

J U N E 2 0 2 3

The Suburban Connection

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

Are You Ready for Vacation Bible School?



Join us as we travel back in time to Babylon! Daniel is torn from his home and forced into the king's service. Imagine the pressure of learning a new language and culture...and the shock of discovering your best friends have been tossed into a fiery furnace. Explore exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar! We are not much different from Daniel and his friends, who kept their faith in a faithless culture.

There are lots of ways you can participate in Vacation Bible School this year! Here are a few...

If you like to act – join the Drama Team!

*Daniel – main character and topic of all conversations – 4 sessions every night. Script provided.

*Ashpenaz – King's Chief of Staff. Meets with Daniel each night. Script provided.

*Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego – Daniel's friends who roam the marketplace & engage people in conversation.

If you like to play games – become our Palace Playground Leader. The games are thought out for you along with supply lists.

VBS Continued inside...

Save the Date!

Church Cookout

June 25th
11:30 am – 2:00 pm
Church Grounds

Belong Ladies Fellowship

June 24th
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Wendy Haynes's Home

VBS

July 16th – 21st
Church Grounds

Praise & Worship Night (Ice Cream Social)

July 30st
6:00 pm
Sanctuary/Fellowship
Hall

How to Train Up a Child: Three Subtle Parenting Shifts

With five children between the ages of 19 and 8, my wife, Julia, and I are nearly two decades into our journey as parents. When you add two dogs, two cats, and an "Alexa" to the mix, the kitchen often feels like feeding time at a zoo, in the middle of a nightclub. Yet beneath the busy and often chaotic place we call home, Julia and I have experienced and developed a current of underlying peace.

Years ago, we came to acknowledge that while it's right and wise to do what we can to position our children for future faithfulness, who they become isn't ultimately in our control. We're responsible for the home environment they grow up in, not who they turn out to be as grown-ups. We've found great peace as parents by focusing on the current callings God has given us rather than trying to grasp unguaranteed outcomes.

Though it's been nearly fifteen years, I can distinctly remember how this perspective shift altered the way we talked about our home life. Our conversations quickly moved away from what our children were not doing (which is what we used to focus on) toward the many things that we, as the parents, could be doing. It may sound silly, but our parenting discussions finally began to be centered more on the parents!

In addition to changing our conversations, this new outlook resulted in significant shifts in the way we parented. After doing an honest evaluation of our home environment, we clearly saw we had work to do. We gathered scriptures that spoke to either parenting or family, and then we landed on [Proverbs 22:6](#) as our starting point: Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Three Subtle, Significant Shifts

While the verse was familiar to us, the reality was more foreign. In fact, if the verse were translated like we parented, it would have said, "Tell up a child in the way he *shouldn't* go, and tomorrow he will obey." If that sounds familiar to you, I have good news: there's a better way. The internal peace we experience now has been directly connected to the following three shifts in our parenting:

- *train up*, not tell up
- *should go*, not shouldn't go
- *old*, not young

It's worth mentioning that while there's some ambiguity in the original Hebrew, these three shifts aren't limited to this text. Parents should feel free to embrace the call to *train up* our children in the way they *should go*, with a *long-term* view, because these are established biblical themes that each have wide support beyond this passage. We happen to love [Proverbs 22:6](#) (at least as it's worded in the ESV) because it beautifully and concisely captures these three wise shifts.

Train, Not Tell

Our first parenting shift was to embrace our role as *trainers*, not merely *tellers*. Our *tell-up* mindset was clearly seen in common refrains like, "How many times have I told you . . ." or "Don't make me have to tell you again." For the record, it's true that we *had* told them the same things repeatedly. What changed was the way we responded in these moments. As tellers, we used to get irritated at their lack of listening, but as trainers, we learned to push through and seek creative ways to stimulate their minds and hearts. We found that *most* (not all, but definitely most) of what we were quick to label as disobedience or indifference was greatly affected by a little more effort from the instructors. As Christian parents, while a training mindset may feel new, the model has been firmly established through the life and ministry of Jesus. Consider, for instance, how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. He didn't merely tell them, "Go pray," and then repeatedly demean them when they didn't. Rather, the master trainer modeled a life of prayer ([Mark 1:35](#); [Luke 5:16](#)), taught them why we pray ([Matthew 7:7-11](#); [Mark 9:29](#)), showed them how to pray ([Luke 11:2-4](#)), and then sought to keep them going ([Luke 18:1](#)). Imagine the impact in our homes if we were to replace our culture of telling with a culture marked by that kind of training. As a result of this one shift, we went from mainly reacting to far more often initiating toward our kids. More than that, we committed to not discipline our children for things we hadn't trained them in yet. Admittedly, this commitment resulted in some awkward moments in public, when we observed a kid's behavior and looked at each other with enlarged eyes, as if to say, "How have we never taught them about this at home!" As we shifted the focus toward training, though, the underlying message to our children was clear: we are *with* you and *for* you in your journey to maturity.

