THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION

5132 Bellamy Manor Drive, VA Beach, VA 23464 <u>www.sccvb.org</u> Phone: 757.495.0352

SAVE THE DATE

Food Pantry September 2nd & 16th 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study September 6th & 20th 8:00 am Fellowship Hall

OCC Workday September 15th 1:00 pm Suburban Kids Room

Senior Ministry Meeting September 18th 11:00 am Fellowship Hall

Newsletter Submissions Due September 22nd

LOOKING AHEAD

Fall Festival



From the Pastor's Desk ~ Who Are Church Members?

These are exciting times at Suburban! God has been so good to us! We recently completed our journey through the book of Ephesians and now will jump into the book of James. The Lord is blessing us with steady growth. It is a joy to see our church open its arms and welcome all the new faces. We have also approved and begun the remodeling of the sanctuary. We get to enjoy the blessing of sitting in metal chairs for the next few months!

In addition to all these wonderful blessings, plans are being made to install elders and deacons at Suburban. There is a group of men meeting twice a month to prayerfully guide us through this transition. Currently our focus is on rewriting the Church constitution. We are making steady progress. I would ask that keep us in your prayers...Pray for God to carry us through this process. We will have an update to share with you during the fall congregational meeting in November.

In the last four articles we have answered a few questions: Who are elders and what do they do? Who are deacons and what do they do? In this month's article, we will answer the question: Who are church members? It may be helpful to begin by defining the local church. The local church is the institution created by Jesus Christ; which he gave authority to proclaim his gospel, to affirm gospel professions, and to oversee the believer's growth in the gospel.

To answer the question about Church membership we will look at the two times Jesus mentions the word...Church.

1. A church member is someone who confesses with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and the local church, having the authority of Christ, affirms their profession. This principle is enacted in Matthew 16:13-20 as Jesus affirms Peters confession and gives him the keys/authority to act on heaven's behalf.

"He said to them, "but who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "you are the Christ, the son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loose in heaven."

Pastor's Desk Continued . . .

Jesus is the builder of his church...and he will build his church on people like Peter, who confess with their mouth and believe in their heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus then gave Peter and the apostles the keys of the kingdom, which gave them the authority to act as God's official ambassadors... authorizing them with the ministry of the gospel, which includes affirming one's faith in Jesus as the son of God and administering the ordinance of baptism. This authority to recognize one's profession of faith and to baptize has now been given to the pastors and elders of each local church.

2. A church member is someone who submits their presence and discipleship to the love and oversight of a local church and its leaders. This truth is taught by Christ in Matthew 18:15-20.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church. And if he refuses to listen even to the Church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Fathers in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

In the same way that God has ordained and authorized parents (a dad and mom) to oversee the growth of their children; loving them, providing for them, nurturing them, teaching them, correcting them and disciplining them... so also, Christ has ordained and authorized the local Church to oversee a Christian's spiritual life. In Matthew 18 Jesus clearly expects every believer to be a member of a local church family. So, church members realize that they can't live the Christian life on their own and submit to the authority of Christ by joining a local church. Will the local church perfectly disciple every believer? No... we will make mistakes. But the fact that the church makes mistakes, just like parents make mistakes, does not take away it's God-given responsibility to make disciples.

Becoming an active member of a local church family IS God's plan for our spiritual well-being. Please pray that God will continue to pour out his blessings on us as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Todd





Food Pantry Ministry

As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, we're reminded of the beauty of the harvest—both in nature and in spirit. September is a time to reflect on the blessings we've received and how we can share them with others. Whether you're donating, volunteering, or receiving, your presence matters. Every can of food, every smile, every prayer sown into this food pantry brings forth a harvest of joy.

September 1 is Labor Day honoring workers and their contributions. There are a great group of workers that sort, shop and pack the bags to give away at our food pantry. We also appreciate the behind-thescene workers that provide special goods such as produce and shelf-stable milk. Let's continue to sow Kindness and reap Joy in our work all year long. The Food Pantry Team

Seniors Ministry

At our September meeting on **Thursday**, **September 22nd**, our guest speaker will be Jon Stull of the Great Bridge Museum. He will be speaking on the history of Great Bridge and this area during the Revolutionary War period.

Soft Tacos will be served for lunch. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Larry Thomas



Operation Christmas Child

A Story to Ponder: Reminded of God's Faithfulness After Helene



Letis Avila lifted her hands to the Lord in prayer as Hurricane Helene bore down on her western North Carolina home last September. Though the storm took a lot from the Salvadoran mother of two, Letis is still praising God today.

