

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



31120 Sycamore Church Road
Franklin, VA 23851
(757) 562-6749

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Ronnie Bulls

Vol. XIX, No. 5

May 2024

BEYOND RESURRECTION

We made it through the somber season of Lent and now find ourselves amid Eastertide, the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost. It is an extended season of joy and celebration as we relish Christ's victory through the resurrection and subsequent post-resurrection appearances. We will then observe three important events of the Christian Year: Ascension Day (May 12), Pentecost (May 19), and finally, Trinity Sunday (May 26).

The Feast of Ascension, or Ascension Day, concludes the Easter story. It takes place forty days after Easter and ten days before Pentecost. If you do the math, you will see that it is typically a Thursday but is often celebrated on Sunday. The significance of the ascension is twofold: It is a celebration of the bodily ascension of the risen Christ into heaven, and it signifies the beginning of our mission to spread the Good News.

After the Ascension, we will experience Pentecost, where I hope the sanctuary will be a sea of **RED**. Pentecost is a season that focuses on the Holy Spirit's work within the people of God, the Church. It is celebrated fifty days after Easter and recognizes the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence and the Church's beginning. It is an event defined by unity and prayer and tells the gospel story through the power of the Spirit.

After Pentecost, we enter into the long season of Ordinary Time that will carry us back to where we began: Advent. We kick off this season with Trinity Sunday, a feast celebrating the symbolic nature of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Admittedly, this is no easy topic, much less for a twenty-minute sermon, but it is essential to our faith.

While Christmas and Easter are the two most well-known days of the Christian Year, I hope you see the value of observing the entirety of the Christian Calendar and the richness it brings to our corporate worship and individual study. It is for us a means to "*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith*" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV). I look forward to worshipping with each of you as we seek to know Him more through the events of the church year.

Mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance,

Pastor Tracey

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

WORLD HUNGER



During May, the Brotherhood will be collecting money for World Hunger. Rice bowls will be available in the vestibule and the elevator lobby as reminders to support this mission. If you want to write a check, please put “World Hunger” on the memo line.

GENIEVE SHELTER

The no-sew fleece blanket mission project for the Genieve Shelter is in the process of making the most beautiful blankets. Join us on Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to participate in this meaningful project.

The Genieve Shelter serves families and individuals attempting to escape domestic violence from the cities of Suffolk, Franklin, and Smithfield and the counties of Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Surry.

Janet Bulls



Blanket Mission Photos



Operation Christmas Child

We've had a few months off, but now we are back and ready to start collecting again for Operation Christmas Child. We would love for everyone to help us collect items each month so that we know how many boxes we are planning to pack at the end of the collection year. We will start by collecting **fishing kits, sewing kits, and tool kits** this month. Fishing kits may include items such as hooks, bait, bobs, and fishing line. Sewing kits may consist of items such as needles, thimbles, sewing scissors, and thread. Tool kits may include hammers, screwdrivers, measuring tape, and nails. (These are just a few suggestions of what may be added.) A collection container will be in the Fellowship Hall with a sign marking that it is for Operation Christmas Child.

A packing party will be held at the end of the year, but if you would like to pack your own box throughout the year, you are more than welcome to do so. Just let us know, and we will send you a box as soon as we receive it. If you have any questions, please see one of us.

Thank you in advance for all your help and participation.

Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls

PICNIC & PRAISE AT THE PARSONAGE



You are invited to an evening of Picnic and Praise at the Parsonage. We will have dinner and bring out the sound system for some praise music, prayer, and scripture led by Mark and me. BRING A LAWN CHAIR AND CARPOOL FROM THE CHURCH AND JOIN US one Wednesday a month in place of Family Night Supper and classes at the church. Heat/Rain moves it to the church.

May 29 – Picnic Dinner will be provided!
Dinner 545pm | Praise 615pm to 7 pm

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Sycamore Shares

Sycamore is Sharing Sunshine with Riverdale Elementary during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-10. We will spread sunshine with dessert and snacks on Monday, May 6th, to start their week.

We are sharing “yellow” items, including banana pudding, lemon/pound cake, peanut M&Ms, lemonade, plain Lays chips, lemon heads, and lemon drops...We will also share cards with sunshine and notes from the congregation. Look for a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

The Backpack project is winding down for this year, but money is still needed to fund our contract for providing weekend meals for the children in need at Riverdale Elementary School. Mark your donations “Backpack.”

Sycamore Sends

We are sending cards to members, friends, and neighbors in need. Look for cards in the fellowship hall.

We continue to send meals on Wednesday nights. If you know of someone who could use a prepared meal, let one of the committee members know.

Let’s spread some love in the community.
Community Connections Team,

Holly Giles
Joey Francis
Erin Harcum
Jimmy and Lou Vann
Sharon Moore
Tammy Woods

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



TIME TO RUN?

