

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9

The Suburban Connection

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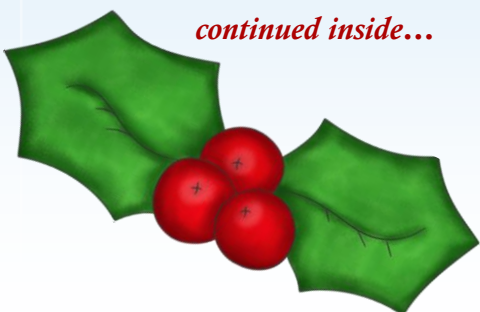
Operation Christmas Child GO Shoe Box Gift Goal Surpassed!

Another year of collections, packing and shipping out shoebox gifts has come to an end. Thank you all so much for your contributions. This year, we, as a church family, filled 790 Gospel Opportunity boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our goal was 621. That means that 790 children around the world will be touched with God's love this year. What a great way to share the story of Jesus Christ!

Thank each one of you who made items, purchased toys, clothes, health or school supplies and all the other little things that helped to fill the boxes. Also, thank you all for your prayers. Every prayer helped to make possible this mission. Every individual shoebox means another child will feel God's love. Every penny you saved and



continued inside...



Save the Date!

Family Christmas Day
December 8th

10:15am in
Sanctuary &
Fellowship Hall

Christmas Cantata
December 22nd

10:15 am in
Sanctuary

Christmas Eve
December 24th

Candlelight
communion at
6:00 pm in the
Sanctuary

Responding to Jesus at Christmas

From Proverbs 8

**What does a “wise” response to Jesus look like?
In Proverbs 8, we see one way the wise will respond to Jesus.**

“THE WISE WILL SEEK JESUS DILIGENTLY”

Proverbs 8:17 says, “those who seek me diligently find me.” The word diligently means, seeking with intentionality...it is a kind of seeking that goes out of our usual way, that breaks with our normal routine and pursues with great determination and tenacity.

This is the kind of seeking that characterized the wisemen in Matthew 2: 1-2. “Behold wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

If you lost a child in the mall, how diligently would you seek for them? If you lost your dog while taking her for a walk, how diligently would you seek for her? If you lost your wedding ring while cleaning the house, how diligently would you seek for it?

A wise response to Jesus is seeking him diligently...like the wisemen diligently seeking to find the king of the Jews, like a parent diligently seeking to find their lost child, like an owner diligently seeking to find their lost pet, like a spouse diligently seeking to find their wedding ring!

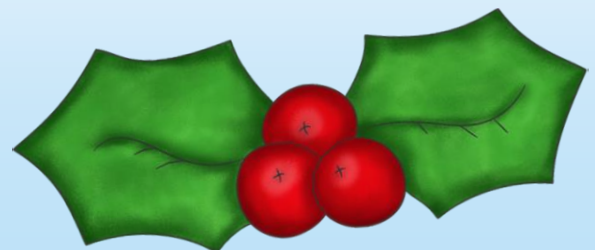
This Christmas season is a great time for us to step back and evaluate our priorities. To ask the question,” What am I pursuing with great determination and tenacity? What am I seeking with a focused intentionality?

Wisdom understands that Jesus Christ is the one and only true necessity in our lives. Wisdom realizes that I need to grab hold of Jesus with all my strength while holding everything else loosely. Because wisdom believes that whoever has Jesus has life and whoever does not have Jesus does not have life (1 John 5:12).

So above all else, more than listening to Christmas music, more than watching Hallmark Christmas movies (psst... they're all the same), more than making sure that we bought the perfect gift, let us make sure that we are going out of our way to listen to Jesus in His word, to talk to Jesus in prayer, to serve Jesus as we share His love with those around us!

Seeking Jesus with you,

Pastor Todd



What's Happening In.....

