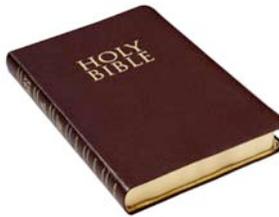


Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

March 2012



CYCLE B
MARCH LECTIONARY
For the Lord's Day

3/4 2nd Sunday in Lent
Gen.17:1-7, 15-16; Ps.22:23-31
Rom.4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

3/11 3rd Sunday in Lent
Exod. 20:1-17; Ps. 12
1Cor. 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
SPRING FORWARD!

3/18 4th Sunday in Lent
Num.21:4-9; Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22;
Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

3/25 5th Sunday in Lent
Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12
Heb. 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

PASTOR'S PAGE

THE SPIRITUAL MIRROR WE CALL LENT

Every year, Christians observe the forty days and forty nights before the week of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as a time of introspection and reflection. One of the most important things to consider annually in our spiritual journey is whether we are in fact reflecting the love of Jesus the Christ on a regular basis or just occasionally. I sometimes look longingly at my clergy friends in the Church of Scotland, Church of England and the Episcopal Church who are honored with titles like The Right Reverend or The Very Reverend...and I've been known to poke fun at myself by using the made-up title of The Very Occasionally Almost Right Reverend Dr. Turner. Truth be told, when I look at my life since the last Easter every year, I usually have to admit that I've mostly been what the author/minister Frederick Buechner calls a "part time Christian", as part of the time is the most I can handle being anything that I imagine would really matter to the person who died for me on a cross. Keep at it anyway, St. Paul tells us. Gradually we may manage to live our faith more often than we had before. "Feed my sheep," Jesus said. "Love others as I have loved you." It is indeed a tall order.

Robert Burns was a keen observer of the human condition and no stranger to our relationship with the divine. On the idea of looking at ourselves he waxed fairly famously in these oft repeated lines:

*O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us!
It wad frae monie a blunder free us
An' foolish notion;
What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,
And ev'n Devotion!*

And perhaps somewhat less famously,

*Where with intention I have err'd, No other plea I have,
But Thou art good; and Goodness still, Delighteth to forgive.*

Blessings,

John

Highlights of the Steering Committee Meeting

February 21, 2012



The Rev. Dr. Tom Coye, St. Andrews PC, was invited to the Steering Committee meeting to discuss on-going process of requesting Charter in the Presbytery of the James. Outcomes include:

- 1) All financial plans, budgets will be coordinated with Carson Rhyne, Stated Clerk
- 2) If June 2012 is the Chartering goal, an election of elders according to the *Book of Order* will be held as soon as possible. The regular cycle of nomination, election, education can still be held later in the year. Installation and education of the elders will occur after being confirmed as chartered, presumably at the June POJ meeting.
- 3) There will be an installation of the congregation as a chartered congregation and the elders will be installed at that time.
- 4) There was discussion about the recent suggestion from Rev. Rhyne to cease activity on preparing the building site until after chartering occurs. Reasons why this is detrimental to the momentum and planning of TPC were discussed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer David Jones says the budgeted amount of monthly income has been met. At the end of the last quarter of 2011 there is \$236,943 in the Development Account, \$17,588 in the Operations Account, and \$5,937 in the Memorial Account. Total funds = \$260, 468.

PROGRESS REPORT ON FINANCE PLAN FOR THE GRANT APPLICATION AND CHARTER

1. Steering Committee voted to authorize David Jones to proceed with planning the three-year Every Member Canvas. This is a requirement for applying for the construction loan as well as seeking Presbytery financial commitment.
2. Steering Committee voted to authorize David Jones and the Finance Committee (Brad Coats and Bill Smith) to begin speaking to sessions of 12 churches seeking financial commitment for the next 3-5 years.
3. As part of the chartering petition Dave has prepared a financial needs forecast for the next 7 years. He will attach a written explanation of the budget and seek input from Carson Rhyne prior to submitting it to the New Church Development Purpose Group.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EVANGELISM PLAN

