

Tuckahoe Torch

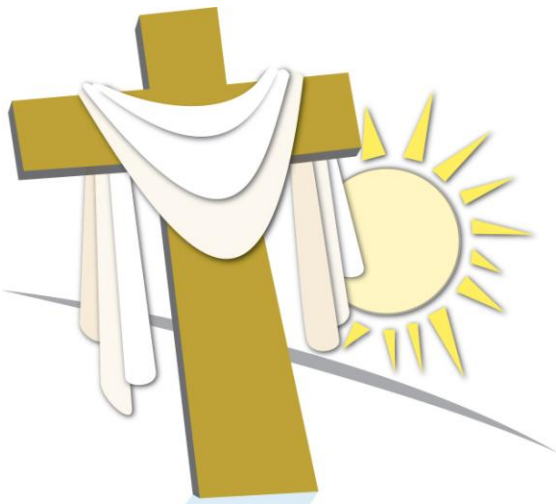


Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church
7000 Park Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226-3624
Phone: 282-2860

VOLUME 54 Number 4

APRIL 2010

THE LORD IS RISEN



**“...the LORD has
laid on him the
iniquity of us all.”**

Isaiah 53:6b

At the cross

We understand what God means when he talks of loving us, begin to take it in that there is nothing that he will not do, no sacrifice he will not make, no suffering that he will shirk, if only he can help us. ‘He loved me,’ said Paul, standing upon Calvary and gazing in a stunned way at the cross, ‘I who was a persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious, and yet he loved me and he gave himself for me.’ And with that Paul’s heart broke, and the old life was gone.”

—Scottish preacher Arthur John Gossip,
in a 1926 sermon titled “What Happens at Calvary”

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE: April 1, 6:45 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service, April 2, 12 Noon - Good Friday, Memorial Garden, weather permitting, April 4, 11:00 a.m. - Easter Sunday Worship

“I have something for you!”

My hope here is to put into your hands wisdom to encourage your journey with the church in loving God, in living together, in serving our neighbor and in doing what is shown to be the good and perfect will of God.

Verses that help us through the day

This month, I offer verses that can serve as wisdom for your own particular challenges. There is not space enough here to develop the context of each of these. If however, they can help you as they have encouraged others, you may find just the help you need.

Exodus 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Here is God’s solution to burnout and fatigue. Often, we do not give this a chance. Someone has suggested we need a day when we park the car, find a chair to sit with those we love and set aside “ought, must and should” around our home.

Psalm 46:1 and 10 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble...Be still and know that I am God! God knows life can be chaos. The writer gives us God’s message to slow us down. This is akin to the Sabbath, yet there are other times we need help. So, we remember who is really in charge.

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Sometimes it is enough to simply say these words to ourselves. Jesus clearly understands what some call “overwhelm.” He asks us to linger long enough with his words to take them seriously. He promises rest. He claims his way is easier than the one we are currently following.

Psalm 118:24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Some say this out loud when they wake up. This verse has encouraged me to locate greater focus in my day. If God has created this particular day, then God’s resources should be near; God is near to help us work to discover ways to really live.

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Salvation is ours by grace through faith, yet we appropriate God’s gift by doing whatever we need to do “to make things right.” Some need a schedule. Some need to watch what they eat. Everyone needs exercise. Everyone needs to fill their minds with God’s wisdom. Everyone needs to invest in serving others. Salvation is not automatic; we apply what God gives us to do the right things.

Wisdom from Fellow Travelers

“Astonishing! The Son of God—who, more than anyone else, was free to choose what he would—chose not only a mother and a people, but also a social position. And he wanted to be a wage earner. That Jesus had *voluntarily* lost himself in an obscure Middle Eastern village; annihilated himself in the daily monotony of thirty years’ rough, miserable work; separated himself from the society that “counts”; and died in total anonymity.”

