

# SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor  
Rev. Tracey Pugh  
Vol. XLVIII, No. 1

Deacon of the Month  
John Holland  
January 2022

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## A RESOLUTION FOR 2022

I know I say this every month, but how are we already doing the following month's newsletter? Where has the time gone? But here we are, the end of 2021, looking to the new year ahead and wondering what's in store for us.

Many of us look to the new year as a new beginning or a fresh start. We see it as the perfect time to finally make that change or changes we've been thinking about but haven't been able to muster up the energy or willpower to make it happen. The list of resolutions almost always includes one or more of the following: exercise more, lose weight, get organized, save money or spend less money, quit smoking, spend time with family and friends, travel more, and read more. These are all admirable and important resolutions we hope will spark positive change in our lives. They are recurring themes we resolve to attempt year after year after year. Sound familiar?

Perhaps, there is something else that would be helpful to us in achieving these goals and dreams that never seems to appear on any resolution list I've ever made or seen. What if our new year resolution was to dig into our faith? We too easily forget that the gospel has the power to bring us hope, renewed strength, and contentment, even in difficult times. That is a resolution that can empower us to succeed at all the other resolutions we may make.

This month, we will breathe in some fresh air and dig into how the gospel renews and revives us. We will talk about how the gospel shows us that we must first learn to listen and seek God's wisdom to grow spiritually. We will unpack God's peace to restore our souls rather than to remove obstacles. Next, we will see how the gospel shows us that true love requires the sacrifice of self, but it does not have to drain us. And finally, we will discover how the gospel renews and refreshes when we surrender to Him.

I hope this series will be a breath of fresh air that renews and revives you as you anticipate and march your way into 2022.

From my home to yours, Happy New Year!

*Pastor Tracey*

## COMMUNION SUNDAY

Communion will be observed on Sunday, Jan 9. You are asked to bring a cup to receive the elements and to have bread and cup prepared if participating virtually.

## JANUARY MISSION FOCUS

### Kentucky Strong



Women on Mission will collect monetary donations to support Kentucky's long-term relief projects following the devastating tornado outbreak. When giving to this mission, please indicate Tornado Relief on your offering envelope or the memo line of your online donation.

## 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 on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:15. We will study missions, plan a Mission Focus for each month, and 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" amid COVID. Our next meeting is on Jan 18 at 6:15 pm. See you there!

## NEW ADDRESS

PVT TRULL, JAMES W.  
3rd Platoon A Troop  
5-15 CAV 194th AR BDE  
FT. Benning, GA 31905  
(according to his mother, Renee, James is excited about potential mail from church members)

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Church Council met after worship on Sunday, Dec 19. In that meeting, the following was discussed;

- The Women on Mission focus for January will be tornado relief;
- The Deacons' focus for 2022 will be missions;
- Sycamore Sends Sunshine is a future project for Outreach with details to follow;
- The Brotherhood needs a new director;
- The choir will present an Easter cantata;
- The pastor is planning a women's retreat in February;
- The Constitution Committee will continue its work in the new year.

Tracey Pugh

## DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on Dec 6, 2021. The following was discussed:

- Deacon Team Ministry activities were discussed, and a description of each committee can be found in this newsletter.
- Candlelight and communion service will be held on Christmas Eve.
- Communion will now be observed monthly.
- Missions and Outreach activities, strategies, and opportunities were discussed.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for Jan 3.

Deacon of the month for January is John Holland.

Tricia Davis

## 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.

Jan 5	Deacons
Jan 12	Mixed Adults
Jan 19	Study Group
Jan 26	Brotherhood



## CONFERENCE

The regular quarterly church conference is scheduled for Sun, Jan 23, immediately after worship in the fellowship hall.

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

**\*\*New Hours\*\***

Coffee and Conversation have become a staple in my week. I enjoy connecting with church members in a casual atmosphere and over a good cup of coffee. One of our regular coffee houses is adjusting their hours of operation going into the new year. **Our new gathering hours will be as follows:**



1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs Hubs 10 am to 1130 am  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs Daily Dose 9 am to 1030 am  
5<sup>th</sup> Thurs – time and location will vary

Invite a friend or neighbor and join the conversation.

Pastor Tracey

## OUTREACH

- Foodbank delivery date is 1/18
  - Backpack deliveries to Riverdale Elementary School will be weeks of 1/10 & 1/24.
  - Weekly card ministry
  - We will be sending "Sunshine" to some of our less active members.
- More information to come

Thanks to Penny & Nell for packing and receiving the deliveries in December.

Thanks to Ira for making the backpack deliveries in December.

Outreach Team

## YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth will meet Wednesday evenings for mission planning, Bible study, and games. We will be scheduling a scavenger hunt and a movie night in January.

