

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Charlie Harcum

Vol. XLX, No. 4

April 2024

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME
... and all the time, God is good.

Greetings, Sycamore Friends and Family,

I have seen the above saying A LOT lately on social media, in text messages about praises and prayer concerns, and people are saying it. I first heard the saying in its entirety in the 2014 movie *God's Not Dead*. Seeing and hearing it so much lately makes me wonder if people understand what it means to say God is good and why it matters.

I think it is easy for most of us to say God is good when our lives seem to be aligned just right. When our hearts are bursting with happiness, our eyes are open to His glorious presence, and we can see the beauty of His creation all around us, we easily proclaim that God is good. But what about when life is hard? Are we as quick to proclaim the same? Perhaps not, but in these moments, we must hold fast to the simple truth that God is indeed good all the time.

The scriptures do not tell us that God does good, but that He IS good. This is who God is; He does not change. In Luke 18:19, Jesus declared, *"No one is good—except God alone."* Goodness is a part of God's nature which He cannot contradict. Similarly, righteousness and holiness are a part of his nature. He cannot do anything unholy or unrighteous. Listen to the scriptures as they talk about the goodness of God.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him" (Psalm 34:8).

"For the Lord is good, and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalm 100:5)

"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

We could add so many other verses to this list that discuss the intrinsic goodness of God. Sometimes we forget that God never said our lives would always be good. Instead, we are told that we would have trouble. We've all been there, sickness, accidents, death, pain, hurt, disappointments, and so much more, but God. Through it all, He promised that He has *"plans to prosper us and not harm us, plans to give us hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29:11). Our walk with God will lead us over mountains and through valleys, and we must remember that there is never a time when God is not good.

Recognizing God's goodness can take effort, especially when brokenness and pain try to have the last word. If we can all work on training ourselves to look for His goodness every day in every situation (good and bad), I believe we will see Him at work. It may be in the form of healing, restoration, growth, strength, righting wrongs, forgiveness, and so on. In turn, we will begin to reflect God's goodness to others. Then, we can truly say that God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good.

In His Goodness,

Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL MISSION FOCUS

Women on Mission's focus for April is Household Cleaning Kits for Franklin Cooperative Ministry. Items needed for each kit include: *laundry detergent, dish soap, hand soap, household surface cleaner, paper towels, box of tissues, and toilet paper.* Donated items are being collected in a designated bin in the fellowship hall. Church members will assemble the kits during Family Night in May.

GENIEVE SHELTER

Who: "Anyone" interested in a local mission project?

What: No sew fleece blankets

When: On Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 2, 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Why: Because there is a need... The Genieve Shelter serves families and individuals attempting to escape domestic violence. They serve the cities of Suffolk, Franklin, and Smithfield and the counties of Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Surry.

Have you ever felt you want to help but don't know what to do? Or I don't know where to begin. Well, look no further. If you can tie a shoe, you can tie a blanket. Come out and support the shelter. Share your love for Christ through this ministry. Hope to see you,

Janet Bulls

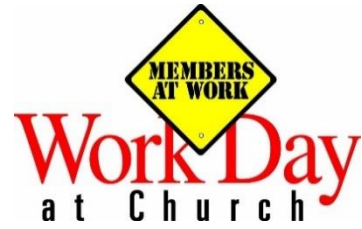
COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Come 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:



- April 04 - Daily Dose, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- April 11 - Storehouse, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- April 18 - Daily Dose, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- April 25 - The Vine, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Pastor Tracey



Come One and All
April 13, 2024, | 8:30 a.m. - Until

Buildings and Grounds and the Brotherhood are co-sponsoring a workday. We have several opportunities for you to help further the church's work. The playground equipment needs sprucing up; the handicap-accessible parking spaces require new lines and signs. We also have signs for installation at the church driveways, and if we get enough workers, we can clean the leaves and debris away from the church foundation. We will use Electric drills, screwdrivers, post-hole diggers, rakes, etc.

If outside isn't your thing, no worries; there is some organizing and cleaning to do inside the church.

A full schedule is planned; come out and help spruce up God's house and enjoy the fellowship of working together. Lunch will be served for all those attending.

Please forward any questions you have to George Giles or me.

John Jenkins
Buildings & Grounds Chair

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

Below is this month's supper schedule. If the assigned dates are not suitable for your class or group, please trade with another group and let Dianne Umphlett know the change.

- April 03 No Family Night
- April 10 Deacons
- April 17 Study Group
- April 24 Brotherhood



APRIL CONFERENCE

The date for the April conference is April 28, 2024 immediately after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Sycamore Shares

We are down to a few months of funding Backpacks for Riverdale. This is an ongoing ministry. Please give prayerfully throughout the year by marking your envelope “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 night. Let one of the committee members know if you know of someone who could use a prepared meal.

A thank you to all who donated school supplies for Riverdale and salad fixings for the Community Lenten service.

Community Connections Team,

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

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Church Council met on March 24. In that meeting, the council:

- Learned average Sunday School attendance for February was 40.
- Was informed that Women on Mission will collect items for household cleaning kits for Franklin Cooperative Ministry in April.
- Noted Sycamore will host a BGAV digital conference April 16.
- Learned the rescheduled date for the churchwide workday is April 13.
- Noted that baptism and communion will be observed on April 7.
- Noted the Brotherhood’s Rice Bowl campaign for world hunger will be in May.

JESSE F. VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP TEMPERANCE V. VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Jesse F. Vaughan Memorial Scholarship and the Temperance V. Vaughan Memorial Scholarship are available from the church office. Graduating high school seniors who are active church members are encouraged to apply. Contact Tricia Davis to get an application form. The deadline for applying for the two scholarships is April 28, 2023.

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon’s meeting was held March 4, 2024. Prayer concerns were shared followed by prayer. Deacon Team Ministry reports were received and the deacons discussed their role in the upcoming Seder Meal service.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for April 1.

Deacon of the month for April is Charlie Harcum.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

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

Contact the pastor or a Team Leader if you know of someone in need of the above services.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Articles for the April newsletter are due to Patsy Falls on or before April 23. Meeting this deadline will ensure the newsletter is completed, published, and in hands by the first of the month. Your help is appreciated.



APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	2	3 No Family Night	4 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	5	6
7 Sunday Morning Schedule Baptism & Communion	8	9	10 Family Night Schedule	11 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	12	13 Workday Begin 830 a.m.
14 Sunday Morning Schedule Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	15	16 BGAV Digital Conf 11 a.m.-2 p.m. WOM 6:15 p.m.	17 Family Night Schedule	18 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	19	20
21 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	22	23	24 Family Night Schedule	25 Coffee & Conversation The Vine 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	26	27
28 Sunday Morning Schedule Conference 11:15 a.m.	29	30	May 1 Family Night Schedule	2 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	3	4

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on calendar)

Sunday School 9:00 am.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on calendar)

Meal: 5:45

Adult Study II: 6:15

Men's Bible Study: 6:45

Youth 6:45

Mission Friends and Children in Action: 6:45

Adult Choir: 7:45

CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary's email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org

Church website: sycamorebaptist.org

Rev. Pugh's Email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org

Church phone: 1 (757) 562-6749

Rev. Pugh's cell phone: 1 (434) 953-7930

Office Hours: 8:30 – 4:30 Tues – Fri, and as needed.



Palm Sunday Altar