Should Go, Not Shouldn't Go

It's not a surprise that one of the first words a toddler learns to say is *no*. Sadly, many homes are dominated with parents repeatedly telling children what *not* to do. On multiple occasions, I've sat with fathers of adult children who tearfully lament their children's decisions, saying, "I don't get it; they were raised knowing what *not* to do." Unfortunately, according to the apostle Paul, merely arming our children with an impressive collection of *do not*'s will not prepare them well for what lies ahead ([Colossians 2:21-23](#)).

"How to Train" continued on page 11

Music Notes

Singing at church brings out your own worshipful attitude. Join in with the congregation whenever you can. Sing or hum with the choir or the special groups. Let the Spirit of God shine out from you!

June is a special month, musically in the choir. We are between cantatas so have time to sing old favorites or learn new arrangements. Now is a great time to join with us. Tuesday nights at 7:00 are open to everyone who likes to sing. No auditions, no stressful try outs, just come on and sing with us.

Upcoming in July: save the date, July 30 6:00 pm. Our second annual Praise and Worship Night and Ice Cream Social.

We'll be joyfully singing to the Lord. We'll have some special performances (if you'd like to perform, please just let me know) and we'll have everyone bring their favorite ice cream (homemade or store bought) to share after the singing. Don't miss it. Last year was a great experience!

Lynn Cooke



Operation Christmas Child Corner



Our collection for the shoebox gift items is building up. Please keep your eyes open for shoeboxes or plan to order some from OCC for this year. I fully expect to need over 1000 empty shoe boxes to put all the items we're collecting into by November.

Our items to bring in for June are: sunglasses, t-shirts, and flip flops. You can always bring other donations, too.

Our once-a-month workdays will resume on **June 19** at 10:00 am.

Upcoming: August 12, 11:30 am, everyone is invited to a **Christmas in August Luncheon supporting OCC**. Your only cost will be an item to help fill a shoebox gift. We'll eat, watch some of the shoebox stories and play a game. It will be a fun event. Put it on your calendar now.

Thanks for supporting OCC. Lynn



Food Pantry Ministry

Our current food pantry needs are:

cereal, soup, Jell-O, pudding mix, Rice-A-Roni, hamburger and tuna helper, peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned chicken, individually wrapped snacks (i.e granola bars), canned fruit, canned beans (pork&beans, pinto, black) pasta sauce, spaghetti noodles, crackers (saltine, Ritz).



The food pantry is open the first and third Tuesday each month from 1:30-3:00 pm.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

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

VBS continued . . .

If you are crafty - run your own shop in the Marketplace! Each shop has a craft kids will make while you engage them in conversations about Daniel & the one True God. Crafts supplies will be available along with easy-to-follow directions. We will have a training date 2 or 3 weeks prior to VBS week to prepare.

If you want to see, hear and do it all - be a Tribe Leader! Each tribe will have up to 8 kids and 2 leaders. Middle & High school kids can be Assistants too! We will have a training date 2 or 3 weeks prior to VBS week to prepare.

If you can't donate your time during the week, you can donate needed items for props and snacks! Donations needed for:

1. The Marketplace - colorful rugs/blankets, old pottery destined for thrift stores or the trash, beige/light brown colored sheets (tops only), period costumes (tunics & sashes)
2. For Snacks - prepackaged snacks OR bulk bagged/boxed snacks such as: pretzels, Chex mix, potato chips/Doritos, fruit snacks, cookies & kid size drinking cups

We also need to BORROW pop up tents (not camping tents) for the Marketplace.

If you are interested in ANY of these, please contact Carol Brooks either via text 757-620-7822 or email cubrooks20@gmail.com if you can't speak with her during service.

Carol Brooks



AWANA Ministry

And that's a wrap! We finished up another successful AWANA club year on May 7 at our final awards night. We gave out some pretty significant awards for kids who worked EXTREMELY hard this year.

