The

Suburban Connection

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ARE YOU READY FOR VBS THIS YEAR?

Imagine what it was like to live and work in the dusty town of Nazareth, just as Jesus was beginning his ministry around Galilee. You'd hear whisperings about Mary's son, Jesus - the local carpenter's kid who says he's the Son of God. Maybe the boy Jesus even had dinner at your house or played tag with your kids. As you tend your sheep or bake your bread, perhaps you secretly wonder if it's really possible that Jesus - the boy down the street - could be the Messiah. Every day, kids and adults will be challenged to share God's love and their belief in Jesus with shopkeepers, Mary's neighbor, the tax collector, the rabbi and the Fun & Games Leader.

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!

*Mary – main character and mother of Jesus. (4 sessions every night/script provided)

*Eunice – Mary's nosy neighbor & quite openly skeptical that Jesus is the Messiah. Meets with Mary each night. (script provided)

*Tax Collector – you will roam the marketplace & ask if people have paid their taxes. You can make up taxes on different Marketplace items such as wool or food and suggest that tribe members pay up!

VBS continued inside . . .

Save the Date!

Church Cookout

June 23rd 11:30 am – 2:00 pm Church Grounds

VRS

July 14th – 17th Church Grounds 5:15 pm - dinner 6 – 8:00 pm

Praise & Worship Night (Ice Cream Social)

July 7th 6:00 pm Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

From the Pastor's Desk: Setting Our Minds on Things Above in Summer

By John Piper

"If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set you mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." Colossians 3:1-2

Every season is God's season. But summer has its special power.

Jesus Christ is refreshing, but flight from him into Christless leisure makes the soul parched. At first it may feel like freedom and fun to skimp on prayer and neglect the Word. But then we pay: shallowness, powerlessness, vulnerability to sin, preoccupation with trifles, superficial relationships, and a frightening loss of interest in worship and the things of the Spirit.

Don't let summer make your soul shrivel. God made summer as a foretaste of heaven, not a substitute. If the mailman brings you a love letter from your fiancé, don't fall in love with the mailman. That's what summer is: God's messenger with a sun-soaked, tree-green, flower-blooming, lake-glistening letter of love to show us what he is planning for us in the age to come – "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered into the heart of man, God has prepared for those who love him. (I Corinthians 2:9). Don't fall in love with the video preview and find yourself unable to love the coming eternity.

Jesus Christ is the refreshing center of summer. He is preeminent in all things (Colossians 1:18), including vacations and picnics and softball and long walks and cookouts. He invites us in the summer: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). This is serious summer refreshment.

Do we want it? That is the question. Christ gives himself to us in proportion to how much we want his refreshment. "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 11:12). One of the reasons to give the Lord special attention in the summer is to say to him "We want all your refreshment. We really want it."

Peter's word to us about this is: "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Repentance is not just turning away from sin, but also turning toward the Lord with hearts open and expectant and submissive.

What sort of summer mindset is this? It is the mindset of Colossians 3:1-2, "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."

In the summer the earth is very much with us. And it is God's earth! But it is all prelude to the real drama of heaven. It is a foretaste of the real banquet. It is a video preview of the reality of what the eternal summer will be like when "the city has no need of sun or moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Revelation 21:23). So, you see, the summer sun is a mere pointer to the sun that will be: the glory of God. Summer is for seeing and showing that. Will we have eyes to see? Do you want to have eyes to see? Lord, let us see the Light beyond the campfire.

Music Notes

Understanding the stories behind the hymns we sing gives us a deeper appreciation of their beauty and power. Favorite hymns, like favorite Scripture become a force in our lives. It is our calling as Christians to praise the Lord with the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, for the Bible is full of music. James 5:13 states, "Is any merry? Let him sing psalms." (paraphrased from Favorite Women Hymn Writers by Jane Stuart Smith)



Our choir is singing familiar music based on Scripture each week as special music as well as hymns and songs carefully chosen to share with the congregation. Join in and sing from the pews or if you'd like to join the choir, we rehearse Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. See you in church. Lynn Cooke



Operation Christmas Child Corner

JUNE COLLECTION ITEMS: Flip Flops, Sunglasses and Toothbrushes

As you prayerfully pack your shoebox gift or purchase items to help fill the shoeboxes here at Suburban, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, in some cases, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last and don't forget to make it fun. Children in developing countries may have never seen crayons or toothbrushes but are bright energetic children nevertheless, so keep in mind what a child will like and pack accordingly. Pray for every child who will receive the gift and every person who packs it.

