



SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

VOL. LII NO. 9

PASTOR

REV. DR. TRACEY PUGH

DEACON OF THE MONTH

PEGGY RUSH

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

In Luke 10:25–37, a lawyer asks Jesus, “*Who is my neighbor?*” Jesus answers by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. At the conclusion of the story, Jesus asks which person proved to be a neighbor to the wounded man. The lawyer answers, “*The one who showed him mercy.*” Jesus then says, “*Go and do likewise.*”

As we look toward the coming months, our church calendar is filled with wonderful opportunities: Worship by the Water, Wednesday night fellowship meals and discipleship classes, the community Trunk or Treat, and Thanksgiving meal ministry. There will be many special worship services, such as Hanging of the Greens, the Christmas cantata, Christmas Eve worship, and more. These will be meaningful times of worship, fellowship, learning, and service—but they are also opportunities to be good neighbors.

Sycamore Summit next month will give us a special opportunity to come together as a church family for team building, visioning, and brainstorming. We will celebrate what God is already doing among us while also considering how we can better reach, invite, welcome, and serve our neighbors. As we share ideas and listen to one another, we can begin to imagine new ways to help people discover a sense of belonging at Sycamore.

Sometimes we think of inviting someone to church as a difficult or uncomfortable task. Yet an invitation can be a simple act of love. It says, “There is a place for you.” It might be offered to the neighbor across the street, a coworker, a friend going through a difficult season, a family member who has drifted away from church, or someone who is simply looking for community.

Our Wednesday night fellowship meals and discipleship classes provide especially welcoming opportunities. Sharing a meal often makes it easier to begin a conversation, form a friendship, and help someone feel at home. As we gather around the table and grow together in faith, let us remember to make room for someone new.

Being a neighbor, however, involves more than extending an invitation. It also means showing up to serve. Through Thanksgiving meals, community Trunk or Treat, and other mission opportunities, we can offer practical care and genuine hospitality to people in our community. We become neighbors when we notice people, welcome them, listen to them, and respond with compassion.

The Good Samaritan did not ask whether the wounded man lived nearby, shared his beliefs, or belonged to his group. He saw someone in need and chose to draw near. Perhaps that is the invitation Jesus gives us during this coming season: draw near to others.

Look around your neighborhood, workplace, family, and circle of friends. Who might need an invitation? Who might need a meal, a conversation, a prayer, or a place to belong? Whom is God placing in your path?

Our upcoming events are not simply dates to place on the calendar. They are open doors through which we can share the love of Christ. Let us participate, serve, and invite—not to increase attendance, but because following Jesus calls us to love our neighbors.

Who is your neighbor? The better question may be: To whom is God calling you to become a neighbor? May we hear Jesus’ words and faithfully respond: “*Go and do likewise.*”

Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

*Extending Christ's love through service and generosity
to those in need around the world.*



HerMission will meet at 11:15 a.m. on September 6 in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. Join us as we strive to live a missional lifestyle, finding missional opportunities and supporting others in their mission work.



Sycamore will once again share God's blessings by providing Thanksgiving dinners to families in need. With all church members working together, we will collect, organize, and pack food for complete Thanksgiving meals and distribute them to families in our area who could use a little extra help during the holidays. Each month, folks can donate specific items needed for the meal.

SEPTEMBER MISSION FOCUS: This month, we will collect macaroni and cheese (boxed), gravy (can or jar), and instant mashed potatoes for the meal ministry.

We look forward to the entire church working together this Thanksgiving as we give thanks while giving to our neighbors.



September: Community Connections will be doing a card ministry this month. Stay tuned for details and how you can help send someone a smile.

Looking ahead to October: Community Connections is gearing up to participate in the Good Times at Gatherings Trunk-or-Treat community event.

October 23
Set-Up 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Event 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Save the date and plan to join the team going out into the community to serve our neighbors and their families.

See a member of Community Connections for more information or let them know you plan to participate.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Summer has ended and school has started. Just as school kids need supplies, so do children in other countries. This month we will be collecting school supplies.

Suggested items:

- crayons
- pencils
- sharpeners
- colored pencils
- scissors
- waterless paint sets



A collection container marked Operation Christmas Child is located in the Fellowship Hall.

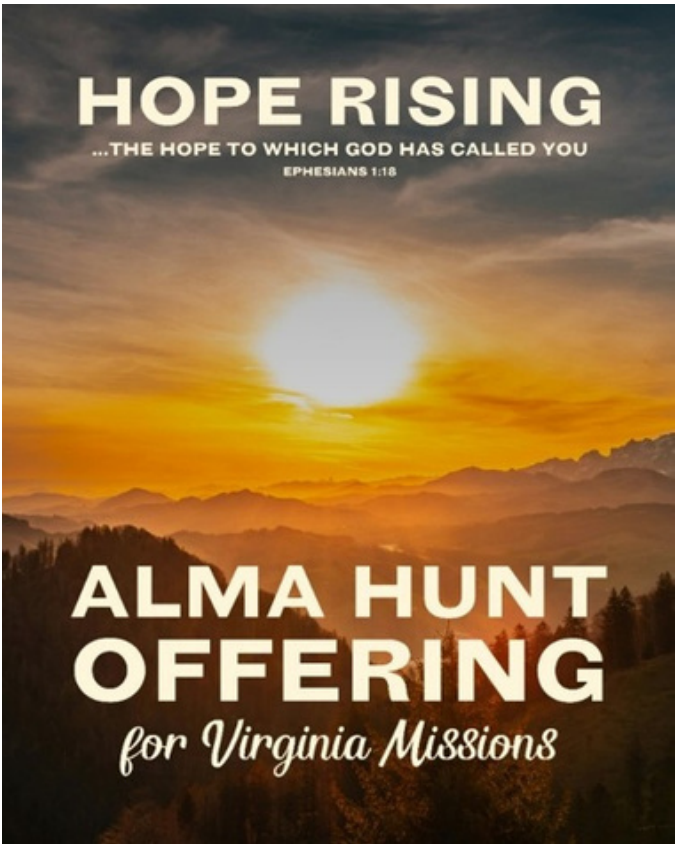
Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES CONT...