Our very own Liam Cooke received an AWANA Achievement Medallion for finishing an entire T&T book. That's well over 40 different verses he had to memorize. Congrats to Liam!! He and Aydyn Litzenberger will be moving on to middle school next year, so this was their last year with us. We will certainly miss them both!

I can't begin to express my gratitude for our dedicated Leaders! I know I've said it before, but I will continue to say it...**THEY ARE THE BEST!**

I can't wait to see what God has in store for this club in September.

Carol Brooks

(Pictures of awards night are included on next page.)





Puggles



Cubbies

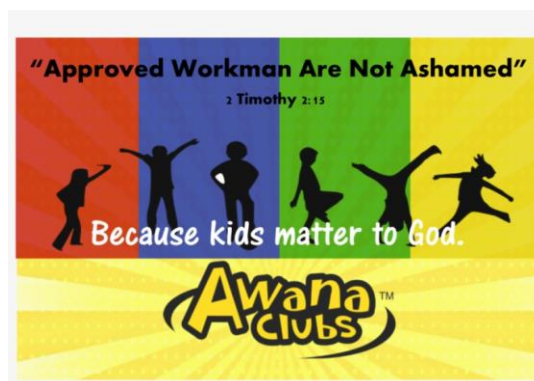
AWANA Awards Night



Sparks

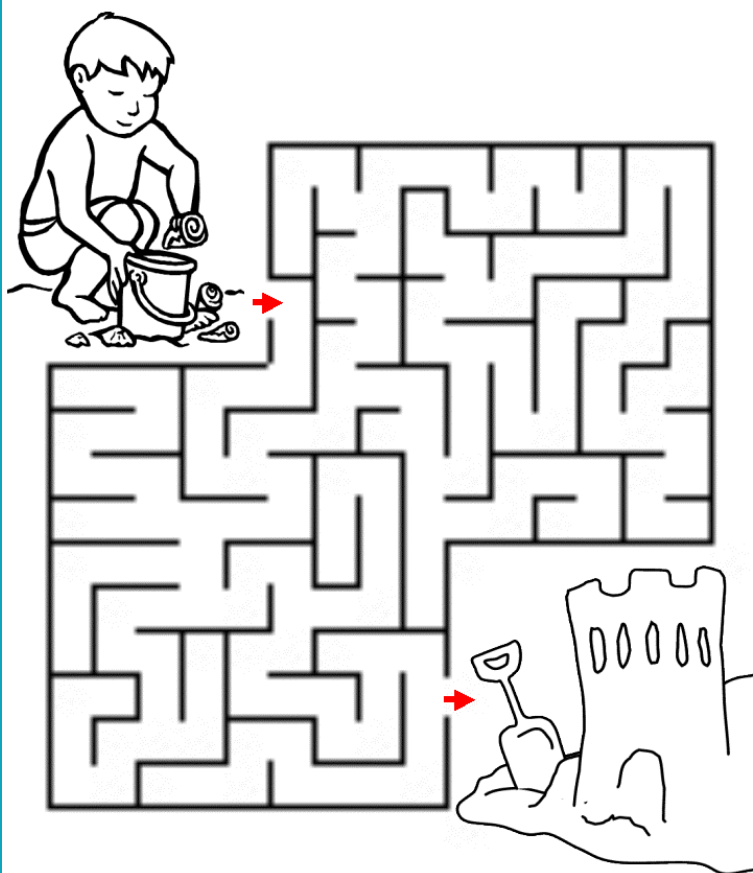


T & T



Summer at the Beach Maze

Help the little boy find his sand castle.

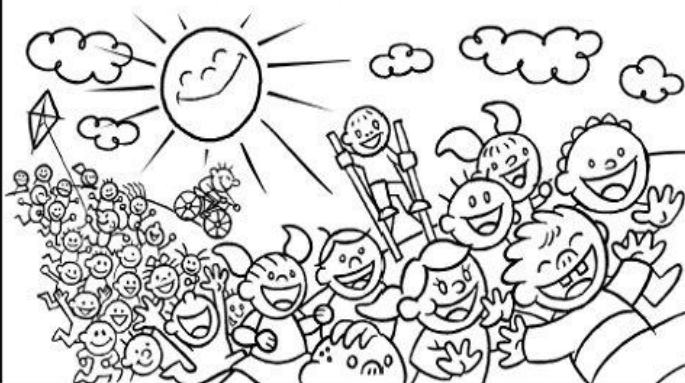


Suburban Kids

Summer Word Search

BARBECUE
CAMPING
FISHING
FRISBEE
ICE CREAM
PICNIC
POOL
SUNGLASSES
SUN TAN
VACATION

MBPAPNZENBPG
XALIAAUHOFON
COETCCQBIROI
OANRENVVTILH
XUMBCBINASLS
SCRPQEICCBRI
TASKIACLAENZF
BSNNYNLIVEZT
SESSALGNUSAL



Directions: Look up this verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks.

