

Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2010

PASTOR'S PAGE: "A-HOLD ON THE GREATNESS OF GOD"

EVERY SEPTEMBER I think about the necessity of roots and wings. As parents enroll their children for another school year, and the church Christian Education program for all ages begins again, I think roots and wings. God invites all people to have a solid faith foundation (roots) and an adventurous, soaring spirit (wings). God seems to say to us "keep your feet on the ground but reach for the stars."

ONE OF MY FAVORITE POEMS is "The Marshes of Glynn" by Sidney Lanier. The Marshes of Glynn stretch as far as the eye can see between the Georgia mainland and St. Simons Island on the Atlantic coast. The roots of any marsh are deep, think, tough. Just try to dig into them. It's the most difficult challenge you'll ever face.

READ OUT LOUD what Sidney Lanier writes about roots- -and the marsh-hen on the wing:

*Oh, what is abroad in the marsh and the terminal sea?
Somehow my soul seems suddenly free
From the weighing of fate and the sad discussion of sin.
By the length and the breadth and the sweep of the marshes of Glynn*

*As the marsh-hen secretly builds on the watery sod,
Behold I will build me a nest on the greatness of God:
I will fly in the greatness of God as the marsh-hen flies
In the freedom that fills all the space 'twixt the marsh and the skies:
By so many roots as the marsh-grass sends in the sod
I will heartily lay me a-hold on the greatness of God:
Oh, like to the greatness of God is the greatness within
The range of the marshes, the liberal marshes of Glynn.*

THE MARSHES around Tappahannock and West Point and Dragon's Run remind me of Sydney Lanier's poem and roots and wings. The month of September and the celebration of education reminds me to examine the depth of my spiritual roots and the height of my trust in God. I am also encouraged to know that I am part of a church family that challenges me to grow inwardly and outwardly. Thank you.

Peace,
Bill

Steering Committee Highlights

August 16, 2010

Communications:

- From Carson Rhyne regarding PC(USA) Constitutional amendments and the schedule for the POJ to vote on their acceptance or rejection.
- From Todd McCoy on the Small Church Ministry, Aug. 24 at Salem Presbyterian Church.
- Thank-you notes from Victoria and Hunter Davis for their Camp Hanover experience.
- Thank-you note from Alice Roye regarding TPC's role in securing the POJ Grants of \$500 to three food banks in Essex County

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dave Jones presented the financial report for YTD as of July 31, 2010.

- Total Plate offerings received = \$54,584 vs. anticipated income of \$52,592.
- Special Offerings and other gifts were \$4,097.
- Investment Income was \$4,787.
- Expenses were \$60,257.
- The Development Fund (as of 6/30) is \$178,179 and the Memorial Fund is \$5,160.

Presbytery- No report

New Church Development Committee – No report

Old Business:

Church Site Task Force reported Meeting of the Congregation on July 25th, and CSTF Meetings on July 26th and Aug 2nd; discussed preparations for the next Meeting of the Congregation on Aug. 29th; and noted the CSTF is again meeting following the Steering Committee meeting.

New Business: Ministry Reports

Worship and Music

Jill Robertson & Bill Morris, Moderators

- Summer Communion was July 25th. World Communion will be October 3rd
- The annual Worship at the River Service will be hosted by Emerson & Kathy Hughes at their home on September 19th.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

Susan Spage, moderator

- There were 22 folks who attended the Dutch treat luncheon after worship on Sunday August 8th.
- "Worship by the Riverside" is being planned.

Christian Education Anne Sydnor, moderator

- Next meeting will be at the Aug 28th Retreat.
- Adult Education this fall (Oct/Nov) will be on Evangelism using a curriculum discussed in *Presbyterians Today*.

Mission and Outreach

Janice Canby, moderator

- The POJ recently contributed \$1,500, \$500 each to three local food banks: Antioch Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Tappahannock, and 7th-Day Adventist Community Services. We will let the community know about these gifts.
- The next *Essex Churches Together* (ECT) meeting is Aug 24th.

Church Growth

Kim Sydnor, Moderator

- Rev. Morris has sent letters to people no longer attending advising they will be purged from the active roles
- Next meeting will be at the Aug 28th Retreat.

Other:

- Summer Transition Schedule was further developed.
- Rev. Morris reported that each of the 5 Ministry Group Leaders have agreed to serve another term. Each Group Leader is now recruiting new members and encouraging attendance at the Planning Retreat.
- The first of two 3-hour Officer Training classes was held August 15th and the second is August 22nd. The installation of new Steering Committee members will be August 29th.
- The Annual Planning Retreat will be Saturday August 28th at Camp Hanover.

Have You Mailed Your Postcard Yet?

Attractive picture postcards are available for you to send to potential visitors who might be interested in meeting our church congregation in an informal way. The invitation is to the *Worship By the River*, the outdoor worship service that will again be **hosted by Em and Kathy Hughes at their home. It is Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 AM, followed by covered dish picnic.**

Thanks to Kathy and Bekah Hughes-Davis for making the cards from a picture of worship on the lawn a few years ago (not last year when we thought it was going to pour rain!!).

