

Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

February 2014



Lent is almost upon us (March 5), and we just finished Christmas! Or so it seems. I noticed the other day that they haven't taken down all the Christmas banners in some shopping centers in Hampton. Is it too soon, do you think, to begin thinking about the Cross? I mean, we were just talking about the manger – and now we have to start talking talk about the tomb? Seems sort of – *wrong*.

I guess it's all about the different natures of the seasons. Christmas is all about happy time. It's all about parties, about gift-giving and –receiving. It's about bright, colorful decorations and terrific, fattening food that you're *supposed* to indulge in and enjoy. The night before Lent begins, we have a celebration called Shrove Tuesday in the church, but *Mardi Gras* in other places: literally "Fat Tuesday" where we eat up all the good, fatty and sweet stuff so we can't eat any during Lent. Lent is about *denying* yourself these things, at least for many people. Lent is about *work*. It's about preparation: doing devotionals, extra scripture reading, participating in extra worship experiences. Where Christmas is happy time, Lent is more somber, probably because of what it points towards in most people's minds. Most people think of "Lent" and then think "cross." They think immediately of the barbaric death of Jesus. Christmas points towards the birth of a baby, and it's a happy celebration. We don't give out cigars much anymore, not since the Surgeon General's Report, when the baby is born. We celebrate the birth of this baby, a mighty important baby, in many ways. That's kind of the "feel of Christmas" – celebration. Lent seems like movement towards a funeral; a burial, actually, though Jesus never makes it to a funeral. (They were preparing his body for burial but he was raised by God before the funeral took place.) In the minds of most people, the whole Lenten season actually culminates in Good Friday, with the grisly spectacle of the Cross. (Easter begins a new season.) There were no choirs of angels at the cross like the night Jesus was born! Instead, darkness fell over the earth for three hours in the middle of the day, and a great earthquake shook and rattled everything at his death, according to the various Gospels. If Lent is the season of preparation for Good Friday, I guess it's understandable that it's so somber, because who would want to *celebrate* such a real downer of a thing as a crucifixion? Heavy on the black, please, and keep the lights low!

But think about what we're actually preparing for. We're actually preparing for *Easter!* It's a new season; it *follows* Lent, it's not actually a part of it. The resurrection of Jesus marks the beginning of new life – for *everyone*. And that's worth some big-time celebration. If Christmas was about new life, how much more is Easter about the same thing: except this new life Jesus brings is *eternal life*. The meaning of the events of that long-ago Sunday morning mean that we no longer have to fear death, the one thing that has motivated religion throughout humankind's ages. Jesus Christ conquered it, and promised that victory to any who would follow him. So let's do something different this year. Let's make our Lenten observances more joyful. Let's look forward, not to Good Friday, but all the way through to Easter morning, and the joyous discovery of new life that it brings. Then maybe we can get our joy revved up so much it'll last us throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in a cursive or semi-cursive hand.

Session Highlights

January 21, 2014

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Thank you from Essex Social Services for contribution to the Special Fund
2. Thank-You from Randolph-Macon College for the contribution in memory of Walther Fidler. It was announced that his wife, Martha, passed away this past week. They were members of Mildew Presbyterian and good friends of TPC.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2013

1. See attached financial report summarizing budgeted and actual expenditures and amounts in each account.
2. Capital Campaign – receipts to date are \$165,781.41
3. The POJ Statement of Intent has been submitted
4. A letter went out to the congregation telling of the amount of pledges received and the 2014 budget. There will be time for clarification at the Annual Meeting January 26.



The Session applauded the Treasurer for all of his good work!

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PURPOSE GROUP REPORT

Jill Robertson, Susan Spage, Bill Spage, Don McLean, and Dave Jones attended the NCD Purpose Group. Don presented a power point on the progress of the church building. A summary of activities and plans for TPC was given as a handout.

PRESBYTERY OF THE JAMES

1. Next meeting is February 15 at New Hanover Presbyterian in Mechanicsville; Susan Spage is Commissioner and Jill Robertson is Alternate
2. The Treasurer and Clerk have submitted end-of-year statistical reports and made the "Honor Roll" for timely submission of the forms.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update from Building Committee

Emerson Hughes reported on construction going on. There was considerable discussion about the significance of the steeple going up and the opportunity to invite the community to bring their lawn chairs and join in the celebration, perhaps even with "Champagne." The crane with the steeple must complete its work before the asphalt is laid on the parking area.