ALMA HUNT OFFERING
for Virginia Missions

September is the emphasis month for Virginia State Missions. We will be collecting the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions September 13-20.

The annual offering for Virginia missions honors Alma Hunt (1909-2008), a native Virginian and global missions leader known for her unwavering commitment to Christ and passionate advocacy for worldwide ministry. Since 1976, this offering has been a joint ministry of HerMission (WMUV) and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). It provides essential funding for HerMission initiatives, BGAV special ministries, community outreach projects, and mission efforts not supported through regular church giving.



The offering’s annual goal and fund distribution are prayerfully determined by the HerMission Executive Director/Treasurer and the BGAV Executive Director, and approved by their respective boards.

Your generous gift—joined with those of fellow Virginia Baptists—directly supports these and many other life-changing ministries across the Commonwealth and beyond.

Join us in prayer and giving as we witness Hope Rising – through lives transformed daily by the hope and love of Christ.

LADIES RETREAT

An Invitation to Step Away

Room to Breathe is a small, unhurried gathering for women to step away from everyday demands and reconnect with God and one another. We will share meals, pray, explore Scripture, enjoy meaningful conversation, and leave room for quiet, laughter, and rest.

This is not a weekend of silence or a packed conference schedule, just an invitation to slow down and be present.



See PTracey for more information or to hold your spot.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CHURCH LIFE & INFORMATION

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

The fellowship we share during Wednesday Family Night Supper is one of the week's highlights. Here are this month's cooks:

Sep 2	Women's Study Group
Sep 9	Brotherhood
Sep 16	Choir
Sep 23	Fellowship Hall Class
Sep 30	Staff

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

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



Join me every Tuesday from 9:00 -10:30 a.m. at StoreHouse for a cup of coffee and some conversation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the nominating committee, I would like to thank everyone who said yes to a position for the upcoming church year.

Remember, your new roles will begin with the start of the new church year on October 1.

Again, thank you.

Peggy Rush, Committee Chair



DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on August 6, 2026. In that meeting, the following took place.

·Devotions were shared and prayer concerns were shared.

·Deacon Team activities were presented.

·It was announced that Ronnie Bulls, Patsy Falls, and Jimmy Vann are the deacons who will begin serving Oct. 1.

·A discussion was held regarding reviewing members with key/code access to the church.

·Learned that Sycamore Summit is scheduled for October 18 following worship.

·Discussed church picnic preparations.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for September 14.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders:

Bereavement – John Jenkins
Casserole- Debbie Oliver
Hospital/Homebound – Joey Francis
Prayer – Charlie Harcum

Transportation – Terry McPherson

Contact these Team Leaders if you, or someone you know, has a need for any of these services.

WANTED: BELL RINGER

We need a bell ringer on September 17 at 4 p.m. to ring the church bell for 1 minute as we participate in “Ringing of the Bells” across America.

The bell ringing on this day commemorates the 239th anniversary of the Constitution's signing.

This is a fun opportunity for children to participate if you are interested in ringing our church bell.

MUSIC MINISTRY



It’s beginning to sound a lot like Christmas; at least it will on Wednesday evenings starting September 2.

If you love to sing and have thought about joining or rejoining the choir, now is a great time to join us as we begin preparing for our annual Christmas cantata. It is a wonderful opportunity to sing, worship, and fellowship.

Come lift your voice with us Wednesdays at 7:45pm. See Tricia Davis for details.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

From the Secretary's Desk:

I will start updating the church directory this month. Please review your current listing and let me know if any corrections are needed or if there is anything you would like included.



Many people have canceled their landlines. If this applies to you, please let me know, and I will remove the number from your listing.

If you are a regular attender with us and would like your information included as a friend of the church, I will be glad to add it.

Thank you to everyone who helps us keep our information up to date each year.

Peggy Rush

SAVE THE DATE



A Few Notes About the Day:

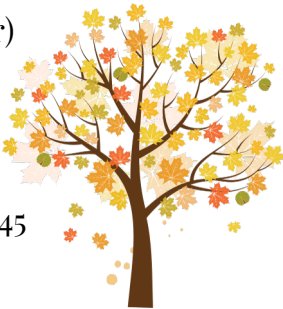
There will be no Sunday School on Oct 4.
The Deacon Team will provide fried chicken for the potluck picnic lunch.
Bring a friend, games, a fishing pole or two, and have a swinging good time on the traditional Bronco Club swings!
In case of inclement weather the event will be held at the church.

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	2 Family Night	3	4	5
6 Sunday Morning Schedule HerMission 11:15 a.m.	7 	8 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	9 Family Night	10	11	12
13 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	14 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	16 Family Night	17	18	19
20 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	21	22 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	23 Family Night	24	25 	26
27 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Schedule	28	29 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	30 Family Night			

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
Sunday School 9:00 am. | Worship 10:00 a.m.

FAMILY NIGHT SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
Meal: 5:45
Adult Study II: 6:15
Men's Bible Study: 6:45
Youth: 6:45
Mission Friends & Children in Action: 6:45
Adult Choir: 7:45



CONTACT INFORMATION
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And by appointment.