

THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION

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

SAVE THE DATE

Food Pantry
November 4th & 18th
12:30 – 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
November 1st & 15th
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

OCC Collection Week
November 16 - 23
Suburban Kids Room

Senior Ministry Meeting
November 20th
11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Newsletter Submissions Due
November 18th

Church Office Closed
November 26 - 28

SAVE THE DATE

Sanctuary Decorating
December 3
10:00 am

From the Pastor's Desk: Awkward Is Better Than Silent: Finding Courage for Missed Opportunities

By Mack Stiles

The Citadel of Erbil in Northern Iraq sits high in the center of town. It's an UNESCO site filled with ancient history. "The oldest continuous living community on the planet," reads the marker on the gate.

One day friends came to Iraq to visit us, and we took them to the citadel. We wandered into the Gemstone Museum and then to the museum shop. The proprietor approached me with some crystals in hand. After some polite exchanges, he said to me, "Many Europeans think that if you hold these crystals to your chest you can achieve inner peace." He held out the crystals expectantly.

He seemed to think I might be one of those odd Europeans who might actually believe such nonsense. I knew he was trying to make a sale, so I examined them and said they were pretty. Then I rolled my eyes and said, "I don't think you get inner peace from a rock." He rolled his eyes, too, and we both smiled. It was clear that we were in agreement about rocks and inner peace.

And that was it.

continued inside . . .



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift."

2 Corinthians 9:15

continued from front page

Missed Opportunities

It didn't strike me until later how much I had blown it! As you read this, you're way ahead of me. You've already thought of the things I could have said — *should* have said. "May I tell you where I find peace?" Or, "Hey, I know a rock that brings peace. Do you know what the Bible calls Jesus?" Or, "I remember when I didn't have peace, but I do now." You can think of other things I might have said. But I said nothing. I settled for a smile, a quip, and a departure. Why am I so slow in evangelism? Why am I so good at thinking up stuff to say after the fact? There's lots of reasons, really. But before I answer, let me lay out for you some thinking that comes from years of blowing it and replaying my failures.

It's Not Really Evangelism

First, just what is evangelism? I'm embarrassed to say that it took me 30 years to come to a good definition: *Evangelism is preaching or teaching the gospel message with the aim to persuade or convert.* Notice four things about this definition.

First, it's not really evangelism if you aren't proclaiming the gospel by explaining, teaching, preaching, or otherwise talking. That's because if you only do good deeds without proclamation, you're lifting you up, not Jesus.

Second, it's not really evangelism if you don't talk about the message of the gospel. What is the gospel? *The gospel is the message from God that leads us to salvation.* This gospel message answers three huge questions: Who is God? Who am I before him? And what bearing does the life and claims of Jesus have on my life?

Third, it's not really evangelism if it doesn't have the right end in mind. It's not just information transfer — a gospel dump from one hard drive to another. *Evangelism is intentional and purposeful.* We're always ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us ([1 Peter 3:15](#)), because we want this person to have the hope that is in us.

Fourth, it's not really evangelism if the aim isn't to persuade or convert. As Paul says in [2 Corinthians 5:11](#), "We persuade others." Without these four things we're not doing the work of evangelism. I'm not saying if one leaves parts of this out that you're bad, or unchristian; you're probably doing wonderful, helpful things. It's just not evangelism.

Proven Ways to Overcome Fear

So, why am I so slow of speech, so thick of tongue when it comes to evangelism? Why am I such a coward? *Fear.* We fear rejection. We fear looking stupid because we don't know what to say. We fear making other people uncomfortable. Sometimes in the Middle East, I fear going to jail — or worse. Most of you reading this don't worry about going to jail (at least not yet), so let's take that off the table for the moment. And besides, the actual fact is I've found the Kurdish people in Northern Iraq some of the most winsome, engaging, and willing people to talk to about spiritual life in the world — which makes it all the more maddening that I missed talking to the shop owner. Our reluctance to evangelize usually boils down to one thing, and that is our fears — and primarily one fear, what the Bible calls our "fear of man" ([Proverbs 29:25](#)). If you, like me, struggle to speak up for Christ when the opportunity comes, here are three ways I have learned to fight the fear of man.

