

# Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

May 2014



I was thinking about the time after Easter the other day. Churches just seem to shrink after Holy Week and Easter are over. In some churches, you'd think there'd been a bombing called in! Attendance plummets; for many churches, the calendar is empty. Indeed, even in the Bible, there just isn't much after Easter. There is one post-resurrection appearance by Jesus in Matthew; three in Luke; three more in John; and one at the very beginning of Acts. That's it! (I'm not counting the stories in the added verses in Mark's gospel. Remember, we talked about that Easter Sunday.) It's as if the disciples, like modern church folk, just couldn't do any

more.

And yet, just look at these stories! Maybe there isn't much time in the Gospels devoted to the period after Easter, but talk about quality time! In Matthew, Jesus gives the Great Commission, to "go and make disciples of all nations." In Luke, Jesus appears to two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (our sermon this Sunday), and makes himself known to them in the breaking of the bread (likely, an allusion to the Lord's Supper); he appears to them in such a way they know he's truly human and truly resurrected (not a ghost); he commissions them so that "repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." That was followed by his ascension into heaven. John has Jesus appearing to the disciples, breathing into them the Holy Spirit, then coming back for Thomas (which was last week's scripture and sermon). Finally in John, Jesus appears to the disciples by the sea, and proves his humanity by eating with them. At the end of this meal, Jesus commissions them through Peter, telling him (and them) to "feed my sheep." Acts re-tells the story of Jesus' ascension, again emphasizing their role as his disciples: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and *you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" (Emphasis added.) In short, the time after Easter wasn't a "down time" for the disciples at all!

So what about us? It looks like we might not slow down, either, at least not after a pause to take a deep breath. Sunday we have my installation. On Tuesday the 6th, we have the Contractor's Dinner, our reaching out to thank these workers who made our beautiful new church possible. This is witnessing! And on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> we'll have all kinds of families and children and youth in our church for the Art Awards program sponsored by the Woman's Club, from 6-8 PM. Witnessing again! We get to take a breath for a short while. Then, in June, Leah Epps, our seminary student, will begin working on her summer project with us. In case you hadn't heard, Leah is going to put together a summer Children's Ministry for us that we hope to extend into an after-school-type program in the fall. She is going to be doing this as part of a Small-Church Summer Internship Program the Presbytery offers. She's going to need some people to help her. Guess what this is? It's witnessing to the community, much like those disciples did after Jesus. Be thinking about what you can offer to help her make this ministry successful. I can think of two *specific* needs. Leah is going to be commuting in daily to Tappahannock from Union Seminary. She says she likes the drive; but I know that there will be times when she needs to stay overnight. Opening up your home to her would be a terrific support. The other specific need is money. Presbytery is kicking in \$2000.00 for her stipend for the 10 weeks of the program. The Presbytery requires us to come up with \$1500.00 to pay for her tuition (this is a summer course for her) and part of the stipend. If you can give above your normal giving to help out, you'll be helping with the witnessing in that way, too.

A summer full of work and children! There's no rest for the weary – or the faithful...

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.

# Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

## Stated Session Meeting

April 15, 2014

### COMMUNICATIONS

- The Clerk has inquired of Kyle Lorenzino, youth pastor at St. Andrews, about the Northern Neck Presbyterian Youth program. Perhaps TPC youth could participate.
- The groundbreaking for a new building at Camp Hanover was announced.
- A letter from St. Andrews congratulating TPC on the steeple raising was acknowledged.
- The Clerk has written a letter of thanks to Jamie Davis for the outstanding job he did building the furniture and crosses for the new building.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

- Treasurer Dave Jones presented the monthly report and highlighted bills paid, expected income, and the state of the budget at the first quarter. These monthly reports are available to members at any time for review.
- Payments on Capital Campaign pledges are coming in regularly. \$50,271.94 has been received to date.
- The Treasurer was asked to check on the original lease for the Dialysis Center building to see if there is a deposit that may be returned to us. The building was vacated March 30.
- Activities to close the loan from Church Loan, Inc. are proceeding. Much is required, including closing statements, certificate of occupancy, new survey, etc. and the Session expressed appreciation to Dave for all his work on this.
- The treasurer is working with the insurance agent in securing not only insurance for the building and grounds but also church contents. The insurance company recommended a letter be requested of the farmer working a portion of TPC's 10 acres absolving TPC of any liability should anything happen to him while working on our property.

