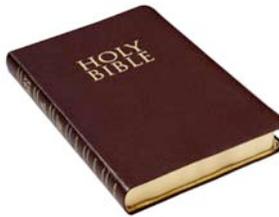


Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

November 2012



CYCLE B NOVEMBER LECTIONARY

11/4 - Ruth 1:1-18 Heb. 9:11-14
Mk. 12:28-34

The First Commandment

The Rev. Dr. John Turner

11/11 - Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Heb.
9:24-28; Mk. 12:38-44

The Widow's Mite

The Rev. Dr. John Turner

11/18 - 1 Sam. 1:4-20; Heb. 10:11-
14, 19-25; Mk. 13:1-8

What Large Stones!

The Rev. Dr. John Turner

11/25 - 2 Sam. 23:1-7; 
Rev. 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

What Is Truth?

The Rev. Dr. John Turner

Pastor's Page

Eucharistos

The short definition of the Greek word eucharistos is "thankful" or "grateful". A fuller understanding is that it refers to God's grace working out what is eternally good; grateful, which literally means "grace-ful (thankful) for God's grace", that which brings God's eternal favour. November brings with it many reasons for us to be thankful - this year, among them is the end of another presidential campaign along with all its negative ads and unfriendly language and behaviour. It is still, however, providence we have to thank for living in the one country in the world with the longest history of peaceful, self government. George Washington understood the importance of giving thanks to the Creator and expressed it well in his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1789:

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint committee, requested me to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness: Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed...and in general for all the great and various favors which he has been pleased to confer upon us....."

Let us pray together that whomever becomes president for the next term, they will come with, to, or both with and to an understanding of God's hand in our nation's history such as that held by this country's first president. God bless this country. God bless His church. God bless this community.

Blessings,

John

**Highlights of the
Stated Meeting of the Session
October 16, 2012**

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Presbytery of the James, saying the TPC proposal is not among those selected for the Office Park Grant.
- Letter from Penny Dudley congratulating Tappahannock Presbyterian church on Charter.(see posted on Worship board)
- Letter to POJ requesting reimbursement for postage for Charter Service invitations

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Plate offerings are below budget.
- The Memorial Fund has \$11,505. Capital Campaign has \$15,225.
- Stewardship Drive Plans (see article)

PRESBYTERY OF THE JAMES meets October 20. Emerson Hughes and Susan Spage will be the TPC representatives- one will be Commissioner.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

- Elder Examination was Monday, October 1, 2012 at 6:00 PM at the Worship Center.
- **The Chartering Service October 14** included chartering of the congregation, naming of the church (Tappahannock Presbyterian Church), and ordination of Elders.
- The Administrative Commission has completed its task and will be disbanded.

**Check Us Out on the Web
*www.tapchapel.org.***

Monthly newsletters are posted. If you would like to serve on a committee to look at the website for updates and revisions please let Alice (alicer2@verizon.net) or Jill Robertson (jmbbr1@gmail.com) know. They'll be meeting soon.

PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS

- John Norton passed away on October 2, 2012
- Other members with health concerns were discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on requests for partnership

- ❖ Em Hughes will respond to a request from Campbell Memorial for an itemized forecast of monetary needs.
- ❖ Clerk Alice Roye wrote a letter to Susan Edwards, Endowment Committee of Petersburg Third Presbyterian, inviting them to consider using some of the money from the sale of their building to help with construction of the TPC worship building.
- ❖ The Clerk and Treasurer wrote to Forest Hill Presbyterian, sending along the list of activities from the past year and asking them to partner.
- ❖ TPC was promised \$5000 from Bret Reed Presbyterian. This was announced at the Chartering Service.

Update from Building Committee

- ❖ Emerson Hughes is meeting with the architect to discuss finalizing the preliminary design using the figure 5000 square feet. It is anticipated that the plan and the footprint of the completed complex can be obtained in the next week and the site engineer can do the necessary work on site preparation needs by the end of October.
- ❖ Em has talked to Jeff Hodges, Director of Planning and Zoning for Essex County and also the building inspector, regarding requirements for the plan to be presented to him so that work can begin.

