



Scroll

NOVEMBER 2017



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Sharing Gifts and Giving Thanks

The season of “giving thanks” is upon us. Harvest time is here! The fruits of hard work and sacrifice are ready to be used. Pumpkin patches and apple orchards are filled with laughter and celebration. We have been blessed! Give thanks to God!

Our relationship with God is a bond of love. For God gave everything for us to have the simple joys in life. God’s blessings overflow in ways we can only begin to imagine. God loves us so much that we are entrusted with all of creation. In the Old Testament reading from Leviticus 27:30 we are told “Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord.” All that God asks in return is for us to handle the blessing with care and grace.

This next month our church will focus on the theme of stewardship. I know the topic of stewardship at times can be uncomfortable. That is understandable. It is an intimate response to our faith and love of God. It defines how we say thank you and so often the

focus magnifies our financial responsibilities to the church. In reality, stewardship is our daily living of our Christian faith. Simply put, it is the practice of dedicating ourselves to God and allowing our faith to be a central part of our life. It is responding to God blessings we have to offer: our gifts, talents, and our financial tithe are part of our living ministry and our story of faith.

Before I go any further I want to share something very important. Stewardship is more than a plan to action. It is also a way to enrich our relationship with God and grow in faith as a community. In John 15:4 Jesus states, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” Accepting new challenges in stewardship is a leap of faith. It is putting your trust in God that your gift will be put to good use and that God will provide for you as well. It is believing enough in yourself that your gifts have value and help in the nurturing of others. Healthy congregations are those who trust. They realize that their talents and gifts can make a difference

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Where is God calling YOU to serve?

Our Mission — To be a bridge to Christ through faith and service • Our Vision — When SPC is faithful in accomplishing its mission, people will know that Christ is at work in their lives and follow Him. • We Value — Being accepting, caring, outreaching, Spirit-led, and willing to serve

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

- ◆ Beth Keever (Nov. 2)
- ◆ Jeff Persons (Nov. 5)
- ◆ Jeffrey Super (Nov. 5)
- ◆ Maxann Morrison (Nov. 11)
- ◆ Alison Super (Nov. 14)
- ◆ Jackson Zimmerman (Nov. 14)
- ◆ Kelsey Hagwood (Nov. 21)
- ◆ Lonnie Massey (Nov. 23)
- ◆ Sandi Harrah (Nov. 25)
- ◆ Martin Saunders (Nov. 26)
- ◆ Camryn King (Nov. 30)



Please Pray for:

- ◆ Fran Alwood
- ◆ Jeanne Banks
- ◆ John Banks
- ◆ Larry Coleman
- ◆ Lila Florance
- ◆ Blake McConnel
- ◆ Richard Messier
- ◆ Anna Miller
- ◆ Barbara Bayley Shefelton
- ◆ Earlene Sprouse
- ◆ Mary Jane Willis
- ◆ Stella Zaja

The *Suffolk Presbyterian Scroll* is a publication of Suffolk Presbyterian Church in Suffolk, VA.

The *Scroll* is published 12 times a year under the direction of the Administration/Communication Ministry Team of the SPC Session.

News items should be submitted to the newsletter editor in one of the following ways:

- **email** at office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net
- **mail** to the church address
- **newsletter editor's mailbox in church office**

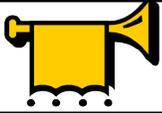
Editor: Laura Farmer,
Administrative Assistant

PRAY FOR OUR

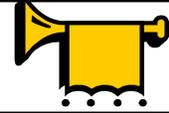
MILITARY

- ◆ Nick Meadors
- ◆ JB Persons
- ◆ Christian Sictor (Jim & Shirley's grandson)
- ◆ Glenn Smith (Betty Chapman's grandson)
- ◆ Greg Vernon (Joyce Jordan's grandson)
- ◆ Eric Zimmerman

Thank you for your service!



News Briefs



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The next **Presbyterian Women** meeting is on Monday, November 13 at 7:30 pm.

Nov 5 - Celebration Sunday

Plan to celebrate our gifts and renewal of our stewardship commitments on Sunday Nov. 5. During the time for taking up our offering, we will come forward with our pledges, gifts and offerings for dedication. Following worship, I invite you to join the Stewardship Ministry team for a Celebration Luncheon featuring soup (vegetable-beef), salad, bread, and dessert. Please let **Laura** know you plan to attend and/or plan to bring a dessert (539-3213 or office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net).