--From *Letters from the Desert* by Carlo Carretto

Session Notes FROM MARCX 24

The Session met at the regularly scheduled time, 7:30 p.m. in Room 106 at church. These items identify the motions passed and some of the matters discussed:

- 1) A motion was brought by Pam Burch, the moderator of the Outreach division for monies set aside for Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly to become part of the general Session budget. This is not an “outreach” concern; yet it is important. Motion passed unanimously.
- 2) The need to approve the minister leading worship at the wedding of Al Maloney’s grand-daughter, Amanda Pelfry on October 9 was brought to the table by Fred Rose. Dee Daughtrey moved approval for the Reverend Peter Moon, pastor of Woodlake United Methodist Church. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3) A motion was brought by Matt Mahoney to approve including in each month’s *Torch* the business transacted at the Session meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) During our Discussion for the Night, Fred shared a message from our Staff to the elders. He added a brief report from the Leaders’ Group that had met to address a Staff study as well as a Vision Process.

The Session wants to remind the congregation that meetings are not closed; occasionally, the Session chooses to go into “executive session” for certain reasons. These sessions are pretty rare.

I offer these entries for your consideration. I hope you worship with us during Easter and discover the strength and kindness of God in ways that give you great delight.

Your Pastor, Fred Rose

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS



Mary Louise Byrne writes "Thanks again to my wonderful church family for the many expressions of concern during my recent trip to the hospital. The cards, prayers and Fred's visit meant so much. I also enjoyed a great visit with Sarah Bates when she delivered the flowers. I am ever grateful for all of you."

John W. Dayton writes: "Dear Rev. Rose, Rev. Brown, Mr. Cain, and ESPECIALLY the Ladies of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church: Thank you so much for the lovely memorial service and reception for Dorothy 'Dot' Smith Dayton. Our family and I will always remember your kindness."

Terry Brady writes, "Thanks to my wonderful Tuckahoe family for all the cards, phone calls, good food, and flowers I received while recovering from my recent accident. Once again I am reminded of what a caring congregation you are. Your thoughtfulness helped speed my healing."



We send our sympathy to **Charline Watkins and family** upon the death of Barry Watkins on January 30. Barry and Charline are former members of Tuckahoe. Charline's address: 2410 Golfview Dr., Orange Park FL 32003.

We send our sympathy to **Pam Dickerson and family** upon the death of her mother Ann Wrenn on February 27. Pam's address: 2422 Edenbrook Dr., Richmond VA 23228.

We send our sympathy to **Donna Sauer and family** upon the death of her twin sister's husband Ron Spear. Donna's address: 6911 Monument Ave., Richmond VA 23226.

Congratulations

Claire Elizabeth Robinson, daughter of Will and Hilary Robinson, was born on March 2., 2010. Their address is 7702 Hollins Rd., Richmond, VA 23229.



NEW ADDRESSES

Phyllis Childs, 1900 Lauderdale Drive, HSB112, Richmond, VA 23238; Phone: 521-9112.

Stuart and Mary Shumate, Avalon Apt. 6213, 1550 Westbook Ct., Richmond, VA 23227; Phone: 200-1209.

Jean Bynum, 2300 Cedarfield Parkway #352, Richmond, VA 23233; phone: 217-5248.

REPORT ON "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"

This beautiful spring evening, Saturday, March 20th, was organized by the Fellowship Committee. A special "thank you" goes to all who participated; those volunteering to host a dinner and the mystery guests all joining together to make it a success.

Hosts: Sherry & John Flournoy
Their Guests: Leslie & Chuck Shimer, Janice & Mike Clark, and Beverly & Gary Zimmerman

Host: Kathy Mahone
Her Guests: Kathy Manzer, Charlotte Sayre, and Kit Crawford

Hosts: Gena & Arch Wallace
Their Guests: Ruth Ann & Ray Hoge, Ann & Norris Moses, and Tom & Julia Adair

Host: Ross & Heather DeBolt
Their Guests: Bob & Gail Miller, Madge & Don Virgin, and Tom & Nancy Fabian

Child care at the church was provided by Rachel Burch and her friend, Judy. These young ladies were super in taking care of Henry and Lily DeBolt, Courtney Fabian, and Will Adair and in keeping them occupied, as well as serving pizza for dinner. After dinner, everyone was invited back to church for dessert (pie and ice cream) furnished by Ann Watson, Kit Crawford and Amy Glass. Our thanks to all you ladies. And, last, but not least, thanks to Bob Glass for being the kitchen help for the evening. To sum it all up, there were good friends together sharing good times, good food and fellowship.