Soon after the sky cleared and waters receded, two Samaritan's Purse staff members arrived at her door with hope and encouragement from God's Word. They also brought resources to help sustain her and the children as they recovered from the devastation left behind by Helene. We gave Letis a grocery store gift card that provided her with weeks' worth of much-needed food—a lifeline during a difficult season for the family.

"From the moment they entered," she said of the Samaritan's Purse staff, "it was like two angels entering your house."

Samaritan's Purse also gifted her son a copy of the New Testament, the same copy we give to Operation Christmas Child shoebox recipients who go through our discipleship course, *The Greatest Journey*. Suddenly, Letis recognized the logo on the book and remembered that she'd received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift when she was a child in El Salvador.

We praise God for all that He is doing through our continued response to the damage left from Hurricane Helene. Also, as the Christmas season approaches, please prayerfully consider packing an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift to send the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

samaritanspurse.org

SEPTEMBER COLLECTIONS: DOLLS, KICKBALLS, SOCKS

Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Worship Service
			Assistant
9/7/25	Melissa Tucker	Samantha Haynes	Samara Saucedo
	Betty Owens	Barbara Skarupa	
9/14/25	Melissa Tucker	Stacie Raymer	Donovan Saucedo
		LaToya Rakes	
9/21/25	Melissa Tucker	Nancy Herbst	Elena Tyler
	Stacey Super	Chris Bulaski	•
9/28/25	Melissa Tucker	Christine Rogers	Liam Cooke
		Laura Tyler	



If you would like to be a part of this ministry to our church families, please contact Stacie Raymer (<u>sraymer@odu.edu</u>; 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,

Ambassador Youth Ministry Let's Talk About It: Biblical Service Breaks Silence to Sin

Last month a video became viral over social media as a fight erupted between individuals in Cincinnati. It is not sure exactly why the brawl broke out, but the altercation quickly escalated. People in the streets were enraged with one another, with no respect for their actions or the harm it would bring. Tempers flared to the point of a man unjustly striking a woman, rendering her unconscious.

An event like this is nothing short of tragic. It is troubling to watch unjust violence upon the innocent. Yet, what was equally as troubling to watch was not the fight itself, but those who were around it. In the video, several bystanders lifelessly stood by with phones recording instead of calling 911. Many kept their hands in their pockets, rather than trying to defuse the chaos.

With the age of internet, intense quarrels like this one are frequently posted online with the same audience in attendance. More often than not, the mass of people gathered around the altercation remain on the sideline while injustice prevails. They do not want to get involved, because it is easier to keep silent than become a voice who stands out for what is right. Passivity loves company.

This passive response however is not simply found in the streets of major cities; it is also present in local churches. While believers may not be standing idly by as fellow brothers or sisters duke it out in the pews, they often do keep silent as that brother or sister continues in unrepentant sin. Rather than being a voice that brings light to the darkness, many of us look the other way out of a fear of confrontation or being labeled as "judgey."

Silence to sin may be accepted by society, but it is not to be this way with the people of God. Though we can all find this to be a difficult task, God calls us to serve one another by breaking silence over sin to the glory of his name and for the good of each other. So then, how do we biblically do this? We find great insight from Nehemiah 5:1–13. Let's talk about it.

Squeezing Till the Last Drop

There has been major progress made in the restoration project of Jerusalem's wall. Despite challenges from the enemies around them, God has prospered the work of Nehemiah and the Jews with him. Things appear to be moving in the right direction, what could go wrong? Enter stage right a famine in the land, enter stage left high taxation.

Food is scarce in the Jerusalem area, and the Jews are forced to pay taxes to Persia. Everyone is beginning to feel the weight of these economical burdens. Well, almost everyone. Many Jews have been forced to sell off land, get high interest loans, and even hire their children out as slaves to acquire the money they need for these demanding circumstances. Yet, it is not Persia or another country that is buying up this land or handing out loans with high interest rates. It is fellow Jews who held leadership positions, i.e., the "nobles and officials" (Neh. 5:7).

