

THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION

5132 Bellamy Manor Drive, VA Beach, VA 23464 www.sccvb.org Phone: 757.495.0352

SAVE THE DATE

Food Pantry
August 5th & 19th
12:30 – 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
August 2nd & 16th
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

OCC Workday
August 18th
1:00 pm
Suburban Kids Room

Senior Ministry Meeting
August 21st
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Newsletter Submissions Due
August 22nd

LOOKING AHEAD

Promotion Sunday:
September 7th



From the Pastor's Desk ~ The Responsibilities of Deacons

In last month's article, we examined the qualifications of deacons... what the Bible has to say about the character of the deacon. Now we will see what the scriptures teach concerning the responsibilities of deacons - what they do.

*Spotting and meeting practical needs.

In Acts 6, the early church is confronted with a difficult situation. There are widows being neglected in the daily distribution of food. To address the issue, the Apostles instruct the congregation to choose seven godly men to be responsible for meeting this need. Based on this Acts 6 model, throughout church history, deacons have focused on meeting the tangible needs of the local church.

1. Deacons are able to spot practical needs and take the initiative to meet them . . . without being asked.
2. Deacons are drawn to problems; they walk toward them not around them.
3. The best deacons do not just react to present needs, they anticipate the future ones.

*Promoting and protecting the unity of the Church.

The seven were not merely deployed to solve a food problem. Yes, the distribution of food was the occasion, but the deeper issue was a sudden threat to the unity of the newborn church. A natural fault line had developed between the Greek speaking Jews (Hellenists) and the Hebrews. The original deacons were doing much more than food distribution; they were mobilized to guard and protect the unity of the church. A deacon cannot be a turfy, small-minded person who is protective of "their territory." They must be individuals who care about the whole church while addressing needs in a specific area.

continued inside on page 2 . . .

Pastor's Desk continued . . .

1. Deacons should be shock-absorbers; those who muffle shockwaves, not reverberate them.
2. Deacons have a vision for the overall well-being of the church not just their territory.
3. Deacons are peacemakers, eager to maintain the unity of the church.

***Enable the elders to focus on the ministry of the Word.**

It is not an accident that Paul, after first addressing pastors in I Timothy 3:1-7, immediately turns his attention to deacons in I Timothy 3: 8-13. The structure of the text suggests that the elders and deacons are working together as a team. The elders shepherding, preaching, providing oversight and the deacons, supporting them and the ministry of the Word as they meet the physical needs of the church.

Notice what Luke records in Acts 6:7, after the church appoints deacons, "And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith." With the deacons taking care of the tangible needs within the church family, the apostles were able to focus on the ministry of the Word and prayer. Teamwork!

1. A church without biblically functioning deacons will eventually lose focus and be distracted from its central mission of making disciples.
2. A church without deacons may demonstrate signs of health for a season, but over time its health will suffer.
3. Deacons are team players . . . knowing that as they joyfully accomplish their responsibilities, they enable the elders to joyfully focus on the Word and prayer.

Please continue to join us in prayer as we ask God to guide us through this transition toward elders and deacons at Suburban.

In Christ,

Pastor Todd





Food Pantry Ministry

August may be hot, but it is also filled with warmth, the kind that comes from fellowship and generosity. At our pantry, every can of food, every helping hand, and every prayer shared is a reminder of the grace we receive and give because we are a testimony to God's love in action. Here is a warmth filled picture of the Tyler family doing a little shopping for the pantry, Thanks guys!

We would also like to thank Hollis for helping us keep a clean pantry by dusting our extremely high ceiling and cleaning the carpet. Second Corinthians 9:11 says "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." This verse beautifully reflects our mission. We serve not only with food but with faith, kindness, and compassion. We can't begin to express our thankfulness of our church family's ongoing support. The Food Pantry team.