Update from Pastor Nominating Committee

The Church Information Form (CIF) has been completed and approved and applications are beginning to come in.

MINISTRY REPORTS

1. Worship and Music

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

- The next Communion will be November 25, Christ the King Sunday, and after that December 23. Arrangements will be made to offer communion to member residents at Essex House.
- Advent begins December 2. Greening of the Church will be coordinated with the Sisk-Collins wedding on December 8.
- John Turner received feedback about the Advent portion of the service prior to Christmas.

2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

- The reception after the Charter Service was well attended and much appreciated by congregation and guests. Thanks to all who made delicious contributions.
- **Men's Breakfast will be November 4 from 8:30 - 9:15, served by the ladies.** This is the Sunday of time change back to standard time.

3. Christian Education

Susan Spage, Moderator

- The Adult Christian Education fall study series begins October 21 and ends November 18. (see article) The study, "What Presbyterians Believe," found in *Presbyterians Today* has been distributed to families.
- Susan is looking into a week-end at Camp Hanover that prepares young people for confirmation.

4. Mission and Outreach

Sherry Jones, Moderator

- TPC will work through the Christmas Mother program preparing gifts for Essex County children of incarcerated care-givers.
- A goal for 5-cents-a-meal will be set for 2013 and there will be a visible method of tracking such as a banner or thermometer.
- Peacemaking Offering was received. The amount will be posted in November.
- M&O Ministry will organize the Souper Bowl luncheon February 3.

- *Inasmuch* will be held April 20, 2013. Planning, under the leadership of Kathy Hughes, has begun.
- Next M&O meeting is November 9.

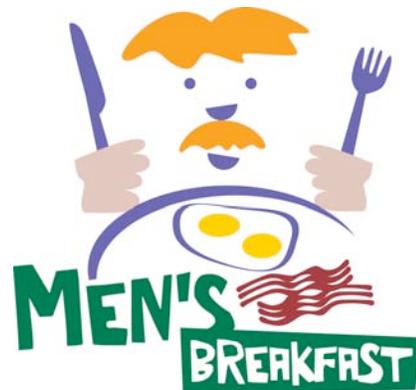
5. Church Growth

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

Alice Roye will co-lead this Ministry with Robbie

NEW BUSINESS

- The Community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Essex Ministerial Association will to be held at the Center Cross Church of God on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 PM.
- Administrative Assistant Susan Stephenson has developed a timeline for the preparation of the updated church Directory. This will begin in November.
- An updated website was discussed. There was discussion about making our website more user-friendly and attractive. Let Alice (alicer2@verizon.net) or Jill Robertson (jmbbr1@gmail.com) know if you can help with this. The committee will meet soon.



**November 4
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM**

Christmas Gifts



TPC will work through the Christmas Mother program preparing gifts for Essex County children of incarcerated care-givers.

TPC Elders Ordained

“As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God’s Spirit and governance of God’s people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord over” the congregation (Matthew 20:25) but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.”¹

Susan Spage, Sherry Jones, Jill Robertson, Emerson Hughes, and John Hardy were ordained as elders at the Chartering Service on October 14. Congratulations and thank-you for being willing to take on this awesome responsibility. They have sworn to *“exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have (accepted) responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation they shall serve faithfully as members of the session.”²*

They have been elected as ruling elders. Ministers are now called teaching elders in the new Book of Order. Once a person has been ordained he or she is forever an elder, barring a very unusual disciplinary action. TPC has several elders who were ordained in other churches prior to coming to TPC, among them Dave Jones, Deb Booze, Bill Smith, and Alice Roye. Each time an elder serves on the Session they become installed again, but ordination happens but once.

For many years others in the TPC family have served as “elders,” but because TPC was not chartered they were known as Steering Committee members, among them Janice Canby, Brad Coats, Dave Crittenden, Jo Dowdy, and Johnny Frischkorn (many times!).

