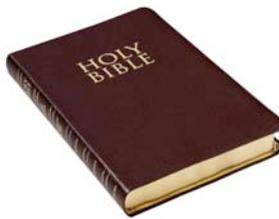


# Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 2011



## CYCLE A DECEMBER LECTIONARY For the Lord's Day

12/4 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 40:1-11; Ps. 85: 1-2, 9-13; 2  
Pewter 3:8-15a

12/11 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126; 1  
Thess, 5:16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-  
28

12/18 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
3 Sam. 7: 1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55;  
Rom. 16 :25-27; Luke 1:26-38

12/25 Nativity of Jesus Christ  
Christmas Day  
(Dawn) Isaiah 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus  
3:4-7; Luke 2 (1-7) 8-20

(Day) Isaiah 52:7-10; Ps. 98; Heb.  
1:1-4 (5-12); John 1: 1-14

## A Conversation with Carson

The Rev. Carson Rhyne led the worship service at TPC on November 20 and afterwards met with the congregation. Rev. Rhyne is the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the James. The Stated Clerk is the presbytery's chief ecclesiastical administrator over more than 100 churches. We are grateful that he been available for us both in person and by phone consultation as we go through this time of change.

During our "Conversation with Carson" he explained to the congregation about the process of getting a Transitional Pastor who will lead the congregation until a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is elected and conducts a search for a full-time pastor. The Steering Committee is the acting search committee for the transitional pastor and they hope to conclude interviews and make a decision the first part of December.

Regarding the property, he stated that the projected date for closing on the property on Kino Road (across the highway from Chandler Chevrolet) is November 28. After this a sign may be erected with Tappahannock Presbyterian Church's name and "coming soon" on it.

The question was asked about when ground-breaking could occur. There is a lot that has to happen before that time. The congregation will have opportunity to consider what they see as the "church" and its "mission" and "who" will be served before the first plans can be made. The Steering Committee appointed Emerson Hughes moderator of the Building Task Force and David Jones moderator of the Finance Task Force. The committees will be made up of 4-5 people, but EVERYONE will be asked for input along the way.

He discussed chartering, saying that the usual number required is 75. We presently have 51 members which includes young people who have been confirmed, and 2 affiliate members. He explained that affiliate members, although valuable members cannot count as charter members. He cautioned that it is a mistake to charter too soon when the church is not self-sustaining. Having said that he acknowledged our longevity, our organization, and our financial commitments and indicated that the New Church Development Purpose Group will consider these things. He recommended that the petition with names of members not be a part of the packet that is submitted for the January 11 meeting. The financial piece of the package will be specific about how much financial support is requested from Presbytery and for how long. A projected time line for fund-raising and building will be included.

## Highlights of the November Steering Committee

On November 15 the Steering Committee welcomed Tom Coye with lunch at 11:30 after which Rev. Coye, appointed Moderator, conducted the meeting. He opened the meeting with a prayer.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- The Clerk is sending thank-you notes to all pulpit supply
- Letters which accompanied folders telling of TPC's structure and financial status to Rev. Al Moreau, Rev. Jay Sanderford, and Rev. Carson Rhyne were in the packet.
- A letter from Presbytery indicates that our giving of our pledge is on schedule, with \$1637.45 due by the end of the year.
- A letter explaining the structure of the contributions to POJ was discussed and it is the decision of the Steering Committee that the 10% pledge for the coming year be unrestricted.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

- Plate Offering to date= \$88,026.
- Memorial Fund = \$5623.17.
- The motion was passed that Dave Jones should purchase cloud software for back-up of computer files, the cost not to exceed \$250.
- Dave will convene the budget committee, Janice Canby and Brad Coats. In addition he will invite Johnny Frischkorn and Bill Smith to be on it. This was approved. The budget committee will work on the 2012 budget for review at the December meeting.

### PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS

There was sharing about those members known to have special needs. Kim Sydnor is improved and will be on IV antibiotics for 5 more weeks. People are keeping in touch with him and Anne. The ladies in Essex House seem to be doing well. They enjoy banana bingo that is led by Vivian Smith and other TPC members every third Thursday. Jill Robertson will ask Anne Sydnor to let her know if there is an item that TPC could purchase for their grandson Cole Sydnor to help in his rehabilitation and to let him know that we are thinking about him.

### PRESBYTERY REPORT

- The next Presbytery meeting will be held February 18 at Grace Covenant in Richmond.
- Sherry reported on the **Clerk's training** that was attended by Louise Poling, Alice Roye, and her. Much of the training related to the New Form of Government (nFOG). Sherry is beginning a manual for TPC, as instructed in the workshop, that will contain the decisions about terms of office, number of steering committee members, and other decisions formerly handed down from Presbytery. She will present this in a future meeting.

### NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PURPOSE GROUP

- Dave Jones and Susan Spage are TPC representatives on the NCD Purpose Group. The next meeting is in January.
- The discussion about the November 9 **NCD Purpose Group site visit** indicated it had been a successful visit. Both TPC and NCD now have a clearer understanding of expectations of each other. **Documents to apply for charter** are being prepared for submission to the NCD Purpose Group in January.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Progress report on **Church Site Task Force**: Emerson says that the topographical survey will be completed this week and this will be turned over to the site engineer who will then decide where the parking can occur, among other things. The motion was passed 1) that the Church Site Task Force be thanked for their constant and faithful work in securing this property, and 2) that the Task Force having completed its assignment be disbanded, and 3) that Emerson will remain as liaison between the site activities and the Steering Committee.
- The **Transitional Pastor Search** Committee is interviewing candidates. The goal is to make the decision the first part of December.

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### 1. WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

- a. Preaching schedule:

Rev. Howard Leming	November 6
Rev. Fred Rose	November 13
Rev. Carson Rhyne	November 20
Rev. Starke Cauthorne	November 27
Rev. Dr. John Turner	December 4
Rev. Ray Inscoe	December 11
Rev. Barbara Cullom	December 18
Rev. Barbara Cullom	December 25
- b. Advent activities
  - The Worship Ministry is inviting people to participate in the **Advent portion of the service**
  - **The greening of the worship center** will occur Saturday, December 10 from 9-noon
  - Ralph and Louise Poling will handle the donor list and procurement of **poinsettias**.
- c. **Lessons and Carols will be December 25.** Barbara Cullom is contacting people to participate.
- d. **Communion** schedule authorized: dates **November 20** (Christ the King) and **January 8** (Baptism of the Lord)

### 2. CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

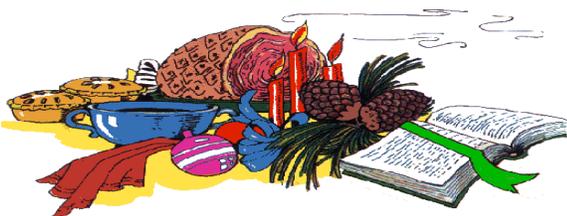
Susan Spage, Moderator

#### **Congregational Care**

- a. **Phone calls** to members who are ill
- b. **Transportation** to Dr. office
- c. Lucy Collins made a beautiful **blanket for Pat Morris**

#### **Fellowship**

- a. **Men's breakfast** a success- 13 attended
- b. **Knitting group** met at Betty Geddes' November 14.
- c. **Christmas luncheon** will be held at the Riverside Condominium. Susan Spage is working on plans and menu for that now (see invitation)



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Judi Coats, Moderator

- a. Fall adult 6 week- study using the **Angel Series** videos has been well-attended with enthusiastic discussion. Participants agreed a series on Prayer would be a great follow-up in the spring
- b. Plans for **children's Christmas program** still being formulated. At present plans include teaching young people the "standard" Christmas carols and having them present to the congregation on December 18.



- c. Judi Coats' health is preventing her from doing as much as she would like to with the children. Beth Perry has volunteered to help as she can. **More Sunday School teachers are needed** so that the same adults don't have to miss Sunday Service every week.

***YOU ARE INVITED***

***To the Christmas Luncheon***

***following worship service***  
***Sunday, December 18***

***Riverside Condominium***

## Other Concerns

### 4. MISSION AND OUTREACH

Sherry Jones, Moderator

- a. Sherry Jones submitted a detailed description of the **2011 budget** for Mission and Outreach; the **2012 budget** was discussed
- b. Randy Sisk will announce **5-cents-a-meal**, see that the yellow envelopes are in each bulletin the third Sunday, and children will be asked to pass that basket. Rev. Starke Cauthorne will be pulpit supply on November 27 and he will be asked to say more about the offering.
- c. **Angel Tree/ Christmas Mother**- TPC will receive names of 12 children of incarcerated parents to provide gifts for. Sherry is coordinating that.
- d. **Joy Offering**- Ralph Poling is coordinating this offering.
- e. 2012 activities:
  - January- begin thinking about candidates for Camp Hanover
  - Host Souper Bowl soup lunch in February
  - Next meeting January 13 at 10:30 AM.



### 5. CHURCH GROWTH

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

- a. Church Growth Ministry met November 6. Randy Sisk, Lucy Collins, and Dave Jones will represent Church Growth at the November 9 NCD Site Visit
- b. This Ministry has been tasked with procuring the sign that will go up on the new property. The motion was passed to authorize the Church Growth Ministry to purchase a new sign, not to exceed \$1000, as soon as possible so that it can be erected on the new property as soon as all papers have been signed. (note: word is, November 28 is the big day!)

