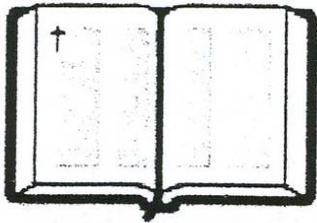


Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian
Church

NOVEMBER 2010



CYCLE C
NOVEMBER LECTIONARY
For the Lord's Day

11/7 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Hag. 1:15b-2:9; Ps. 145:1-5, 71-21
or Ps. 98, 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17;
Luke 20:27-38

11/14 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 12; 2 Thess.
3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

11/21 Christ the King/
Reign of Christ Sunday
Jer. 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79;
Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

11/28 1st Sunday of Advent
Isa 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:11-14;
Matt. 24:36-44

PASTOR'S PAGE: "WHAT STEWARDSHIP MEANS TO ME"

I GREW UP IN A CHRISTIAN HOME. My maternal grandmother, Mary Houser (who lived in my home in Hampton) was born and raised in Arcadia, TN, a town founded in the late 1700's by her ancestors, the Newlin Clan from Scotland. Yes, they were Presbyterians and they started the Arcadia Presbyterian church, a church I preached in 40 years ago when I visited my cousin Charles Newlin during my early years at Union Seminary.

GRANDMOTHER HOUSER AND MY MOTHER, Lucille Houser Morris, believed in tithing 10% of ones income to God. This was not a response of duty or obligation, but one of sheer delight in response to God's daily blessings. They believed what the Psalmist wrote, "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and those who live in it."

MY GRANDMOTHER AND MOTHER TAUGHT ME TO TITHE. When I joined the First Presbyterian Church in Newport News at age 12 by public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, they made sure I got my personal box of offering envelopes. That box sat on my dresser and every Sunday an envelope with my offering was taken to church and put in the offering plate.

THROUGH THE YEARS I HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE the Apostle Paul's teaching to the church at Corinth, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you give to God, as God has prospered you." This is called 'proportionate giving.'" I give cheerfully not to a church budget or because I am a minister, but 10% of my income to God as God has prospered me – 10th of my income! I also believe in writing that check first, before any bills are paid, and giving regularly, weekly, because I am blessed daily, weekly. Most of all I give back to God because God has given me everything, especially the gift of salvation now and eternal life later through his only son, Jesus Christ. My tithe is a joyful response to God's grace in my life.

IT WAS EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO that my 92 year old mother learned she had cancer and 6 months to live. This revelation was during the stewardship commitment season at First Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg. Mother was so concerned about how to make her pledge for the next year. We had long talks about what she should do with her pledge and how much she should give. She gave her time, talent, treasure, her all to Christ from the day she was born until the day she died. I have learned tithing not only from scripture but also from a loving Christian example, my mother.

Gratefully,
Bill

Steering Committee Highlights

Communications:

- E-mail from Stated Clerk with information regarding Amendments to the Book of Order, to be discussed and voted upon at the POJ quarterly meeting October 16th.
- Letter from Rev. Morris to the 5 leaders of the Ministry Groups regarding the 2011 Budget requests – due November 7th.
- Rev. Morris wrote the parents of our acolytes regarding their scheduled duties.
- Notice that Rev Morris sent the minutes of the Steering Committee 3rd quarter meetings forwarded to members of the Administrative Committee for the TPC.

Finance Report

Treasurer Dave Jones presented the financial report for YTD as of September 30, 2010.

Total Plate offerings received = \$68,054
Special Offerings and other gifts = \$4,425.
Investment Income = \$4,833.
Expenses = \$76,261.

The Development Fund (as of 9/30) is \$181,589 Memorial Fund (6/30) is \$5,160.

Treasurer Jones reported that he continues to work on the project to invest up to \$30,000 of our Development Fund into the PC (USA) Investment and Loan Program which provides low-cost loans to churches of the denomination for capital building projects. The funds for these loans come from Presbyterian investors who purchase interest-bearing term notes from the Program. Investors earn interest on their funds. Borrowers can reduce the cost of their loans. He said that he will have information on this opportunity during the Stewardship Campaign.

The Steering Committee noted that it is important to provide as much information as possible, and to stress that we are not advising anyone to invest their funds into any fund or program.

Presbytery of the James – Susan Spage discussed her role as TPC Commissioner to the POJ Meeting at St. Giles PC in Richmond on October 16th. Rev. Morris is also scheduled to attend.

Old Business:

- **Church Site Task Force** -we hope to have a public announcement and discussion on Sunday October 17.



- **New copier.** Treasurer David Jones is making progress to either lease or purchase a color copier/scanner/printer. Jones is leaning toward a purchase for \$3,995 + to be paid out of the Development Fund. The Steering Committee supported his recommendation.



