

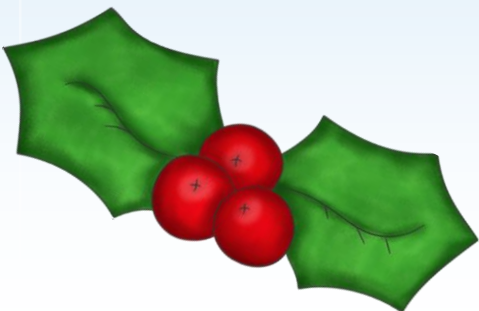
D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 1

The Suburban Connection

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

Operation Christmas Child GO Shoe Box Gift Goal Surpassed!

Thank you to everyone who donated to Operation Christmas Child this year. Because of your generous gifts of toys, school supplies, clothing, health items, and more, we were able to fill 900 shoe box sized Gospel Opportunity boxes. Every box means another child in need gets the opportunity to feel the love of God and to hear the Gospel in person. They each receive a booklet entitled "The Greatest Gift" and a Bible in their own language and are invited to participate in "The Greatest Journey" which is a 12-week discipleship program led by their own teachers to help them understand and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We also collected donations of money to help with the shipping of the shoe boxes. I am pleased to say that all 900 of our shoe box gifts were fully funded this year. What a blessing this congregation is to the ministry and to the children who will receive the gifts.



Save the Date!

Decorate Sanctuary
December 1st
10:00am

**Belong Women's
Brunch & Ornament
Exchange**
December 4th
11:00 am in
Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve
December 24th
Candlelight
communion at
6:00 pm in the
Sanctuary

A Call to Grateful Praise! Psalm 100: 1-5

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

Seven times and in seven different ways, God calls his people to gratefully praise him in this little Psalm. The point is clear, God is worthy of the praises of his people.

- * Make a joyful noise to the Lord
- * Serve the Lord with gladness
- * Come into his presence with singing
- * Enter his gates with thanksgiving
- * Enter his courts with praise
- * Give thanks to him
- * Bless his name

OK, let's be honest, raise your hand if you really struggle in this area of joyfully praising our God? That's what I thought, pretty much all of us. The good news is that God realizes our struggle and seeks to help us gratefully praise him. There are at least three ways in Psalm 100, that God helps his us to praise him. God points out:

1. That he created us. Psalm 100:3

"It is he who made us." The emphasis is not on God's creation of all humankind but on the fact that the Lord is the one who brought forth the nation of Israel to be his chosen people. Israel owed their very existence to God Almighty. Grateful praise should have characterized them. What about New Testament Christians? Do we owe our existence to God Almighty? Absolutely! James 1:18 says, "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth." Peter says it this way in his epistle [2:10], "And once you were not a people, but now you are God's people." As we ponder our very existence as God's people how can it not lead us to grateful praise!

2. That he cares for us. Psalm 100:3

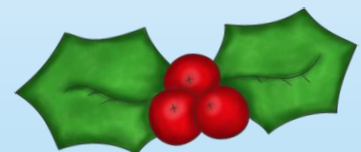
"The sheep of his pasture." God is the shepherd, and we are his sheep. As we all know sheep must have a shepherd to take care of them. David describes God's shepherding care so beautifully in the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters." The NIV says of Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing." Jesus says in John 10, that he is the good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. He also says that he knows us by name, he knows our every need. As we meditate upon the special care we receive as the sheep of his pasture how can it not lead us to grateful praise.

3. That he commits himself to us forever. Psalm 100:5

"For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever." One of the things that I do when I go grocery shopping is look at the expiration date. I want to buy something that's going to last the longest. Here the Psalmist tells us that there is no expiration date on God's goodness and love. The love of the Lord is a love that lasts forever. When you get a chance read Psalm 136. Each of the 26 verses end with the refrain, "for his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136 details the history of God's people: from creation, to the Exodus, to the Red Sea crossing, to the wilderness wandering, to military victories, to giving the Land of Promise. God has shown his steadfast love throughout the history of his people, and he will continue to show it throughout all eternity! As we consider how God has committed himself to us forever, how can this glorious truth not lead us to grateful praise!

May our lives demonstrate the grateful praise that our great God is worthy of.