A donation of \$10 per shoebox gift is critical to help cover shipping and other project costs (like the Bibles, Greatest Gift and Greatest Journey books that are given to every child). You may donate online at Samaritanspurse.org or by placing your donation in one of the envelopes provided on the brochure postage free.

See me if you have questions or need a brochure. We have already packed almost 200 shoebox gifts and are on our way to our goal of 1000. Thank you for your prayers and support. Lynn Cooke





Suburban Summer Cook Out

YOU will not want to miss the fun and fellowship at our Suburban Summer Cook Out on **Sunday**, **June 23**, right after the worship service.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided by the church. A sign-up sheet with needed items is waiting for you at the welcome desk in the foyer. Of course, you can bring additional favorites to share.



Games and Water Fun will be on the menu as well! Will Pastor Todd, Wendy, Derrick, and Chandra slide down the water slide? You will have to come to find out!

SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes Senior Pastor



Derrick 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

VBS continued . . .

~If you are crafty - run your own shop in the Marketplace! Each shop has a craft that kids will make while you engage them in conversations about how you believe that Jesus IS or IS NOT the Messiah. 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, fake Ficus trees, fake ivy, paper grocery bags, fake fruit such as grapes or olives
- 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

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.

AWANA Ministry

April 28th was our last club night in AWANA for the 2023-2024 club year. This is a fun time for our kids as they celebrate all of their successes along with their family. Everyone did such a great job earning badges, medals & certificates. Afterwards we had some yummy pizza!

I honestly can't thank our leaders enough. They are all so fabulous and dedicated to working with each and every kid who comes to club no matter their abilities. We also have some really dedicated teen/middle school volunteers too! The clubbers really like having them around and they are always so eager to help anywhere they are needed.

We are tossing around the idea of changing our club hours and adding music/worship time to our club starting in September so please be in prayer that we can make all that work to everyone's benefit. If you are interested in helping out during a worship time or if you've had any experience with this, let's chat!

The CEO of AWANA was on Fox & Friends recently, speaking about the increased number of clubs that have been forming across the country. This is in direct response to groups such as the Boy Scouts changing their basic ideals and conforming to societal demands. Parents are thankfully being given the opportunity to place their kids in clubs where God is the center, not society and its wayward agenda. I would not be surprised if we see a slight spike in registration numbers next year. In fact, let's all pray for that...wouldn't it be wonderful that we would need more room to accommodate more kids?? See you in September! Carol Brooks

AWANA continued...



Puggles

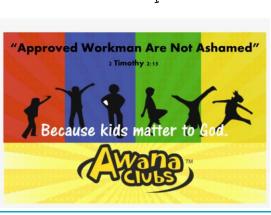


Cubbies

AWANA Awards Night



sparks



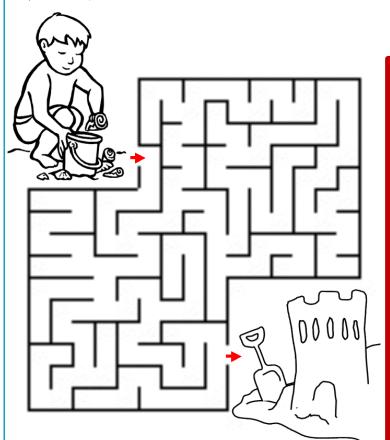


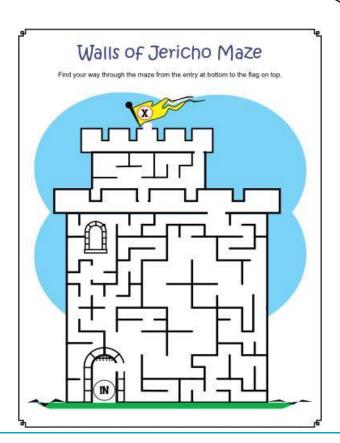
T&T



Summer at the Beach Maze

Help the little boy find his sand castle.



