

# The Bridge

MAY 2018



## From the Pastor

*Rev. Julie Sterling*

Brothers and sisters, this week marks the year anniversary of my move to Suffolk. When I think of last April, I can remember it being a time of great emotion. I was so excited to start my ministry at Suffolk Presbyterian Church. As I said goodbye to friends and family from my last call, I wondered what my new church family would be like. Would you like my preaching style or appreciate my work ethic? Would you be as excited about mission as I? Would you be fun and enjoy fellowship as a church family? Most important, would you accept me as your pastor and take me in as one of your own?

I can honestly say that before the last boxes were unpacked Eric and I truly felt at home. It was clear that this call was led by God and I take great pride in calling you “my flock”.

On the “Know Us” section of our church website you have chosen Acts 20:28 to describe how your ministry is driven: ***“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God...”*** This reading is a benediction Paul gives to the church in Ephesus as he makes his way to Jerusalem. It is a reminder of the qualities it takes to maintain a

healthy church and stay strong in the faith. Each time I read this verse, I see this congregation reflected in this message. It amazes me how good you all are at caring and nurturing. I can testify that I’ve never felt more loved.

Over the past year I have watched and listened to this church’s ministry. I have seen amazing things done in the name of God and great love expressed through your faith in Jesus Christ. It prides me to know that this little church is a living expression of the Holy Spirit at work. As we move forward to another year, I’ve prayerfully worked to set a path for future success. I know how wonderful this church is. How do we let others know who we are?

A few years ago a colleague of mine gave me some good advice. “Whenever you wonder what the next step should be in your church’s ministry, look back to your mission statement.” I took his advice. In fact, every week I take a moment to turn to the “Know Us” page on your website and I reflect on the following words:

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 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



## Birthdays This Month

- ◆ Pamela Holland (May 2)
- ◆ Cheryl Taylor (May 2)
- ◆ Matt Harrah (May 4)
- ◆ Matt King (May 11)
- ◆ Jerolene Crusenberry (May 22)
- ◆ Calvin Piland (May 25)
- ◆ Skip Irby (May 30)
- ◆ Don White (May 30)
- ◆ Jen Johnson (May 31)



- ◆ Chris & Skip Irby (May 12)
- ◆ Nancy & Wesley King (May 24)

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

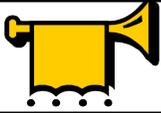


- ◆ The family of **Chris Irby**
- ◆ The family of **Mary Ann Saunders**
- ◆ **Josie Crosby**
- ◆ **Bill Dawson**
- ◆ **Janie Hogan**
- ◆ **Sherry Jeffords**
- ◆ **Carolyn Lackey**
- ◆ **Terry Martin**
- ◆ **Blake McConnell**
- ◆ **Juanita Pond**
- ◆ **Ava Porter**
- ◆ **Barbara Bayley Shefelton**
- ◆ **Judah Smith**
- ◆ **Rick Sommers**
- ◆ **Toni Williams**
- ◆ **Mary Jane Willis**

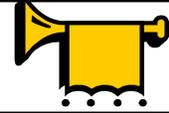
- ◆ **Nick Meadors**
- ◆ **JB Persons**
- ◆ **Christian Sictor** (Jim & Shirley's grandson)
- ◆ **Glenn Smith** (Betty Chapman's grandson)
- ◆ **Greg Vernon** (Joyce Jordan's grandson)
- ◆ **Eric Zimmerman**

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

**Thank you for your service!**



## News Briefs



The next **Presbyterian Women** meeting is on Monday, May 14 at 7:30 pm.

### Living Waters for the World Plant Sale Update

Suffolk just got "prettied up" thanks to the abundant number of plants distributed by the LWW Spring Plant Sale. This past Saturday, we delivered over 700 beautiful impatiens, begonias, marigolds, petunias, and geraniums and more than doubled last Spring's efforts. A huge "thank you" to all who purchased these plants, offloaded the nursery delivery truck and made deliveries. A special thank you goes to our friends at Franklin Presbyterian Church who also participated. This project raised about \$1,600 toward your new LWW installation in Guatemala in November.

*Jack Stoughton.*

### 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).

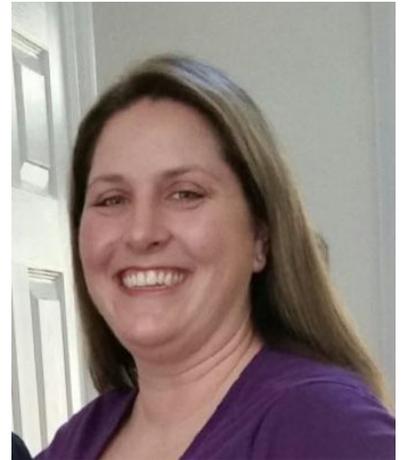
### Moved? New Phone Number? Not in the SPC Directory?