Holly Giles  
Youth Coordinator

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Lynn Beale and Ashley Gay into our congregation by transfer of letter and Peyton Gay by baptism.

## CONDOLENCES

The church offers its condolences to the family of Mike Woods. A service will be held at Sycamore on Jan 15 at 2 pm, with a reception to follow.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

Ladies, are you ready to get away to refresh, refuel, and dive into your faith? Your opportunity to fellowship, worship, pray, serve, and study together is just around the corner.

To make plans, and before I sign any financial contracts, I need to know who is interested in going **as soon as possible**. Here are the details for the retreat:

Dates: February 17 – 19

Opening Session: 7 pm Thursday

Depart: Noon on Saturday

Venue: Williamsburg Christian Retreat Cntr (approximately an hour and a half away)

We will stay in a private cottage for just our group. It is equipped with a full kitchen, outdoor deck, large lounge area for fellowship and meeting, six bedrooms, each with a private bath.

Accommodations: 2 nights, quad rooms with bathroom, queen bed, and bunk beds. There is also a handicapped-accessible room.

(linens and towels are provided)

Transportation: carpool in private vehicles, church van if a driver is available.

Meals: Meal teams will be established to bring ingredients, prepare, and serve meals.

Cost: approx \$100-125\* per person (depending on how many sign-up to attend)

\*scholarships available



Commitment and a nonrefundable deposit of \$35 are due by Jan 10 to secure space. Balance due Feb 10. Minimum 15 required.

Pastor Tracey

## DEACON TEAM MINISTRIES



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

The deacons participate in the deacon team ministry plan that focuses on the deacons, according to their gifts and calling, leading teams of congregation members in serving the church's needs. For this ministry to be successful, it is necessary that the deacons and congregational team members understand each Team's role and that the congregation invests their time on teams they feel gifted for service. The teams and their purposes are described below. Please take a moment to read and find a team where your gifts and talents can be used. Contact the team leader or sign up on the Team lists across from the church office.

### Bereavement Team



Leader: Janet Bulls

The focus is persons affected by the death of an immediate family member (parent, spouse, or child). The Team delivers a box of items that might be of use during this time.

### Casserole Ministry Team



Leader: Jennifer Harrell

The focus is on persons affected by a crisis and/or upheaval of their regular schedule. The Team will provide food, home-cooked, purchased, or gift certificates, for those in times of crisis. The food is personally delivered by a member of the Team as person-to-person contact is another crucial element of the ministry.

## Hospital/Homebound Ministry Team



Leader: Joey Francis

The focus of this Team is to minister to the members of Sycamore and their families who are homebound, in health care facilities, or retirement centers. The Team will contact those who are homebound, in the hospital, in a long-term care facility, or in retirement centers by visiting, calling, and/or sending cards.

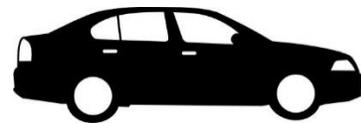
### Prayer Ministry Team



Leaders: Tricia Davis and Charlie Harcum

The focus is on persons in need of intercessory prayer. The Team members participate by being notified when specific prayer needs are identified. Participation includes praying and/or contacting the person in need through cards, text, or phone calls. A prayer request may be made directly to the pastor, a prayer team leader, or a prayer team member through the prayer boxes in the elevator lobby and the vestibule in the community prayer box located at Checkerboard Corner or online through the church's website.

### Transportation Ministry Team



Leader: John Jenkins

The focus is to provide transportation for people who need assistance with transportation to and from church, doctor appointments, hospital, etc. Those who need help may contact the team leader, the pastor, or any deacon, and arrangements will be made to meet your needs.



# JANUARY 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>
<b>2 Sunday Morning Schedule</b>	<b>3 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm.</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Family Night Schedule</b>	<b>6 Coffee and Conversation The Vine</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12 Family Night Schedule</b>	<b>13 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 WOM 6:15 pm.</b>	<b>19 Family Night Schedule</b>	<b>20 Coffee and Conversation The Vine</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday Morning Schedule Conference 11:15 am.</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26 Family Night Schedule</b>	<b>27 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 Sunday Morning Schedule</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>2 Family Night Schedule</b>	<b>3 Coffee and Conversation The Vine</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

### 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

World Changers 6:30

Mission Friends and Children in Action: 6:45

Adult Choir: 7:45

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary's email: [secretary@sycamorebaptist.org](mailto:secretary@sycamorebaptist.org)

Church website: [sycamorebaptist.org](http://sycamorebaptist.org)

Rev. Pugh's Email: [pastor@sycamorebaptist.org](mailto:pastor@sycamorebaptist.org)

Church phone: 1 (757) 562-6749

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

Office Hours: 8:30 – 4:30 Mon – Thurs, and as needed.

### Youth Christmas Play Pics

