

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS

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Pastor
Rev. David Roberts

Deacon of the Month
Tricia Davis

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WHAT STILL NEEDS ATTENTION AT SYCAMORE?

Last month, I took a few moments to pat you on the back for some of the things I see that are very right with Sycamore. Indeed, there are many that I did not address. This month, I want to focus on some of the things that still need attention at Sycamore. Some are areas where we have seen progress, and that progress needs to continue. Others are areas that still await our attention. Please hear these as coming from someone who dearly loves this congregation and speaks with a pastoral concern.

First, we need to be more faithfully involved in the church. I have calculated our active attendance by the metric of those who participate in something at least every two months. What I see is a number around 125, yet we never have that many attending any single event. Some of you are present almost every Sunday, but many are only here occasionally. We need a higher level of faithfulness to encourage the church's life as we look forward. Consider how you might up your participation by one event each month whether that is Sunday School, Worship, Midweek Activities, or other events.

Second, we do a fantastic job supporting the church's ministries and special needs as they come, but our giving often lags in supporting the church through consistent stewardship each Sunday. New options now exist for giving online, so even if you cannot be here every Sunday, your gifts can be.

Third, we need to grow more outwardly focused on the people around us. Many of us see needs and immediately respond, but often we do not bring our concerns into focus in the community. Some folks within three miles of the church do not know that we exist. I've learned this at the YMCA and in local restaurants. We need continuing, conscious promotion of our church in the community. Our location is not passed regularly by many of those whom we need to reach, so we need to be the promoters of our church. Our new website will help, but personal connections are always worth more. It's great to

minister to those who already are part of our fellowship, but ministry to those outside the church can be a vital link to reaching people for our Lord.

Fourth, we need to get our lives focused on the future we can share together. In a church with a long and distinguished history like our story that now spans almost 141 years, it's easy to tell the stories of the great moments from the past or the "way things used to be." When a new pastor arrives, the last thing he or she needs to hear is "Well, when _____ was here we always did it this way." We examined the Heritage first in our Five Focus Points in the Intentional Interim process not only to get in touch with it but to use it as the launching pad for looking at Mission, Leadership, and Connections, in order to allow us to shift into a Future mode. If we try to make the future church look like the one that was here in the 1920's or 1950's or 1980's, we will doom the church to failure. It can only be as we focus on the future that we can claim what God has for his people known as Sycamore. Be open to what the Lord will be doing here if we allow Him.

Love in Christ,

Dave

TRANSPORTATION FUND REPORT

The new van is here and was dedicated at the close of Worship on August 18th. Which group will be taking it on the first trip?

The following note was received from Blake Ford.

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you. We appreciate your business and the confidence you have placed in us.

*Again, thank you,
Tal Drewry"*

INTERIM PASTOR'S HOURS

Our Interim Pastor will be coming to Sycamore on Saturday afternoon and returning to Emporia on Monday nights. Text messages to his cell phone are probably the best way to reach him.

SINGLES MINGLES

The Singles Mingles will be meeting at Joe's on Saturday, September 14 at 12 noon. Come join us for fun and fellowship.

FRANKLIN COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Franklin Cooperative Ministry needs spaghetti sauce, pasta, muffin mix and bathroom tissue. Please place your items in the green basket outside the library. Thank you for your help.

Robin Davis and WOM

DIRECTORY UPDATE

The 2019-2020 directory is currently being updated. If there are any new addresses or phone numbers please contact Peggy Rush. The goal is to have the directory done by the middle of October.

Peggy Rush

NURSERY SCHEDULE

September 1	Peggy R. & Lou V.
September 8	Janet B. & Erin H.
September 15	Sharon M. & Robin D.
September 22	Holly G. & Diane U.
September 29	Peggy R.

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

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

If the assigned dates are not suitable for your class or group please trade with another group and let Dianne know the change.

September 5	Covered Dish
September 12	Mixed Adults
September 19	Up and Coming
September 26	World Changers

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.

