



The Bridge

October 2024



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

Almost Heaven

It is finished! After a great deal of hard work, we are finally in our new home. Nelson Mandela once said, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” These past few weeks have been a whirlwind for our congregation. The smell of fresh paint and unopened boxes are a reminder of the ‘newness’ of this space. Empty bookshelves wait to be filled as offices take shape. Soon, very soon, this will feel like home.

As I write to you today, I do so still basking in the glow of our first Sunday at the corner of St. James Ave and Washington Street. I say this every Sunday at the end of our hour, but wow, “what a wonderful day of worship.” The service itself flowed smoothly. But there was also an unexpected closeness as we gathered for worship that morning. It was surprising to witness how comfortable the experience seemed to be for each of us. My favorite part was when **Susie Stoughton** talked to the kids about our new church home during children’s time and Abram stated that the ceiling of the

sanctuary ‘looked like heaven’.

In many ways this Sunday was a celebration of all of our hard work. It was our first moment to come together, take a deep breath, and reflect on all that we have accomplished. This moment also reminded us of what lies ahead and the hope that comes with new beginnings. How will we use this space to minister with others and grow in our own faith? How will we reflect our love of God to our new neighbors and work to support and love our new community? We closed our service with the hymn “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” as a reminder that as we journey onward, God is here with us:

***As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose,
serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.***

Over the next few months we will have many opportunities to actively serve God and others with creativity and excitement. One added blessing to our new home is our shared space and opportunities for shared ministry with

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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

Prayer Requests

- ✝ Eric Sterling
- ✝ Jeffery Birkey
- ✝ Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
- ✝ Pat Jones
- ✝ Bud Little
- ✝ Tommy Morrison
- ✝ Shelby Owen
- ✝ Charlie Powell
- ✝ Cindy Robinson
- ✝ Nikki Scott
- ✝ Ron Sterling
- ✝ Ron Ventura
- ✝ Caroline

Pray for our Military

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

Happy Birthday

- 10/7 Danny Morrow
- 10/11 Breena Branham
- 10/14 Rob Saunders
- 10/18 Julie Sterling
- 10/29 Jeff Super

Happy Anniversary

- 10/3 Doc & Jerolene Crusenberry
- 10/23 Rob & Mary Ann Saunders
- 10/25 Zach & Courtney 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 by the 20th of the month 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

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.

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.

Administrative Office Hours



Laura Farmer's regular office hours are Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 1:30 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 757-539-3213. If you are not in the directory, and would like to be added, please email your information. Thank you!



**World Communion Sunday
SPC & WEBC Joint Worship**

October 6, 2024 @ 11 AM
Pot Luck Lunch to Follow

On the first Sunday of October each year, churches around the world take time to celebrate Christian unity. First celebrated in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, World Communion Sunday has spread around the world. Congregants in cathedrals, mud huts, and church storefronts take time to celebrate communion, while receiving inspiration and information about fellow Christians. The occasion allows us to recognize that we are all one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Join us this year for a special World Communion Sunday as we worship with our friends at West End Baptist Church. Note the worship time of 11 AM as we come together in peace and ecumenical understanding. The fellowship will continue at a potluck luncheon after the service, so bring something to share. This is also the Sunday when Presbyterians receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering, giving us the opportunity to share what we have with brothers and sisters in need. We hope to see you at this special day of worship.

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West End Baptist Church. On October 6th we will break bread with them in worship during World Communion Sunday and we hope to have their congregation join us in hosting Trunk or Treat this year. Zechariah 8:12 tells us what blessings come from hard work with God:

***For the a seed shall be prosperous,
The vine shall give its fruit,
The ground shall give her increase,
And the heavens shall give their dew—
I will cause the remnant of this people
To possess all these.***

I look forward to new ways that we can work together to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ and be fruitful in our community.

Trunk or Treat with a twist: Same fun, new location

Come decorate your trunk, hatchback or pickup bed and join in the fun for the ever-popular Trunk or Treat, 2024 version!

Co-sponsored by Suffolk Presbyterian and West End Baptist churches, this year's festivities will be held on Sunday, Oct. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. in a new location – the parking lot across the street from the church at 105 St. James Ave. at the corner of West Washington St.

Ghosts and goblins, scary monsters, cartoon characters and ordinary friendly folks will be handing out candy to area youngsters. Costumes are optional. If you don't have a vehicle, team up with a friend or pass out candy from our decorated canopy or help man the popcorn booth.

Drop off donations of bags of individually wrapped candy – peanut free preferred – on Sunday mornings or Monday through Friday during office hours.

Sign up to reserve your spot for the candy distribution to provide a safe and fun Halloween treat for kids!

Questions? Contact any of the SPC deacons: **Alison Super, Cheryl Morrow, Nancy Sharp** or **Susie Stoughton**.



Did you know that 25% of the Peace & Global Witness Offering stays in your local community? Your congregation retains 25% for peacemaking ministries that you are passionate about. An additional 25% percent is retained by your presbytery for peacemaking efforts in your region.

The **Peace & Global Witness Offering** will be collected through the end of October.

Children's Sunday School is Back!



Beginning Sunday, October 6*, Children's Sunday School will return to SPC during the Worship Hour! Using the **Celebrate Wonder** curriculum, the class will explore Bible stories with a multi-aged approach. Each week the group will gather around the Wonder Mat to discover what new item is in the Wonder Box. The story will unfold through storytime, crafts, and games. There will also be time for snack and play. October's lessons will explore the story of Joseph and His Brothers, with its message of reconciliation and forgiveness. Look for Take Home pages to carry over the lessons during the week. Newcomers and guests are always welcome. So come Celebrate and Wonder with our youngest worshippers!

*N.B. Worship on October 6 will be at 11 AM as we celebrate World Communion Sunday with our WEBC friends. Following that, worship – and Children's Sunday School – will resume at the regular 9:30 timeslot.

Presbyterian Women

Join us on October 14th at 7pm in the upstairs administrative wing for our first PW meeting of the Fall. This year's Horizon's Bible Study is "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation" by Patricia K. Tull. This study will share ideas concerning justice in relation to how our actions impact the world and what we can do to make change for the better. For our first meeting we will discuss the introduction and Lesson one, 'Environmental Justice'. Our scripture for this lesson comes from Ezekiel 33:21; 34:8;17; 18-19 and our main idea will focus on the following:

We protect the created world we share and need from environmental degradation and destruction.

Each session includes a DVD led discussion by the author followed by group discussion and our monthly business meeting. All are invited to attend. Study books are available by request but are not required for participation.





October 2024
Suffolk Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Ecumenical Youth Group will meet on Sunday, October 6 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 4 pm.</i>		1	2	3 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 10:15 AM Choir 11 AM World Communion Sunday 12 PM Luncheon	7	8	9 7 PM Diac-nate Meeting	10 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 PM Sunday School	14 7 PM Presbyterian Women	15	16 3 PM Session Meeting	17 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 PM Sunday School	21	22	23	24 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 9 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 PM Sunday School 6 PM Trunk or Treat	28	29	30	31 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	 <i>The deadline for the November edition of The Bridge is Sunday, October 20.</i>	



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
105 Saint James Avenue
Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk
Presbyterian Church

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Pastor

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CHOIR PRACTICE
9:00 AM
WORSHIP
9:30 AM

Sunday School resumes on
October 13 at 10:45 AM.

Upcoming Events:

October 6—Joint Worship/Lunch & Learn
October 6—Ecumenical Youth Group
October 9—Diaconate Meeting
October 14—Presbyterian Women
October 16—Session Meeting
October 27—Trunk or Treat

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir
Rehearsal



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