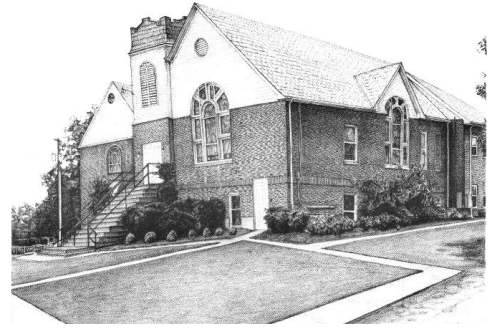


# SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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(757) 562-6749

Pastor  
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month  
Jennifer Harrell

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## Looking Ahead

I cannot believe that I am already writing for the January newsletter. I arrived in Franklin late August, yet it feels like yesterday. I must admit the past few months have been full for the Pugh family as we have worked to dig up our Crozet roots, and deepen our Franklin roots. When I walked through our family home of 25 years for the last time a few weeks ago, I must admit there were far more emotions evoked than I was prepared for. The same could probably be said for Sycamore, there have been lots of emotions the past few years as you have endured both an intentional interim period, and a pastor search during a pandemic.

For better or for worse it would be easy for either of us to get caught up in the past and allow ourselves to be held back emotionally. I believe the only way to truly welcome a new beginning such as the start of a new year, is to look forward, not backwards. We can do this with confidence gained from lessons learned in the past. Isaiah 43:18-19 reads: *"Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."* I do not believe that God wants us to go through life looking in a rear-view mirror; yet we do it, sometimes more than we should.

There is no better time than the present to look ahead and focus on what is before us. God wants to do a new thing in our lives and in the life of Sycamore Baptist Church. If we keep looking back, we will miss those opportunities. He wants us to rise to our full potential in Him as he calls us to do mighty things. The mission of Sycamore loving God, touching lives is a tall order. If we can keep moving forward, we can accomplish this mission. So, let us move on and keep our eyes focused on God, together. I look forward to all that 2021 has in store for us.

Happy New Year from my family to yours!

**Tracey**

## VISION BOARD PARTY

Let's get together for a time of fellowship and creativity as we think about and cast vision for 2021 by creating a personal vision board. A vision board is a tool that helps keep you on track toward achieving your goals, hopes, and dreams. Hosted by Pastor Tracey.

Sun, Jan 10 | 5 pm - 7 pm  
Sycamore Fellowship Hall



**Bring:** scissors, magazines, and a snack (boards and glue will be provided)

Link to sign up:

<https://forms.gle/QqevjYYn46vCxPbz9>

## WOMEN ON MISSION

A New Year is upon us! Have you made your list of goals for the year? Do they include focusing on your missional lifestyle? Join Women on Mission the third Tuesday of each month at 6:15. We will study missions, plan a Mission Focus for each month as well as mission activities and events for the church. Let's work together, prayerfully and intentionally, as we find effective ways to "understand and be radically involved in the work of God" in the midst of COVID. Our next meeting is January 19 at 6:15pm. See you there!

## YOUTH NEWS

The youth have been meeting in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for Bible study and will continue in the New Year. If you have a neighbor or grandchild in grades 6 through 12 invite them to attend. Call the church or a leader for more information.

Charlie Harcum 757-647-8618

Jennifer Harrell 757-653-1343

Holly Giles 757-651-8652

## OUTREACH NEWS

The New Year has begun along with the need for children to have food for the weekend. Please donate to this need by marking an envelope "Backpack".

Elaine Wiley

## JANUARY MISSION FOCUS

Women on Mission is collecting donations in January for The Genieve Shelter. The Genieve Shelter's mission is to strive to provide a safe refuge and supportive environment for the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking; provide information, education, and training services that focus on ending the cycle of violence.

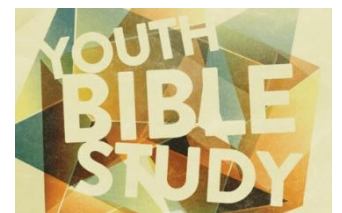


You may make a monetary donation to the shelter in the offering plate or donate items from their current needs list which includes: gas gift cards, paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, wash cloths, towels, baby wipes, pullups for toddlers, nonperishable food. Receptacles for donated items will be in the elevator lobby.

Tricia Davis

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Youth Sunday School class will begin meeting again starting the first Sunday in January 2021. For the time being, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. and dismiss at 9:45 a.m. for Worship. Due to my work schedule, we will not meet on January 17th, February 14th or March 14th unless otherwise notified. We will be following the Covid-19 guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing. For our first Sunday we will be watching and listening to a testimony by Mark Hall. So, do a little researching and be prepared to tell me who Mark Hall is. Google will come up with more than one, so see if you can get the right one!! Hope to see you all on January 3rd at 9:00 a.m.



Youth SS Teacher  
Jennifer Harrell

## DEACON REPORT

The deacons met on Monday, December 7, 2020. In that meeting deacons:

- Learned that a ring doorbell had been installed at the church;
- Received a report that Johnson Control and ADT will be making offers on a contract for security of the building;
- Discussed options for improving the live stream of the services and asked Charlie Harcum to investigate;
- Heard a request by Jennifer Harrell to begin having Sunday School classes for the Youth (see article);
- Learned that Rev. Pugh will be in Florida several days after Christmas to officiate at a wedding;
- Planned communion for the Christmas Even service.

The next meeting is January 4, 2021. Jennifer Harrell is the January deacon of the month.

Debbie Oliver

## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I very much enjoy my coffee in the mornings, and I love being out in the community. Beginning in the new year, I will be visiting various coffee houses around town, and I hope some of you will stop by for a cup and conversation. I will set up shop on Thursday mornings from 9am to 11am as follows for January:



January 7	Daily Dose
January 14	Storehouse
January 21	The Hubs Vine
January 28	Daily Dose

Pastor Tracey

### February Newsletter Deadline

January 27, 2021  
[pcfalls@charter.net](mailto:pcfalls@charter.net)

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



It's a new year for Operation Christmas Child! Boxes will be available in the sanctuary for you to carry home to begin shopping for this year. Please, only take boxes that you know you will pack for this year so we can make sure everyone gets at least one who wants to pack one. For the month of January, begin praying over these boxes, for the child who will one day receive the box. Pray for God to guide you in packing the box, to lead you to pack just what your child may need, wherever they may be. There will be some boxes available that are already folded, and some that have not been folded (won't take up as much space in your house). There are directions on the sides of the boxes to assist you in folding. If you have any questions, please see Erin Harcum or Janet Bulls. Thank you!

Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls