

Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

May 2013



CYCLE C MAY LECTIONARY

May 6 6th Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5; John 14:23-29

Sermon: **“Comings and Goings”**
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

May 12 7th Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

Sermon: **“Ascension”**
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

May 19 Day of Pentecost 
Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17

Sermon **“Every Way the Wind Blows”**
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

May 26 Trinity Sunday
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Sermon **“Triune Nature”**
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

Pastor's Page

The Saints of May

May is a fascinating month for recognition of the saints of the church universal. Starting with St. Philip the Apostle and St. James the Less on the 1st of May, May Day is an ancient pagan celebration of the beginning of summer, Christianized by making it the Saint's day of two of the Twelve Apostles. Philip was the first disciple actually called by Jesus and is traditionally the one who at first declined the call in order to 'go and bury his father.' Little is known of James the Less other than his being one of the Twelve and the son of Alphaeus. The second day of May is the feast day of St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria for more than forty years starting in 328 A.D. Athanasius is known by several sobriquets, 'Father of Orthodoxy', 'Pillar of the Church', and 'Champion of Christ's Divinity' being among them. Much of his adult life was devoted to confuting the teachings of Arius, who denied the divinity of Christ. In the end, Athanasius was successful and Arianism was condemned as a heresy.

St. Irenaeus, St. Dunstan, St. Philip Neri, St. Joanna, The Verable Bede, and St. Augustine of Canterbury are among the many saints remembered in May. St. Dunstan strongly supported the cause of education in the second half of the tenth century and for whatever combination of reasons was adopted as the patron saint of goldsmiths. He left behind a sentence for the ages: "God forbid that for the sake of any mortal man or to save my own life, I should set aside the law which Christ my Lord, the Son of God, established in His Church.". And last, but certainly not least, on the 30th of May, St. Joan of Arc is remembered. Joan was a peasant girl in Lorraine who grew up at a time when large parts of France were ruled by the English and their Burgundain allies. At the age of seventeen, she heard the voices of St. Catherine, St. Michael and St. Margaret telling her she had been chosen to help the King of France reconquer his Kingdom. Dressed in a suit of white armour, she secured the relief of Orleans and persuaded Charles VII to be crowned at Rheims. Her action saved France. In 1430, she was captured by the Burgundians and sold to the English who had her burned at the stake. She was canonized in 1920 as a holy maiden and declared the second patron saint of France in 1922.

These are some of our spiritual fathers and mothers in the faith regardless of what branch of Christianity we associate ourselves with today. And whether or not mentioned in any books of saints they are joined in the heavenly host by many of your mothers, fathers, grandparents and great-great-grandparents. In the fullness of time, because of Jesus the Christ, all will be united with God and with each other as all saints/sinners, sinners/saints become one spiritual reality. Enjoy your month of Maying!

Blessings,

John

Session Highlights

April 16, 2013

Communications

Letter to new owner of the building TPC is renting asking for extension of time to occupy the building through 2013. Dave Jones has received a verbal OK from the new manager but nothing yet in writing.

Letter from Brett-Reed Memorial asking when to send the \$5000 donation

Letter from TPC to Brett-Reed Memorial saying "now"

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report

Special offering One Great Hour of Sharing at 5 cents a meal offering quarterly sent to Community Services \$406

Quarterly payment to Social Services \$250

Withdrawal from Development \$53,211

Discussion about camperships and registration (see article)

Mission and Outreach Ministry budgets for sponsoring a child at risk in the community. If you have a suggestion speak to Moderator Sherry Jones.

Presbytery of the James

The Session sent in an endorsement of the nomination of Emerson Hughes as Commissioner to the General Assembly

Pastoral Care Concerns

Members considering change of status were discussed. Others bereaved or ill were lifted in prayer.

John Turner gave his substitutes for preaching:

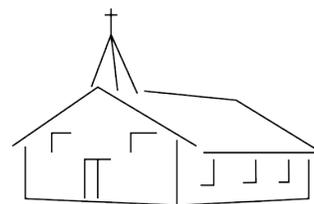
June 23- Carson Rhyne

July 28 Carroll Londoner

August 4- Carroll Londoner

September 22-Skip Murdock

Old Business



TPC Building Committee

Emerson Hughes, Moderator, announced there is a meeting today (April 16) at 2:00 of 5 contractors and the architect for a pre-bid meeting and review of the plans. Bids are requested in by April 25.

MINISTRY REPORTS

1. Worship & Music

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

No report from Worship and Music other than members of the ministry are being asked to evaluate the recent Lenten and Easter services.



