

Wee Kirk Gazette

Tappahannock Presbyterian Church

June 2014



“Lifeless After Lent?”

One of the ironic things in the life of the church is how things die down after Easter. Sure, we have Pentecost; but for most folks, that’s sort of a “historical” kind of thing, sort of a footnote to Easter. It’s not something anybody really cuts loose about. I mean, who goes out and buys a new suit or a new dress to wear to church for Pentecost? What kids expect a basket of candy, or gifts under a tree, for the Sunday when we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Church? Once we’ve “alleluia’d” our way through that glorious Easter day, it’s seems like time to settle back, enjoy the warming-up weather, and plan for summer activities. We’ll gear up again when fall comes, and school lets in, and it’s time for Sunday School again. We’ll really crank it up at Thanksgiving, because Christmas is around the corner. But now, let’s just chill.

I say it’s ironic, how we wind it down, because the time after Easter was just **EXPLOSIVE** in the life of the Church. Jesus spent forty days with his people, teaching them, preparing them, setting them on the course he needed them to take. There was a period of 10 days of waiting and prayer. Then Pentecost, and a time of God just **EXPLODING** over the world with his love and salvation! How ironic that nowadays, we just fizzle!

Think about the Pentecost event itself. The people of God were worshipping and praying, just as they always did. They were in a very open place, apparently, because they could be heard on the street. They were beginning their day praising and worshipping God. Jesus was no longer with them – but they praised God anyway. Then it happened: God sent his Holy Spirit upon, and into, and over, them. They were equipped now, ready for their new existence as the Church. It’s significant to me that the people in the street, who come into play in a moment, apparently didn’t see the tongues of flame or hear the rushing wind, or they surely would have commented on it. (Did they have storm chasers in their day?) This part of the event was for the believers, forming them into the Church.

It wasn’t going to be enough to just have this small group as the church, though. **IMMEDIATELY** they began speaking “in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” We don’t see anywhere in the text that they were “speaking in tongues,” the ecstatic speech of charismatic Christians (that comes later). They probably wondered what was happening to them! But God made sure those people outside heard – the languages were the languages of those people outside, and the words were all about the glories and mercies of God. You know the rest, and if you don’t you’ll hear it soon enough; Pentecost is June 8, one Sunday away as I write. Peter got up to speak, and against charges that they were a bunch of ranting, raving drunks, he preached the Gospel for the first time. That day, we are told, about three thousand people joined the Church. It was all onward and upward from there.

Jeez, there’s more action in that space of about an hour than we’ve had in the past 100 seasons after Easter! Does it have to be that way?

Of course, there **IS** a difference between those people and ourselves. They were actively searching for what God wanted them to do; they were in the near-ecstatic state of having received the Holy Spirit in power; they wanted to do something, they **NEEDED** to do something, with all that energy, and all that power. How close are we to what our Lord wants us to do? How much Spirit do we have? Maybe that’s the problem. If it is, you probably know the cure. At least, you can figure it out by going back to the beginning of that chapter in Acts. “They were all together in one place,” meaning they were praying and devoting themselves to reading scripture. They were seeking God, and helping each other seek God. Each of us, today, in 2014 A.D., can pray more often, and more deeply. We can actually snap off that TV and spend 10 minutes, 20 minutes reading our Bibles. (O.K., if you can’t stand the thought of missing your favorite show, TiVo it or record it on your VCR – would you do **THAT** for a closer relationship with God?) We can seek God more actively, and open our eyes to see that Spirit come into our lives in new ways. I guarantee you, if you do these things, if you help each other, you won’t have to worry about being “lifeless after Lent” – you’ll have to worry about having enough time to do everything the Spirit puts in your heart to do.

Session Highlights

May 20, 2014

and/or June 1 to learn of changes coming in 2015 regarding the pension fund for pastors.

Communications

- ▲ POJ- thank you for increased pledge in 2014
- ▲ Thank you from Jean Derrenbacker, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, for gift of our organ
- ▲ Prayers from Presbytery Of the James for our church
- ▲ Thank you from the Women's Club for hosting the art show and reception
- ▲ An invitation from Trinity Methodist for a May 31 musical program which will benefit the Wounded Warriors. Groups start at 5:00; refreshments.

Treasurer's Report

David Jones, Treasurer

- ▲ Monthly report was submitted and explained by the Treasurer. He commented that so far \$50,881.94 has been received for the Capital Campaign.
- ▲ The Loan from the Church construction loan company was sent to POJ This is payment for the bridge loan they offered so construction could begin.
- ▲ 5 cents-a-meal collection was \$204.00 last week.
- ▲

New Church Development Purpose Group Report

Susan Spage

- ▲ Susan reported from the meeting last week that the Arabic church has been released from the Presbytery with no fees to pay.
- ▲ Nancy Clark has resigned as Moderator of NCD and Jill Isola has assumed the role of moderator.