Suburban Kids

Mother's Day Out

GRATEFUL HEARTS



Gratitude is one of the most difficult concepts to teach toddlers and preschoolers -- who are by nature self-centered -- but one of the most important. It is critical to teach children the meaning of gratitude from a young age. Those who are raised knowing how to feel and express a sense of gratitude grow up to be well-rounded individuals, with a greater level of self-efficacy and interpersonal skills. Sure, thankful children are more polite and pleasant to be around, but there's more to it than that. By learning gratitude, they become sensitive to the feelings of others, developing empathy and other life skills along the way. Grateful kids look outside their one-person world and understand that their parents and other people do things for them -- prepare dinner, drive them to soccer practice, give hugs, buy toys. On the flip side, kids who aren't taught to be grateful end up feeling entitled and perpetually disappointed.

It can be hard for children to understand why they can't have everything they want in the store. Money is a relatively abstract concept and if they've never paid for something, they may not understand why you're saying "no." Next time your child really wants a new toy, encourage them to think of a way to earn the money and buy it themselves. This could be through saving up their allowance, doing extra chores at home or for other family members.

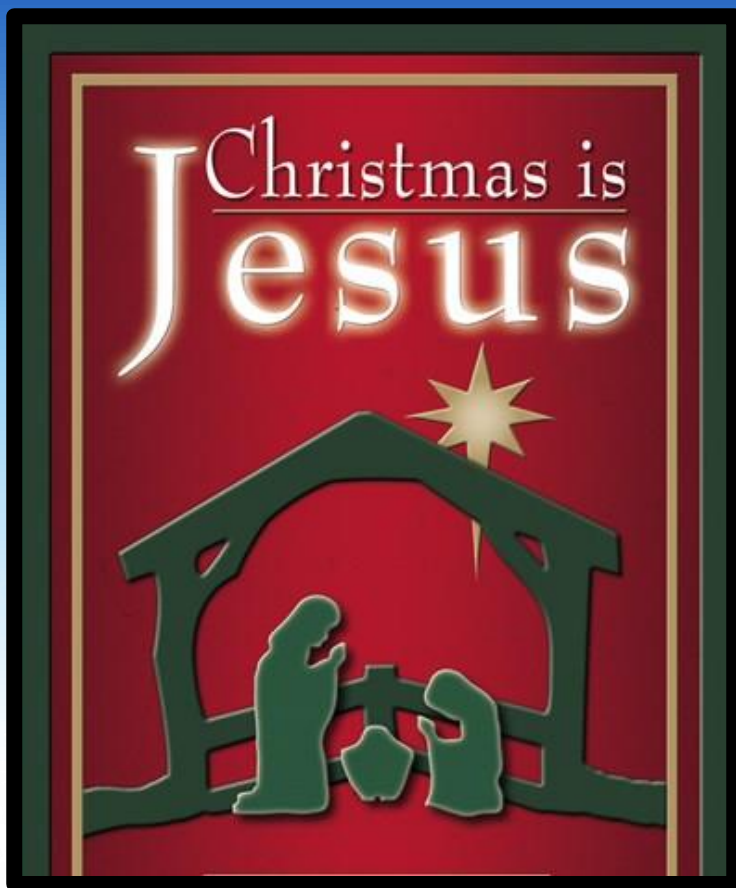
Resist the urge to shower them with too much "stuff." Of course, we do want to give our kids the best, and this isn't to suggest that we refuse to buy them anything but the bare essentials. But buying children whatever they want, whenever they want, weakens the gratitude impulse and it can mean that they don't learn to value or respect their possessions. They wind up having too much stuff, they don't appreciate each toy or game, as they keep setting their sights on the latest and greatest. One of our family's traditions before Christmas when our children were young was to have them go through all their toys and donate anything that was gently used and no longer played with. This encouraged grateful hearts and helped them think of others.

Have a moment of thanks each day when everyone shares something they're thankful for. Whether the list includes a favorite toy, a particularly good day at school, or our warm beds, this daily tradition can help develop a positive frame of mind. Older kids might even prefer to keep a gratitude journal and write down a few things they were thankful for each day before going to bed.

Lead by example: How many times per day do you say, "thank you"? Tell your children what you are thankful for. Our children are watching our every move. We can't ask them to be grateful if we are not. Come home and talk about the happy parts of your day, making a conscious choice not to complain. Keep in mind that teaching gratitude to children takes time, patience, and—yes—a grateful heart in YOU. It's an ongoing process and it certainly won't happen overnight. You'll need to continue modeling and practicing thankfulness and appreciation throughout your child's development.

