

THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION

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

SAVE THE DATE

Food Pantry
August 4th & 18th
12:30 – 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
August 1st & 15th
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

College & Young Adults
August 9th & 23rd
Time: TBA

Seniors Ministry Meeting
August 20th
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

OCC Workday
August 17th
1:00 pm
Suburban Kids Room

Sept. Newsletter Submissions Due
August 21st



Vacation Bible School Update ~ Rome

We had 4 days in Rome visiting Paul in jail and discovering the safety concerns of the early church. Each day we learned a new truth about God's Love; that is a Gift, it Changes Us, it Saves Us & it is Worth Sharing! We met Marcus & Lydia who were stewards of the underground church and witnessed what it was like being pursued by the Roman guards. We also spent quite a lot of time with Paul's personal guard Brutus, who at the end of the 4 days, converted to Christianity. In the marketplace they made leather bracelets, laurel wreaths, made bullas (loquets) with the ichthus symbol secretly tucked away inside & decorated a spinning top toy. Our streak of beating out the rain came to an end this year, however. We had to relocate games inside the first night due to some sprinkles but since that was the only night, we called it a win!

I mentioned this during our last night, but it is worth mentioning again in this newsletter - our middle school & high school volunteers ARE AWESOME!!!! These young men & women approach me every single year and ask if they can help. In this day and age, how many teens do you know that are willing to come to church for 4 nights and work...for FREE?? It says a lot about their character and what kind of people they will become. Don't let the world rob you of your servant's hearts!

VBS continued inside . . .



From the Pastor's Desk: Deacons: Who Are They?

Throughout the New Testament the word "deacon" is defined as a servant. The Greek noun "*diakonos*" appears 29 times in the New Testament and is almost always translated as servant. In Mark 10:43-45 our Lord describes both himself and his followers as servants (deacons).

However, the word deacon is also used in a narrower sense to describe one of the two offices established in the New Testament for the local church. For the last two months we examined the office of elder/pastor, and for the next two months, we will learn about the office of deacon. It is clear that as the New Testament church is established that the office of elder and deacon are official positions within the church. Paul acknowledges both of these official positions in Philippians 1:1, "Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ, who are at Philippi, with the overseers (pastors) and deacons." And in 1 Timothy 3:1,8, "If anyone aspires to the office of overseer (pastor) he desires a noble task... deacons likewise must be dignified."

How important is the position of deacon to the church's well-being? Important enough for God to carve out an official position for certain members (men and women) to be recognized as model servants. In the wisdom and goodness of God, he provides deacons to help care for the personal and practical needs of his church.

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul will list the qualifications for deacons. As we examine this list of qualifications, we discover that God cares more about the character than about the abilities of deacons. The focus is on who deacons are rather than what deacons can do. What is most important is that each deacon clearly display the character of Jesus Christ. Paul begins by saying that deacons must be dignified, worthy of respect. This doesn't mean that deacons must be perfect, but that they display a humble, servant-spirit to the church. So, what does it look like, practically, for a deacon to be dignified and worthy of respect? Paul will highlight 6 characteristics, three negative (what a deacon must not be) and three positive (what a deacon must be).

Negative requirements:

***Not double-tongued:** Christ-like character must be reflected in a person's words. A double-tongued person says one thing to a group and then something else to another group. A double tongue indicates someone has an agenda and is focused on getting their way. In order to be a deacon, God is saying that a person must have the reputation of honesty, sincerity, integrity without the hint of deception in their speech. Deacons should be trusted to handle sensitive information along with unverified (juicy) information with purity of speech.

***Not addicted to much wine:** Not only do deacons need to control their words they also need to control their appetites. Deacons need to be clear-minded, able to exercise sound judgment, therefore they need to possess the fruit of self-control. Qualified deacons will deny the cravings of the flesh that would hinder their service to the Lord.

***Not greedy for dishonest gain:** Paul warns against appointing anyone who is known for obsessing over money, who focuses on material things, who is known for being deceptive and cutting moral corners. There will be times when a deacon will be responsible for providing assistance for people in need. Therefore, a deacon should have the reputation of giving generously and joyfully. A giving heart not a "getting" heart should characterize our deacons.