TPC Fellowship Committee

WORSHIP AT FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN



On Sunday, April 25, we will join in worship with First United Presbyterian Church, located at 3401 North Avenue. Fred will be preaching there and our choir will sing. We will have an abbreviated Sunday School at Tuckahoe, but **NO WORSHIP SERVICE**. After the service at First United we will share a pot luck lunch with them. On March 21st we placed a signup sheet in the Narthex for you to indicate if you will be going and whether you will need a ride. If you do not need a ride, please show if you would be willing to have others ride with you. As the time gets closer, we will provide you with a map of the location. We hope that all of you will want to attend this special service. What a great opportunity to reach across our city to our brothers and sisters at First United Presbyterian!

LUNCH BUNCH

Lamb's Basket Lunch Bunch is on for April 5, 2010, even though it closely follows Easter. This will be our first spring luncheon and will give us a chance to celebrate the season with joy after such a long and snowy winter. So mark your calendar for 12 o'clock noon, April 5th. As usual, there is no charge, but don't forget to bring canned goods or non-perishable items that will be delivered to the Lamb's Basket by Pat Brady. We ask that you sign up on the friendship pad or call Becky Dale at 282-2860 and let her know you are coming and whether you will bring someone with you. **AND REMEMBER TO THANK THE WONDERFUL LADIES WHO PREPARE THIS LUNCH FOR US WITH CARING HEARTS AND HANDS!**

↙ **LAMB's BASKET** food collection for February- **363 lbs**. This was a combination of food collected at the worship service on March 7 and the LAMB's Basket lunch group on March 1. Good job, Tuckahoe! Let's do it again in April.

2010 All-Church Retreat

Please save the date and plan on attending the 2010 Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church retreat on October 2 and 3 at Camp Hanover. This multi-generational retreat will include many opportunities for fellowship and fun in a unique setting with God's glory all around. The retreat will run from Saturday morning through Sunday worship. More information will follow, but please save the date and plan on a wonderful fall weekend at Camp Hanover.

The Christian Formation Division
Matthew Mahoney

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The **Spring Gathering** will be held on Saturday, **May 1** at First Presbyterian Church. All women of the Presbytery of the James are welcome. The program includes a variety of leadership workshops associated with the activities of Presbyterian Women. Lunch will be served. For further information, please contact Charlotte Sayre at 285-3292.

The Presbyterian Women of Tuckahoe Church will hold their annual spring luncheon on **Tuesday, May 4**. All women are welcome. Circles will meet at 10:30, followed by a general meeting in the sanctuary at 11:00. Lunch will be served at 11:45. Please make reservations after worship on April 24 or May 2, or by contacting a circle leader. Cost is \$6.00.

Becky Theuer, Secretary

FROM PROPERTY DIVISION

Our **Spring clean-up day is Saturday, April 10, at 8 a.m.** We are looking for volunteer "bush consultants" to tell us which branches to cut. If you know of anything that needs attention, let us know by contacting Tom Lee at 740-4907, e-mail tlclee@aol.com. Muffins, donuts, coffee and juice will be served to get us started. Please bring your gloves and any tools you want to use or share.

OUTREACH DIVISION

BOAZ AND RUTH

(promote their businesses)

Tuckahoe's mission trip in 2009 was to the local organization of Boaz and Ruth. When I called Boaz and Ruth last week, Bea answered the phone and I knew to whom I was speaking after having eaten lunch with her last summer. One way we can all continue to nurture our relationship with Boaz and Ruth is by patronizing their businesses:

Harvest Store – Shop for treasures at the Harvest Store located at 3030 Meadowbridge Road

Parable Restoration – Do you need something restored? The services offered include hand refinishing, wood turning and carving, press caning, oil painting restoration, guilt gilding, and restoring 18th and 19th century furniture. There is a 10% off coupon at the Boaz and Ruth website.

Mountain Movers – Are you moving? In addition to local and long distant moving, Boaz and Ruth will do pick up and deliveries, clean attics and garages, remove trash, and move offices.

Sunny Days – This thrift boutique sells gently used men's, women's and children's clothing. They will also accept donations of clothing, accessories and home furnishings which are in good condition....and will even pick them up for you.

Diamond Catering – Provides box lunches with free delivery for orders of 10 or more.

