

The Bridge

JANUARY 2019



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

There is something so sweet about Christmas that I long to hold onto. I've found much needed hope in the nativity scene tucked under my Christmas tree and the Christmas lights outside my living room window provide a comfortable peace at the end of a long day. It is hard to believe that 2018 is almost at an end.

As we move forward to a new year, I worry. This past year has been long and difficult for many. I've spent a great deal of time in prayer for our nation, for our community, and for friends and family I hold dear. I long to find the hope touches my soul when I view the Christ child in the manger. Even as I turn my focus to my joy and faith in God, I still wonder what the New Year will bring.

As a Pastor, and as a person of faith, I believe that God will provide blessings upon blessings. I know this is the time where faith is important. Yet, it is not easy to look forward with hope and joy when most of us are tired, worried, and in some cases even a little broken.

This morning I come to God in prayer with the words I've lifted up most of this year:

God be with us in this time of need. Help us get past economic and political injustice. Help us to look upon one another equally as brothers and sisters. Help us to work past our differences and end violence. Above all else, help us to follow your path and live our lives guided by your love.

I believe that God is calling us today to look forward in hope and let go of the pain and hardship of the past year. Let us remember and learn from what we have experienced this past year and vow to do what we must to make our future better.

I take heart in the words of Philippians 3:13-14 as the moments count down to 2019:

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

May each one of you have a blessed New Year. May the gift of Jesus guide you in hope. May the Holy Spirit surround you with peace and love.

In closing, I share with you a Celtic prayer to start out your day. In the Celtic spiritual tradition, each day is viewed as a new start with God. May you find hope and excitement this new day with God!

Celtic Prayer

***God, bless to me the new day,
Never vouchsafed to me before;
It is to bless Thine own presence
Thou hast given me this time, O God.***

***Bless Thou to me mine eye,
May mine eye bless all it sees***

(Continued on page 4)

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!

- ◆ Doc Crusenberry (Jan. 4)
- ◆ Jane Sommers (Jan. 5)
- ◆ Gaby Bryce (Jan. 7)
- ◆ Gary Williams (Jan. 7)
- ◆ Eric Zimmerman (Jan. 10)
- ◆ Eric Sterling (Jan. 11)
- ◆ Gerry Zekert (Jan. 14)
- ◆ Dollie Pennington (Jan. 21)
- ◆ Lisa Morrison (Jan. 24)
- ◆ Jeanne Banks (Jan. 26)
- ◆ Rick Johnson (Jan. 29)
- ◆ Nancy White (Jan. 29)

Happy Anniversary

- ◆ Matt & Amy King (Jan. 9)


Prayer Requests

- ◆ John & Jeanne Banks
- ◆ Paul Chapman
- ◆ Al Nash
- ◆ Eric Sterling
- ◆ Don Berry
- ◆ Anne Bramlett
- ◆ Kelly-Grier Costin
- ◆ David Drames
- ◆ Ginger Goodman and her family
- ◆ Sandy Hurd
- ◆ Jeremy Jennings
- ◆ Katie Sutton Lackey
- ◆ Sherri Lilley
- ◆ Harriet and Dan Lindblom
- ◆ Blake McConnell
- ◆ Family of Steven Palmer
- ◆ Jeff Snow
- ◆ Laura Jane Whitney
- ◆ Mary Jane Willis

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

PRAY FOR OUR

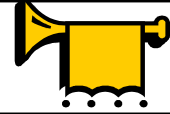
MILITARY

- ◆ 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!



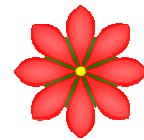
News Briefs



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

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

The 2019 **flower chart** has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for any special dates!



From Your Deacons:

Each of the flocks in our congregation will be participating in the “Night Stay Program,” providing bag lunches each Tuesday for those who are homeless, January through March. We haven’t been able to participate for the past two years, but have decided to help again this year. This program is well-established and designed to help those who are homeless in our city through “Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk.” Various churches in our city provide shelter as host churches, some offer transportation, and some offer full meals. We are excited to be contributing again this year, working through our Compassionate Outreach Ministry Team.

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.





From Your Deacons:

Join us for a birthday luncheon after our church service on Sunday, January 20th. We will be honoring those in our congregation who were born in December, January, and March! All are invited to celebrate with those having birthdays! We will serve four different kinds of soups, salad, drinks, dessert, and **Nancy Sharp's** famous rolls!! Share in the fun and fellowship sponsored by the Deacons.

The Daniel Plan 40 Day Lenten Program

March 10-April 14

Growing as Faithful Disciples Through:

Faith
Food
Friendship
Fitness
Focus

Contact **Maryanne Persons** with any questions.



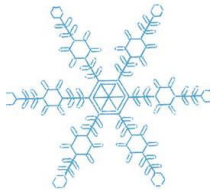
(Continued from page 1)

***I will bless my neighbor,
May my neighbor bless me.***

***God, give me a clean heart,
Let me not from sight of Thine eye;
Bless to me my children and my wife,
And bless to me my means and my cattle.***

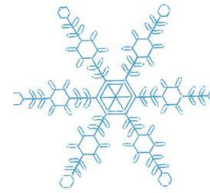
A traditional Celtic prayer translated by Alexander Carmichael (1832-1912), compiler of oral traditions in Scotland. Source: Academia

Blessings,
Rev. Julie Sterling

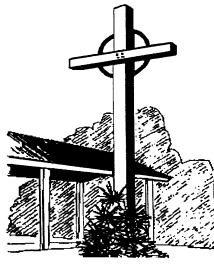


January 2019

Suffolk Presbyterian Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>NewsLetter</i> DEADLINE</p> <p><i>The deadline for the February newsletter is Sunday, January 20.</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>1</i></p> <p>New Year's Day <i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>2</i></p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>3</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>4</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>5</i></p> <p>Bridge Women's AA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>6</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship <i>Holy Communion</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>7</i></p> <p>Aerobics AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>8</i></p> <p>Bridge Pilot Club</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>9</i></p> <p>7 pm Diaconate Meeting Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>10</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>11</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>12</i></p> <p>Bridge Women's AA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>13</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>14</i></p> <p>7:30 PM Presbyterian Women Aerobics AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>15</i></p> <p>Bridge</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>16</i></p> <p>7 pm Session Meeting Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>17</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>18</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>19</i></p> <p>Bridge Women's AA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>20</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 12 PM Birthday Celebration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>21</i></p> <p>Sister Cities Aerobics AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>22</i></p> <p>Bridge</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>23</i></p> <p>7 PM LWW Team Meeting Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>24</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>25</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>26</i></p> <p>Bridge Women's AA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>27</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>28</i></p> <p>Aerobics AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>29</i></p> <p>Bridge</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>30</i></p> <p>Aerobics TOPS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>31</i></p> <p>6 PM Prayer Group 7:15 PM Choir</p>		



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:

January 9—Diaconate Meeting
January 14—Presbyterian Women
January 16—Session Meeting
January 20—Birthday Celebration
January 23—LWW Team Meeting



Find us on Facebook
Search for *Suffolk Presbyterian*