

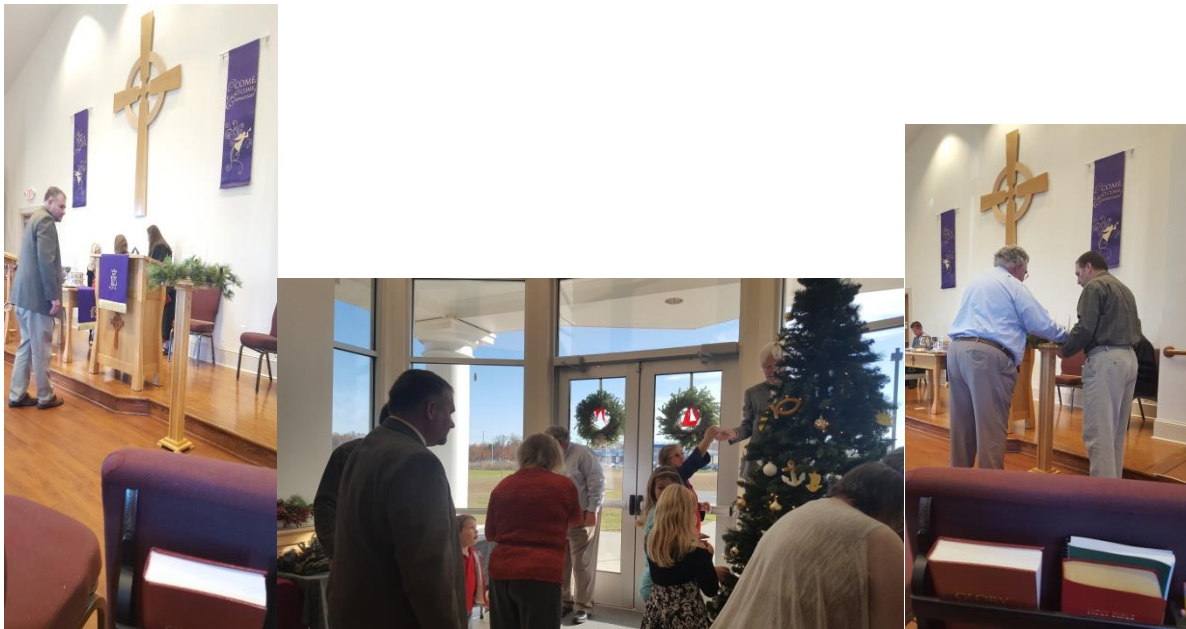
Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

The Most Welcoming Presbyterian Church in Essex County

Volume 21—Issue 12—December 2017

“Greening the Church:” Preparing for the Birth of the Christ Child



May this Advent and Christmas season bring you and your family joy and peace, Vicki

Beloved in Christ, we have together experienced a year filled with change, though that is not uncommon in the history of our nation nor in global history. What pulls us up short is that these proclamations and action plans are happening now, just like in Bible times. What to do?

As people of faith, we worship God as before and continue to honor neighbor as before. We do this even though God’s action plan may be veiled to us presently. We could say the same was true on Good Friday, but we must add that the way was made clear on Easter. God’s purposes will win out after all. Advent is a time of remembering the first Advent, as well as waiting for Christ to come again, but it is also more. It is a time that celebrates *God waiting for us* to act. You see, we know how to pull back the veil, if we choose to do so.



What Does the Christmas Joy Offering Do?

It supports our past and present leaders. By supporting the Board of Pensions, the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

It helps in preparing the way for our future leaders. PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of racial ethnic schools and colleges. Our future racial ethnic church leaders can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue--sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years. Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on December 17 and 24 during our regular offering time. Envelopes are available in the church entry for your use in designating contributions to this special offering at any time.

presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy

There is a lovely Advent devotional from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PCUSA) available to you online at https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1 We are sending this out as an email as well, or you can call our office if you wish to receive one in print form (804-443-9977). Deepen your faith this season, and treasure these things in your heart.