Seniors Ministry

During the month of July, our Suburban family was very busy with the church picnic, the workdays, and Vacation Bible School. Although the Seniors did not meet in July, we will be back on schedule for Thursday, August 21st. Please come and enjoy the music of Heaven Bound! Bar-b-que and coleslaw will be provided for lunch. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Larry Thomas



Operation Christmas Child

Wow! Thank you to everyone who is working so hard each month preparing or constructing items for the shoebox gifts. Also, to all of you who are donating items and supplies to help us toward our goal of 1000 filled shoeboxes by November 10. We are on our way. We have filled 207 so far with more to follow. Each child who receives one of these gifts also receives a booklet in their own language telling them about "The Greatest Gift" Jesus Christ. You are part of that outreach and invitation.

This month, the suggested items needed are coloring books, crayons, and Hot Wheels type cars. Any of the other items are still needed and accepted too, so keep up the good work! Always remember the children in your prayers and help with shipping the shoeboxes with donations of \$10 per box when you can. You can donate money using one of the envelopes located under the poster in the hallway, online at samaritanspurse.org, through accessing the QR code on the label also under the poster, or by check or cash to Suburban Christian Church, designated to Operation Christmas Child. Thanks for all your support. Lynn and The Team

Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Worship Service Assistant
8/3/25	Stacey Super	Melissa Tucker Barbara Skarupa	Liam Cooke
8/10/25	Melissa Tucker	Stacie Raymer LaToya Rakes	William Schnurr
8/17/25	Melissa Tucker	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Nathaniel Schnurr
8/24/25	Melissa Tucker	Christine Rogers Laura Tyler	Camrynn Gatie
8/31/25	Melissa Tucker	Melissa Tucker Sharon Rogers-Roulhac	Emma Tyler



If you would like to be a part of this ministry to our church families, please contact Stacie Raymer (sraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). We can always use substitutes. Please consider helping! Young teenagers are also welcome to volunteer.



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



Derrick J. Sloan
Associate/Next
Generation Pastor

MISSION: Our desire at Suburban Christian Church is to help you **KNOW, SERVE, AND SHARE** Jesus Christ,

Visit us on Facebook! Search for
"Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com
We want to hear from you! Contact us at office@sccvb.org

Ambassador Youth Ministry

Let's Talk About It: God's Love For Us Will Not Change

Have you ever doubted God's love for you? While we may hesitate to answer that question, all of us can acknowledge that at some point we have. A situation went in a direction we did not want it to, an unforeseen circumstance sideswiped us, or a relationship turned sour and left us heartbroken. After the initial shockwave passed and we got back up on our feet, we turned our sights to God and began to question him.

"God if you really loved me, you would not have let this happen!" "God if you really cared about me, you would have done it this way!" Do you see yourself there? I know I have questioned God in this way before. This sinful doubt is not where any of us want to be. We know that questioning God in this way is wrong, Scripture makes that clear (Ex. 17:1-7). Why then do we question God's love and goodness towards us?

There are a few reasons to keep in mind. First, on this side of eternity we still wrestle with the flesh. Though we are now in Christ, we have yet to be glorified. This means that we are still prone to sin and will be until our Lord returns (Rev. 21:3-4). Second, we have a real enemy whose desire is to lead us to doubt God. Satan does everything he can to place lies about God's love before us, hoping that we will sin by taking the bait (John 8:44). Third, the world we live in advertises a false sense of love and goodness, which can influence our perception of what they are to look like (Rom. 12:2).

When God brings something in our life and we cannot comprehend why he did so, we can be sure that the world, Satan, and the flesh will war against our trust in God's love and goodness. How then do we engage in this kind of battle and come out on the other side confident in God's love rather than doubting it? We rest in the truth that our God is immutable.

God is Immutable

To say that God is immutable is to say that God is unchanging. God has always been who he always will be. He is the "I AM" who eternally remains the same (Ex 3:14). This is one of the attributes of God that distinguishes him from creation. We ourselves change and we do so quite often. We adapt to new environments, we experience things for the first time, we grow older, and we fluctuate between our emotions. It is creation that changes, our Creator does not.

James 1:17 teaches us this truth by saying, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, *with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*" The stars in the sky may fade and alter, but with God there is no variation. Put another way the writer of Hebrews says, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*" (Heb. 13:8). Always and forever our God is the same.

Since God always remains who he is, his promises are unchanging as well. In other words, the promises of God overflow from his immutable nature and character. What he says he will keep because he does not change. Where mankind goes back on their word, God keeps his. "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" (Nm. 23:19).