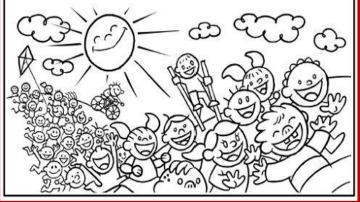




Summer Word Search

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

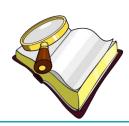
M B P A P N Z E N B P G X A L I A A U H O F O N C O E T C C Q B I R O I O A N R E N V V T I L H X U M B C B I N A S L S S C R P Q E I C C B R I T A S K I A C L A E Z F B S N N Y N L I V E Z T S E S S A L G N U S A L



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



Sunday School News

The children in our Sunday School program are eagerly awaiting the end of the school year and summer. But just because it's almost summer doesn't mean we stop studying the Bible! In fact, summer is a great time to take a more in-depth look into some of our favorite books of the Bible and Bible characters. VBS is a great way for our children to do that. Last year our younger children had a blast participating in VBS and the older children volunteered. (Will there be more children or adult volunteers this year?) The children who attend VBS will take a closer look at God's Word. How will you, as



adults, take a closer look at God's Word? Will you make an effort to join an adult Sunday school class? Will you study a book of the Bible you have never studied before? Maybe you'll chose to volunteer at VBS or in the children's Sunday school program. We would love to have volunteers to help cover for one or two weeks while our Sunday school teachers take a much-deserved rest. And there's no teaching required! Come be our second adult in the classroom. Seeing the Bible through the eyes of a child may give you a new perspective on a passage of Scripture with which you have become familiar. You may see it like you never have before. God's Word is alive and active. What will you do this summer to dive in? Laura Tyler

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study – June 1 & 15, 2024 2 Samuel 13 and 14

This month's study, chapters 13 and 14, describes a fulfillment of God's Word that "evil and the sword would not depart from David's house . . . Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house" (2 Samuel 12:10-11).

Chapter 13 recounts the sordid passion of David's son Ammon's lust that resulted in the rape of his half-sister, Tamar, and his rejection and callous disregard of her after it was done. After he had his way with her, he "hated her with very much hatred (a hatred which) was greater than the love with which he had loved her." He then cast her out of his house in Jerusalem. When David learned of it, He was "very angry" (13:21) but did nothing about it.

Those actions led to Ammon's murder by Tamar's full-brother, Absalom, two years later, which was followed by all of David's sons, fearing that they may be next, fleeing. Absalom, himself, fled to Geshur, east of the Jordon River.

Chapter 14 presents the return of Absalom to Jerusalem and his banishment from King David's presence; "So Absalom lived for two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king's presence" (14:28). The chapter concludes with Absalom's return to David's favor and describes the beginning of his conspiracy against the king, which will be studied in the months to come.

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. Bob Grymes

Belong Women's Ministry

Women's Conference Update

On Saturday, May 4th, a group of us went to Kempsville Baptist Church for the Equip Women's Conference. We had several breakout sessions to choose from: Holiness: Our Reflection Matters, The Power of Prayer in Your Marriage, Being Prepared for the Unexpected, A Life Fully Surrendered to God through Prayer, Loving Like Jesus in a Cancel Culture. Lunch was provided and we enjoyed the sweet fellowship while we ate our Chick-fil-a sandwiches, chips, and cookies.



The Holiness: Our Reflection Matters session dealt with anger and how anger un-holies God's name. The speaker, Katie Stutler, used the story of Moses striking the rock (Deut. 32:51; Num. 20:12) to lay the foundation for her own story. She confessed that she battled anger for years and how the Lord worked in her heart to reveal this sin and how He brought about change. We are called to holiness and commanded to honor God with our attitude in obedience. She shared, "We must **trust** God enough to respond with reverence and fear, humbly showing others **pure** obedience (no drama, anger, impatience). She quoted, "God is infinite in purity, in righteousness and in goodness. God is holy, and when His image bearers make even the smallest mistake, it mars the image of the all-holy God in them. Even the smallest act of rebellion is a serious offense against Him." (Faithful, The Daily Grace Co., p 29) What a great reminder about how our attitudes reveal our selfishness and that our conduct should stem from our identity in Christ. Reflecting God's holiness matters more than you realize.

The last combined session focused on Psalm 25:15, "My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare." We were challenged to keep our focus (gaze with intensity) on the Lord and as he does the work, he will move us forward with an attitude of excitement because He can keep our feet from being trapped by the enemy. wh

What's to come?

Coming this fall, the Belong Women's Ministry will be leading the Bible study titled, "Strong in the Lord." Date and time will be announced!



Seniors Ministry

Ron Raymer spoke to us regarding in May regarding the history of the Holy Land. The Holy Land has seen many years of conflict. The Romans took over in 440 B.C. When our Lord walked on the earth there were three areas: Judea, Idumea, and Samaria. Tiberias was a cruel leader, and Pontius Pilate was governor. The Jews revolted, so from 66 to 73 A.D., they lived without Rome. When the Romans came south, they killed a half million people.