Andrea Hoover

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11

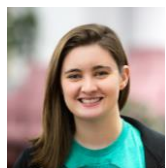


It's time to start inviting family and friends for the 2018 Christmas Cantata on December 22nd at 10:15 am.

SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



Sally Harden
Director of Youth Ministries



Sarah Nelapaty
Director of Children's Ministries



MISSION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

To glorify God, by making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VISION: WHAT WILL THAT LOOK LIKE?

A growing faith in God
A growing love for God
A growing love for others

ACTION: HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

Drawing near to God
Pursuing community
Reaching our world

Visit us on Facebook! Search for "Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com

We want to hear from you! Contact us at newsletter@sccvb.org



*It's the
power of a
simple gift!*



continued from front page

donated through the pill bottle campaign helped to get a gift in the hands of a child. This year, our total was \$1380.45 in change. That change will help to change someone's life. To hear how much it means for a child to receive a simple gift is so powerful we can hardly comprehend the testimonies from the recipients. You can continue to donate to Operation Christmas Child all year online.

Thank you, too, everyone who helped with the Drop-Off collection. From receiving the boxes from the area to putting them in cartons, to loading and delivering them to the Collection Center at Gateway. THANK YOU! Without you, we could not have gotten our gifts on their way to the children.

Keep praying and start collecting for next year's mission.

Lynn Cooke



Sunday School News

*"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."*

John 8:31-32

As we think about how God has worked through the Sunday school ministry this past year, we are assured that His word never returns void. It always accomplishes what He ordains. We have seen Him at work through His word:

- *When a preschooler can go to sleep peacefully, knowing God loves and watches over her
- *When a child chooses to say "no" to a wrong activity their friend suggests because he wants to please God
- *When a teenager refuses to be crushed by cyber bullying because she knows how beloved she is to Jesus
- *When adults choose to love and forgive in the power of the Holy Spirit rather than seek revenge
- *When we hear kids share how God has answered their prayers
- *When we hear kids discussing issues they face daily and how God's truth impacts their lives
- *When we see kids opening their Bibles and learning to go to the source of Truth for guidance and assurance



God has "shown up" powerfully every week as His Holy Spirit applies His truth to our hearts, setting us free to be who He created us to be – beloved children who glorify Him.

Jan Grills



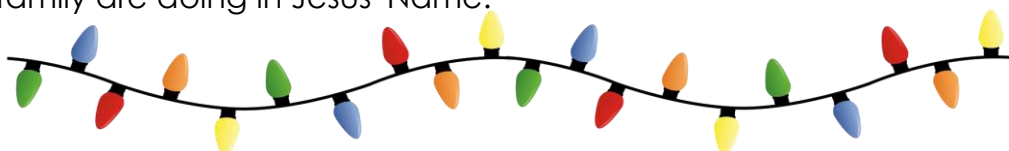
AWANA Ministry

The month of December is a big time for our clubbers who have worked hard these past couple of months, they get to finally spend their AWANA Bucks on family and friends. SCC AWANA Clubs will be having their first **STORE NIGHT** on **December 15th**. The Christmas Store Night is a special time, because as I stated before the clubbers must spend their bucks on Christmas gifts for others, which they get to help wrap as well. The clubbers really enjoy gift giving and enjoy picking out special presents. We will have Christmas cookies and drinks to share. If you are a fantastic gift wrapper, we could really use your help that night helping the leaders and clubbers wrap gifts for their family and friends. You will be a blessing to the SCC AWANA Ministry!!!!

The AWANA Store is in need of gifts, especially men's gifts for our clubbers to buy with their hard earned AWANA Bucks. If you would like to donate items, please put them in the foyer in the AWANA Bin. Thank you.

The SCC AWANA Clubs would also like to thank Mr. Stefan Wassem for talking to our clubbers about missionary work in Australia and beyond. It was a blessing to hear the amazing works you and your family are doing in Jesus' Name.

