

Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

The Most Welcoming Presbyterian Church in Essex County

Volume 21—Issue 9—September 2017



Many of us attended the All-Congregation Planning Retreat on Aug. 19 at Em and Kathy's home. Our focus for this retreat was to re-establish our Christian Education and Church Growth Ministry Groups, as well as to spend time in planning as the Worship and Music, Congregational Care, and Mission and Outreach Groups.

Christian Education Ministry Group, chaired by Ruling Elder John Colby, discussed why we wish to teach one another as adults and kids, and how to do that teaching in ways that are helpful and meaningful for all. As a congregation, we are trying out some ideas that bring the children into participation in more of our worship. We have a learning center in one of our glass rooms, as well as a new learning center in a corner of the sanctuary. The children are "building the table" each Sunday as they bring in light, Word, and water. They take up the 5 cents a meal hunger collection each month, and we are adding music and activities for them as we go forward. Adult education continues as a Bible study on Tuesdays at 1 pm, and on Sundays after the service as announced. The group added members, and some volunteered to serve as Sunday morning youth teachers.

Church Growth Ministry Group, chaired by Ruling Elder Em Hughes, discussed why we wish to grow both in numbers of members and in the depth of our faith. Retreat participants offered ideas for numerical and spiritual growth and several signed on as members of the group. We are intending to advertise special worship services, to offer additional services and programs for our own members and the community, and to support spiritual growth events.

Congregational Care Ministry Group, chaired by Ruling Elder Robbie Tavenner, planned for a men's breakfast on Oct 28, a Wed. Night Supper to be announced, the Valentine's Luncheon, and will host the river service picnic following our service on Sept. 10. The group also discussed encouraging more folks to become involved in writing cards, making calls, or visiting our members who are ill or less able to attend church. This group also oversees our amazing fellowship time after church and all the receptions and meals across the church year.

Worship and Music Ministry Group, chaired by Ruling Elder Jill Robertson, discussed upcoming plans, including the River Service, Recovery Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and All Saints' Sunday. The River Service is Sept. 10 at 10:30 at the Hughes' home on the river, celebrated with our sister church, Zion Baptist Chance. Recovery Sunday will be Sept. 17, and will highlight our support for people who are recovering—from anything that has "consumed" or taken over their life/our life—whether that is alcohol or drugs or gambling or overeating or low self-esteem or just recurring thoughts that reduce our ability to be present to God and one another. On World Communion Sunday, Oct. 1, we will welcome friends from other PCUSA churches in our area, and will celebrate the Lord's

Supper with breads, words and music of the world. On All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 5, we will again write the names of people who have died and gone to be with God who taught us our faith on paper leaves to hang on our "Saints' Tree." The word saint means "holy one;" those who taught us are indeed the holy ones for us in the Reformed tradition. The group is delighted to host Handel's Messiah Sing-Along on Dec. 3 at our church at 3 pm.



Mission and Outreach Ministry Group, chaired by Ruling Elder Sherry Jones, discussed Operation Inasmuch, Christmas Mother and other Essex Churches Together projects for 2017-2018. A new event is a forum on youth—what resources and groups serve youth in our county, what the needs of our youth are, and what they might need to flourish. It will be hosted by Essex Resource Council and ECT on Oct. 24 at 7 pm at Beale Courthouse. Trunk or Treat is being considered by the group, and many traditional mission activities are continuing (Banana Bingo, ECHO involvement, PCUSA offerings).

The Breath of Life: Discover your own prayer using your breath.

Relax your body

Relax your mind

Visualize Jesus

Find your name for God

Bring your name for God and your desire together (i.e. "Holy One, grant me peace" or "Jesus, heal me")

Pray the phrase, breathing in with the first phrase, and breathing out with the 2nd phrase

Rest into silence

Here is a lovely one to try: [Breathing in] God is... [Breathing out] faith-ful.

(Del Bene, Ron. *The Breath of Life: A Simple Way to Pray*. Wipf & Stock Pub (December 1, 2005)



Our children at worship.

THE FIVE W's OF GIVING.....Part Two

So picking up on last month's thoughts that we are all contributing in our own way to the Church, let's talk about "What" you can give and "How".

Let's look at the different ways.....

If you give to the Church by "Cash, Coin or Check" the amount given is tracked for your giving statements. We try to include your check number on the statement but if there is no check you will usually see a "?"