Fire House 15 – Open for breakfast and lunch, this restaurant has free Wi-Fi, delivery available, and space for up to 70 people for hosting events.

All businesses are located in the 3000 block of Meadowbridge Road and can be contacted by phoning 329-4900.

Pam Burch

(SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ISH ARTICLE)

TPC SPRING MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT



- Date and Time:** Sunday, May 16, 2010
1:00 p.m. (and the next 9 tee times following every 8 minutes)
- Where:** Belmont Golf Course, Hilliard Road
- How:** Four (4) Person Scramble/Captain's Choice
- Who:** 40 golfers – 10 Foursomes (Men, Women and Senior Highs – Members, Potential Members and Guests) – First 40 golfers to sign up
- Cost:** \$45.00 per player, includes green fee, cart and prizes
- Deadline to Register:** Wednesday, May 5, 2010
- Action:** *Please fill out the entry form below, attach check (made payable to Tuckahoe P. C.) and turn in or mail to the Church Office (Becky Dale), give in person to Robins Buck or Ray Hoge (when you see them) or mail to Robins Buck at: 10762 Ashcake Station Place Mechanicsville, VA 23116*
- Questions:** *Robins Buck, 496-6859*

Name(s):

E-mail address:

Telephone Number:

(H) _____

(W) _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Handicap/best score _____

INTERFAITH SERVICES OF HENRICO

In the past, area churches were often approached by people in need asking for assistance. Individual churches had limited resources and did not have the means to screen the applicants to determine true need. Nor were the different churches able to coordinate their efforts.

In order to address these concerns, Interfaith Services of Henrico (ISH) was founded in 1983. It is a faith-based organization comprised of many area churches, but also includes businesses, civic organizations and individuals in the county of Henrico. ISH works with The Department of Social Services to provide one-time emergency financial assistance to county residents. These funds are paid directly to vendors such as utility companies, landlords, mortgage companies, doctors and daycare centers. In addition to these payments, ISH coordinates various projects during the year that benefit not only client families and individuals, but the foster children in the county's Foster Care Program.

All applicants for ISH funds are screened by the Henrico Department of Social Services to determine that they truly have an emergency need. ISH funds are only distributed as a last resort after all other funding sources have been considered. While many families may find themselves in a position of need, they may not meet all the requirements for Federal, State, Local or private assistance. ISH calls itself "the mortar between the bricks" as it strives to fill the gaps that the Department of Social Services cannot fill and get needy families back on their feet. ISH seeks to provide the assistance that will allow these families to provide for themselves in the future. In fact, ISH strives to provide assistance to clients who have developed a plan of self-sufficiency for the future, but who have immediate, one-time needs.

During 2009, ISH assisted 377 households with payments totaling \$123,153.24. Needs will increase during 2010. As you might imagine, considering current financial conditions, the number of requests for assistance received by the Department of Social Services continues to increase dramatically. In February of 2009, DSS received 73 requests for emergency assistance. In February 2010, 316 requests were received. That is an increase of 332.9%.

Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church supports ISH in a variety of ways. A generous donation is budgeted by the Outreach Division each year and the Division recruits a church member to serve on the ISH board. That position is currently shared by Meg Packard and Kaye Keyes. Each year, approximately two ISH projects are selected and brought to the congregation. This year, members have participated in the collection of backpacks and school supplies in addition to the preparation of Thanksgiving food boxes. In the past, Tuckahoe members have stocked duffel bags and diaper bags. These bags are used when a child or baby must be removed quickly from their environment and placed in foster care. Other ISH projects include summer camp scholarships for at-risk youth and Christmas gifts for the children served by the various Social Services programs, including the approximately 140 children in the Foster Care program. Easter baskets are also prepared for the children and elderly and disabled clients.

What can you do? You can help by participating in the projects supporting ISH as they are announced to the congregation. You can make an individual monetary donation to help the needy in our community. Checks can be made out to Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church and may be left with the Church office. Be sure to indicate 'ISH' on your check. Contributions are tax-exempt under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Please note: ISH is unique in that 100% of all donations go directly to help Henrico County citizens. No donated funds are used for administrative costs. These costs are absorbed by volunteers and through a generous partnership with Henrico County. Henrico pays the salaries of the Community Resource Developer and the staff that coordinate the activities between ISH and the Department of Social Services.