An ad hoc committee (Alice Roye, Jill Robertson, Sherry Jones, and Susan Spage) continue to work on a draft of the Evangelism Plan which is part of the chartering petition.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CONSTITUING COVENANT

1. 54 of the 58 members have signed the covenant. The 4 have been contacted. There are 4 affiliate members who have signed: Dr. and Mrs. Steve Reger and Mr. and Mrs. Roland Geddes. The
2. The Steering Committee decided by common consent to have the Presbytery meeting June, 2012 as the goal for becoming chartered.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

1. The quarterly reports, Minutes, were sent to the Administrative Commission

PRESBYTERY REPORT

Susan Spage and Rev. John Turner attended the February 18 Presbytery meeting. LoAnn Fairman gave a "Bible Study" sermon which Susan found extremely interesting and motivated her to pursue having such a Bible Study in our church. Mary Baril was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery of the James for 2012. Dressed in tuxedo, Carson Rhyne, recommended "That the Listening Teams be given to the power of G-3.0108a in their work with Sessions seeking dismissal from PCUSA." Recommendation passed.

PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS

John Turner continues to make home visits with parishioners. He has kept in touch with Judi Coats who is healing from extensive back surgery. A non-member family in need who has been helped by members of our congregation was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Progress on Administrative Manual** as directed by Nfog (New Form of Government)- Sherry Jones is working on this based on past decisions, policies, and procedures of the Steering Committee.
2. Progress on getting **wish lists from Moderators**, what their Ministry Group would like to see in the new building that will assist in their goals and objectives for their Group. Most have been turned in, the last ones will be in in time to discuss in the series "Discerning God's Will for TPC."

MINISTRY REPORTS

1. Worship and Music

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

- a. Good Friday service to be planned by the Worship and Ministry Group requested; Steering Committee approved.
- b. The Advent and Christmas services were reviewed by the Ministry Group and suggestions for future services were made
- c. A calendar for when people will bring flowers has been established and the congregation is asked to sign up there.
- d. There was discussion about recruiting and training acolytes, ushers, and greeters. Appropriate dress or robes may be addressed at that time.
- e. Bekah Hughes, Administrative Assistant, is contacting lay leaders for worship each Sunday to remind them of their responsibility and to get subs when necessary
- f. The service of Imposition of Ashes will follow the Pancake Supper scheduled for Shrove Tuesday, February 21.

2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

Susan Spage, Moderator

- a. The Directory is being updated; a new one will be put out in the fall. Bekah is working on a supplement with new members and corrections that will be distributed earlier.
- b. Fellowship: the ministry group shared concerns about fellow members of the congregation. Shepherding groups are being discussed. Meanwhile, the phone tree will be used to report needs.

- c. The knitting group will meet in March at the home of Betty Geddes, date to be announced. Prayer shawls will continue to be the project. Louise Poling told of a new way to have congregational participation in the making of quilts which is being investigated.
- d. March 28 is the date TPC will work with Rappahannock Disciples of Christ Church to provide lunch for the Wednesday Lenten Series. Susan will coordinate this.
- e. Men served the women a Valentine brunch on February 12. It was delicious and well-received.
- f. The Pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday is happening February 21.
- g. There was discussion in the Ministry Group about the present and future TPC. Outreach was discussed and a "wish list" for inclusions in the new building was made. The next meeting will be after Easter.

3. Christian Education

Anne Sydnor, Moderator

- a. "Discerning God's Plan for TPC" is the Lenten Series. It will be moderated by Emerson Hughes, John Turner, and Alice Roye. Newspaper article has invited the community.
- b. The noon Community Lenten Series will again be sponsored by the Essex Ministerial Association and held at Tappahannock Memorial UMC. John Turner will speak at the March 28 service and TPC will help provide the lunch that is served from 11:30-11:55 and 12:30-1:00 PM.

Community Lenten Series

Sponsored by the Essex Ministerial Association

Wednesdays from February 22 to March 28.

