

THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION

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

SAVE THE DATE

Food Pantry
January 6th & 20th
12:30 – 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
January 3rd & 17th
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Board Meeting
January 5th
7:30 pm

Senior Ministry Meeting
January 15th
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Newsletter Submissions Due
January 23rd

2026-YEAR VERSE

“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

Luke 24:46-47



From the Pastor's Desk: The 2026 Year Verse Luke 24:46-47

This year, we will embark on a journey through the Gospel of Luke. As we follow Luke's account of the Life of Jesus, my prayer is that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will grow in our knowledge of Jesus, grow in the character of Jesus and grow in our obedience to share Jesus with others. Our year verse (Luke 24:46-47) will help guide us each step of the way.

TO KNOW JESUS

Luke 24:45 says that Jesus opened his disciples' minds so they could understand what the Old Testament Scriptures said about him. Yes, the disciples personally knew Jesus after spending 3 years following him. But the resurrected Lord wanted his disciples to see from the pages of Scripture that he was the Messiah the Old Testament writers promised would come. He wanted them to know that the whole Old Testament (the Law of Moses, the Prophets, the Psalms) all pointed to him. In other words, to know Jesus better we need to know our Bibles better. Everything we need to grow in our knowledge of Christ is found in the pages of God's Word. As we follow the life of Jesus in Luke's gospel, my prayer is for the Holy Spirit to open our minds so we may see Christ more clearly.

TO BECOME LIKE JESUS

As we grow in the knowledge of Christ, as our hearts are continually exposed to the beauty and glory of Christ, something happens to us . . . **TRANSFORMATION!** The old sinful you and me gradually, incrementally decreases and the new you and me in Christ gradually, incrementally increases. It's not enough for us to know the stories of Jesus. We need to see the glory of Jesus and with the help of the Holy Spirit be made more like Jesus. Second Corinthians 3:18 describes the transformation process. "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is Spirit."

TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN

After Zacchaeus repented of his sin, Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house... for the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." (Luke 19:9,10) The lost are saved when they repent of their sin and trust in Jesus for forgiveness, just like Zacchaeus. How many of us have family, friends, or co-workers who are lost? Christ loves them and came to save them. And just as Christ commissioned his disciples to proclaim his name to the nations, he calls us to proclaim his name to those who are lost. Jesus not only gave his disciples the Great Commission, he also equipped them with great power. He instructed his disciples, "stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49) May we all, in 2026, boldly and lovingly, in the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news: JESUS SAVES!

It's all about Christ in 2026,

Pastor Todd



Food Pantry Ministry

Greetings in 2026! We hope everyone is staying warm and healthy. Our team is excited for a fresh start in the new year and remains committed to serving our community throughout the coming months. Our team serves the families that come on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 12:30-2:00 pm. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors who may need a little extra help. Together we make a difference and Galatians 6:2 reminds us to "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Happy New Year! The Food Pantry Team

Seniors Ministry

At our December meeting, Larry Thomas spoke on "What I Got for Christmas" from Luke 2. Ham with mac & cheese was provided. There was a table full of delicious desserts for all to share.

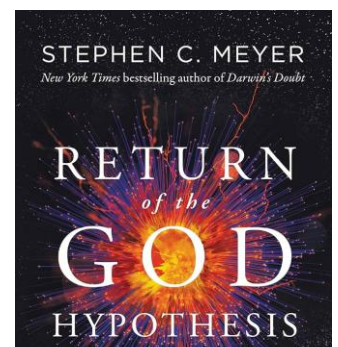
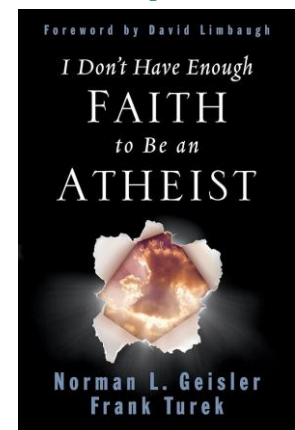
On **Thursday, January 15th**, we will kick off the new year with a message from our Pastor and friend, Pastor Todd. Bring your favorite chili, side dish or dessert to share. Garlic bread will be provided. Larry Thomas



