

The Bridge

JULY 2018



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

One of the greatest gifts of God is our personal experience with Jesus. As believers it is reassuring to know that God is always present in our lives. It is a comfort to know that Jesus, who knows our heart and hears our prayers, also walked a similar path of heartache, temptation, and struggle. Classic hymns and words of scripture remind us that Jesus is our friend and in such we can turn to him in times of need.

Since Jesus is personal, sometimes it is hard to understand when others have a different view of Christ. How can a Jesus that warms my heart to take a certain path lead others in an opposite direction? Sometimes it can even cause division when points of view concerning politics, social justice, or current events enter into the picture. I have heard many people break ties recently with friends and even family over differing experiences with Jesus. Last night I watched live feed voting from PCUSA's General Assembly. It is clear that even in our own denomination there are many points of view of how to be the church. It was also very apparent that in the voting there was hurt that would require an act of reconciliation.

The struggle can be very real when it tugs at something close to your heart. We all have had moments when we've wondered: 'How can you believe the way you do and call yourself a Christian?' Right now I'm struggling quite a bit with the global refugee/ immigration problem. My heart breaks when I see undocumented families crossing our border, searching for shalom. It breaks my heart to know that they fled their homes out of

fear and risked their lives to make it to our border. It breaks my heart to know that once they get here their future is uncertain. Above all, it hurts to know that until recently families were divided. I can't imagine being a small child in a strange place and not have my mother to cling to or my father for reassurance. The solution seems very simple to me yet I have never lived in a border town. I have never experienced a community overwhelmed by refugees. My life experience and faith may see things differently from where I sit today and where my path has taken me so far.

Yes, we each experience Jesus differently. Whenever we have a one on one relationship with anyone it becomes part of our story. Yet, when we accept Jesus into our lives, it is not just a personal experience. We were not created to be islands and Jesus was not given for us to have a solitary experience. He is our bridge and he is constantly connecting us together. Yes, we may not agree from time to time but as people of faith we are connected. In the Gospels when Christ mentions "you" in his teachings it is spoken with the intent of "y'all". We must remember that our call is one of community and family. Part of our personal walk with Jesus is learning grace along the way and welcome other to join us on our path.

Blessings,
Rev. Julie Sterling

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

- ◆ Sarah Harrison (Jul. 1)
- ◆ Libby Rollins (Jul. 9)
- ◆ Wesley King (Jul. 11)
- ◆ Logan Harrison (Jul. 12)
- ◆ Laura Farmer (Jul. 13)
- ◆ Betty Chapman (Jul. 15)
- ◆ Cliff Stewart (Jul. 21)
- ◆ Jack Stoughton (Jul. 24)
- ◆ Maryanne Persons (Jul. 29)



- ◆ Bruce & Nancy Sharp (Jul. 1)

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

The *Bridge* 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



- ◆ **John & Jeanne Banks**
- ◆ **Doc Crusenberry**
- ◆ **Johnny Cannon**
- ◆ **Josie Crosby**
- ◆ **Bill Dawson**
- ◆ **Janie Hogan**
- ◆ **Loren Hubbard**
- ◆ **Carolyn Lackey**
- ◆ **Blake McConnell**
- ◆ **Juanita Pond**
- ◆ **Ava Porter**
- ◆ **Barbara Bayley Shefelton**
- ◆ **Rick Sommers**
- ◆ **Toni Williams**
- ◆ **Mary Jane Willis**

PRAY FOR OUR

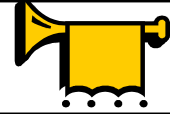
MILITARY

- ◆ **Austin Holland**
- ◆ **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



Retirement Reception for Dorothy Lorenz

On Sunday, June 24, the Presbyterian Women and the congregation will host a reception following worship to recognize and honor Dorothy Lorenz's service and retirement as our choir director/organist. The congregation is asked to bring finger foods for this reception.

Substituted Organists' Schedule

Timothy Price, our new choir director/organist, first Sunday at our church will be July 22. As a result, we will still need substitute organists to play for us for four more Sundays.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| June 24 | Terese Neblett |
| July 1 | Ben Traylor, Jr. |
| July 8 | Ben Traylor, Jr. |
| July 15 | Ben Traylor, Jr. |

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.



A Celebration of Edmarc and the Children's Center - July 15th

by Bruce Sharp

The worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday July 15th will focus on a special celebration of the work of the Spirit in the roots of Edmarc Hospice for Children and the Children's Center here at Suffolk Presbyterian and continuing presence of the Spirit in those two agencies.