What is clear is that God himself and his promises are unchanging. These truths however are not simply theological observations but are anchors which secure us when times of doubt arise. Because we are in Christ, we possess all the promises of God that he has given us (2 Cor. 1:20). One of those promises being that his love for us will never change.

When you are tempted to question God's love and goodness towards you because of difficult circumstances or overwhelming emotions, call to mind these immutable promises that have been given to you from our immutable God.

"Love" continued on next page . . .

"Love" continued . . .

- God's love for you is immeasurable (Ps. 103:11).
- Because God loves you, none will take you away from him and he will raise you up on the last day (John 6:37–40).
- In love, God saved you from your sin and reconciled you to himself (Rm. 5:8–11).
- Nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ (Rm. 8:35–39).
- In love, God predestined you to be adopted into his family (Eph. 1:5).
- In love, God made you alive with Christ and seated you with him in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:4).
- In love, Christ gave himself up for you so that you are now accepted before God (Eph. 5:2).
- Because God loves you, he will keep you from falling away (Philip. 1:6, Jude 24).
- In love, God sent his Son to take on the full punishment for your sin so that you are no longer guilty but forgiven (1 John 4:10).
- Because God loves you, he will take away all your pain and replace it with eternal joy (Rev. 21:4).

These are wonderful promises to meditate on when we are tempted to doubt God's love and goodness. There is however one more vital truth that we need to keep in mind which holds all these promises tightly together. It is this, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). God does not merely possess love, but he himself is love. Love is God's very nature.

When we know that God is immutable, then we see something even more beautiful about our Lord. He will always act towards us in love because he is love. God will not act towards us in an unloving way, because he would have to change who he is to do so. This means that when God brings something in our life and we cannot fully understand why, what we can know is that he has done so out of his unchanging love for us.

Difficulties in this life will arise and hardships will abound. During these times is where doubt about God and his ways begin to grow. When this occurs, we do not have to listen to the doubts for we possess a firm foundation that can silence them. Our God is love, he has promised that his love for us will remain, and he will not change who he is or what he has said. May we drink from these waters and find rest for our souls in these truths.

If you have a question that you would like to have answered in "Let's Talk About It," email pastor Derrick at derrickslloan@sccvb.org.



Sunday School Ministry

The Sunday School team would like to welcome Tina Williams! She will be teaching the kindergarten and first grade class, assisted by Chris Bulaski. She taught her first lesson on Gideon. The children had so much fun. And the teachers did too!

Please keep the Sunday School program in your prayers. Pray that Promotion Sunday, in September, goes smoothly. Laura Tyler

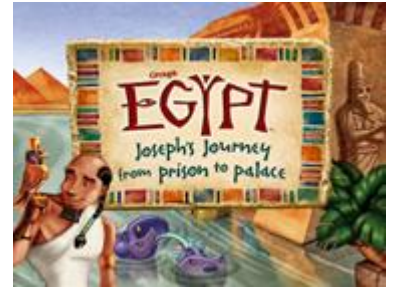


PROMOTION
SUNDAY!

September 7, 2025

Vacation Bible School ~ Joseph's Journey 2025

Wow! What a fabulous 4 days it was in Egypt getting to know Joseph and how God got him through all the trials and situations he found himself in. In just 4 days, the kids got to see Joseph in prison where he stayed faithful to God because he knew God would turn his bad situation into good. They were quite surprised to see the next day that Joseph had been made Pharaoh's number 2 because God gave him the special ability to interpret dreams. On day three we learned that God gives us forgiveness and that's what Joseph gave to his brothers. Joseph's family coming to Egypt to be with him was the focus of the last day because God gives us a family. Our earthly families may look different but because we have hope and faith in Jesus, we are all one family under God!



Each night we had thirty-two kids fill the sanctuary with their singing and praising the one true God. They saw God in their everyday lives and acknowledged them on our God sightings wall. They were deliberate and persistent in their talking about their God to the multi-god Egyptians and convinced all of them to join our final night's celebration! This year they collected \$197.42 in just four short days for Operation Kid 2 Kid. This year the money goes to children inside the U.S. who need cold weather gear such as blankets, gloves, hats, etc. They expertly tied four no-sew blankets in 4 days to donate to a local organization.