Adult Sunday School Class Update – Teacher: Ron Raymer

Beginning in 2026, the Cornerstone Adult Sunday School taught by Ron Raymer, will begin an overview study of the fundamentals of Christian Apologetics. Christian Apologetics is the field dedicated to explaining and defending the truths of the Christian faith, addressing both the reasons why believers hold their convictions and the questions or objections posed by skeptics. The term "apologetics" comes from the Greek word apologia, meaning a "defense" or "answer." This concept can be seen in [1 Peter 3:15](#): "But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you..." The ultimate aim is to remove intellectual stumbling blocks and invite people into deeper understanding of the Christian faith. This study will use as references "I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be an Atheist" by Frank Turek and Norman Geisler as well as "Return of the God Hypothesis" by Dr. Steven Meyer.

***If you would like to join in the Adult Sunday School class via conference call, please call 612-746-7360. The conference code is 809549.**



Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Worship Service Assistant
1/4/2026	Melissa Tucker	Stacie Raymer Barbara Skarupa	Elena Tyler
1/11/2026	Melissa Tucker	Latoya Rakes Nancy Herbst	Emma Tyler
1/18/2026	Melissa Tucker Stacey Super	Chris Bulaski Lika Pesio	Samara Saucedo
1/25/2026	Melissa Tucker	Christine Rogers Laura Tyler	Liam Cooke



If you would like to be a part of this ministry to our church families, please contact Stacie Raymer (sraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). We can always use substitutes. Please consider helping! Young teenagers are also welcome to volunteer.



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



MISSION: Our desire at Suburban Christian Church is to help you **KNOW, SERVE, AND SHARE** Jesus Christ,



Derrick J. Sloan
Associate/Next
Generation Pastor

Visit us on Facebook! Search for "Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com
We want to hear from you! Contact us at office@sccvb.org

Sunday School Ministry

God promises us that, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16b) The Sunday school teachers pray regularly for the children in their class. Would you join me in praying for our Sunday School program?

*May the teachers and children "put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Rom 13:12)

*May the souls of the teachers and children pant for you, Oh God, "as the deer pants for streams of water" (Ps 142:1) Please pray that God will bring people to our church that need to hear the Word. *Laura Tyler*



Children’s Church News ~ Helping Hands, Humble Hearts

Think about a time when you needed help. Maybe you were doing a job with your family and had to pick up something heavy. Or perhaps you were riding the city bus for the first time by yourself and were scared you might miss your stop. We all need help at times!

When have you been asked to be the helper? God reminds us in Philippians 2:4 to look for ways to help others. What would you do if your sister asked for help with a craft? What if you ended up doing more of the work because your fingers handle glue and glitter better than hers? What if helping her meant you missed the chance to go to the park with friends? You might feel frustrated.

Our feelings of frustration are very real feelings, but when you choose to help someone, you are letting God take over your hands and heart. It can be a hard choice, but when we make time to help others, it is a good choice.



Amazingly, when we help others, we also learn about community. Community means living and working together, taking care of each other. God’s great design includes all of us fitting together. No one has to be alone!

There may be times when you might not know how to help others. When you see people who seem stronger and smarter than you, you might wonder what you can offer. Trust that God will show you ways to help, through your hands in doing or your heart in loving. <https://kidscorner.net/devotions/helping-hands-humble-hearts>