1. Just slay it.

If you find a scorpion in your kid's bedroom, you don't get to it tomorrow. You kill it now, and with gusto. Slay your fear of man the way you would slay a scorpion.

The way to murder our fear of man is to love God more — to be so in love with Jesus and what he's done for us that we live for him anywhere, all the time. This is the way to put to death the fear of man. Evangelism happens most naturally *not* when we've psyched ourselves up with motivational sermons on evangelism, but when we have fallen so in love with Jesus that the gospel pours out of us. Because we like to talk about whatever we love.

"Pastor's Desk" continued inside . .



Food Pantry Ministry

November is the 11th month, when we lose an hour on the 2nd to Daylight Savings Time. We celebrate Thanksgiving on the 27th. A social time for most, full of food and families and cooler nights. The harvest is winding down, and farmers begin to store all that was harvested. But here at Suburban we don't store the gospel message that we hoped we displayed at the Fall Festival! We share it with our community; we spread it out like bread for the hungry. In our church family we share what we have, and we are thankful for each and every one of you that makes our food pantry possible.

The Food Pantry Team

Seniors Ministry

At our October meeting, we enjoyed hearing how God has worked in the life of Robert Aerhart as a young man to draw him to Christ. On a mission trip that Robert made, God prepared a way for him to go and he shared how he overcame the doubts he had developed in college from unbelieving professors.

At our November meeting, we will be having our Thanksgiving lunch. Hollice will be cooking the turkey. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Ron Raymer will be sharing the historical context of the New Testament.

Larry Thomas



Operation Christmas Child

November is National Collection month. We will be receiving shoebox gifts from the area to carton up and deliver to the next relay point, Gateway Christian Church, on their way to children around the world. Please pray for all the volunteers and for every child who receives one of the boxes.

At our church so far, we have 561 filled shoebox gifts. Our goal is 1000. We will be stuffing boxes and accepting donations right up to the deadline of November 17. Give if you can and pray without ceasing.

Thanks to our faithful team of sorters, packers, cartoners, drivers, greeters, and loaders who work tirelessly throughout the year.

Lynn and the team



Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Worship Service Assistant
11/2/25	Melissa Tucker	Samantha Haynes Barbara Skarupa	Elena Tyler
11/9/25	Melissa Tucker	LaToya Rakes Nancy Herbst	Samara Saucedo
11/16/25	Melissa Tucker Stacey Super	Nancy Herbst Chris Bulaski	Emma Tyler
11/23/25	Melissa Tucker	Christine Rogers Laura Tyler	Nyssa Rakes
11/30/25	Melissa Tucker	Sharon Rogers- Roulhac Stacie Raymer	Liam Cooke



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



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

Sunday School Ministry

Have you ever noticed that there are Bible truths within beloved Sunday school songs? The songs you learned as child can bring back fond memories and remind us of what God's word says. "This Little Light of Mine" encourages us to fulfill the great commission even when the world wants us to hide our light, or when Satan tries to "blow it out". When we face opposition we can boldly stand and shout, "No! I'm gonna' let it shine". "The B-I-B-L-E" teaches that we can "stand alone, on the Word of God". What a reassurance we gain from remembering that God's word is solid and we can build our lives on it. In the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children" we are reminded that Jesus' love extends to everyone no matter their social status, skin color, or nationality. In Matt 28:19-20a it says, "Therefore go and make disciples of **all** nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Everyone is invited to become a child of God. In Rev 7:9-10 it says, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from **every** nation, from **all** tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" We can sing these dear songs now and continue singing all the way to heaven! Laura Tyler



You are invited to . . .

**a special performance of Luke
2:8-14 by the Children's
Ministry (along with the
Suburban Christian Church
Adult Choir) on Sunday,
November 30th, at 10:15 am.**



Belong Women's Ministry



The theme of our Fall Frolic Fellowship Breakfast was Gratitude. We learned that gratitude is a deep appreciation (a heart attitude) for things that are not always earned or deserved and that it involves focusing on the source of that benefit or blessing (James 1:17).

We also learned that gratitude is a form of worship. We are recognizing that all we have is a gift from God and that he deserves our praise and adoration (Psalm 100; Colossians 3:15-17).