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.



## The May Spotlight is on... Jackie Meadors



Jackie Meadors is a master juggler.

Watch as she manages all the aspects of her life as a stay-at-home mom/military wife/tele-commuter/church member/daughter/friend.

Alexandria, 8, and Cody, 6 - both born into our church family and baptized at SPC - are top priorities along with her husband, Nick. She supervises the kids' schoolwork, takes them to their hockey and cheering practices, makes time for family activities, manages household responsibilities, works for a company in South Carolina, and values the family's spiritual development. To fit it all in, she often takes the children from one activity to another, like leaving the Easter egg hunt to drive to South Carolina to visit their grandparents.

She manages to squeeze in time for herself at the gym, with friends for occasional girls' weekends, date nights with Nick - whose military career she proudly promotes, and keeping the grandparents updated via Facebook.

Four years ago when a church nominating committee asked her to be an elder, she hesitated only long enough to determine whether Nick's Navy assignment would keep them in Suffolk long enough to finish her term. Her mother was an elder at her church in South Carolina, and Jackie felt her mother could help coach her through the responsibilities.

She served as ministry team leader for administration, communication and finance for the first two years, then switched to Christian Formation for the third. She continues to help with the children's programs - teaching Sunday School, ensuring that supplies are in place, directing the Christmas play, creating beautiful bulletin boards, and leading the children in bell ringing performances when it's her turn to do a Children's Sermon.

She spearheaded moving the nursery and children's Sunday School classes from the Appletree wing to the adjoining rooms next to the parlor to create a more inviting space for the youngsters.

Fortunately for us, Jackie doesn't like cold weather. So after high school, she opted for Virginia Wesleyan College - about halfway between Vermont, where she grew up, and Charleston, South Carolina, where her parents had moved. There, she met Nick, and eventually, they moved to Suffolk and became involved with SPC nine years ago.

Here are the questions Jackie answered:

- 1. What brought you to SPC?** Nick found SPC online and mentioned that the choir wore robes, so we attended Easter Sunday 2009 and fell in love with the people.
- 2. Pets:** Two dogs (Bera our Great Pyrenees & Maverick our Boxer) & one cat (Luna our Ragdoll).
- 3. Fondest childhood memory:** Going on camping trips with my family for a week during the summer time, visiting historic monuments throughout the East Coast - and one time flying to South Dakota to camp and visit Mount Rushmore, The Grand Tetons, The Grand Canyon and more.
- 4. First job/worst job/current job/dream job:** Babysat a lot before I could drive, then had my first real job at a local Bagel Bakery until I went to college. Worst job was probably doing telemarketing my Freshman year in college, only lasted three days. I currently work for STEALTH, a small

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Dorothy Lorenz to Retire

Dorothy Lorenz, our choir director and organist, met with our church's Personnel Committee on Sunday, April 15. She thanked the church for granting her a four-month leave of absence that allowed her time to address some on-going health problems. She was able to experience a successful hip surgery and now enjoys being relatively pain free.

This time away from her weekly duties as choir director/organist has given her time to rest and reflect on whether to continue in this position. After having given much thoughtful and prayerful consideration, she has reached the decision not to return as an employee, but to perhaps return to worship as a church member among friends.

Dorothy has been a faithful servant of the Lord by sharing her time and talents with our church and other churches throughout her career. During her years of service to our church, our choir has grown in size and remains one of the more essential and meaningful aspects of our worship experience. We appreciate her service and her friendship and wish her well as she begins a new phase of her life.

*Don White*

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## Substitute Organist Schedule

Until we are able to find and hire a church choir director/organist, we will continue to try and find weekly substitute organists. Our congregation has been very appreciative of having a number people agree to work with our choir and provide music during the past four months. These individuals include Janice Thomas, Rose Lyerly, Sue Nichols, and Jane Bleiler.

Terese Neblett has agreed to substitute the second Sunday in May. We are indeed blessed by these individuals who have agreed to help us during our time of transition.

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### May Schedule

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>May 6</b>  | <b>Janice Thomas</b>  |
| <b>May 13</b> | <b>Terese Neblett</b> |
| <b>May 20</b> | <b>Janice Thomas</b>  |
| <b>May 27</b> | <b>Jane Bleiler</b>   |

*(Continued from page 4)*

manufacturing company in SC that conceals cellular towers. My dream job would be to own my own construction company and work with my dad building houses.