Liz Bonnett



Union Mission Update – Ladies Bible Study

This has been a beautiful and fruitful year. Thanks, to all of you, my brothers and sisters in the Lord, the Sunday school books you gave to the ladies in Union Mission were received with much joy. Linda Fry, the lap blankets and scarfs you knitted were received with tears in their eyes and smiles on their faces, thank you. When prayer was asked for a library for Union Mission, you all prayed, and our God answered. Books were given, shelves were donated and put together, and the library is now in use.

Gloria, you are such a blessing, thank you. Loren and Matthew, thank you for the time you take in helping me with all the Bible Studies this year. The Holy Spirit has given you both such wisdom. You all have a servant's heart- thank you all for your faithfulness and willingness for being a part of this ministry. And now, May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26. Thank you all for a very blessed year. Looking forward to seeing what our Lord has in store for this year. God bless you all!

With a thankful heart,
Mary Ann Haggerty



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.

No other service compares to the glow of candlelight
and the holy hush of worship on Christmas Eve.

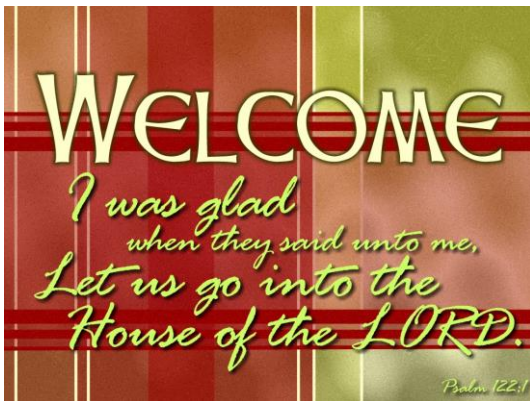
Monday Morning Prayer

Two Mondays a month, we are meeting for one hour **(6am-7am)** in the sanctuary for intercessory prayer. We are seeking the Father's heart for our church and making the choice to intentionally set our gaze on Him. In December we are meeting the 2nd and 16th; the church will only be open for that one hour on those days, and it will not be a time for anything other than prayer. This is in addition to our Saturday prayer times from 7pm-8pm; it is to give those who could not make it to that hour another option! He promises that when two or more are gathered, He is in the midst. We have found this to be true continually as we sacrifice our time to be with Him.

Rebekah Pencook



Welcome Team Ministry



In order to create the atmosphere of family even before people enter our service or events, we have our welcome team greeting at the doors on Sundays. Our goal for this team is for people to know they are loved and accepted as soon as they arrive at this church. We would love to have you help us usher in the spirit of welcome on this team, which is one of the many branches of our Hospitality Team. This area of service is low commitment, and a wonderful place to start if you want to serve but are hesitant of where to begin; or if you don't have tons of time to spare. If you are

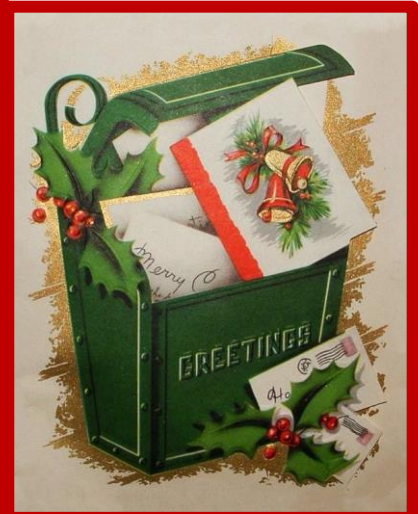
interested in this service team and want to know more, contact Rebekah by phone (757-404-8105) or by email at outreach@sccvb.org.

Rebekah Pencook

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." -1 Peter 4:8-10, ESV

DON'T FORGET!

You may use the mailboxes located in the hall near the church office to send and receive Christmas cards. And please check to see if cards have been delivered to you!