As we continued our study, we were reminded that because of our sinful nature, gratitude often must be cultivated. The soil of our hearts must be "tilled up" or prepared for us to have an attitude of gratitude. Sometimes this "tilling" is painful and involves us digging down deep to ask God to expose our sin and ask for forgiveness.

What are some practical ways to cultivate gratitude daily?

- Take time each day to reflect on the blessings in your life.
- Keep a gratitude journal.
- Express gratitude to others.
- Cultivate an attitude of contentment instead of striving for more or better.

Of course, prayer and meditating on God's Word is vital in this cultivation process.

- Pray for a heart that is open to gratitude, even in difficult circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- Pray for the ability to recognize and appreciate the blessings in your life. (James 1:17)
- Pray for a sense of contentment and satisfaction with what you have. (1 Timothy 6:6-7)
- Pray for a grateful attitude towards others. (Colossians 2:6-7)
- Pray for the wisdom to see the big picture and recognize how all things work together for good. (Romans 8:28)
- Pray for the grace to forgive and let go of resentment or bitterness. (Ephesians 4:32)
- Pray for the ability to find joy in the present moment. (Psalm 118:24)
- Pray for a heart that is generous and giving towards others. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- Pray for the strength to trust in God's plan, even when it's difficult. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- Pray for the grace to surrender your worries and anxieties to God. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Let's pray that we will cultivate a heart attitude of gratitude to the One who provides us with what we need and blesses us with far more than we deserve. ^{wh}

Save the date:
Saturday, December 6, 2025

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm

**Why: Belong Women's Ministry
 Christmas Celebration**

**Theme: My Cup Runneth Over
 Speaker: Beth Blankenship**

**What to bring: Your favorite mug and
 a finger food to share**

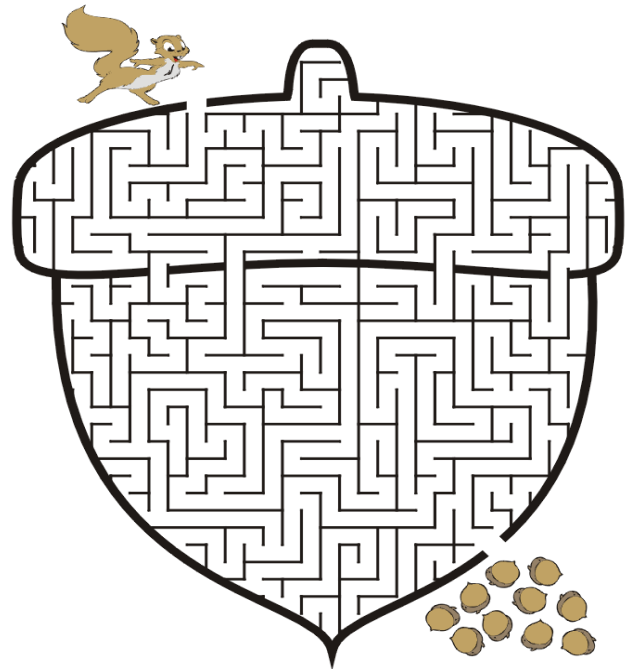
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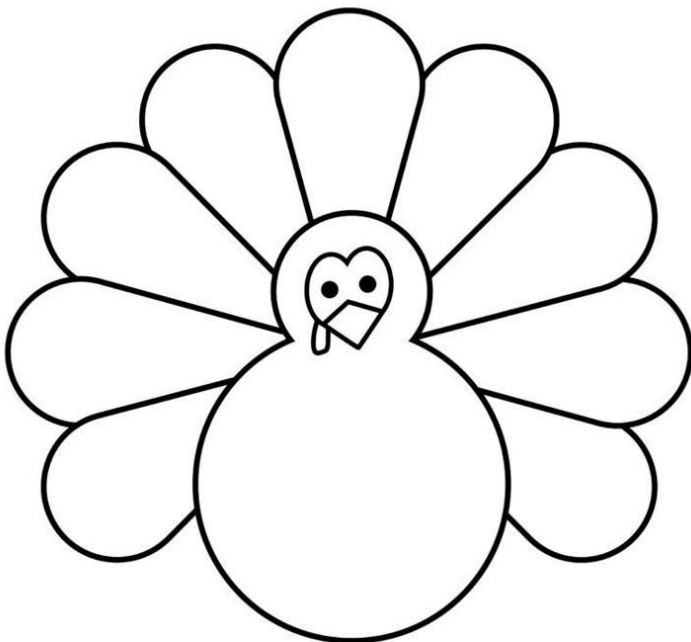
Just for ...

