

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Ronnie Bulls

Vol. XLVIII, No. 11

November 2022

JUST BUSY OR IN A HURRY?

Greetings Friends,

If you are like me, you like to be busy. Doing nothing is not my strong suit. If I do find myself doing nothing, I feel guilty. Being busy and productive is not such a bad thing. What is a bad thing is always being in a hurry.

I have spent a fair amount of time the past week or two looking at dates for the remainder of this year and filling up the calendar. There is so much happening in the life of the church as we gear up for the birth of Christ. We will entertain extra worship services, covered dish meals, acts of service, special music, and more. These alone keep us busy. Couple this with the busyness of our personal lives, and we are left feeling overwhelmed and in a constant hurry to do it all. I am reminded of the Alabama song *I'm in a Hurry (And Don't Know Why)*. The chorus suggests that we hurry so much, we don't know why, and ultimately life is no fun.

Nowadays, hurry is a mainstay in people's lives. We run to the grocery store, rush to pick up the kids and hustle to get them from here to there and everywhere. We boot scoot to work and dash to the next thing. We are hurriers; the more we squeeze into a day, the more productive and efficient we are. Our culture demands that we embrace a mindset that tells us if we hurry, we can do more, be more, and even get more.

Jesus was busy, and yet he was not one to be hurried. He walked mile upon mile by foot. When he needed a lift, it was a donkey he chose, not a racehorse. He walked for many reasons; to preach, teach, serve, heal, see friends, and so on. Even in times when he would have hurried, he did not. For instance, to heal a dying girl (Mark 5) or his sick friend Lazarus (John 11), the Bible does not say that he dropped everything and ran.

What is more, in the case of Lazarus, he waited a few days before going. Jesus never hurried. We need to take a step back, examine our lives and culture, and consider if our drive to hurry governs our days, thoughts, and actions over and above our faith. If we are constantly running ahead of Jesus in a hurried state, we are not allowing Him to guide and direct our lives. This is particularly true of the busiest time of the year, which we are about to begin. We find ourselves exhausted and having to choose what we will skip to make it through. More often than not, for many of us, matters of church life are at the top of the skip-it list to satisfy our need to slow down. Perhaps to really live, know, enjoy and follow Jesus, we need to learn and keep a pace that makes room for our faith in an unhurried way.

I hope the fast-approaching holiday season will be different and let us all hurry a little less. Only then will we exercise an attitude of gratitude on Thanksgiving and have the capacity to appreciate the sights, sounds, and even the smell of the manger scene this Christmas.

Be Still,

Pastor Tracey

NOVEMBER 6 WORSHIP



**ALL
SAINTS'
DAY**
NOVEMBER 6

All Saints' Remembrance

All Saint's Day, also referred to as All Hallows' Day, Halloween, or Feast of All Saints in the Christian church. It is a day for us to remember the saints who have passed on to heaven. We will have a service of remembrance during worship by reading the names of our church members who have passed away since this day last year and lighting a candle in their memory. Additional candles will be available for congregants to light in memory of others in their lives.

HANGING OF THE GREENS



We will decorate the church for the Christmas Season at the Hanging of the Greens on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at 7:00 pm. If you have never participated in decorating the church for the Christmas Season, join us, and you will get into the Spirit of Christmas.

THANKSGIVING MEAL AND SERVICE



The Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday, November 20, at 6:30 pm. A covered dish meal will be enjoyed before the service at 5:00 pm. Join us as we fellowship together and give thanks to God in worship.



For November, we will be collecting items for fishing kits, sewing kits, and tool kits. Fishing kits may include items such as hooks, bait, bobs, and fishing line. Sewing kits may consist of things 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.)

JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 16TH! After packing Thanksgiving meals, Sycamore will have an OCC shoebox packing party with our received items. All boxes will be turned in to our drop-off location on **NOVEMBER 20TH** after church.

It's not too late to help with this project! You can also shop and create a box online. To do this, visit the site below or scan the QR code to take you to Sycamore's goal page.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p9fdvnc>



If you have any questions, please ask Erin Harcum or Janet Bulls. Thank you!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I very much enjoy my coffee in the mornings, and I love being out in the community. 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:

November 3	Daily Dose 9–10:30 am.
November 1	Hubs Vine 10–11:30 am.
November 17	Daily Dose 9–10:30 am.



Pastor Tracey



We are continuing to collect specific items each month needed for the meal. In November, we will collect turkeys, frozen pies, or monetary donations to purchase needed items. We also need volunteers to pack groceries and distribute meals to local families on our pick-up day.

Packing Night: Wednesday, November 16
Following Family Night Dinner, we will pack groceries in bags for our Meal Pick-Up Day.