Gratefully praising him with you,
Pastor Todd



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Continued from front page

Thank you, too, to all the packing helpers we've had this year. From the youngest to the oldest, everyone worked hard to get the shoe boxes stuffed, packed, and shipped off to their destinations. During the "National Drop Off Week" we had some extra workers help with the heavy lifting. I won't mention names for fear of leaving someone out, but please accept my sincere appreciation of all your hard work. Lynn



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

**“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”
Mark 16:15**

Food Pantry Ministry

Oh give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good
for his steadfast
love endures
forever!

—Psalm 107:1

We are excited to report that we were able to feed 12 families Thanksgiving dinner because of your generous donations throughout the year. Whenever we have had a need, you have generously blessed the food pantry by meeting those weekly needs and donating funds to purchase holiday meals for families in need. Some weeks, we are provided fresh produce (which is a huge blessing) to share with the families who come on a regular basis. Thank you to all of our weekly volunteers who come to pack bags, organize donations, and pray for this ministry.

wh

SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor

Visit us on Facebook! Search for "Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com



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?

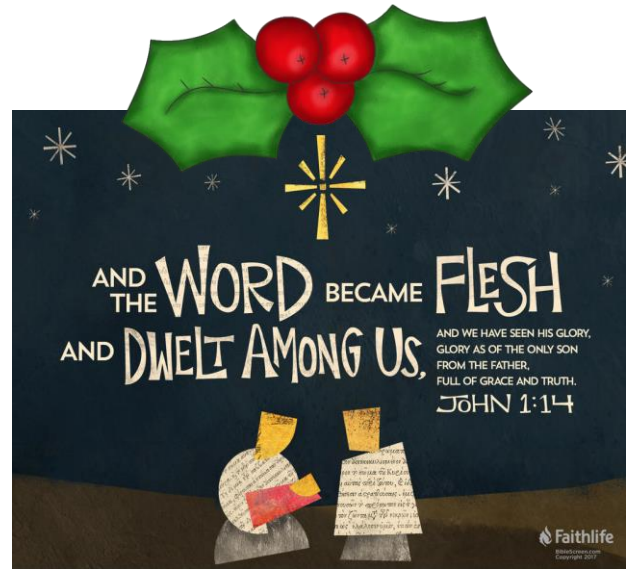
Drawing near to God
Pursuing community
Reaching our world

We want to hear from you! Contact us at newsletter@sccvb.org

Sunday School News

This month many of our Sunday school classes are focusing on the miracle of God becoming a human being and coming to live among us. The wonder of the Christmas story is that Jesus did not come as a Supreme King in all His glory, but as a very normal baby- helpless, dependent on His Mother. He grew up as a normal child would – toddling, running, playing, learning, doing chores, helping His family. He was “made in every way like we are, yet without sin”. Jesus knows and understands what it is to be a child, and He values children and child-like faith. I’m so thankful for the many children and teens who are part of our SCC family. May we recognize and value all the gifts and potential God has given each one, and may we learn from and emulate their faith. Have a blessed Christmas!

Jan Grills

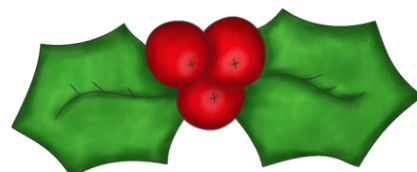
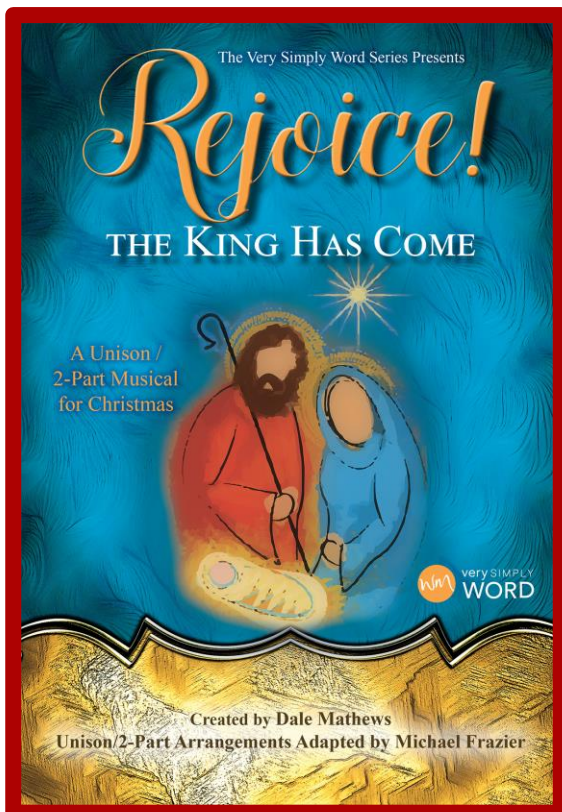


Music Notes

The Christmas Cantata will be presented at the morning worship service December 12th. "Rejoice! The King Has Come" celebrates the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in an enjoyable and beautiful way. We're looking forward to the majesty and glory of the season. Merry Christmas!!