**Suburban
Kids**

Help the squirrel through the maze to find its acorns



Write something you're
thankful for in each feather.



printabulis

Name: _____



Thanksgiving Word Search

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

Word list:
FALL
FAMILY
FEAST
GRAVY
HARVEST
NOVEMBER
PIE
PUMPKIN
SHARE
SQUASH
THANKS
TURKEY



Ambassador Youth Ministry

Let's Talk About It: What to Do in the Fire of Adversity

There were only two times of the year at school where I was genuinely excited to be there. The end of the year field trip and when first responders would talk to us during class. Any other time, I would have been just as happy to watch paint dry. That may be a bit of an overstatement, but not by much.

When a police officer or a firefighter came in the room, a sense of excitement came with them. After all, these are the people you see on TV jumping into dangerous situations and who have all the cool stuff, what's a kid not to like? No one had to tell us to be quiet, we were locked in ready to hear what these rockstars had to say. Many years later, I still remember what we were told if ever we were on fire. "Stop, drop, and roll." We were not told how long the fire would last or why it was started in the first place, quite frankly as a kid I did not think about those questions. All I knew was that if I found myself on fire, I needed to stop, drop, and roll.

When we do get older however, we begin to ask those two questions. How long will the fire last, and why was it started in the first place? Not an actual fire of course, but the fiery moments of adversity. When the heat from a difficult circumstance is overwhelming, we want answers. Yet, these answers are usually never found. In our search for them time is wasted and the flames from our adversity seem to have only risen higher. When adversity sparks, we need to focus on the basics, we need to stop, drop, and roll. Put another way, as we find in Nehemiah 9, we need to know, remember, and act. It may not be as catchy, but it is the course we should take in the fire of adversity. So, let's talk about it.

Know

Unlike most of the adversities we will face, Nehemiah and the rest of Israel know why they are in their particular situation. Because of their sin and rebellion against the LORD, the foreign nation Persia now rules over them (Neh. 1:8; Deut. 28:64). They have brought this circumstance upon themselves; however, the LORD has promised mercy should they return to him (Neh. 1:9).

In this fiery circumstance, the first place they turn to for persevering hope is knowing who the LORD is. They cry out, "You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you" (Neh.9:6). Yahweh is God alone, the Creator, and the Sustainer who is worthy of all praise.

As God alone, Yahweh possesses all rule and authority. None can stay his hand; none can subvert his throne. Though Persia is ruling over them, they cannot do one thing to Israel outside of Yahweh's sovereign power. As the Creator, Yahweh has brought into existence all things and formed them according to his purposes. He knows exactly what Israel needs in this trying moment, just as he knows every hair on their head. As the Sustainer, Yahweh upholds all things by the Word of his power (Heb. 1:3). He walks beside his people providing for them like a Father with his children.

The moment adversity blazes before us like a forest fire, the first truth we need is to know who our God is. He is the Sovereign who has providentially brought this difficulty in our life. We may not know exactly why it has come like he does, what we do know however is his unchanging nature. He is in control of the circumstance we are facing, he knows exactly what we need in it, and he will provide for us every step of the way.

Remember

With the greatness and goodness of God in our minds, the second truth we need is the faithfulness of our God. When the smoke from the adversity blinds our vision for what lies ahead, we need to look back and remember what our God has done for us in the past. For Israel they recalled the compassion, power, and provision of the LORD in their exodus from Egypt.

In his compassion, Yahweh saw their affliction and heard their cries as they were oppressed by the enemy (Neh. 9:9). By his power, Yahweh delivered them from the grip of Pharaoh and caused them to walk across the Red Sea on dry ground (Neh. 9:10-11). With his generous hand, Yahweh gave them all that they needed in the wilderness (Neh. 9:12-15).