Pick Up Day: Saturday, November 19
Volunteers are needed to assist in checking names, distributing turkeys, pies, and grocery bags, and directing cars as families pick up their meals from 11 am-1 pm. Delivery volunteers may be needed as well. To volunteer, sign up outside the church office or contact Tricia Davis.

POINSETTIAS



Add to the beauty of our sanctuary during the Christmas Season by purchasing a poinsettia in a person's honor or memory. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on November 30 and may be picked up after the worship service on December 18. Contact Janet Bulls or the church office to order. The amount and the deadline to order will be published in the bulletin. Money is due at the time of your order. Make checks payable to the church. Include with your order who you are honoring or memorializing. Forms may be found in the vestibule or by the organ.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Thank you to the hands and feet that "connected to our community" at the Trunk or Treat Event.

Sycamore Shares

Prayerfully consider sponsoring one of the 50 children receiving the Foodbank Backpacks. Each bag has food for weekend meals that can be easily prepared using a microwave, can opener, and water. The cost of each bag is \$6.00, and there are a total of 18 bags delivered. The total cost for one bag is \$108.00 for the year. Challenge your family, Sunday School class, or other groups to sponsor a backpack for the year

Sycamore Sends

Look for cards in the fellowship hall to sign and let a team member know of folks who would appreciate being remembered with a card.

We will help with the distribution of our Thanksgiving meals later this month.

Angel Tree

Be on the lookout for our Angel Tree in the fellowship hall. This year we will have a combination of children and senior adults on our tree.

Look and listen for opportunities to "Connect in the Community," with the Drive Through Nativity coming soon. If you know of upcoming community events, please let a team member know so we can make plans to be involved.

Let's indeed be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community!

Holly Giles, Coordinator
Janet & Ronnie Bulls
Jimmy & Lou Vann
Erin Harcum
Joey Francis



FAMILY NIGHT 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.

November 2	Discussion Class
November 9	Staff
November 16	Men's Discipleship
November 23	No Family Night
November 30	Youth

Hello friends!

The Youth have been busy learning about fear this month...tis' the season, right? We have participated in some fear activities, including a blindfolded obstacle course and blindfolded drink sampling. We will soon play a good old-fashioned game of football and hang out around a campfire with s'mores to close out this month's theme. Many of these games and activities have centered on learning to trust and knowing that God is always with us. It has been a fun month of Backwards Trick-Or-Treating, lesson studies, and good laughs!

As we close our studies on Isaiah 41:10, we enter into our November theme of thankfulness. We will begin our Four-Squared layout of receiving a message, responding to the message, reflecting on it, and regrouping into the next theme. Luke 17:11-19 will teach us to have an attitude of gratitude and Thanksgiving because of all that God has done for us. We will be crafting together a Thanksgiving Tree and adding a few leaves each week that we meet. A trip to some local community services with a small token of appreciation will take place and, of course, more games and laughs. A turkey trot may or may not be involved.

Overall, we have had so much fun diving into God's word while being of service to the community and building relationships with one another. We look forward to a new month of new lessons as we dive into thankfulness.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Jessica Adcock

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on October 3, 2022. The following was discussed:

- Deacon Officers for the new church year were elected and are as follows:
Chair: Jimmy Vann
Vice-chair: John Jenkins
Sec./Treas.: Tricia Davis
- Communion will be held on November 13, and members will be served the elements seated in the pews. In the future, communion will alternate each month between being seated and coming forward to receive the elements.
- Plans were discussed for Sycamore to participate in Smart Beginnings Trunk or Treat at Soco Gatherings on October 22.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for November 7.

The Deacon of the month for November is Ronnie Bulls.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement – Ronnie Bulls
- Casserole- Patsy Falls
- Hospital/Homebound – Joey Francis
- Prayer – Tricia Davis
- Transportation – John Jenkins

Tricia Davis



TEAM MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS REWARD? SERVICE TO THE LORD

Can you drive? Join the **Transportation Team!** People need rides to church or doctor's appointments. Or they may need someone to pick up prescriptions or groceries. Contact John Jenkins if this is a service you can provide. It is okay to limit your services to the local area.

Can you pray? Join the **Prayer Team!** Many requests are received from both members and community residents through our Prayer Box and online. Contact Tricia Davis to join this team.

Can you visit? Join the **Hospital/Homebound Team!** People who are homebound, in retirement homes, or in the hospital often feel isolated. A visit, phone call, or card can brighten their day. Give Joey Francis a call if this is a way you'd like to serve.

Can you cook? Or do you have a favorite place to buy prepared food? **Join the Casserole Team!** Families experiencing a death in the family, sickness, or any upheaval in their lives need nourishment and the awareness that someone cares enough to feed their bodies and their souls. Contact Patsy Falls if this is among your gifts.