It is my eager expectation and _____ that..._____ will be honored in my _____, whether by _____ or by _____. For me to _____ is _____ and to _____ is _____.

Philippians 1:20-21



Paul preached the Good News in Jerusalem and in many other cities around the Roman World, and many people became followers of Jesus.

Sunday School News

Sunday School is an exciting program. The children LOVE the goldfish crackers and donuts. But that's not all. See what else the children had to say when asked about their favorite part of Sunday School.



"I like snack time and second is the Bible activity pages." -Ben

"All of it is my favorite!" -Nathaniel

Sophia said, "My favorite things are my teachers, seeing everyone, and the lessons."

Abby said, "My favorite thing about Sunday school is my teacher."

"I like the short video clips that go with the lesson." -Samara

"I like being with my friends." -Donovan

"I like story time." -Levi

"My favorite things are the teachers and the atmosphere." -Jack Tyler

Elena said, "Donuts!!! And when we got to watch some of The Chosen."

Emma says, "I like seeing everyone's differences about what they take out of the Bible story."

Mason's answer was "My favorite thing is the people in my class."

Elizabeth said, "I like the Bible the most."

Elijah responded by saying "I like everything including the lessons and teachers."

"I love the part where Mrs. Kathy shows the pictures and tells about Jesus with the activities, crafting time and Bible time specifically." - Evie

Nathaniel S. said, "I like everything."

Will said "The best part is the random talks that occur."