Lunch served from 11:30-11:55

Worship Service led by pastors of different Christian denominations

Noon to 12:25

Lunch served from 12:30-1:00

4. Mission and Outreach

Sherry Jones, Moderator

- a. The Souper Bowl of Caring luncheon was a success. The goal of weight for cans of food was 2 pounds per member, or 106 pounds. This was exceeded by 10 pounds. \$48 was received. These donations will go to area food banks.
- b. The next meeting of Mission and Outreach will be Tuesday, March 6 at 11:00 PM.

5. Church Growth

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

- a. The "New Member Sunday" on February 12 was successful, with 5 members joining.
- b. How to use the new property to have a service and invite the adjacent neighborhoods was discussed
- c. A map is being prepared to pinpoint where present members live. This may be used as growth areas to concentrate on.
- d. Get together a list of people to invite to "Discerning God's Plan for TPC" Lenten Series.
- e. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 10:00 AM at church.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Timeline for March and April

- a. Plan Good Friday and Easter Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing.
- b. John Turner will call for a reservation for Knoxwood Lodge, Camp Hanover, for a congregation-wide planning retreat for either August 25 or September 8 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM



March 28 TPC will join Rappahannock Disciples of Christ in preparing lunch for the Lenten Series.

Rev. John Turner will lead the

devotional worship that day.

A Celebration of Shrove Tuesday



Good Pancakes

Enjoyed by Susan Hillyer, Virginia Hillyer, Johnny Frischkorn, Linda Ball, Dave Canby, Margaret Ryland, Tyler Sanders 40 more!



Good Music by John Turner

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Imposition of Ashes following in a candlelight devotional set the tone for Lent, a period of reflection.



Check the Calendar in the Fellowship Room to sign up for bringing Sunday flowers

Lay Readers

April and May



April 3 Tyler Sanders
 10 Alice Roye
 17 Jeff Orrock
 24 Jill Robertson

May 1 John Hardy
 8 Janice Canby
 15 Scott Orrock
 22 Louise Poling

Greeter Anne Sydnor
Ushers Chuck and Betty Dyer

Greeter Johnny Frischkorn
Ushers Tyler Sanders, Jo Dowdy

Happy April Birthday to

John Norton 14
Bekah Hughes Davis 19
Sherry Jones 20
Nancy Robinson 20



Welcome, new members!

On January 29 we welcomed **Mary Wigmore** and **Kathy Quigley** into our family, and on February 12 our family grew some more!

It was special to have our church family introduce their own family members, and we are ONE. Tyler Sanders' mother **Anna Mae** has been visiting over a year and it is good to have her join us. She comes from a Baptist church in Warsaw. Susan Hillyer's mother, **Virginia**, has been visiting for many months and we welcome her from Glebe Landing Baptist. Susan's sister **Linda Ball** has been an active part of *Operation Inasmuch* for a number of years as our "guest." We have long considered Linda a "member" and now it's official. **Barbara Cullom** has been worshipping with us a couple of years and she has jumped right in as Moderator of Worship and Ministry. Barbara is an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ and she transfers her membership from Rockville (MD) UCC. **Matt Jones** is known to us as Dave and Sherry's son, and most importantly as Sydney's father! Matt has been one of our "peripheral helpers" and we give him a hearty welcome.

God has richly blessed us with each of our new members and the special talents they bring to TPC at this very import time in the church life.

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of **Lent** spans 40 weekdays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.



Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays **in** Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission. Today Christians are called to use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance.

At Tappahannock Presbyterian Lent begins with the service of Imposition of Ashes. The ashes come from the burning of the palm fronds that were used the previous Palm Sunday. Barbara Cullom prepared the ashes this year.

One of the most effective visual reminders of the season that can be expanded in many variations is to use a rough wooden cross as a focal point in the sanctuary. The cross with the symbolic crown of thorns was made by the Rev. Dr. William Morris and given to TPC. The cross is erected on Ash Wednesday as a visible symbol of the beginning of Lent. It may be draped in black on Good Friday. On Easter morning the cross is transformed into a thing of beauty with the flowering of the cross during the Service of Resurrection.

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