Blessings and peace!

Jack Stoughton, Stewardship M/T



Please join us for a **Fall Church Cleanup Day** on Saturday, November 4 from 9 am - 12 pm.



Administrative Office Hours

Laura Farmer's regular office hours are Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Thursdays from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, and Fridays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you would like to contact her directly, please email office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net.

Moved? New Phone Number? Not in the SPC Directory?

We're trying to make sure our newsletter and other SPC mailings get to the right address. And, we want to make sure we have the right information in our church directory.

So, if you have moved or have a new phone number, please contact **Laura Farmer**, Administrative Assistant, at office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net or 539-3213.



Rev. Julie Sterling Installed as Pastor

On Sunday afternoon, October 15, the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia installed the Rev. Julie Anna Sterling as pastor of Suffolk Presbyterian Church.

The long-awaited ceremony marked not a beginning but a joyous continuation of Sterling's ministry in Suffolk. She and her husband, Eric Sterling, had immersed themselves in the congregation and community in May, after she accepted the call to become our church's pastor.

After PEVA welcomed Sterling at its quarterly meeting in July, a presbytery commission began planning her formal installation. She opted to wait until fall when her parents, Ron and Mary Ann Sterling, who live in Iowa, were planning to visit.

Meanwhile, Rev. Julie, as she is often called, was busy preaching, getting to know us, visiting shut-ins, holding weekly prayer meetings, opening the group to the community after the violence in Charlottesville, and blessing a host of animals - dogs, cats and a rabbit.

By delaying the installation, she said, both she and the congregation were ready to fully embrace the covenant that defines the relationship. The Rev. Bill Lamont, PEVA moderator, asked her the constitutional questions of whether she was willing to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. Elder Don White asked the congregation members if we would support and respect her, share in her ministry and agree to pay her fairly.

The Rev. Leigh Gillis, interim pastor at St. Andrew Presbyterian, presented the charge to the pastor, reminding her to take care of herself so she can care for others.

The Rev. Lou Ventura, pastor of Franklin Presbyterian, gave an emotional charge to the members of her home church, urging us to love and support our new pastor.

The choir sang a beautiful rendition of "One Step" as an anthem, the Rev. Larry Ugarte preached the sermon, and the congregation celebrated Communion by intinction.

Other members of the installation committee taking part in the service were Commissioned Pastor Billy Ricketts and the Rev. Skip Irby.

The Presbyterian Women provided a lovely reception of finger foods and punch.

On behalf of the congregation, the Pastor Nominating Committee gave Rev. Julie a bright blue stole from Guatemala, noting that she shares our dedication to missions.

Susie Stoughton, PNC chair, said that Rev. Julie embraces SPC's values - being accepting, caring, outreaching, spirit-led and willing to serve.

"The congregation asked us to find a pastor who would love us," she said, "who would care for us and others, who would lead us in serving others, a pastor who would inspire us from the pulpit and share with us in fellowship."

The PNC felt that God had brought the congregation and Rev. Julie together. "It was like God was saying, 'this is a good fit,'" she said. "You all would work well together."



The November Spotlight is on... Jane Sommers

Jane Sommers, one of our newest deacons, was ordained in September.

A milestone, it was the first time she's been ordained to any church office, despite serving for 37 years as a Director of Christian Education for six churches in four states - South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina.

Christian Educators must complete two years of training in graduate school and are called to serve in a particular congregation, the same as pastors and associate pastors. Yet the position is not an ordained office.

No stranger to service to the church, Jane grew up in a family of pastors. Her father, her brother and a nephew have a combined history of being Presbyterian preachers for more than a century.

"I didn't want to be a minister or associate," she said. "I felt like there was a need for educators in the churches. That's what I wanted to go into."

She majored in primary education at Woman's College (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro), knowing that she wanted to be a church educator. She spent the next year as a homebound teacher while recovering from mononucleosis before pursuing her vocation. After two years in Richmond, she graduated from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now part of Union Presbyterian Seminary).

She particularly liked training others to teach.

"I enjoy people," she said, "working with them, both of us learning at the same time."

After retiring from her last call at Green Acres Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth, she decided to remain in Hampton Roads. Twelve years ago, she moved to Suffolk.