**If you would like to help in
the Sunday School
Ministry,
please see Laura Tyler.**



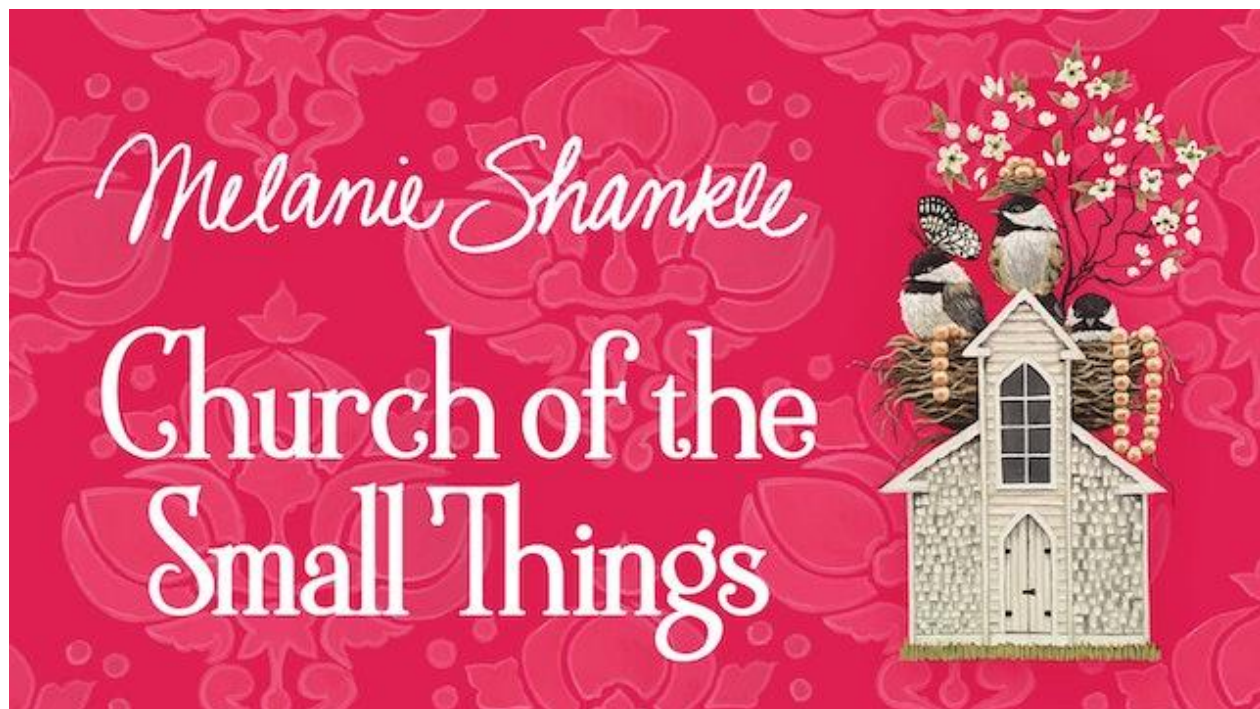
3rd – 5th Graders made Prayer Jars

Belong Women's Ministry

Hi ladies! It has been some time since we have gotten together. I'm sure your calendar has been full as well. I would like for you to consider joining me for a time of fellowship and refreshments at my home on **Saturday, June 24th from 2-4 pm**. Just bring yourself and invite a friend. I will need you to sign up so I will know how to prepare. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer near the church office. Hope to see you there! Wendy Haynes



Coming this fall ... Ladies Bible Study



All ladies are invited to attend a 6 Week Bible study.

Details with Dates to come!

There will be a study guide to go with this study.

(Available on Amazon)

Sign up sheet will be in the foyer soon.

Seniors Ministry

The Kings Choir presented an uplifting program at our May meeting. They sang praise music, hymns, and some reflective choral music. Donna Thomas even chanced teaching a new song to us. It was called Isaiah 43, a "sing and answer back" song... a lot of fun!

A song sung by Anita Coote was very special. The syncopation between her voice and the responses of the choir was an exciting change from the major chords and expected rhythms of the 100-year-old hymns we all love.

Betty Leet kept us laughing from a bit taken straight from the answering services of doctors' offices that we all deal with! (It's true our Lord doesn't take email, but He does take "knee mail!")

Everyone who attended enjoyed 40 pounds of BBQ wings and plenty of sides. Next month, on June 15th, Sarah Schnurr will be sharing about homeopathic medicine. We will also enjoy a menu of hot ham and cheese on Ciabatta bread.

We love Him because He first loved us. Larry Thomas



Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

The Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study continues to meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month. In June it will meet on June 3rd and on June 17th.

The study on June 3rd will again be led by Tom Tracy who will teach from the Book of John, Chapter 6.

On June 17th the study will resume in 1 Samuel, Chapter 18 and the account of David and Jonathan's friendship. It will include narratives of Saul's increasing jealousy of David that led to his attempts to kill him, **Chapter 19**.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study is an outstanding opportunity for the study of God's Word, prayer, and fellowship for men of all ages; church members and non-church members.

The breakfast and the Bible study are open to all men, and all are invited to enjoy a good, homemade breakfast (prepared by the men) of eggs (scrambled and fried), sausage, corned beef hash, pancakes, waffles, biscuits, grits, sausage gravy, fruit, orange juice, and coffee. Come and enjoy good fellowship, and the Good News found in God's Word. It all begins at 8:00 AM and concludes around 9:30, or so.

PLEASE JOIN US

"How to Train" continued from pg. 2

The vision to train in the way they *should* go is more than semantics. It's a way of parenting that reflects the very heart of our heavenly Father, a heart that can be traced back to the garden of Eden. Contrary to popular memory, God's first words were not, "Do not eat from that tree." Before God gave that vital *no*, he first gave a far bigger yes: "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden" (Genesis 2:16). Our heavenly Father makes clear the way we should go so that when he does say *no* (which he does), we can be confident it's to preserve us *for* life, not prevent us *from* life.

The subtle shift to intentionally focus on a positive vision led us to identify a big family YES: "The Bradner Family Creed." Our creed (shared below) highlighted seven values we were committed to pursuing as a family. With these established and communicated, we embraced our role as the lead trainers who were constantly on the lookout for ways to model, teach, and celebrate the family living out our creed. Sixteen years later, we can confirm that it's much more enjoyable to give your energy and effort toward a family yes than it is to be constantly telling kids no.

Old, Not Young

The final shift was found in the last part of verse 6: "when he is old he will not depart from it." Imagining our children as adults has helped us play the long game in our parenting. It guards against unknowingly winning today's battle at the expense of losing the war. We desire to parent now in such a way that our children *want* to engage with us when they no longer *have* to.

