

THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION

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

SAVE THE DATE

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

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

College & Young Adults
October 11th & 25th
Time: TBA

Seniors Ministry Meeting
October 15th
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

OCC Workday
October 19th
1:00 pm
Suburban Kids Room

Nov. Newsletter Submissions Due
October 20th

Fall Family Festival
October 31st

What Is Eternal Life?

By Chris Tyler

Most believers and unbelievers alike view John 3:16 as the hallmark verse of Christianity.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

In Christ's words, we see the all-surpassing grace of God and the truth of salvation through faith alone. We also see what God's grace has bought for us. **Eternal life.**

But what is eternal life? Let's look to the One who made the promise in John 3:16. In John 17:3, Jesus prays...

*"And **this** is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."*

This is how Jesus defines eternal life. For us as His followers to effectively share the gospel message, we need to see the true worth and wonder of this good news. We must truly understand the meaning of "eternal life."

While our intentions may be pure in our witness, so often we reduce the outcome of salvation to something like the prize at the bottom of a cracker jack box:

"If you believe in Jesus, you'll spend forever in heaven after you die."

If you buy this box of cracker jacks, after you make your way through the stale, sticky, tooth-cracking popcorn and peanuts, then you'll get the prize.

What does this sound like to unbelievers?

"If you can, in this moment, overcome your lifelong disbelief in the existence of God or at least the truth of Jesus Christ as the one and only way to be saved, then one day you will live forever in a place where everything is wonderful and perfect."

But this doesn't even sound *real* to them. They see people die and get buried in the ground. They can't see this "Heaven" place on a map, and they've never met a single person who has actually been there.

"Eternal Life" continued inside . . .



"Eternal Life" continued . . .

To them, heaven is basically Delaware. And the whole salvation pitch starts sounding like a timeshare scheme:

You treat them with overwhelming kindness as you walk them through the beautiful glossy renderings of a perfect, luxury resort. No death, no mourning, no crying, no pain.

And all they need to do to secure their mansion is put down a massive, non-refundable deposit of their complete faith...and all future rights to call their own shots.

"No thank you," they say. "I'll look into that later when I'm ready to go."

Where did we go wrong? When we frame salvation as a transaction for a future paradise, we miss the entire point. Who can blame them for saying no?

We must define eternal life as Jesus Christ defines eternal life. Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

For those of us who have come to know God, or rather to be known by God (Gal. 4:9), we must grasp that eternal life is not another time or another place. The true worth and wonder of eternal life as the essence of our salvation is *present* knowledge of the person of God through His Son Jesus.

We know this to be true in our ordinary lives, and it is not a uniquely Christian experience. We know in our bones that any deeply fulfilling relationship proves that the experience of knowing and being known by someone you love completely overshadows the appeal of a perfect destination.

It is the person that fulfills us, not the place.

The good news of our salvation is that belief in Christ isn't merely a key that unlocks the pearly gates to heaven.

That's just the house, but He is the home.

Belief in Christ is the gateway to knowing God. *Eternal life isn't simply living forever after we die. That's only the final setting for the story.* Eternal life is knowing the One who inhabits eternity (Is. 57:15).

If knowing and being known by the imperfect people we love can fulfill us so deeply, imagine the joy and wonder we can experience in knowing a perfect and holy God – the God who is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness (Ex 34:6).

This God has graciously revealed Himself to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the "radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature" (Heb 1:3) who became flesh and dwelt among us so we could see that glory – a glory full of grace and full of truth (John 1:14).

This is not a timeshare scheme. This is the *gospel*. The breathtaking reality that the Creator of the universe became flesh, broke through the gates, and invites you to know Him today. This is the good news we are called to share. Not a distant, future destination, but an invitation to a *Person*.

You are inviting the world to meet the One who has loved you since before the foundation of the earth was laid. The One who fearfully and wonderfully knitted you together in your mother's womb. The One whose eyes saw your unformed substance. In His book were written every one of your days before they ever came to be.

His thoughts about you are precious and vast and constant. His love is unchangeable. He *knows* you completely, yet He *loves* you completely.