Presbytery of the James

Lucy Sisk was elected commissioner to June POJ June 17 at Lord Jesus Christ Church Robious Road in Richmond. She will go with Pastor Don.

The Pastor and the Treasurer will attend the Presbytery Pension Workshop on May 30

Personnel Report

Jill Robertson

- ▲ Applicants are still being interviewed for Administrative Assistant/ Office Manager. Meanwhile Don is doing the bulletin and all other office duties. Jill Robertson and Alice Roye are helping a couple of days a week until no longer necessary.
- ▲ Session directed Dave Jones and Emerson Hughes to take care of selecting the lawn maintenance crew. It was noted that there will be hiring of a company that carries a certificate of insurance rather than negotiating with an individual.
- ▲ The search is still on for a Nursery Attendant. Session was asked to think about candidates and Don will ask Jeff Lamb for recommendations. It is preferable to have a personal reference rather than a public call for this position



Old Business

1. Dedication Committee report

Everything is moving according to schedule: tent is ordered, food is ordered, save-the-date cards have been mailed out. The date for this is September 7

2. Nominating Committee Report Jill Robertson, Moderator

- ⤴ Jill contacted people based on suggestions by the Session. Johnny Frischkorn and Tyler Sanders have agreed to serve and Jill will be moderator.
- ⤴ A congregational meeting for June 1 will be announced May 25 and June 1 for the purpose of electing 2 members of the Nominating Committee which will serve for one year for all elections, including that of Elder. Nominations may be made from the floor as long as prior consent has been secured.

3. Internship for Leah Epps this summer

The Mission and Outreach Ministry and Congregational Care and Fellowship Ministry have agreed to each give \$500 from their budget to make up the \$1500 that TPC must put up for Leah's experience this coming Sunday. Church Growth Ministry will be asked to kick in \$500 as well. Treasurer Dave said he plans to put the money in a new line item "internship" under Christian Education. The Session expressed approval of this plan. The Session passed a motion allowing Leah to preach 4 times during the summer, a requirement of her internship. Don will supervise her with 3 of the 4. As her experience takes shape you will hear more about what she is to accomplish.

4. Enhanced/ reinforced hearing equipment is being researched by the pastor.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Worship and Music

Oil candles have been purchased and are working well. Jill noted that when chairs are moved the hymnals and Bibles and displaced

and it takes a lot of time to re-stock the chairs. The new chairs should be arriving any time now. After the new chairs arrive a seating chart will be made to help people know where to replace the chairs.

The Session approved a motion to authorize Jamie Davis to build book racks that will go on the new chairs.

2. Congregational Care and Fellowship

- ⤴ Volunteers are needed for the 9:30 AM refreshments. The sign-up list is on the kitchen counter.
- ⤴ A meeting of CCF is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27 at 10:00 AM to discuss some changes in the way refreshments are presented. All in the congregation will be invited to share their opinions. NOTE: THIS MEETING DATE WAS CHANGED TO TUESDAY, JUNE 3 AT 10:00 AM.

3. Christian Education

- ⤴ The decision was made by the Session to begin the *Study of John* the month of July: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th. Don will teach it. The community will be invited.
- ⤴ There is a rotating on-call schedule set up for teaching youth Sunday School. Sherry Jones has taught in May, Vivian Smith will teach in June, Lucy Sisk will teach in July.
- ⤴ Additional volunteer teachers are encouraged to speak to Lucy Sisk.

4. Mission and Outreach

- ⤴ ECT celebrates 10 years at the May
- ⤴ Janice Canby shared a letter indicating the 10,000 meals prepared for *Stop Hunger Now* during Inasmuch Day were combined with other projects to make a total of 247,563 meals which, along with some other types of supplies, were sent to the Sudan.
- ⤴ Testing Your Well Water- A program in July, sponsored by the Extension Agency, will include water testing and education about making drinking water safe. The Ministry Group voted to provide money for two scholarships (\$49 X 2) to help others in the

community to take advantage of this program who could not otherwise afford it. Flyers with more information are available on the narthex table.