Every year God goes before us and takes care of all the perceived bumps in the road and potential problems. These 4 days could not happen without the tireless hours of prep work (Susan Phillips, Ara Miller, Janet Creekmore & Jan Grills), the entire crew that helped set up Saturday, Karen Meads for going the extra mile in the sound booth, our shop owners and the backbone of the system - OUR TRIBE LEADERS! It is always such a joy looking out and seeing both the kids and leaders enjoying themselves but there was a different vibe this year. It was exciting but there was a lot of love being felt in the building. There were bonds being formed that will be remembered for years to come.

As always, a special heartfelt Thank You to the Supers and Nancy Herbst for their eye for detail and staying extra hours to get things done. You all are invaluable. To Wendy Haynes for all the behind the scenes prep that is essential and keeps me on track! A huge Thank You to the entire Wiggins family for once again serving us dinner so faithfully.

Where will we go next year? Put it on your calendars - July 19-22, 2026





Look up the following verse and fill in the blank:

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant _____ against me, but _____ meant it for _____, to bring it about that many _____ should be kept _____ as they are today.

Just for ...

Suburban
Kids

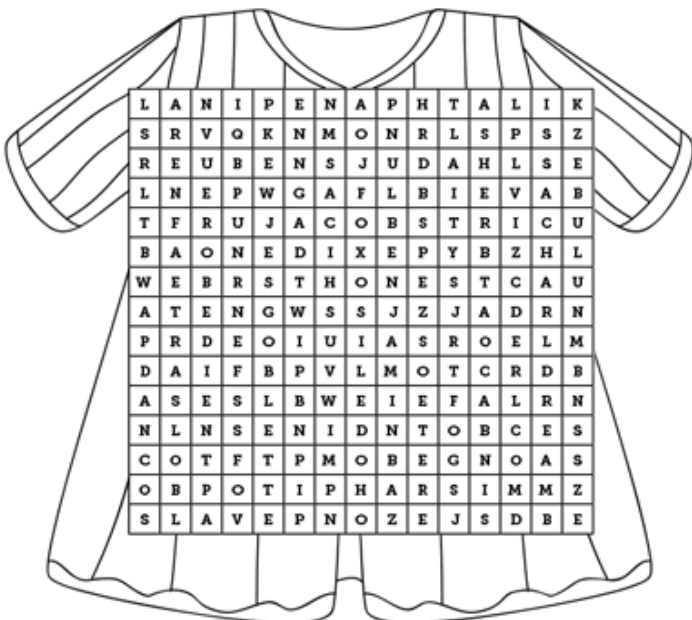
Color Me:



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Joseph Word Search

Search for the given words below hidden in the squares.



FORGIVENESS
BENJAMIN
GOBLET
SLAVE
NAPHTALI

OBEDIENT
JACOB
HONEST
ZEBULUN
ASHER

JUDAH
SIMEON
LEVI
COAT
ISSACHAR

GAD
REUBEN
DREAM
DAN
POTIPHAR

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Name: _____ Date: _____



AUGUST Word Search Puzzle



I Z Z S S H G T R T G E Y O G B P P
A Y B U H M D A N E I W R Q V A B B
C Y C O I A W O R R A Z Y E J R E I
Z T P Q A S D Z R D W D I W T B Y K
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B S P W S O E I G X A N N N Z C G N
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E S C K L N I R M H P U K A V R U W
C A G N G W A J O J A A K I A S T P
V Z B E S P T Z X V L S R W F P E X

Find these words related to the month of August

BOAT
GARDEN
CAMPFIRE
BIKING
FLOATIE
FISHING
RIVER
AUGUST

KAYAK
BARBECUE
OCEAN
CANOE
PICNIC
BEACH
ICE (as in ice cream)



SUN
SHADE
VACATION
SWIMSUIT
SWIMMING
POPSICLES
READING

WARM
LAKE
TOWEL
POOL
PARK
CAMPING
SUNSET



The words may be hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally.