Deep down, whether they recognize it or not, this is the belonging that every human soul is searching for. The human heart was *made to long* for a God like that. They are *hungry* for it.

To answer that hunger, God gave us bread.

Jesus is the true bread from heaven. "The bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (John 6:33). He is the Bread of Life: "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

God didn't give us a destination. In Christ, He gave us Himself. He knew that nothing less than God Himself could truly satisfy the human heart.



Food Pantry Ministry

Fall is here! October is a month the Suburban family really pulls out the stops for our neighborhood. We provide a safe place for all the kids to have a fun evening. Ah...the decorations and all that candy- what a lovely evening. So, as you shop for that candy, please check the bulletin and toss some food items in your basket. And because the pantry is gearing up for one of our larger events, please keep us in prayer. Matthew 9:38 "therefore, pray earnestly to the LORD of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Be blessed family ~ The Food Pantry Team



Operation Christmas Child News

We are fast approaching the drop-off date of November 16th so now is the time to get all your donations in to the church. Please remember to PRAY for each child who will receive a shoebox gift this year. Every box includes the Gospel message. So far with the donations already received we've packed over 300 shoeboxes. We have 4 groups which have scheduled a packing time with me in the Suburban Kids room and are collecting and filling shoeboxes as a group too! If your class or group would like to do a packing time together too, please let me know.

There are empty boxes to be taken home to fill and bring back to the church. You can follow your box to see where it goes and make donations online too. Please continue to support the shoebox ministry with your prayers. Thank you for all you are doing!



Operation Christmas Child Impact Story ~

Cambodia/Now Living in Virginia: Students Become Teachers of the Greatest Journey

Lyda didn't have a father and grew up in extreme poverty in Cambodia. At 12 years old, Lyda received a shoebox gift and put her faith in Jesus Christ. Years later, Lyda became a teacher for The Greatest Journey discipleship program. Many of the children she taught are now serving as teachers for The Greatest Journey! Today, Lyda lives in Virginia and enjoys packing shoebox gifts with her daughter, serving as a Project Leader in her church in South Carolina, and sharing her testimony to encourage others.



October Collections:

Washcloths, coloring books, and cars (we are out of all three). We also have 6 air pumps but no soccer balls to send with them. If you have any questions, please see Lynn Cooke!

Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Worship Service Assistant
10/4/2026	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Barbara Skarupa Samantha Haynes	Donovan Saucedo
10/11/2026	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Maureen Field Nancy Herbst	Ella Litzenberger
10/18/2026	Melissa Tucker Stacey Super	Chris Bulaski Debbie Kiyasu	William Schnurr
10/25/2026	Melissa Tucker Christin Thorngren	Laura Tyler Christine Rogers	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



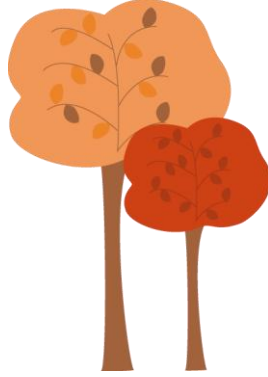
Derrick J. Sloan
Associate/Next
Generation Pastor

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

I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to all of you who took a prayer card and committed to praying for a child in our church! May the Lord bless you for your willingness. May he grant you what you need to continue this work for Him. And may the lives of the children be blessed too. If you have never met the person on your card, I would love to make introductions! Just find me on Sunday morning. Thank you again! Laura Tyler



AWANA Ministry

We are off to a great start! Check out the calendar below for our weekly themes for October!

October 4th – Popcorn with the Pastors

October 11th – Sports Night (wear your favorite team's colors)

October 18th – Double Points Night

October 25th – Fall Festival Night

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

Our annual community outreach event is right around the corner. On Saturday, October 31st, our church will be having our fall family festival to provide a safe, friendly alternative to traditional Halloween activities. We will be having trunk or treating, games, bounce houses, candy, food and drinks, and more importantly a chance to share fellowship with each other and the people from the neighborhood who join us for the evening.

To make this happen, we need help from all of our church family – people to decorate their vehicles and hand out candy to the children, people to cook and serve food, people to greet families as they arrive, people to mingle, be friendly and available to answer questions, people to help set up tables and chairs, people to help clean up at the end of the festivities, and people to bring candy . . . LOTS AND LOTS OF CANDY.

