SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor Deacon of the Month Rev. Tracey Pugh Peggy Rush

Vol. XLXI, No. 9 September 2025

Words of the Faith:

Rediscovering the Language That Shapes Our Lives in Christ

Dear Church Family,

I hope this finds you well and ready for the "ber" months; they are here, and they are my favorite! I hope you enjoyed the Songs of Summer preaching series, it as much as I did. You may recall that during my sermon on 'The Greatness of God,' I discussed the distinction between praising God and exalting God. Someone thanked me for that, because it was not known what the difference was, or even what it meant to exalt God. This got me thinking about other words of faith that we use regularly. Words like grace, salvation, faith, and discipleship are part of our everyday language as believers, but sometimes we use them without fully grasping the power they carry. These aren't just theological buzzwords or dusty vocabulary from Sunday School—they are life-giving truths that help define who we are and how we live as followers of Jesus.

That's why I'm excited to invite you to join me for a new sermon series beginning this month called "Words of the Faith." From now until the start of Advent, we'll take a deep dive into the words that form the heart of our Christian identity. Each week we'll explore one or two key terms from Scripture—defining what they mean, understanding why they matter, and discovering how they shape our everyday walk with Christ.

Some of the words we'll unpack include:

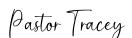
- **Grace** the gift we don't deserve
- Repentance turning around
- **Faith** trusting the invisible
- **Discipleship** come, follow Me
- **Sanctification** a work in progress
- Glory for His glory alone

And many more. Whether you've been in church for decades or are still new to the journey, this series will help all of us deepen our faith, sharpen our understanding, and renew our language of worship, prayer, and witness.

I am also thrilled to include our youngest disciples in this journey! Each Sunday during worship, we'll have a special Children's Moment just for them, offering an age-appropriate way to explore that week's word. And to help keep little hands busy and hearts engaged, Children's Activity Bags will be available at the sanctuary doors. I love seeing families worship together and want every child to know they belong here.

Bring a friend. Bring a notebook. And most of all, bring an open heart ready to learn and grow.I look forward to exploring these foundational truths together as we develop a richer vocabulary for vibrant faith.

With gratitude and anticipation,





MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Local, Global, And Everything In Between

ALMA HUNT OFFERING for Virginia (Vissions



"For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead." James 2:26

The annual offering for Virginia missions was named in honor of Alma Hunt (1909-2008), a native Virginian renowned worldwide for her missionary service and unwavering dedication to the cause of Christ.

The offering provides funding for all HerMission (WMUV) missions and ministries. It makes it possible to have other special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives not funded through regular streams of giving (but uniquely connected to Virginia Baptists). Since 1976, this offering has been a joint venture between HerMission and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV).

When you give to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions, you are equipping those who seek to share with others how God has set them free to live and serve.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Sixteen welcome boxes and a tub of extra food items were donated to the Food Bank! Sycamore has seven members volunteering at the Food Bank as well.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Summer is gone, and school

life has started. Just as kids here need school supplies, so do children in other countries. For September, we will be collecting school supplies for shoeboxes. Suggested items may include crayons, pencils, sharpeners, colored pencils, scissors, and/or waterless paint sets. Items may be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall in the bins marked OCC.

Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls

THANKSGIVING

Once again, Sycamore is blessed with the opportunity to share God's love in a tangible way this Thanksgiving season. Together, as a church family, we will provide complete Thanksgiving dinners to local families who could use a little extra help during the holiday season.

This mission is truly a church-wide effort! We'll collect, organize, and pack all the fixings for traditional Thanksgiving meals—and then distribute them with care and compassion to those in our community.

To make this happen, we're inviting each member to participate by donating specific food items each month.

Let's work together to be a blessing this season. Your generosity will help ensure that more families can gather around the table with grateful hearts and full plates. We look forward to another joyful season of giving thanks by giving to others.

SEPTEMBER MISSION FOCUS







September grocery items:

- Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Gravy (Jar or Can)
- Instant Potatoes (Box)

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Many thanks to everyone who has participated in the church's missions in one way or another. We have a few things to wrap up this month:

Birthday Boxes – we will have an assembly line set up on one Wednesday evening this month for folks to pack a box or two as they finish their meal.

We will also be working with WOM to deliver school supplies to Capron ES.

Finally, we are still working to provide backto-school treats for Riverdale teachers. Stay tuned for details.

CHURCH LIFE

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A big thank you to all who stepped up and agreed to serve on all the various committees and groups. You made our job easier and the work of the church much brighter.

