

THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION

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

SAVE THE DATE

Food Pantry
May 5th & 19th
12:30 – 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
May 2nd & 16th
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Board Meeting
May 4th
7:30 pm

Senior Ministry Meeting
May 21st
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

OCC Workday
May 18th
1:00 pm
Suburban Kids Room

Newsletter Submissions Due
May 22nd



In Memory of the Fallen

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved, and were loved, and now we lie

In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:

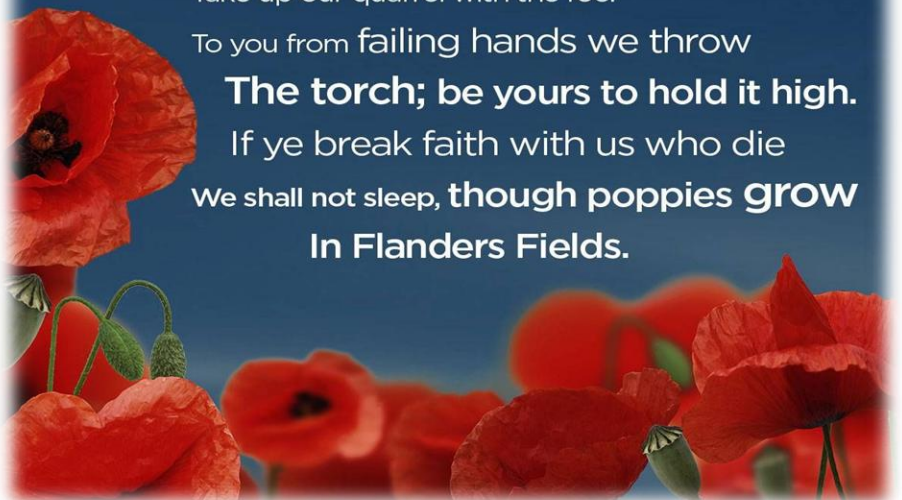
To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders Fields.



From the Pastor's Desk: Praise That Pleases Our Lord! Ephesians 1:3-14

Coming in hot! I'm sure you've heard that expression before...often times Wendy will use that phrase to describe my driving. As Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians, I think we could say that he comes in hot! Paul has been prayerfully meditating on all the blessings we have received in Christ. And being so overwhelmed with God's goodness to us, he erupts in (flaming hot) exuberant praise; "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!" This is the kind of praise that pleases our Lord.

What is it about these blessings that produces such passionate praise? Notice the comprehensiveness of these blessings. God has blessed us in Christ with EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING in the heavenly places (Eph. 1:3). We need God to bless us comprehensively, with every spiritual blessing, to address all of the devastating effects that sin has brought upon us. Consider the spiritual blessings that Paul mentions in Ephesians 1.

- **God chose us to be like Christ!** Before the foundation of the world, God chose us to be holy and without blame just like his Son. What a blessing that our God would choose to take sinners like us and by his grace transform us into the image of his Son.
- **God predestined us to be a part of his forever family.** God has blessed us with the precious gift of spiritual adoption. Sin severed our relationship with God but through the perfect obedience of our elder brother we are welcomed with open arms into God's family.
- **God has blessed us with full pardon and forgiveness of sin.** We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us. Our sin debt has been completely covered by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
- **God has blessed us with a glorious inheritance.** We are co-heirs with Jesus Christ. In the coming ages, God will show to us the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. He is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.
- **God has blessed us with the indwelling Holy Spirit.** Every sinner who repents and believes in Jesus, is sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who begins the good work of transformation, will one day bring it to completion when we are glorified.

How often do prayerfully meditate on the richness of these blessings? I want to challenge you to carefully consider each of these blessings. And as you do ask the Holy Spirit to help you, to open your eyes in order to see more clearly the beauty and glory of our God. Like Paul Prayed in Eph. 3:14-21...
"That according to the riches of his glory, he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

By His Grace,

Pastor Todd



Food Pantry Ministry

This month we celebrate our moms on May 10th and Brothers and Sisters Day on May 2nd. We honor our veterans that gave it all on Memorial Day, the 25th. On May 28th, World Hunger Day is noted. We honor moms with cards and gifts, and we honor our veterans with parades and solemn remembrances. Maybe you can write your sibling a card with some kind words. Perhaps to recognize World Hunger Day, you can hold a food drive and donate your collection to the food pantry or think of some ways to reduce food waste in your own household and donate those savings. Hunger has long been an issue that has plagued our world but in the words of Buzz Aldrin: "If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger." -- Buzz Aldrin, Astronaut
The Food Pantry Team

Seniors Ministry

At our April meeting, we learned that Moses was used tremendously despite his lack of confidence in his personal abilities. We also learned that although John Mark couldn't fit into Paul's demanding travels, he became instrumental in cataloging the facts of the gospels. His strictness to detail became invaluable to other writers of the New Testament. Jesus knows our strengths and our weaknesses and cares for us every day. First Peter 5:7 says, "casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." God can use us all!