Palestine is a Roman name meaning land of Philistines harkening back to Israel's old enemy that had been defeated and carried to Babylon about 726 B.C.

The Byzantines, a weaker eastern group of Romans were defeated by the Muslims in the 600's. After this the area wasn't called Palestine, and the Dome of the Rock was built over the Jewish temple site about 650 A.D.

The crusades began about 1100 A.D. The Pope offered a release from purgatory (a holding cell like hell, where you must go after death to finish paying for your sins). This implies that Calvary isn't sufficient and is nowhere in the Bible. He said he'd take care of this for you if you joined his war campaign.

By the 1200's the Muslims were back in power, but the Turks were able to defeat them because of the divisiveness among them. This Ottoman Empire lasted until World War I.

In the late 1930's many Jews migrated from troubled areas into Palestine. The Jews had war with the Arabs in 1948. Another war in 1967 which costs the Arabs the Golon Heights. The Arabs have never accepted the two-state solution. In 1973, The Israeli Air Force served Israel again. In 2006, 100,000 Jews were driven from the Gaza Strip. The West Bank has its own government monitored by Israel.

Our speaker on **June 20th** will be Peter Schnurr. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel, often seen walking through our church carrying one, and leading two of his six children. Chicken sandwiches will be served. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Larry Thomas



Food Pantry Ministry

As Ron Raymer is fond of telling us in the Cornerstone Sunday School class, there are all kinds of celebratory days every day of the year. For example, this month there is Father's Day, National Gameshow Day, Flag Day, National Prairie Day, and Olive Day just to name a few. One of my Favorites is Say Something Nice Day. The list goes on.

And so does hunger! Every day, 365 days a year, someone is experiencing a food shortage. There are even food deserts where people don't live close enough to a grocery store to buy healthy food. As prices continue to rise it gets even harder for families to support their nutritional needs. That's where we come in.

Our food pantry is just a small way we can help families in our community. I would like to have a "Thank You for supporting the Food Pantry" day to celebrate your ongoing support. Remember even small actions can make a big difference, so keep a lookout for the bulletin each week to see out greatest needs. Thank YOU!

The food pantry team, Marsha, Amie, DeeDee, Gloria, Helen and Lorene.

Vacation Bible School – July 14 – 17, 2024



Join us in Hometown Nazareth, where we'll explore what life was like when Jesus was a kid. You'll craft cool projects in the Marketplace, laugh as you play Bible-times games, visit with Jesus' mom, Mary and eat foods just like the ones Jesus ate. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

Location: Suburban Christian Church

The adventure will last: July 14 – 17, 2024

Dinner: 5:15 pm

Celebration begins at: 6:00 pm

The day's adventure ends at: 8:00 pm

For more information, call: 757-495-0352





AYM Update – Greetings from Pastor Derrick

Dear Suburban Christian Church,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. At long last Chandra and I are finally here with you! This period of waiting certainly seemed to drag on, but as our time to move approached, our excitement increased all the more. We are thankful that God has brought us here in his perfect timing. Just as His hand lead us in every step to get here, so too will He guide us going forward.

During our time of waiting to be with you, Chandra and I have kept you in our prayers. We have spent many nights praising God for the eternal hope that He has given you in Christ and asking Him to further His work of making you more like our Savior. You truly have filled our prayers with joy. Now we are delighted to experience that joy to an even greater degree with the privilege to serve you, and alongside you. May the Lord give us wisdom to bless you with the gifts He has given us, all to the glory of His name.

You, however, have already blessed us beyond measure. From prayers, letters, messages, and gifts, your hospitality and demonstration of grace fills our hearts with thankfulness. We did not know what to fully expect when the Lord brought us to Suburban Christian Church, but what we found is a family who welcomes us in just as Christ has. How wonderful it is when the Word of God takes root in his people and bears fruit through the Spirit. Your love for us is a testimony to God's goodness, and in a small way, reflects his great love.

While I was in the process of interviewing to pastor here at Suburban, I preached to the youth from Philippians 1:9-11. The title of the message was, "A Believer's Path for Maturing in Christ." The purpose for preaching this passage was out of a desire for the youth to know Christ, worship him, and learn how to grow in him. My desire is still the same. Moving forward with the youth ministry, and every area of ministry the Lord allows me to serve, my goal is to proclaim Christ, to work towards presenting everyone mature in him, and to do so fully dependent on him (Col. 1:28-29).