In this economic crisis, these nobles and officials did not lend a helping hand to their fellow Jews. Instead, they viewed them as pawns they could make a quick buck from. Like a modern-day loan shark, the nobles and officials took advantage of their kindred and squeezed them dry of the finances they had. Greed ruled their hearts. This sin however did not remain in the shadows long. Once Nehemiah heard of this atrocity, he took steps to intervene. From his actions, we learn how to rightfully serve the Lord and others by breaking the silence on sin.

Counsel Ourselves

The first step we take when we find out that a brother or sister in Christ is in unrepentant sin, is to take counsel with ourselves. In other words, we need to stop and think through the situation so that we can have a clear mind and an unobstructed pathway. Before Nehemiah confronted these leaders, he tells us that "I took counsel with myself" (Neh. 5:7).

"Biblical Service" continued...

"Biblical Service" continued . . .

Sin certainly needs to be called out, but it should be done with biblical wisdom. For example, we should make sure that we have all of the facts before we speak. Before he brought charges, Nehemiah listened to the outcry of the people and thought through what was said (Neh. 5:6; Prov. 18:13). Moreover, it is also wise to check our emotions before we speak with our brother or sister about their sin. We should speak to them from a zealousness for God's glory, a cool spirit, and the hope of their restoration, rather than some ulterior motive (Neh. 5:6, Prov. 17:27, Matt. 18:15). Thankfully, we are not alone in this counsel, for we can always bring it to the Lord in prayer.

Confront With Truth

After we think the matter through with biblical wisdom, we then can graciously confront our brother or sister with the truth of their sin. When Nehemiah brought the charges against these leaders, he was like a witness in a court of law. He told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. He did not add anything extra, nor did he sweep anything they did under the rug (Neh. 5:7–10).

When we confront our brother or sister with the truth of their sin, we should be precise and to the point. We are not there to use our words as a sword to cut them down, nor do we need to be passive and keep anything in the dark. We should speak to them in a Christ honoring way and serve them in love by helping them see their error. All of this should be directed towards the goal of restoration (Neh. 5:9, Gal. 6:1, Eph. 4:29). In other words, we preach to them the gospel.

The gospel is the light that shines before us the truth of our sin. It is ugly, but we need to see it for what it is, rebellion against God. At the same time, the gospel is the light that shines before us the hope we have in Christ. In Christ alone do we have forgiveness of sins (Acts 10:43). Whenever we confront our brother or sister with the truth of their sin, and then direct them to their hope in Christ, we are preaching the gospel to them. Should we find ourselves needing to speak with another believer about their sin, may we do so in love knowing that it is the gospel that compels us to break silence over sin (Gal. 2:11–14).

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.



Sunday School Ministry

We are excited about what our Suburban Kids are learning in our Sunday School program. On Sunday, September 7th, we will be having Promotion Sunday. Please remember to pray for our Sunday School teachers as they prepare the lesson each week and for all the children who attend our program and don't forget to fill out your registration forms before promotion Sunday. The completed forms can be turned in at the Welcome Desk or the Church Office.

Below is a list of the teachers and their classes to help you remember them in prayer:

Kindergarten & 1st Grade

Tina Williams and Chris Bulaski

2nd Grade - 5th Grade

Robert Rameriz & Mary Justis

Middle school

Carol Brooks & Lou Miller

High School

Chris Mowery & Betty Langnecker







AWANA Club Ministry 2025 - 2026

Well folks, it's September so you know what that means... AWANA is starting back up!!! These past 4 months have gone by so fast but now it's time to get back into memorization, fun games & learning more about God & His wonderful promises.

We decided to change the hours this year & will meet from 4p - 5:15p. Hopefully this will work out better with dinner time & losing daylight earlier.

If you are interested in helping out but have never been to a club night, come on by! We love visitors & I can guarantee you won't be bored!!!

What's coming up:

September 14 - Open House / Registration night - not a regular club night

September 21 - 1st Night Back!!!!! Welcome Back!

September 28 - Team Spirit Night - just in case we don't get all new uniforms in time, wear your club colors!

Carol Brooks





Belong Women's Ministry ~ Letting Your Leaves Fall

Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree "Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!" But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don't stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn't hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it.

God's Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31,32 (NIV)

To get rid of the old ways in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

- » By reading God's Word.
- » By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.
- » By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.
- » By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh, how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we're not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18,19 (NIV)

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other "decayed leaves" you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God. By Rachel Wojo, Dayspring



Be on the lookout . . .