September 4	Ronnie & Wayne
September 11	Elaine & Nell
September 18	Elaine
September 25	Jennifer

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

School is starting and the Backpack program is beginning also. Please consider sponsoring a child as this will give a child food for the weekend. Elaine Wiley

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

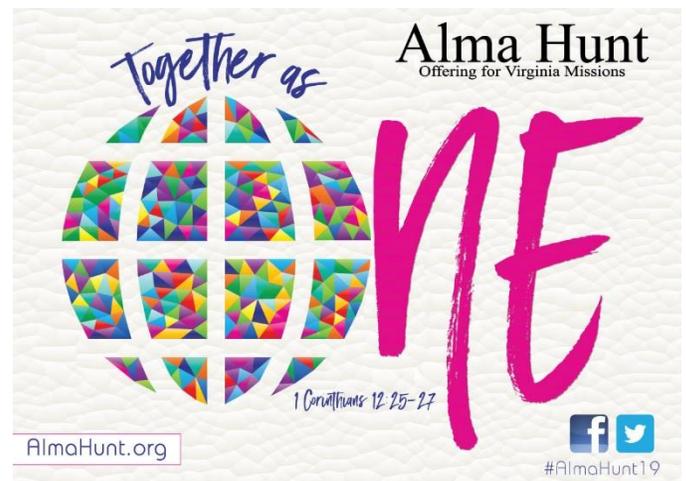
The choir is preparing for the Christmas season and welcome all voices who wish to join us for the Christmas Cantata. We practice every Wednesday at 7:45pm.

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth will meet after worship on September 15 to prepare for Youth Sunday, have lunch, and “chalkboard paint” in their classroom. Bring money for lunch.

Youth Sunday will be September 22 at which time the Youth will lead in worship and share Impact highlights.

September 4th: Missions Projects
September 11th: BINGO @ East Pavillion
September 18th: Missions Projects
September 25th: Youth are in charge of the Wednesday night meal.
Erin Harcum and Holly Giles



ALMA HUNT OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

September is the emphasis month for Virginia State Missions. We will be collecting the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions September 8-15. Since 1976 this offering has been a joint venture between Woman’s Missionary Union of Virginia (WMUV) and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). The offering provides funding for all WMUV missions and ministries and makes possible other special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives not funded through regular streams of giving (but uniquely connected to Virginia Baptists). 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.

SONGFEST

Our annual Songfest and Homemade Ice Cream Social is September 8 at 6:00 p.m. 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.

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER?

Riverside Worship Service And Church Picnic

Are you ready for a day full of worship, fellowship, food and fun? We'll have it all at the Annual Church Picnic Sunday, October 6 at the Bronco Club. The day begins at 10:00 a.m. with a riverside worship service including communion. Following worship, we will have a covered dish lunch. After lunch, an afternoon of music, fun and games is planned. Let's all gather at the river together to worship God and fellowship in His name. See you there!

CHURCH WIDE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD CRAFT NIGHT

Following dinner Wednesday, Sept. 25, we will have a church wide Operation Christmas Child Craft Night. All ages will work together to assemble items for our shoeboxes including sewing kits, fishing kits, and tic tac toe games. No crafting skill is required just a heart willing to serve others at a night of fun and fellowship.

We are also collecting items needed for the kits. For the sewing kits, we need: needles, buttons, seam rippers, safety pins, thread, and one-yard pieces of fabric. For the fishing kits, we need: hooks, fishing line, bobbers or wine corks, sinkers, and nail clippers. Items can be placed in basket beside the library.



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 3rd 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 the weekend of Nov. 30 or the weekend of Dec. 7. 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.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

We have an updated website with lots of information about the church. Check it out at the **new address** below.

www.sycamorebaptist.org

There is also a **new email address** for the church.

secretary@sycamorebaptist.org

Don't forget to check us out on **Facebook** as well and share information on your own page as a way of sharing news of our events.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council met Sunday, August 18 and discussed the following:

- Average Sunday School attendance for July was 53.
- The Sunday School office is being computerized.
- Songfest is September 8.
- The Church Picnic is October 6.
- A new microwave is being purchased for the kitchen.
- Thanksgiving meal and service will be Sunday, November 24.
- Hanging of the Greens will be Wednesday Dec. 4.
- The new van does not fit under the old shed. Plans are being discussed to purchase a new shed with a concrete slab and repurpose the old shed as a shelter for cooking on our grills.
- Roof repairs should begin in about 2 weeks.
- The new website is live.

Tricia Davis

DEACONS MINUTES

The Deacon's meeting was held August 5, 2019.

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

- Bereavement – no need
- Casserole – 4 meals delivered
- Hospital/ Homebound – 13 visits
- Prayer – no requests
- Transportation - no requests
- It was noted that the new van has arrived and a van dedication will be held following worship.
- Roof repairs should begin in a couple of weeks.
- Backlighting the cross in the sanctuary is still in progress.
- It was noted the emergency repairs proposal allowing Building and Grounds and Trustees to proceed with emergency repairs when needed was passed at conference.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for September 9. Deacon of the month for September is Tricia Davis.



Keep our students and school personnel in your prayers.