Food Pantry Ministry

Caring for the hungry is one of the clearest expressions of love and faith in action. When we feed the hungry, we aren't just meeting physical needs—we're reflecting the character of God, who provides, nourishes, and cares deeply for every person. Throughout the Bible, God commands His people to show compassion to those in need. God has graciously blessed Suburban with the Food Pantry Ministry and with the help of our congregation we are able to meet some of the physical needs of our community. Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to serve. ^{wh}

Seniors Ministry

On Thursday, August 20th, at 11:00 am, Detective Caleb Davey of the Virginia Beach police economic crime unit will be sharing about online safety for seniors. Seniors are targeted everyday with this crime!

The menu for the day will be chicken salad on croissants with fruit and cheese. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



Operation Christmas Child

Last year over 12 million shoebox gifts were distributed to children all over the world. With each box, the children heard the Gospel message and had a tangible item given to them reminding them of Jesus' love.

This month the suggested donations are **NOTEBOOKS, SOCKS, AND TOY CARS.**

We had a wonderful, kind, 91-year-old woman call the church to see if we would include some handmade bracelets in our shoebox gifts this year. I went to her retirement community and picked up over 800 bracelets and bookmarks that she had braided. It fills my heart to see someone like her who loves the Lord and does whatever she can to share that love.

Every box we fill represents a child who gets touched by the love of God through our simple gift. Thank you for caring.

Our workday is the 3rd Monday of the month, August 17th, at 1 pm in the Suburban Kids room. You're invited to come and help. Lynn Cooke

Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Worship Service Assistant
8/2/2026	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Samantha Haynes Barbara Skarupa	Liam Cooke
8/9/2026	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Maureen Field Nancy Herbst	Donovan Saucedo
8/16/2026	Melissa Tucker Stacey Super	Chris Bulaski Debbie Kiyadu	William Schnurr
8/23/2026	Melissa Tucker	Christine Rogers Laura Tyler	Ella Litzenberger
8/30/2026	Melissa Tucker	Sharon Rogers-Roulhac Rita Krentz Krystal Martin	Nathaniel Schnurr



Thank you to our new volunteers! We always welcome new individuals to care for our little ones. 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. Young teenagers are also welcome to volunteer.



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



Derrick J. Sloan
Associate/Next
Generation Pastor

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

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

This month the Sunday school program would like to thank Lou Miller for his contributions to our program. Lou will be stepping down at the end of the summer. But we can't let him go until we've thanked him for his years of service!

Lou has been instrumental in teaching the youth at Suburban for many, many years! Someone who was mentoring him gave him the challenge of holding a small group for the youth. They were invited to his house, and fed by his wife Ara, and the discussions could be about anything as long as it related back to the Bible.

During those early years at Suburban, he also joined the youth for camp, mission trips to the Eastern Shore, Elizabeth City, and Brazil.

His work with the youth grew into a College and Career class and then a young adult Sunday school class. He was able to use the *Growing Kids God's Way* curriculum a few times throughout those years. What a blessing this was to the young families in Suburban! After Covid he started teaching in the Sunday school program.

There is one thing he wants to instill in every child coming through his class. He stresses that the Bible is God's Word and everything in it is true. If they remember nothing else, he wants them to remember this truth. And he "quizzes" them occasionally to make sure they remember.

When I asked him about his favorite part of teaching he said, "I've always loved seeing the light bulb go on when someone really gets what you're teaching." He also enjoyed asking open-ended questions to get the class thinking about the topic or passage of the Bible being taught. He would provide direction for the conversation and was delighted when many voices participated in the discussions.

Lou thanks his wife, Ara, who taught side-by-side with him for many years. He is amazed at how she could take a different approach to the lesson, yet God always worked it out that they complimented each other.

A BIG thank you goes out to Lou Miller for his faithful service. Thank you for the time and effort, laughs, and love you have poured into Suburban's youth over the years. God has definitely equipped you to teach and so many have been blessed to have received that teaching!



Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Come join us on the first and third Saturdays
(August 1st & 15th at 8:00 am) for our men's
breakfast and Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

Current study: The Book of Proverbs





Just for ...

Suburban Kids

Look up the verse and fill in the blanks: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of _____ and God of all _____, who _____ us in all our _____, so that we may be able to _____ those who are in any affliction, with the _____ with which we ourselves are _____ by God.



August Word Search

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

BIKING	POOL	READING	FRIENDS
POPSICLES	SNOW CONE	RELAX	TRAVEL
SUMMER	ICE CREAM	LEMONADE	FUN



If you think you know the answers to these riddles, come find Mrs. Wendy to share your answers for a prize:

*What months of the year have 28 days? _____

*What 2 things can you never eat for breakfast?