The church will host Joan and Allen Hogge, Debbie Stitzer-Brame, Executive Director of Edmarc and Rosalind Cutchins, Executive Director of The Childrens Center. These presentations will focus on the history of these organizations and the work they are doing now. We hope that past and present board members and staff of both organizations will attend.

The worship service will be followed by a catered reception and opportunity for fellowship. Childcare will be provided during the worship service as usual.

Summer is a busy time, but I think this special service is an important recognition of the work of the Spirit. I can tell you from personal experience that you won't have to spend much time in the presence of these folks to feel the inspiration and presence of the Holy Spirit. Come and join us in this special celebration and an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Prayers Are Answered!!!! New Music Director/Organist Hired

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Timothy Price, Jr. met on June 11 with the Personnel Ministry Team and signed a contract to serve as our part-time Music Director/Church Organist. His thirty-six-month contract period begins on July 16, 2018. Timothy will hold his first choir practice on Thursday, July 19, and his first worship service in our church will occur on Sunday, July 22.

God has indeed blessed us with leading us to an individual who we believe will be an excellent fit for our church. We knew that our quest would be challenging but Timothy emerged, by far, as the strongest candidate.

Throughout the interview process, Tim favorably impressed the Personnel Ministry Team. He presented an exceptional resume, a strong educational background, and a Christian commitment for sharing his musical talents. His references confirmed that he was a talented musician and works well with choirs and congregations. All three references said we would be fortunate to hire him.

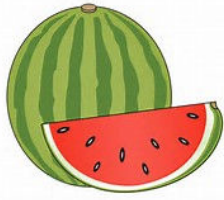
This past year he moved from North Carolina to accept a full-time fourth grade teaching position in the Portsmouth City Schools. However, he continued to serve as a Music Director/Organist in a Christian Church in Farmville, NC, necessitating a two hours plus commute. Hence, Tim began seeking a part-time church job in this area. After interviewing with us, he felt that our church had much to offer and would be a good fit for him.

The Personnel Ministry Team recommended to the Session that Timothy would be a strong asset to our church, but there was a need to increase the compensation to better reflect his experience and educational levels. The Session agreed and the offer was accepted by Timothy.

Welcome, Timothy Price to our church family!

Thanks Be to God!

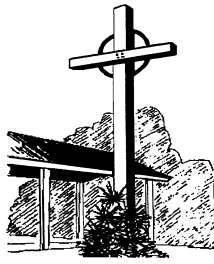
Don White



July 2018

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| <p><i>1</i></p> <p>10 AM Worship <i>Holy Communion</i></p> | <p><i>2</i></p> <p>Aerobics AA</p> | <p><i>3</i></p> <p>Bridge</p> | <p><i>4</i></p> <p><i>Independence Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i></p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p> | <p><i>5</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p> | <p><i>6</i></p> | <p><i>7</i></p> <p>Bridge Women's AA</p> |
| <p><i>8</i></p> <p>10 AM Worship</p> | <p><i>9</i></p> <p>Aerobics AA</p> | <p><i>10</i></p> <p>Bridge</p> | <p><i>11</i></p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p> | <p><i>12</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p> | <p><i>13</i></p> | <p><i>14</i></p> <p>Bridge Women's AA</p> |
| <p><i>15</i></p> <p>10 AM Worship & Edmarc Celebration 11 AM Reception</p> | <p><i>16</i></p> <p>Aerobics AA</p> | <p><i>17</i></p> <p>Bridge</p> | <p><i>18</i></p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p> | <p><i>19</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p> <p>Pilot Club</p> | <p><i>20</i></p> <p><i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i></p> | <p><i>21</i></p> <p>Bridge Women's AA</p> |
| <p><i>22</i></p> <p>10 AM Worship</p> | <p><i>23</i></p> <p>Aerobics AA</p> | <p><i>24</i></p> <p>Bridge</p> | <p><i>25</i></p> <p>7 PM LWW Team Meeting</p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p> | <p><i>26</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p> | <p><i>27</i></p> | <p><i>28</i></p> <p>Bridge Women's AA</p> |
| <p><i>29</i></p> <p>10 AM Worship</p> | <p><i>30</i></p> <p>Aerobics AA</p> | <p><i>31</i></p> <p>Bridge</p> | | | | |



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Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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Pastor

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SUMMER WORSHIP
10 AM

Upcoming Events:

July 15—Edmarc Celebration & Reception
July 25—Living Waters Team Meeting



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