At our May meeting, Chaplain Steve Gray will be sharing his experiences with the Virginia Beach Fire and Police departments.

What's on the menu? Sliders with chips and fruit will be served. Please bring a side or dessert to share.
Larry Thomas

Operation Christmas Child Workday



The time has come to begin collecting items for this year's shoebox gifts! The suggestions for May are washcloths, toothbrushes and hairbrushes. Each year we set a goal and this year it is 800 filled shoeboxes. You may fill boxes at home and still add to the boxes we fill here at church.

We've had our first workday and are ready to accept your donations.

There are many ways to help. Prayer is essential! I want to encourage you to set a goal for your commitment this year, either as an individual or possibly as a group. For instance. Plan to use the cost of one of your daily coffees to donate to OCC. Or if you're part of a class or group at Suburban, the class could strive to have a toy or another item donated for each member before the deadline in November. Any way you can help is great! Thanks for all you do. Lynn Cooke

Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Worship Service Assistant
5/3/2026	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Barbara Skarupa Samantha Haynes	William Schnurr
5/10/2026	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Maureen Field Nancy Herbst	Nathaniel Schnurr
5/17/2026	Melissa Tucker Stacey Super	Chris Bulaski Debbie Kiyadu	Emma Tyler
5/24/2026	Melissa Tucker	Christine Rogers Laura Tyler	Samara Saucedo
5/31/2026	Melissa Tucker	Sharon Rogers- Roulhac Rita Krentz Krystal Martin	Elena Tyler



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



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

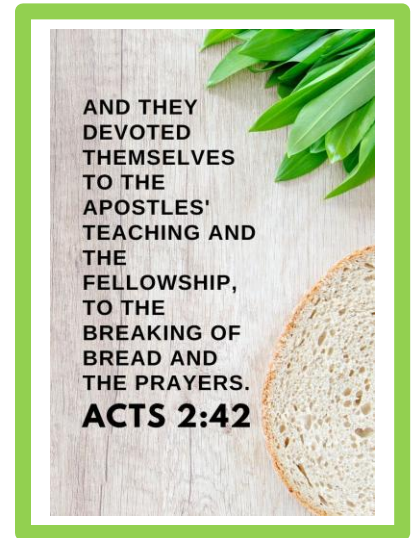


Derrick J. Sloan
Associate/Next
Generation Pastor

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

The practice of fellowship with other Christians is an essential part of the church. With that in mind, some of our Sunday school classes have introduced a new element into their classrooms. Every fifth Sunday will be a fellowship day. Depending on the ages of the children in the classroom, the teachers pick appropriate fellowship activities. Those can range anywhere from bonus material provided in their curriculum, crafts and activities that relate to recent lessons, or guided conversations that allow the teachers and students to all get to know one another better. Just as God has blessed the fellowships in the adult classes, we pray that he will bless the children as they fellowship. Please join us in praying for fruitful fellowships. Laura Tyler



Color Me:



Just for ... **Suburban Kids**

Look up the verse and fill in the blanks: **Proverbs 31: 28 & 30**

Verse 28 - Her _____ rise up and call her _____; her _____ also, and he _____ her:

Verse 30 - _____ is _____, and _____ is _____, but a woman who _____ the _____ is to be _____.

Happy Mother's Day
by _____

I call my mom _____
My mom cooks the best _____
She is great at _____
My mom always says _____
I love it when she _____
My mom and I like to _____
I love my mom because _____



Me and Mom

MEMORIAL DAY
WORD SEARCH

H	O	N	O	R	A	V	M	T	T
A	A	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	M
B	S	A	N	C	O	L	B	P	E
C	E	L	H	E	R	O	I	S	M
O	R	L	I	T	A	R	E	P	O
U	V	E	S	O	L	D	I	E	R
N	I	N	S	A	A	N	I	E	I
T	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	R	A
R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	S	L
Y	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E
A	B	M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y

- HONOR
- COURAGE
- HEROISM
- REMEMBER
- FREEDOM
- SERVICE
- SOLDIER
- COUNTRY
- SACRIFICE
- MEMORIAL
- FALLEN
- MILITARY

~Ambassador Youth Ministry ~ Let's Talk About It: What is Divine Simplicity?