**PRESBYTERY OF THE JAMES** meets June 17 at Lord Jesus Church (Korean) 10201 Robious Road, Richmond. Commissioner to that meeting will be elected in May.

### MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Memorial Committee (Pat Morris, John Hardy, and Alice Roye) met March 26 and submitted the following recommendation: to pay out \$12,000 from the Memorial Account, leaving \$288 in the fund. Recommendation approved.

### PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS

The pastor led the Session in prayer for those members in the congregation in need of special prayer.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Dedication Committee Lucy Sisk, Moderator "Save the Date" cards (for September 7) are being printed and will be labeled and mailed May 2.
2. The May 6 Contractors' Appreciation Dinner - The Congregational Care and Fellowship Ministry group recommended the dinner be a spaghetti dinner. After discussion it was the sense of the Session that the original plan to have a pot luck dinner is more appropriate for this occasion. Session is responsible for the planning and execution of the dinner with help from the congregation. A sign-up sheet for the congregation to sign up for dishes is in the Fellowship room. Turkey and ham will be provided.

**Thank You**



### 3. Pastor's Installation Service 4:00 PM Sunday May 4

Pastor Don said all the participants have accepted the invitations. Pat Morris is coordinating the refreshments afterwards.

### 4. Nominating Committee

Jill Robertson is the Session representative and Moderator of the Committee. The Session discussed candidates and gave Jill a list of people to call to see if they will serve. When she has completed this task she will report back to the Session and a congregational meeting will be called for the purpose of electing the Nominating Committee that will serve for a year. They will secure nominees for Elders and any other positions needed throughout the year.

### 5. Community Day

The Session discussed Community Day and the sense was to have an event associated with inviting the community to an event (i.e., musical presentation) rather than an "open picnic." The lack of response to an earlier attempt at enticing the community to learn about TPC is influencing the thinking of all planners for this event. The plan has been to have it September 6 and have outdoor grill and games for children while adults tour the new church building. The reason for the date is that a tent will be there, in place for the reception after the dedication of the church to be held at 3:45 on September 7.



### 6. Building Committee

Emerson Hughes, Moderator

- Em explained the codes for the alarm system, the distribution of keys, and importance of procedures for making sure the building and computers are secure. Session decided to form an Administrative Committee to handle these items. Em will moderate the committee to get it started.
- The parking lot is due to be paved April 18 and lined on April 19. (These dates were changed to April 21 and 22 to allow Easter traffic.)
- The Property and Grounds committee needs to be re-constituted to look at system for trash removal, cleaning the church, and lawn maintenance. Susan Spage offered to develop a Standard Operating Procedure sheet of instructions for the cleaning service so that a reasonable quote could be given. Lawn maintenance was discussed. The Personnel Committee is working on these tasks right now.



### 7. Furnishings Susan Spage, Moderator

- There is a need for hymnal racks for new sanctuary chairs that are expected to be delivered very soon. Session recommended the appeal go out to the congregation if anyone would volunteer to make them, and if there are no volunteers then a professional would be contacted for estimates. Bill and Pat Morris donated their talents and materials for the racks that are in our present chairs.
- 4 round tables have been ordered along with a rack to hold 32 of the folding chairs now lined up along the wall.

### Facebook

Session appointed Jill Robertson and Pastor Don to be managers of the facebook. Alice Roye was asked to be content contributor.

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### 1. Worship and Music

Barbara Cullom, Moderator

- Good Friday Tenebrae Service planned for 7:00 PM April 18.
- Easter Service with flowering of the cross will be April 20.
- The pastor is preaching at the Sunrise Service for the community and urged TPC members to attend (6:30 AM).
- Dave Jones and Pastor Don will put the banners up to advertise the services as soon as weather allows.
- Barbara Cullom presented a request to purchase candelas to use in place of wax candles. Session approved the request with instructions that further investigation of cost be done. This would be paid for from the Worship and Music Ministry budget allowance.

