



The Bridge

JUNE 2024



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Summer is quickly approaching. The changing of seasons brings new life all around us. Graduations and summer breaks cause a new rhythm to emerge, inviting us to slow down a bit, and journey through life more leisurely. There is a joy that accompanies this time of year. Summer is a time to make memoirs, go on adventures, and take much needed sabbath rests. To quote Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air.” With changing schedules comes a different pace in the life of the church. Programs that run during the school year wind down, giving space for new experiences and opportunities. In some cases, church participation wavers a bit. Regular attendance may become less frequent as we relax by the beach or go on vacations and mini breaks.

Yet God never takes a break...

This past week I as I was preparing for worship, I came across a passage from Psalm 139:

***O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.***

King David’s words are a reminder that God’s

presence is constant and unwavering and his love is sure. He knows us intimately and walks each step of our lives with us...and sometimes he goes with us on an adventure. In my daily devotion ‘Daily Feast’ it states “Wherever we go, God is there; nothing we do goes unnoticed by God.” What does it mean for you to be known and loved by God? What assurance does this truth give you about your life with God?

The summer months may alter your normal routine but there is always time for God. In fact, it is good to change things up a bit and take a deep breath. Often when we have time away from everyday life we are awoken to God working in new ways. The Psalm 139 reading from Daily Feast concludes with the following response: “Where are you traveling this summer? Be open to the places where you will see God.”

I look forward to our time together this season. We have some fun activities planned for the summer and I am excited for these moments of fellowship as a church family. We also have a great deal of work ahead of us as we prepare for our big move. It may seem overwhelming but remember the words of Isaiah 58:11: “Where God guides, he provides.”

Enjoy your time this summer and remember that God is always near, leading you as you go.

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



6/11 Mary Ann Saunders

- † Jean Butcher
- † Eric Sterling
- † Jeffery Birkey
- † Richard Alan Goforth
- † Anton Johnston
- † Jimmy Hope
- † Pat Jones
- † Maxann Morrison
- † Shelby Owen
- † JB Persons
- † Charlie Powell
- † Cindy Robinson
- † Jeff Snow
- † Randy Stoughton's family
- † Caroline



6/26 Faye & Ron Sobel

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@suffolkpresbyterian.org
- mail to the church address
- Laura Farmer's office mailbox

Editor: Laura Farmer,
Administrative Assistant

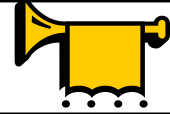


Thank you for your service!

- † Ashlyn Dawson
- † Laura Dawson
- † Sidney Dawson
- † Nick Meadors
- † Glenn Smith
- † Hayden Spalding
- † Greg Vernon



News Briefs



Join us after worship on Sunday, June 9 for a **picnic** at SPC. Afterward, head over to West End Baptist Church to tour the facilities.

Suffolk Little Pantry: The youth are collecting items for their project. Granola bars, individual cracker packets, fruit cups, rice crispy treats, and other non-perishable snack items can be placed in the Narthex collection box.

Support humanitarian assistance in Israel/Palestine: The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray. Gifts can be made [online](#), by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAIP to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR000081-Israel/Palestine" on the memo line. Mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Food Pantry Donations: The greatest needs are canned veggies/fruits/tuna/chicken, cold cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Financial donations accepted via church website. Donations delivered to Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center.

Gift Card Ministry: The deacons are collecting \$25 restaurant gift cards during the offering to help congregation members in times of need. These will be used to assist with meals.

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@suffolkpresbyterian.org or call 757-539-3213.

Directory Updates

If you have a new address, phone number, or email, please contact **Laura Farmer**, Administrative Assistant, at office@suffolkpresbyterian.org or 539-3213. If you are not in the directory, and would like to be added, please email your information. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women

Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship

What does baptism mean to you? What is its significance today and how might it have changed since the beginning of the early church? How might Reform baptismal practices differ from other faith traditions? Come join us on Monday, June 10th at 7pm for Lesson Eight, “Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship” from the Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. This lesson will include a DVD presentation by author Olive Mahabir followed by group discussion and will focus on the scripture of Acts 16:11-5 and highlight the following main idea:

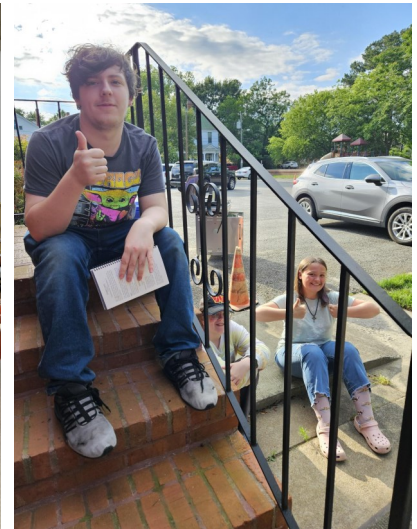


Baptism connects us to God and the community of faith.

The evening will conclude with a monthly business meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend. This will be the last gathering of the season. Meetings will resume in the fall using the study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation, by Patricia K. Tull.

Youth Group



The ecumenical youth group celebrated their last meeting of the school year with a cookout.

SPOTLIGHT on Elisabeth Writtenberry

Elisabeth Writtenberry, who adopted SPC as her “church home away from home” last fall, divides her time between two states.