JUST FOR... Suburban Kids

Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S
Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U
R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S
N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E
J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J
M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T
D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M
Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



angels
Christmas
donkey
innkeeper
Jesus
Joseph
king
manger
Mary
nativity
salvation
sheep
shepherds
star
wisemen

Nativity Word Scramble

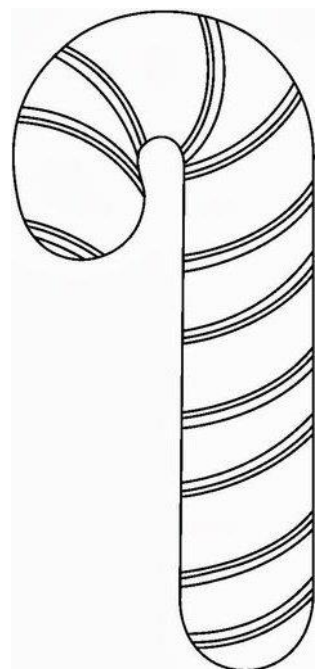
All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. STRA _ _ _ _
2. MAGREN _ _ _ _ _
3. MYAR _ _ _ _
4. SEPHE _ _ _ _ _
5. DOEYKN _ _ _ _ _
6. AEGLN _ _ _ _ _
7. JPHOES _ _ _ _ _
8. JSSEU _ _ _ _ _
9. KIGSN _ _ _ _ _
10. STBALE _ _ _ _ _



Color me....

"for unto us
a child is
born...
and His
name shall
be called
Wonderful!"
Isaiah 9:6



AYM NEWS

WHERE WE'VE BEEN: NOVEMBER

This past month has been great. We started our new series on Wednesday Night. The students turned in questions that they want to know about their faith and about God. With God's guidance, we strive to answer them the best we can. We've answered questions like Is God a man or not, if we are made in the image of God how are we allowed to do bad things, and what does it mean to be and feel worth? These are great questions that God wants to answer for the students.

We celebrated Thanksgiving with a night of fun and games at the church! We had a pie-eating contest and played Hunt the Turkeys. I am so thankful for these students that God has given us. They have such a hunger for the Lord that is so amazing, and I am just blessed to be able to be present for it.

Sally Harden

WHERE WE ARE GOING: DECEMBER

High School Bible Study: December 2nd
 Dinner at Nona's: December 7th
 Family Christmas Day: December 8th
 AYM Bake Sale: December 15th
 AYM Christmas Party: December 18th
 Candle Light Service: December 24th
 No AYM Wednesday Night: December 25th



WHAT'S TO COME IN 2020: JANUARY

Girls/Guys Night: January 11th
 Parents Meeting: January 15th
 Chili Cook-Off: January 19th
 Seniors Breakfast Lock-In: January 24th
 Seniors Breakfast: January 25th
 Mission Trip & Camp Sign-Up Cut-Off: January 31st

AYM desires to create a space where Youth can come to be loved and cared for while nurturing a relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. Our goal is to see God work in the lives of the Youth while working together with leaders and friends to show the love of God while serving in our church, homes, schools, and community.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Seniors Ministry

We gathered for our annual Thanksgiving meeting and dinner on Thursday, November 21st, and over 50 people attended! Various people shared what they were thankful for this past year. Then the MDO children presented a most delightful program of Christmas songs. It is always a special treat to hear and see these youngsters, and hopefully they will be back to entertain us again very soon.

After that it was time for the dinner. The turkey was provided, and everyone brought a variety of side dishes to share. And desserts. And MORE desserts. We are off to a great start with our holiday diets!



We invite everyone, adults and children, to join us on Friday, December 13th for our annual Family Christmas Caroling. Come help us spread some Christmas cheer to those who are homebound and/or live alone. If you can, bring cookies, homemade or store bought. We will meet at the church at 6:00 P.M. and assemble a box of cookies for each home we will visit. Please sign up on the list in the foyer so we know how many will be going. There will be no regular Thursday monthly meeting in December.

These programs are planned and sponsored by the Seniors Ministry, but they are open to all ages. If you have suggestions for programs, please talk to one of the members of the Steering Committee. We are always looking for new ideas!

The Seniors Ministry needs you! Over the years, we have lost a number of our original members due to age, illness and death. Several of these people served on the ministry's steering committee. We are seeking new members with new energy and ideas, including some who would be willing to contribute their time and talents to the steering committee. If you are interested in serving on the steering committee, please contact Ray McGrady.