The senior adult choir shared some music (and lunch) with the senior ministry in November and will sing once more for the congregation on December 19th. We will not be rehearsing again until January, so have a great holiday season and I'll see you all at church.

Lynn Cooke



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

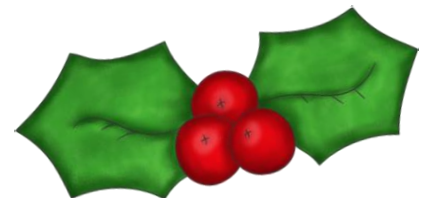
Friday, December 24, 2021, at 6:00 P.M.

No other service compares to the glow of candlelight and the holy hush of worship on Christmas Eve.

Suburban **Kids** AWANA Ministry

December is a big month for our AWANA Clubbers. Our Christmas store is where they can purchase gifts for their families. If you would like to donate items to our store, we are always in need of things such as: photo albums, picture frames, fuzzy socks, men's cologne, manicure sets, ties, coffee mugs, gloves (either men or women's), scarves, home decor (candles are ALWAYS a hit!!) or Chapstick variety packs. We can always use toys for any age too. Thank you to those who have donated items already!

Our Cubbies were celebrated as they completed 3 sections of their books already! Their parents were able to stay with them during club, complete a Thanksgiving craft with them and have pizza. I can't express how thankful I am for the volunteers we have this year. They stepped up when we didn't know how many clubbers we would have and kept coming after we learned it would be over 30 kids! They are dedicated servants of the Lord, and they are dedicated to teaching the word of God to the kids. I know that even though we are only in our 2nd month, it's going to be such a rewarding year. CB



Fall Family Festival Update

Another Fall Festival success!!



We want to give God all the glory for the success of our Fall Family Festival this year. Before the festival took place, the church office received several calls to see if we were having our festival this year. We were told it was always done "first class", the atmosphere was friendly and inviting, the food was great, their children had a wonderful time, and it was a positive outing for their families. The night of the festival, we had parents to thank us for providing a safe place for their children. Several children came up to Mrs. Wendy and thanked her for the inflatables that were rented and asked her to please rent the same inflatables next year. Our church family decorated their cars, volunteered their time to cook, set up, tear down, and serve as inflatable attendants to be a blessing to our community. As a welcome gift, we passed out a church pamphlet including all ministry opportunities and a booklet with the gospel message. It is our prayer that our community saw Jesus during our event and that God would open their eyes to the message of salvation. **THANK YOU**, again, for all of your hard work.

JUST FOR... Suburban Kids

Nativity Word Search

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



angels
Christmas
donkey
innkeeper
Jesus
Joseph
king
manger
Mary
nativity
salvation
sheep
shepherds
star
wisemen

Nativity Word Scramble

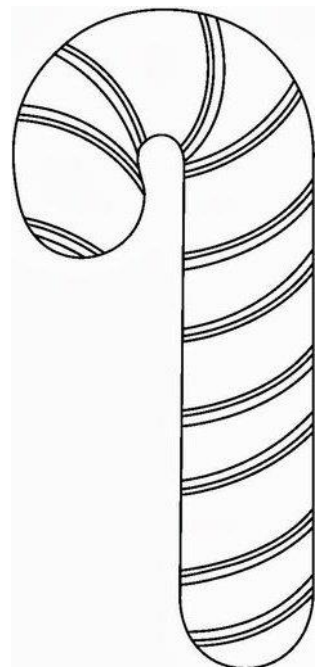
All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. STRA _ _ _ _
2. MAGREN _ _ _ _ _
3. MYAR _ _ _ _
4. SEPHE _ _ _ _ _
5. DOEYKN _ _ _ _ _
6. AEGLN _ _ _ _ _
7. JPHOES _ _ _ _ _
8. JSSEU _ _ _ _ _
9. KIGSN _ _ _ _ _
10. STBALE _ _ _ _ _



Color me....