If you would like to know more about ISH, please visit the Outreach Division's bulletin board later in April. In addition, the ISH website is as follows:

<http://www.co.henrico.va.us/dss/ISHwebpages/ISHhome.htm>

Also, Meg and Kaye are always available to answer your questions.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND EDUCATION



What's Going on with Children's

MINISTRIES

In the Narthex – Always available: copies of a leaflet entitled *Making Room for Children in Worship*, copies of the current *Sunday School Notes*, Sunday School registration forms, and *Children's Worship Bulletins* on clipboards with crayons. Make sure your child also receives a regular bulletin! Pick up a copy of *Sunday School Notes* occasionally to stay "in the loop" about what the young ones in our church family are doing!

† Sunday, April 4 - Easter Day! Alleluia. Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! -

First Sunday Children's Church for age 4 through 1st grades. Following "Moments with the Children" during the service, the children walk with Ms. Loggins to room 200 for a *Godly Play* story, work response, scripture reading, and prayer. These sessions are held on the first Sunday of every month, October through May. This is a wonderful way to begin your child's participation in worship! Egg hunts immediately following the service. Details will be in the worship bulletin.

† Until the Day of Pentecost, May 23 – The Season of Easter - The time of Easter continues until the Day of Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter Day. He is risen!

- † **Sunday, April 11** - During Sunday School, 1st- 2nd grades class prepares Freedom House lunches.
- † **Sunday, April 18** – *Godly Play* story and work for 2-3 year olds' class; Library Time for 4 yr olds- kindergarten class.
- † **Sunday, April 25** – *Godly Play*, 3rd-5th grades; Library Time for 2-3 year olds' class.
- † **Thursday, May 13 – Ascension of the Lord** Always on a Thursday, the 40th day after Easter Day, and easily forgotten! Read Acts 1:1-11.

- † **July 19-23 Vacation Bible School, Galactic Blast!** Sign up now for a specific "position" at the display in Duntreath Hall or on the attached form!
- † **June – August Camp Hanover Summer Camps** for children are offered throughout this time period. See Becky Loggins for an application or register online at camphanover.org
- † **Questions?** Contact Becky Loggins, Director of Children's Ministries: **phone 201-0571 and email bg18@comcast.net**



Wish List for Children's Ministries

- ★ Timer for second floor kitchen
- ★ 2 wall clocks for children's Sunday School rooms
- ★ Space-related items for Vacation Bible School (donate or loan)
- ★ Empty carpet tubes
- ★ Cardboard tubes of any size
- ★ Disco balls of any size
- ★ Inflatable solar systems and space "scene setters" (from Oriental Trading Company)
- ★ Clear Contact paper
- ★ **Crayola Washable Markers, Classic Colors**
- ★ **Smallest bottles (1 ¼ ounces) of Elmer's Glue**
- ★ **General questions about Vacation Bible School? Contact Becky Loggins at 201-0571 or e-mail bg18@comcast.net**



Galactic Blast – A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!
Vacation Bible School 2010 - July 19-23

Please Note the Open VBS Positions Below

We still have no decorating lead or team to decorate Duntreath Hall and the hallways - as you know, decorations are an essential part of the success of our program!

We must have 7 more teachers, Cooking lead, Recreation lead, nursery help, and the adult and youth assistants listed!

**Sign up at the display in Duntreath Hall where specific positions are listed or contact Becky Loggins!
 Please spread the word!**

POSITIONS STILL OPEN:

Teachers:

- 1 Co-teacher 3-year-old class
- 2 Co-teachers 4-year-old class
- 2 Co-teachers Rising kindergarten class
- 1 Co-teacher Rising 1st grade class
- 1 or 2 teachers Rising 4th- 5th grade class

Cooking Leader

Recreation Leader

Snack Leader (order/prep/serve)

Adult Assistants:

- 3-4 3-year-old class
- 2-3 4-year-old class
- 1-2 Rising kindergarten class
- 1-2 Rising 1st grade class
- 5 Crafts
- 4 Cooking
- 2 Children's Snack prepare /take to rooms
- 6-8 Decorating and deco prep (Duntreath & hallways)