- **October 9th workday** -- Dave Jones coordinated a **clean-the-church** day. Eleven folks helped. It was a **BIG JOB WELL DONE!** The carpets should be cleaned on October 12-13.

Ministry Reports

Worship and Music

Jill Robertson & Bill Morris, Moderators.

- Rev. Morris will be on vacation from October 18 through October 31. Visiting ministers will be our friends Judy Thompson from St. Andrews, and Bob Pryor, the Director of Camp Hanover. Our Campers have been encouraged to attend to see Rev. Pryor.

Congregational Care and Fellowship

Susan Spage, Moderator

- A Women's brunch at *Java Jack's* will be October 18. Afterwards the ladies will go to the Worship Center for to Knit and Kibitz.
- A Men's Breakfast is scheduled for November 7
- The Annual Christmas Party will be December 12.

Christian Education

Anne Sydnor, Moderator

- Adults began a Six Week Study on Evangelism using a curriculum discussed in Presbyterian's Today....*Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide*. The first class was taught October 3 by Rev. Morris with 15 attendees. This was followed by Kim Sydnor on October 10th, then Anne Sydnor on October 17, Susan Spage on October 24, Jeff Orrick on October 31, and Bill Morris will teach the final class on November 7.

Mission and Outreach

Janice Canby, Moderator

- The Peacemaking Offering resulted in \$735.
- *Essex Churches Together* (ECT) met on Sept. 28th.
- There was a very productive meeting on October 6 (see article)



Church Growth

Kim Sydnor, Moderator

Following our special Adult Education Program, Kim and Bill will be staging two Visitation Workshops on November 14 & 21. Each Sunday program will last about 2 hours and will be an in-depth training. Participants will be asked make the commitment to visit once every other month and to attend periodic "check up" sessions to see how things are going and share problems and solutions.



Stewardship Time

2010 Stewardship will be a special effort this year, primarily to establish the foundation of our annual operating programs. We are embarking on a new part of our spiritual journey – the most important of which is our MISSION. Pat Morris will speak on October 17. Bill Smith will speak on October 24. Dave Jones and Brad Coats will explain the Financial Vision on Sunday October 31st. Commitmentss of time, talents, and money will be received November 7.

TPC Outreach Ministry Participates in "Catch Them Doing Good"

There is a new effort at Essex High School to recognize students who make right choices. Teachers are alert to students "choosing to do something right" and they quietly give that student a purple raffle ticket with their name on it to be used in the Friday raffle. This is to recognize those students who are not otherwise noted for their prowess in athletics or high grades but who are acting as good citizens of the school, being helpful. In fact, Purple Pride, Essex High motto, stands for participation, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence (P R I D E).

On Fridays there is a raffle from the purple tickets given that week and a student wins a nice prize. Churches are asked to contribute prizes for the raffle to support this effort to reinforce participation, making good choices, integrity and kindness toward each other, characteristics supported within church families.

If you would like to contribute a prize or monetary donation with which to buy a prize make the check out to TPC and memo "Purple Pride".



The **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE** will be held Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 24 at First Baptist, Loretto. Last year it was held at Mt. Zion Baptist.

The **ECT Choir** will again present the service music. If you would like to sing with this ecumenical group let Lucy know so she can report to Kathy. There will be one mandatory rehearsal the Sunday afternoon before, November 21, at First Baptist, Loretto. Em Hughes will direct again and Kathy will accompany.

Rev. Tommy Crosby, pastor of Lebanon and Trinity United Methodist Churches, will deliver the sermon.

Christmas Luncheon
Sunday, December 12



Outreach Ministry Identifies Christmas Projects

TPC will again have an Angel Tree that will have the names of children in Essex County whose parents who are incarcerated somewhere. There is a reminder that the gifts should be *as requested*, not more, as this may cause one child in the family to receive much more than another. The Angel Tree will be put in Fellowship room during Advent.

Gifts for Incarcerated Care-givers to give their Children

An additional project will be a collection for Christmas Gifts for prisoners to hand to their children at the Christmas visit. There is a specific list of items appropriate to bring into the prison. The list will be announced. The collection of small items can begin now through November.

Honor God Serve the Community

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world. Tithing is a primary expression of the Christian discipline of stewardship."

"Those who follow the discipline of Christian stewardship will find themselves called to lives of simplicity, generosity, honesty, hospitality, compassion, receptivity, and concern for the earth and God's creatures."

"The Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him, and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods." *From the Book of Order*

<http://kelseyvillepresbyterian.org/stewardship.aspx>