OR TIME TO stir ^{UP} the gift of **God** which is in you
2 Tim 1:6

It's time to stir up that gift! Everyone has at least one. The Nominating Committee will soon begin to seek out those in our congregation who are willing to serve the church. If you have an area of ministry that you feel particularly called to serve, please let one of the committee members know. Pray for the committee as they seek servant leaders and for yourself and each other as you discern where you can serve.

**Don't run when you see one of us coming!
Look inward for your God-given gifts!**

Committee members are Patsy Falls, chair, Robin Davis, Peggy Rush, Tricia Davis, and Charlie Harcum.

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

Below is this month's supper schedule. If the assigned dates are unsuitable for your class or group, please trade with another group and let Dianne Umphlett know about the change.

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|--|
| May 1 | Choir | |
| May 8 | Up and Coming | |
| May 15 | Covered Dish | |
| May 22 | Staff | |
| May 29 | Picnic & Praise at the Parsonage | |

PENTECOST SUNDAY

The liturgical color for Pentecost is **RED**.

Everyone is encouraged to wear red on Sunday, May 19, to observe this historic day in the church's life.



Pastor Tracey

FAMILY NIGHT

The fellowship we share during Family Night Supper is one of the highlights of our Wednesdays and our entire week. We appreciate and recognize all the work that goes into preparing these meals. We want to give our organized classes and groups a summer break.



Women On Mission is seeking individuals or small groups to prepare and serve meals for Family Nights during the summer months to keep this time of fellowship going all summer long. So, grab a friend or a couple of friends and sign up to serve a meal this summer. A sign-up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall for June 19 – August 21.

Please sign up by May 25. Any open weeks will be “Bring Your Own Supper” nights. The completed schedule will be published in the June newsletter.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Join me at the coffee houses listed below for a cup of coffee and some conversation. I will set up shop on Thursday mornings as follows:



| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| May 02 – Daily Dose | 9-10:30 a.m. |
| May 09 – Storehouse | 9-10:30 a.m. |
| May 16 – Daily Dose | 9-10:30 a.m. |
| May 23 – Hubs Vine | 10-11:30 a.m. |
| May 30-- Daily Dose | 9-10:30 a.m. |

Pastor Tracey

YOUTH LEAD WORSHIP & GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Save the date Sunday, Jun 9, for youth worship and graduate recognition, followed by a covered dish lunch.



DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on April 1, 2024. At that meeting, the deacons:

- Noted the roof repairs are complete, and paint has been ordered for the parking lot.
- Learned a preventative plan is in place for the weeds in the parking lot.
- Noted the church workday is April 13.
- Approved a request for use of the fellowship hall for May 11 by Sharon Moore.
- Noted 41 people attended the Seder Meal.
- Discussed plans to get more photos of activities at the church.
- Noted Communion will be on April 7, and a baptism on April 14.

The next meeting will be on May 6.

The Deacon of the month for May is Ronnie Bulls.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement – Ronnie Bulls
- Casserole- Holly Giles
- Hospital/Homebound – Tracey Pugh
- Prayer – Tricia Davis
- Transportation – Johnny Holland

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Church Council met on April 21. In that meeting, the council:

- Learned average Sunday School attendance for March was 39.
- Learned the youth will now be using the youth version of the adult Sunday School curriculum.
- Noted the BGAV digital conference was a success – with rave reviews from BGAV for the food committee.
- Learned 8 churches participated in the digital conference. Overall, Sycamore received a good report.
- Noted Tracey will be at school June 19-26.
- Discussed plans for Picnic & Praise at the Parsonage on the last Wednesday of each month from May through August.

MAY 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-------------------------------|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| | | | 1 Family Night Schedule | 2 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m. | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion | 6 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m. | 7 | 8 Family Night Schedule | 9 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m. | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Sunday Morning Schedule Mother's Day Community Connections 11:15 a.m. | 13 | 14 | 15 Family Night Schedule | 16 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m. | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Sunday Morning Schedule Pentecost Church Council 11:15 a.m. | 20 | 21 WOM 6:30 p.m. | 22 Family Night Schedule | 23 Coffee & Conversation Hubs Vine 10-11:30 a.m. | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Sunday Morning Schedule | 27 Memorial Day | 28 | 29 Picnic & Praise @ the Parsonage 5:45 p.m. Choir 7:15 p.m. | 30 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m. | 31 | |

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
 Sunday School 9:00 am.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.

FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
 Meal: 5:45
 Adult Study II: 6:15
 Men's Bible Study: 6:45
 Youth 6:45
 Mission Friends & Children in Action: 6:45
 Adult Choir: 7:45

CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary Email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org
 Church website: sycamorebaptist.org
 Church phone: 757.562.6749

Rev. Tracey Pugh – Pastor
 Email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org
 Cell Phone: 434.953.7930 (Call or Text)
 Office: 757.562.6749 ext. 2
 Office Hours – Tues-Fri 830 am-5 pm and as needed.

Blanket Mission Photos cont.

