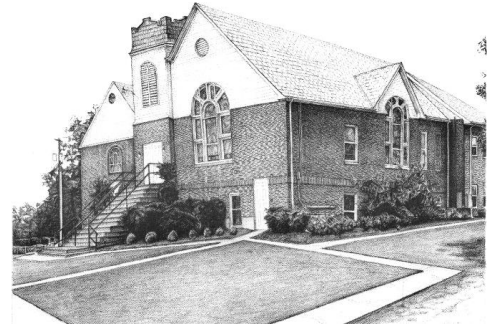


# SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Franklin, VA 23851  
(757) 562-6749

Pastor  
Rev. David Roberts

Deacon of the Month  
Peggy Rush

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## From the In-Between Pastor

### WHAT'S RIGHT WITH SYCAMORE?

Often, in my role as an intentional interim, I lead a church in a process of discovery to find problems that might be addressed during the short span of my time with the church or at least to become the focus of some of our joint efforts reaching into the future. As we move nearer to the time when you again have an installed pastor to minister with you. Yet, along with those things, I have shared a front row seat on the good things that are part of your life together. Let's take a look at some of these strengths.

First, you share a loving fellowship. I see this every time the church gathers. There are handshakes, hugs, people in a hurry to talk to each other when you arrive and in no hurry to leave when worship or other activities end. When guests visit, you reach out to them to welcome them and share your fellowship with them.

Second, you have committed leadership. There are many of you who put endless hours into the church's life volunteering to lead groups, work administering the life of the church, improving the look of the church's facilities, and being involved in many different ways, seen and unseen. Publications like our newsletter appear regularly because of the commitment that is here.

Third, you have a willingness to keep moving. The most common trend in church life is that when there is no installed pastor, nothing moves forward until that next pastor arrives. You have tackled a 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, purchased a new church van, updated church technology, replaced a copier, updated our landscaping (a work in progress), updating lighting, and several other projects. You have not waited to do these things.

Fourth, there is a lot of love here for God. Often a church shows some of the love for God in the ways you sing. I know that a blended worship style is still a work in progress for some of you who prefer either a traditional or a contemporary style of worship alone in worship. Yet, you have enthusiastically made both styles part of your worship and sing with an enthusiasm to show your love for Jesus. Sometimes I observe a smile on an uplifted face and sometimes a gentle tear, but each speaks well for you.

Fifth, you have a number of ministries that focus out on other people, even those who may not be part of the church family. Backpacks keep going to children whom most of you do not know personally. You gather school supplies every August for Southampton County students. At Christmas, there is a generosity reflected in Angel Tree gifts and in shoeboxes. Wednesday meals are delivered regularly to those who request them.

Sixth, you are looking to the future. Concerns to update equipment and technology is future focused. Asking how we can better present ourselves in the community is future focused. Dreaming about new programs for youth and children is future focused. Considering how we can strengthen the church for the future is important. Investments in new possibilities are important.

Sycamore has a lot of strengths, and we need to magnify each one. As you go toward the future, lead with your strengths for the glory of our Lord.

Love in Christ,

*Dave*

## CONFERENCE REPORT

The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, August 28, 2019. In that meeting the church:

- Received written financial reports and committee reports;
- Learned that the average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 52 and that Sunday School files are being computerized;
- Heard a report from Building and Grounds that the roof repairs will begin within 4 weeks, estimates are being received on bathroom ceiling repairs, and a new freezer was purchased for the basement.
- Received a report that Brotherhood is continuing their work on updating the church landscaping and they hosted their spouses and Women on Mission at Brotherhood Breakfast in June;
- Approved a proposal from WMU to focus our missions offering emphases at Easter and Christmas on CBF Offering for Global Missions. September's mission offering emphasis will continue to be Alma Hunt State Missions;
- Accepted the Nominating Committee report noting a few vacancies and accepted the Nominating Committee's appointment of Peggy Rush as a Vaughan Memorial Fund Trustee;
- Approved the 2019-2020 Church Budget presented by the Finance Committee;
- Learned the Pastor Search Committee is talking with a viable candidate for pastor;
- Voted to continue the backpack program provided 50 backpacks as we did this past year;
- Learned that the church computers and wifi update is in process and that our new e-mail is secretary@sycamorebaptist.org; Also learned our new website, www.sycamorebaptist.org should be live by August 4 and it will include an option for online giving;
- Postponed a vote on the audio/visual equipment upgrade until the committee can meet again with the company to get a complete proposal on the options available;

- Voted to upgrade the technology (computers, network system, security, and phones) at the church for a total one-time cost of \$4,994.35 with Charlie Harcum donating labor;
  - Approved a recommendation by the deacons to amend Policy and Procedure to allow Building and Grounds together with the Trustees to proceed with emergency repairs that affect the structural integrity of the church or parsonage without prior church approval;
  - Learned Songfest has been rescheduled for September 8;
  - Set the date for the next conference for October 27.
- Patsy Falls, Clerk

## NURSERY SCHEDULE

August 4 Connie W. and Katherine D.  
August 11 Dianne U. and Holly G.  
August 18 Debbie J. and Debbie O.  
August 25 Jennifer H.

