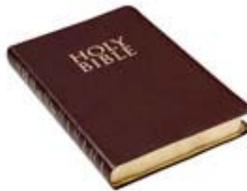


Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

August 2013



CYCLE C AUGUST LECTIONARY

August 4 11th Sunday after
Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11; Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12: 13-21

The Reverend Dr. Carroll Londoner
preaching

August 11 12th Sunday after
Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Hebrews 11:1-3,
8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Sermon: "L'Chaim"
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

August 18 13th Sunday after
Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7; Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Sermon: "Love"
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

August 25 14th Sunday after
Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:1-10; Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Sermon: "Compassion"
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

Pastor's Page

Current media are full of stories from the terrible ongoing conflict in Syria, the rising protests in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and the seemingly never-ending conflict between Israel and Palestine. So is the Bible. For millennia the physical part of the world that three of the world's religions consider most holy has been in nearly constant turmoil. In Exodus 3:5 God tells Moses to "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." This particular ground was in Midian, the Biblical name for modern Western Saudi Arabia and Southern Jordan.

In reality, all ground is holy as it was created by the one perfect and omnipresent God. The ground where you live...the ground in the median strip on the highway...the ground at the corner of Kino Road and Rt. 360 that Pat Morris dug up a spade-full of at the groundbreaking ceremony where soon will rise the new Tappahannock Presbyterian Church...all of it is holy. But according to Jesus, what God considers even more holy is every human soul, in and through whom God chooses to live and act out God's purposes. God sheds oceans of tears over every life lost in the quest for control of land, territory and power.

Let us pray that God will use our prayers this summer to reduce the conflicts, to wipe away the tears caused by death and destruction, and to place a higher value in people's hearts, even in the Middle East, on the lives of everyone's human brothers and sisters of whatever tribe or persuasion. Love God above all and your neighbor as yourself.

Blessings,

John

p.s. Here are some more of the ancient analogs to modern place names in the Middle East:

Ancient Country	Current Name
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Obal, Sheleph, Uzal	Yemen
Ammon, Moab, Edom	Jordan
Amor	Eastern Israel
Aram	Syria
Arkites	Lebanon
Asshur, Assyria	Iraq
Canaan	N.Israel, S. Lebanon

Session Highlights

July 16, 2013

COMMUNICATIONS

- Note from Nell Burrough saying she is back in Tappahannock
- The Clerk wrote thank-you notes to Third Presbyterian in Petersburg, Milden Presbyterian, and the Presbytery of the James for their donations.
- The Seminary for a Day workshop was announced in church and in the packet for the Elders.
- An email from Catherine Ortiz invites the Presbyterian Churches around the Rappahannock River to visit with Ruth Brown, mission co-worker, while she is in the area September 23-25. Sherry Jones will follow up with this.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Checks have been written to the Community Food Bank and the Social Services Special Fund.
 - ✓ New Building expenses so far \$68,378
 - ✓ Total Development Account \$239,48
 - ✓ The Operating Account \$15,080
 - ✓ Memorial Account \$12,216
 - ✓ Total \$266,785
- The motion was passed to authorize payment of the contract value \$837,400 with contractors Norman Company Inc. Emerson Hughes was authorized by the Session to sign the contract and he will do so today.



- The motion was passed to authorize payment of any income earmarked "Intercept", a therapeutic program for indigent children with special needs. At the present Alice Roye is handling purchases of food for the program. This is participation in an *Essex Churches Together* program.

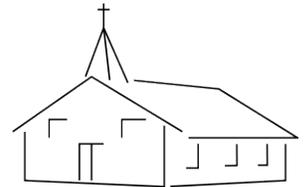
NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PURPOSE GROUP REPORT

Susan Spage reported that the NCD Purpose Group is defining their role in supporting worshipping communities through the process to become new church developments.

PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS were shared. Anna Mae Sanders' death July 13 was reported. Her funeral will be July 20 at 11:00.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update from Building Committee



Moderator Em Hughes reported he will attend a pre-construction meeting on July 19 with the architect and contractors. The price for the contract is \$837,400. Excavation is expected to start July 22. **A multitude of permits have been obtained through mighty efforts by Em Hughes and Dave Jones.** A sheet of the state of finances was distributed.