Can you deliver? Join the **Bereavement Team!** When families gather after the death of a loved one, our bereavement box provides items that people may not have an adequate supply of in their homes. Contact Ronnie Bulls if you'd like to be a part of this team and show your care and concern to a family during a crisis.

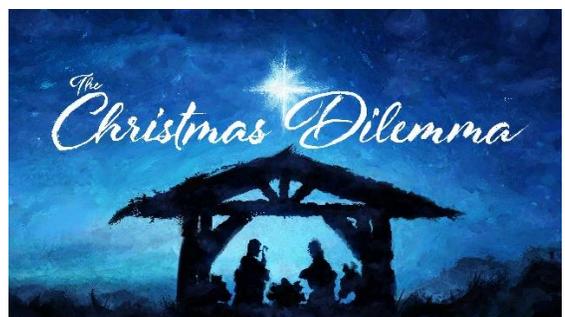
CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on October 16. In that meeting, the council:

- Learned that the Sunday School attendance average for September was 32.
- Learned Hanging of the Greens will be on November 30.
- Noted Women on Mission are collecting items for the Thanksgiving Meal Ministry. The meals will be packed Wed. November 16 and distributed Saturday, November 19.
- Noted the church Thanksgiving Covered Dish meal and worship service will be Sunday, November 20.
- Learned Women on Mission will have a Christmas Appetizer Swap and Prayer Wreath Meeting Wednesday, December 7.
- Learned Outreach is coordinating a group to participate in a community Trunk or Treat on October 22 at Soco Gatherings. The backpack program and Wednesday meal delivery continue as well as the card ministry.
- Noted All Saints Day is November 6, and Communion will be observed on November 13.

Tricia Davis

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM CASTING



Calling actors, actresses, acting wanna-bees! Age does not matter. Skill level does not matter. No experience is necessary.

I need eight people to join me in presenting this year's Christmas program, *The Christmas Dilemma*. The roles are the typical Christmas story characters. No memorization required or complicated costumes, just a great time presenting the best story ever told. See Pastor Tracey if interested ASAP.

Pastor Tracey

CONFERENCE REPORT

The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2022. In that meeting, the church:

- Received written financial reports and committee reports;
- Learned that the average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 36;
- Heard a report from Building and Grounds that the new doors to the sanctuary had been installed and a painter was being sought; that all outside doors would be rekeyed; that the lighting for the van shed is being worked on; and that Southern Charm will be doing the landscaping soon;
- Learned that Church Council, along with Rev. Pugh, will be hosting a Summit in January for the planning of the church year;
- Learned that the family of Josie and Ryland Edwards will be adding to the fence recently installed around the cemetery;
- Was informed that an AED/CPR class will be scheduled for the first part of 2023;
- Was charged by Rev. Pugh to have all committee chairs meet with their committees soon;
- Passed the revised constitution as presented;
- Set a date for the next conference for January 22, 2023.

Patsy Falls, Clerk

TIME CHANGE

November 6 at 2:00 am.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the December newsletter is Sunday, November 27, 2022. Thanks in advance. pcfalls@charter.net

LIVE STREAMING

Log into Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to view the worship service on our Facebook page, Sycamore Baptist Church-Franklin, VA. The services are recorded and may be viewed at a later time if you are unable to watch it live at 10:00.

SYCAMORE SUMMIT

January 21, 2023

Anyone and everyone who serves on a team or committee are encouraged to join me for Sycamore Summit. This will be a one-day workshop intended to unite teams and committees to join forces in our ministry efforts. More information is coming next month; for now, **SAVE THE DATE.**

NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Family Night	3 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30	4	5
6 Sunday Morning Schedule Daylight Saving Time Ends	7 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm.	8 .	9 Family Night	10 Coffee & Conversation The Vine 10-11:30	11 Veterans Day	12
13 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion	14	15 WOM 6:15 pm.	16 Family Night Pack Night for Thanksgiving Meal Ministry And OCC Boxes	17 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30	18	19 Pick Up For Thanksgiving Meal Ministry 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.
20 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 am. Covered Dish 5:45 pm. Thanksgiving Service 7:00 pm.	21	22	23 No Family Night	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 First Sunday of Advent Sunday Morning Schedule	28	29	30 Family Night Meal No classes Hanging of the Greens 7:00 pm.			

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on calendar)

Sunday School 9:00 am. | Worship 10:00 am.

*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

Church website: www.sycamorebaptist.org

Church phone: 757-562-6749

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

Rev. Pugh's cell phone: 1 (434) 9537930

Office Hours: 8:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday and as needed by appointment

