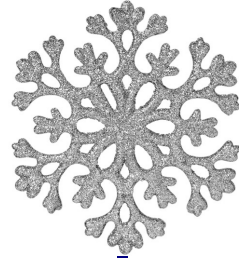


Presbytery of the James Meets in Tappahannock!

The Presbytery of the James' (POJ) teaching elders (ministers) and ruling elders will meet **Saturday, February 18, 2017** in Tappahannock!! Our church will host the first gathering of the POJ in 2017 by providing space for the 250 members of this group in the auditorium of Essex High School. Our congregation is one of the newest in our Presbytery, with our first beginnings in 1996. We will offer a brief tour of TPC to any of the 250 commissioners after the meeting, in the afternoon of that day, since many folks in our Presbytery may not have seen our new building.



This particular meeting of the Presbytery of the James also includes Vicki's final examination for ordination into the ministry of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church USA. She will preach a sermon and answer questions posed by members of the group. You may wish to help us prepare for

this gathering by joining a preparation task force to welcome our guests to the school, to the church, and to help serve a lunch on that day. Vicki invites your prayers as she prepares for this examination! And you are welcome to attend any or all of this meeting as a visitor.

If Vicki is approved for ordination, a service would follow at our church in the spring (plans are for April 2); details will be shared pending approval by the POJ.



Tappahannock Presbyterian Church
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Tappahannock, VA 22560
Dr. Vicki Murdock
(804) 443-9977
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Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

The Most Welcoming Presbyterian Church in Essex County

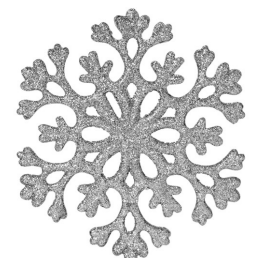
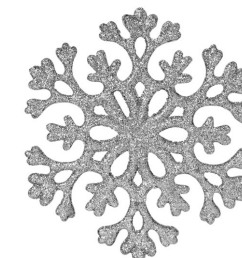
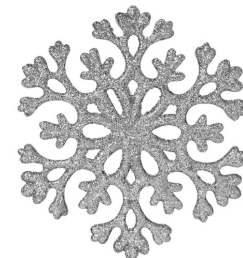
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God is Making All Things New

We all say "Happy New Year!" to one another at this time of year, but the church has already begun its new year back on the 1st Sunday of Advent in November. The church follows a cycle based in our earliest Christian history. Advent calls us to ponder God's incarnation as Jesus Christ, who came to earth as a babe to live a fully human life among us while also fully divine, and his promised second coming. In early spring, Lent calls us not so much to give up things as to seek to take on new understandings of Jesus' message of God's kingdom. Then we break into joy as Easter comes, overturning the hopelessness of the crucifixion as we look away from the empty tomb to see the risen Christ. We have thus been reminded that God in Christ suffered and died a human death, and arose from the bonds of death into life everlasting, thus overcoming the power of sin, evil and death on our behalf. In late spring, we celebrate the coming to us of the Holy Spirit and thus the birthday of the church on Pentecost, and summer brings a time of learning and doing what it means to be the church in the world as we hear stories of Jesus' ministry among us.

We celebrate the Baptism of the Lord in January, and we remember our own baptism, in which we died and rose with Christ, a life made new. And so, each time we recall our baptism, or Jesus' baptism, we can recall how God makes all things new, promising to us not death and not oblivion but life now and life forever with our loving God. So, Happy New Year, Hopeful Advent, Merry Christmas, Meaningful Lent, Joyous Easter and Productive Pentecost, for God gives us new life every day of every year of our lives, now and forever.



TPC Celebrates Some of Its New Members



The True Meaning of Christmas

At the Christmas Eve service, everyone in attendance felt like they were a part of the story about Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus. Cows, camels, shepherds and wise men gathered with Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus at the front of the church to listen to the story. Jingle bells were rung during the enthusiastic singing of the carols. The story was told, the Advent wreath was lit, and everyone shared their candle light during the singing of Silent Night. The true meaning of Christmas was expressed at this delightful service for children and adults alike.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JANUARY	
Cindy Glass	1
Johnny Frischkorn	1
Madison Lam	2
David Tavenner	12
Tyler Sanders	18
Beth Perry-Jennings	22
Sydney Lam	22
Alyson Claiborne	27
Alice Roye	29

If your birthday is not listed, please contact Terri in the church office so that we may acknowledge your special day!

Greeter and Usher for January
Johnny Frischkorn

JANUARY CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES EACH TUESDAY FROM 1-2:30 PM, with Vicki guiding our learning.

JANUARY 23RD WILL BE OPERATION INASMUCH SOUP SUPPER FOR ALL CHURCH CONTACTS, Team Leaders and Pastors 6:00 PM at Beale Memorial Baptist Church.

A SERIES OF CLASSES WILL BE OFFERED FOR INCOMING SESSION RULING ELDERS and new members of the congregation; the class is also open to any church members and potential members who would like to attend. Dr. Vicki Murdock and Rev. Dr. Skip Murdock will teach. Classes will be 90 minutes, from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM after Sunday morning worship. Topics to be covered and the dates are:
Jan 15 Ruling Elder Responsibilities and the Book of Order.

ECHO SHELTER has opened. They are in need of volunteers to prepare and serve meals and also to register guests for *January*. Some days already have meal servers and are marked 'no meal' on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please take a look and give some of your time to others in need. You can call talk to Marie Minor, Church Contact or call (540)623-8643 for more info.

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY GROUP meets on January 13th at 10:30 AM.

FIVE CENTS A MEAL OFFERING will be received on Sunday, January 15th.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY GROUP meets on January 17th at 10:00 AM.

TPC SESSION WILL MEET AT 6 PM ON JANUARY 17TH.

BANANA BINGO/ESSEX HOUSE will be held on January 19th at 2:00 PM.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND and Reverend Tom Coye will moderate.

JANUARY 22 TPC WILL INSTALL NEW ELDERS Robbie Tavenner and Sherry Jones.

JANUARY 23RD WILL BE OPERATION INASMUCH SOUP SUPPER FOR ALL CHURCH CONTACTS, Team Leaders and Pastors 6:00 PM at Beale Memorial Baptist Church.