^{1 and 2} Book of Order 2011/2013 G-2.03

New Moderators Sharing Roles with the More Experienced!

Robbie Tavenner has agreed to serve as Moderator of Congregational Care with Susan Spage’s assistance. Susan Spage will serve as Moderator of Christian Education with Anne Sydnor’s assistance. Robbie Tavenner will continue to Moderate Church Growth with Alice Roye’s assistance.

This allows the leadership roles to move around, giving others a chance to learn the ropes and still have experience to rely on. Please consider being a “Moderator Apprentice” and keep this in mind throughout the year.



Wednesday, November 21
the Essex Ministerial Association will sponsor the
Community Thanksgiving Service
Center Cross Church of God
7:00 PM.

Kudos to ALL who prepared for the Chartering Service.



- ✚ The Invitation list was made and coordinated with Presbytery. Invitations were written, many with notes of thanks on them, by Nell Burrough, Pat Morris, and Alice Roye.
- ✚ Tom Coye's stole of clergy tartan, a small token of appreciation for his many years of serving Tappahannock Presbyterian Chapel in many different ways, was selected by a committee (and the trial of a lost order was handled!)
- ✚ Flowers were given in memory of Bill Morris by Pat- a beautiful and fitting arrangement.
- ✚ A video was arranged and recorded of the service. It is being reviewed to see about editing and it will be shown some time at church. Please sign on the sheet on the table if you wish to purchase one. Price is not certain yet- it depends on the number.
- ✚ The choir practiced for weeks to present "Come Build A Church" and Kathy Hughes augmented our choir with two of her students from VCU.
- ✚ Kathy worked with Tom Coye on appropriate hymns and making the hymns available in the bulletin, and her talent on the piano and organ was admired and appreciated. Thanks to Em Hughes for directing the anthem and getting the most from our choir!
- ✚ Much communication between Tom Coye, John Turner, Alice, and Kathy went into developing the bulletin. Thanks to St. Andrews Presbyterian for preparing it for the service.
- ✚ Barbara Cullom coordinated use of the church with both the Seventh-day Adventist and Grace Baptist and was in charge of the myriad details of what was needed where.
- ✚ The new elders were given their charges ahead of time to prepare their hearts for ordination.
- ✚ Members of our church who participated in the service: Rev. Kim Sydnor, Pat Morris, Floyd and Jo Dowdy, Alice Roye, and Johnny Frischkorn. Jill Hand, Walther Fidler, and Mickey Kirby of the Administrative Commission took part. Clergy participating included John Turner, LoAnn Fairman, Howard Leming, Tom Coye, Donn Langfitt, Nancy Summerlin, Clay Macaulay, and Zolton Phillips. Rev. Arch Wallace, Interim Stated Clerk, represented the Presbytery of the James.
- ✚ The reception was coordinated by Susan Spage, Robbie Tavenner and Linda Ball.
- ✚ **Everyone** brought excellent treats for the sit-down reception at the Worship Center.



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2013-2014 Directory

Please be sure your information is correct for the 2013 Directory. A form is included in this mailing. Contact Susan Stephenson at 443-9977 or *tappchapel@verizon.net*, or mail to the office P.O. Box 983 Tappahannock 22560 or bring to church. Many have given changes to "the office" but some have not, and even the changes may have changed. The correct spelling of your name is important so please write legibly.

Arrangements to have pictures taken will be made after the first of the year.