January Children’s Church Ministry Calendar

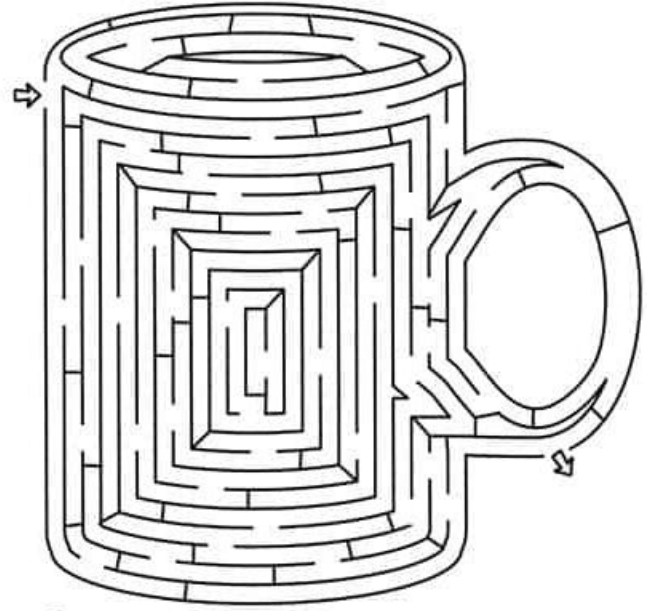
Date	Leader	Assistant	Helper
1/4/2026	Mary Justis		Samara Saucedo
1/11/2026	Jan Grills	Leigh Simms	Liam Cooke
1/18/2026	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
1/25/2026	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	

Color Me:

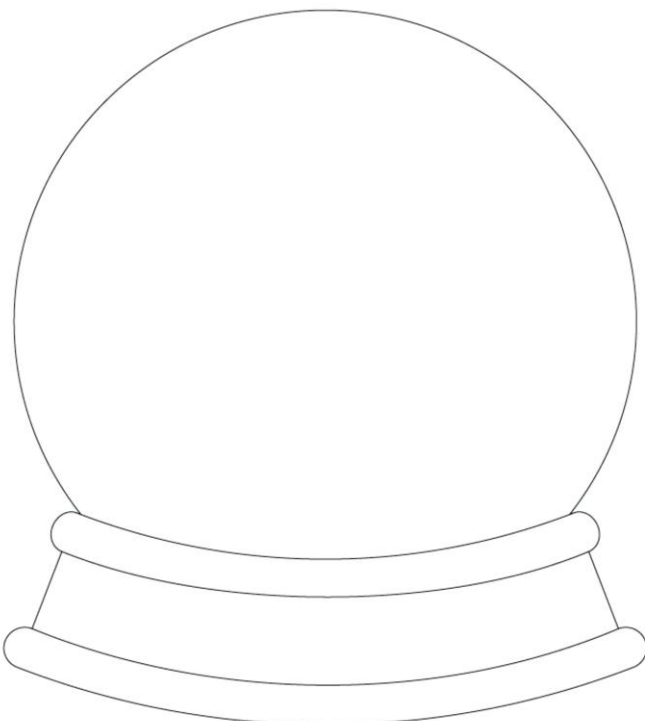


Just for ... **Suburban Kids**

Hot Cocoa Maze



Directions: Design a snow globe



My Snow Globe



January Word Search

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

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| SNOW | SLED | COAT | FROSTY |
| COLD | SCARF | FIREPLACE | EARMUFFS |
| MITTENS | BLANKET | BLIZZARD | PENGUIN |

Ambassador Youth Ministry ~ Let's Talk About It: New Year, New You?

It's January 2026. A new year, a fresh start. Resolutions are made; ambition is in the air as people are at the starting line in anticipation to hit the ground running for their new goals. One of the most common of course being going to the gym.

For many years now one of my favorite hobbies has been weightlifting. But every year without skipping a beat, this hobby becomes a little more congested as people finally begin their fitness journey. It's great to see people with so much determination. This enthusiasm however slowly dwindles with each passing month. Come March or April, most of those who made exercising their New Year's resolution are AWOL. So, why the mass exodus?

Most of the time, this determination is without calculation, and the exodus usually happens for one of two reasons. Some people treat this new hobby like a buffet. They fill up their plate by trying every workout. But they soon phase out because they have no real trajectory for what they are doing. They did all the exercises but could not tell you why they did it. With overly sore muscles, they leave this goal behind. Other people however treat this new hobby as a microwave. They want results and they want it in 30 seconds or less. When they do not quickly get the outcome they were hoping for, they throw their gym bag out the door.

