

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 5

# The Suburban Connection

5132 Bellamy Manor Drive, VA Beach, VA 23464 www.sccvb.org Phone: 757.495.0352 Email: info@sccvb.org

## From the Pastor's Desk: Our Year Verse 2025

**“I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.”  
I Timothy 3:14,15**

### Save the Date!

#### AWANA Resumes

**January 5<sup>th</sup>**  
5:00 pm

---

#### Official Board Mtg.

**January 6<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 pm

---

#### Food Pantry

**January 7<sup>th</sup>**  
12:30 – 2:00 pm  
(note time change)

---

#### Senior Ministry Mtg.

**January 16<sup>th</sup>**  
11:00 am

Fellowship Hall

### OUR AMERICAN CULTURE HAS MARGINALIZED THE CHURCH

I remember growing up as a child in the 70's playing community sports – baseball, football, and basketball. Games and practices were scheduled throughout the week, but never on Sunday (not even on Wednesday). Sunday was off-limits for rec-league sports. Sunday was seen as the day people went to church. Today, however, Sunday is just another day, and games are scheduled from sun-up to sun-down. This minimizing of the church has taken a toll on many “churchgoing” families, so that if there is a scheduling conflict on Sunday, sports/activities come first, and church is easily moved to the back of the line.

However, at Suburban in 2025, we are going to focus our attention on the church – “our church,” and our year verse will help us do that. Our 2025-year verse emphasizes the significance of the church with a striking 3-fold description of the church. The church alone is God's family. The church alone is where God resides. And the church alone is where God's truth is found.

Continued inside . . .

*continued from the Pastor's Desk...*

### **1. THE CHURCH IS THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD (I Timothy 3:15)**

The church is the family of God. As members of Suburban Christian Church, we are God's family. We became God's family by repenting of our sin and believing on Jesus to be our Savior. Entrance into God's family comes only through believing on Jesus . . . and each member must personally embrace Christ.

Does God have a plan to care for His family the church? You bet He does! Just as God planned for the care of earthly families by providing a father and a mother, God also designed the roles of pastors and deacons to care for his spiritual family, the church. This coming year, we will with God's help, develop a plan and timeline to transition to pastors and deacons to better care for God's family. Pray, pray, pray for God to go before us. Pray for God's wisdom each step of the way.

### **2. THE CHURCH IS THE PLACE WHERE GOD DWELLS (I Timothy 3:15)**

We are the church, the people of the living God. The New Testament teaches us that God no longer resides in a tabernacle, or temple, or a special city. Now the living God dwells within his people the church. Second Corinthians 6:16 says, "For we are the sanctuary of the living God." Ephesians 2:22 says, "You are being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit."

The people of Suburban Christian Church are the place where God lives and dwells and makes his presence known. In 2025, let's remember this precious truth every time we gather in worship to hear his Word. The living God joyfully makes his home with us! No other organization, activity, or society – only the church, his family, can say, "God lives with us!"

### **3. THE CHURCH IS A PILLAR AND BUTTRESS OF THE TRUTH (I TIMOTHY 3:15)**

The people in Ephesus would have understood Paul's architectural imagery. The temple of Diana was one of the 7 wonders of the world. It had a massive shining marble roof held high with 127 strong columns all around it, each measuring 60 feet high.

The church is called like a pillar to hold high the truth of the Gospel of Christ. We have the privilege of putting Jesus Christ on display so others will see and believe in Christ. The church as a buttress or foundation of the church is responsible for protecting, defending and holding fast to God's truth revealed in Christ. What an incredible blessing to be entrusted with the care and proclamation of **THE TRUTH!**

#### **In conclusion . . .**

There is nothing like the church in this world. In all of history, there is nothing more significant than Christ's Church.

- The church has been founded by Christ (Matthew 16:18,19)
- To create the church, Christ had to die (Ephesians 5:25)
- Christ identifies intimately with the church (Acts 9:4,5)
- Christ describes the church as his own body and bride (Ephesians 5 29,30)
- The church alone shines forth making visible the goodness of Christ (Matthew 5:14-16)

In God's estimation, the church is his highest priority. In God's eyes, the church is always under his watchful care. In God's wisdom, the church is his plan for accomplishing his purposes in the world. Pray for us this year as we focus on developing and implementing God's plan for **HIS CHURCH** – for His glory and our good.