- ✦ There has been little to no response to the offer from TPC to assist in the schools other than receiving notice that background checks have been completed. Sherry will follow up on this and perhaps be able to get something in place for next year or this summer.
- ✦ There is an opportunity for volunteering with pre-school children through the ABC reading program at the Essex Public Library. Contact Dorothy Holmes at the library if you would like to participate.
- ✦ Banana Bingo continues on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Essex House under the direction of Vivian Smith with various TPC members and the pastor in attendance.
- ✦ Don told of the internship planned for Leah Epps this summer and M&O will
- ✦ donate \$500 from its budget to help meet the \$1500 obligation from TPC

5. Church Growth

This Ministry doesn't have a moderator at the time. This is the group planning the Community Day September 6. Lucy is the liaison from the Session.

New Business

- 1 Change of Moderators for Ministry Groups approved by Session
 - Resignation of Robbie Tavenner from CCF and Church Growth
 - Susan Spage will be Moderator of Congregational Care and Fellowship and resign as Christian Ed Moderator
 - Lucy Sisk will serve as Moderator of Christian Education
 - There is a need for a Moderator of Church Growth.
 - Sherry continues as Moderator of Mission and Outreach
 - Barbara Cullom is Moderator of Worship and Music.

2. Nomination for Treasurer

David Jones has worked diligently with great expertise and commitment for many years as Treasurer of TPC and is ready to take a break now. Don has talked with Janice Canby and she is looking forward to taking on the Treasurer's position. Dave's resignation is effective July 1. He will work with Janice to orient her to the system. An Assistant Treasurer has been suggested. Session approved this.

3. Audit of the books- Dave will see if Janice Canby and Bill Smith are able to audit the books before the end of the month. May is the usual month to have this done.

4. The Session approved the suggestion that *Worship on the River* be suspended for this year since there is a Congregational Retreat scheduled for August 23, Community Day is September 6, Dedication of the Church is September 7, and the Retreat with other River Presbyterian churches is scheduled for October.

5. Christian Motorcycle Association Lucy announced the CMA would like to visit Tappahannock Presbyterian sometime in July and have a few minutes to explain what the organization is about. She will report back to President Randy Sisk that TPC welcomes the group to come- the date in July to be decided.

6. The Annual Time Line was Reviewed

TPC is on track with the schedule.

The Nominating Committee will be elected in June.

Classes of Elders were reviewed

Class of 2014 Emerson Hughes and Jill Robertson

Class of 2015 Susan Spage and David Jones

Class of 2016 Lucy Sisk and Bill Spage

The Session was reminded of the responsibility to appoint a new Clerk.

Because of a scheduling conflict (Presbytery Meeting) there will be no Session meeting in June. The next meeting date is 1:00 Tuesday, July 15.

JUNE and JULY



Worship Assistants will read both scripture and prayer of dedication.

June 1 Roland Geddes
** 8 Deb Booze (Pentecost)
.....(Father's Day) 15 Jill Robertson
22 Pat Morris
29 John Colby

July 6 Kim Sydnor
13 Sherry Jones
20 Randy Sisk
27 Barbara Cullom

Greeter Bill Spage
Ushers Lucy and Randy Sisk

Greeter Johnny Frischkorn
Ushers John Hardy and Bill Smith

**Serving Communion June 8: Sherry Jones, Janice Canby; John Frischkorn, John Hardy

JUNE Birthdays

Em Hughes 2
Kim Sydnor 11



Refreshments

May 25 9:30 Nancy McLean
June 1 9:30 Cindy Glass
8 9:30
15 9:30
22 9:30
28 9:30

11:00 Sherry Jones
11:00 Anne and Kim Sydnor
11:00 Janice and Dave Canby
11:00 Betty and Chuck Dyer
11:00 Robbie Tavenner
11:00 Bill and Susan Spage



**PENTECOST
OFFERING**

Investing in our Greatest Resource

Giving to the Pentecost Offering makes it possible for the church to encourage, develop, and support its young people, and address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of this offering can be retained

by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The General Assembly's portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998 Presbyterians of all ages have raised more than \$8 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

Welcome, New Members

Dorothy and Walter Carr joined Tappahannock Presbyterian Church Sunday, May 25. They come to us from, Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church having lived in Weems for almost 40 years. They have already pitched right in to activities, sharing baked goods for the Farmers Market and being "on call" for whatever is needed! They live at 1329 Hoskins Drive and their phone is 443-2328. Please add them to your Directory.

Summer Reading

There is a whole new section of shelves holding much of Alice Roye's library of Christian books to study and enjoy. Please take a look at what's on the shelves and be prepared to recommend any for study/discussion. You are welcome to take them out- just put a note in them that they belong to TPC and return when you are finished with them. There are a number of books that make good study group texts.

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