Chandra and I cannot express our thankfulness enough for God bringing us to you. What a joy it is that we get to praise God, fellowship, and tell others of Christ together. "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace" (Nm. 6:24-26).

In Christ,

Derrick Sloan

Ambassador Youth Ministry High School Seniors



Who: Isaac Cohen **School:** Atlantic Shores Christian His plan is studying psychology at Old Dominion University.



Who: Nicolas Rakes School: Atlantic Shores Christian Nicolas plans on attending TCC and then transfer to Regent University





Who: Jade Amaya School: Kempsville High School She completed her license as a hair stylist and will be working in her mother's hair salon.



Who: Diego Torres
School: Kempsville High School
Diego plans on majoring in marketing at
TCC and then transfer to ODU.



Who: Nick Daniels School: Homeschooled While in high school Nick was dual enrolled at TCC. He will be attending Regent in the fall.



Who: Inara Caron

School: Kempsville High School

Inara's plans are to work for a year, then attend TCC and eventually get her nursing degree to attend the elderly.

AYM Projects at Derrick & Chandra's Home





On Sunday, April 28th, AYM loaded the church trailer with the collected housewarming gifts from our church family for Derrick and Chandra. After unloading the gifts in Derrick and Chandra's new home, the girls washed the outside of the windows and organized the gifts in the living room, the boys moved bricks, and spread mulch in the flower beds. Even the rain didn't stop us from finishing the job! Of course, Pastor Todd got everyone pizza when the work was finished!

We would like to thank Sean Cooke and Hollice Wiggins for tagging along to help and for all the housewarming donations to provide a warm welcome for Derrick and Chandra.













Note from Pastor Todd and Mrs. Wendy to AYM

What happens when you get a bunch of teens together? A LOT OF FUN! We have thoroughly enjoyed hanging out with all the kids in the youth group for the past 3 years! We have a great group of kids with amazing talents. It is our prayer that God will be the center of your lives and that your faith will grow daily! Run the race with patience! Depend on the Lord for daily guidance! And remember, we are always available if you ever need us. With Love and Prayers, Pastor

Todd and Wendy











Suburban Children's Church

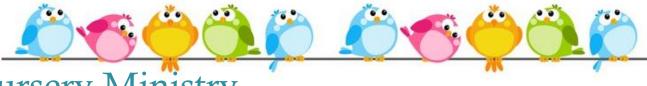


We are moving along in our study in the Old Testament. God has sent the Ten Commandments (God gives us his good rules so we can live free lives that reflect him.), given directions on how to construct the Tabernacle (God's people should worship God the way he commands us to.), and instructed his people about the laws concerning sacrifices (God forgives and forgets our sin.). When they reach the promised land, the Israelites have trouble believing God's promises even though the land is filled with milk, honey, figs, pomegranates, and the world's biggest grapes! They see big cities that have big walls, and big people. But believing God's promises makes us brave. Which is a hard lesson the Israelites had to learn! They also struggle with God's appointed leaders (God judges those who reject his plan and his chosen leaders.) There is also a little story within the Biggest Story of how 5 daughters inherit their father's land (God wants all his people to know all his blessing – nobody is left out). All of these wonderful lessons point to Jesus and his rescue mission as the Snake Crusher.



June Children's Church Schedule

Date	Lead	Assistant	Service Helper
6/2/24	Lois Ritger	TBA	Samara Saucedo
6/9/24	Wendy Haynes	TBA	TBA
6/16/24	Sammy	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
	Saucedo		
6/23/24	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Elena Tyler
6/30/24	5 th Sunday – No Children's Church		



Nursery Ministry

Thanks for all of our wonderful volunteers! We need someone for the 4th Sunday of each month! Please contact Stacie Raymer (<u>sraymer@odu.edu</u>; 757-589-5731). Young teenage helpers are also welcome to help.

Nursery Volunteers for June 2024

Date	Sunday School Nursery Hour 9:00 – 10:00	Worship Service 10:00 – 11:15	Service Helper
6/2/24	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Jeff Herring LaToya Rakes	Stephanie Roby
6/9/24	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Stacie Raymer Barbara Skarupa	Elena Tyler
6/16/24	Melissa Tucker	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Liam Cooke
6/23/24	Melissa Tucker	Laura Tyler	Samara Saucedo
6/30/24	Melissa Tucker	Stacie Raymer Elisa Roby	William Schnurr