~Ambassador Youth Ministry ~ Let's Talk About It: Museum of the Bible

Last month, AYM took a trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. The Museum has dedicated six floors worth of material to the history of the Bible and its impact in the world. As invigorating as it would be for you to read my summarization of each floor with colorful commentary, I'll save that for a later time. What I would like to do here is simply present two observations I made on this trip. One from the travel and the other from the overall content of the museum. Let's talk about it.

Meaningful Miles

If you are like me, the point of traveling is usually to get from point A to point B in record time. The ETA from the GPS is not merely an estimation. Oh no, it is a goal to beat, a record to be shattered, a quest to be conquered, you get the point. But over the years I have learned to try and put away childish thinking, in pursuit of something more valuable. Miles spent with others are meaningful.

An important reminder that we all need is that time is a created treasure to be valued, not one to be wasted away by playing Mario Kart on the road. True, time with others can be awkward from long moments of silence. But it is those moments of silence that can chip away at the social distance between one another. The silence is eventually broken with random comments, off the wall questions, and unexpected laughable moments when you have nothing better to watch than construction workers doing their morning stretches. If you know you know.

I am more convinced in my walk with the Lord that there is no substitute for fellowship with one another. This fellowship is first and foremost the gathering of the saints in corporate worship on the Lord's Day (Heb. 10:25). Nothing can take the place of this. But our fellowship together does not end after the service. It reaches into all of life. Because our fellowship is grounded in our union with the resurrected Lord (1 John 1:3), we can fellowship at any moment. Even when stuck in I-95 traffic.

Have you considered Christian, that the awkwardness you might experience with other believers is a grace from the Lord? Those moments are not wasted but are steppingstones to grow closer to those that Christ purchased with his blood. When the next trip is offered, when volunteers are needed for this ministry, when that special church event comes around again, what will you do? Will you let that time pass you by again or will you take hold of God's blessings through the meaningful moments he gives you?

Preserved in His Hands

Each floor of the museum highlights a unique aspect of the Bible's history and the context of that moment in history. Realistically, you could spend a full day on just one or two levels. But if you step back and look at the museum as a whole, what do you see? Like a mosaic put finely together, one of the big pictures that the pieces form when connected is the preservation of God's Word and people.

"Museum" continued inside. . .

"Museum" continued . . .

Time is a created reality that is the downfall of all. Cities, countries, landscapes, and empires have all faded away by the means of time. But not God's Word and not his people. Though heaven and earth will pass away, God's Word will remain (Matt. 24:35). And though God's people will pass through the doorway of death at their appointed time, eternal life is theirs in Christ (John 6:40). Time cannot strip the people of God from his care, nor can it silence his Word. God is the wielder of time, not its servant. Every moment passes by according to his will, and it is his will that his Word and people are preserved by his mighty hand.

Sometimes truths like these can be difficult to hold onto when our present life is full of crashing waves and changing tides. This is where history is helpful. When we cannot see the road ahead of us, we can always look back with greater clarity to the past. In our remembrance of those that God has preserved in ages past, fuel is given for the present, knowing that God will hold us just the same.

Maybe you are on fumes right now and could desperately use God's workings in the past to help you persevere today. Consider going back in time and learning of God's outlaw, William Tyndale (1495-1536). What happened to him? How did God use him? How did God preserve his Word through the work of Tyndale? I'll let you investigate those questions for yourself, questions that when answered, demonstrate yet again God's power to sustain his Word and people.

If you are looking for your next family trip or summer vacation, consider a trip to the Museum of the Bible. Yes, rest for your soul can be had in beholding God's mighty hand in creation. But sometimes it is good to take in the sights somewhere else. Somewhere that outlines God's works in a way that you may not have seen before. And should you go, also consider inviting another believer. Why miss out on such an enjoyable time of fellowship?

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.

**Join AYM on Wednesdays
at 6:00 pm for their study on
Total Truth by Nancy Pearcey.**



Children's Church Ministry

It's hard to believe that a new school year begins in just a few days. Our children will have new teachers, classmates, and the material will be more challenging than the year before. Some parents will be sending their children to school for the very first time. It is or can be a stressful time for everyone. Covering our kids, their parents, and teachers with prayer is one of the most important ways we can support them as they venture back to school or begin their school year at home. Jesus invites us to draw close to him when we feel the pressure of navigating new things. God is with us in these seasons and He will walk with us each step of the way. He invites us to lean more heavily on him as we walk through the school year.

