



# Scroll

DECEMBER 2017



## *From the Pastor*

*Rev. Julie Sterling*

The Christmas season is almost here! The wonder of this time of year is reflected all around. Christmas music and decorations adorn our communities and homes. The streets are filled with Christmas lights illuminating the hope of this season. Within a few weeks we will gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and share the good news found in 2 Corinthians 9:15:

***“Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift.”***

This is one of my favorite times of year. Yes, it is a very busy time for me as a pastor, but it also is a time of great joy. I rejoice in seeing the grace and gratitude reflected in my church family. It is heartwarming to see the fellowship and kindness that celebrate the love found in this season. I also enjoy the moments in my own household that make this time of year special. I cherish spending time with my husband decorating our home for the holidays continuing family traditions. Every year we take a day to pick out a couple new Christmas ornaments for the tree. We also take time on a regular basis to give thanks and enjoy the blessing around us. At the end of a long day it is fun to jump in the car in search of new and spectacular illumination displays. Even with a full calendar of events, we purposely make quality time for each other. The

memories we make this season will be added to our family story as well the story of our story of faith...

***“Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift.”***

The next few weeks our church prepares for Christ’s birth by reflecting on the hope, peace, joy, and love present in the gift of Jesus. It is a time of waiting. For many it is an added gift during a hectic time of year. The season of Advent prepares us to gaze upon the Christ child with open eyes and understanding and reminds us of a time when Christ will come again. The child found in the manger is the king of kings that gave his life on the cross so we all can live!

I hope this season of Advent and Christmas is filled with many blessings for you and yours. I know it is a busy time of year and at times can be overwhelming. Take moments of pause to remind yourselves the reason for this wonderful season. May the hope, peace, joy, and love fill your hearts with thanksgiving...

***“Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift.”***

Blessings,  
*Rev. Julie Sterling*

## 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!**

- ◆ Austin Holland (Dec. 3)
- ◆ Alli Johnson (Dec. 15)
- ◆ David Rollins (Dec. 31)

*Happy Anniversary*

- ◆ Gerry & Helen Zekert (Dec. 2)
- ◆ Paul & Michelle Elich (Dec. 31)



### **Please Pray for:**

- ◆ Helen Zekert
- ◆ Larry Coleman
- ◆ Lila Florance
- ◆ Sherry Jeffords
- ◆ Blake McConnell
- ◆ Richard Messier
- ◆ Barbara Bayley Shefelton
- ◆ Earlene & Wayne 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:

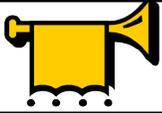
- **email** at [office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net](mailto:office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net)
- **mail** to the church address
- **newsletter editor's mailbox in church office**

**Editor:** Laura Farmer,  
Administrative Assistant

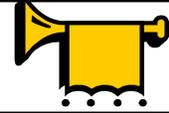
**PRAY FOR OUR**  
  
**MILITARY**

- ◆ 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, December 11 at 7:30 pm.

On behalf of the Diaconate, thank you to everyone who helped make the "Trunk or Treat" a success! We had at least 400 to attend, the weather was wonderful, the children enjoyed the hayride, and every bit of the candy donated was used! Thank you to all for the great decorated cars!! Great fun!!

*Thank  
You*

*Jane Sommers and Nancy White*

Diaconate

### Stewardship Report

Thanks to each of you who have responded so generously with your pledged financial gifts for 2018. As of Nov.19, **Betty Chapman** reports that 20 pledges have been received for a total of \$82,560. If you've been out of town ore have lost your "round-to-it", Betty will be glad to receive your pledge. Offering envelopes for 2018 will be available later in December.

Blessings,

*Jack Stoughton*, Elder for Administration, Finance and Stewardship

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net) or 539-3213.



## 2017 Advent Activities



The season of Advent is approaching. The four Sundays of Advent this year include December 3, 10, 17, 24. The following is a schedule that lists church activities during this period:

- Advent wreath: We will have the lighting of the Advent wreath each of the four Sundays of Advent during the morning worship service. The fifth candle of the Advent wreath will be lit at the evening Christmas Eve service. The lighting of the Advent wreath will be done by volunteer members/families in our congregation. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.
- Three church volunteers will put up the Chrismon tree and the two sanctuary wreaths on either December 4 or 5. Then on Wednesday, December 6, the Diaconate will host an evening event beginning at 6:00 p.m. that will include a church supper, a hymn sing, and the Chrismon tree decoration.
- By Saturday, December 9, outside door wreaths and the large front outside wreath will have been added. **Mac and Beth Keever** have once again agreed to provide the outside door wreaths.
- The Children's Christmas Program will be presented during the Sunday morning worship service on December 10. Following this service, refreshments will be a birthday cake for Jesus. **Jackie Meadors** and **Michelle Elich** have agreed to serve as the directors of this year's program.
- On Sunday, December 17, the choir will present a program of special Christmas music. Following the service, the Presbyterian Women will host a reception to honor our choir. On the evening of December 17, the Diaconate will provide an opportunity to go Christmas caroling at 5:30 p.m. to selected stops throughout our community. Following the Christmas caroling, there will be a pizza party at church.
- On Sunday, December 17, we plan to add poinsettias to our Christmas decoration in our sanctuary. We invite the congregation to purchase poinsettias in honor or memory of individuals. Slips will be placed in the bulletins three Sundays before this date to allow time for flowers to be ordered. The cost this year is \$12.00 per poinsettia. The flowers will remain for the services of December 17 and the two services scheduled for December 24. Those individuals who purchased flowers can take them home after the evening worship service on Christmas Eve.
- Two services will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24. The morning service will be at 11:00 a.m. and the Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 7:00 p.m.