1. The Property Committee will post a **sign-up sheet and requests that people sign up for time when they can come in** to the Worship Center and straighten the hymnals, empty the trash (this is done each Monday by Dave Jones), vacuum if necessary, clean the bathrooms and generally have things in order for Sunday.
2. Steering Committee referred to the **Time Line of Activities**
3. Discussion of what is needed by the **January meeting of POJ NCD**
  - a. Draft of the application form was reviewed; power point presentation has been developed
  - b. Emerson Hughes and Dave Jones are working on a financial and building time-line
  - c. Sherry will prepare a document entitled Constitutional Covenant to be signed; Rev. Carson Rhyne, stated clerk, will be consulted about this procedure
4. Discussion about **informing congregation about what has been happening** re: site visit, transitional pastor search, chartering, and property purchase. Rev. Carson Rhyne is pulpit supply for November 20 and he is prepared to have a "Conversation with Carson" after the service to give this information and answer questions.
5. **Discussion about the official name of the church when requesting charter.** The Steering Committee affirmed the name Tappahannock Presbyterian Church as known by members and the community as the name that will go on the request to be chartered.

6. **Facilities Task Force and Funding Task Force:** Emerson Hughes will moderate the Building Task Force and David Jones will moderate the Funding Task Force. It was agreed that there should be approximately 4 other members of these task forces.

7. **Kathy Hughes won a prize for her apple pie** in a contest by Chandler Cheverolet. ECT churches were invited to submit pies in the name of their church. She asked



permission to give the \$125 church prize money, plus the \$50 personal prize money to be used for *Operation Inasmuch*. Steering

Committee approved with thanks and expressed amazement that she added one more thing in her busy schedule!

# Worship Leaders



## December and January

December      4 Scott Martin  
                  11 Anne Sydnor  
                  18 Kim Sydnor  
                  25 Christmas Day

January        1 Janice Canby  
                  8 Susan Hillyar  
                  15 Roland Geddes  
                  22 John Hardy  
                  29 Jeff Orrock

Greeter        Brad Coats  
Ushers         Randy Sisk and Lucy Collins

Greeter        John Hardy  
Ushers         Margaret Ryland, Bill Smith

## Happy December Birthday to

Ralph Poling	3	Peggy Crittenden	10
Lucy Collins	6	Chuck Dyer	12
Herb Sebren	9	Jessica Sisk	31
Judi Coats	10		

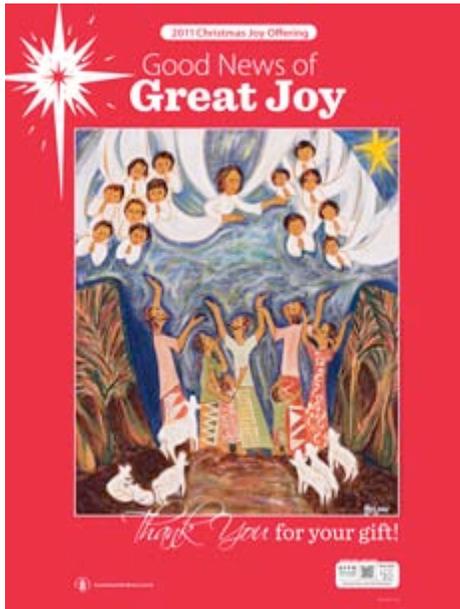


## *Within Our Church Family*

1. Bill Morris is "holding his own." He visited his grandson Joe at Shenandoah University and attended some concerts; he has preached at his daughter Laura-Jo's church, Laurel Presbyterian, and he is carrying on with life, working in chemo and rest periods.
2. Kim Sydnor is home, regaining his strength from his battle with endocarditis, and Anne has come out of retirement to administer IV's to him at home.
3. Margaret Ryland's "new normal" is periodic chemo treatments and she is still working- and resting.
4. Judi Coats struggles with arthritis and back pain- and stays very busy- and rests.
5. Ellen Hardy is slowly resuming life outside of her easy chair.

*You who are battling disease to point of exhaustion are being held up in God's loving care by your church family.*

*"Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:27*



## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

### Giving back

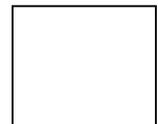
### to those who have given so much

Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or enabling deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools, your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit.

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring *Good News of Great Joy* to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. This offering will be received Sunday, December 18 at Tappahannock Presbyterian Church.

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**Alice Roye, newsletter editor**

