



The Bridge

AUGUST 2024



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

A Multitude of Gratitude

Chef James Beard once said, “Food is our common ground, a universal experience.” In the Bible God uses food to connect, teach, and show love to his children. Margaret Feinberg in her book [Taste and See: Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers, and Fresh Food Makers](#) suggests that images of food are found everywhere in the Bible and goes one step further to suggest that God is a ‘foodie’. God uses food to make covenants, to express his presence in our lives and his love for us. He also uses food to teach us the gift of hospitality and gratitude.

In our own faith experience we know the importance of the bread and juice we share on Communion Sunday. Food is life. We can’t live without eating. In food we celebrate our identity and heritage. Most homes have a family cookbook with plenty of stories to share. Dutch Scientist and advisor on food sustainability Louise Fresco puts it simply “Food in the end, in our own tradition is something holy. It’s not about nutrients and calories. It’s about sharing. It’s about honesty. It’s about identity.”

In the feeding of the multitude, Jesus and his disciples are met with a challenge after thousands of people follow them into the middle of nowhere to be close to Jesus. As good hosts, how will they break bread with all these people? How will they reflect hospitality to a hungry crowd? The cost itself to feed this group would be immense. Also, where would they find food

for everyone? They were in the mountains, far away from merchants and marketplaces. Then Andrew points out a young man with five barley loaves and two fish and everything changes. As we know, Jesus blesses the food and shares it with the people. All are fed and there is plenty left. They gathered up the remaining food so none would be lost or wasted.

Through five loaves and two fish, we learn a valuable lesson, not only about God’s love for us, but also gratitude for what we have and what God can make from it. As I continue the packing process for our big move to a new building, I am thankful for the many ways God has blessed this faith community. In many ways we are like the five loaves and the two fish. Throughout our story we have been able to feed a multitude of people through hard work, faith, and love. The little that we have goes a long way.

Food and faith go hand in hand. We know that well. Our ‘tribe’ as SPC is well versed in the art of the Pot Luck. Some of the best fellowship occurs at the dinner table. American Civil Rights Activist Cesar Chavez once said “If you really want to make a friend, go to someone’s house and eat with him...the people who give you their food give you their heart.”

So, is God a ‘foodie’? I like to think so. Why else would he give us the ability to taste and enjoy to our heart’s desire? On that note, find the time to break bread and enjoy good company.

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!



8/1 Nancy Sharp
 8/8 Ann Doughtie
 8/23 Betsy Butler
 8/26 Chris Irby
 8/26 Susie Piland
 8/29 Nancy Bird
 8/30 Nancy Cisco

† Curtis MacKenzie
 † Cheryl Morrow
 † Eric Sterling
 † Jeffery Birkey
 † The family of Ellen Godwin
 † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
 † Anton Johnston
 † Pat Jones
 † Shelby Owen
 † Charlie Powell
 † Cindy Robinson
 † Whitney Saunders
 † Nikki Scott
 † Charlie Thomas
 † Caroline

Happy Anniversary

8/15 Jeff & Maryanne Persons
 8/15 Don & Nancy White
 8/17 Eric & Julie Sterling
 8/22 Alison & Jeff Super

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

PRAY FOR OUR

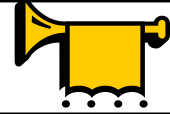
MILITARY

*Thank you for
 your service!*

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



News Briefs



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.

New Special Offerings Menu: The 226th General Assembly (2024) approved several changes to the churchwide Special Offerings to take effect January 1, 2026. These changes were recommended by the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board through the Special Offerings Review Task Force.

The biggest change you will note is a new lineup of offerings:

- † One Great Hour of Sharing
- † World Communion Offering
- † Christmas Joy Offering

To see the entire announcement, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/pcusa.org/big-announcement-from-special-offerings-10329994?e=fbbb5e512b>

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!

Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

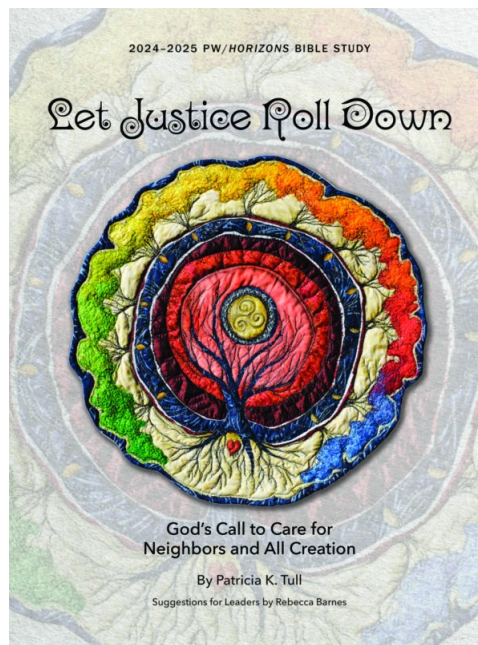
The 2024–2025 PW/Horizons Bible study

Patricia Tull, author of the 2024–2025 PW/Horizons Bible study *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*, describes her call for creation justice in this way: "When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts."

We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "you shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fast-changing world.

The Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull is A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Hebrew Bible at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Among other publications, she is author of the 2001–2002 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible study *Esther's Feast* and of *Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis* (Westminster John Knox, 2013). A Climate Reality presenter, GreenFaith Fellow, and former program director of Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, Trisha lives on fifty acres outside of Henryville, Indiana, with her spouse, the Rev. Don Summerfield. They have six children and seven grandchildren.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/justice/>



“The King of Instruments”

Chris Johnson, Music Director

Everyone is familiar with the piano. It's a one keyboard with 88 keys for a standard keyboard, and electric pianos vary in the size and number of keys. The piano is considered a foundational instrument that is used in performances as well as worship services. Some people even have a piano at home; many of whom do not even play the piano. Did you know that the piano is not the only keyboard instrument? Of course, you did but can you explain the details of the “King of Instruments?”

The organ is the oldest keyboard instrument. It dates back to 250 B.C. with the piano being a relative newcomer which was not invented until 1709 by a harpsichord builder from Italy.

In most churches, the organ plays a key part in the church's music. It leads singing and provides various types of service music to set the mood and tone of the service. The organ is made up of keyboards called manuals. Each of these manuals has a name. At Suffolk Presbyterian, we are fortunate to have a three-manual organ containing a swell, great, and choir division. When we move to our new worship space, we will experience the magnificent sound of a four-manual organ; it contains a solo division for playing distinct sounds like real orchestral instruments.

Our Rodgers organ and West End's Allen organ are both electronic digital organs designed on the blueprints of a pipe organ. Electric organs did not sound as pure as pipe organs until recently. Within the past thirty years, major electronic organ builders have strived to create authentic pipe-like sounds and have been successful in doing so. Some churches have even replaced their pipe organs with electronic organs and augmented their pipes to fit with the electronic consoles.

Organs are broken into sound families based on their tone. Principal, Diapason, Flute, String, and Reeds. Some organs have additional sounds such as Chimes, Carillon, Harp, and Celeste. I love the lush sounds of the strings and celestes with the bright sounds of the foundations and mixtures coming in at a close second. These sounds are produced by engaging stops which activate the controls called “ranks.” The ranks are within a genuine pipe organ. Electronic organs refer to ranks as “sound families.” These sounds vary from organ to organ depending on the builder. If organists are a part of selecting a new instrument for their church, they usually get to specify the specific sounds they would like included in their custom-built instrument. These sounds are engaged when the organist “pulls out the stops.” This is an expression used today and it means just that-pulling out the stops. These stops can be configured as draw knobs, tabs, or rocker tabs. Our current organ has rocker tabs and they light up when they are being used. The fewer stops being used, the lesser the sound. For a full organ sound, more stops are used. This is found during hymn singing, marches, and postludes.

The volume of the organ is controlled by pedals for each division. These pedals also have their own set of stops. The tones from the keyboards can be coupled down into the pedal. Couplers allow the stops from one keyboard to be paired with another keyboard. If the organist wants one sound to be dominant, they play those notes on one keyboard while the accompaniment is played on another. These different sounds are often suggested by the composer of the music. These suggestions are called “registrations.” It lets the organist know which sounds work best on which keyboard. Sometimes, organists have to substitute one sound for another because that instrument offers a different stop. Finally, once the registrations are “pulled,” the organist sets the stops by assigning them to a piston. Pistons are small round buttons that allow the musician a place to save their

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Relocation news

Looking ahead...

August 6: Leadership Retreat

August 11: Worship time change starts (9:30 am), followed by coffee time

August 25: Hot Dog Roast and bonfire (6 pm)

September 8: Decommissioning Service and Reception (3 pm)

Moving week to be announced

September 15: Start worship at West End Baptist (9:30 am)

(Continued from page 5)

registrations so they do not have to reset them each week. Our organ has ten general pistons and seven independent pistons. For example, I used pistons 1 and 2 to set the prelude and offertory stops. Pistons 3, 4, and 5 are hymn stops. Each one adds stops building a greater sound. Piston 5 is the one I generally use to play the postlude. Another great feature is the memory. If one organist saves stops, what would a guest organist do? That's easy to solve. Modern organs are designed with multiple memories. This allows different people to play the same instrument without having to manually set their desired stops over and over.

One more thing! The pedals. The feet are used when playing the organ. The pedals allow for a strong undertone of base notes to be played within a composition. Some organ music is written for the manuals only, but most include pedal stops. Some songs, such as Fugues, have a pedal solo written into the music. These are challenging, but with lots of practice, they are easily mastered.

Feel free to come over and look carefully at our organ. It is a wonderful instrument and we will be using it once we relocate. The downside of playing the West End organ is that I will be hidden down in the organ pit. Hopefully, you can climb up into the choir loft and see where all the sound is made.

(Some of this information comes from my very first organ methods book written by Joyce Jones, "The King of Instruments.")



August 2024

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	2	3
4 Communion 10 AM Choir 11 AM Worship	5	6 Leadership Retreat	7	8 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	9	10
11 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee Hour	12	13	14	15 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	16	17
18 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship	19	20 NewsLetter DEADLINE	21	22 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	23	24
25 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 6 PM Hot Dog Roast & Bonfire	26	27	28	29 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship	30	31



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
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Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

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CHOIR PRACTICE

10:00 AM

WORSHIP

11 AM

**9:30 AM WORSHIP (9 AM
CHOIR) BEGINS SEPT. 11**

Upcoming Events:

August 6—Leadership Retreat
August 11—Coffee Hour
August 25—Hot Dog Roast & Bonfire

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship



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Church*