The Session discussed how the ambience of the worship service could be enhanced by several things

- The motion was passed that a committee of those who have volunteered to read scripture (lectors) meet with the pastor (teaching elder) for an orientation and guidance about how to present the scripture. This will come under Worship and Music.
- A motion was passed with one nay to purchase a pulpit Bible in the NRSV which is the version used in our bulletins. Lectors will be encouraged to read from this Bible when possible. Jill Robertson and Barbara Cullom of Worship and Ministry will make this purchase.
- People are to be reminded of the appropriate way to give announcements prior to the service so that the reverence of preparation for worship is not disturbed.

2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

- Robbie Tavenner, assisted by Susan Spage, will head up the luncheon at Essex House for staff and residents next Saturday at Operation Inasmuch
- Susan said the committee was appreciative of the many contributions to the reception held after Floyd Dowdy's funeral service.

3. Christian Education

Susan Spage and the committee are reviewing several resources for adult study in the fall

4. Mission and Outreach

- Session approved the recommendation from M&O ministry that TPC join with Union Hope Baptist for the May 15 Farmers Market. This is a fund-raiser for ECT.
- Session approved the recommendation that TPC participate with another church in helping to host a Red Cross blood drive. Noting that TPC doesn't have many "stout hearted men" to move tables, it was agreed there were other things we could do. No date has been set yet.



- M&O offered to host a fellowship time in September and give some ideas to people who might like to do missions as a family that might not be participated in as a whole church. This was approved and the proper people in the fellowship ministry will be contacted.
- Session approved the recommendation that Katherine Todd's ministry in Carytown be supported by a check for \$65 which will cover a 1 hour session.
- TPC volunteers will be among those volunteers treated to a nice luncheon at Essex House as part of their effort to thank everybody from visiting and playing Banana Bingo with the residents

NEW BUSINESS

- Elder training this summer- this discussion was tabled until next month as was the discussion of the church-wide retreat.
- Down by the Riverside worship service discussed; site and date to be determined.
- Alternate date for June meeting- Monday, June 17 at 1:00 since Presbytery meets on the regular Session date.
- Dave Jones requested approval to pay for a workshop on Stewardship "Not Your Parent's Offering Plate"- on Saturday, May 18 at the Presbytery of the James. Request was approved for him and 2 others to attend.

Efforts to make Campership Registration More Efficient

Registration for events at Camp Hanover can be handled online. If TPC is requested to cover any costs this must first be approved by the Session. If events are being attended, for example summer camp or conferences, a copy of the completed registration form should be submitted to the TPC office. This applies to events in other venues as well.





Oh, no, Kathy. You can't be weary already- it's just opening ceremony! John Hardy and Sandy Baytops confer over volunteer assignments.

Dave Canby, Susan Spage, Dave Janice Canby, Pat Morris, John Em Hughes fortify themselves with doughnuts as everyone gathers to Operation Inasmuch 2013 Day.



Jones, Turner, and coffee and begin



Tappahannock Presbyterian Church was well represented in the recent Inasmuch mission day. Kathy Hughes, co-leading with Sandy Baytops of Union Hope Baptist, began meeting as Chair of the Core Planning Team in September. Alice Roye was on the Core Team as Publicity Chair. Monthly meetings turned into bi-weekly and then weekly meetings as time drew nearer. In January Team Leaders and Church contacts met together at a training supper held this year at Beale Memorial Baptist. The contacts had assignments for just about every week from January through April 20, ordering tee-shirts, encouraging participation, chairing a specific collections project for that church, distributing and then collecting volunteer forms, and Lucy Sisk was right on top of it every week. (If only other church contacts were as dedicated!)

Prior to the day Sherry Jones, Alice, Susan Spage, Kathy, and Mary Wigmore worked on the phone bank calling volunteers. Barbara Cullom potted plants for hospice patients. Unfortunately Jill Robertson, John Moody, and Cindy and Ron Glass were not feeling well that day and couldn't participate. Pat Morris sewed bags for the children's literacy bags given out at the end of the year. Janice Canby headed up the *Stop Hunger Now* project with Dave Jones on her team. Dave Canby participated in Banana Bingo at Carrington Place and Essex House. John Hardy was the Leader for Command Central, the "nerve center" of the day, and Kathy, John Turner, and Alice assisted there. Alice rode with Frank Miner to different projects and broadcasted radio interviews. Randy and Lucy Sisk led the canned goods collection from all volunteers and then packaged them to be delivered to 3 food banks in the county. Betty Dyer handed out books at the free-for-all, filling one youngster's bag to the brim! Robbie Tavenner and Susan Spage chaired the lunch party at Essex House. David Tavenner, Robbie's husband, re-roofed a house.

