would grow up to become our Lord and Savior, the one **TRUE GOD**. Each child decorated a star to take home for their Christmas trees and as a reminder to share the story with their families.

We are excited to begin our new curriculum for our Children's Church Ministry. It is called *The Biggest Story*. In *The Biggest Story*, Kevin DeYoung - a best-selling author and father of six - leads us on an exciting journey through the Bible, connecting the dots from the garden of Eden to Christ's death on the cross to the new heaven and new earth. Please pray for our Children's Church leaders as they share these great truths with our children and for Lois Ritger as she leads the team.



Sunday School

Lou and Carol's first through fifth grade class was getting into the Christmas spirit by decorating their class door. Take a walk down the Education Wing Hall to see their talents.

If anyone is interested in joining the fun, I am always looking for substitutes. Sunday school substitutes don't have to teach! Just come in, get to know us, and be blessed. Contact Laura Tyler if interested. (757) 404-4510



Food Pantry Ministry

As grocery prices continued to rise this year, we experienced a steady increase in the number of people who visit our food pantry each month. Thanks to the loving, generous hearts, and unwavering support of our Suburban church family, we are able to help many families. We provided 19 Christmas meals to families in need this year! What a blessing it is to serve these lovely people! A special thanks to those who volunteered to do bulk shopping for the pantry; your help is very much appreciated! If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Amie Mitchell or Marsha Utley.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal	Beans
Jell-O	Instant Potatoes
Rice	Baked Beans
Pudding	Mac & Cheese
Jelly	Hamburger Helper
Tuna	Peanut Butter
Crackers	Single Serving Fruit
Soup	Canned Fruit
Spaghetti Sauce	Pasta Noodles
Apple Sauce	Pasta Sauces
Breakfast Bars	Canned Vegetables
Fresh Fruit	Fresh Bread
Laundry Detergent	Paper Towels
Dish Soap	Toilet Paper

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

Belong Women's Ministry

On December 9th, the Belong Women's Ministry invited all the women of the church to attend their Christmas Luncheon. We had a lovely lunch provided by Marsha Utley, Carol Brooks, Ara Miller, Nita Weeks, Betty Owens, Charlotte Laws, and Wendy Haynes.

To begin our time together, the Christmas story was read from Luke 2. Taking a moment to settle our minds to read the Christmas story set the stage for a great time together. Afterwards, Kathy Herring didn't disappoint with her crazy Christmas games! Thank you, Kathy, for picking games that caused us to get to know one another even more!

As a mission project, we made gift bags, under the direction of Carol Brooks, for the ladies staying at Union Mission and thanks to Susan Philips, we had lovely homemade Christmas cards in which to write a note for each bag.

Finally, Marsha Utley showed us how to make bird feeders from pinecones, peanut butter, and birdseed. Yes, things got a little messy, but everyone had a lovely time. I hung the one I made as soon as I got home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carol Brooks and Marsha Utley for being on the Belong Women's Ministry Team. Both of you are an encouragement to me and I love that you are always willing to make Belong a place where everyone has a seat.

Wendy Haynes



AWANA Ministry

Our December didn't go as well as we had hoped. We managed to successfully find all the necessary ingredients for our cookie recipe but then a "storm" blew in and we had to shuffle some things around. We knew that if we canceled the store night on the 10th the weather wouldn't be as bad as they predicted so on behalf of the Suburban Christian Church AWANA Leadership – You're Welcome!

All joking aside, our kids really work hard each and every Sunday and we would never want them to miss out on the wonderful and thoughtful gifts you all donated, so we had the shopping extravaganza on the 17th. Thank you to everyone who donated to the store or came out to help the kids wrap their gifts. It really means so much to them to independently get gifts for their families. I am always so impressed by their desire to choose just the right one and do so with a true spirit of giving. You would think that kids these days would whine and demand that they shop for themselves, but our kids honestly WANT to give gifts to their families. We always make it a point to relate that feeling of giving to Jesus and his **ULTIMATE** gift to us – Eternal Life.

Carol Brooks

Our January Calendar:

Jan 7th – Short Club Night with Families – Awards and Pizza

Jan 14th – Drive In Movie Night – Bring your decorated box cars to watch movie and munch on snacks.

Jan 21st – Spy Night – Try to figure out the Bible story lesson from a small picture hint.

Jan 28th – Trinity Night – Object lessons to help understand the Trinity



Men's Ministry

The Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast and Bible Study will be meeting on January 6th and 20th. The men always prepare a scrumptious breakfast followed by great teaching of God's Word. You will not be disappointed!

Derrick & Chandra Sloan Visiting

Our new Next Generation Pastor and his wife will be visiting January 11 – 14, 2024! We will be having a time of "Coffee and Conversation" on Saturday, January 13th, from 3:00 – 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall and you are all invited! Derrick will be speaking on Sunday, January 14th, during the Worship Service.