*By His Grace,*

*Pastor Todd*

# What's Happening In... Suburban Kids Children's Church

## January Children's Church Schedule

Date	Lead	Assistant	Helper
1/5/25	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Samara Saucedo
1/12/25	Jan Grills	TBA	Liam Cooke
1/19/25	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
1/26/25	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Elena Tyler



Happy New Year! We are so excited about what God is going to teach us in Children's Church. As we enter the Prophets, we will learn of King Belshazzar – a mean ruler who would not humble himself before the Lord of heaven. A lot takes place in Daniel 5 when God literally wrote on the wall during a great feast! Whew! What a night!

God didn't hold back on his judgment! God is so powerful that he controls kings and kingdoms, and this is seen in the moments to come! In Daniel 6, a few of Daniel's "friends" devise a plan to trap him. He ends up in the lions' den, but God protected Daniel, and the tricksters end up in the den instead. Daniel trusted and obeyed God no matter what.

In Hosea, we will discover how God's love and mercy is shown to sinners, who don't deserve it. And Amos calls God's people to "see the Lord and live".

Remember, Jesus, The Snake Crusher, humbled himself on the cross so people like us – who aren't loving, just, and humble – might be part of God's perfect kingdom. When He returns, he will make everything new and perfect. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

## Sunday School



Happy New Year from the Sunday school program! Our classes enjoyed some festive events during the Christmas season. Chris Mowery and Betty Langnecker's high school class helped spread cheer by sorting the Christmas cards in the SCC mailboxes. Kathy Herring and Chris Bulaski's class walked the halls and took a census of all the people. They were learning about Caesar Augustus and how he sent out a decree that all the world should be registered.

On the fifth Sunday of the month, the whole Sunday school program joined together to throw a birthday party for Jesus. All the classes gathered together to sing Happy Birthday, eat a cake that was decorated with symbols that reminded us of Jesus, and played Christmas Bingo. God has blessed this year, and we can't wait to see what He has in store for 2025! Laura Tyler



## Food Pantry Ministry

Happy New Year, everyone! As we kick off 2025, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, donors, and community members who made last year such a success. Together, we provided food, support, and hope to many families in need. Here's to another year of making a difference! As we step into 2025, we are reminded of the beautiful promise found in Lamentations 3:22-23: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." This scripture offers a profound reminder that each day brings new opportunities for grace, renewal, and mercy.

Just as the dawn of each day brings the promise of new mercies, the start of a new year gives us a chance to begin anew, to set fresh goals, and to embrace the blessings that lie ahead. Let us carry this message of hope and faith into our community, knowing that we are supported by God's unwavering love and kindness.

Blessings,  
The Food Pantry Team

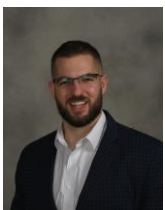
### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 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



**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](http://www.facebook.com)

We want to hear from you! Contact us at [newsletter@sccvb.org](mailto:newsletter@sccvb.org)

# Belong Women's Ministry

On December 7th, the Belong Women's Ministry invited all the women of the church to attend their "Put Your Apron On" Christmas Luncheon. Thirty-seven ladies of all ages had a blast! We began with a Christmas game under the direction of Kathy Herring followed by a delicious lunch.

As lunch continued, we made Christmas blessing bags for the ladies staying at Union Mission. Phyllis Wiggins was our special speaker reminding us that serving others is a JOY and BLESSING and challenged us to find a way/s to serve and do it for the glory of God.

To end our time together, Kathy Herring didn't disappoint with another Christmas game which involved us passing around the gifts we brought several times.

The Belong Gang would also like to thank all of those who attended for bringing a "school supply" to the event for Providence Elementary School. Around this time of the year, teachers are running low of supplies so this will greatly help them when the children return after Christmas break.

Finally, I would like to thank Marsha Utley, Nancy Herbst, and Carol Brooks for all of their hard work to make this event special for you. They truly have a heart of service.

Wendy Haynes



Merry Christmas



## AWANA Ministry

Bring on 2025! What a fantastic month we had to end 2024! We made bracelets with different colored beads to help us remember the different parts of the Lord's Prayer, we had our highly anticipated store night and finished it off with a really fun family dinner.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our store this year! We had some really special gifts to choose from and the kids loved each of them. A special Thank You to Stacey Super & Janet Creekmore who were our dynamic gift-wrapping duo this year!! You guys Rock!