While we have not experienced an exodus like this, we still can call to mind the compassion, power, and provision of our God in the past. When we were in distress, he heard our prayers when no one else knew what was going on. When we could not see how that certain adversity would be resolved, he brought peace into the situation in a mighty way. When we felt helpless from that difficulty, he stepped in and tenderly provided for our needs. Adversity can be blinding, but when we remember what our God has done, hope begins to set in.

AYM continued . . .

Act

By knowing who our God is and remembering his faithfulness in the past, we fix our minds on a bedrock of unwavering truth. This of course does not mean that the adversity will vanish. God will keep us in the fire according to his perfect timing, to grow us in Christ and glorify his name (Rom. 8:28–29). It does mean however that with this truth at the forefront of our minds, we are now better prepared to act as God would have us to. So, when adversity comes and our minds are filled with who our God is and what he has done, how should we respond? We respond with praise-filled trust in him.

In chapter 9, the people of Israel are spiritually returning to Yahweh. This is a response of trust in him. They are calling upon him in their calamity, trusting that he alone is able to deliver them from the enemy (Neh. 9:36). Yet, directly tied to putting their trust in him, is the worship of his name. Their response begins with, "Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise" (Neh. 9:5). When adversity came, intentional trust and praise became the active response of God's people. In other words, God given adversity should not produce emotional passivity.

Whenever our Potter brings us through the fire, one of our natural tendencies is to allow our emotions to take the reins and steer how we act in response. However, that is a far cry from the examples we find in Scripture. In fact, quite the opposite is true. Rather than emotions dictating our actions, we are to take control of them by actively putting our trust in God, out of praise for who he is. David says it this way in Psalm 56:3–4, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" David certainly experienced fear in moments of adversity, but the way he was able to get them under control was by resting them in the fact that God is worthy of trust. We would do well to follow his example.

Adversity will come at various times and take on different forms. The basics however remain the same; they are a one size fits all. We will want answers during these trying times and we will long for them to quickly resolve. If, however, we are going to walk through these difficulties well and in the way that is best for us, our focus needs to shift in the right direction. When we know who our God is, remember his faithfulness in the past, and put our trust in him, we will experience true hope from him and bring glory to his name.

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

College & Young Adults



The College & Young Adults will be meeting on November 9th (details coming) and at Pastor Todd and Wendy's home on the 23rd. If you would like to find out more information, please see Derrick Sloan.

Current Study:

Trusting God by Jerry Bridges

Music Ministry

Members of the music ministry begin to get excited about the end of the year. Opportunities for special music abound. Thanksgiving reminds us each year how much we have to be thankful for in our Christian walk. Many traditional hymns like "Come, Ye Thankful People" and "We Gather Together" help us remember our gifts and the bounty often seen this time of year. But newer songs like "Thank you Jesus for the Blood" remind us of the ultimate gift, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, on the cross for us.

As we enter into these final two months of the year, we look forward to the celebrations around the birth of Christ. For without His birth there could be no death, no sacrifice, no redemption, no hope of eternity for us. The bell choir will help us kick off this season of thanks with special music of thankfulness in November and will give us a peek under the Christmas wrapping with early Christmas music! Then at the end of the month the children of Sunday School who have been learning a special song from Luke 2 will share it with us. This will officially launch our Christmas season.

Don't forget that the first Sunday (12/7) is Pastor Todd's Christmas with the children. It's a very special day where our children are treated to a special Christmas story read to them by Pastor

Todd. The second Sunday (12/14) is the Christmas cantata. The music of Come Adore has many fresh new musical offerings. There are ways to support this effort behind the scenes if you do not sing. If you do not sing but would like to help with preparations, please reach out to Karen Meads. There are needs in the tech area, platform set-up, etc.

Then, the third Sunday (12/21) is Christmas Sunday where Pastor Todd will bring his Christmas message and will include more special music. That is followed by a very special Christmas Eve candlelight and communion service, a worship service unlike any other.

Make sure you mark your calendars for these special events and don't forget to enter this season with "Thanksgiving" in your hearts!

Karen Meads



AWANA Ministry

Just for ... **Suburban Kids**

With the visit of both Pastors Todd & Derrick, the kids decorated the sidewalks with picture representations of their favorite Bible stories or verses. They also decorated gifts for Pastor Appreciation month. At our Fall Festival, we enjoyed games and a small cake walk.

