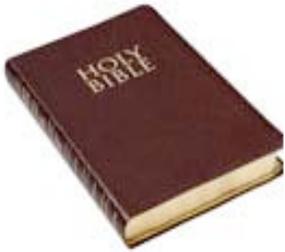


# Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

May 2012



CYCLE B  
MAY LECTIONARY  
For the Lord's Day

5/6 5<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Acts 8:26-40/ Ps. 22:25-31; 1 John  
4:7-21; John 15:1-8  
“**Bearing Fruit**”

5/13 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Acts 10:44-48; Ps. 98; 1 John 5: 1-6;  
John 15:9-17  
“**Love One Another**”

5/20 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1; 1 John  
5:9-13; John 17:6-19  
“**Mine and Thine**”

527 Day of Pentecost   
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps.  
104: 24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or  
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:27-27, 16:4b-  
15  
“**To Keep You From Stumbling**”

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### A MONTH OF DAYS

May is an amazing month for all its special days! Some are well observed - others mostly go unnoticed.

- 1 May is Fellowship Day, though hopefully, for TPC folk every time we get together is Fellowship Day! In Edinburgh on 1 May many make an annual trek up to the top of Arthur's Seat to "wash their faces in the mornin' dew!"
- 3 May is National Day of Prayer in this country, though again, we hope that is an apt description for every day of the year.
- 6 May is Nurses' Day which gives us an opportunity to thank nurses and other health professionals for what they do. TPC is especially blessed with a number of members who are active/inactive/retired nurses.
- 13 May is Rural Life Sunday, Mother's Day and Festival of the Christian Home Day covering lots of things in one fell swoop, contributions of rural churches(which are legion), mothers(all of us has/had one) and homes that nurture the ideals of the Christian life.
- 17 May is Ascension Day(with the Orthodox Church observing same a week later on the 24th),
- 20 May is Ascension Sunday
- 27 May is Memorial Sunday and the beginning of the Jewish festival Shavuot.

Lots of reminders in May - a fellowship of believers is central to who we are. Pray without ceasing says Jesus. Honor your mothers says the Torah. Remember the land, the good earth, what planting in the Spring feels like, earth between your toes the first time in the year you could go barefoot! It is May time once again, when the mavis sings. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

*John*

# Steering Committee Highlights

April 17, 2012

## GRANT APPLICATION AND CHARTER

- The Grant Application has been received in the General Assembly office in Louisville. Word about whether any money will be granted will come in October.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION-** Rev. Turner will speak with Rev. Tom Coye about when and where the Administrative Commission will next meet with TPC and what the process of installation of Elders and Commissioning as a chartered church entails. This process can begin after the June Presbytery meeting.

## PRESBYTERY OF THE JAMES

The next meeting is June 19 at Salisbury Presbyterian Church in Chesterfield County, south of Richmond. The TPC congregation is encouraged to attend to make ourselves known and show appreciation. It is expected TPC will be recommended then for charter.

## PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS

Rev. Turner continues to make home and hospital visits with members. Those recovering and in need of prayer and support were lifted in prayer.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. **Plans for ceremony honoring Bill and Pat Morris on May 6 were finalized.**
2. **Plans for the Finance Committee** are unknown due to the absence of Dave Jones. Em Hughes outlined some of the principles of fund-raising and it was agreed the process of developing a Capital Campaign needs to start immediately.
3. **Building Committee Report-** Em Hughes reported that he has talked to 5 architects and he plans to get all of them together with the Building Committee to make a presentation, hopefully on a Friday in the near future.
4. **The Spring Clean-Up** scheduled for Saturday, April 21 was discussed. There doesn't seem to be an urgent need for this. If there are enough people indicating willingness to participate Jill Robertson and Dave Jones will coordinate their efforts. Bush trimming may be primary.