The truth is, buffets and microwaves are everywhere, even in the church. All of us want to get stronger in the Lord and we sometimes use the New Year as a starting line to make greater progress in our spiritual fitness journey. This is not a bad idea, but we need to be aware of the potential problems we can bring upon ourselves. These problems take place when we do not know where we are going or how long it will take to get there. Rather than buffets and microwaves, we should treat growing in the Lord like grandma's tried and true slow cooker. It is not fancy and only has a few options for cooking, but the long-term results cannot be argued with.

So then, what are some options for long term spiritual exercises that will result in us becoming more like Christ? There is one that stands out for me this year, let's talk about it.

Ditch the Digital

There is no substitute for Bible reading when it comes to spiritual growth. This is a given and the go to VBS answer (aside from "Jesus" of course). Rather than focusing on a specific Bible reading plan or when you should choose your reading time, something needs to be said about getting back to paper. It's time to ditch the digital for our regular time in the Word.

Obviously, this is not to say that using technology should be prohibited for Christian growth. It's a great tool when used properly. But that's the thing, we do not always use it properly. More often than not, technology becomes a world of distraction. It is a buffet for our mind. If you don't believe me, just take a glance at your Screen Time. You may think you have control over your device, but the time you spend on it may tell a different story.

I want to offer two reasons for why you should consider using a physical Bible as the most beneficial way for your time in the Word. As you strive to grow in Christ this year, consider these thoughts.

First of all, a physical Bible will always be what it is. If you put a physical copy on a shelf and leave it there for a year, it will not transform into anything else after that year. But why is this a good thing? Consider for a moment everything you use your digital device for. Social media, messaging, the weather, gps, games, photos, videos, music, email, bank accounts, podcasts, shopping, and looking up recipes online only to be bombarded with ads and some weird back story of the dish you are trying to make. Our digital devices are inherently multipurpose; we cannot escape this reality. This means that whenever we use them for a single purpose, we now face a mental challenge to remain focused on that one purpose.

continued on next page . . .

AYM continued . . .

You may say that you are not as distracted as other people or that you can just turn the notifications off on your device. But why create an atmosphere where a battle of distractions is at play? Is it not more biblically wise and spiritually beneficial to remove as many variables as possible in order to have uninterrupted time with the Lord? Certainly, Christ demonstrated this practice in his earthly ministry (Luke 4:42, 5:16). If he understood the importance of concentrated communion with the Father, who are we to seek a path where this concentration is more easily lost? By using a physical Bible, we are using a single purpose tool. It is one thing, with one single trajectory. It is the Word of God. Through it, God teaches us about who he is and what he has done for us, that in Christ we may live for his glory.

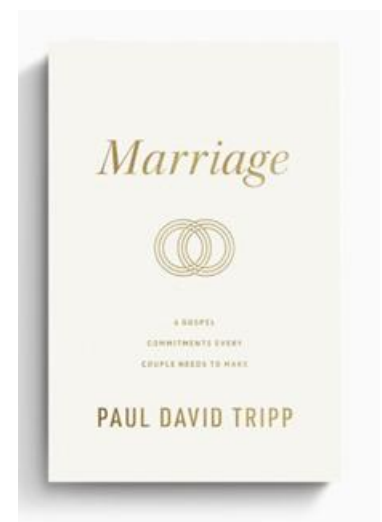
Second, using your physical Bible creates familiarity with it. The Rifle Creed for the United States Marines begins as follows, "This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine." Over and over, day in and day out, Marines train with their rifles. They know their rifles down to its minute details. This familiarity breeds memorization, and with memorization, comes success in the battlefield. The same is true for using a physical Bible for regular Bible reading.

By using our physical Bible for daily reading of God's Word, we become familiar with it. We begin to know its frame and its parts. Our fingers progressively know the feel of the pages so that they gradually turn from verse to verse with ease. Our eyes increasingly capture the location of certain passages, as if they become photographed in our mind. Over time, this familiarity breeds greater Scripture memorization, so that when we need ammo to fight off temptations, it is quickly at hand. This is one of the grand ways that God shapes us more into the image of Christ (Ps. 119:11). When we make use of our physical Bibles over and over, memorization will increase, and so will our growth in the Lord. This year, ditch the digital and enjoy greater freedom in God's Word with a mind more fully fixated on him.

