

Scroll

FEBRUARY 2018



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

The season of lent is fast upon us. In a few short weeks we will start the lonesome journey with Jesus on his way to the cross. The season starts out with our Ash Wednesday celebration on Valentines' Day where we are reminded of our own frailty and sin. The prayer of imposition exclaims "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." In the 40 days to follow we will be asked to turn our focus to Jesus. As we walk the path of temptation and sacrifice, we walk towards a gift of hope and love.

If you look at our history with God, the period of 40 days is often used. So why these 40 days? According to the Presbyterian Mission Network: "It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)"

Lent has special meaning to each of us. Growing up in the church I was taught that Lent was all about sacrifice. I'd watch my mom and

grandma give up chocolate and coffee as a way to feel the struggle of temptation and gift of fasting. As I started my ministry as an ordained pastor, I realized the importance of prayer and study as part of Lenten preparation. Most important is the time we take during the 40 days for self-examination and reflection. This church season is so important because it reminds us of our humanity and the wonderful gift that comes with our risen Lord. Repentance at its core is the choice to turn our lives in a new direction. This season allows us the time to look at who we are and how God is calling us to live. The early church used this time as preparation for baptism on Easter day.

This year I've decided to do as much as I can to fully experience this Lenten Season. First, I'm working hard to eat right and stick to an exercise regimen. Second, I've found a couple of extra daily study resources to keep me centered during these 40 days. Besides my normal devotionals, I'm also using 40 Days of Reflection by Adam Hamilton and Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections With Saints, Hermits, Prophets, and Rebels, by Heidi Haverkamp. Third, I plan to assist the

(Continued on page 5)

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!

- ◆ Jennifer Goforth (Feb. 8)
- ◆ Katelynn Lail Morrison (Feb. 11)
- ◆ Kathryn Padgett (Feb. 13)
- ◆ Evelyn Archer (Feb. 14)
- ◆ Anastasia Hecht (Feb. 19)
- ◆ Hayden Goforth (Feb. 29)



Please Pray for:

- ◆ **Josie Crosby**
- ◆ **Bill Dawson**
- ◆ **Janie Hogan**
- ◆ **Sherry Jeffords**
- ◆ **Jamie Jones**
- ◆ **Dorothy Lorenz**
- ◆ **Blake McConnell**
- ◆ **Juanita Pond**
- ◆ **Barbara Bayley Shefelton**
- ◆ **Rick Sommers**
- ◆ **Toni Williams**
- ◆ **Mary Jane Willis**

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

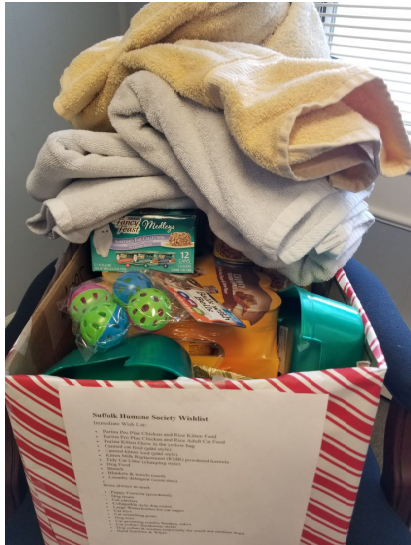
- ◆ **Nick Meadors**
- ◆ **JB Persons**
- ◆ **Christian Sictor** (Jim & Shirley's grandson)
- ◆ **Glenn Smith** (Betty Chapman's grandson)
- ◆ **Greg Vernon** (Joyce Jordan's grandson)
- ◆ **Eric Zimmerman**

Thank you for your service!

 **News Briefs** 



The next **Presbyterian Women** meeting is on Monday, February 12 at 7:30 pm.



Many thanks to everyone that donated to the Suffolk Humane Society collection.



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.



The February Spotlight is on..... Jean Butcher

Jean Butcher has three books that she takes out and reads twice a day - on her knees. You may be in one of them, even if you don't realize it.