Volunteers came to church the next day still in their OIAM tee-shirts prepared to share with the congregation the joys of the previous day. The unexpected wonderments of the day are usually the best parts, that and the relationships forged between Christians of different races and denominations.



Em Hughes and Larry Baytops, the faithful husbands and supporters of the co-leaders of OIAM, Kathy Hughes, and Sandy Baytops, coordinated the Grill Team that set up shop on the apron of ProBuild and served hamburgers and hotdogs to the volunteers as they finished their projects. In some cases orders of 75 or so were prepared and delivered to sites where the workers couldn't stop their work.

TPC was home to a sewing group that made over 50 bags that will hold job-readiness kits. These go to Social Services and are given to people who have completed pre-job training for applying for jobs and learning work skills and behaviors. Lucy Sisk coordinated this, among other things!



Janice Canby was team leader for *Stop Hunger Now*, an amazing project where volunteers were trained to fill packages containing dehydrated rice/soy meal fortified with 21 essential vitamins and nutrients and dehydrated vegetables and pack them for shipment.

At the end of the prescribed 2 hours they filled 10,000 bags, enough to provide 40,000 meals. The cost is 25¢ per bag which was paid for by requesting an additional \$69 per church for registration. *Essex Churches Together* made up the difference.

MAY AND JUNE



May 5 Susan Hillyer
 12 John Hardy
 19 Roland Geddes
 26 Deb Booze

June 2 Jill Robertson
 9 Anne Sydnor
 16 Kim Sydnor
 23 John Colby
 30 Barbara Cullom

Greeter Johnny Frischkorn
Ushers Jo Dowdy, Tyler Sanders

Greeter Bill Spage
Ushers John Hardy, Bill Smith

MAY

Robbie Tavenner 16
Ron Glass 22
John Colby 27
(We will miss Floyd Dowdy on the 22nd)



Church Family News

- Floyd Dowdy left us on April 1. When we think of Floyd we will remember his infectious smile, his determination, and his unflinching standard of doing the right thing. A lovely note of thanks was received from Jo and her daughter Debbie for the reception prepared after Floyd's service. Jo is back now from West Virginia after a short visit with Debbie. Floyd's aunt, Bessie Dowdy, attended the service and said she spoke on behalf of all the family in thanking the congregation for the lovely, friendly reception at the worship center afterwards. It gave the family who had come from many directions a time and place to visit with one another before returning to their homes.
- It was great to see the family of John Norton on April 14. They were all together and worshipped with us in memory of John on his birthday.
- Anna Mae Sanders is still in the Nursing Home in Colonial Beach. She will be glad when she can return home and worship with us again.
- Jill Robertson and Cindy Glass are having some health challenges. Pray for the resolution of their difficulties.

Boston Bombing

April 15th is Patriot's Day in New England in general and in Boston in particular. It was also U.S. Federal Income Tax Day for 2012 taxes. Now it's also the day that two or more angry young men took it upon themselves to manufacture, plant and detonate bombs near the finish line of the annual Boston marathon resulting in three deaths and more than 180 injuries, a number of which required the amputation of limbs.

One family was especially hard hit - the family of the eight year old boy who along with his sister and mother were unknowingly standing right beside one of the bombs. The eight year old is dead, his fourteen year old sister lost a leg, and their mother has serious brain damage. It is natural for the remaining members of this family to ask the questions, "Why me?", "Why us?", "Why our family?" The reality for Christians who love the God who "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." is that the more appropriate questions are "Why not me?", "Why not us?", "Why not our family?" People die frequently around the world because someone else was angry with the world, or with the dream called America, or with themselves, or because the victims happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Unfortunately, it's relatively easy to be sympathetic but not especially affected as long as terror and violence happen somewhere else or a long ways off. It isn't however, very Christian. Jesus made it very clear that everyone should matter to all of us. Justice and righteousness should matter. Everyone who is lonely, everyone who is imprisoned, everyone who has too little food, clothing or shelter. Pray for the above-mentioned family in Boston - pray for all the other families impacted by this tragedy - but pray also for the family of the two brothers that set this horror in motion - and yes, pray for them as well - both the twenty-six year old who is already dead and took another policeman with him into death, and the nineteen year old who at the time of this writing is still being hunted.

"Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven" we pray. God set the Kingdom in motion by sending Jesus to be in the world. It's up to all His followers, including us to bring it to fruition - one person, one soul at a time - everyone matters.

Thoughts solicited from the Rev. John Turner

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