Listed below is a list of things that we can pray for the families of Suburban as our children head to school:

*Peace (Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Romans 5:1)

*Protection (2 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 46:1; John 17:15; Psalm 91; Psalm 141:9; James 4:7; Ephesians 6:11-18 Psalm 121: 7-8)

*Teachers (Colossians 2:8; I Timothy 4:12; Hebrews 13:17)

*Good Friends (Proverbs 12:26, 13:20, 17:17, 27:17; Psalm 1:1; I Thessalonians 5:11)

*Kindness (Ephesians 4:32)

*Strength (Deuteronomy 31:6)

*Joy (Romans 15:13)

*Fun (Proverbs 15:13)

*Wisdom (James 1:5)

*Balance (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

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August Children's Church Schedule



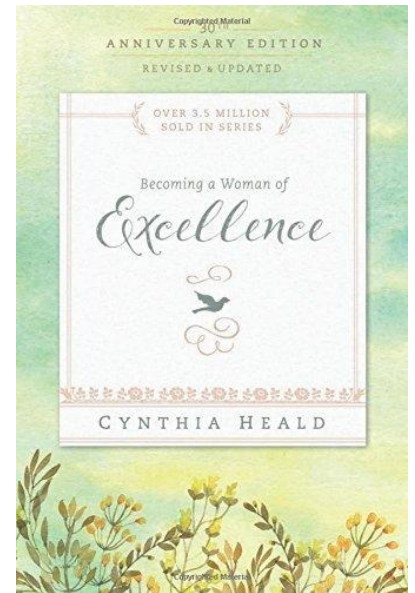
Date	Leader	Assistant	Helper
8/2/2026	Mary Justis	Leigh Simms	Samara Saucedo
8/9/2026	Rita Krentz	Jeff Krentz	Liam Cooke
8/16/2026	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
8/23/2026	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	
8/30/2026	5th Sunday – NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH		

Belong Women's Ministry

Beginning on Thursday, August 20th, at 6:00 pm, the Belong Women's Ministry will be having an 11-week Bible study on *Becoming a Woman of Excellence* by Cynthia Heald. Based on the book of Ruth, Cynthia will take us on a journey of answering the question, "What made Ruth a woman of excellence?"

If you would like to join our study, please sign up in the foyer near the church office. We have pre-ordered the books. The cost of the book is \$10.00 payable to Suburban Christian Church (memo: Women's Ministry).

Please see Wendy Haynes or Carol Brooks for questions.



VBS continued . . .

Those four days could not have been possible without the willingness of our volunteers! We send a special **Thank You** to:

- *Pastor Derrick Sloan - Paul
- *Jack Tyler - Brutus
- *Lou & Ara Miller - Marcus & Lydia with the underground church (Marcus, it was a close one. Glad you were able to bob & weave away from the guards!)
- *Xander Hughes - Sound booth (you are a ROCK STAR)
- *Pete, Will, Nathaniel, Elijah Schnurr - Games (outside in the heat every year!!!!)
- *Susan Philips, Vicki Chitty, Gloria Livingston, Deborah Kiyasu, Liam & Evan Cooke - Marketplace shop owners
- *James Tyler - snacks manager
- *Ron & Stacie Raymer, Melissa Tucker, Nancy Herbst, Stella Swartz, Sammy & Samara Saucedo, DeeDee
- *O'Brien, Mary Justis, Laura & Emma Tyler, Sarah Schnurr, Pastor Todd Haynes - Tribe/Family Leaders
- *Wendy Haynes - all the printing/laminating & behind the scenes prep work
- *Karen Meads - slide prep before a vaca!
- *Chandra Sloan - creating such an inviting website & working on the registration connection

A HUGE shoutout to Brian & Stacey Super, Nancy Herbst and Jeff & Rita Krantz for the hours dedicated to taking out, putting up, taking down and putting back all the decorations. You all did a phenomenal job in making Paul's jail cell and the church come to life! You all have become quite the team!

I'm so excited to see where we end up next year in 2027! See you then!!

Carol Brooks



Music Ministry

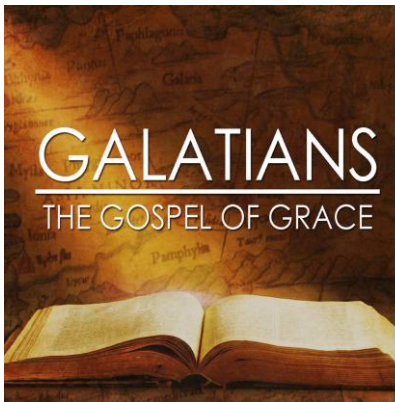
The choir will be taking a much-needed break through the month of August. There will be special music to look forward to each Sunday in August. We are still anxious to meet SIX new choir members this year! Exciting Christmas music is already selected. Preparations will begin August 29th. The cantata this year will include a large role for children. Children of all ages may participate but they should be able to learn and retain their music and participate in rehearsals with good behavior. Rehearsals will for them will be announced in the services this month.