Dana Mosteller

Food Pantry Ministry



We are so excited to report that we were able to feed **16** families Thanksgiving dinner because of your generous donations throughout the year. Whenever we have had a need, you have generously blessed the food pantry by meeting those weekly needs and donating funds to purchase holiday meals for families in need. Some weeks, we are provided fresh produce (which is a huge blessing) to share with the families who come on a regular basis. Thank you to all of our weekly volunteers who come to pack bags, organize donations, and pray for this ministry.

Belong Women's Ministry

"Christmas is for freedom. Freedom from the fear of death."

-John Piper

Hello ladies! We hope that each of you enjoyed a Thanksgiving full of gratitude and peaceful reflection on God's grace and mercy toward you! May we each take that spirit of thankfulness with us into the Christmas season. May we constantly be reminded of what we are celebrating, especially when the pressures of gift giving, busyness, and over committing begin to mount. Let us stop and evaluate our activities this Christmas season and live in the **freedom** that Christmas brought us!

You may have noted in last month's newsletter that an announcement was made about a New Year's Party. Well, as has often been the case as we navigate renovations in the ministry, the plans for a New Year's party have been tabled for this year. The reason for this change is that we have been provided a VERY exciting opportunity to use a gorgeous *home in OBX to host a women's retreat this March. Originally **Belong** was planning the retreat for the fall of next year. So, with the shortened time for planning, the focus and resources will be directed to the retreat in March. **Mark your calendars now for March 26-28!!** There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Space is limited, so be sure to sign-up soon! The cost is \$50 per person, which includes accommodations and all meals/snacks.

Be on the lookout for additional details about the retreat at the beginning of the year, you won't want to miss out! If you have questions, please see any of the **Belong** gals.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*The home is equipped for those who are differently abled (elevator).

Belong Gang



Lost and Found

We have MANY items in our lost and found cabinet located under the mailboxes near the church office. Please look to see if you have any items that have been turned in. The lost and found cabinet will be cleaned out on December 31st and the left items will be donated to Union Mission.

Family Christmas Day



It's coming! This year, in lieu of our annual Sunday 'Pastor's Christmas with the Children' and the Wednesday night Christmas dinner, we will be combining both events into a **Family Christmas Day** on **Sunday, December 8th**. We will meet in the sanctuary at 10:15 am for an interactive Christmas worship experience that will include the opening of a few interesting gifts, reading passages from Scripture that take us through the Christmas story and all interspersed with the singing of quite a few Christmas carols! At the conclusion of our time in the sanctuary we will all move to the fellowship hall for our potluck lunch. As our time in the sanctuary will be full of fun and interaction for the whole family, there will be no Children's Church or Nursery that week.

We are excited and looking forward to this time of family fellowship and respite from the busyness of the season to refocus on the mystery of God's love for us expressed through Christ's incredible humility and sacrifice.

Sarah Nelapaty

HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE SCC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE. This would involve updating, monitoring and maintaining the web site and Facebook page, as well as gathering and posting content on the new website that is currently under development. If you have knowledge of how web sites work and would like to become involved in the further development and maintenance of our web page, please contact the church office or Don Staten. Knowledge of Drupal is a plus.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN THE SOUND ROOM DURING THE SERVICES. This would involve helping with slides and live video. Training will be provided. Contact Don Staten at 630-1008 for information.

Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study

The Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast, which meets on the first and third Saturdays will meet this month on December 7th and December 21st. The in-depth study and discussion of the **Book of Acts** (chapter by chapter, verse by verse, word by word) will continue with comprehensive studies of **Chapter 17** and **Chapter 18** and Paul's Second Missionary Journey.

At the conclusion of **Acts Chapter 16**, Paul and Silas were in Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, where they were beaten and jailed for exorcising demons from a slave girl who made money for her owners by telling fortunes.

We discussed how during the night, their chains were miraculously removed and how they witnessed to the jailers who were converted to the Lord, they and their households.