Youth Helpers:

(rising 6th grade through high school)

- 3 3-year-old class
- 3 4-year-old class
- 3 rising 1st grade class
- 3 rising 2nd grade class
- 3-4 Cooking
- 1 Outreach
- 4-8 Decoration and deco prep (Duntreath & hallways)
- 1-2 Older Youth: Nursery

Nursery Care 3 Adults or older youth

We cannot hold VBS without your time and help. Thank you to those who have already filled a position!
REGISTRATION / VOLUNTEER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE, NARTHEX, AT THE DUNTREATH HALL DISPLAY – REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN & VOLUNTEER TO HELP ON THE FORM
Contact Becky Loggins with questions about VBS:
Phone 201-0571 Email bg18@comcast.net

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Fifty Days of Joy

Easter is a festival **season of fifty days** whose first day is Easter Day, the Sunday of the Resurrection, and whose last day is the Day of Pentecost. Easter is such a huge mystery and celebration that we can't keep it in just one day. The time to get ready to enter the mystery of Easter, Lent, is greater than the time to get ready to enter the mystery of Christmas, Advent. Easter is an even *greater* mystery and celebration than Christmas! The **fortieth day** of Easter is **Ascension Day**, this year on May 13 - always on a Thursday and, consequently, easily forgotten! (Read about the event of Christ's Ascension: Acts 1:6-11.) The word *Easter* comes from *Eostre*, a Teutonic goddess whose name is associated with springtime, growth, and fertility. In most languages the name of the day is *Pascha*, which means "Passover".

The color of this time of the Church Year is, as is Easter Day, white for purity, joy, and celebration. We remember this time especially with the empty cross, a sign of the victory of Easter.

Remember that each and every Sunday throughout the year is a "little Easter", reminding us as Christians of the resurrection, since it was on the first day of the week that Jesus rose from the dead. During this, Eastertide, help your family continue the great celebration by lighting a candle at your evening meals and saying a prayer of thankful joy! It is also appropriate to have mini egg hunts throughout this time. Make the most of those plastic eggs! Remember that the eggs, chicks, bunnies and butterflies are symbols of new life and reminders of the resurrection of Christ and new life in each of us. Happy Easter!

THE NEW 2010 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



The **Worship/Membership Division** is excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us to connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional Photographer and meet with a Portrait Consultant at the church. During April and May 2010, we will be making appointments for you before and after worship services and other meetings at the church. Please sign up for an appointment at the table in the hall before worship services or at the table in Duntreath Hall after the services.

- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8x10 Custom Natural Portrait.
- You will need to come to the church only once for having your photograph taken and for portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.
- If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% **Satisfaction Guarantee**.
- Whether you decide to wear formal or casual attire, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.
- If you know of someone who would like to have their picture taken, either an individual or a family, sign them up and the photographer will take those pictures also, even though they are not connected to our church family.

The scheduled dates for photography and portrait viewing are:

May 24, 25 (Mon. & Tues.); 2 pm - 9:20 pm
June 8, 9, 10, 18 (Tues. thru Fri.); 2 pm - 9:20 pm
June 19 (Saturday) 9:30 am - 5:10 pm

If you have any questions, please contact

Walter Hogan at: 270-1020

We look forward to seeing everyone in the new directory.



**OUR NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY JUST WON'T BE COMPLETE
WITHOUT YOU!**

Information from the Administration and Personnel Division

A number of members in the church have had questions since the annual meeting regarding staff salaries. At the congregational meeting on 1/24/10, changes in the terms of call for our two ministers were announced. Fred Rose received a decrease in salary and Steven Good received an increase, both changes being in the range of 5%. Our pastors have their salaries announced and voted upon annually; other staff, including Dr. Charlie Brown, do not have salary changes announced publicly and are not subject to approval by congregational vote. However, our staff has asked that you be informed that each of them has received a 5% salary reduction for 2010. Like many in the congregation, the church has faced challenging financial times. Our revenues for operating expenses have declined and have necessitated budget cuts in all areas of our church, including staff compensation. The one exception was the associate pastor position which has been seriously under funded for several years.