She has been moderator of the Presbyterian Women, and she serves as a greeter and head usher and assists with various responsibilities for worship and church life.



1. **What brought you to SPC?** My move to Lake Prince Woods.
2. **Pets:** I grew up with family dogs. I have always had a dog up until my last two died about 15 years ago. My love is an English Bulldog.
3. **Fondest childhood memory:** One Christmas morning when we were living in Marietta, GA, my brother Dick got a bicycle and I got a doll carriage from Santa and before Mother and Daddy got downstairs Dick rode his bicycle from the music room through the front hall, through the living room, the dining room, the breakfast room, the kitchen, back hall, Daddy's study, Dick's study and back to the music room. I was right behind Dick pushing my doll carriage. We had the best time. We could do that because the manse (the church used to provide the minister with a house) was an Antebellum house.
4. **Interesting job:** Between college and graduate school, I did homebound teaching in Morristown, TN. It was an interesting experience and I learned a lot. I went into homes that I had never been in like that before. Morristown at that time was one of the most beautiful cities in the U.S. I

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Compassionate Outreach

The **Children's Thanksgiving offering** will be in the church bulletin on November 19. The offering will be collected through the end of the month.

An **Angel Tree** will be put up in the Narthex to support a family from Edmarc. More information to follow. The deadline for donations is November 26.

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- would tell people they could go with me one day and I would show them another side of the city. I have always been very thankful for that experience.
5. **Favorite food:** Oysters on the half shell.
 6. **Favorite TV programs:** College football and basketball. Tennis.
 7. **Favorite way to spend free time:** Being with friends.
 8. **Book I have read recently:** The Literary Dog: Great Contemporary Dog Stories.
 9. **Ideal vacation:** Family vacations as I was growing up. A lot of happy memories.
 10. **Few people know that I....**asked Santa for an ax and a telephone for Christmas when I was three years old. We had moved to Marietta in November and everybody wanted to know what I wanted for Christmas. Daddy said I really made a great impression on the congregation!
 11. **The best advice I've been given/by whom:** When I was a child, my mother told me that when I moved to different town or city, it was up to me if I would be happy there or unhappy. I decided it is better to be happy because each place I have lived I have found that it had its own unique qualities. Look for the best and you find the best. I have had wonderful memories of everywhere I have lived.
 12. **What do I tell others is the best thing about SPC?** The friendly people.

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in the community. For in John 15:12-14 Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."

My challenge for you this season is to consider the joy found in giving. Find the courage to share your skills and talents within our community. Every blessing is a potential ministry. If you are considering raising your financial pledge, consider options that are heart felt and spirit fed. It is easier giving a financial commitment to ministry that feeds the soul and there is nothing wrong with choosing designated options. Above all, be prayerful. The Spirit will lead you in this too!

Remember brothers and sisters, your gifts are a true blessing to our church community. I thank you for the sacrifices and hard work you have shared this past year and I look forward to this next step of the journey together. I trust that this coming year will be a filled with gifts of love.

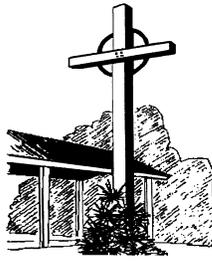
Blessings,
Rev. Julie Sterling



November 2017

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 5!</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 AM to 12 PM Fall Church Cleanup Day</p> <p>Women's AA</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 12 pm Celebration Luncheon Holy Communion 6:30 PM Books & Coffee</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Aerobics AA</p>	<p>7</p> <p><i>Polling Place</i></p> <p>Bridge</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 PM Diaconate Meeting</p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Veterans Day Observed <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veterans Day</p> <p>Women's AA</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 PM Presbyterian Women</p> <p>Aerobics AA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pilot Club Bridge</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7 PM Session Meeting</p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Women's AA</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>20</p> <p></p> <p>Aerobics AA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Bridge</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thanksgiving <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Women's AA</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Aerobics AA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bridge</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>		



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
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Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 AM

WORSHIP

11 AM

Upcoming Events:

November 4—Fall Church Cleanup Day
November 5—Celebration Sunday
November 5—Books and Coffee
November 7—Polling Place
November 8—Diaconate Meeting
November 13—Presbyterian Women
November 15—Session Meeting



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