Each book contains a list of people and things she prays for. One contains the names of people who are sick or in need of care. The second is a list of blessings for which she thanks God. And the other is a general prayer book.

She includes the names on the church prayer list and adds others as well. If someone will be traveling, for example, she will pray for a safe journey, especially if they're flying because she is scared to death of airplanes. "I get up on a ladder," she says, but that's as high as I want to go."

Often, people call and ask her to include them in her prayers. Once, a woman who knew that she suffers from arthritis gave her a pad to put by her bed to cushion her knees.

Her older sister, **Evelyn Archer**, is in her book. Before Christmas, Evelyn moved from her home just down the street from Jean to Wytheville to be near her son and daughter-in-law. For years, the sisters had been nearly inseparable. They came to worship together, Evelyn driving until recently and Jean helping with directions when Evelyn couldn't remember the way. They shopped together, too, since Jean gave up driving long ago because she couldn't afford a car. She misses Evelyn, who calls her nearly daily, but she is glad she is closer to her family.

Jean says she has so much to be grateful for. She doesn't dwell on her troubles but counts her blessings. Approaching her 90th birthday this summer, she still mows her own grass - half an acre. The exercise, she says, helps keep her diabetes under control.

Every Monday night, she goes to Kindred Nansemond Pointe, where she helps with a Bible study for the nursing home residents. Every Monday, she bakes two cakes to serve after the study is over, then helps push those in wheelchairs back to their rooms.

She helped start the Bible study more than 25 years ago, while she was working there. A resident called her to her room and said, "Jean, we've got people here going to hell, fighting and cussing. We need a Bible study."

The woman recruited John Eid, a friend she knew from her church, to teach the lessons and told Jean she wanted her to bake cakes.

When John is away, she is the Bible leader. "I tell them sin is anything you wouldn't want the Lord to come back and find you doing."

The weekly sessions have been a blessing for her, she said, despite the effort of getting there and finding someone to give her a ride.

"I hope someday, someone will accept the Lord," she said. "If one person is saved, it is worth every minute I've spent there."

For several months now, Jean's children have been taking turns bringing her to worship on Sundays. Afterward, they stop by the grocery store so she can stock up for the week ahead.

She is so grateful for her family. "I'm really blessed," she said.

For certain, they're all in her prayer book.



(Continued from page 4)

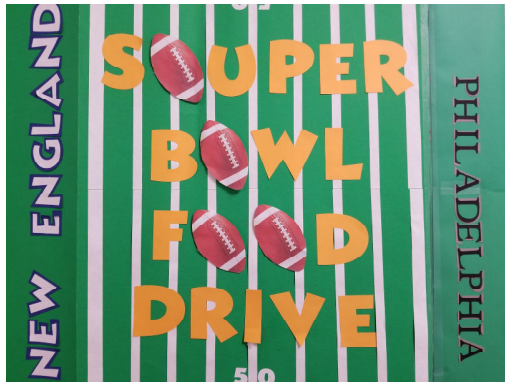
1. **Family:** My daughter, Ann Doughtie, and her husband, Phil; my son, Skip Spalding, and his wife, Chris; and three wonderful grandchildren - Taylor Doughtie, Harrison Spalding and Hayden Spalding.
2. **Pets:** Julian, a Mexican hairless dog. I have to wrap him up in a sweater in this cold weather. When Buddy died, I just cried and cried, and the next thing I knew, here was Ann, coming with another one from the pound.
3. **Fondest childhood memory:** Playing with my brother, Junior, and the neighborhood children, in one town after another because we moved so often.
4. **First job/last job:** Manager of Barr Brothers jewelry store/certified nurse's aide at (the nursing home that is now) Kindred Nansemond Pointe.
5. **What brought you to SPC?** I started coming with Evelyn years ago.
6. **I can't resist...**I really love chocolate. One time a church or something wanted you to fast, but I couldn't because I'm diabetic. So I gave up the thing I like the most - chocolate. I haven't had any chocolate in years.
7. **Few people know that I...**am known as the "Cake Lady" because I make two cakes each week and slice them up for the residents at the nursing home during Bible study on Monday nights. They like the lemon cake.
8. **An embarrassing moment:** Once they called out the ages of all the residents of the nursing home, and I was the oldest one there. It was a little embarrassing.
9. **What advice would you give to your grandchildren today?** I want them to be strong in their faith.
10. **A book you're read that you would recommend to others:** "The Bible Promise Book." I put one in each of my grandchildren's stockings this year. It tells you where to go in the Bible if you have grief or other problems.
11. **Favorite Bible verse:** I just love John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
12. **What do you tell others is the best thing about SPC?** It's a small crowd, but I think it's a crowd that likes each other. It's just friendly. I think you're blessed to be there.