### 2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

- Session discussed the refreshments after service expressing great appreciation for the commitment and delicious offerings each Sunday. They encourage the refreshments to continue but to a lesser (less expensive) degree. Pastor Don will seek feedback from the congregation about how to handle refreshments, especially considering a 9:30 "greeting refreshment" has been added.

### 3. Christian Education

- Susan Spage reports the Ministry Group has been conferring with Pastor Don about a method of planning Christian Ed for children using "workshop rotation"
- For now children 0-7 years will meet in the nursery area and older children will go into the Sunday School room at the back of the sanctuary.

### 4. Mission and Outreach

- Assistance to schools by 6 members of our congregation has stalled because of lack of response from the elementary school. Sherry Jones will follow up on this.
- One Great Hour of Sharing offering is being presented to the congregation at Minute for Missions opportunities leading up to Easter.
- Camper scholarships: possible candidates were suggested for someone from the community to go to Camp Hanover.
- It was decided to keep the parachute we own in the closet rather than donating it because it could be used for team-building or for play with children who we are expecting to have.
- The Ministry Group made yet another contribution to Inasmuch 2014 by folding 700 bulletins during the meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. The Session approved the use of the facility by Vivian Smith and the Women's Club to host a reception for families and winners of the school art contest on May 9.
2. Alice Roye was given permission to form a committee to work on a policy for use of the facility for outside events, weddings, etc.



The congregation is invited to  
The Installation of the Rev. Donald E. McLean  
As Pastor of  
Tappahannock Presbyterian Church  
204 Kino Road  
Tappahannock, Virginia

At 4:00 PM  
Sunday, May 4, 2014

And reception afterwards

*Thanks Again to Jamie Davis*

*On Easter Sunday the TPC congregation had an opportunity to thank Jamie Davis in person for the masterful construction of the furniture on the pulpit and the two hanging crosses. Accompanying him was little Jasper, his son. We missed Bekah, his wife, who was filling another church with beautiful music on Easter morning.*

# MAY And JUNE



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

**May** 4 John Colby  
(Mother's Day) 11 Sherry Jones  
18 John Hardy  
25 Mary Wigmore

**June** 1 Roland Geddes  
\*\* 8 Deb Booze (Pentecost)  
(Father's Day) 15 Janice Canby  
22 Randy Sisk  
27 Barbara Cullom

Greeter Johnny Frischkorn  
Ushers Jo Dowdy, Tyler Sanders

Greeter Bill Spage  
Ushers Randy and Lucy Sisk

\*\* Serving Communion: Sherry Jones, Janice Canby; John Frischkorn, John Hardy

## MAY Birthdays

Robbie Tavenner 16  
Ron Glass 22  
John Colby 27



## A busy time for TPC!

We moved on March 24 and had the first service on March 30. The church was opened for the community for use April 12 and 13 for *Inasmuch 2014*. Good Friday and Easter Services brought much emotion to the season with a wonderful turn-out on Easter from members and their families. May 4 at 4:00 PM Don will be installed as Pastor of Tappahannock Presbyterian Church, the first installed pastor in the chartered church. Afterwards there is a reception. On May 6 the congregation is giving a dinner to show appreciation to the contractors and builders and all who participated in making the dream of this church building a reality. On May 9 the Essex Women's Club will host a reception at TPC for winners of the school art contest and congregation members are invited to welcome the guests to the new building. We will welcome a breather this summer!

*Dear Members of TPC,*

*I so enjoyed worshipping with you in your lovely new building! I know you are going to find many uses for the spaces there.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve your church and for the "farewell" fellowship time. I love to cook and have been a long-time fan of Southern Living – recipes that are delicious and not too exotic! I love the nautical apron and will put it to good use. I look forward to seeing you in the future!*

*God bless. Susan Stephenson*

# Youth News

(cont.)

Kyle Lorenzino, youth pastor at St. Andrews, is developing a Northern Neck Presbyterian Youth (NNPY) program that will include children from Kindergarten through high school. At the present time most of the activities are in Kilmarnock but they hope to encompass the Presbyterian churches in the Northern Neck and Tappahannock.

