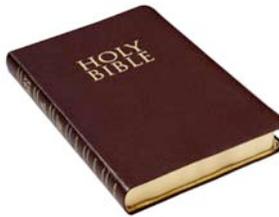


Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

MAY 2011



CYCLE A MAY LECTIONARY For the Lord's Day

5/1 2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14(a), 22-32; Ps. 16;
I Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

5/8 3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14(a), 36-41;
Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19;
I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

5/15 4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23;
I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

5/22 5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16;
I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

5/29 6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20;
I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

PASTOR'S PAGE: A NEW BEGINNING – The Nature of the Church

WHEN JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, it seemed for a moment – even to his chosen disciples – that his hopes for a new Israel had been disappointed. Then came the Resurrection, the Ascension, the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost, the beginnings of the Christian church, the church's gradual spread, beginning at Jerusalem, into the uttermost parts of the earth.

IT WILL HELP US to note some of the words used by members of the early church to describe this new beginning.

They were *believers* – believers in the God whom they had come to know as the God and Father of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (John 14:1)

They were *brethren* – bound to one another by ties stronger than those of an earthly family. (Mark. 3:35)

They were *disciples* – learners in the school of Christ. (Matt. 23:8)

They were *saints* – not in the modern sense of the term, but saints according to the meaning of both the Hebrew and Greek roots, in the sense that they had separated themselves from the unbelieving world and had dedicated or consecrated themselves to the service of God.

They were *those of the Way* (Acts 9:2)– the term found most frequently in the book of The Acts. It is indeed a suggestive term, for Christianity is a way of life, Jesus' way; it is a way of salvation, Jesus' way (see Acts 16:17); it is a way to God, Jesus' way, the only way.

They were *Christians* – the name which gradually, in the course of time, was to supersede all others was given to the disciples first, Luke tells us, in Antioch (Acts 11:26). Here in Antioch Gentiles were first welcomed into the church in any numbers. What did these Gentiles and these Jews, formerly estranged, have in common? They had a faith in Jesus as the promised Messiah or Christ. Of him they spoke, of him they sang, him they worshiped as Son of God, and him they proclaimed as Savior and Lord. And so they came to be called – ***Christians***.

LIGHT IS THROWN ON THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH not only by the names applied to the early believers in Christ, but also by the metaphors or “images” employed by New Testament writers (particularly Paul) to picture the church to their readers. The four master images mentioned most frequently, and about which other images may be gathered, he finds to be “**the people of God**,” “**the new creation**,” “**the fellowship of faith**,” and “**the body of Christ**.”

Yours in Christ,

Bill

From Through the Ages
by Ernest Trice Thompson

Steering Committee Highlights

April 18, 2011

Communications:

- Letter to Rev. Steve Hay requesting the Poling's transfer of membership
- Letter to the congregation regarding presentation to the POJ New Church 'Purpose Group'
- Letter from Zion Baptist Church re: their Spring Revival April 27-29.
- Letters re: the retirement of Rev. Bob Pryor as Director of Camp Hanover.
- Letter from POJ for nominations to be Moderator of the POJ for next year.

Treasurer Dave Jones presented the financial report for YTD as of March 2011.

- Total Plate offerings received = \$23,796
- Special Offerings and other gifts were \$4,738.
- Expenses were 30,046. Jones noted that YTD expenses include \$5,945 for Operation InAsMuch/ECT, which is around half of their funding.
- Development Fund (as of 3/31/11) is \$206,536
- Memorial Fund (3/31/11) is \$5,575.

Pastoral Care Concerns were discussed, including those in the congregation with illness.

Presbytery of the James – no report.

New Church Development (NCD) Purpose Group – next meeting is late May.

Old Business:

Church Site Task Force – This group continues to develop a list of optional sites in Essex County which could serve as our permanent home. The intent is to present these options to NCD, including the Rev. Carson Rhyne, at their second meeting in May. The POJ will meet two more times this year: June 21 and October 15. The objective is to get POJ approval at the October 15 meeting.