Church Workdays Update

For 2 days in July, our church family got together to begin our church workdays. On Friday, twenty people showed up to help begin the process of sprucing up our church inside and out. On Saturday, 40 people came to help. From cleaning out closets and kitchen cabinets, wiping down baseboards and doors, to power washing, fixing the playground and putting down a fresh layer of pine straw ~ these are just a few of the things that were accomplished. We even had a team of ladies that came before and after the workdays to finish some projects that desperately needed attention. Our "TO DO" list is now quite a bit shorter thanks to this group of people sacrificing their time and talents to enable us to be good stewards of what the Lord has given us. wh



Children's Church News

Just for ... **Suburban Kids**

During the month of August in Children's Church, we will learn that John the Baptist has been preparing the way for the Messiah and there are some people who are not happy about his message. Even King Herod liked to hear John preach about Jesus, but he didn't want to hear about Jesus as the "King" of God's people and how John confronted him about his sin. So, he captured John and locked him in prison. The king's wicked wife had plans of deceit and John ended up being killed. WOW! The **BIG TRUTH** about this true story is **"We need faith to believe Jesus wins- even when it looks like bad guys are winning."**

In Mark 6, we will learn about The Happy Meal That Kept on Going. I don't know about you, but sometimes I love a Happy Meal (and the cute prize included)! I'm sure Pastor Todd would love an endless supply of pizza, but not me! This story tells us about how Jesus provided food to a HUGE crowd of people when he only had five small barley loaves and two small fish. Jesus multiplied that small amount to feed at least 5,000 people and they had twelve baskets of bread left! Jesus does supply us with what we need, but he is also the Bread of Life. He says in John 6:35, **"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."** Have you come to him for eternal life?

After this happens, Jesus needed a break because he was exhausted. He needed physical and spiritual rest. He went to a place where he could be alone, where he could pray to his Heavenly Father. When he had been refreshed, he began his journey back by way of the seashore. A terrible storm arose which caused the boat the disciples were in to be tossed. Jesus came walking to them on the water. Yes, that's right. Jesus was walking on the water! This scared the disciples, but Jesus told them not to be afraid. Peter said, "If it's really you, command me to come to you on the water." Peter got out of the boat, and he started to walk on the water, just like Jesus! But suddenly, Peter took his eyes off Jesus and saw the fierce wind and storm and started sinking. He cried out to Jesus to save him. Jesus reached out, grabbed him, and brought him onto the boat. Jesus asked Peter, "why did you doubt: You should have kept believing." What a good lesson for us to learn too: keep on believing – even when you see the big waves. Jesus then caused the storm to cease. The disciples fell at Jesus' feet and confessed, "You really are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). **BIG TRUTH: Because Jesus is the Son of God, he can save us when we cry out to him.**

Jesus loves everyone. He had spent most of his time in the promised land teaching and healing the Jews. He decided he wanted to share his love with people outside the promised land. These people were Gentiles. As he entered this region, a Gentile woman came to him and asked Jesus to help her daughter who was possessed by a demon. After speaking with Jesus, she said, "I may be a Gentile, but I trust you will have mercy on me too." She had faith in who Jesus was and that He could save her daughter. Jesus has come to love and save both Jews and Gentiles. He doesn't save us because of how worthy we are; he saves us when we realize we are low and needy. **BIG TRUTH: Jesus saves anyone who believes in him.**

Throughout the next few months, we will continue in the Gospel truths of the New Testament. Here we meet – in the flesh – the long-awaited Prophet, Priest, and King. The Biggest Story Curriculum is designed to help children understand God's plan to redeem the world through his Son, Jesus, by leading them through the overarching story of the Bible.

As our children head back to school, let's join in prayer that they will show the love of Jesus to their friends and teachers. wh

August Children's Church Ministry Calendar

Date	Lead	Assistant	Service Helper
8/3/25	Mary Justis		Samara Saucedo
8/10/25	Jan Grills	Leigh Simms	Liam Cooke
8/17/25	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
8/24/25	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Elena Tyler
8/31/25	5 th SUNDAY – NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH		