- ✓ Construction estimate plus well, septic, and permits = \$863,725
 - ✓ Available financing totals \$830,000. We are now \$33,000 short but we do have \$200,000 in the Development Fund.
 - ✓ Other items such as the steeple (\$24,000) exterior lighting, kitchen equipment, the organ, signage, exterior lighting, and flags will be added on.
1. **Sherry Jones, Pulpit Nominating Committee Chair**, requested more latitude in the Church Information Form (CIF) in the amount of salary that could be offered a full-time minister. The Session approved this.
 2. Dave Jones and Alice Roye will continue working on a **letter to go to churches that have expressed interest in TPC building project**

5. Church Growth No Report
Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

4. Session Retreat to be held August 24 at the Koinonia Lodge at Camp Hanover. Susan Spage was instructed to follow-up her conversation with the Rev. Nancy Summerlin to participate in the training of the officers.

NEW BUSINESS

The Congregational Meeting to elect 2 new Elders will be held July 21 at the start of the worship service

MINISTRY REPORTS

1. Worship and Music

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

In the absence of the moderator Jill Robertson conducted the meeting. Worship and Music Ministry met with the Building Committee to hear a proposal from Emerson Hughes regarding purchase of an organ. The Worship Committee recommends the purchase of a 1977 Möller organ with 2009 additions and upgrades by George Payne. Kathy and Em Hughes have examined the organ and believe it will allow the church to have the traditional element with great style and dignity as well as other types of contemporary music. The Session voted to authorize Emerson to continue the negotiation to purchase the organ for \$33,900. He will see if it can stay in its present site, a church in Louisa, until our worship space is ready for it.

Dates for pulpit coverage were confirmed

- ✓ July 28 Rev. Carroll Londoner
- ✓ August 4 Rev. Carroll Londoner
- ✓ September 15 (Worship at the River) the Rev. Claude Tate, Zion Baptist
- ✓ September 22 Rev. and Mrs. Skip Murdock

2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

No Report

3. Christian Education

Susan Spage, Moderator

The "Study of John" has been ordered for the fall adult Sunday School study

4. Mission and Outreach

Sherry Jones, Moderator

- ✓ There will be a meeting of the Ministry Group July 26 at 10:30 AM.
- ✓ At the last meeting there was discussion about how TPC could assist with supporting the children in the Intercept program. More information is to come.



Jessica Sisk and Scott Pepin enjoy the boys on an outing. Lucas is on the left and Aiden is on the right. They are growing up! Proud grandparents Lucy and Randy Sisk recently visited them in New Hampshire.

Do You Want to Go to Seminary?

This is your chance. On Saturday, September 28 a day of workshops will be held at Union-Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, 3401 Brook Road.

Registration of \$25 includes refreshments and a box lunch on Campus as well as stimulating workshops for church leaders and members, clergy, and those interested in learning about seminary education.

For more information go to www.upsem.edu/sfaday and register by September 17.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER



* Worship Assistants will read both scripture and prayer of dedication.

August 4 Pat Morris
11 Barbara Cullom
18 Roland Geddes
25 John Hardy

September John Colby
Bill Smith
Anne Sydnor
Janice Canby

Greeter Sherry Jones
Ushers John Colby and Janice Canby

Greeter Herb Sebren
Ushers Bill and Vivian Smith



Welcome Home, Nell!

August Birthdays

Jo Dowdy 9
Susan Spage 23

Church Family News

- ❖ Our love and Christian sympathy is expressed to Barbara Cullom on the loss of her sister Gail. Barbara tended her sister during her illness as much as possible and was by her side at the end.
- ❖ Condolences to Susan Stevenson, our Administrative Assistant, and to her husband Ned on the recent death of his mother.
- ❖ Christian sympathy to Tyler Sanders and his sister Mary Lloyd on the loss of their mother Anna Mae Sanders July 13. We have missed Anna Mae from our midst for over a year and Tyler is comforted by the fact that she has joined his father Pete.
- ❖ Kim and Anne Sydnor have had a “family summer.” They welcome their daughter Christie and her family back to this side of the country from Utah to Leesburg, VA. Grandson Cole Sydnor graduated from high school amid much celebration and will enter the University of Richmond in August. His brother Quint will assist him on campus as well as continue with his day job.
- ❖ In spite of health issues Kathy and Em Hughes continue their leadership with worship and the new building. Prayers for Kathy as she heals from surgery. Special thanks to Em for the many hours of negotiating with the architect, excavator, site engineer, contractors, and the Town of Tappahannock for all the necessary plans, permits and licenses.
- ❖ Special thanks also to Treasurer Dave Jones who has been handling extra duty with grants and loans and accounts in addition to the weekly treasurer’s responsibilities.

