

Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

September 2013



CYCLE C JULY LECTIONARY

Sept. 1 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 2:4-13, Hebrews 13:1-8,
15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon: "Being Honored in the
Presence"
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

Sept. 8 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 18:1-11, Philemon 4-16
Luke 14:25-33

Sermon: "Estimating the Cost"
The Rev. Dr. John Turner

Sept. 15 17th Sunday after Pentecost
(Worship by the River)
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, I Timothy
1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Sermon by the Rev. Claude Tate

Sept. 22 18th Sunday after
Pentecost Jeremiah 4:1-10,
Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

Sermon: "Learning to Pray"
The Rev. Dr. John Turner



Pastor's Page

September already! Time for everything to begin again after a summer of re-creation, travel, picnics, beaching, boating, barbecuing and all the other things that folk do between May and September. And this September, the new building for Tappahannock Presbyterian Church is under construction! For a few of you it's been a 17+ year process – for most some time less than that. But it isn't just the building that is under construction – the congregation itself is also in a building phase, and all hope the new location will help attract others to the fold of those who wish to worship God as Presbyterians in this place.

The denomination too is under construction – another way of putting the Presbyterian motto of "reformed and always reforming". The Presbytery of the James is in the process of having several member congregations choose to be dismissed to other "reformed" denominations as are other presbyteries across the PCUSA. At the same time "new" congregations are being formed and will no doubt be going through the same chartering process TPC went through less than a year ago. Change is an integral part of life, albeit sometimes somewhat less than comfortable.

What doesn't change is the immutable God we worship. The one who says in the book of the Revelation to John of Patmos, "Behold, I make all things new!" (Rev. 21:5) A new school year – a new church to be excited about – a new year to make good things happen locally through Essex Churches Together and plan for Operation Inasmuch 2014. Happy September! Enjoy being made new every day in Christ Jesus!

Blessings,

John

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church Stated Meeting of the Session

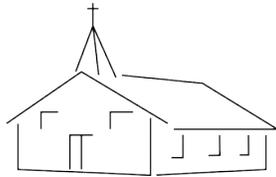
August 21, 2013

Treasurer's Report as of July 31

1. New building expenses
\$ 67,000 (plus \$5000 in 2012)
2. Present Balance in checking \$16,068
3. Plate Offering satisfactory
4. Total Development Account \$240,379
5. Capital Campaign
Total Pledged \$150,570
Received to date \$ 65,920
6. Received from POJ to date \$ 26,250
7. Paperwork for the \$450,000 Loan has been completed and submitted

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update from Building Committee- The foundation has been laid, bricks purchased. Brick and mortar will be used rather than concrete walls because cost is comparable. Grading and seeding is done. Emerson Hughes is regularly meeting with the architect and contractor and they are at the point of discussing placement of electrical outlets, among other things.
2. Update from PNC: Moderator Sherry Jones reports the PNC is meeting regularly and has read hundreds of resumes.



3. Session Retreat is August 24 at Camp Hanover at Koinonia Lodge from 9:00-3:00. Rev. Nancy Summerlin will address the Worship Section in the Book of Order. Rev. ~~\$ 16,068~~ Turner will tell of the History of Presbyterianism.
4. John Turner held a 2-hour educational session with elders-elect Bill Spage and Lucy Sisk to prepare them for the examination by the Session which will take place the afternoon of the Retreat.

MINISTRY REPORTS

1. Worship and Music

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

- **Ordination of elders** is September 8.
- **Worship at the River** is on September 15. Rev. Claude Tate, pastor of our guest church Zion Baptist, Chance, will preach.
- **World-wide Communion Service** at Campbell Presbyterian October 6 at 10:00. Deb Booze is appointing 2 elders to serve. We are asked to bring either 2 plates of sandwiches or cookies. Details to follow.