We invite all to participate in these activities as we rejoice and celebrate the birth of our savior.

*Don White*

## Christmas Poinsettias

There has been a tradition in our church of asking the congregation to help decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias during part of the Advent season. It also provides an opportunity for individuals to give a poinsettia in memory or honor of loved ones.

If you would like to participate, order forms for poinsettias will be included in the Sunday worship service bulletins for November 26, December 3, and December 10. The cost for each Poinsettia is \$12.00. Checks should be made out to Suffolk Presbyterian Church and included with the order form. If you have any questions, please contact **Janice Thomas**.



## Christmas Food Basket

Suffolk Presbyterian Church will be putting together a Christmas Food Basket for Edmarc. Stay tuned for more information! Items needed are:

Frozen Turkey or Ham	Stuffing	Canned Veggies
Marshmallows	Refrigerated or Frozen Rolls	Flour
Evaporated Milk	Pie Crusts	Cranberry Sauce
Roasting Pan & Bag	Rice	Sweet & White Potatoes
Juices	Cheese	Jell-O Pudding
Hot Chocolate	Celery, Onions & Carrots	Applesauce
Reynolds Wrap	Sandwich Bags	Paper Towels
Coffee & Tea Bags	Mayonnaise & Mustard	Salad Dressing
Cake Mix & Frosting	Salt, Pepper & Sugar	Canned Pumpkin
Butter	Spaghetti & Sauce	Macaroni & Cheese

## Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted, and sharing our faith with young and old. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world. The Giving Catalog is located in the Narthex.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"  
—Acts 20:35

## Celebrate the Gift

Advent is drawing nigh and we turn to thoughts of our Savior's birth. The Christ child came to earth with such humble beginnings. People came from miles around to see and worship the new-born King. We often fail to remember those that travelled miles and miles to bring special gifts to the baby Jesus. We want to celebrate the "gifts of the magi" on January 7 by bringing gifts for the little ones that we have had worshiping with our church family. In the last few months we have had four little ones under the age of two in our midst. They are such blessings to their families and to us. We would like to express our love and affection for them. So, on January 7, when we celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi presented their gifts to the Christ child, the Presbyterian Women would like to present a gift to each of these four precious human gifts.

At the same time, we are mindful that there are children born who don't have the bare necessities to meet their baby needs. We ask for donations also for the Newborns-In-Need (NIN) project of the community. We have supported NIN in the past and have made contact with them again. The need continues to try to help mothers who have little if any support after their baby is born. The list of items needed is in this newsletter. Also included is a list to show you what is included in the Essentials Kits that are given to the mothers before they leave the hospital. As you are shopping over the next few weeks please consider purchasing some of the items to bring to the church. A basket for NIN will be put out in the narthex, and they will be dedicated and blessed on January 7.

### Contents of each NIN Essential Kit:

2 bibs	2 receiving blankets	1 baby bottle
2 burp cloths	24 diapers	1 infant hat
1 tote or diaper bag	2 onesies	2 infant sleepers or gowns
1 infant outfit	1 pacifier	1 baby wash (unscented)
3 pairs of infant socks	2 baby washcloths	1 package baby wipes
1 changing pad	1 blanket (afghan, fleece, or quilt)	

### Contents of each Newborn Kit:

1 blanket (afghan, fleece, or quilt), 1 infant hat, 1 sweater, & 1 pair booties/socks

### Newborns in Need South Hampton Roads Chapter can use:

- Sleepers, gowns, undershirts, and onesies (newborn or 0-three months)
- Clothing new (newborn,0-3 size) and gently used from newborn-12 months
- Receiving blankets, quilts, fleece blankets, and afghans (30 X 30 to 36 X 36)
- Socks, booties
- Bibs, burp cloths, pacifiers, and bottles – BPA free
- Baby wash and wipes, regular size
- Diapers (all sizes, with most emphasis on newborn size)
- Small toys and child size books
- Baby formula (Enfamil, etc.)
- Fabric: Cotton, flannel, cotton knits, baby appropriate solids and pastels, fleece, quilt tops and panels
- Thread: Serger and sewing thread, white and pastel colors
- Quilt batting and fiber fill
- Baby appropriate yarns, pastels and white (No wool due to common allergies)
- Ribbon (washable, no wire)
- Office Supplies: White paper and cardstock (8 1/2 x 11), stamps, legal size envelopes

## A New Beginning in a Familiar Place

Four members of your Living Waters Team (**Rob Saunders, Jack Stoughton, Chris & Skip Irby**) were in Guatemala from November 12-19 in search of a site for a new water purification system. We thank you for your prayers -- our journey was successful! After visiting four sites, we established a covenant with a camp, El Tule, in Chiquimula, and we are making plans for the installation of the first Living Waters for the World Reverse Osmosis System in Guatemala in November of 2018.

