



The Bridge

NOVEMBER 2022



From the Pastor

Rev. Julie Sterling

How do we say thank you to God?

What words can we use to explain our gratitude to our God who has given us everything we need and more?

What can we do to show God how much we appreciate him?

This month starts our season of Giving. During our Thanksgiving meal we celebrate the blessings of a bountiful harvest by sharing our good fortune with those we love. Throughout our holiday season, is traditional to reach out to others with well wishes and gifts from the heart. Whether it be a Christmas card or a box of holiday cookies, it is important to let friends know how much we love them. Ella Wheeler Wilcox states, "For here lies the pleasures of living: In taking God's bounties and giving the gifts back again." So, how do you respond to a kind gesture from a friend? As I mentioned before, there is a formula here: not only to receive but to return the favor. It's easy enough to send a card or gift a plate of cookies when someone does something thoughtful for you.

So, what do we do to show our thanks to God?

Fortunately, the formula is the same. When God gives, we give back. Our thank you note, our plate cookies to God comes in the form of Stewardship. In 1 Peter 4:10 we are reminded of

the following: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." The blessings, gifts, and talents God has provided us are an essential part of ministry. Through stories and parables, Jesus has taught us how to live thoughtfully and thankfully, and give generously from the heart. Through the gift of the Spirit we are able to share our love of God by finding new avenues to express our ministry.

As a congregation we have a passion for thoughtful worship, fellowship, and mission and we know what it means to give. Our faith calls us to be stewards of God's blessing. We say thank you to God by living out his plan for us. Yet stewardship is more than a simple response or a thank you card. Stewardship is a spiritual practice that allows us to grow as we give. By letting go of a bit of what we have, we have the ability to not only help others in need but transform our own lives as well. To quote Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Friends, as we prepare for the challenges of a new year, I want you to consider what it means to be a good steward. God has blessed our congregation with so much and it is fitting to consider what each of us can do in return. They say that giving should hurt a bit...that giving should be felt. What would your budget be like

(Continued on page 6)

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



11/1 Sarah Super
 11/5 Jeff Persons
 11/5 Jeffery Super
 11/9 Abram Wandell
 11/11 Maxann Morrison
 11/13 Pat Lynn
 11/14 Alison Super

† Al Nash
 † Maryanne Persons
 † Calvin Piland
 † Nancy Forrester
 † Richard Alan Goforth, Sr.
 † Kelsey Hagwood
 † Linwood U. Holland
 † Jimmy Hope
 † Jon King
 † Keith Lindsey
 † Bud Little
 † Diane Stewart MacKenzie
 † Roy Malonson
 † Joyce Milteer
 † Shirley Ries
 † Jeff Snow
 † SPC's Living Waters for the World
 and World Vision partners in
 Guatemala dealing with COVID-
 19

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!*

† Laura Dawson (relative of Maryanne Persons)
 † Jarrett Hagwood
 † Derek Kershner
 † Nick Meadors (US Navy deployment)
 † JB Persons (Reserves)
 † Glenn Smith (Betty Chapman's grandson)
 † Hayden Spalding
 † Greg Vernon (Joyce Jordan's grandson)



News Briefs



SPC is collecting food pantry donations for the **Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center**. The greatest needs are canned veggies/fruits/tuna/chicken, cold cereal, peanut butter, and jelly. Donations accepted via church website.

The Deacons started a **Gift Card Ministry**. \$25 restaurant gift cards will be collected during the offering to help congregation members in times of need. These will be used to assist with meals.

Because of the uncertain climate, activities may be adjusted as we go. Be sure to read the weekly church announcements for any changes. If you attend an in-person event and later develop COVID-19 symptoms or test positive, please contact **Nancy Cisco** so that she can notify attendees in a confidential manner. **In response to the new CDC guidelines, mask use at SPC is optional for all activities.**

PDA'S SUSAN KREHBIEL DISCUSSES PARTNERSHIPS THE PC(USA) IS EMPLOYING DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE UKRAINE CRISIS

[HTTPS://WWW.PRESBYTERIANMISSION.ORG/STORY/REFUGEES-JUST-WANT-TO-GO-HOME/](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/refugees-just-want-to-go-home/)

DISASTER RELIEF-INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE PROGRAMS (DR000156)

[HTTPS://PMA.PCUSA.ORG/DONATE/MAKE-A-GIFT/GIFT-INFO/DR000156/?APPEAL=PDA&PACKAGE=UK22-ABB](https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/?APPEAL=PDA&PACKAGE=UK22-ABB)



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.