(Continued from page 1)

congregation by having a mid-week Lenten Study and use added ministry resources during worship. Finally, I plan to try to give more of myself to those in my community. As I write this article, I prepare to donate blood later in the day.

I encourage you to use this Lenten Season to grow in faith and service. This time is a gift of growth and repentance. This 40 day journey is a reminder of all Christ has sacrificed for us. As we walk this path with Jesus, remember where this path leads us. All our hope is centered on the empty cross, the ultimate gift of love.

Blessings,
Rev. Julie Sterling



Please join the church as we support the food pantry with a **Souper Bowl Food Drive**. Items will be collected February 4 to March 4.

Suggested Items

- Boxed Potatoes
- Beans (pork and beans, baked beans, etc.)
- Hamburger Helper
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meats, Tuna, etc.
- Cereal
- Crackers
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce
- Crackers
- Soup

Miscellaneous Items which Include:

- Toilet Paper
- Soaps (bar, dish, and laundry soaps)

Community Lenten Services

Feb. 14	Suffolk Christian Church
Feb. 21	Tabernacle Baptist Church
Feb. 28	Main Street UMC
March 7	East End Baptist Church
March 14	Bethlehem Christian Church
March 21	Oak Grove Baptist Church



Everyone is invited to attend the Lenten services on Wednesdays at noon. There will be a 30 minute worship, including music, followed by soup, sandwiches, desserts, and drinks.

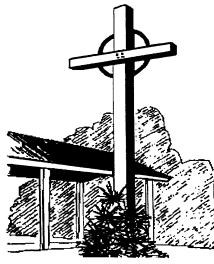
Suffolk Presbyterian Church is a partner church on February 21 and will provide sandwiches and desserts.



February 2018

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir	2	3 Bridge Women's AA
4 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship <i>Holy Communion</i>	5 Aerobics AA	6 Bridge	7 Aerobics TOPS	8 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir	9	10 Bridge Women's AA
11 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	12 7:30 PM Presbyterian Women Aerobics AA	13 7 PM Diaconate Meeting Pilot Club Bridge	14 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service Aerobics TOPS	15 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir	16	17 Bridge Women's AA
18 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	19 Presidents' Day <i>Office Closed</i>	20 <i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i> Bridge	21 12 PM Lenten Service Partner <i>Tabernacle Baptist Church</i> 7 PM Session Meeting Aerobics TOPS	22 6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir	23	24 Bridge Women's AA
25 9:45 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	26 Aerobics AA	27 Bridge	28 Aerobics TOPS			



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
410 North Broad Street
Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

**Reverend Julie Sterling
Pastor**

**Church Office:
757.539.3213**

**Office E-mail:
office.suffolkpcusa@verizon.net
E-Mail:
suffolkpcusa@verizon.net**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45 AM
WORSHIP
11 AM**

Upcoming Events:

February 12—Presbyterian Women
February 13—Diaconate Meeting
February 14—Ash Wednesday Service
February 21—Session Meeting



Find us on Facebook
Search for *Suffolk Presbyterian*