2. Training of Moderators

- a. Rev. Don will be contacting the Moderators about the annual reports they are to present at the Annual meeting on January 26
- b. All are being encouraged to read Fusion in order to help lead their ministry groups in studying this book about integrating new members into the church.

3. Dedication Committee Update

Lucy Sisk and Jill Robertson

The Session approved the following Committee recommendations

- a. Date September 7 at 4 :00 PM for Dedication Service; September 6 for Community Day
- b. The Committee will work with the Worship and Music Ministry in planning the music and liturgy for the service
- c. The reception afterwards should be catered; estimates are being received; the Congregational Care and Fellowship Ministry will work together with that
- d. "Save the date" cards will be sent to people who will be receiving invitations at a later date
- e. Church Growth to plan the Community Day held the day before, September 6, which will include more attractions for families with children.

4. **Discussion about marketing our church** specifically to target age groups and make activities appropriate for that group. "Shotgun" approach is not good marketing.

MINISTRY REPORTS

1. Worship and Music

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

At the request of the Worship and Music Ministry the following recommendations were approved by the Session:

- a. The date for Rev. Don's installation will be delayed until the move into the new church, sometime after March. Congregational Care and Fellowship Ministry will be asked to help with the reception afterwards
- b. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (March 4) will be followed by a service of Imposition of Ashes
- c. There will be a Tenebrae service on Good Friday
- d. There will be Flowering of the Cross on Easter
- e. The following Communion Dates are approved by for 2014:
 - a) Baptism of the Lord
 - b) Transfiguration of the Lord
 - c) Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday
 - d) Palm Sunday
 - e) Pentecost
 - f) Summer communion
 - g) World Wide Communion
 - h) Christ the King
 - i) Christmas Eve

Sunday Bulletin covers will be made in-house beginning in April.

2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

This Ministry Group will be helping with refreshments (formal) after the Installation Service and the Dedication Service. They will also chair the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Church Growth will coordinate refreshments for the Community Day September 6. Mission and Outreach Ministry will coordinate the Soup Luncheon on February 2.

3. Christian Education

Susan Spage, Moderator

Susan Spage and Rev. Don are conferring about what study to offer during the Lenten Season. He offered to teach a week-day Bible Study and repeat it in the evening. *The Study of John* and the *Study of Revelations* are being considered. No decision was made.

4. Mission and Outreach

Sherry Jones, Moderator

1. The Session approved the Souper Bowl of Caring soup and chili lunch to be served after Worship on February
2. .Mary Wigmore is working on a plan for TPC to assist children at the elementary school.
3. Banana Bingo continues under the direction of Vivian Smith
4. The Session approved the 4 special PCUSA offerings this year.

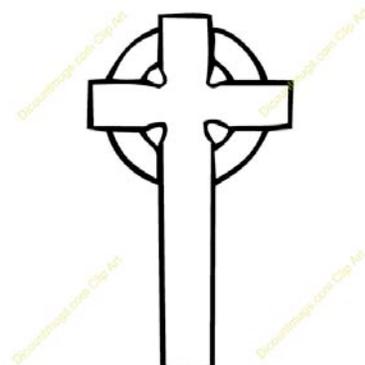
5. Church Growth

Robbie Tavenner, Moderator

The Session approved the recommendation from the Dedication Committee that Church Growth take charge of the planning for the Community Day planned for September 7.

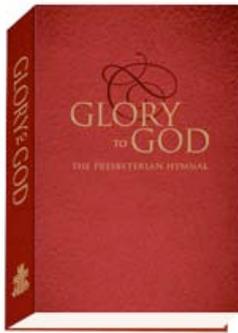
NEW BUSINESS

1. After consideration by the Session (already approved March 2) the Session approved the procedure for purchasing (see cards) Shrove Tuesday March 4 April 13
2. Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 26 July 20
 - a. Moderator's Annual Report October 23
 - b. Building Committee Report November 23
 - c. Questions and clarification about the 2014 December 24 funding available for the new building
 - d. Elders will be ordained at the morning service on January 26: John Frischkorn, Jo Dowdy, and Janice Canby.
3. There was a discussion about applying for an intern this summer and how that person might best be utilized. The Seminary pays the stipend for that.
4. A contract for 5 items of new furniture was signed by the Clerk.