It is Camp Hanover registration time. Youth interested in attending camp should contact Susan Spage for applications and more information.

Let visitors know that there is an activity packet available for children to use during the service. It is in a plastic case under the table in the narthex- the one with all the pamphlets.

Also tell visitors the glassed-in Sunday School room at the back of the sanctuary can have many uses, not the least of which serving as a spot to give snacks or allow "stretch time" to little ones as needed.

## Committees, Ministries, and Projects- Oh MY!

An Administrative Committee is being formed to make policies and conduct instruction on new "gadgets" (alarm system, locks, etc) as well as other responsibilities that come with having a new home.

The Building and Grounds Committee needs a new start-up. A Moderator is being sought as well as new members of that committee. We actually have a building- and grounds- to care for now!

Robbie Tavenner had done an outstanding job as Moderator of not one but two very busy and important ministries for the past two years: Church Growth and Congregational Care and Fellowship. It's time for some one, or ones, to step up and take the moderator positions and Robbie will coach and assist as needed.

The same people have been serving on the Sunday refreshment committee for several years now, and it's time to rotate those positions.

All of this is to say that each person is asked to prayerfully consider in what capacity they can serve, keeping in mind that everyone has had extremely active times the past two years.

Rotating to other Ministry groups will give new ideas and new energy to each of the tasks. Pastor Don will be inviting you to serve in different ways over the next few months. A change is (almost) as good as a vacation!



Oh yes- the projects. Do you have carpentry skills that you would offer to make additional hymnal and Bible racks to go on the back of the new chairs coming into the sanctuary? Please let Susan Spage know ((804) 493-7483).

The rack we used to hang name tags is insufficient now. Pat Morris has a photograph and template of one used at Campbell Memorial. If you would be interested in trying your hand at that please let Pat know (804) 436-1791.

## Leah Is Coming To Town!

Leah Epps, Union Seminary student who has been visiting us regularly during the past few months, and Pastor Don are working with faculty at the seminary to develop an internship at TPC for the summer. TPC is responsible for \$1500 to help pay her expenses. Pastor Don said he will investigate getting outside help with this and he emphasized how important he sees this mission to be.

## TPC Is Serving the Community

Tappahannock Presbyterian is having its second opportunity to host community activities. Not even completely unpacked, TPC was offered to Operation Inasmuch volunteers and four projects occurred there plus a very full audience the following day for the Closing Ceremony for inasmuch.

The Session has approved the use of the facility by Vivian Smith and the Women's Club to host a reception for families and winners of the school art contest on May 9 from 6-8:00 PM. TPC members are asked to be present to host, guide, and assist as needed with this large group. TPC is not responsible for the refreshments. Let Vivian Smith know (443-4546) if you can help out that evening. There will be a delightful program and this is an opportunity to be known to some young people in the community and their parents.

A reminder: if you wish to request the use of TPC for an outside event this must be first approved by the Session, so be sure to contact a Session member or Pastor Don for permission. Session meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

## Moving Day

Chuck made many a trip to the dump with boxes and packing trash. Bill and Susan were on hand for everything!



Susan and Pat, true carpenters, measured and measured and measured before hanging the cross



Jo and Betty, packed kitchen and fellowship items, lined shelves and then put everything away- a huge job!!



The parking lot is paved and the green grass is on its way up.

What a beautiful day. Thanks, Jill for your on-going pictorial account of life at Tappahannock Presbyterian Church.





*Photo by Jill Robertson*

## Closing Ceremony of Operation Inasmuch

With over 100 people in attendance Pastor Don McLean welcomes the participants to the Closing Ceremony of Inasmuch 2014. With moving boxes pushed aside the church rooms were used for numerous projects during Inasmuch Day.

**Tappahannock Presbyterian Church**  
**204 Kino Road**  
**P. O. Box 983**  
**Tappahannock, VA 22560**  
**The Rev. Don McLean, pastor**  
**(804) 443-9977**  
**[www.tapchapel.org](http://www.tapchapel.org)**

