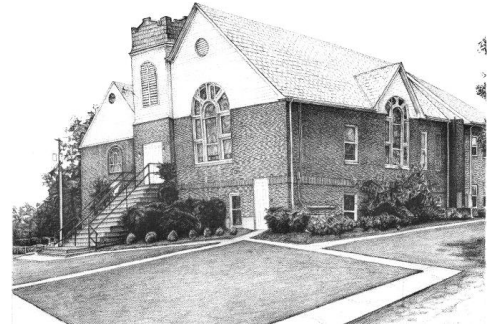


SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



Franklin, VA 23851-5132
31120 Sycamore Church Road
Franklin, VA 23851
(757) 562-6749

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Sam Moon

Vol. XVII, No. 5

May 2021

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 in 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 16), Pentecost (May 23), and finally Trinity Sunday (May 30).

The Feast of Ascension, or Ascension Day, is the conclusion of 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 two-fold; 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 indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church. 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, which is 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 nonetheless essential to our faith.

While Christmas and Easter are the two most well-known days of the Christian Year, I hope you are beginning to 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

MAY MISSION FOCUS



Women on Mission's collection efforts will focus on our Sycamore Youth Group's Community Kids fund. Our youth have established this fund to enable them to do outreach and mission projects with children in our area including but not limited to Southampton Meadows. Join us in financially supporting this mission opportunity for our youth as they reach out as the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Mark your donations "Community Kids."

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child For the month of May, focus on purchasing toys for your shoeboxes. Make sure they are age appropriate for the child you have chosen to give to. Here are some ideas that have been given in the past: ● Foam Ball ● Deflated kickball (include manual pump & needle) ● Finger Puppets ● Slinky ● Etch-a-sketch ● Interactive toys (include batteries) ● Cars If you have any questions, please see Erin Harcum or Janet Bull

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23

The liturgical color for Pentecost is **red**. Everyone is encouraged to wear red in observance of this historical day in the life of the church.

Tracey Pugh

OFFICE HOUR CHANGE

Office hours for Rev. Pugh will now be from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday -Thursday and as needed/by appointment.

NURSERY



The Nursery is open for worship. There is a sign-up sheet outside the nursery door. We must have two people in the nursery every Sunday. Your help is needed. If you cannot be here on the Sunday you signed up for, please switch with another person on the list or let me know.

Lou Vann
757-562-4758

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I very much enjoy my coffee in the mornings, and I love being out in the community. 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 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. as follows:



May 06 – Hubs Vine
May 13 – Daily Dose
May 20 – Storehouse
May 27 – Hubs Vine

Tracey Pugh

NEW MEMBER

We welcome into our fellowship by way of his profession of faith and baptism Gabriel Harrell. Gabrielle is the grandson of Jennifer and Randy Harrell.

NOTES OF THANKS



Acts of appreciation were shown to service organizations and groups by persons who attended the Sunday night book study of Adam Hamilton's *The Walk*. Below are responses received from two of these acts.

On behalf of Southampton Social Services, I would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness in recognizing the challenging and rewarding work we do. Thank you!

Donna Blythe
Family Services Supervisor

Melissa and I appreciate the thoughtful note and Storehouse gift card we received today from your church. It is nice to know that our efforts to promote the community are making a positive impact. Thanks again for your kindness.

Teresa Beale, Executive Director,
Franklin-Southampton Area
Chamber of Commerce

Dear Sycamore Church Family,

We cannot thank any one of you enough for the overwhelming amount of love and generosity you have each blessed us with through this difficult time. Without God, our family, and any one of you, we would not have kept our faith alive. You each are a reminder to us of God's unconditional love and that He is good! Your prayers are working, and there is no explanation for the miracles with God's plan for us, Ayla, and this church. Our cups runneth over and over. My words will never replicate our sincerest thankfulness for Sycamore Church. It is one of those things that make us look back in time and chuckle because God brought us to you all because HE KNEW we'd need you all.

Thank you and thank you 100 times more. We love all and cherish this friendship and family.

Blessings,

The Adcock Family
(Ryan, Jessica, Oaklynn, & Ayla)

YOUTH MINISTRY



The youth continue to meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. We are working on David Platt's series *Life on Mission*. Each week we hear the stories of other teenagers and their walk with Jesus, followed by bible study and discussion.

IMPACT options vary this summer due to COVID restrictions. The IMPACT VA team will help us set up our own IMPACT in our community. Look for more info to follow.