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!



Ring in Advent

Save the date - Sunday, Nov. 27- 4 PM!

Ring in Advent with the **Virginia Handbell Consort**. Under the direction of Al Reese, the Virginia Handbell Consort is celebrating its 25th year of handbell ringing throughout Tidewater. This Christmas-themed concert will be a wonderful relief from Thanksgiving turkey and football and a tremendous way to get into the Christmas spirit. The concert is free and open to the public. Voluntary donations to support the music program will be gratefully received.

This neighborhood event has been a year in the making. Let this be an opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to visit Suffolk Prez. Look for more publicity information in the coming weeks.

Volunteers are needed to pour punch and to help with seasonal decorating.

Visit VHC at their website: <http://www.vhcbells.org/>



Edmarc families for Thanksgiving and Christmas

The Holidays are approaching. Suffolk Presbyterian Church is once again sponsoring Edmarc families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to assist families struggling with health concerns during the holidays. Starting on Sunday, Sign up sheets are in the Narthex for members to donate requested food items. I have taken the liberty to double the items requested – combining the two separate basket requests (Thanksgiving and Christmas). Please take the opportunity to assist these needy families. All donations should be brought to church no later than Sunday, November 13. Those of you, worshiping with us online or unable to attend church and wishing to participate – call me and I will assist you. Do not hesitate to call me at 757-630-7142.

In addition to the Food Baskets, we will be having our Angel Tree this year with requested items adorning the tree. I am currently awaiting the requested items. Keep your eyes open for the tree and assist these families by donating a requested item.

I and the Edmarc Families thank you for your never-ending willingness to assist.

In Christian Love,
Nancy Cisco

Presbyterian Women

Have you ever wondered why it is a tradition to have church on Sunday? What's special about this day? What's the history behind it and why is it so important to our culture and our life with God as Christians? Come join us on Monday, November 14th at 7pm as we discuss "Sabbath and Sunday" from our PW Horizons study ***Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gifts of Rest and Delight*** by Carol M. Bechtel. In this month's lesson we will focus on scripture from Luke 4:16-22 and Acts 16:11-15 and consider the following key ideas:



Over the centuries, Christians began to celebrate the Sabbath on Sunday, but we still haven't come to an agreement on quite what that means. This uncertainty can be an opportunity.

Our lesson will include a DVD presentation led by author Carol M Bechtel followed by group discussion on Sabbath and Sunday. Our evening will close with our monthly business meeting which will include a discussion concerning plans for the holidays. Everyone is invited to attend. You do not need to read the study or have a study book to take part.

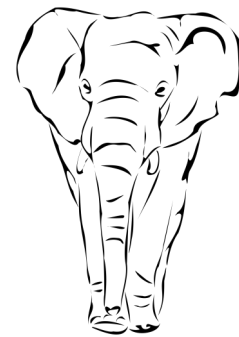
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82820638938?pwd=M3hNRnFSdkNmZWJzTjhOT05YcVZaZz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2063 8938

Passcode: 752230

“Lunch and Learn” will kick off with program on Africa and stewardship celebration



Lions, leopards and rhinos in their natural habitat will be the focus of our first “Lunch and Learn” series after worship on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022. Also in the spotlight will be antelopes, elephants and giraffes as well as zebras sporting their black and white striped coats, flamingos standing on one leg and a grand diversity of other mammals and birds.

Nancy Cisco will be our tour guide, armed with pictures and videos of her African safari this past summer. She will delight us with tales of the 11-day trek she and her sister-in-law made through Kenya and Tanzania in July.