Ministry Reports

1. Worship and Music

Jill Robertson & Bill Morris, Moderators

- Good Friday Community Service will be April 22.
- Easter Sunday Service will include the 'Flowering of the Cross.' Special signage for Good Friday/Easter Sunday will be displayed.
- Ayden & Lucas Sisk will be baptized on Easter Sunday.
- TPC will worship with the Zion Baptist Church in Chance on May 22nd.

2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

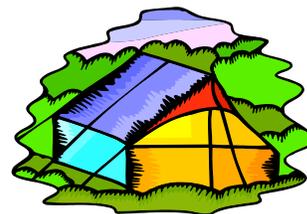
Susan Spage, Moderator

- Served lunch along with Rappahannock Christian Church at the Community Lenten Service on April 6th
- Our Progressive Lunch Fellowship is planned for Sunday, June 5th.
- Communion was served at Essex house on Palm Sunday to members Edith Lawyer, Lorraine Gustafson, and Nancy Robinson.

3. Christian Education Ministry

Anne Sydnor, Moderator

- The 7-part Immersion Study of the Gospel of Matthew was judged to be very insightful for those who attended; However, attendance was below expectation.
- Camp Hanover applications are being returned and we are registering our youth.



4. Mission and Outreach

Janice Canby, Moderator

- Essex Churches Together (ECT) celebrated the 4th annual Operation InAsMuch on April 9th. There were around 700 volunteers working on 70 projects. Kathy Hughes and Alice Roye continue to provide leadership to the overall effort, while 28 members of the congregation participated.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be Easter Sunday, April 24th.

5. Church Growth

Kim Sydnor, Moderator

- New member Sunday will be April 24th. The Poling Family and the Reger Family plan to join.
- The list of prospective members was updated.
- Next meeting is May 1st.

New Business

- **Spring Work Day** to clean the church and grounds is scheduled for Saturday, May 14nd. We need 10-12 people to volunteer their morning.



- Pastor vacation is scheduled for May 27th – June 10th.
- The Steering Committee approved the general 2011 Transition schedule, including a **Congregational Meeting on May 15th to select a Nominating Committee** to be moderated by Susan Spage.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Saturday August 27th** for the annual Planning Retreat.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: May 16 at 6:00 p.m.

HOW DO YOU STAND?

In October we studied “Grow the church deep and wide: A Call to Action.”

During the first study session each participant made a commitment.

Is yours in the list below? Have you accomplished it?

Evangelism

- Invite/encourage ___ to visit our church
- begin a relationship with _____
- Better understand what “be in relationship” means that would encourage church visits
- Find a way ___ can help others through our church
- Reach out to friends and neighbors as a witness
- Personal growth in evangelism/ servanthood
- Visit some unchurched folks
- Call and visit potential new members

Discipleship

Read more scripture

Servanthood

Grow in evangelism and servanthood

Diversity (one goal of a personal nature was submitted relative to diversity)

Kim Sydnor, Church Growth Moderator

* * * * *

We've Been Invited

Sunday, May 22

Tappahannock Presbyterian congregation will join the Zion Baptist Church, Chance congregation at their church for Sunday Worship. There will not be a service at our Worship Center. Rev. Bill Morris will deliver the sermon.



EASTER SUNDAY

What a celebrative day at TPC. The service began with the flowering of the Lenten cross changing it into a symbol of new life –CHRIST IS RISEN! More than 70 people attended this joyful service.



Eighteen young people and children listened to and prayed with Dr. Morris during their special time in the service. The young people then attended Sunday School taught by Brad and Judi Coats outside under a tree.



Jessica Sisk presented her two children, Ayden Daniel Pepin and Lucas Alexander Sisk for baptism.

Alice Roye, representing the congregation at Jessica's Request, held the baptismal bowl as Dr. Morris administered the sacrament.

Standing with Jessica are family members, Randy Sisk, Lucy Collins and Scott Pepin holding Ayden..

The morning service concluded with the reception of new members. In order as pictured:

Sherry Jones introduced Sally and Steve Reger who were received as Affiliate members. They are active members of Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Susan Spage introduced Louise and Ralph Poling who transferred their membership from Tabernacle United Methodist Church in Fredericksburg, VA.