El Tule is a non-profit camp that is connected with a World Vision mission that provides nutrition training in small villages in the La Union area (eastern part of Guatemala) near the city of Chiquimula. The installation of this clean water system will impact many people as El Tule and World Vision work with communities in leadership training and nutrition programs. They have been praying for a way to add clean water to their work, and we believe that God has brought us together.

In the spring Jack and Rob will attend Living Waters' Clean Water University for additional training in the installation of the Reverse Osmosis System. Your Living Waters Team asks you to continue to pray for this new venture and to support our fund raising activities for this next installation.

In addition to being led to establish a new covenant, your Team's newest members, Chris & Skip Irby were able to visit our three previous installations and become part of the friendships that have been established there. Again, we thank you for your prayers for our journey, and ask that you continue to pray for and support our newest covenant with El Tule. We will be providing a more detailed report after the new year begins.



*Pictured from left to right:  
(back): Aura Palma (World Vision), Rob Saunders (SPC), Pablo Pérez Siliézar (LWW In Country Coordinator), Chris and Skip Irby (SPC), Heidi (World Vision), Yendy Tejada (Director -El Tule)  
(front): Jack Stoughton (SPC), Madison Carrillo (El Tule)*

## Coats for the Community

Suffolk Presbyterian will once again participate in the “Coats for the Community” project. The Suffolk Christian Church is coordinating this project along with the Suffolk Salvation Army.

The following are needed: Infant through adult size coats and jackets...Children through adult size sweaters and sweatshirts...Hats, scarves, mittens and gloves...Adult Extra Large size coats and jackets are always needed.

Please bring any of these items to the church and place them in the box provided in the narthex by the beginning of January.



## Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The offering will be collected on Sunday, December 24.

## Suffolk Humane Society

**Betty Howard** is heading up a collection of items to benefit the Suffolk Humane Society. Items can be dropped off in the box provided in the Narthex.

### *Immediate Wish List:*

- Purina Pro Plan Chicken and Rice Kitten Food
- Purina Pro Plan Chicken and Rice Adult Cat Food
- Purina Kitten Chow in the yellow bag
- Canned cat food (pâté style)
- Canned kitten food (pâté style)
- Kitten Milk Replacement (KMR) powdered formula
- Tidy Cat Litter (clumping style)
- Dog Food
- Bleach
- Blankets & towels (used)
- Laundry detergent (scent-free)

### *Items Always in Need:*

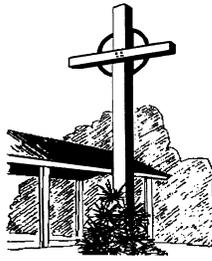
Puppy Formula (powdered); Dog treats; Cat carriers; Collapsible style dog crates; Large Water bottles for cat cages; Cat toys; Cat scratching posts; Dog toys; Cat grooming combs, brushes, rakes  
Cat collars (breakaway style); Dog collars & leashes (especially for small and medium dogs); Hand Sanitizer & Wipes

# December 2017

## Suffolk Presbyterian Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Please note the early newsletter deadline! Please submit articles for the January edition by Dec. 18.</i>					1	2  Women's AA
<b>3</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship <b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>4</b> Aerobics AA	<b>5</b> Bridge	<b>6</b> 6 PM Chrismon Tree Decorating  Aerobics TOPS	<b>7</b> 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir		<b>9</b>  Women's AA
<b>10</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship & Children's Christmas Program	<b>11</b> 7:30 PM Presbyterian Women  Aerobics AA	<b>12</b> Pilot Club Bridge	<b>13</b> 7 PM Diaconate Meeting  Aerobics TOPS	<b>14</b> 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir		<b>16</b>  Women's AA
<b>17</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship & Special Choir Music/Reception 5:30 PM Caroling	<b>18</b> Aerobics AA	<b>19</b> Bridge	<b>20</b> 7 PM Session Meeting  Aerobics TOPS	<b>21</b> 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir		<b>23</b>  Women's AA
<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 7 PM Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>  Aerobics AA	<b>26</b> Bridge	<b>27</b>  Aerobics TOPS	<b>28</b> 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir		<b>30</b>  Women's AA
<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship						



Suffolk Presbyterian Church  
410 North Broad Street  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!  
[suffolkpresbyterian.org](http://suffolkpresbyterian.org)

## Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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Pastor

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:45 AM

**WORSHIP**

11 AM

## Upcoming Events:

December 6—Chrismon Tree Decorating  
December 10—Children's Christmas Program  
December 11—Presbyterian Women  
December 13—Diaconate Meeting  
December 17—Special Choir Music and  
Reception  
December 17—Caroling  
December 20—Session Meeting  
December 24—Christmas Eve Worship



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