Suppose that a friend of yours was about to introduce you to someone famous. Maybe they are an actress, an author, or a professional athlete. It is someone you have always dreamt of meeting and now this moment you have waited for has finally arrived. It appears that dreams really do come true.

As your hand is about to shake theirs, your friend proceeds to introduce you by telling them, "This is my friend (your name here). You will find that he (or she) is a *simple* person." How would you think about an introduction like that? Are you embarrassed? Thankful? Confused? Well, it depends on what your friend means by *simple*, doesn't it? They could mean that you are humble, modest, or unintelligent. Questions would certainly begin to fill your mind about why your friend would describe you this way. You might even question if they are your friend at all. Only context can give you an answer.

What if however, your friend was not about to introduce you to someone else, but they were going to teach you about someone. They were in a sense, introducing someone else to you. But not just anyone, they were going to introduce you to God. While a handshake will obviously not happen, they bring the Bible to you and say, "This is God's Word. God tells us about who he is. As you read it, you will find that he is *simple*." How would you think about an introduction like that? Again, only context can give you an answer.

Words have meaning and are used to describe someone or something. The meaning of the word however is only known by the context. This begs the question, is it right to describe God as simple, and if so, what does that mean? In order to answer that question, we have to go to the context. In other words, we must go to the Bible to see if God has in fact revealed himself as simple and what is meant by that. I'll spoil the answer for you here, God is simple and the meaning of this truth has great implications for you and me. Let's talk about it.

The King and King Cake

Every February when Chandra and I lived in Mobile, Alabama, there was the celebration of Mardi Gras in the city. And one of the ways that you knew Mardi Gras was near, was the appearance of king cake in every grocery store. As soon as you walked into Walmart or Kroger, there on the first table in front of you was king cake. You may be wondering, what in the world is a king cake? Well, instead of going through its ingredients, all that is important to know is that the top of the king cake is divided by the three colors purple, green, and gold. If the top is not divided by these three colors, then the cake does not fit the bill of a king cake. So then, what does this king cake lesson have to do with God? Here is the point, God is not a king cake. Let me explain.

When we look at God's Word there is an important truth that he reveals about himself namely, that he is one. This truth is most popularly known from Deuteronomy 6:4, a text known as the Shema. The verse says, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is *one* ('eḥād). Certainly, this text speaks of God's singularity. God alone is God; there is no other (Isa. 44:6-8).

Yet, the oneness of God also declares another truth about him. Just as God is the only God, he is also a unity. God is whole. He is not composed of parts or divided into parts. God is not a king cake. Think this through with me. In his Word, God has told us about himself. He is holy, righteous, love, all-powerful, etc. With these truths about who God is, we might think that he is divided up like a king cake. One part of him is holy, one part is righteous, and another part is love. If we think this way however, what have we done? We have divided God up into parts. But remember the Shema, God is one and therefore is not divisible into parts.

God being one and therefore undivided is what is meant by saying that God is simple. Always and without change, God is his attributes. Every attribute that God has revealed of himself in his Word, speaks to who he is fully. He is not part love, he is love. He is not part holy, he is holy. God is not divided like a king cake, he is one. There is however a glaring question that needs to be answered in light of this truth. Why is it important for us that God is simple, that he is his attributes? The reason this is important, is because our very salvation hangs on this truth.

"Simplicity" continued...

The Proof Is in the Propitiation Pudding

Since God is simple and not divided by his attributes, he therefore always acts in accordance with his attributes. In other words, God fully acts with his love, righteousness, holiness, and so forth, at the same time. But how do we know this to be true? Well, when we look to the cross, we find the proof in the propitiation pudding.

When we consider the cross, what do we see there? We see the Son of God who became like us, with nails in his hands and feet, to save sinners like you and me. But why this way? After all, God is all powerful. Could he not have just used his power to cleanse us of all our sins and be done with it? Was Jesus dying in our place really needed? Yes, it was.

Consider this reality Christian. Breaking the law, requires punishment. If someone was to intentionally run their car through someone else's house because they didn't like the political sign they had in their yard, they should be punished for that. To not punish them would be unjust. If the judge swept what they did under the rug, there would be public outrage, and rightfully so.

Think of it this way. All of us are enraged drivers. We see God's Word, we see his truth in creation and we hate him. So, in hostility towards him, we take our anger out on him by rebelling against him. We all have broken God's Word and what we have earned from our sin is death (Rm. 6:23).