Carol Brooks

What's Happening

Nov. 2 - OCC Night - always a club favorite!!!

Nov. 9 - Who's Who Night - match the Bible story to the person

Nov. 16 - Inside Out Night - wear your clothes inside out

Nov. 23 - Double Points Night - earn extra points if you can recite a verse not in your workbook

Nov. 30 - Turkey Week - NO CLUB



"Pastor's Desk" continued . . .

2. Die to perfectionism.

Evangelism doesn't spring out of us fully formed and perfect. It's sensitive communication about deep things, with enormous ramifications for people's lives. It takes effort, practice, and planning. Even after effort and practice and planning, it's not perfect. Ninety-nine percent of the time I share my faith, I see things after the fact that were slips, fails, and just plain awkward mistakes.

But awkward is better than silent (it's better than slick and canned, too). I take great joy in knowing that God is pleased with our embarrassing moments sharing about what he means to us.

Besides, how many people have come to faith through some goofy evangelistic effort? Praise God that he hits straight with a crooked stick when it comes to evangelism. He takes our efforts to share our faith and uses them to change eternity for others.

3. Share the gospel as a family.

There was a time when I thought it was a cop-out to bring people to church. "Hard core evangelists don't need the church," I thought. I don't think that anymore. If the church is doing what the church is supposed to do — preaching the word, loving each other, pursuing unity in the Spirit, deepening our joy in God, rooting everything in the gospel — then that family is the most powerful witness we have.

Bring your friends to church. Talk to them about the sermon when it's over. Or just meet people who have wandered into church with the aim to see where they are with Jesus.

When we overcome all the fears we face in evangelism — slaying the deadly fear of man, dying to our fears of failure, and inviting people into our churches — there are deeper joys lying on the other side of the awkward conversations we often dread.

*Mack Stiles (@mackstiles) formerly served as Senior Pastor of the Erbil International Church. He's the author of *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*.*

Dear Church Family,

It is with deep love in our hearts that Wendy and I would like to express our gratitude for the Pastor Appreciation gift. We cannot thank you enough for the sincere love and kindness you have shown to us these past 20 years.

God has been so good to us . . . God is good ~ all the time! These are exciting times at Suburban, and we look to the future with confidence that He who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. To Him be the glory!

Love,

Pastor Todd & Wendy



Children's Church News



The past few times that I have kept our granddaughter, Willow, we have been exploring outside. She is very curious, so with the changing of the seasons, we have seen so many things – colored leaves, pinecones, pieces of bark, caterpillars, and pebbles. We have been very curious on our little adventures.

Zachaeus had climbed up in a tree "seeking to see who Jesus was." (Luke 19:3) He wasn't a popular guy because he was a tax collector and rich. He was also very short, so he climbed up a sycamore tree to try to see Jesus. When Jesus saw him, he called Zachaeus by name and

went to Zachaeus's house. Zachaeus received Jesus joyfully (Luke 19:6) with his entire heart and actions. He gave half of what he had to the poor and promised to give back to those whom he had cheated four times as much. He received Jesus and gave his riches away in one day. Zachaeus knew that he was a big-time sinner, but he also knew that Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10) – both poor and rich, short and tall. Zachaeus needed a Savior, the Snake Crusher, to crush all his sins and so do we! "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

During the month of November, we will be discovering the following Big Truths: Jesus is the King of Kings – but not the king God's people expected (Luke 19), Jesus wants faithful and fruitful followers (Mark 11), we cannot love Jesus too much (John 12), and every time we take the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper, we celebrate that Jesus died for our sins (Matthew 26). ^{wh}

November Children's Church Ministry Calendar

Date	Lead	Assistant	Service Helper
11/2/25	Mary Justis		Samara Saucedo
11/9/25	Jan Grills	Leigh Simms	Liam Cooke
11/16/25	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
11/23/25	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Elena Tyler
11/30/25	NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH		



a friendly
reminder

Dear Ministry Leaders and Sunday School Teachers,

As you make plans during the Christmas season, please let the church office know if you would like your ministry Christmas events placed on the Christmas Church Calendar which will be included in the December Suburban Connection Newsletter and in the bulletin on the first Sunday of December.

Joyfully,
Wendy Haynes