Having to cut the salaries of dedicated, talented employees was a difficult decision and does not reflect disappointment in staff performance. While the congregation has been extremely generous in its support of the church through the capital campaign, our operating expenses have outpaced our income for more than two years. This situation required budget reductions which Session approved in January 2010.

If you have any questions about the information in this message, please feel free to call me, Laura Kewer, the moderator of Stewardship and Finance, or any other Elder of our church. We are glad to try and address your concerns.

Sincerely,
Dee Daughtrey, Moderator

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The **Building Committee** would like to encourage members of the congregation who pledged financial resources to the capital campaign to remain current in their payments. The committee also would like to invite members of the congregation who did not pledge resources to the campaign, as well as new members who have joined the congregation since the pledge period concluded, to make a pledge at this point. Please contact Dick Dawes, Assistant Treasurer, to make him aware of your interest. As of February 28, 2010, members of the congregation have contributed \$444,990.39 toward the pledged goal of \$680,000. The contribution phase of the campaign concludes on May 31, 2011.

Dick Mateer

TPC YOUTH CALENDAR



- APRIL 4 Easter Sunrise Service (6:30 - 8:30 am)
- APRIL 8-11 POJ HS Mission Trip
- APRIL 11 Youth Group Worship Service (6 - 8 pm)
- APRIL 18 Youth Group (6 - 8 pm)
- APRIL 24-25 POJ MS Retreat
- APRIL 25 HS Youth Group (6 - 8 pm)

- MAY 2 Youth Group YS Prep (6 - 8 pm)
- MAY 9 Youth Group YS Prep (6 - 8 pm)
- MAY 16 Youth Group YS Prep (6 - 8 pm)
- May 22 Youth Sunday Prep (10 - 12 am)
- May 23 Youth Sunday (10:30 am)
- May 30 End of Year Celebration (TBD)

Praying the Psalms

Steven Good

The Psalms are an invaluable treasury. They give us a language and a context for our prayers and they help us to seek the heart of God in our prayers. The book of Psalms has a unique place in the Christian Bible. One reason for its role, as described by the ancient church father, Athanasius, is that most scripture speaks to us about God – the Psalms speak *for us* to God.

The Bible is God's revelation to humanity – “the Word of God in human words,” to use a popular phrase. But in the Psalms we are introduced to something quite different – here we have humans addressing God in all sorts of ways and in all sorts of situations – complaint in situations of distress and hopelessness, thanksgiving in moods of liberation and joy, and hymnic praise in times of rejoicing in the goodness of God's creation and providential care. In this sense, the Psalms speak for us, expressing the whole gamut of human emotions and responses to God's reality in our midst and thereby teaching us how to pray with others in the various seasons of our lives. The wonderful thing about the Psalms is that when we pray them, we are joining with the entire history of the Church.

In my Torch space this month I want to share a story that I recently rediscovered because it vividly expresses how the Psalms can offer to us the words to pray when our words fail us.

In his book, *Fear No Evil*, Natan Sharansky, the noted Jewish dissident who eventually became a member of the Israeli parliament, tells how the book of Psalms saved his life during a long nine-year imprisonment by the KGB. He spent just over one year in a soviet punishment cell, a cold, damp basement room that measured barely six feet square. It was always a battle of wills between himself and the Soviet authorities – he would go on hunger strikes and suffer hours of interrogation. His one possession during those hard years was the book of Psalms that his wife, Avital, had given him.

Though not particularly religious he began to read, even memorize the Psalms. To his astonishment he found striking and powerful parallels between his experience of bondage and the distress articulated by the Psalmists – their prayers of lament became his prayers – their hope of deliverance became a ray of light in his lonely prison cell.

After nine long years, several confiscations and reluctant returns of his book of Psalms, he was finally transported to an airport outside of Moscow for his trip to East Germany, and then on to freedom.

His release was choreographed by the soviets to insure the most favorable exposure for the world press – so on that day after nine years of humiliation, minutes away from freedom, with the press photographers in position, his first words of freedom were, as he reports them in his autobiography,

“Where's my Psalm book?”

“You received everything that was permitted,” answered the intellectual in a rather rough tone.

He signaled to the tails to take me away.

I quickly dropped to the snow. “I won't move until you give me back my Psalm book.” When nothing happened, I lay down in the snow and started shouting, “Give me back my Psalm book!”