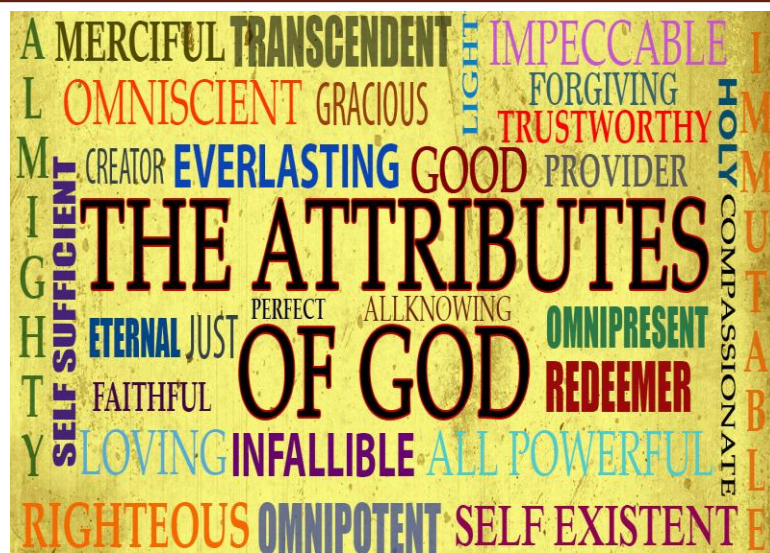
Remember, God is fully just, not partially just. He must act with perfect justice which means that a death must occur. If our sin went unpunished, God would be unjust. And an unjust God cannot be trusted.

So, the question is, who will experience God's justice and die? If God is *only* just, then you and I will receive this punishment. We will experience an eternal death in hell, separated from God forever. We did the crime; we deserve the time.

But here is our hope. God is *not only* just, but he is *also* love. Not just partially just and love, but fully and perfectly just and love. In his justice, God carried out the punishment of our sin. In his love, he supplied the One who took our punishment. When we look to the cross, we see God perfectly and fully acting in accordance with who he is. We see his justice because a death has occurred, and we see his love because God sent his Son to take that punishment for us.

God is simple. He is his attributes and acts perfectly and fully in accordance with his character. This is not some abstract idea that has no bearing in our life. It is a truth that is central to our salvation and all of our life in Christ.

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.

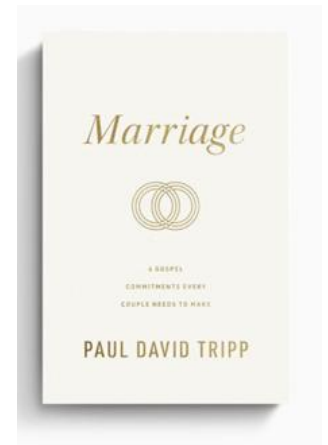


**Join us on
Wednesday nights
at 6:00 in the Youth
Room as we study
the attributes of
God.**

College & Young Adults

The College & Young Adults meet every second and fourth Sunday evening of each month! They are exploring a book 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.

On April 25th, the college & Young Adult enjoyed an evening together at the Escape Room in Virginia Beach. At first the clues were not complicated but as they moved from room to room, things got challenging. Afterwards, the group went to Texas Roadhouse for fellowship.



Children's Church Ministry

It's hard to believe that we are in the month of May! Before we know it, our children will be out of school, and the hot days of summer will be here! Sometimes the days of summer are challenging, but can you imagine what it was like for the days of the early church? Saul was seeking to destroy the church by barging into houses, arresting any Christians he found, and dragging them off to prison. Worse than that, he was out to kill Christians. Stephen was stoned, and Saul was there and approved of the whole thing. **BUT** God put a stop to Saul's merciless mission and opened Saul's eyes to see the truth about Jesus. Jesus himself met Saul and saved him. What a merciful, patient, and forgiving God we have! The book of Acts uses two whole chapters to tell and retell Saul's story.

Peter is also part of the early church's history. Peter found himself in prison because Herod was violent to anyone who belonged to the church. He had already killed James, John's brother and now he was after Peter. Peter didn't let this discourage him. While the church was earnestly praying for Peter, his chains fell off and he walked past the guards and the iron gate of the city opened by itself. God rescued Peter from the wicked king. Acts tells us that "the word of God increased and multiplied" (12:24), which is another way to say that the church kept growing and growing.

God rescued Saul (who became Paul), Peter, Daniel from the lion's den, the Israelites from Pharaoh, the Jews from Haman and the biggest rescue in the Biggest Story was when the Snake Crusher crushed Satan on the cross.