Our last night together at club in 2024 was really a great time. We gave out awards, played some games, did some crafts and had pizza for dinner. I think everyone went home happy clubbers!

I want to also thank my fabulous leaders with all of their help in setting up and putting away all the Christmas items. It's a lot of prep work for the store night and the family night and I could NOT have done it without your help! Thank You!!! Carol Brooks

### Our January 2025 Calendar:

- January 5 - Ketchup Night ("catch up" on any missed verses)
- January 12 - Drive In Movie Night
- January 19 - 5 Senses Night - How do you experience God using your 5 senses?
- January 26 - Animal Night



## Men's Ministry

The Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast and Bible Study will be meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The men always prepare a scrumptious breakfast followed by great teaching of God's Word. You will not be disappointed!

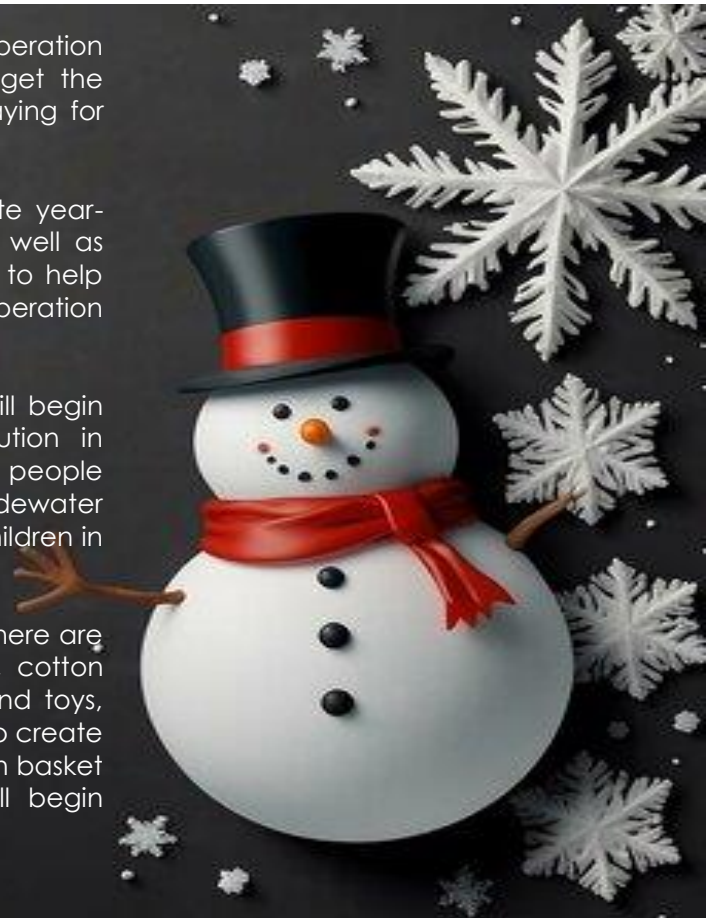
## Operation Christmas Child Corner

The new year is beginning but that doesn't mean Operation Christmas Child is ending! It takes several months to get the shoebox gifts distributed around the world, so keep praying for the kids who will receive the gifts.

Samaritan's Purse has many other ministries that operate year-round, too. Like disaster relief and food distribution as well as programs for clean water and healthy living conditions to help people feel the love of Christ in their lives every day. Operation Christmas Child is a small part of the worldwide ministry.

Our small part continues here at Suburban, too. We will begin working on items for the shoeboxes for the distribution in 2025. This past year, we filled 944 individual gifts from the people of Suburban that were combined with the rest of the Tidewater area to send over 19,000 shoebox gifts on their way to children in need. Thank you!

For now, if you want to help make things for the boxes, there are some supplies we can use: Flannel fabric for blankets, cotton fabric for shorts and dresses, pony beads for jewelry and toys, French barrettes to decorate, and many helping hands to create these items. Please place your donations in our collection basket in the hallway across from the Welcome Desk. We'll begin monthly workdays in February. Thank you. Lynn Cooke



## Music Ministry

You are invited to join the Suburban choir!