Lay Readers



May and June

May 1 Deb Booze
8 Barbara Cullom
15 Randy Sisk
22 Worship at Zion Baptist

June 5 Jeff Orrock
12 Beth Perry
19 Sherry Jones
26 Scott Orrock

Greeter Johnny Frischkorn
Ushers Tyler Sanders, Jo Dowdy

Greeter Brad Coats
Ushers Randy Sisk and Lucy Collins

Happy April Birthday to

Bill Morris 18
Floyd Dowdy 22
Ron Glass 22



Church Family News

We had a glorious Easter Service with 79 people in attendance. There were 18 children, including two infants, and it was wonderful to have visiting family members present. It was good to have Frances Garrett's daughter Fran and the extended family of Jessica Sisk and extended family of Louise and Ralph Poling, grandchildren of Deb Booze, neighbors of Cindy Glass, and other friends and family members. Herb Sebren brought his friend Heidi, Scott Martin brought Ann, and Tyler Sanders brought his mother, Anna May.

The *flowering of the cross* was the most beautiful yet, possibly because of the late Easter date and the iris, wisteria, and other flowers available. After the service everyone was treated to a partially Greek orthodox Easter reception with stuffed grape leaves and baklava as well as other symbolic Easter goodies. Thanks, Susan and Bill Spage.

The two children of Jessica Sisk were baptized, Lucus Alexander Sisk and Ayden Daniel Pepin. Grandparents Lucy Collins and Randy Sisk were in attendance as were other family members.

Our congregation was blessed to receive two families as official members of our church family, although we have felt they were members for quite some time. Louise and Ralph Poling have been worshipping with us for almost a year ever since they moved to Tappahannock and they have been active in our church activities. Steve and Sally Reger have been attending Tappahannock Presbyterian for a number of years and they have joined as affiliate members, maintaining their membership in their church in Cleveland, Ohio, site of their primary home.

Even the weather cooperated, turning from rain in the 50's to a warm, flowering spring day. A dynamic sermon and inspirational choir, led by Kathy Hughes topped off the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. The congregation gave \$8200 in offering, with \$720 identified for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Contributions to this offering may be made May 2 as well.

Thanks be to God.



Operation Inasmuch 2011 A Success!!

Three weeks after *Operation Inasmuch* Day activities are still going on. Bills are being paid and some donations are still being deposited and donors are being thanked by Alice Roye; reports and evaluations are being prepared by Kathy Hughes. A special order window has arrived and is still to be put in, and there is paint left for one more room in one house and a railing is still to be put on another.

Tappahannock Presbyterian Chapel played a major part in this all-county mission blitz day; over 80 projects were completed by over 725 volunteers from 35 churches of different races and denominations. Kathy Hughes was the Chair of the Core Planning Team and under her steady hand thousands of details were attended to. John Hardy was unable to play as large a part this year but his appearance at Command Central was hailed!

Over half of the membership (26) of TPC signed up for that day, and well over half of the financial support came from TPC. At least 14 families made financial contributions. The Coats family contributed a large sum to be dedicated to the three youth programs going on. There were 64 young people, ages 4-17, served in a variety of ways.

Teams Leaders from our church included Vivian Smith (Banana Bingo); Susan Spage (Essex House Luncheon); Bekah Hughes-Davis (Pet Adoption); Alice Roye (Maps and Publicity); Pat Morris (Thank You Notes); Lucy Collins and Randy Sisk (Canned Foods for Food Banks); Susan Hillyer (beautifying grounds of library and extension office); Jill Robertson (Individual Assistance); Linda Ball (Coordinator of all outdoor beautification/yard work). Team Leaders for Home Repair projects were Ralph and Louise Poling and Emerson Hughes.

Team members were Dave Canby (Banana Bingo); Tyler Sanders (Essex House Luncheon); Bill Morris (thank-you notes); Nell Burrough (thank-you notes); Kim Sydnor (Command Central); Anne Sydnor (Lunch Transportation); Barbara Cullom (Home Repair); Bill Smith (yard project). John Moody helped with baking and Roland Geddes helped prepare maps ahead of time. Cindy Glass, Janice Canby, and Louise Poling were ready and willing but unable on that day.

Operation Inasmuch has given TPC members a unique way to mission to our community, and our church provided the unique gifts of leadership and financial support to help this happen.

God has blessed us all.

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