God continues to rescue his people in big and small ways, and one day soon, Jesus will come again and "rescue (us) from every evil deed and bring (us) safely into his heavenly kingdom" (2 Timothy 4:18). What a wonderful day that will be! ^{WH}

May Children's Church Schedule

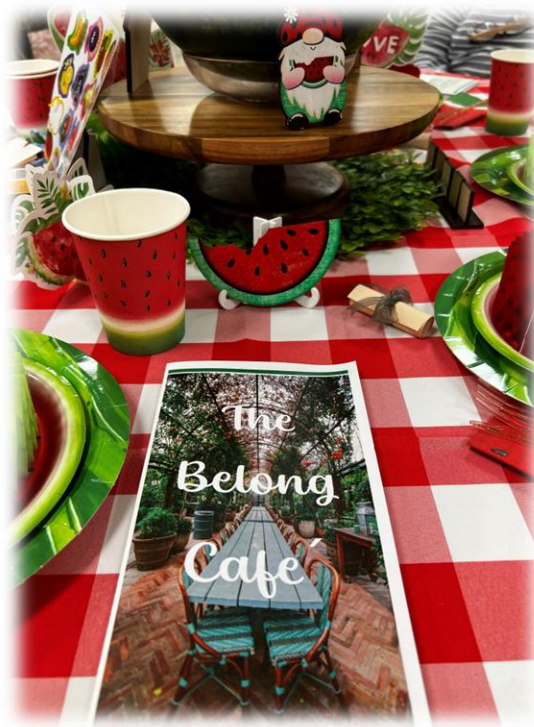
Date	Leader	Assistant	Helper
5/3/2026	Mary Justis		Samara Saucedo
5/10/2026	Jan Grills	Leigh Simms	Liam Cooke
5/17/2026	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
5/24/2026	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	
5/31/2026	5 TH SUNDAY - NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH		

Belong Women's Ministry



We had such a lovely time at the Fruit of the Spirit event on Saturday, April 25th! Those who volunteered to decorate tables did a fabulous job and were excellent hostesses at our Belong Café. Our menu was comprised of "appetizers," a "main course," and "dessert." Carol Brooks led us through each fruit of the Spirit reminding us that God is working in our lives to help us produce them gradually.

I would like to thank our Belong Team for the time they spend planning events for our ladies to enjoy and to grow in our Christian walk.



The Spring *congregational* **MEETING**

will be held on Sunday, May 17th, after the Worship Service.



SHE IS CLOTHED IN

strength

.....and.....

DIGNITY

she laughs

WITHOUT FEAR

.....of the.....

FUTURE.

PROVERBS 31:25

We would like to wish all of the mothers in our church family a Happy Mother's Day!



~ Congratulations to our High School Seniors ~

Elena Tyler is graduating from Oaktree Academy, with 24 hours of community service this year. She was dually enrolled at Regent and received an early acceptance to the University. She will be attending Regent in the fall and plans to major in English. The university has awarded her a merit-based grant to help pay for tuition. Future plans include publishing a fictional book series that will allow readers to enjoy well written literature while giving her an opportunity to glorify God with her writing abilities.



Crystal Bonnett is a 4.0 Honor Student who is dual enrolled at both Tallwood High School "GO LIONS!!!" and The Vet Assistant Program at Tidewater Community College. Holding a 4.0 GPA all throughout her high school career, studying and homework is Crystal's favorite high school activities. She played the French horn and Mellophone for the Tallwood high school band and Marching Band. She also, enjoyed learning Japanese, where she can speak, write, and read almost fluently. She has received several awards for Mathematics and academics. Crystal was hand-picked to go on a once in a lifetime trip to Ecuador to visit the Galapagos Islands her junior year.

In perfect, college Freshman attitude she has changed her major 3 times already from Pre-Vet, to Mathematics, to Japanese, and now she is looking at Sports Management. Her drive and dedication to learning and studying will help her in the Fall, when she walks the halls of OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY and joins the esteemed Monarchs who have gone before her.

Samara Lynn Saucedo is graduating from Kempsville High School. She has worked through some learning difficulties during her school career and is now graduating with an Advanced Diploma. Her future plans include enrolling in the Early Childhood Education program at Tidewater Community College.



The Belong Women's Ministry is providing "care baskets" for our high school seniors as they begin their college education. If you would like to donate a visa gift card, gas card, or fast-food card to our seniors, please drop off your donation in the baskets located in the church office. Most importantly, we ask that you pray for each of them as they begin this new chapter.

The Belong Women's Ministry Team