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### Worship and Music

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

- The honoring of Bill and Pat Morris will occur during worship on May 6
- Pentecost is May 27 and everyone will be invited to wear red that day. Communion will be served. There was discussion about people learning how to pass the peace in different languages to symbolize the Babylonian experience.

### Congregational Care and Fellowship.

Susan Spage, Moderator

The CCF meeting will be re-scheduled to May 1 in order to plan for the reception May 6 and possible activities May 20 (see Church Growth report)

### Christian Education

Anne Sydnor, Interim Moderator has called a meeting of the Christian Education Ministry for Sunday, April 22 after worship to discuss possible volunteering of teachers for any children present who may go out during the sermon time. Rev. Turner will bring up the request for a week-day Bible Study for adults

### Mission and Outreach-

Sherry Jones, Moderator

The Pentecost Offering will be received May 27.

### Church Growth- Robbie Tavenner

- Further planning for the gathering at Chandler Chevrolet was not possible at this meeting.
- Robbie has developed an interest survey to pass out to people that will indicate what needs in the community our church might fill, both spiritually and physically with the new building.
- There was Discussion about Rev. Turner taping some 2-minute devotionals and invitation to join us that would be played on the radio.
- Johnny Frischkorn is updating the present brochure and asks for recent pictures to use. They should be sent online to Design Printing
- Thoughts about Game Night are put on hold until finding out if Chandler Chevrolet can be used, and how
- Next meeting is Friday, April 20 at 10 AM.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. **Report from Personnel Committee given by Jill Robertson.** A meeting with Bekah Davis, Administrative Assistant, indicated there is mutual satisfaction and appreciation between Bekah and TPC. Her baby is due June 22. She was granted time off in June and the month of July. As far as she can predict now she plans to return to work in August. Plans are being made for a substitute.
2. **The Transitional Pastor Search Committee Report was given by Emerson Hughes.** He indicated that Carson Rhyne says that a PNC will need to be nominated and elected for the purpose of reviewing candidates for the position of full-time NCD organizing pastor. Rev. Turner asked if the Steering Committee accepted his offer to become full-time could that cut out the PNC search process. Em explained that he was told there could be no "short cuts" in the process as the selection will be made collaboratively by the TPC -PNC, the Committee on Ministry from Presbytery, and staff at Louisville. There are special criteria for this position and testing for suitability is done routinely by the GA staff. Em stated that the Committee on Ministry and Carson Rhyne will guide the process.
3. **Discussion about election again of officer** resulted in decision that those people who are currently on the Steering Committee and were elected as elders-elect as a requirement for the chartering process will serve their terms through 2013 and another election will not be held until that fall.
4. **Clerk Alice Roye was directed to write to the POJ Committee on Ministry and request permission to elect a Nominating Committee** that will produce a slate for the PNC. It was agreed 5 would be a good number on the PNC. She will do this immediately with the goal of getting it to COM prior to their May meeting.
5. **TPC is sponsoring the booth at the April 21 Farmers Market to sell baked goods** as a fund-raiser for *Operation Inasmuch*. Alice is heading this up: Kathy Hughes, Mary Wigmore, Robbie Tavenner, Em Hughes, and Jill Robertson will help. Other churches will be contacted to supply baked goods.

6. **The Steering Committee looked at the Four Administrative Committees:** Stewardship, Personnel, Budget, and Property, and agreed that a fifth one, Trustees, should be added. The make-up of these committees will be reviewed and updated in the fall.

## Pentecost Offering

Pentecost Offering is unique in that congregations direct 40 percent of what they receive for ministries which benefit children at risk. Last year TPC designated 40% of the offering to go to the food bank in Gloucester after that community was hit hard by a tornado. The remaining 60 percent supports mission through child advocacy (10 percent), youth ministry (25 percent), and Young Adult Volunteer opportunities (25 percent).