When: Tuesday evenings @ 7:00 pm

Where: Suburban Sanctuary

Who: YOU!

## Music Ministry

### A Body of Praise – How should we worship?

On Sunday mornings when we come to worship, we bring bodies with particularities, limitations, and five senses that ought to be engaged. We were each uniquely created by God, specifically for worship of the Creator. Our bodies are both recipients and instruments of God's love for us. When you come to worship have you ever wondered how to use

your body? Do you simply sit and listen? Do you stand and sing, only moving your mouth to issue praise to the Lord? Do you bow your head in prayer and perhaps fold your hands? These are all very typical postures our bodies assume during worship.



Corporate worship, the coming together of many believers, is a regular Sunday morning event for us. We pray, sing and listen to God's word, all the while using our bodies to intake information and process it, and then what? Have you ever felt the urge to do something else? Have you fought the temptation to tap your toes to a song that catches your interest? How about clapping along to a song? Surely that is something you've been motivated to do on occasion. How about a visit to the altar? How do you respond to those urges?

**Begin with the heart** - The heart of worship isn't attitudinal or merely spiritual. The heart drives our worship because it is where we intake God's word and process our response to it. The heart of worship includes the posture of our bodies. Our bodies usher us into and facilitate worship, both individually and congregationally. Therefore, it is important that when we engage in corporate worship, we should never settle for just going through the motions.

**Respond with the body** – during worship, that UIP (unidentified inner prompting) is likely coming from God Himself. If you have aligned your heart with God's during worship, you may feel God's prompting to do more than receive. He wants you to *express* your worship. But you say: "God knows my heart; I don't have to raise my hands or kneel for God to receive my worship". And you are absolutely right. But if you have received an inner prompting, God wants more, He wants your FULL response, not one held back by concern of what others might think. If that UIP says clap, then clap! If it says kneel, then drop to your knees! If it says raise your hands, then raise them high for the Lord!

Corporate worship isn't an organized weekly gathering, like a concert or a sporting event. It is a carefully planned experience to invite God's Holy Spirit to harmonize our individual worship into a powerful corporate offering of praise to our Creator. By limiting our response, we withhold some of that adoration, not fully giving the glory our God is due.

So as we enter a new year, worshipping together at Suburban, consider your response to those inner promptings. Leave your inhibitions at the door and enter wholly into worship of the One who deserves it all!

See you in church! ~Karen



Nursery Ministry

**JANUARY NURSERY SCHEDULE**

DATE	Sunday School	Worship	Worship Helper
1/5/25	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Stacie Raymer Barbara Skarupa	Cameron Catie
1/12/25	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Jeff Herring LaToya Rakes	Emma Tyler
1/19/25	Melissa Tucker	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Samara Saucedo
1/26/25	Melissa Tucker	Laura Tyler Christine Rodgers	Elena Tyler

If you would like to be a part of this ministry to our church families, please contact Stacie Raymer ([sraymer@odu.edu](mailto:sraymer@odu.edu); 757-589-5731). We can use help during Sunday School and the Worship Service. 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*



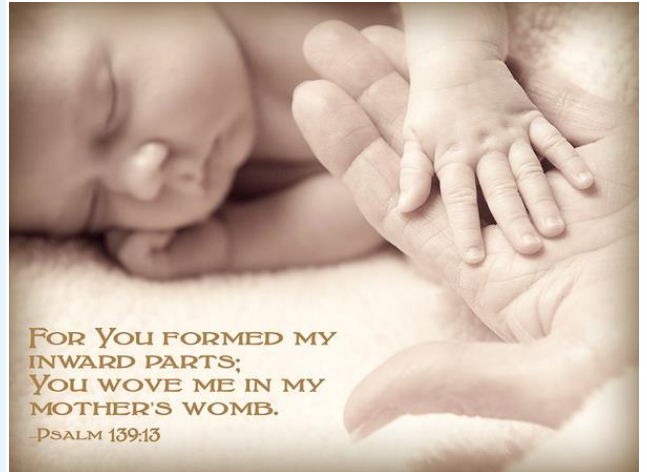
— END OF YEAR —

**GIVING**  
STATEMENTS

Your 2024 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, in the giving boxes located in the church foyers, through your postal service, or through our website: [sccvb.org](http://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 16, at 11:00. BBQ wings will be served for lunch. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.**

## Ambassador Youth Ministry - Ten Questions for a New Year by Don Whitney



Even those most faithful to God occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of their lives. It's so easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we should be going.

