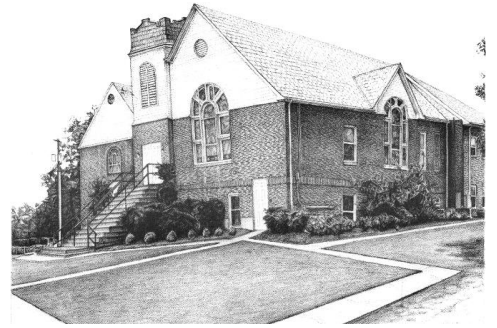


SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Jimmy Vann

Vol. XLVIII, No. 10

October 2022

DOING A NEW THING

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:18-19, NIV)*

Fall is my favorite time of the year. To me, it is the time of year when we see God's might and majesty come to life in his unique handiwork all around us. I love the cooler temps, baking inspirations, cooking comfort foods such as soups and chili, football, the race for the pennant, bulky sweaters, and did I mention cooler temps? I also love the changing leaves and the colors of Fall, vibrant oranges, rich reds, warm browns, and bright yellows. As the days become shorter and the leaves begin to fall, I often reflect on the year, knowing there are a few months left before we turn the page.

Some see Fall as a time of waning with the cold darkness of winter looming. As my favorite season, I see Fall as a time of beginnings. In many ways, this time of year is more the beginning of the year than January is. Vacations have wound down, making way for fresh starts at our jobs and school. Sports leagues, dance lessons, tv-series and a host of other things start up with new players, routines, episodes, and so on. Just about everything has a fresh start this time of year, even nature, as the leaves fall, making way for new growth. To me, this does not seem like a season of waning. It is instead a season of new beginnings all around us.

New beginnings also come for the church as we begin a new church year this month. It is a time to reflect on where we have been the past year, where we are, and where God is leading us. These reflections should be more than brief memories; they should encompass victories and failures, lessons learned, and new visions for the future. They should ask tough questions like: Did we plan well? Did the effort meet the mission of our church? Did we work as a body of Christ, keeping God at the center of our actions? Does doing this again support a future vision for the church? And others.

Another new beginning at our church is going to be the Sycamore Summit. This will be the time for us to reflect, celebrate, and learn together. While working out details and planning this event, I ask you to be in prayer. Pray that He will guide me as I work to pull together this opportunity for us to come around the table with open hearts and open minds. Pray that God will lead us to where He needs us and that we will be available to His calling in our church. Stay tuned for more information to come next month. In the meantime, embrace this season as a new beginning, for God is doing a new thing, don't miss it!

Believing the Best,

P. Tracey

OUTREACH NEWS



This Fall, Sycamore will once again provide Thanksgiving dinners for area families in need. With all church members working together, we will collect, organize and pack food for complete Thanksgiving dinners and distribute them to families in our area who could use a little extra help during the holidays. We are continuing to collect specific items each month needed for the meal. We will collect green beans, cranberry sauce, and dressing in October. In November, we will collect turkeys and pies. Also, in November, members can volunteer to organize, pack, or distribute the meals to local families. Stay tuned for additional details and dates.

We look forward to the entire church working together to serve our community this Thanksgiving season as we give thanks while giving to others.

OCTOBER MISSION FOCUS



For our Thanksgiving Meal Ministry, please bring:

- Dressing Mix (box)
- Green Beans (50 oz. can)
- Cranberry Sauce (can)

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.

October 5	Study Group
October 12	Brotherhood
October 19	Choir
October 26	Up and Coming

Welcome to a new church year, and welcome to our new team members, Jimmy & Lou Vann.

We are continuing Sycamore Sends cards weekly. Look for cards in the fellowship hall for you to sign.

Sycamore Delivers meals on Wednesday night. If you know of someone in need, add them to the delivery list or let an Outreach member know.

Sycamore Shares prepares and delivers Foodbank Backpacks to students at Riverdale Elementary 2x month. We are receiving our 1st delivery on 9/27. Thanks to our team for accepting the delivery! We need packers; your family, Sunday school class, or study group can pack.

Please be in prayer for the children and families receiving the backpacks. Lastly, consider financially supporting this mission to ensure we can fund our commitment to fill fifty backpacks per pack.

It is Fall, and that means all things pumpkin. We have an opportunity in the community on October 22 to serve. Smart Beginnings is sponsoring a Trunk or Treat Event: Good Times at Gatherings from 1-4 pm. Look and listen for more info on how you can help and plan your best trunk.

If you know of community events, please share them with the team so we can plan to get involved.