Nancy will take us through the Serengeti, home of some of East Africa's large game areas and famous for its abundant large predators. We'll view African leopards and spotted hyenas and hope to catch a glimpse of the swift running East African cheetah. We'll enjoy lunch first, compliments of **Breena Branham** and the deacons. There will be barbecued chicken, green beans, mac-and-cheese, salad and rolls. The lunch will celebrate the culmination of our annual Stewardship season. During worship that morning, pledge cards will be received for your 2023 commitment to the ongoing mission and ministry of SPC.

Join us for this informative glimpse into the beauty of Africa's savannas and grasslands as we observe, from safety of our “front-row seats,” the magic of wild animals in their own environment.

If you've never been on an African safari, this is your chance! Passports not required.

(Continued from page 1)

if you put an extra five dollars in the offering plate? Maybe you have a specific talent that can be useful to the congregation? What would it be like if you tried something new such as singing in the choir or joining the Spiritual Fellowship group in prayer? Remember, stewardship is about growth. It allows us to become stronger in our faith and our relationship with God. God is good, and our giving is a heartfelt way to say thank you.

Spiritual Gardens

Sweltering heat succumbing to cooler temperatures, foliage turning crimson and burnished gold, early arriving sunsets - these are just a few signs of fall's arrival. I'm glad, because I really love this season.



Cold luncheon sandwiches give way to warm soup. Colorful Living Waters for the World pansies and glorious 'mums' now adorn many of our gardens. Raking leaves and checking out heating systems prepare us for the certainty of winter.

Renewing our gardens and preparing our homes for fall take a kind of commitment. The same applies to our spiritual "gardens." Indeed, tending to them requiring faith, work and plenty of attention. Yes, it is a labor of LOVE!

Fall ushers in our church's stewardship season, when we recommit to the care of our church and its ministry. How we take care of our church's ministry is related directly to the health of our relationship with God. Stewardship may conjure up imagery of financial "stuff": budgets and dollars, tithes and pledges, income and outgo. But perhaps we should look closer.

Stewardship is about being intentional in acknowledging the abundance that is in our lives, all from God. In your time of prayer, say "thank you, Father," for loving us and for the undeserved gift of saving grace through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When we accept this reality, then we are ready to become stewards of our spiritual gardens. Indeed, when we do so, then giving back a portion of our gifts of money, time and talent become not an obligation, but a joy.

In the next several days, I will mail you additional information in preparation for Stewardship Sunday, November 13. A special time will be set aside during worship to bring forward our tithes, gifts and pledges.

Fall IS a great time of the year!

Grace and blessings,

Jack Stoughton

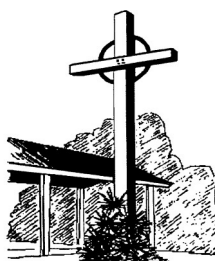
Elder for Administration, Finance and Stewardship



November 2022

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice	4	5
6 Communion Sunday/Daylight Saving Ends 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship	7	8 <i>Election Day</i>	9 7 pm Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)	10 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	12
13 Stewardship Sun. 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 12 PM Lunch & Learn	14 7 PM Presbyterian Women	15	16 3 pm Session Meeting (Zoom)	17 6 PM Spiritual Fellowship 7 PM Choir Practice	18	19
20 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 	21	22	23	24 <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	25	26
27 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir Practice 11 AM Worship 4 PM Virginia Handbell Consort	28	29	30			



Suffolk Presbyterian Church
410 North Broad Street
Suffolk, Virginia 23434



Visit our website!
suffolkpresbyterian.org

Suffolk Presbyterian Church

**Reverend Julie Sterling
Pastor**

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Pastor E-Mail:
pastor@suffolkpresbyterian.org

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 AM

CHOIR PRACTICE

10:30 AM

WORSHIP

11 AM

Upcoming Events:

November 9—Diaconate Meeting

November 13—Stewardship Sunday &
Lunch and Learn

November 14—Presbyterian Women

November 16—Session Meeting

November 27—Virginia Handbell Consort

Thursdays—Spiritual Fellowship & Choir Practice



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Church*