When the magistrates sent to have them set free, Paul insisted that apologies be personally given by them for the harsh punishment that they had received (both being Roman citizens). So the magistrates came *"and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city"* (**Acts 16:39**).



In **Chapter 17**, we will discuss Paul and Silas' journey to Thessalonica, *"where there was a synagogue of the Jews"* (**17:1**). There they faced opposition and went on to Berea where Jews from Thessalonica followed, *"agitating and stirring up the crowds"* (**17:13**). As a result, the brothers at the church in Berea sailed with Paul as far as Athens in Achaia (Greece), while Silas and Timothy remained in Berea.

The discussion will then turn to Athens where Paul *"reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there"* (**17:17**). While preaching at the Areopagus (Mars Hill), Paul informed about *"the unknown God"* whom the Athenians worshipped.

Chapter 18 records the spreading of the Gospel further throughout Achaia. First to be considered is Paul's visit to Corinth (about 65 mi. from Athens) where he met Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, who were fellow tentmakers commanded by Emperor Claudius to leave Rome. After being rejected by the Jews who *"opposed and reviled"* him, Paul *"shook out his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles'."* (**18:6**).

The discussion will then center upon the account of when the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought charges against him before the tribunal (the Bema – Judgment Seat) and why the proconsul refused to hear their complaint. He stayed in Corinth a year and a half.

After that, attention will be brought to Paul and his return to Syria, by way of Ephesus and Caesarea. After spending some time there, he embarked on his **Third Missionary Journey** which will be discussed in **Chapter 19**.

The study of **Chapter 18** will conclude with the introduction of a Jew named Apollos who preached the Gospel in Ephesus, assisted by Priscilla and Aquila. He then went to Achaia where *"he greatly helped those who through grace had believed"* and *"powerfully refuted the Jews in public that the Christ was Jesus."* (**18:27,28**)

The Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study is an outstanding opportunity for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. And now that the weather is turning colder, perhaps the "honey do" obligations are lessening. **Why not use that "extra" time on Saturday morning eating a good breakfast and Bible Study.** There are worse ways to occupy your time. It's a great way to meet others. **It is open to all men, church members and non-members.** All are invited to enjoy a good breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, grits, sausage gravy, fruit, juice, and coffee. Come and enjoy good fellowship, and the Good News found in God's Word. **Plan to attend and bring a friend.** It's a good and enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours twice a month. **Breakfast begins at 8:00 AM and is followed by Bible Study and prayer. It concludes no later than 10:00 AM.**

Bob Grymes

Junior Children's Church



It has been an exciting year in Junior Children's Church as we have prayerfully sought to follow God's leading. We have seen God work through His provision of lovely ladies and gentlemen who have volunteered to teach and train our 4-year olds through kindergartners. We have been so thankful for Amie Mitchell and Kathleen Staten, the kindergarten – first grade Sunday school teachers, who have so graciously coordinated with us in sharing that classroom's space. As much of a challenge as it was to let go of the Elementary Children's Church, we have seen God's blessing as our church family has taken this opportunity to reach out and embrace our first through third grade family members.

We are looking forward to what this new year holds as our Junior children continue to journey through God's Word. We are praying for growth in numbers of children in this age group who will be able to hear how much Jesus loves them!

Sarah Nelapaty

Reflections of Faithfulness

At this time of year, as we consider the blessings of the season, we often find ourselves thinking through the past year. It is amazing how much happens in what seems like such a short time, especially for people who are involved in ministry. Reflecting back on all that we accomplish as a church, I can't help but feel honored and humbled to be a part of the amazing community of faith that we have at Suburban.

What a blessing it is for every one of us to be a part of this wonderful congregation. To be surrounded by people who are proud to live a life that declares the love of Jesus Christ. People who love and care for each other in every challenge, hardship and celebration. People who stand ready to serve whenever and wherever they are needed. It is because of the people that God has brought together in this place that Suburban Christian Church is a special place.

This is a prayer that each and every one of us will be awed by the incredible blessings we have received, and humbled to be a part of this particular family of believers. May we never forget that it is a privilege to be called a child of God, and our duty to reflect that honor in every aspect of our lives.

Karen Nicolas