2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

- **September 15 Worship on the River** CCF is providing chicken and ribs for the main course
- **November 3 Men's breakfast** served by the ladies
- **December 8 Afternoon Christmas Luncheon** at the Riverside Condo
- **February 2 Souper Bowl Lunch** hosted by Mission and Outreach Ministry



- **March 4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Service**

3. Christian Education

Susan Spage, Moderator



There was discussion about a **children's Sunday School** curriculum that would meet the needs of different ages of children coming sporadically. While the "One Room Schoolhouse" was good in principle it is not known how much of it was used nor do we know where any of the materials are. Susan was asked to consult with Presbyterian School of Christian Education about appropriate materials and to purchase them. She plans to ask 5 people if they would serve as teachers once a month or a month at a time so that someone is available if children come.

4. Mission and Outreach

Sherry Jones, Moderator

- The congregation is invited to a **dinner with Missionary Ruth Brown** at St. Andrews on **September 23**. There will be more information about this later.
- Since the **Pentecost Offering** was not put toward a camp scholarship for a child in the community, donating that amount to **Camp Hanover scholarship fund** is being considered.
- The **5 ¢-a-meal collection** for July was \$154.50.
- **Essex Churches Together** meeting is August 27. Baked goods at the Farmers Market are not as profitable now so other strategies are being considered.
 - TPC is participating in the program to **provide lunches for children** in the Intercept Program (see article).

- **Banana Bingo** continues to be a hit with residents at Essex House and TPC members are urged to take a turn at supporting both the residents and the volunteers who go faithfully every month.
- **September Mission/Fellowship Project. September 22** the Mission and Outreach Ministry will have a few minutes of Time for Missions at the service and then host refreshments. There will be displays of mission projects that we participate in through PCUSA as well as other missions families might want to do on an individual basis.
- There was discussion about how we could **learn more about our members with the goal of being able to share our gifts with our congregation and members of our community**. This might be done with the Congregation and Fellowship Group.
- The **Peacemaking Offering** will be collected on September 29 and October 13 since we will be worshipping at Campbell on October 6, World Day of Prayer.
- A request from Lynn Orrock to use TPC in the **Mercy Mall project** she is involved in for Henrico County will be explored.

Children who need special attention and support were given lunches by some ECT member churches at their day camp held this summer at Essex Intermediate School. The Essex School Board contracts with a company called Intercept to provide services for these children.

St. John's Episcopal, Tappahannock Presbyterian, Beale Memorial Baptist, and Rappahannock Christian, fixed lunches on Mondays and New Hope Seventh-day Adventist fixed lunches every Tuesday. This gave the children variety and introduced them to some new food choices. Peggy Pursley, Registered Dietitian, from Rappahannock Christian shared lunch and information with them one day.

TPC and the other churches provided school supplies to help them get off to a good start this year.

Church Growth

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

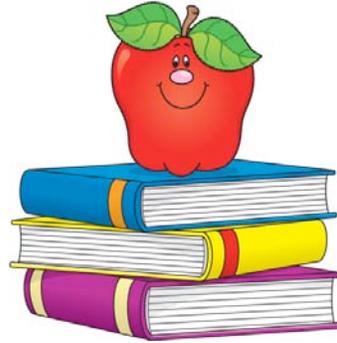


- **The WHOLE CONGREGATION is responsible for Church Growth**; the Ministry Group serves as the Steering Committee for this endeavor.
- We need to keep **TPC in the news**, especially with the construction of the new building.
- Meetings and activities should be publicized so that people will know this is an active congregation.
- The **website address should be on all materials** from the church and the website as well as Facebook entries should be up-to-date. Someone to do that is needed.
- Janice Canby is going to check on the **Percept Program**. This is a report on demographics which provides faith-based data to churches. The program provides maps and charts by zip code.
- Mary Wigmore is going to check on the feasibility of **having some type of study group** that would meet at Hobbs Hole or some other local spot.
Mary is also going to order about 4 books entitled **Reaching People under 40 by keeping people over 60** by Edward H Hammett with James R Pierce. We will pass them around.
- Other ideas discussed and re-discussed about how to get the word to the community that our church welcomes all include a bonfire in November (Dave Jones will check on this), a regular sing-along for the community, Welcome Wagon, "tickets for free admission" to the Worship by the River.
- Bringing in new members could have a bearing on the acceptance by our next minister.