"for unto us
a child is
born...
and His
name shall
be called
Wonderful"
Isaiah 9:6



Belong Women's Ministry

The Belong Women's Ministry has enjoyed the "Finding I Am: How Jesus Fully Satisfies the Cry of Your Heart" Bible study by Lisa Terkeurst. Lisa is the president of Proverbs 31 Ministries and is author of over twenty books.

In this study, we studied the "I Am" statements found in the book of John. This is what we learned:

*When I'm hungry for quick fixes or starving for affection or craving lesser things, Jesus, You are my Bread of life.

*When I'm confused and anxious and exhausted from all my fragile efforts incapable of fixing my struggles, Your light brings clarity. Your light chases away my darkness. Your light of hope dispels the shadows of hurt.

*You are the Good Shepherd who will find me no matter how lost or off course I wander. You speak tenderly my name and whisper wisdom I need. And then You encamp at the gate of my heart. You are the Sheep Gate, always there during my coming and going, protecting and providing for me.

*When I get afraid of the daunting things that feel impossibly dead to me, I will not be consumed with anguish or grief. Jesus, You are my Resurrection and my Life.

*You are the Way when there is no way. You are the Truth in my life that silences the lies that scream in deafening tones. You are Life, certain and secure.

*You are the true Vine I cling to and receive from all that's needed to not just survive but to thrive. What I am facing today may be a delay or a distraction or even a devastation for a season, but it is not a final destination. For You, the Great I Am, will have the final say. You will write the final words to my story. And because they come from YOU – the source of all that is good and right and true – the words of my life will be glorious.

(taken from Finding I Am)

The time we shared together was **WONDERFUL**. We shared personal experiences, prayer requests, encouraged one another, and developed relationships as we spent time together. If you were not able to join us, we hope you will consider joining us for our next study which will take place in the spring of 2022.

I would also like to thank Carol Brooks for her leadership during this study. She has been a great encourager and team teacher during the past two studies.

Wendy Haynes

Belong Women's Ministry would like to invite all ladies to the:

Christmas Brunch and Ornament Exchange

Saturday, December 4th, at 11:00 am

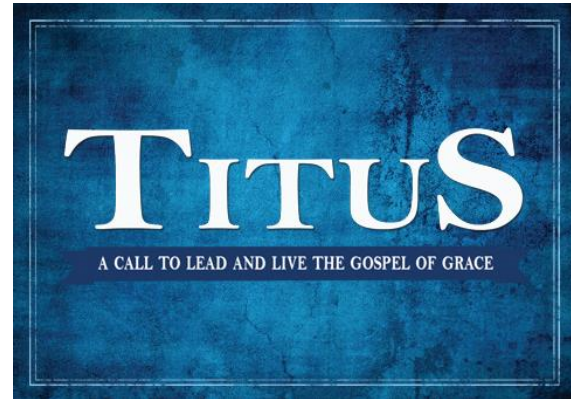
Suburban Christian Church Fellowship Hall

Sign up sheet is in the foyer near the Church Office

Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study

On Saturday, December 4th, we will complete our study of Paul's letter to Titus. Written in the mid-60's to his trusted coworker and the leader of the church he had established on Crete, Paul is exhorting Titus to combat the false teaching and errors that were adversely influencing the church. Paul encouraged him to develop a church faithful to doctrinal purity and proper conduct.

After he gave Titus instruction on qualifications and roles of various groups of people: elders, overseers, older and young men, older and young women, and slaves, he gave general words of encouragement to all believers.



In Chapter 3, Paul exhorted Titus to remind church members to exhibit proper conduct to all. He enumerated behaviors to be avoided, and pointed out that they, too, had done similar things. Even so, since they had been saved by God's mercy and grace, they were to insist on things that are excellent and profitable, and to devote themselves to good works.



On December 18th, we will begin a study of Revival from a Scriptural perspective, utilizing both the Old and the New Testaments. The study will begin with what the Bible says about revival and will include: the definition of revival, the need of revival, the source of revival, the means of revival, the preparation for revival, the obstacles of revival, and the results of revival. We will look at some revivals in Scripture, as well as some in the history of the Christian church.

The breakfast and Bible study are open to all men, and all are invited to enjoy a good homemade breakfast of eggs (scrambled and fried), sausage, corned beef hash, pancakes, biscuits, grits, sausage gravy, fruit, orange juice, and coffee. Come and enjoy good fellowship, and the Good News found in God's Word.

Bob Grymes



Ambassador Youth Ministries

Why I GO to Church!