We also need the whole congregation to pray that every family who visits us will be touched in a wonderful way by the love that we freely share with them. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk if you can help in any way! wh



Color Me:



Just for ...

Suburban Kids

Look up the following verses and fill in the blanks:

Matthew 9:37-38

Then he said to his disciples,

The _____ is
_____, but the
_____ are _____;
therefore _____
to the _____ of the
_____ to send out
_____ into his
_____.

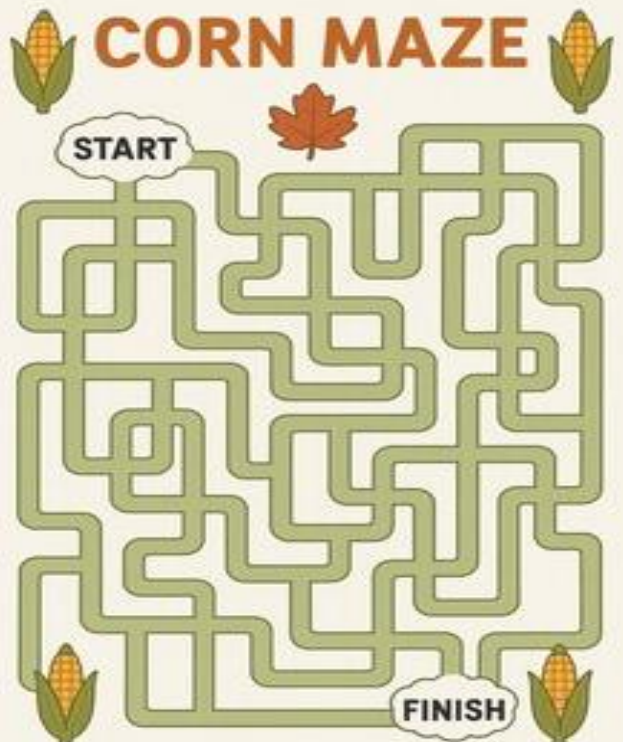
AUTUMN IS HERE



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

Word list:

ACORN
AUTUMN
CRISP
FALL
HARVEST
JACKET
LEAVES
NUT
RAKE
SWEATER



~Ambassador Youth Ministry~

What George Mueller Can Teach Us about Prayer

As we have been going through the gospel of Luke, we saw in Luke 6:12 the necessity of prayer in every area of ministry. We simply cannot escape the fact that one of the primary means that God has determined to providentially work through is prayer. This however begs the question, what should we pray? In the home, in the church, or at work, what should be the substance of our prayers in pursuit of faithful ministry? We pray Scripture. But don't just take my word for it. Listen to the saints who have gone before us like George Mueller about the importance of prayer in ministry.

A Man of Prayer

George Mueller (1805–1898) is widely considered one the greatest men of prayer and faith since the days of the New Testament. He lived nearly the entire nineteenth century, two-thirds of it in Bristol, England. He led four far-reaching, influential ministries, but we know him best today for his orphanages.

During a time in England when most orphans lived in miserable workhouses or on the streets, like Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*, Mueller took them in, fed them, clothed them, and educated them. Through his orphanage in Bristol, Mueller cared for as many as two thousand orphans at a time—more than ten thousand in his lifetime. Yet he never made the needs of his ministries known to anyone except to God in prayer. Only through his annual reports did people learn after the fact what the needs had been during the previous year and how God had provided.

Mueller had over fifty thousand specific recorded answers to prayers in his journals, thirty thousand of which he said were answered the same day or the same hour that he prayed them. Think of it: that's five hundred definite answers to prayer each year—more than one per day—every single day for sixty years! God funneled over half a billion dollars (in today's dollars) through his hands in answer to prayer.