Some of you may smile when I add Coin in there but we do count up coins especially for the 5cents a meal offering. The currency including coins is also tracked on your giving statement under the designated offering type (for example 5 cent a meal).

If you have purchased items for the kitchen, fellowship or other programs at the Church and do not ask for reimbursement we can include those as Non-Cash donations. These are also tracked on your giving statement. I need your receipts and what the purchase(s) was for.

Transfer of Assets such as Stock or Distribution from an IRA is a little trickier and you will need to get your Financial Advisor involved. Direct Transfers and Distributions are currently not taxable on your individual tax return and can save you money. If you would like more information about this I would be happy to speak with you. There is also a way that you can designate Assets to go to the Church through Estate planning.

When you donate a physical Asset to the Church (a piano, a piece of artwork, something "solid"). It is always appreciated. Generally your donation is the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the item. If you are interested in this donation being Tax Deductible it is best to review necessary documentation needed especially if the FMV is over \$500.

Donations to specific requests such as Banners, Flowers, Memorials, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Angels or Relief for Hurricane Victims. This would also include the Four Special Offerings that we participate in for the Presbytery and 5 cents a Meal. Donations to specific requests are typically received by check. Please designate on the check what the donation is for. We make sure that these donations are then used for that activity/event. These donations are also tracked on your giving statement and are designated as to what they were received for.

Your giving statement should reflect all of your donations for the year. It is prepared in accordance with IRS guidelines. It also tracks "pledged" offerings and unpledged giving. When we have our Stewardship campaign in the fall all members have the opportunity to complete a pledge sheet which includes both a "service" section and a "monetary" section. This helps us let Ministry Group leaders know who is interested in various areas of Ministry and also what money can be projected to be used for the upkeep and work of the Church.

We are Stewards all year long. Thank you for the ways you provide Stewardship to the Church.

Be back next month -----Janice Canby

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

Ellen Hardy	4	John Moody	27
David Broad	10	Jill Robertson	27
Matt Jones	23	Rebecca McMahan	28
Dan Robertson	29		

OCTOBER

David Jones	21
Roland Geddes	22
Pat Morris	23

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PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS BEGIN DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

By Rick Jones | Presbyterian News Service



LOUISVILLE – As parts of Texas continue to deal with heavy rain, flooding and wind damage from this week’s hurricane-turned-tropical storm, Presbyterians are making donations through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to help with emergency needs.

“We are very heartened by the response of the church. People are responding very quickly to the email appeal that went out,” said the Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, PDA director. “We are receiving personal donations as

well as donations from mission committees along with the promise to hold special fundraisers and Sunday offerings. People are saying they wish they could do more.”

As of Tuesday evening, the storm was still lingering over the Gulf of Mexico, drenching parts of Houston with up to 40 inches of rain. The National Weather Service reports some areas with as much as 49 inches, the highest total from a hurricane or tropical storm. Another 13 inches of rain is expected through Friday along the upper Texas coast and into southwestern Louisiana.

“We are still getting reports from the impacted areas on a piece-by-piece basis as congregations and presbyteries check in,” said Kraus. “There are thousands of people whose homes have been heavily damaged and we’ve heard preliminary reports of churches taking on a lot of water. At least one church is functioning as a shelter.”

PDA has maintained constant communication with Mission Presbytery which includes the cities of Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and more; as well as the Presbytery of the New Covenant which includes Houston, Galveston and Bay City among others.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency response and refugee program of the denomination, committed to the long-term journey of recovery of communities adversely affected by a crisis or catastrophic event. It is funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing and raises designated funds for responding to specific disasters.

To support recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, [click here](#). You’ll be taken to the PC(USA) website to donate securely and quickly.

If you prefer to mail a check (please write DR000169-Harvey on the memo line), you may send it to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Save the Date

Essex Resource Council and Essex Churches Together

Invite you to a

COMMUNITY FORUM
on youth enrichment

October 24, 2017
7:00 pm
Beale Courthouse



Join us for this informative and important community discussion regarding the availability of enriching activities for our youth, and what our community can do.
Refreshments will be served!

AUGUST CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 1 PM, GOSPEL OF MARK, September 5 Ch. 9, September 12 Ch. 10, September 19 Ch. 11., September 26 Ch. 12.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY GROUP WILL MEET after church Sep. 3 to finalize picnic plans for the River Service.

ON LABOR DAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD right after the CC meeting, share a hilarious or heartwarming moment from your working life with others at our Fellowship time.