Zion Baptist is invited again to come.



Church Site Task Force Summer of Discernment

The CSTF has continued its work, meeting on August 2 and August 16. With prayer, the group hopes to further the congregation's goals. This is all a process. Leaders are entrusted with making judgments about the contributed resources and treasure of Christians throughout the POJ, as well as in the Tappahannock congregation. This requires thorough research, consensus and accountability. To achieve this takes time and patience. When TPC finally achieves a permanent home, it will be God's miracle rather than the accomplishment of any group or individual. Don't be discouraged! Also avoid over-optimism, and keep an even strain against the task.

CSTF discussed preparations for the next Meeting of the Congregation on Aug. 29th. Next CSTF Meeting will be at the Planning Retreat on Saturday August 28th at Camp Hanover.

Brad Coats, CSTF Moderator

Essex Churches Together Update

Essex Churches Together (ECT) now has a Board of Directors and officers. Kathy Hughes (TPC) is Chair, John Rellick (attorney with Legal Aid) is Vice-Chair, Alice Roye (TPC) is Secretary, Janet Jeter (First Baptist, Loretto) is Treasurer. Other members are Bishop Darryl Williams (First Baptist, Loretto), JoAnne Ruffa (Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist), Sandy Baytops (Union Hope Baptist and 7th-day Community Services), Paul Oswell (Director of Social Services). The Articles of Incorporation have been approved and tax-exempt status is being applied for.

Recently a "think tank" consisting of people who have participated in previous *Operation Inasmuch* events was led by Margaret Broad, Head of St. Margaret's School. Kathy, Alice, and John Hardy from TPC attended. Discussion topics included year-around fund raising, year-around projects of home repair, how to get churches to continue the mission spirit in their own ways, and content of training sessions, to name a few. *Operation Inasmuch* will be early next year, April 9, prior to Easter.

Lucy Collins is the TPC representative to ECT and she relays announcements from the meetings. TPC is a primary support of ECT, both with finances and leadership. If anyone is interested in going as a visitor to see the work that is done in those meetings you are welcome. Let Lucy, Kathy, or Alice know.

Thank you for Camp

Dear Tappahannock Church,
Thank you for sending me to Camp Hanover. I had fun and the food was great. I had a great time swimming. Love, Hunter Davis

Dear Tappahannock Presbyterian Church,
Thank you, Tappahannock Church, for allowing me to attend Camp Hanover. I had a wonderful time and something that I did there was to learn how to ride and care for a horse. The horse I rode was named Major. Major was very careful with all of the people riding him.. It is a big responsibility to take good care of a horse. I also learned that you can never be too careful when climb a rockwall. Your friend,
Victoria Davis

Lay Readers September and October



September 5 Cindy Glass
12 Chrissy Orrock
19 Margaret Ryland
26 Pat Morris

October 3 Beth Perry
10 John Hardy
17 Jill Robertson
24 David Crittenden
31 Anne Sydnor

Greeter Herb Sebren
Ushers Bill and Vivian Smith

Greeter Anne Sydnor
Ushers Chuck and Betty Dyer

Brad Coats 4
Ellen Hardy 4
Bill Smith 8
Jeff Orrock 9
Bill Spage 12
Nell Burrough 18
Sam Hudnall 20
Jill Robertson 27
Dan Robertson 29
Lorraine Gustafson 29



Church Family News

- Christian sympathy goes to Linda Ball and Susan Hillyer on the death of their brother and to Virginia Hillyer for the loss of her son Freddy Hillyer in August.
- We look forward to the "Worship by the River" at Em and Kathy Hughes' house September 19 and encourage you to invite your friends, verbally and/or using the postcards.
- The Jeff Orrock Family has moved to
- Joey Burrough, Nell's son, was featured artist at Tappahannock Farmer's Market. He had an exhibit and painted, primarily pictures of the vendors, while on site.



Tappahannock Presbyterian Church Facilitates Food Bank Grants

The smiles and sounds of satisfaction at the Sunday morning announcement were expressions of joy that TPC had helped Essex County food banks at the 7th-day Adventist Community Services, First Baptist of Tappahannock, and Antioch Baptist receive funds from the grants provided by the Presbytery of the James. The relationship with these food banks has been fostered by TPC's participation in *Essex Churches Together* and we facilitated the applications for the grants. With these grants our nickels and dimes and dollar bills had come home again.

TPC takes up the 5-cents-a meal offering each month. Sometimes the offering is in coins, in line with the original thinking that if 2 cents or 5 cents were put in a "bank" at each meal that would accumulate as a small but steady contribution in feeding the poor. "One hundred persons in a congregation will contribute \$180 a month at two cents a meal. That's \$2,160 dollars a year. A 30,000-member presbytery has the potential of raising over \$1.6 million annually at a nickel a meal." (<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/hunger/what-cents-ability/>) Money collected and distributed by the POJ for hunger in 2009 was \$91,783.00

Four times a year the TPC Treasurer sends 50% of what has been collected at 5-cents-a-meal to Presbytery and the other 50% goes to the 7th-day Community Services food bank in Tappahannock. In addition, the Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts,

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