Mueller's Great Discovery

How did George Mueller pray? He said that for the first ten years of what he called his "life of faith"—referring not to when he was unknown but to ten years of trust in God and remarkable answers to prayer—he often struggled to get into the spirit of prayer, in other words, to really feel like praying. Until, that is, he made one slight alteration in his method. Here's how he described the change:

The difference, then, between my former practice and my present one is this: formerly, when I rose, I began to pray as soon as possible, and generally spent all my time till breakfast in prayer, or almost all the time. At all events I almost invariably began with prayer. . . . But what was the result? I often spent a quarter of an hour, or half an hour, or even an hour on my knees before being conscious to myself of having derived comfort, encouragement, humbling of soul, etc.; and often, after having suffered much from wandering of mind for the first ten minutes, or quarter of an hour, or even half an hour, I only then really began to pray.

I scarcely ever suffer now in this way. For my heart being nourished by the truth, being brought into experimental [today we would say "experiential"] fellowship with God, I speak to my Father and to my Friend (vile though I am, and unworthy of it) about the things that He has brought before me in His precious Word. It often now astonishes me that I did not sooner see this point.

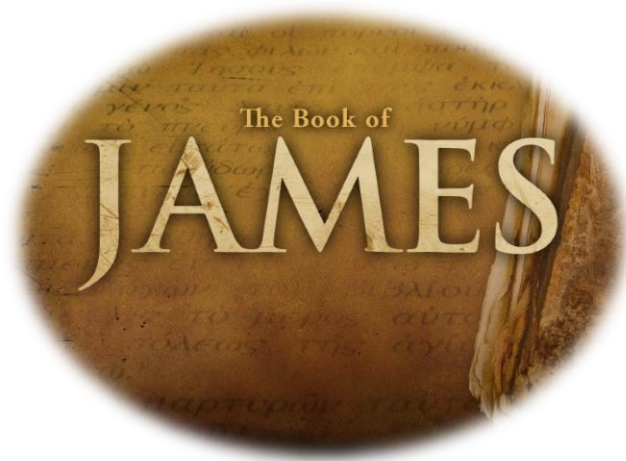
"Prayer" continued . . .

So Mueller would sometimes flounder for half an hour to an hour trying to pray, fighting to focus his thoughts and to kindle feelings for prayer in his heart. Only after that long, determined struggle would he finally enter into a sense of communion with God.

But once he began the practice of conversing with God about what he found in the Word of God, he "scarcely ever" suffered with those problems in prayer again. Praying through a passage of Scripture as he went "walking about in the fields" was the uncomplicated method that transformed the daily experience of one of the most famous men of prayer in history.

And it can transform your prayer life just as easily.

This article was adapted from Praying the Bible by Donald S. Whitney. Donald S. Whitney (PhD, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa) is professor of biblical spirituality and John H. Powell endowed chair of pastoral ministry at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. He has written several books, including Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life. Don blogs regularly at BiblicalSpirituality.org.



Join the Ambassador Youth Ministry on Wednesday nights at 6:00 in the Youth Room as they dive into a study on the Book of James.

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study ~ Current study: Proverbs



Come join us on the first and third Saturdays (**October 3rd & 17th at 8:00 am**) for our men's breakfast and Bible study in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Todd will be teaching ~ Is "Train Up a Child" a Promise? (Proverbs 22:6) on Saturday, October 3rd and Tom Tracy will be teaching "Does Proverbs Contradict Itself" on Saturday, October 17th.

We want to thank our men for making our church yard look nice by putting out pine straw and for repairing our playground set (Jeff Krentz and Cliff Simms) so our children can enjoy the playground.

If you are looking for a way to connect and get to know other men in the church, the men's breakfast is a great place to start.

Children’s Church Update

Teach Kids About God Using the Fall Season

Fall is finally here and it’s a special time of year. I enjoy the first chilly morning and the first whiff of smoke from a wood-burning fireplace. Did you know that fall is a great time to teach kids about God? I have three fall-themed activities you can do with kids that will teach them more about the Creator of this great season.