The long game may last for decades, but it begins now while our children are young. We didn't want to wait until they left the house to create an environment they would want to return to. This desire shaped how we spoke to them — especially what we wanted them to hear *most* and *least*. If our kids were to hear us say the words, "How many times have I told you . . ." our hope is that it would be followed with something like, ". . . how much I love you and consider it a privilege to be your parent?" These are the kinds of words we want them to hear most.

Some might read this and conclude that we've adopted some parent-as-buddy relationship. No, we haven't lost sight of our authority and responsibility to correct and exhort. We're intentionally aiming to position ourselves for a lifetime of that kind of ministry. Henry Drummond captures the long-game perspective so well: "You will find that the people who influence you are the people who believe in you."

The long game also shaped what we desire them to hear *least*. While the quick response "That's not what we believe/think/do in this family" may save a few minutes in the moment, it robs parenting in the long run. Children who are always merely *told* how to think and what to believe — without thoughtful conversation — will eventually stop engaging those topics. While the Christian parent has the privilege of teaching what is right, that *doesn't* mean we should do it like the fool, who "takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion" (Proverbs 18:2).

"I'd love to hear more about why you think that" may take more time in the moment, but it will also bear much greater fruit in the years ahead. I'm certain that our adult children value our thoughts and perspective more today because they grew up in a home that valued theirs.

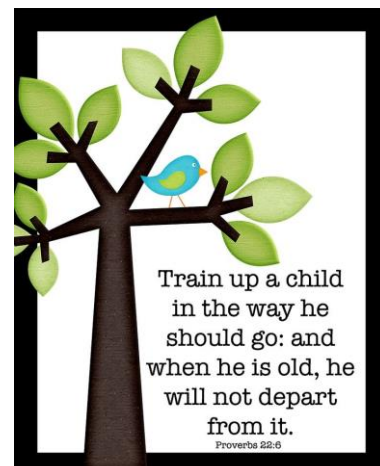
Our Best Investments Looking back, it's nearly impossible to quantify the impact of these three parenting shifts, but it's been enormous. Parenting is hard, and so is being a child. Instead of shouldering anxiety today about who our children become as grown-ups, let's give our best energy to creating a God-honoring and life-giving environment for them now. Sometimes the most transformative, enduring outcomes are a result of a few subtle shifts in perspective.

Bradner Family Creed (Est. 2006)

We honor God.
Every person matters.
We are so thankful.
We don't speak "winese."
Can I help you with that?
We give our best.

By Matt Bradner (with Desiring God Ministries)

Matt is a husband, father of five, and staff member with Campus Outreach. Matt serves on the East Coast development team and primarily focuses on the spiritual and relational health of the staff.



Suburban Kids

Children's Church



This month's children's church activities continued with lessons enhancing our understanding of the events of Easter. We learned the story of how Jesus was crucified although he never sinned. Our next lesson was about the resurrection three days after His death on the cross. And then, after meeting with His disciples, He rose to heaven preparing the way for us. On Mother's Day Sunday, we had a lesson based on Ephesians 6: 1-3 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor your father and mother that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." We made cards and completed a craft/gift for our mothers. All children in grades K - 3 are invited to attend.

Mary Justis



June Children's Church Schedule

Date	Lead	Assistant	Service Helper
6/4/23	Mary Justis	Jeff Haynes	Sophia Deuell
6/11/23	Lois Ritger	Jeff Herring	Samara Saucedo
6/18/23	Mary Justis	Susan Haynes	Elena Tyler
6/25/23	Lois Ritger	Jeff Haynes	Samara Saucedo



Nursery Ministry

Thanks for all of our wonderful volunteers! We could still use two volunteers for those months when we have 5 Sundays! Please contact Stacie Raymer (sraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). Young teenage helpers are also welcome to help.

Nursery Volunteers for June 2023

Date	Sunday School Nursery Hour 9:00 – 10:00	Worship Service 10:00 – 11:15	Service Helper
6/4/23	Melissa Tucker	Jeff Herring Susan Haynes	William Schnurr
6/11/23	Melissa Tucker	Ravyn Thomas Stacie Raymer	Nathaniel Schnurr
6/18/23	Stacey Super	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Donovan Saucedo
6/25/23	Melissa Tucker	Laura Tyler Teresa Birk	Abby Deuell