We are meant to be in physical space with one another. This is simply a true statement for all people. God made us that way. In the beginning Adam's loneliness was the first thing God declared "*not good*" (Gen 2:18). Isolation is not good for us. It makes us miserable. We were designed to be in community with one another. That's why being alone, whether on lock down or in solitary confinement or just without friends, hurts us.

It's no different with our Christian faith. Think about Jesus. Jesus didn't come to simply tell us *about* God (information), but to bring us into *fellowship with* God (a relationship). The message of the Gospel is information, but it came in relational packaging. Jesus became flesh and dwelt *among* us. He didn't create a YouTube playlist called "Sermon on the Mount," but he came and spoke that sermon face-to-face to the people he lived with. He occupied physical space with the people he came to save, and it was powerful.

Not only that, but he commissioned the church to be a community. Not a loose conglomeration of individuals, but a people. The word *church* in the New Testament literally means "the gathering," which tells us something about what he intended it to look like. And while a virtual service was the best we could do during lock down, it's not what is best for us.

At Suburban, we believe in the principle of relational discipleship, and relational discipleship is at its best when we meet together. When I go to church, I get to hear the Word preached by my pastor, a man who has invested in me personally. A man who knows my name, who knows my struggles. Hearing from him is a different thing from downloading a podcast because when he prepares a sermon, he has prayed for and lived with a church body that he *knows*. When he speaks he has all of us in mind. God uses the church to speak to us in a way that cannot be replaced.

I go to church because when I walk through the halls, I am able to stop and talk to people who are farther along in the faith. I can ask them questions, gain wisdom from them, and be prayed for.

As a pastor's wife, I can attest to the challenges of trying to do ministry via zoom and livestream. You can't know the needs of your church family or teens who don't log on. You can't see the non-verbal communication through livestream. When we see each other through screens, we are less engaged and less likely to be vulnerable. Relational discipleship requires those things.

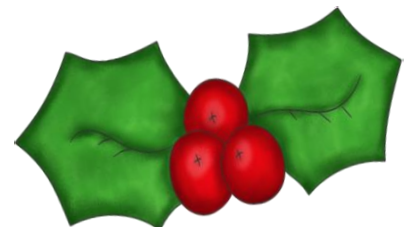
When people are disconnected from their community, drift happens. When we are not tethered to a community of faith that puts God's Word before us, when we are no longer known by people because we are simply live streaming a service, we downgrade the people of God to a video to be consumed rather than a community to be experienced. When we take on a consumer mindset, we fail to be ministry driven. We become selfish, petty, and impatient. This distracts us from our purpose and divorces us from the very means of grace God has given us to grow in our faith.

If we engage in our community, we are encouraged by people who know our needs, who pray for us, who urge us forward towards faith in Christ. If we show up, we get the opportunity to be ministered to, and when we show up, we have the opportunity to minister to others as well. Parents, I challenge you to make "going to Sunday School and Church a priority for all ages of your family. It's a great way to develop relationships, grow in your faith, be encouraged, and be disciplined.

From rootedministry.com & Adapted by Wendy

AYM December Activities:

Continue the Biblical Worldview Series
Christmas Party (TBA)



Nursery Ministry December Schedule

Date	Sunday School 9:00 am	Worship 10:15 am	Worship Helper
12/5/21	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Stacie Raymer Samantha Haynes	William Schnurr
12/12/21	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Jeff Herring Susan Haynes	Abbey Deuell
12/19/21	Melissa Tucker Stacey Super	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Sophia Deuell
12/26/21	Melissa Tucker Rebecca Beckner-Driver	Ara & Lou Miller	Samara Saucedo

If you would like to join the nursery ministry, by helping one Sunday per month - during Sunday School or church service - please contact Stacie Raymer (sraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). Young teenage helpers are also welcomed to help. "But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14)



Seniors Ministry

Our Senior Choir opened the November meeting with a presentation of a number of hymns and gospel songs. Song sheets were provided so everyone could sing along with the choir. Then a Thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed by all. Our own Chef Hollice prepared the most delicious turkey and gravy, and the 40 seniors present brought a great variety of side dishes to share. Potatoes, salads, veggies, desserts – you name it, we ate it!

In December, the meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 16th. Mark your calendar and save this date. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for details.

Pastor Todd will be the speaker at the January meeting, when he will share his thoughts and plans for 2022. The Seniors Ministry sponsors all of our programs, but they are open to adults of all ages.

Dana Mosteller