If unable to be present on your assigned Sunday, please trade with someone or notify Jennifer at 651-1413 or Connie at 376-2397. Please remain in the nursery until 10:10 before coming to the sanctuary for worship if there are no children present.

## AUGUST MISSION PROJECT CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

Do you hear sleigh Bells? It's time to celebrate a mission Christmas. Join us for fun and fellowship on Wednesday, August 28 at 5:45 p.m. We will have a yummy Christmas meal prepared by the Brotherhood and WOM. Your meal is "free" when you bring school supplies to be given to Franklin Cooperative Ministry. Suggested items are backpacks, calculators, pens, pencils, paper, notebooks, crayons, markers, glue sticks, blunt scissors or any school item you think a child might need for school. Thanks for your help.

Robin Davis and WOM

## **TRANSPORTATION FUND REPORT**

We are still awaiting delivery of the new van. It should arrive during the month of August.

### **NEW WEBSITE AND EMAIL**

Please note the church has a new website and e-mail address.

**WEBSITE:** [www.sycamorebaptist.org](http://www.sycamorebaptist.org)  
**E-MAIL:** [secretary@sycamorebaptist.org](mailto:secretary@sycamorebaptist.org)

### **SINGLES MINGLES**

The Singles Mingles will be going to Fred's on Saturday, August 10 at 12 noon. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

### **FRANKLIN COOPERATIVE MINISTRY**

Franklin Cooperative Ministry needs for this month are muffin mix, spaghetti sauce, pasta, and bathroom tissue. If you can help, please place your items in the green basket outside the library. Thank you for your help.

Robin Davis and WOM

### **YOUTH NEWS**

August 7	Mission Project
August 14	Mission Project
August 21	EP Bingo
August 29	Christmas in August

### **OUTREACH NEWS**

Meals are being delivered on Wednesday nights to shut-ins and those recovering from an illness or surgery. To volunteer or request/cancel a meal call Elaine Wiley at 562-4332.

August 7	Ronnie & Wayne
August 14	Elaine & Nell
August 21	Elaine
August 28	Jennifer

Please have take-out meals ready by 5:15 and be sure a dinner is saved for those who are delivering meals.

Elaine Wiley

## **SONGFEST & ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Our annual Songfest and Homemade Ice Cream Social is September 8 at 6pm. Join us for an evening of music, food, and fellowship as we lift our praise through song with choir anthems as well as favorite hymn and praise song requests. We will follow our evening of song with delicious homemade ice cream and cakes.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The church council met on July 21 and discussed the following:

- Deacon report is in the newsletter;
- The average Sunday School attendance for June was 45;
- The Brotherhood will help with the county fair meal and they continue to update the church landscaping;
- Women on Mission will collect school supplies for Franklin Cooperative Ministry for Christmas in August which will be Wednesday, August 28;
- Songfest is September 8 at 6:00 p.m.;
- Noted the church will hold an Operation Christmas Child Craft Night in September. Date to be announced.
- Noted the church picnic will be at the Bronco Club Sunday, October 6. There will be no Sunday School that day and worship will be held by the river at the Bronco Club.

Tricia Davis



## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROCESSING CENTER**

Would you like to be part of something that impacts people around the world? Serving at an Operation Christmas Child processing center gives you the opportunity to do so! Millions of shoeboxes are collected during National Collection Week. Before these special gifts can bring hope and joy to children around the world, each one has to be carefully inspected and made ready for overseas shipment by volunteers. Tasks include removing financial contributions from the shoeboxes, inspecting the gifts, sorting inappropriate items, working with filler items, separating boxes by age and gender, and boxing shoeboxes in designated cartons. Ages 13 and up can volunteer.

Women on Mission is organizing our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual trip to volunteer at an Operation Christmas Child Processing Center. This year we are making plans to volunteer in **Charlotte, NC**. Date choices include: Nov. 20-21, the weekend of Dec. 1, or the weekend of Dec. 8. We will do a 2 day trip with some sightseeing in Charlotte. If you are interested in volunteering, sign up outside the church office by all dates that work for you. Registration opens October 4 and fills up very quickly! We will do our best to reserve the dates that work for everyone.

If you have questions about volunteering at the processing center, contact Tricia Davis.

## **DEACON REPORT**

The Deacon's meeting was held July 1, 2019.

The Deacon Ministry Teams gave the following reports for the month of June.

- Bereavement – no need
- Casserole – 2 meals delivered
- Hospital/Homebound – 9 visits
- Prayer – 2 prayer requests
- Transportation – no official requests

A proposal to handle emergency repair situations was discussed and will be presented at the July 28 church conference.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for August 5.

Deacon of the month for August is Peggy Rush.

Tricia Davis

## **INTERIM PASTOR'S HOURS**

Our Interim Pastor is now coming to Sycamore on Saturday afternoon and returning to Emporia on Monday nights. With the completion of the major tasks in the Intentional Interim process, it is more fitting to his work and to the church's needs. He is available in situations requiring an emergency response. He is no longer keeping office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will not be present for Wednesday night activities. He will be continuing to plan and be part of special events and services.

## **AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

July 28, 2019

[pcfalls@charter.net](mailto:pcfalls@charter.net)