Notes from Alice

Recently I had the privilege of attending a Methodist church with my daughter. This church is a new spin-off from the other three congregations within the same church (!!) and is informal, uses a praise music band, a screen with no hymnals, no bulletins, informal but “polite” dress, and again, multiple classes of Sunday School for children which occurs while the adults attend worship. On July 28 according to a chair count there were approximately 350 adults there at the 10:15 service. They worship in an elementary school, bring 2 trailer-loads of equipment and furnishings in beginning at 8:30 AM, and dismantle and pack up immediately after. Every 5th Sunday they do community service.

Below is part of an article which **I recommend to you**. I have included bits and pieces below.



Why millennials are leaving the church

By Rachel Held Evans, *Special to CNN(CNN)*

At 32, I barely qualify as a millennial. I wrote my first essay with a pen and paper, but by the time I graduated from college, I owned a cell phone and used Google as a verb....Despite having one foot in Generation X, I tend to identify most strongly with the attitudes and the ethos of the millennial generation, and because of this, I’m often asked to speak to my fellow evangelical leaders about why millennials are leaving the church.

Armed with the latest surveys, along with personal testimonies from friends and readers, I explain how *young adults perceive evangelical Christianity to be too political, too exclusive, old-fashioned, unconcerned with social justice and hostile to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.*

I point to research that shows young evangelicals often feel they have to choose between their intellectual integrity and their faith, between science and Christianity, between compassion and holiness. I talk about how the evangelical obsession with sex can make Christian living seem like little more than sticking to a list of rules, and how millennials long for faith communities in which they are safe asking tough questions and wrestling with doubt. Invariably, after I’ve finished my presentation and opened the floor to questions, a pastor raises his hand and says, “So what you’re saying is we need hipper worship bands. ...”

And I proceed to bang my head against the podium.... *In fact, I would argue that church-as-performance is just one more thing driving us away from the church, and evangelicalism in particular.*

Many of us, myself included, are finding ourselves increasingly drawn to high church traditions – Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, the Episcopal Church, etc. – precisely because the ancient forms of liturgy seem so unpretentious, so unconcerned with being “cool,” and we find that refreshingly authentic. *What millennials really want from the church is not a change in style but a change in substance.... We want to ask questions that don’t have predetermined answers....Like every generation before ours and every generation after, deep down, we long for Jesus.*

Please look at this article in its entirety at

http://www.facebook.com//CAQE8X_7fAQHOQU1BleqiXGtfKreVk02h93XByveBaHlfAg/religion.blogs.cnn.com/2013/07/27/why-millennials-are-leaving-the-church/?hpt=hp_c4. Copy this address and paste in your address bar on the internet.



Every week since spring a community in the US was been hit hard by destructive weather, and the season isn't over yet. Flash flooding covered parts of Mississippi and Indiana; straight-line winds and tornadoes tore through the Southern Plains states of Texas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Recently an EF-5 tornado—a force of nature rarely seen—leveled much of Moore, Oklahoma.

It all comes after an already harsh year—with a fierce winter storm that pounded the Northeast. Thousands are left looking for hope and wondering how to

get through each day. God's people are hurting, and we are called upon to serve them—through prayer, action, and support. Together—we will bridge the GAP (Give/Act/Pray).

It is wide but our faith is deep and our strength is endless through Jesus.

How can we help?

1. Write a check to Tappahannock Presbyterian Church and mark in the memo "PDA"
2. Assemble Gift of the Heart kits. Get youth involved and experience this act of compassion for those in need through this tangible project.
3. Volunteer work teams may be needed to help with repair and rebuilding after the immediate phase is over.
4. PRAY. Please pray for those who survived the storms and will face hard days ahead, and for those who mourn loved ones lost. Pray also that the response of the church will be an example of the faithful love of God

You will find more information about this on the website for the Presbytery of the James <http://presbyteryofthejames.org/> or ask a member of the TPC Mission and Outreach Ministry. This is where your Easter *One Great Hour of Sharing Money* goes- to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund.

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