She grew up in Manteo in the Outer Banks, where she still has her bedroom at the house she shares with her mother, **Hollie Writtenberry**, and little brother **Gideon**. But for the past nine months, she has been a Virginian, living in Suffolk with her grandparents, **Butch** and **Linda Writtenberry**, so she could study flute at the Virginia Governor’s School for the Arts.

The 16-year-old is finishing her sophomore year at Kings Fork High School, where she plays flute in the concert band and piccolo in the marching band. Each day after class, she rides a school bus to Granby Street in Norfolk to practice with the orchestra at the Governor’s School, returning to Suffolk about 6:30 p.m.

The talented teenager has big plans for the summer - again splitting her time between the two states. She will be heading to the mountains to work at two church camps, one in Virginia and one in North Carolina, doing what she loves best - sharing God’s love with others.

“It’s my passion,” she said.

She was selected to be a counselor, leading middle and high school students in music, recreation and Bible study at Massanetta Springs near Harrisonburg in June and Montreat outside of Black Mountain, N.C., in July. Both are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

She’s been a camper at both, and she’s delighted to return in a leadership role, working with campers and counselors from all over the country.

At Massanetta Springs, she will work with younger students for two sessions of a middle school conference. She will be responsible for setting up and leading all of the recreation, but she will also help with Bible studies, discussions, social activities and singing.

“I’ll also play my flute,” she added with a twinkle in her eye.

Also at Montreat, she will be working in recreation, focusing on stage leadership and energizers for high schoolers. Supervising campers her age doesn’t daunt her. She will be partnering with an adult.

“What’s really cool,” she said, “is that I will be able to go as a camper with my youth group from the Outer Banks.”

Elisabeth applied for the post a year and a half ago.

Last fall, she and the three other youth counselors and four adults who will partner with them met on Zoom and in person to plan the theme for the camps and lay out the groundwork for the activities. They have connected on social media and gotten to know one another, sharing joys and concerns.

“We’re already practically a family,” she said.



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Two years ago as a camper at Montreat, she signed up for stage leadership and had to read scripture in front of 700 people. She admits that she was terrified at first.

"I started reading," she said, "and I suddenly felt God's presence."

That's when she realized she felt called to share in ministry

"What else would I want to do?" she asked.

Her summer plans fit in with her desire to go to seminary and eventually become a pastor.

Elisabeth has endeared herself to our faith community by sharing her many talents. She joined the choir last fall and enjoys singing. She has volunteered as a liturgist and even asked to do a children's sermon - something members many times her age often refuse to attempt. She has added to our worship by playing her flute in duets with music director Chris Johnson on the grand piano.

She also has been a vital part of the interdenominational youth group and helped build the Little Food Pantry on the grounds of St. Paul's Episcopal Church downtown and stock it with non-perishable items for people who need a quick food fix. Last year, she started a similar Blessing Box at the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church, her North Carolina church home.

Elisabeth is also looking forward to spending time with her family in Manteo. Her mother, a public school music teacher and youth leader in the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church, also plays the flute as well as the saxophone. Mother and daughter occasionally play duets in area nursing homes.

Butch and Linda Writtenberry, who are members of First Baptist Church, Main Street, have been very supportive of Elisabeth's stay with them. They encouraged her to audition for the Governor's School after her mother casually mused that she wished Elisabeth could benefit from the musical opportunity for Virginia high schoolers. They have attended Elisabeth's concerts and driven her everywhere she needed to go until recently when she turned 16 and got wheels of her own. She and "Bandit," as she calls her red sedan, will be back in Suffolk in August when school starts.

What do you like to do in your free time? Practice my flute, listen to vinyl or just talk to my Mom on the phone. She's my refuge. We can be on the phone for hours.

What type of music do you listen to? The Beatles are my favorite! And Elton John and Stevie Wonder.

Does your flute have a name? I call it "Hollie" because it's my mom's. She let me borrow it to have a quality instrument for Governor's School. She said "Just take care of it." And my piccolo is "Hollie Jr."

What has prepared you for working with youth this summer? I have always loved kids. I have been a babysitter, and I have a little brother. Being ten years older than Gideon gave me experience.

Most people don't know that I...am shy.

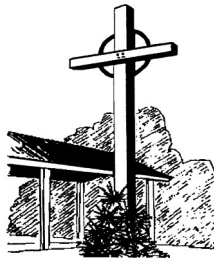
What brought you to Suffolk Presbyterian Church? I knew, when I moved here, that I wanted to get involved in a church and I knew I wanted to go to a Presbyterian Church. I saw this church, and I decided I wanted to try it.

What do you plan to do after high school? Go to James Madison University, hopefully, and then seminary. I know this Presbyterian ministry is something I want to continue.

June 2024

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
<i>2</i> Communion 9:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship 12 PM Picnic & Open House	<i>10</i> 7 pm Presbyterian Women	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 7 pm Diaconate Meeting	<i>13</i> 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 3 pm Session Meeting	<i>20</i> 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship Newsletter DEADLINE	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir 11 AM Non-traditional Worship						



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
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Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:45 AM
CHOIR PRACTICE
10:30 AM
WORSHIP
11 AM**

Upcoming Events:

June 9—Picnic at SPC & Open House at West End
June 10—Presbyterian Women
June 12—Diaconate Meeting
June 19—Session Meeting

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship

Choir will meet on Thursday, June 6 and then stop meeting for the summer.



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Church*