November and December



Lectors

November 4 Susan Hillyer
11 Jill Robertson
18 Roland Geddes
25 Kim Sydnor

December 4 Chrissy Orrock
11 Tyler Sanders
18 Beth Perry
23 Pat Morris

Greeter John Hardy
Ushers Jo Dowdy and Tyler Sanders

Greeter Bill Spage
Ushers Randy Sisk and Lucy Collins

Happy November Birthday to

Betty Geddes 2
Kathy Hughes 17
Scott Orrock 14
Ayden Pepin 23



Church Family News

- ❖ Ann and John Colby are back in the fold. Welcome home!!
- ❖ Anna Mae Sanders is still in Westmoreland Health Care and Rehabilitation at 2400 McKinney Avenue, Colonial Beach, VA 22443.
- ❖ We are keeping family members of Barbara Cullom, Janice Canby, and Deb Booze, and friends of Randy Sisk, in our prayers for healing
- ❖ John Norton passed away on October 2 after a long period of declining health. We have missed his smile and cheerful greetings for several years. Our prayers go out to Ethyl and their family for strength and peace in the coming weeks. It was great to have Jeff Norton join us at the Chartering Service.
- ❖ Kathy Hughes and Barbara Cullom are both recuperating from “do-over” eye surgeries! We pray that this time is a charm and their sight is fully restored, with no pain.
- ❖ Cindy Glass has had more health challenges recently. Keep her in your prayers.
- ❖ Special thoughts go to the Perry family as they work out arrangements that will meet the needs of each one in the family.
- ❖ Welcome to baby Temperance Grace Akers, Lucy Collins’ new granddaughter. At 3 lbs.11 oz. she is showing much determination (sound like her grandmother?) to catch up. She is the daughter of Lucy’s daughter Sheena and her husband Eddie Akers.

What Do Presbyterians Believe?
Follows fellowship on Sunday Mornings

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| October 21 | Reclaiming the Trinity
The nature of God revealed in the Scriptures | Jeff Orrock teaching |
| October 28 | Jesus is the Way
The uniqueness of Christ | Susan Spage teaching |
| November 4 | Sacraments: Grace We Can Touch
Baptism and the Lord's Supper express God's redemptive work in Jesus Christ | Rev. Dr. Kim Sydnor teaching |
| November 11 | Why Do We Confess our Faith?
Our statements of faith define who we are through the beliefs we share. | Rev. Dr. John Turner teaching |
| November 18 | Our Radically Connectional Church
We are one body, not because we find each other's views congenial, but because God has called us together | Rev. John Turner teaching |



The first letter for the Stewardship season has gone out. The next one goes out November 12, and the Covenant and Commitment page will be included. These will be returned on **Commitment Sunday, November 18.**

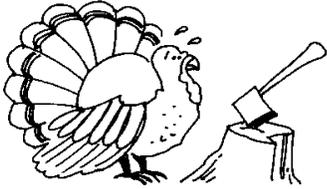
All Moderators are asked to have their budget request in to the Treasurer by November 11. The 2013 Asking Budget will be presented at the November 20 session meeting

The Session will adopt the 2013 Operating Budget December 19.

Thank You, Bret Reed Presbyterian Church!

At the October 14 Chartering Service TPC was promised \$5000 from Bret Reed Presbyterian. This is a wonderful gift of friendship and confidence in the work of TPC as it proceeds as a fully recognized church of the Presbytery of the James.

Chosen For Thanksgiving



Every November the President of the USA pardons a turkey from somewhere in the poultry world and said bird then gets to retire and grow old on corn and sunflower seed. Each member of TPC has been "chosen" to be a member of this active, creative congregation serving the Essex County community. As our feathered friends ask annually, "Chosen for what?" you might say,

"Well, chosen to use such time, talents, gifts, energy and material blessings as you have, to serve the Lord in this place."

Tappahannock Presbyterian needs your sincere, intentional financial support as it rockets into 2013 ready to lead the community in service of Jesus Christ and in the process build a new building where regular worship and service can happen.

The Bible is the source of much wisdom and truth, but some of our favourites are not there. "The Lord helps those who help themselves." - not there; "God doesn't give you more than you can handle." The sentiment is certainly true, but the words are not in scripture in that configuration. Fortunately, "God loves a cheerful giver." is indeed in the New Testament in the following form: "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Your church needs you to be you in all the ways God has prepared you. It also needs your financial support. Please make a generous pledge this month.

John

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The Rev. Dr. John Turner, pastor
Alice Roye, newsletter editor
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