The Bell Choir still has openings for several new ringers. Rehearsals will begin in September. Reach out to Lynne Cooke if interested.

The music ministry has a seat for YOU! ~Karen Meads



Adult Sunday School Classes



The Discovery Class Taught by Bill Cofer

Fellowship Hall A (Kitchen Side)

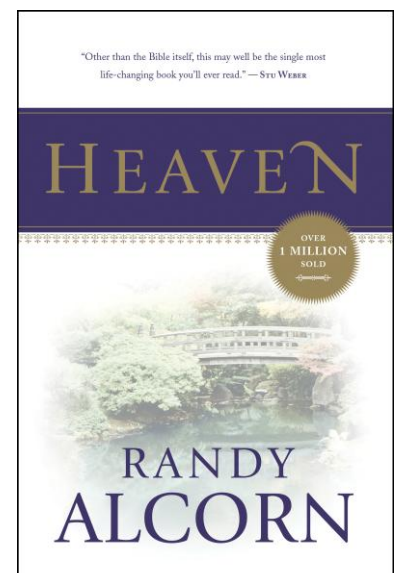
We invite you to discover a place to grow in faith, deepen your relationship with God and connect with others on our journey of following Jesus. On August 2nd, after our July break, we will continue focusing on the character of God, His attributes and the application of His Word to our lives as we read the book of Galatians. Bring your Bible and join us for teaching, discussion, and fellowship as we humbly learn to follow Him more closely and love Him more truly.

The Cornerstone Class Taught by Ron Raymer

Fellowship Hall B (Sanctuary Side)

Have you ever wondered what Heaven is really going to be like? What will we look like? What will we do every day? As the years pass and we watch more and more of our family, friends and mentors pass away, it is only natural to ask questions about heaven. However, our understanding of heaven is often limited to a few half-forgotten Sunday school lessons and the insubstantial images provided by popular movies and T.V.

The Cornerstone class delves into the scriptural evidence of Heaven based on a study of Randy Alcorn's book "Heaven" into which he poured over 25 years of research. Join us to learn what the Bible says about the place Christians will call home for the rest of eternity.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Paul and the Underground Church



2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



AWANA Ministry ~ COME JOIN US!



As we start to prepare for our next club year, please be in prayer for the following:

- More kids to sign up - we can comfortably and successfully manage around 30 kids spread across the 4 groups. We have the resources, the classrooms, now all we need are the kiddos!!
- New volunteers - it would be so exciting to see new faces serving as a leader or a helper. The books/program we use have very low prep and the lessons go pretty fast.
- Spiritual growth in kids - pray that with each lesson & new verse they learn, they will understand the everyday application

If you would like to know more about the AWANA program or learn how you can help, you can reach out to Carol Brooks at cubrooks20@gmail.com or 757-620-7822. Carol Brooks

"Deacons" continued . . .

After listing these three negative requirements, Paul turns his attention to the three positives.

***Holds the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience:** Yes, the primary responsibility for teaching falls to the church's pastor and elders, but deacons need to be students of God's word. The mystery of the faith refers to the truth of the gospel that was once hidden but now has been revealed in the coming of Christ. It is the content of Christian doctrine. Although a deacon is not required to teach God's word, they are required to have a firm grip on the truth of the gospel. You can't hold onto something that you don't know. These deacons are expected to have a clear conscience because they are the same person in public that they are in private.

***Tested and proven:** The office of Deacon is so important to the spiritual well-being of the church. That is why there must be a vetting process for each deacon to go through. Our church will have to determine the process that works best for us in determining the character and competence of potential deacons. This season of testing is for the protection of the church and the potential candidate. This process must be bathed in prayer; praying for God to fill us with his wisdom and discernment.

***A faithful family life:** To be tested and proven means that each potential deacon presented for our approval should have a noticeable track record of faithful service. This positive quality of demonstrated faithfulness will help to guard and protect our church family. Deacons will be serving in a number of ways and dealing with different people so it is important that they have already "proven" that they can be trusted.

As we continue to lay the foundation for elders and deacons at Suburban, let's join together in praying for God to cultivate qualified deacons who will lovingly care for his people.

In Christ,

Pastor Todd