Once, when the people of God had become careless in their relationship with him, the Lord rebuked them through the prophet Haggai: "Consider your ways!" ([Haggai 1:5](#)). He urged them to reflect on some of the things happening to them, and to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in light of what God had told them.

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. A great time for us to "Consider our ways." To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

**1. What's one thing you can do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?** Our enjoyment of God comes primarily through the means of grace he has given us. He has promised to bless us most directly and consistently through means such as his word, prayer, and the church. One specific suggestion I'd offer would be to include some *meditation* on Scripture along with your daily reading. It's better to read less - if necessary - and yet as the result of meditation remember *something*, than to read more and remember *nothing*.

**2. What's an impossible prayer you can pray?** There are more than a dozen "but God" statements in Scripture, such as in [Romans 5:8](#), which reads, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Situations that were humanly impossible were transformed by "but God" ([Ephesians 2:1-7](#)). What's a "but God" prayer you can pray for the coming year?

**3. What's the most important thing you could do to improve your family life?** If your family doesn't practice family worship, beginning there is the single best recommendation I could make. Just ten minutes a day, simply reading the Bible, praying, and singing together - an event that requires no preparation - is all it takes. My little book titled *Family Worship* can tell you more.

**4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year?** Would it be a *personal*/spiritual discipline (that is, one you practice alone), or an *interpersonal*/spiritual discipline (one you practice with other believers)? Once you decide, determine the next step to take and when you will take it.

**5. What's the single biggest time-waster in your life, and how can you redeem the time?** Social media? TV? Video games? Sports? Hobbies? It's easy for any of these (or something else) to take too much of our hearts and time. Is repentance required? Trying to stop, by itself, is probably not the answer. Actively replacing it with something better helps us in "making the best use of the time, because the days are evil" ([Ephesians 5:16](#)).

**6. What's the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?** While we often stress the fact that individual believers are the body of Christ ([1 Corinthians 6:15](#)), the New Testament actually says seven times to one that the *church* is the body of Christ ([Ephesians 5:23](#)). We mustn't let our frequent emphasis on our personal relationship with Christ minimize the importance of our service to Jesus through his body. How can your church be stronger this year because of you? Serving? Giving? Praying?

**7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?** Praying frequently and fervently for someone's salvation makes us more sensitive to opportunities to share the gospel with him or her. Will you commit to praying for at least one person's salvation every day this new year?

10 Key Questions continued...

**8. What's the most important way, by God's grace, you will try to make this year different from last?** Obviously, God's sovereignty rules over all things, and there is nothing we can do about much that he brings into our lives. On the other hand, under his sovereignty he gives us a measure of responsibility over many areas of life. In which of these would you most like to see a change from last year? You may find that your answer to this question is found in one of your answers above. To which of them do you sense the Holy Spirit calling your attention most urgently?

**9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?** For many, it might be as simple as designating a time exclusively for prayer instead of praying only "on the go" types of prayers. For others, it might be learning the simple, biblical practice of praying the Bible.

**10. What single thing can you plan to do this year that will matter most in ten years? In eternity?** Short-term deadlines tend to dominate our attention. Busyness and fatigue often limit our vision to just getting through today. But don't let the tyranny of the urgent distract you from something you're neglecting that would have enormous long-term impact on your soul, your family, or your church.

### Consider Your New Year

The value of many of these questions is not in their profundity, but in the simple fact that they bring an issue or commitment into focus. For example, just by making a goal to encourage one person in particular this year is more likely to help you remember to encourage that person than if you hadn't set that goal.

If you've found these questions helpful, you might want to put them someplace - on your phone, computer, calendar, or wherever you put reminders - where you can review them frequently.