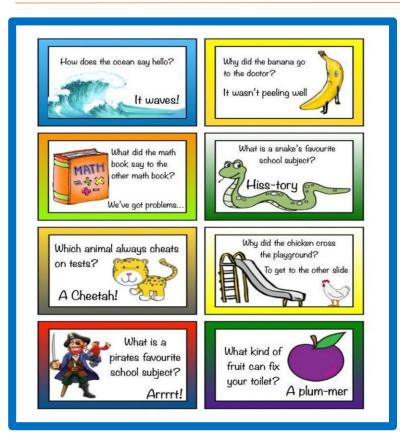
The Belong Women's Ministry will be hosting a Fall Frolic Fellowship Breakfast

on Saturday, October 25th, at 10:00 am.

Look for the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk near the church office.



THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION SEPTEMBER 2025





Color Me:



Jesus said to them, "I am the of ____; whoever comes to me shall not ____, and whoever _____ in me shall never _____."

John 6:35

BACK-TO-SCHOOL



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	HIDDEN	HIDDEN WORDS —		
ALPHABET	LETTERS	PENCIL	STUDENT	
BIOLOGY	LUNCHBOX	READING	SWING	
CALENDER	MARKERS	SCHOOL	TABLE	
HISTORY	PAINT	SCIENCE	TEACHER	

Music Ministry

It is hard to believe it is already September, surely we JUST finished Easter music. That means the choir is resuming rehearsals and we would **LOVE** to have new members join us! The usual Tuesday evening rehearsal starts at 7pm and runs to 8:30.



NEW - If you are interested in joining the choir but find evenings challenging, we are starting a NEW **daytime** rehearsal. The day and time for this rehearsal will be announced in the bulletin. This group will practice all the same music as the evening group. Then Sunday mornings, both groups will join together in the Sanctuary for worship together. I am hoping to grow the size of the choir to a powerful worship leading body. By expanding our rehearsal options, I expect we will have more participants. There will still be a few Saturday morning combined rehearsals in preparation for cantatas.

The Christmas cantata this year will include children and youth as well. This exciting music is easy to learn and some of the most meaningful and "musical" new works that I have heard in a long time. This will be an event to start NOW with plans to include friends and family.

Rehearsal times for children will be coordinated through the existing children's programs with their leaders. Karen Meads





I & 2 Peter – Courage In Times Of Trouble

During the next three months, the men will be studying I & 2 Peter during the Men's Breakfast and Bible Study. Peter addresses believers in the early church, who were scattered across the Roman Empire, who were facing the threat of increased persecution. Peter, the most outspoken of the disciples and leader among the Apostles, wrote two practical and encouraging letters to strengthen the hearts of these followers of Christ. Through words of hope and wisdom, he taught them how to live victoriously in the midst of the life-threatening trials they were facing.

In his first letter, Peter reminded believers of the many blessings available to them because of their sufferings. In the second letter, he warned them against the false teachers who were invading their churches and teaching them deceptive doctrines. Peter's letters of encouragement and warning are just as important for believers today to hear, understand, and apply to their lives as they were during the first century.

The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is an outstanding opportunity for the study of God's Word, prayer and fellowship for men of all ages. It begins at 8:00 am and concludes around 9:30 am.

College & Young Adult Ministry

The College & Young Adults will be meeting at the home of Jan Grills on **Sunday**, **September 14**th, **at 7:00 pm** to continue our study on *Trusting God* by Jerry Bridges. Thank you, Jan, for sharing your home to our group. wh





Sanctuary Renovation Update

The Sanctuary Renovation Committee presented its proposal to the congregation at the special August 31st meeting. The proposal was unanimously approved. Below are details of the plan and a general timeline of events over the next months.



The work will begin **THIS WEEK** with the first Suburban work day occurring 9/6. This will be followed by one more on 9/13 and, if needed, a third one on 9/20. During these days we need to remove the pews from the sanctuary, break them down and place them in the debris container/s for removal. We also need to remove all the carpet from the platform and the pulpit. This is so we can begin the construction of the modified platform area which needs to be done before painters and flooring contractors come. Finally, we need to remove the wooden chairs from the choir room while we have the debris container on site. While this sounds like heavy work, there is plenty of work for women and teens willing to assist. LUNCH will be provided on these days. If you can come, please, help!

The overall plan includes a "coffered" feature on the ceiling to address the defects at the seams. New pews and matching choir chairs have been ordered with matching carpet and vinyl plank flooring. There will be fresh paint, new lighting and window treatments to permit more natural light. A new pulpit for the center and a new alter table will round out the design.