"Community Kids" is a new mission focus for youth ministry. Birthday boxes will be packed and delivered to children in our community. The boxes will include everything to make a birthday cake, baking pan, candles, and a few party surprises! Our first boxes will be ready for delivery on May 1.

Thank you for your support of this mission project. We are excited to share our love, just like Jesus, with children in our community. Please mark your donations "Community Kids."

Holly Giles

Youth Sunday School

The Youth Sunday School class will meet every Sunday in May except on May 9th. We have finished the first chapter in James and will begin the second chapter on May 2nd. Hope to see you all there and ready to discuss what James has to tell us about showing favoritism among people.

GRADUATES



We are tentatively planning for graduate recognition on Sunday, Jun 13, during worship. Be sure to submit the names of those in your family who will be graduating high school, college, or beyond to Tracey or Holly by May 31.

Holly Giles
Tracey Pugh

DEACON REPORT

The deacons met on April 5, 2021. In that meeting the deacons:

Old Business:

- COVID Update – Churches no changes. To be covered by our insurance, we still need to follow the COVID guidelines for seating.
- Ushers will be asked to sit people when the sanctuary starts to get full. It was decided that church members go to the fellowship hall if more seats are needed for guests in the sanctuary.
- Continued discussion on opening the nursery for worship service. Everything will need to be cleaned and two people will need to help each Sunday.
- Attendance for the Maundy Thursday Service was 35, Good Friday Service was 32, Easter Service was 77.

New Business:

- Conference on April 18, after worship service.
- Communion will be observed on April 18.
- Baptism of Gabriel Harrell will be April 25.
- Blackwater Baptist Association is looking at dissolving in May. May be restructured.
- Discussed setting up the fellowship hall for Sunday service.
- Discussed a Prayer Walk for different neighborhoods. Small groups would participate.

Next meeting is May 3, 2021.

The deacon for the month of May is Sam Moon.

Debbie Oliver

CONFERENCE REPORT

The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, April 18, 2021. In that meeting the church:

- Received written financial reports and committee reports;
- Approved a “Community Kids” Fund for the Youth to use in their ministry to underserved children in the community;
- Learned that Easter Eggs with candy and scripture and Sycamore’s name were distributed in the community by the Children in Action;
- Heard a report that \$1,354.21 had been received for the sale of timber on land behind the church and that it had been deposited in the Parking Lot fund;
- Authorized the Building and Grounds Committee to do needed repairs at the parsonage in relation to a leaking tub with the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00;
- Heard a report that it is difficult to find door replacements for the wooden doors at the entrance to the sanctuary and the basement and that the search continues;
- Learned that the elevator inspection is up to date;
- Appointed a committee consisting of John Jenkins, Mark Pugh, and Reggie Rush to receive bids for a new building for the van; due to Covid the structure that was ordered has not been delivered and Ronnie Bulls will investigate that further;
- Agreed to purchase a computer, camera, and streaming equipment to improve the live stream efforts which in all likely hood will continue post-pandemic;
- Learned that we have changed companies for our fire alarm system with significant savings;
- Voted to recommend that the messengers to the BBA vote in favor of disbanding the BBA at the next associational meeting in May;
- Learned that Holly Giles had been appointed to the Nominating Committee;
- Set the date for the next conference for July 25, 2021.

Patsy Falls

MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday Morning Schedule	3 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	4	5 Wednesday Schedule	6 Coffee & Conversation 9-11 a.m. Hubs Vine	7	8
9 Sunday Morning Schedule Mother's Day	10	11	12 Wednesday Schedule	13 Coffee & Conversation 9-11 a.m. Daily Dose	14	15
16 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	17	18 Women on Mission 6:15 p.m.	19 Wednesday Schedule	20 Coffee & Conversation 9-11 a.m. Storehouse	21	22
23 Sunday Morning Schedule Pentecost Sunday	24	25	26 Wednesday Schedule	27 Coffee & Conversation 9-11 a.m. Hubs Vine	28	29
30 Sunday Morning Schedule	31 Memorial Day					

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on calendar)

Worship 10:00 a.m.

In person and live streamed on Facebook

Youth Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on calendar)

Mixed Adult Sunday School Class & Guests

(Wednesday School) 10:30 a.m.

Discipleship II, Youth and CIA 6:30 p.m.

MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED AT ALL FUNCTIONS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary's email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org

Church website: www.sycamorebaptist.org

Church phone: 1 (757) 562-6749

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

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

Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:00 Monday – Thursday
& As Needed/By Appt



Flowered Cross – Easter / Photo Credit: J Pugh.