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks for making our Operation Christmas Child Ministry a rousing success again this year. To everyone who helped to fill the 1020 shoebox gifts, I thank you. Every child that receives a gift also receives the word of God. We are part of that invitation. It takes every one of us to pray for, collect items, fill boxes and ship them off to be the hands and feet of God in this way. Thank you.

We will begin our monthly work days on January 15 from 10 to 12. We'll work every 3rd Monday throughout the year. Some of the craft supplies we need for the workdays are: pony beads, 1/4 inch wide satin ribbon, any color card stock copy paper, and French barrette blanks. If you have an idea for a craft, please let me know. Thanks. Lynn Cooke



Music Ministry

Thank you so much for another year of wonderful music praising God each week in the choir and now in the bell choir, too. I truly appreciate the dedication and talent of each one of our singers, ringers and instrumentalists. Thank you, also, to Karen Meads for narrating our cantata this year and to all the helpers on the audio/visual team.

We are looking for a few more people with a servant's heart to help with the audio/visuals for Sunday morning worship. Please let me or Christen know of your interest. We will be having an organizational meeting on January 21st to plan training and schedules.

We are planning our first ever "Winter Music Night" for Sunday, January 28 at 6:00 pm with a chili social to follow so bring your favorite chili. Our summer music night has been so successful and such fun that we're going to try a winter one.

If you want to sing or play an instrumental special, please let me know. We'll be singing favorite hymns, songs and choruses to the glory of God. Put it on your calendar and don't miss it! See you in church, Lynn Cooke



Nursery Ministry

JANUARY NURSERY SCHEDULE

DATE	Sunday School	Worship	Worship Helper
1/7/24	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Stacie Raymer Barbara Skarupa	Elena Tyler
1/14/24	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Jeff Herring Marybeth Wallace	Stephanie Roby
1/21/24	Melissa Tucker Stacey Super	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Samara Saucedo
1/28/24	Melissa Tucker	Laura Tyler Teresa Birk	Liam Cooke

If you would like to be a part of this ministry to our church families, please contact Stacie Raymer (sraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). We can use help during our Sunday School hour. Young teenage helpers are also welcome!



God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend. For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth.'
Job 37: 5, 6a



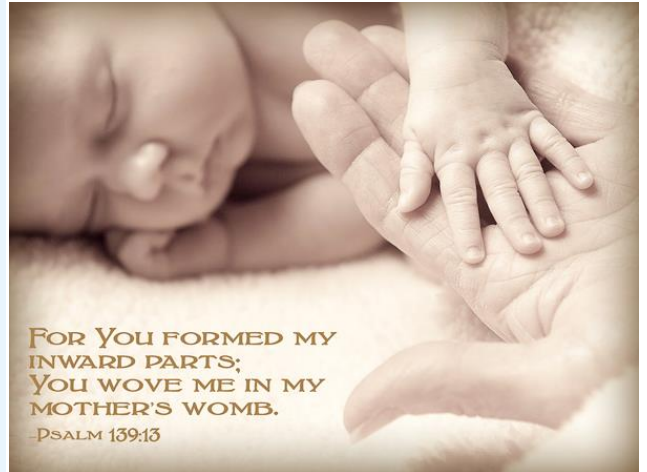
— END OF YEAR —

GIVING STATEMENTS

Your 2023 giving statements will be made available toward the end of this month. 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.

January is Sanctity of Human Life Month

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater is a Christ-centered organization to reach out to women and families involved in crisis-related pregnancies by offering real help for the present, hope for the future, and healing from the past. We are proud to support them on a monthly basis and realize that "children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward." Psalm 127:3 Yearly, a Walk for Life is held to help raise financial support for this ministry. They also need volunteers (orientation required) to work in their facilities. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and have questions, please see Gloria Livingston. We are also participating in the "Baby Bottle Campaign" to raise money for the center. Pick up your bottle in the foyer and sign up if you would like to participate. wh



My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139: 15-16

Seniors Ministry



Happy New Year!

The next seniors meeting will be held Thursday, January 18, at 11:00. Pastor Todd is scheduled to be our speaker and will share his thoughts and plans for the year 2024. Hot ham and cheese on Ciabatta bread and salad will be served. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

Ambassador Youth Ministry - AYM

Pass the Salt



"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored: It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison - that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." Colossians 4:2-6

In Matthew 5:13-16 and Colossians 4:2-6, we read that Christians are like salt. But what does that mean? What does salt do in practical terms? And how does this apply to our everyday lives?