There is a strong possibility we will not need to be out of the sanctuary for Sunday worship. However, that depends on every contractor staying on schedule, and that rarely happens. Should that occur, we will use the fellowship hall as an alternate worship space. In either case, there will likely be a need for teams of people to help with Saturday set-up and Sunday removal of chairs in the sanctuary. All these needs will be communicated via church email.

If everything moves forward on schedule, everything should be done by December 1. The pews may not arrive by then, but all the other work should be complete. Below is the architect rendering of the updated space.



THE SUBURBAN CONNECTION SEPTEMBER 2025

Children's Church News

Just for ... Suburban

Elementary, and we use material
esus. Below is a small article from

Il season to teach children about

As you know, our Good News Club Ministry meets at Woodstock Elementary, and we use material from Child Evangelism Fellowship to help teach children about Jesus. Below is a small article from Child Evangelism by Sarah Porch about ways you can use the fall season to teach children about God:

Fall is finally here, or as some of my friends like to call it, pumpkin spice season. Fall is a special time of year. The weather starts cooling down, school schedules are set in place, and some fun activities are around the corner. I personally love the first chilly morning and the first whiff of smoke from the wood-burning furnace. I also love fall because there are some great ways to use this season to teach kids about God.

Here are three fall-themed activities you can do with kids that will teach them more about the creator of this great season. The first idea is pumpkin carving. Did you know you can use a pumpkin to teach kids about how God changes us? You can, and it's a lot of fun. First, you have to pick out a pumpkin. You can always do this at a store but, if you get to go to a pumpkin patch with kids, take time to talk about how God is infinitely creative. Look at all the kinds of pumpkins and how different they are in shape, size, and color. How awesome is that? Make it personal by reminding them that God had fun making them unique too.

When you get your pumpkin home, set it in a safe space for carving. Take a look at it together. Your pumpkin is probably dirty and has lots of yuck on the inside. As you clean it, use it as a tool to teach saved children about our ongoing relationship with God. Remind kids that we all have yucky sin problems on the inside that we can't fix ourselves, but if we confess our sins, and let God work, He will scrape out the yuck. Once you're done carving, put a tea light or small flashlight inside the pumpkin, turn off the lights, and see the light shine. Compare the light to the truth and goodness of Jesus that shines out when we let Him into hearts. Point out that the darker the room is, the brighter the light seems to shine. Life can be hard, but if we let Jesus shine out from us, He will shine brightest during those hard times. If you want a step-by-step guide for doing a pumpkin activity with kids, CEF has an interactive evangelistic tract for kids that does just that. Go to cefpress.com and search for the "See the Light" tract.

The second idea for fall is for when you're making piles of leaves. I love seeing the colors change and the leaves fall, but there's something about stepping on crunchy leaves that is delightful. Kids love that too, and you can use this as an opportunity to talk about how we relate to God. As you're raking leaves and jumping into their piles, take a little time to talk about how even though seasons change, leaves fall, and the grass withers, God's Word stays exactly the same. Share Isaiah 40 verse 8 with them, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Remind kids that the world has all kinds of changes, but they can always count on God and His Word to stay the same. You can even help them memorize Isaiah 40 verse 8 with a verse song from CEF. You can find it at our YouTube channel, U-NiteKids. Just search for "Grass Withers." Situations and seasons of life may change, but the truth that comes from God will stay the same.

The last idea is for building Thankfulness. Rather than reserving one day in November to focus on gratitude, we can make it a seasonal theme. You can start a new family tradition with a Thankful Pumpkin. Clean and dry the outside of the pumpkin well. Use Sharpie markers to write two or three things from each family member about what they are thankful for from the summer which has just ended and something they are thankful for going into fall. Take pictures from all sides for the scrap book. Another idea is to collect leaves, cover them with paper and help kids do crayon rubs in fall colors. Leave an uncolored space in the middle to write an item of thanks and then decorate a space at home with the leaves.

September Children's Church Ministry Calendar

Date	Lead	Assistant	Service Helper
9/7/25	Mary Justis		Samara Saucedo
9/14/25	Jan Grills	Leigh Simms	Liam Cooke
9/21/25	Sammy Saucedo	Andrew Saucedo	Donovan Saucedo
9/28/25	Susan Haynes	Jeff Haynes	Elena Tyler