The photographers were aghast, and pointed their cameras toward the sky.

After a brief consultation, the boss gave me my Psalm book.

On the plane ride to freedom, Sharansky opened the book of Psalms to keep a promise that he had made to himself. While in prison he vowed that his first act in freedom would be to read Psalm 30. He returned the well-worn pages to the appropriate place and began.

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment;
his favour is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity,
'I shall never be moved.'
By your favour, O Lord,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:
'What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!'

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

In our troubled and traumatic times there are many people – even those who have not faced the difficulties of Sharan – who have found deep meaning in the book of Psalms. When they have felt isolated, it brought them the assurance that they are connected with others within the community of faith. When in desperate circumstances or close to death, the Psalms have brought untold millions comfort and hope. When populations have been torn away from their homes and families, subjected to cold and hunger, torture and rape, this slender volume of the Bible has provided an inner-strength to bear up and to persevere with courage, fortitude and hope. When people of conscience have been imprisoned due to their convictions and have faced a death, the Psalms have enabled them to believe in a God who will obtain justice for the oppressed.

As Easter approaches we would do well to remember that our Lord also prayed the Psalms in his most desperate, isolated moment: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Psalm 22). Because Jesus cried out to God, we can too.



THE PASCHAL CANDLE
READ ITS MEANING
ON THE APRIL CALENDAR

CHURCH CALENDAR



2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>Paschal Candle This large, white candle is an ancient symbol for Christ, the light of the world. The candle contains a cross and/or an Alpha and Omega to symbolize that Jesus is eternal and always present with his people. Also called the Easter candle, it plays a prominent role during Easter vigils and celebrations. Some churches also use the candle during baptisms and funerals.</p>				<p>1 7:00am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 Maundy Thurs. Service. 7:15pm Disciple Class 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm AA</p>	<p>2 12:00 Noon - Good Friday Service in Memorial Garden, weather permitting</p>	<p>3 9:30am SPARC</p>
<p>4 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30am - Sunrise Service Centsability Offering 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 12:00pm B/P Check 6 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>5 12 N - Lamb's Basket Lunch 4:00pm Swing Band 4:00pm SPARC 7:30pm Circle 2</p>	<p>6 10:00am Circles 3,4 1:30pm Circle 5 4:00 pm SPARC 7:00pm Disciple Class 8:00pm Pops Band</p>	<p>7 5:30pm Tuckadings 6:00pm Dinner 7:30pm Handbell 7:30pm Endowment Committee</p>	<p>8 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Disciple Class 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm AA</p>	<p>9  10:30 am</p>	<p>10 8:00 - CLEAN-UP DAY 9:30am SPARC</p>
<p>11 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 12:00pm Freedom H 12:00pm Session 6 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>12 4:00pm Swing Band 4:00pm SPARC 7:00pm Outreach Div 7:30pm Christian Formation Div 8:00pm Virginia Kennel Club</p>	<p>13 4:00pm SPARC 5:30pm Emergency Shelter Meal 7:00pm Disciple Class 7:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00pm Scottish 8:00pm Pops Band</p>	<p>14 5:30pm Tuckadings 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Property Div 7:30pm Membership/ Worship Div 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Disciple Class 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm AA</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 9:30am SPARC</p>
<p>18 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 6 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>19 4:00pm Swing Band 4:00 SPARC 7:00 Adm/Personnel 8:00pm Virginia Kennel Club</p>	<p>20 4:00pm SPARC 7:00pm Disciple Class 7:00pm Scottish 8:00pm Pops Band</p>	<p>21 5:30pm Tuckadings 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm Diaconate</p>	<p>22 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Disciple Class 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm AA</p>	<p>23 10:00am Brandon Women's Club</p>	<p>24 MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT 9:30am SPARC</p>
<p>25 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship 6 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>26 4:00pm Swing Band 4:00pm SPARC</p>	<p>27 10am PW Coord . Team 3:30 Hilliard House 4:00pm SPARC 7:00pm Disciple Class 7:00PM Scottish 8:00pm Pops Band</p>	<p>28 5:30pm Tuckadings 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm Session</p>	<p>29 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Disciple Class 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm AA</p>	<p>30</p>	