*You Are Cordially Invited  
To Attend 10:00 AM Worship*

*At*

*Tappahannock Presbyterian Church*

*To Honor*

*The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. William S.  
Morris*

*And Afterwards for Fellowship and  
Refreshments*

*Sunday, May 6, 2012  
1924 Tappahannock Boulevard*

## A Very Busy April

John Hardy and Deb Booze invite the community to join us for the Good Friday 7:00 PM service.



Easter was celebrated with the flowering of the cross, memorial lilies, and traditional Easter candy and cake. John Turner, Ralph Poling, Kim Sydnor, Louise Poling, Barbara Cullom, Mary Wigmore and Kathy Quigley enjoy the goodies.



Alyson Claiborne was home from college to celebrate Easter with her TPC family and to sign the charter petition. The flowered cross is behind her.

Lucy Collins and Randy Sisk coordinated the motorcycle ride that was a fund-raiser for Operation Inasmuch. Close to \$300 was collected from the bikers.



# Lay Readers

## May and June



May      6 Ralph Poling  
          13 Janice Canby  
          20 Scott Orrock  
          27 Chrissy Orrock

June     3 Barbara Cullom  
          10 Kim Sydnor  
          17 Robbie Tavenner  
          24 John Hardy

Greeter     Johnny Frischkorn  
Ushers      Tyler Sanders, Jo Dowdy

Greeter     Brad Coats  
Ushers      Randy Sisk and Lucy Collins

## Happy May Birthday to

### **MAY**

Robbie Tavenner    16  
Bill Morris            18  
Floyd Dowdy        22  
Ron Glass            22



### **Family News**

*We continue to ask for God's healing touch and comfort for Gayle, Ralph, Margaret, Judi, Bill and Pat, Ethyl, Chuck, and the families and care-givers for all of these people.*

*It was great to see Alyson Claiborne at Easter. Welcome back to Judi and Brad Coats- we've missed you! Good report that Chuck Dyer is home.*

# The Frog Chorus of Hope

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Cullom



I was driving back home to the Northern Neck of VA one recent night, and in my eternal search for low/lesser priced gas, I stopped after the Harry W. Nice Bridge on 301S. The road runs parallel to the Naval Dahlgren facility, so lots of un/under developed land there along the Potomac River.

I got out of my truck, and as I opened the door, a chorus of Spring peepers - those small remarkably noisy frogs- were calling out their Spring song to the night - loudly. More even than my Spring bulbs, the daffodils cheerfully braving cold earth, the narcissus emerging like Venus from the ground and the mulch, the carrying-on of Spring peepers is the welcome chorus of longer days, warmer days, the anticipated move from the living room to the porch, open windows (once pollen season is over) and the harsh, unlovely croaking cry of blue herons.

Those frantic frogs are the unmistakable sound of life, and the gradual shift in length of days brings about the sound of resurrection. The cold blooded critters who hide out for winter, not in warmly lined dens or hollows in trees, but in and under the mud in creeks, streams and ponds are the yearly reminder that perhaps the Easter resurrection is not mere hopeful thinking, but a tangible, hear-able calling out of survival.

Think of the resurrection of Lazarus in the 4th Gospel. Jesus gets the report of Lazarus' illness and does nothing. When he finally heads off to Mary and Martha's home, he clarifies that a preemptive miracle is off the table. Mary and Martha tell him he is too late - IF you had been here our brother would not have died. But Jesus did not come and he did die. Jesus' grief is remarked on by the local mourners, but as too little too late.

And then Jesus says, roll the stone away from the opening of the tomb. The sisters caustically note that the miasma of decomposition will appear, but they back up Jesus' command and the stone is rolled away. "Lazarus, come forth!" Jesus' call is loud and forthright - like the peepers. And Lazarus comes forth, to be let go free. Like the peepers.

In the Northern Hemisphere, near places where there is watery swamp, and there are frogs, the Easter message gets yelled out by myriads of the recently undead. Today the message is "He will not die! He will not die!" In a few weeks the message is "He has come back!! You are not abandoned!! You never will be abandoned - He is risen!" - preached by a chorus of frogs.

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