Please update your nominating report with the following additions and updates:

- Johnny and Kay Holland Co-chairs Food Service Committee
- Charlie Daughtrey, Johnny Holland Co-chairs Building and Grounds
- Tricia Davis Recreation Committee Chair.

If your committee does not have a chairperson, please take the initiative to call a meeting and develop a plan for the committee's operation.

Contact Robin Davis, Nominating Chair, if you feel led to fill an open position or if you have any questions.

DEACON NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee would like to note the deacons that have been selected to begin a three-year service starting October 1, 2025, they are Tricia Davis, Johnny Holland, and John Jenkins.

We want to thank those rotating off for their service over the past three years: Patsy Falls, Holly Giles, and Ronnie Bulls.

SAVE THE DATE



Worship, communion, baptism, and a church picnic will be held at the Bronco Club on Sunday, October 5, at **11:00 a.m**. There will be no Sunday School. The meal is a potluck with the deacons providing fried chicken.

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.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I thoroughly enjoy my morning coffee and appreciate being out in the community. Join me at the coffee houses listed below for a cup of coffee and some conversation.



Daily Dose	9-10:30
Storehouse	9-10:30
Daily Dose	9-10:30
Storehouse	9-10:30
Parsonage	9-10:30
	Storehouse Daily Dose Storehouse



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

September 03 Deacons

September 10 Women's Study Group

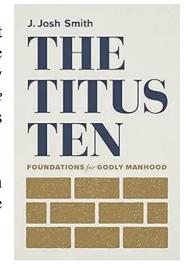
September 01 Brotherhood

September 24 Choir

WEDNESDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Beginning on Sept 17 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall, Jimmy Vann will facilitate *The Titus Ten*, a men's discussion Bible study.

Please let Jimmy Vann know if you are interested in joining.



PASTOR'S DINNER RESCHEDULE

I am looking forward to sharing an evening of fellowship with you in October, once I am fully healed and able to prepare for it as I would like. Stay tuned for the new date.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE



New snail mail? New cell phone number? Change in email address? Landline phone number change or disconnect? We need to know how to communicate with you!

During September, Peggy Rush will be updating our church directory. If you have any changes or additions, please notify her or the office. Thank you for all your help in completing this project each year.

CONFERENCE REPORT

The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, August 3, 2025. In that meeting, the church:

- Received written financial reports and committee reports.
- Was informed that the average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 38.
- Approved the budget for the 2025-2026 church year.
- Approved the Nominating Committee report for the 2025-2026 church year, noting that some vacancies were yet to be filled.
- Accepted a document from the Audit Committee outlining a process for the annual audits.
- Held the deacon nominations.
- Granted Rev. Pugh a third week of vacation in recognition of her service for five years at Sycamore.

Patsy Falls

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on August 4, 2025. During that meeting, the following occurred

• Devotions were led by Peggy Rush, and prayer concerns were heard.

• Deacon Team activities were presented.

- Permission to use the Fellowship Hall for a birthday party was granted to Janie Brown for October 4.
- Physical needs of the church and the financing of those needs, as well as the budget, were discussed.
- Learned that Rev. Brian Williams and Mandy Smith would be guest speakers during August due to the pastor's vacation plans and upcoming surgery.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept 2.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement Ronnie Bulls
- Casserole- Holly Giles
- Hospital/Homebound Joey Francis
- Prayer Charlie Harcum
- Transportation Terry McPherson

Patsy Falls

Syptember Standay Thursday Eriday Saturday							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
·	1 Labor Day	2 Coffee & Convo Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	3 Family Night	4	5	6	
		Deacon Mtg 7:00 pm.					
7 Sunday Morning Schedule	8	9 Coffee & Convo Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	10 Family Night	11	12	13	
Communion Bldg. & Grds 11:15 a.m.		7-10.50 a.m.					
14 Sunday Morning Schedule	15	Coffee & Convo Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	17 Family Night	18	19	20	
Community Connections 11:15 a.m.		WOM 6:30 p.m.					
21 Sunday Morning Schedule	22	23 Coffee & Convo Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	24 Family Night	25	26	27	
Church Council 11:15							
28 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m.	29	30 Coffee & Convo Parsonage 9-10:30 a.m.					
Sunday Morning Schedule							

FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)

Meal: 5:45

Adult Study II: 6:15 Men's Bible Study: 6:30

Youth 6:30

Mission Friends and Children in Action: 6:45

Adult Choir: 7:45

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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

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: 434.953.7930

Office Hours: 9:00-4:30 Tues – Fri by appointment