**5. Favorite food/drink:** Spaghetti w/ meat sauce and root beer.

**6. Favorite movies/TV show:** “Blue Crush” & “Footloose.”

**7. Favorite ways to spend your free time:** Spending time with Alexandria and Cody that makes them laugh and feel loved.

**8. Book you’ve read recently that you would recommend to others:** “Me Before You” (by JoJo Moyes.)

**9. Ideal vacation:** Some place warm, fun and near water.

**10. I can’t resist....**CHOCOLATE.

**11. Few people know that I....** love camping and playing Lacrosse.

**12. I collect.....**Boydes Bears Figures.

**13. Pet peeve:** People saying they will do something and not.

**14. Most embarrassing moment:** Diving off the diving board in middle at the town pool as a child and coming out with the top of my bathing suit not on correctly.

**15. What was your favorite trip? The worst?** Favorite trip would be going to Kenya, Africa for 3 ½ weeks when I was 16. Did community service with other high students, got to live like a local, but still see what Africa had to offer as a tourist. I am not sure I have had a worst trip. Maybe a trip didn’t go as planned, but traveling can always throw bumps along the way, but you can always try to find the brighter side of the situation and still enjoy the trip.

**16. What is one thing you would change about yourself if you could?** Eat better and have more patience with my kids.

**17. How are you helping make a change in the world?** Trying to raise two respectful and compassionate kids along with recycling and trying to reuse things like my grandmother did.

**18. If you won the lottery, how would you use the money?** Pay off debt, buy scrapbooking material and put away money for the kids’ college, travel and save the rest.

**19. Best advice you’ve been given/ by whom:** “God has a plan for you, you are just along for the ride, so let him do his job,” told to me by my mom, Sue Urie.

**20. What advice would you give to young people today?** Things are not all that matter in life. Time and memories with those you love is what is important.

**21. What’s on your bucket list?** Skydiving.

**22. Favorite Bible passage:** Do unto others as you would want done unto you.

**23. Have you ever experienced a miracle?** Delivering Alexandria and Cody.

**24. What do you tell others is the best thing about SPC?** How supportive and active the members are. Never felt so belonged to a church as I do with SPC.

## A Special Celebration of Pentecost

A Celebration of the 40th Birthday of Edmarc Hospice for Children, Inc.

by *Bruce Sharp*

I was recently contacted by Allen and Joan Hogge, key figures in the founding of Edmarc Hospice and the parents of Marcus Hogge, the MARC in Edmarc. They noted that this year marked the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Edmarc and expressed a desire to return to Suffolk Presbyterian for an event to celebrate that birthday. I contacted Reverend Sterling to discuss possible dates and she immediately suggested May 20th, which this year is Pentecost Sunday. The Hogges were agreeable to that date and the Session has approved the event. The connection between the founding of Edmarc and the sweeping power of the Spirit of God is a perfect theme for this celebration. All of us are excited by the opportunity to celebrate the Spirit and recognize the ongoing work of Edmarc.

While plans are still being made, the basic idea is that we will have a special worship service that morning which celebrates the power of the Spirit and its connection with the founding of Edmarc. This worship service will be followed by a luncheon. Following the luncheon, we will have a special presentation by the Hogges and Debbie Stitzer-Brame, the Executive Director of Edmarc Hospice for Children, on the history and current work of Edmarc.

We also plan to make the event something of a homecoming and will make a special effort to send special invitations to those people who shared the work in the early stages of Edmarc's founding.

As planning proceeds, we will be sending out further information. We also will be soliciting help in setting up and serving the luncheon. Please plan to attend and consider pitching in to welcome these special people and the community to Suffolk Presbyterian on May 20th.

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***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.*

Our challenge moving forward is to use our “Know Us” statements to help build our ministry. So, what can we do so others can witness our mission, vision, and values alive in our ministry? How do we define ourselves in a way that interacts with a culture that makes quick decisions on things in a moment's time? **We tell our story using the language of our mission, vision, and values!**

Moving forward in any ministry does involve moments of change. As you may have noticed, we have re named our church newsletter from the Scroll to the Bridge. I felt it was an effective way to reflect on your mission statement and a reminder of who we are as a church. In the next few months we will be considering new ways for people to know us better.

Have patience, be prayerful, and know these little changes have been made in love.