NEW BUSINESS

Alice shared information on a workshop in Annandale October 4 titled 'Building on Purpose.' She said there would be some benefit in hearing how other churches are using their spaces, even though ours has been designed. The book and discussion on Contagious Generosity would have some useful information about fund-raising. Elders will take a look at the information and see if anyone might be interested in going.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER



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

September	1	John Colby	October	6	(Worship at Campbell)
	8	Bill Smith		13	John Hardy
	15	Anne Sydnor (Worship on River)		20	Lucy Sisk
	22	Janice Canby		27	Kim Sydnor
	29	Barbara Cullom			

Greeter Herb Sebren
Ushers Bill and Vivian Smith

Greeter Anne Sydnor
Ushers Chuck and Betty Dyer

September Birthdays

Linda Ball	1
Ellen Hardy	4
Bill Smith	8
David Broad	10



Church Family News

- ❖ Prayers for healing for Kathy Hughes and Barbara Cullom
- ❖ Christian love sent to Nell Burrough, Ellen Hardy, Cindy Glass
- ❖ Prayers for guidance and safety to all who are entering college for the first time, or are returning to college. May they feel God's hand on their shoulders and hear God's whispers in their ears.
- ❖ How exciting to witness the on-going birth of our Church building! The gestation period was a long one. We ask for skilled hands and cooperative weather as we build our house of worship.
- ❖ Congratulations to John and Ellen Hardy on their 50th wedding anniversary on September 9!

What's Happening in our Church Family

Overheard last week: "Everyone should have the opportunity to serve on a PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) at least once." The experience brings into focus what the role of the pastor is in the church, the role of the members, the strengths and needs in a congregation, and ideas from interviewing pastors from many Presbyterian churches. Our PNC is working on average 20 hours a week- that's a half-time job- trying to discern God's choice for TPC. They meet every Monday for a minimum of 6 hours. Most weeks there is a second meeting. Hours upon hours are spent on phone calls amongst the PNC and with potential candidates and their references. They have reviewed over 200 resumes so far. Recently the PCUSA CLC (Church Leadership Connection, the call system for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) revised the CIF (Church Information Form) and the application had to be re-worked and re-submitted to go out online- more time in meetings. There have been several candidates who made it to the point of an invitation, but after further consideration on their parts they felt TPC wasn't their call.



The PNC faithfully meets, shares, reads, and calls. Members of TPC are obligated to pray for their patience, continued optimism, and thanksgiving for the bond that has allowed them to work together intimately since their election July 29, 2012. **Thanks, Sherry Jones (Moderator), Janice Canby, Mary Wigmore, Johnny Frischkorn, and Bill Spage.**

Then there is the Building Committee that has met often, making decisions, recommendations, selecting and meeting with the architect, selecting and meeting with the contractor, keeping apprised of the building process and making recommendations through-out so there will be a minimum of changes along the way. **Emerson Hughes** and **Dave Jones** put in a minimum of 10 hours a week with paper-work, phone calls, and conferences. **Alice Roye** has worked with David on several grant applications.

The Church Growth Ministry feels the pressure to "do something," yet the confines of our present building seem to cramp their style. With **Robbie Tavenner**, moderator, they have begun to meet weekly- every Monday night at 5:00, and anyone in the congregation who is interested in the growth of TPC is urged to come to these meetings.

The Worship and Music Ministry and Congregational Care and Fellowship Ministry have kept the church busy with its liturgical schedule around the calendar. Christian Education for children has taken a hit this year with several families moving away, but plans are still being made with the hopes of a nucleus of children attracting others. Adult education continues with classes twice a year and periodicals available to everyone.

So much is being done- and there is so much more to do. This is an exciting time in the life of Tappahannock Presbyterian Church and its committed members are making it work.

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