I hope this article will help you to "consider your ways," to make plans and goals, and to live this new year with biblical diligence, remembering the principle that "the plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance" (Proverbs 21:5). But in all things, let's also remember our dependence on our King, who said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

*Don Whitney is Professor of Biblical Spirituality and the John H. Powell Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, MO. He is the author of Praying the Bible, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, and Family Worship.*

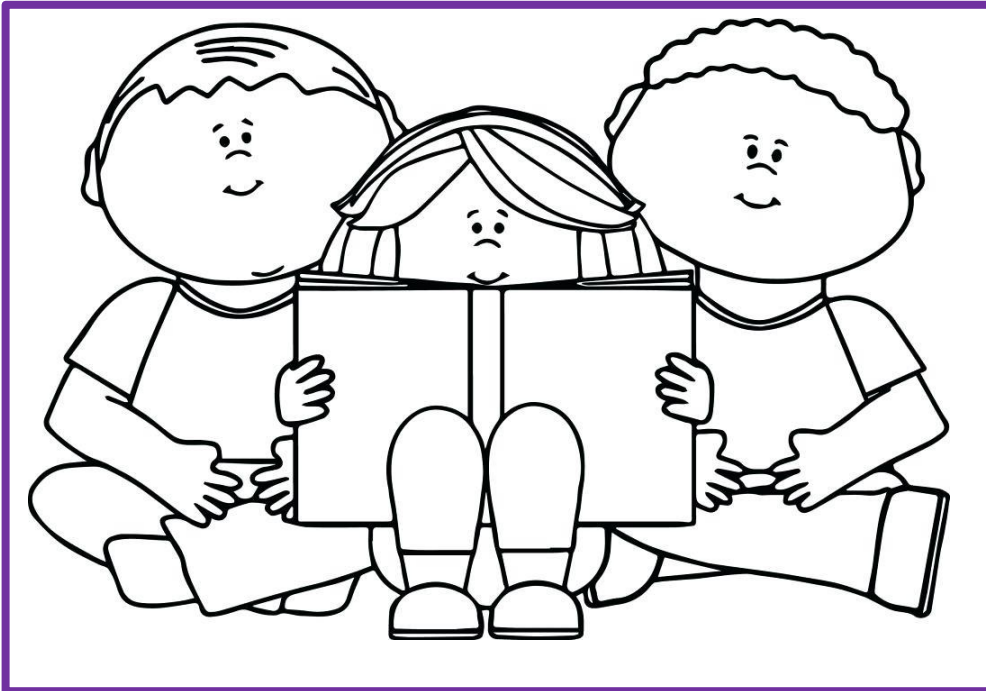


## Ambassador Youth Ministry

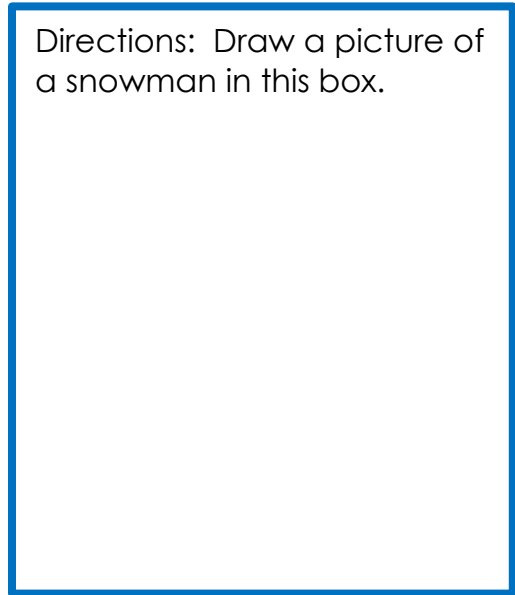
**When? Wednesdays @  
6:00 pm**

**Where? Youth Room**

Color the picture of the children reading the Bible.



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



## 2025 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. 😊

"I am \_\_\_\_\_ these things to you so that, if I \_\_\_\_\_, you may know how one ought to \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, which is the church of the \_\_\_\_\_ God, a \_\_\_\_\_ and a buttress of the \_\_\_\_\_."

1 Timothy 3: 14, 15

## Snow Word Search

E	L	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
B	U	I	L	D	N	U	T	S	I



- |        |        |       |        |
|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| ANGELS | FALL   | SKATE | TRACK  |
| BALLS  | FORT   | SLED  | TRAIL  |
| BUILD  | HEAVY  | SLIP  | TUNNEL |
| CREATE | IGLOOS | STORM | WET    |
| DIG    | PLAY   | THROW |        |

**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!