Personnel Committee Report

- a. The Administrative Assistant's job description was reviewed and Susan Stephenson was commended for her performance and personal investment in the position.
- b. Treasurer's Job Description. There was considerable discussion about safe procedures for counting the money each week.
- c. A Stewardship Chairman is to be appointed by the Session.
- d. Kathy Hughes is preparing a job description for the choir director/ accompanist.



Book Plates to designate "given in Memory" or "in Honor of" loved ones are here for the Hymnals. Jill Robertson will prepare a sign-up list. The cost is \$20.

Souper Bowl Kicks Off Inasmuch 2014

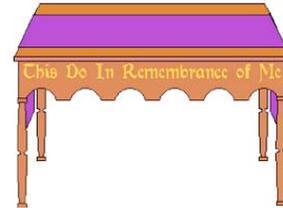
The Souper Bowl of Caring soup and chili lunch will be served after Worship on February 2. Cans of soup and money will be "admission" and the collection will go to 3 food banks in Essex County.

This will also be the kickoff for Inasmuch 2013. There are 8-10 Team Leaders from TPC this year for Inasmuch 2014. Lucy Sisk is church contact.



New Purchase Procedure for Ministry Groups

To make purchases Ministry Moderators will fill out a voucher (from the office) and check with the Treasurer prior to placing the request to the administrative assistant to make the purchase. It is the Moderator's responsibility to keep up with expenditures from the ministry's budget, but it is necessary that the Treasurer insure the funds are there at the needed time.



Jamie Davis to Build Custom Furniture

Members of the Furnishing Committee visited the workshop of Jamie Davis and admired his cabinet work. He was asked to build furniture that will go in the sanctuary of the new building. In addition he will build the cross that will hang on the wall of the atrium in the entry and the cross for the 18-foot wall inside the sanctuary.

At the Session meeting in the interest of full disclosure Emerson Hughes did not participate in the discussion or the vote since Jamie Davis is his son-in-law.

The Session approved the contract with Jamie Davis for the following items:

Pulpit

Lectern

Communion table

Celtic Cross to hang in the worship space on the 18' wall

Celtic Cross to hang in the glassed in area of the narthex.

The furniture will compliment the style of furniture that Rev. Bill Morris made for TPC several years ago. The Celtic Cross Bill Morris made will be displayed in a prominent place, possibly the Fellowship Room.

Pictorial Directory Every Three Years

The Session approved an updated Directory this year, which Susan Stephenson is in process of preparing. A pictorial directory will be published every 3 years. In the interim pictures will be put on the wall bulletin board.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH



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

February 2 Kim Sydnor
 9 Barbara Cullom
 16 John Hardy
 23 Pat Morris

March 2 Randy Sisk
 9 Jill Robertson
 16 Beth Perry
 23 Roland Geddes
 30 Deb Booze

Greeter Sherry Jones
Ushers John Colby, Janice Canby

Greeter Herb Sebren
Ushers Bill and Vivian Smith

February Birthdays

Dave Crittenden 3
Margaret Broad 14

Jake Perry 18
Louise Poling 20



Church Family News

Congratulations to Jo Dowdy (left) and Janice Canby on their ordination January 26 as Elders in Tappahannock Presbyterian Church. They have served TPC for years on the Steering Committee. It was not possible for them to be elders prior to the church being chartered but they were elected, trained, and served in the manner of elders of the church. Thanks to them for their commitment.

Johnny Frischkorn was unable to be present; he will be ordained at a later date.

Coming Events



Souper Bowl of Caring	February 2
Kick-off for Inasmuch 2014	February 2
Valentine Brunch for the Ladies	February 16
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	March 4
First Sunday in Lent	March 9
Move into the new building	Sometime in March
Installation of Rev. Don McLean	date undetermined; after occupancy in new church
<i>Inasmuch 2014</i>	April 12
Palm Sunday	April 13
Evening Tenebrae Good Friday service	April 18
Community Easter Sunrise Service	April 20 Don preaching
Resurrection of the Lord Sunday	April 20
Community Open House	September 6
Dedication Sunday	September 7

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