Making Chrismos for the Angel Tree

A Great Fun Time!!!



AGAINST OUR BETTER JUDGEMENT A. Weems

We
told her
she couldn't go;
she was too young
to stay up that late.
She told us that
Baby Jesus would be there
And he was younger than she.
We told him he couldn't go;
he was too old
to brave the cold night air.
He told us he'd rather greet heaven
from the Christmas Eve service
than be found slumped by the TV.
So we bundled them up
against their own defenselessness
against our better judgement
and they went out with joy.
My prayer is that those of us who think
That we're in charge of the world and the church
Will remember that the stable was filled
With such as these:
Those who could not be kept from rejoicing!



Prayer List for December, 2017: Please pray for these loved ones of our church.

Robbie and her family, Roland, Shelley, Jo, Lucia, Zelinda, Madison Marie, John, Ellen, Dorothy, Wendy and Charity and their family, Jerry, Jill D, Cindy, Hunter, Alice, Susan, Bob, Ron, Rebecca, James, Doug's family, Virginia, Betty, Ed, Diane, Angie, Pam , Aunt Rina's family, Lelia, and Sally's Family (Let us know if you have names to add or delete)

December Birthdays

Ralph Poling 3

Chuck Dyer 12

Herb Sebren 9

Peggy Crittenden 10

January Birthdays

Cindy Glass 1

Johnny Frischkorn 1

Madison Lam 2

David Tavenner 12

Tyler Sanders 18

Mandy Matthews 18

Beth Perry-Jennings 22

Sydney Lam 22

Alyson Claiborne 27

Alice Roye 29

DECEMBER CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

TPC ACTIVITIES:

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 1 PM: ADVENT STUDY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN LUKE: DEC 5 LK 2:21-38; DEC 12 LK 2:39-52; DEC 19 LK 3:1-22; DEC 26 NO BIBLE STUDY

A Hanover Christmas At Camp Hanover - December 8 & 9 Join us for a very special Christmas program, "A Hanover Christmas" on Friday December 8 and Saturday, You'll enjoy a stroll along a candlelit trail where you'll meet characters from the Christmas story. After your walk, join us in Wise Lodge for music, fellowship, and food at the end of your journey. Suitable for all ages and abilities. The event runs from 6-9 pm both nights.

Christmas Open House Dec. 10 at Vicki and Skip's: 2-4 pm. We'll have light refreshments; just come for a visit!

The Community Chorus presents Lessons & Bells- **Sunday, December 10 at 3pm** at Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist Church on Earl Street in Tappahannock.

Christmas Luncheon Dec. 17 after the service.

5 cents a meal will be gathered **Dec. 17** by our children to feed others.

Banana Bingo on Dec. 21, 10-11:30. Join us for Christmas fun!

Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year. We will celebrate on that day at 10 am. with carols, kids and adults' portraying the Nativity, the Lord's Supper, and prayers for peace on earth.

The Christmas Joy offering will be received on that day.

COME TO HAITI! The next presbytery partnership trip to Haiti is February 20-27, 2018. This is an amazing opportunity to see God at work as Cindy Corell, our PCUSA mission worker supported by us, works across the country with our Haitian partners to bring change. To learn how to apply for a place in this delegation, contact Elizabeth McGuire at emcguire@thesalisburychurch.org

Christmas Mother/Christmas Angels: We will again be participating in this program by sponsoring eight children, who will receive gifts from us. We want to encourage participation by the whole congregation in this outreach to children in our area. We will include our Sunday School children in the placing of the angels on the tree.

About other opportunities:

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 The Essex County Social Services Department offers free books to their clients. Any books you wish to give up, especially children's books are welcome for this endeavor. Feel free to deliver them to the location or leave them at church, and a Mission & Outreach Ministry member will deliver them for you.

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.