First, salt adds flavor. As Christians, we can add flavor to the lives of the people around us by sharing the love of Jesus. When we add salt to other people's lives, they get a taste of what Jesus is like (Psalm 34:8).

Second, salt makes you thirsty, letting your body know you need water. And like salt, Christians can help people around us become aware of their need for Jesus. When people see what knowing Jesus truly means to us and hear about what He's done for us, they might become interested in knowing more about Him for themselves (John 7:37).

Third, in the days before modern medicine, salt was often used to disinfect a wound. In a similar way, Christians have the good news of Jesus. He has provided the antidote for sin and all the brokenness it causes through dying on the cross and rising from the grave for us. Because we know Jesus, we get to look forward to the day He will return and fully restore His creation, and in the meantime, we get to see glimpses of His healing in our own lives - whether it be physically, spiritually, emotionally, or relationally. Sharing the story of Jesus in a loving way reminds us of the healing work Jesus has done in us and introduces others to the healing He can do in their lives.

So today, let us consider how we might share the salt of God's healing love with our community, and let us rest in that same salty story where we found - and continue to find - our healing.

Questions:

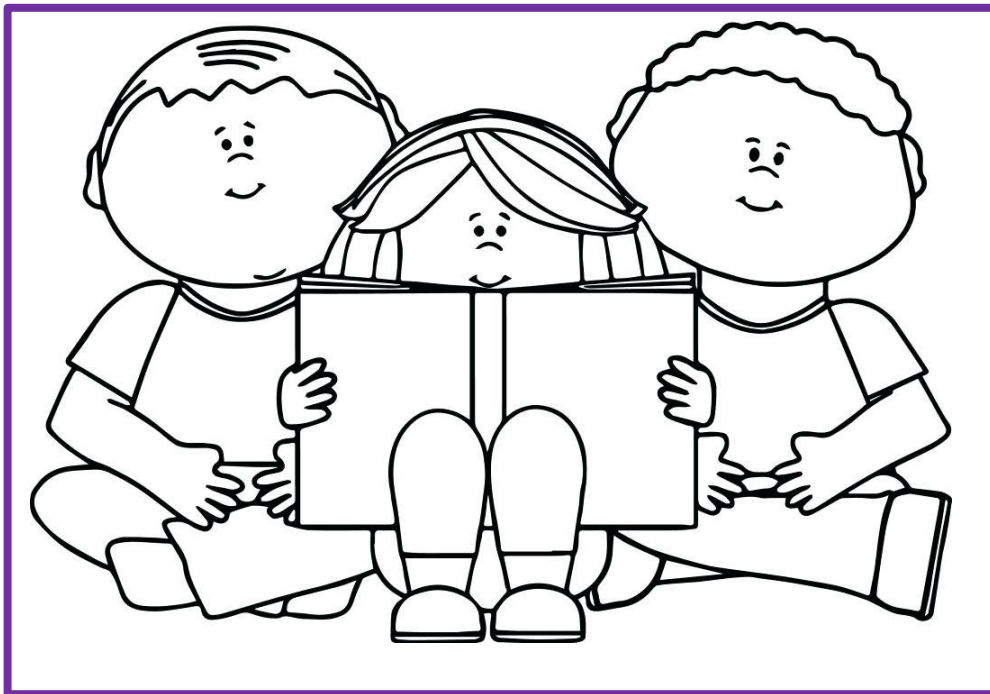
- *Which of the three characteristics of salt listed above stuck out to you the most? Why?
- *What questions do you have about how to share the gospel in a loving way? Consider taking some time to pray, asking God about this.
- *Who are trusted Christians in your life you could talk with about loving ways to share the good news of Jesus?

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:6)

Just for...

Suburban
Kids

Color the picture of the children reading the Bible.



Directions: Draw a picture of a snowman in this box.

2024 YEAR VERSE

Directions: Look up the Bible verse below and fill in the blanks. Show Pastor Todd when you have completed it for a prize. 😊

"Therefore _____ one
another as _____ has
welcomed _____, for the
_____ of _____."

Romans 15:7

Snow Word Search

E	L	I	A	R	T	S	L	E	D
S	T	E	W	U	S	L	L	A	F
D	N	A	N	L	S	I	W	O	S
S	I	N	E	K	F	P	W	M	O
L	E	G	A	R	L	O	O	R	O
L	N	T	R	A	C	K	R	O	L
A	E	F	Y	V	A	E	H	T	G
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ANGELS
BALLS
BUILD
CREATE
DIG

FALL
FORT
HEAVY
IGLOOS
PLAY

SKATE
SLED
SLIP
STORM
THROW

TRACK
TRAIL
TUNNEL
WET

Did you know that according to the Guinness World Records, the largest snowflake in the world was 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick. That's a WOW!