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

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



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



This month we will collect wash clothes, soap bars, brushes, toothbrushes, combs, and personal care items.

Please do NOT include anything liquid. These items can be placed in the bin in front of the church library. Remember, you can also build a box at home if you prefer. Just let us know if you would like a box to start building. Thanks for all of your support!

Erin & Janet

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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 am to 11:00 am as follows:



October 6	Daily Dose
October 13	Hubs
October 20	Daily Dose
October 28	Hubs

P Tracey

YOUTH

Hello all,

As some of you know, I have accepted the position of Youth Director. I wanted to share a little about myself as I embark on this new journey. I have gone to church since I can remember and have always found my church family to be some of the most loving and supportive people in my life. My faith has not always been a "dive in headfirst" kind of faith. As we all do, I have gone through seasons of change, wonder, question, doubt, and trust. Since moving to Franklin, I have found myself trusting in God more and more with each moment of uncertainty I may encounter.

I decided to become a youth leader because I want to be able to show the younger generation that it does not require perfection to be a Christ follower. I believe this next

chapter will be impactful not only to the youth but also to myself. As I make this commitment, I am excited to be able to use my leadership skills to serve God on a deeper level.

This month, we will be transitioning into a new Youth and Bible Study pattern. As we begin a new curriculum and church year, I have broken down lessons into month-to-month lessons and learning. I am excited to share my ideas on how I intend to structure our time together.

Week One: We will RECEIVE. We will dive into a new lesson/chapter and introduce the studies for the month.

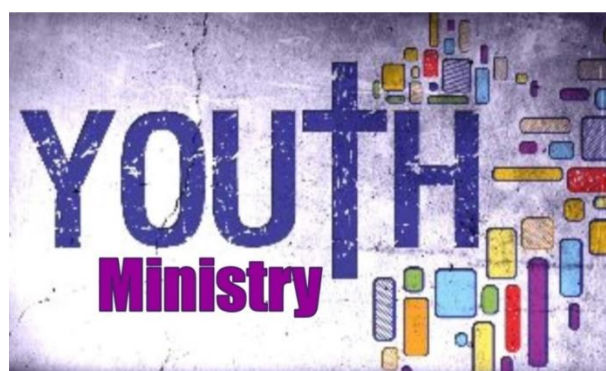
Week Two: We will RESPOND. We will go out and/or implement the pertaining lesson to our week and share our service/random acts of kindness.

Week Three: We will REFLECT. We will spend individual time with the Lord through prayer walks, quiet time, and other personal devotion therapies.

Week Four: We will REGROUP. We will spend time together in a relaxed environment and share how the lesson/past month has gone. This may include a campfire with games, a dinner, a fun event, etc.

I am excited to take this next step and hope the Lord will use me in the way He deems fit. I look forward to seeing the youth on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

Jessica Adcock



CHURCH CONFERENCE

The regular quarterly conference is scheduled for Sunday, October 23, immediately after worship in the fellowship hall.

At a called conference in September, the church voted to continue with the Backpack Program at Riverdale Elementary School for the current school year. The number of Backpacks will remain at 50. The financial obligation for the previous year was met.

Patsy Falls

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on September 12, 2022. The following was discussed:

- The church picnic on October 2 at the Bronco Club will be covered dish.
- Requests for the use of the fellowship hall were approved for October 8 and December 17.
- The annual deacon dinner is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 30, at John's Seafood.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for October 3.

The Deacon of the month for October is Jimmy Vann.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement – Janet Bulls
- Casserole- Jennifer Harrell
- Hospital/Homebound – Joey Francis
- Prayer – Tricia Davis, Charlie Harcum
- Transportation – John Jenkins





OCTOBER 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship at the River 11:00 a.m. Communion Covered Dish	3 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm.	4	5 Family Night	6 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-11:00 a.m.	7	8
9 Sunday Morning Schedule Outreach Mtg 11:15 am	10	11	12 Family Night	13 Coffee & Conversation Hubs Vine 10-11:30 a.m.	14	15
16 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	17	18 Women on Mission 6:15 pm.	19 Family Night	20 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-11:00 a.m.	21	22
23 Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday Morning Schedule Conference 11:15 a.m.	24	25	26 Family Night	27 Coffee & Conversation Hubs Vine 10-11:30 a.m.	28	29
30 Sunday Morning Schedule	31					

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)

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

*FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)

Meal: 5:45

Adult Study II: 6:15

Youth 6:30

Men's Bible Study: 6:45

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) 953-7930

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