FIVE CENTS A MEAL OFFERING will be September 17th taken by the children.

THERE IS A NEED FOR A DRIVER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS. Please call Ken Rodgers if you are able to help 804-758-8853, or krogers@bayaging.org.

THE BOOK SHELF IS BARE AT ESSEX COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES for both children's and adult books. The ECSS offers free books to those who visit there and the books collected on OIAM day are now gone. If you can take them to the location, please do, but if you need assistance with delivering them, let Kathy Hughes know.

TWO RULING ELDER TRAINING SESSIONS ARE PLANNED for September 10th and September 17th after worship. Stay and learn with our newest Ruling Elder-elect, Geoff Lam, about our faith, the larger church, and the work and worship of our congregation.

THE YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, YEP, will meet on September 12th 1:00-2:30 pm at Department of Social Services office in Tappahannock. All are welcome to the meeting.

TPC ANNUAL WORSHIP AT THE RIVER SERVICE with Zion Baptist Church in Champlain, VA will be on September 10th at the Hughes' home "Strathbrae" at 10:30 AM followed by a potluck lunch. Pick up a map at the church or call Terri for directions, or use your GPS - 780 Hunter Lane, Center Cross. Bring lawn chairs to help w/seating, and your swimsuits and fishing poles for after lunch fun.

2017 WOMEN'S RETREAT CAMP HANOVER REGISTER NOW! Created. Called. Complete. Psalm 139, September 15 – 16, 2017. The cost for this retreat is \$55 per person and includes lodging, 3 meals, and program.

SEPTEMBER 17TH IS RECOVERY SUNDAY, a day to honor all who are on a path of recovery from difficulties toward new life. During morning worship we will also ordain and install new Ruling Elder, Geoff Lam and install Em Hughes for a 2nd term on Session.

NEXT SESSION MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 6 PM.

BANANA BINGO AT ESSEX HOUSE Tuesday, September 19th, at 10:00 AM. Join the residents for lots of fun and bananas too!

NEXT ECT MEETING SEPTEMBER 26TH is at Beale Courthouse at 7:30 PM.

RECONCILIATION AND EMBRACING AGING FALL RETREAT, Sponsored by Older Adult Purpose Group, Presbytery of the James, September 28, 2017, 8:45 am—3 pm, Camp Hanover, 3163 Parsleys Mill Road, Mechanicsville, VA. Deadline for reservations September 22, 2017.

MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 13 – 14, 2017 CAMP HANOVER. Mark your calendars for a great time of fellowship. Our time together will begin with dinner at 6 pm on Friday, October 13 and end at 5 pm on Saturday, October 14. The cost for this retreat is \$55 per person and includes lodging, 3 meals, and program.

7P'S & 5A'S OF COMMUNICATION—OCT. 24, 9:30 AM—THE BRANDERMILL CHURCH. Registration will be up on the POJ website September 1. Join Madison+Main Chief Idea Officer Dave Saunders as he presents a fun and informative seminar, specifically designed for church communities. In his "By the Numbers" seminar, you'll learn about the three kinds of brands, the "7Ps of Communications," and the "5As of Integrated Communications Strategies."

TPC'S ANNUAL MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL BE OCTOBER 28TH AT 8 AM.

ESSEX RESOURCE COUNCIL AND ESSEX CHURCHES TOGETHER Invite you to a COMMUNITY FORUM on youth enrichment October 24, 2017 7:00 pm Beale Courthouse. Join us for this informative and important community discussion regarding the availability of enriching activities for our youth, and what our community can do. Refreshments will be served!

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2017—The conference will feature dynamic speaker, podcaster and author Jamie Ivey. November 3-4, 2017 at River Road Presbyterian Church. \$125 per person.

WORLD COMMUNION WILL BE OCTOBER 1ST Enjoy breads and music of the world with friends from nearby Presbyterian churches. Finger-foods and fellowship to follow.

ASH GROVE WOMEN'S RETREAT Ashland Presbyterian Church invites the women of the Presbytery of the James to participate in the Ash Grove Women's Retreat on November 10-11, 2017. The theme of this ecumenical retreat is "Finding Strength in the Broken Places: Connecting with Resilience Within."

WE ARE CONTINUING TO COLLECT CANNED GOODS and other requested food items in *Lucy's Basket* (at the front in the sanctuary) to deliver them periodically to the Community Services Food Bank.