If you have a question that you would like to have answered in "Let's Talk About It," email pastor Derrick at derricksloan@sccvb.org.

College & Young Adults

Attention all College & Young Adults! With the new year beginning, how about considering joining the College & Young Adults! They will be meeting on January 11th and 25th and will begin a new study titled **Marriage: 6 Gospel Commitments Every Couple Needs to Make** by Paul David Tripp. If you would like to find out more information, please see Derrick Sloan.



Belong Women's Ministry

The Belong Women's Ministry held their annual Christmas event on December 6th. Our theme was ***My Cup Runneth Over*** - focusing on counting our Blessings. We had some DELICIOUS food (some items were actually ranked #1 through #3 right there on the spot!) brought in by the ladies, we crafted some beautiful ornaments to adorn our Christmas tree with and heard a heartfelt and beautiful testimony/devotion by Beth Blankenship. Beth reminded us that when we serve others at the church, it is not only a blessing for that person, but also a blessing to us ALL! That even during the hard times and challenging seasons in our lives, if we just keep our eyes on Jesus, the blessing will come. It may not seem like it at the time but looking back, we all have those times where we knew God was working even though it felt like He wasn't. We have the wonderful opportunity to be a blessing to our families (church included!), our neighbors, our co-workers and even strangers. When we bless others with just a smile, a Thank You, an ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on, we are showing the character of Jesus. Although we consider Christmas a special time of year, let's not forget that even in the spring, summer and fall, we need to keep showing up and sharing our blessings to others.

We just want to thank all the ladies who attended our events over this past year and want you to know that we are planning on some really exciting events in 2026!!! Carol Brooks



Music Ministry

A History Behind the Hymn: All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name

The author of this hymn, Edward Perronet (1726 – 1792), would probably have fallen into obscurity had it not been for this story that relates to his hymn: Reverend E. P. Scott was a missionary, living in India during the 1800s. One day Rev. Scott met a native Indian tribesman in traditional costume. After earnest inquiry he discovered that the native was from a ferocious mountain tribe which rarely came to the city. Feeling the need to visit the tribe to share the gospel, Rev. Scott after much prayer set out with a few meager provisions and his violin. After travelling for two days, Rev. Scott suddenly found himself surrounded by a party of warriors from the very tribe he sought with their spears pointed to his heart. Fearing that this was the end for him, he pulled out his violin and began to play. Closing his eyes tightly he sang 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name' in their native language. When he came to the stanza 'Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe...' he cautiously opened his eyes. He was astonished to see that the spears had been withdrawn and several of the warriors were in tears! For the next two and a half years Rev. Scott lived with this tribe teaching them the way of salvation. When poor health forced him to take a leave of absence, the natives followed him nearly 40 miles, entreating him to return to them soon. This he did, spending the last days of his life with the people whose hearts had been opened by 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name'.

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown Him Lord of all.**

Let us bless the Lord and worship Him in whose Name dwells the power to change lives! He has changed our lives and caused us to live for Him!! <https://ebfellowship.wordpress.com/2012/11/27/183/>



Men's Ministry

This month, we will be diving into Second Peter. This is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend to come enjoy a wonderful breakfast, great fellowship, and teaching from God's Word. We are so thankful for the men who come each Saturday to prepare the breakfast for everyone to enjoy.
Pastor Todd

AWANA Ministry

Just for ... **Suburban Kids**

Thank you so very much to all that donated to our Awana Christmas store this year! As always, it was a HUGE success! There was so much wrapping that we depleted a lot of our stash! And they made wreaths out of old Christmas cards that have been donated over these past few years. I mean, anything with scissors and glue is a hit, right?

We ended our calendar year with a family party complete with trivia, games and PIZZA! Yes, Pastor Todd was there...! Thank you to our Leaders & teen volunteers who show up faithfully every week ready to make a difference in a child's walk with Christ. Carol Brooks



- January 4th – Catch Up Night
- January 11th – Stuffed Animal Night
- January 18th – Drive In Movie Night
- January 25th – Dress Like A Parent Night (Come in scrubs, uniform or business attire – just like your folks!)