PUMPKIN CARVING

Did you know you can use a pumpkin to teach kids about how God changes us? First, pick out a pumpkin at the store or get one at a pumpkin patch. Take time to talk about how God is infinitely creative and see how differently the pumpkins are in shape, size and color. Make it personal by reminding them that God had fun making them unique too. When you get home and find a safe place for carving, your pumpkin is probably dirty and has lots of yuck on the inside. As you clean it, use it as a tool to teach saved children about our ongoing relationship with God. Remind kids that we all have yucky sin problems on the inside that we can’t fix ourselves, but if we confess our sins, and let God work, He will scrape out the yuck. Once you’re done carving, put a tea light or small flashlight inside the pumpkin, turn off the lights, and see the light shine. Compare the light to the truth and goodness of Jesus that shines out when we He becomes our Savior. **“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”** Matthew 5:16

PILES OF LEAVES

I love seeing the colors change and the leaves fall. There is something about stepping on crunchy leaves that is delightful and kids love it too! Use this opportunity to talk about how even though seasons change, leaves fall, and the grass withers, God’s Word stays exactly the same. Share **Isaiah 40:8** with them, **“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”** Remind kids that the world has all kinds of changes, but they can ALWAYS count on God and His Word to stay the same. Situations and seasons of life may change, but the truth that comes from God will stay the same.

GRATITUDE PUMPKINS & LEAVES

Rather than reserving one day in November to focus on gratitude, we can make it a seasonal theme. You can start a new family tradition with a Thankful Pumpkin. Clean and dry the outside of a pumpkin well. Use Sharpie markers to write two or three things from each family member about what they are thankful for from the summer which has just ended and something they are thankful for going into fall. **Psalms 9:1** is a great verse to learn as a family during this activity: **“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.”** Another idea is to collect leaves, cover them with paper and help kids do crayon rubs in fall colors. Leave an uncolored space in the middle to write an item of thanks and then decorate a space at home with the leaves.

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This month we will complete our unit on the Beatitudes: Blessed are the Merciful, Blessed are the Pure in Heart, Blessed are the Peacemakers, and Blessed are the Persecuted. Our unit will finish on November 1st with Matthew 5:12, “Rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven.”

October Schedule

Date	Leader	Assistant	Helper
10/4/26	Mary Justis	Leigh Simms	Samara Saucedo
10/11/26	Rita Krentz	Jeff Krentz	Liam Cooke
10/18/26	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
10/25/26	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	



Seniors Ministry

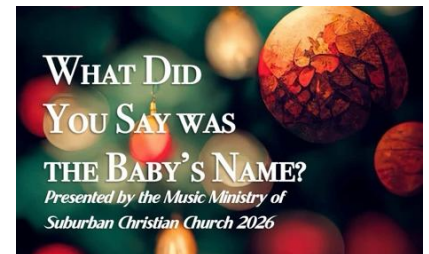
On **October 17th at 11:00 am**, the Community Liaison Officer, Margie Long, from the Fourth Precinct next to our church, will be our October guest speaker. She will be sharing information about senior safety, out in public as well as at home, and preventing victimization. Chicken tenders and fresh fruit will be served for lunch. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

To continue our fun during the month of October, on **Wednesday, October 7th at 11:30 am**, we are planning a fellowship lunch at IHOP at Kempersriver. Just meet us there to enjoy some good food and fellowship.



Music Ministry

Christmas is fast approaching and we are already busy learning the music for the Christmas cantata. If you would like to join the church choir, we have two practices available for you: Tuesday mornings at 11:00 and Tuesday evenings at 7:00. The children will be joining us this year during the cantata, and they are practicing for a few minutes during our Children's Church time on Sunday mornings.



Good News Club @ Woodstock Elementary



The Good News Club is beginning on Thursday, October 22nd. Please pray for our Good News Club team as they begin the new year and share the Gospel with the children who sign up to come! We praise God for the fruit we have been seeing in the children who have attended. This past summer one of the girls was saved and baptized in her church. We are thankful to have a part in God's work of grace.

Belong Women's Ministry ~ Mark Your Calendars

You are invited to a baby shower
for
Colin and Jenna Proctor
on
Saturday, October 24th
from 2:00 – 4:00 pm
at

Suburban Christian Church
Fellowship Hall

Colin & Jenna are registered on Amazon.
it's a boy!



Our fall Bible study is quickly coming to an end in the month of October, and it won't be long before Christmas is here! Mark your calendars **NOW** for our Belong Christmas event on **Saturday, December 5th**! The **Women of the Christmas Story** will be our emphasis for the day, and we have a great time of food and fellowship planned.