

Welcome to
*Suffolk Christian
Church*



Established 1860
Our 160th Anniversary Year

216 North Main Street
Suffolk, Virginia
Rev. Michael D. Halley, Pastor

Welcome to Suffolk Christian Church

We are a Congregation of Believers whose Mission is to
“Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ by
sharing God’s grace, love, and forgiveness”

About our Church Building. . .

Suffolk Christian Church was organized in November, 1860, with 25 charter members. The original church building, here at 216 North Main Street and pictured on the back cover, was completed and dedicated in March, 1861. The dedicatory sermon was preached by our founder, the **Rev. Dr. William Brock Wellons**, for whom Wellons Street in Suffolk is named. His sermon was taken from 1 Chronicles 29:5:

The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

From 1862 - 1865, during the Civil War, the church building was used by the Federal Army Chaplains and as a military hospital. In 1892-1893, the original church building was torn down and the present portion of the building which contains the Sanctuary was erected at a cost of \$40,000.00. The dedication service was held in January, 1894. An addition with three Sunday School rooms was built 1905-1913, and another addition with 52 rooms was built at a cost of \$120,255.00 in 1926-1928.

In 1998, the church embarked on an ambitious remodeling program called “Building for Tomorrow.” An elevator tower was erected at the rear of the building to



The church logo, pictured at left, was designed by **Mr. Herbert L. Briggs**, a graphic artist. Mr. Briggs also designed the logo for the City of Suffolk, adopted in 1974. The pen and ink drawing of the church on the front cover was done by **Dr. Douglas Naismith**, a local artist and retired educator and former director of music at this church.

house a new four-floor full service elevator. Extensive upgrades and interior remodeling was also done at a total cost of \$1.5 million. The remodeling/rebuilding program was completed in 2000.

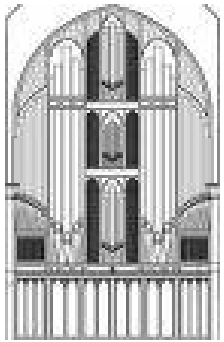


About our Beautiful Stained Glass Windows . . .

Christ the Light of the World is the theme of the window above the pulpit area. Designed by Henry Lee Willet of Philadelphia, the window is made in the finest tradition of medieval stained glass artistry. The window was given to the church by Miss Buena Griggs as a memorial to her brother, Mr. Clarence O. Griggs. It was dedicated on November 9, 1952.

The Nativity is the theme of the window in the front wall of the Sanctuary. Mr. Henry Lee Willet, who was by then in semi-retirement, was asked to design this window as well. It was given to the church in 1995 by Marilyn and Emmett Rawles, Jr., in memory of their dear friend, J. Lewis Rawls, Jr.

-Historical information was supplied by the late Mr. James F. Darden, Deacon Emeritus and Church Historian



The Suffolk Christian Church Pipe Organ

The original pipe organ was installed in October, 1893, at a cost of \$3,500.00. The organ was installed by Messrs. Jardine & Son, New York, which at that time had been in business for fifty years. The dedicatory organ recital program from 1894 says of that organ, The design of the front is in the open style, displaying the pipes symmetrically grouped and tastefully decorated.

This original organ was powered by a pump through which city water flowed to operate the wind chest. In 1913 the water pump was replaced by an electric motor pump.

In 1946, the organ was renovated, enlarged, and electrified. At that time the pipes were separated, with the Great Division on the left and the Swell Division on the right of the Sanctuary.

In 1955 the interior mechanism of the organ was completely rebuilt. In 1976, a new console was installed and ten new ranks of pipes were added. The organ in this configuration served the church well through 2002.

In 2002, the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company of Lithonia, Georgia, completely removed the old Jardine Pipe Organ for a complete rebuild, upgrade, and expansion. It was the first time that all the organ pipes had been out of the

Sanctuary since they were first installed in 1893.

Prior to the removal of the organ, a detailed study of the organ was made regarding voicing and tonal concepts of the pipes. The newly-rebuilt organ was designed to be eclectic, paying homage to Victorian organ building to be compatible with the original Jardine organ.

The new organ contains 26 ranks. A “rank” is a single row of pipes, arranged in musical order and of the same type or tonal character. The new pipes added were manufactured by A. R. Schopp’s Sons, the firm which built much of the original pipework for the Jardine company.

A. E. Schlueter also constructed a new organ console (the keyboard) from mahogany. After re-installing the organ, it was tonally finished under the direction of Mr. Daniel Angerstein with the assistance of Norfolk organ builder Mr. Lee Hendricks.