Blessings,

*Rev. Julie Sterling*

## Day of Pentecost

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.)

The notion of Easter as a season of 50 days ending at Pentecost is patterned after the ancient Jewish festival of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest (on the second day after the beginning of Passover) to the end of the wheat harvest at the Festival of Weeks or Shavuot (see Deuteronomy 16:9-12). The Festival of Weeks later came to be called Pentecost ("50th day") by Greek speaking Jews. In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai; this liturgical link may inform Paul's discussions of the law and the Spirit (see Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 3 and Galatians 3).

### **Pentecost is new creation**

According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty ruach (wind, spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered, and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power — the unseen power of God — moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it ruach YHWH, "the wind, or breath, of God" (cf. John 3:8). The Spirit is the "unseenness of God" working among us.

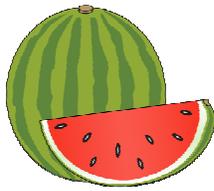
According to Joel (2:28-29) the ruach is to open everybody to God's future. People young and old will dream and will have visions of hope; they will be able to loose themselves from the way things are now, because God is establishing a whole new economy of creation. The Holy Spirit breaks us out of our preoccupation with ourselves and frees us to serve neighbors, loosens our grasp on possessions, and sets us to loving people. New creation is what Joel is talking about. Pentecost is new creation.

The book of Acts tells the story of the outcome of Pentecost's new creation: people witness in word and in deed to the risen Christ. At the outset, the newborn church immediately tumbled out into the streets to witness to God's mighty works in the languages of people all over the world. By the end of the story, a tiny, Spirit-filled community of faith that broke from its present order has spread across the continents with incredible power to bring new things into being. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. ...

Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its missing as God's new people. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church.

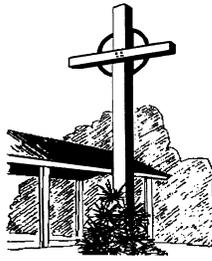
Excerpts from: [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost/)



# May 2018

## Suffolk Presbyterian Church

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                                  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat                                   |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
|  |   | <i>1</i>                             | <i>2</i>  | <i>3</i><br>6 PM Prayer Group<br>7:15 PM Choir  | <i>4</i>  | <i>5</i><br><br>Bridge<br>Women's AA  |
| <i>6</i><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>11 AM Worship<br><b>Holy Communion</b>              | <i>7</i><br><br>Aerobics AA                             | <i>8</i><br><br>Pilot Club<br>Bridge | <i>9</i><br>7 PM Diaconate Meeting<br><br>Aerobics TOPS           | <i>10</i><br>6 PM Prayer Group<br>7:15 PM Choir | <i>11</i>   | <i>12</i><br><br>Bridge<br>Women's AA |
| <i>13</i><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>11 AM Worship                                      | <i>14</i><br>7:30 PM Presbyterian Women<br><br>Aerobics | <i>15</i><br><br>Bridge              | <i>16</i><br>7 PM Session Meeting<br><br>Aerobics TOPS            | <i>17</i><br>6 PM Prayer Group<br>7:15 PM Choir | <i>18</i>   | <i>19</i><br><br>Bridge<br>Women's AA |
| <i>20</i><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>11 AM Worship<br>12 PM Edmarc Birthday Celebration | <i>21</i><br><br>Aerobics AA                            | <i>22</i><br><br>Bridge              | <i>23</i><br>7 PM Living Waters Team Meeting<br><br>Aerobics TOPS | <i>24</i><br>6 PM Prayer Group<br>7:15 PM Choir | <i>25</i>   | <i>26</i><br><br>Bridge<br>Women's AA |
| <i>27</i><br>9:45 AM Sunday School<br>11 AM Worship                                      | <i>28</i><br><b>Memorial Day</b><br><br>Aerobics AA     | <i>29</i><br><br>Bridge              | <i>30</i><br><br>Aerobics TOPS                                    | <i>31</i><br>6 PM Prayer Group<br>7:15 PM Choir | <br><i>The deadline for the June newsletter is Sunday, May 20.</i> |                                       |



Suffolk Presbyterian Church  
410 North Broad Street  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434



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

## **Suffolk Presbyterian Church**

**Reverend Julie Sterling  
Pastor**

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:45 AM**

**WORSHIP**

**11 AM**

## **Upcoming Events:**

May 9—Diaconate Meeting  
May 14—Presbyterian Women  
May 16—Session Meeting  
May 20—Edmarc Birthday Celebration  
May 23—Living Waters Team Meeting



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