

# Tuckahoe Torch



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## Thinking of Lent

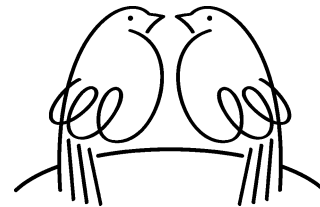
Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word Gospel means "good news.")

A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumbfounded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30's. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.

## BE A LOVE BIRD



Many stories about the origin of Valentine's Day have come down through the centuries. There's no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws. This year, on Valentine's day, people will give their sweethearts countless million of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. On **February 14th**, here at Tuckahoe, during the fellowship hour, we will celebrate all the marriages of 35 years or more. All we ask is that you bring a wedding photo to Ruth Ann Hoge so that we can display them. Mark your calendar and show up for this special celebration!

## Christian Symbols +



Yoke

The yoke is a burden of hardship and toil, as well as of subservience. But Jesus said the "yoke" of serving him is "easy" and that he provides rest for the weary (Matthew 11:28-30). The yoke also symbolizes human allegiance, as in marriage.

# "I have something for you!"

The purpose of this page is to put into our hands insights to encourage our journey together in loving God, in living with one another, in serving our neighbor and in doing what seems to be the good and perfect will of God.

## Psalms that get us through

The psalm for this issue is 143. When life events and/or people have somehow become "enemies," these words can be helpful by leading you in prayer. This is a psalm of David and though he was a warrior who fought with bows and spears, his words can help us in the so-called "enemies" we confront.

The psalm begins with requests for God to hear prayers prayed. It continues with a request to overlook sin. In verses 3-4, David describes how bad he feels. "*For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, making me sit in darkness like those long dead.*" In verse 5, he reflects in a helpful way. He remembers God's deeds in the past. It is helpful for us when we are being challenged to remember how God has sustained us: from baptism, from early days with church, with people who are teachers and examples in living faithfully, from recent times we have been aware of God's kindness and grace.

Like many psalms, this one has the aside, "Selah," in the margin. I believe it suggests a pause to reflect briefly on all that is being shared. Then...the next six verses offer petitions for God's help. Notice the verbs: answer, do not hide, let me hear, teach me, save me, lead me, preserve my life. It concludes with one of the Old Testaments faithful words...*steadfast love* in verse 12.

I hold up this psalm as a prayer exercise that brings you before God when life threatens. I hope you can use this psalm. I believe it can get us through some tough times.

## Wisdom from Fellow Travelers

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; and where there is  
sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal life.  
**Saint Francis of Assisi**

Someone reminded me of a particular phrase in this prayer that I needed to hear. The insight moment turned my day and week around completely. Perhaps, there are phrases you can use too or even all the words together in your own prayer. However this can be helpful to you, please use it.

"We can decide to live in response to the abundance of God and not under the dictatorship of our own poor needs. We can decide to live in the environment of a living God and not our own dying selves. We can decide to center ourselves in the God who generously gives and not in our own egos which greedily grab. One of the certain consequences of such a life is joy, the kind expressed in Psalm 126." (97, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, Eugene Peterson)

## Practicing What We Believe

Recently, someone left a message in the box marked "Messages for Dr. Rose." The note suggested that we "send out a flyer to help local neighbors: trash clean up, light painting, small repairs...". This member believes we should be a good neighbor to those right around where we live. We need people who like to repair things, people who can make small but significant house repairs and be good neighbors doing it. This is not some effort to bring in more members.. We do this to be a good neighbor just as Jesus says. I personally think this a wonderful idea. So...if you want to take part in a new ministry, please let me know of your willingness to join one or two others in our church so you can be a "good neighbor."

I hope you have a good month. Join us for Sunday school this Sunday at 9:30 am and for worship at 11 am.

Sincerely,

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

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**Alice Gilleece** writes, "Thank you for the flower. It is beautiful. Carol Berger's visit cheered me. I miss church."

**Ed Jones** writes, "We enjoyed our visit with Ginger Spence when she brought us the poinsettia. We are very grateful for the continued love and concern from our church."

**Flossie Quensen** writes, "My flowers are still beautiful. Thanks again for thinking of me in these cold days. My love and prayers are with all of you all."



Congratulations to **Ruth Jordan** who celebrated her 100th birthday on January 5. Ruth's address is 7090 Covenant Woods Dr. A106, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.



Now that we have moved back into our beautifully refurbished sanctuary, the Worship/Membership Division would like to express our deepest gratitude to the many volunteers who helped set up Duntreath Hall for the two and a half months we held Sunday worship there. There were always enough people on hand each Saturday morning to make light work of the job. Further thanks are due to those who helped clear the sanctuary on "move out" day and then reversed the process during the busy week of December 13. It is amazing what can be accomplished when there are dozens of willing hands set to the task. Finally, a special thanks goes to Butch Richardson, whose careful planning and quiet demeanor helped to direct our project from start to finish.

Mickey Mateer

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FROM THE PROPERTY DIVISION

They earned no wage, received no prize or award, but the Spence family gave us a much needed gift when they plowed our parking lot during the heavy snow in December. To them we extend our heartfelt thanks!

For the Lamb's Basket Lunch on February 1st

Wednesday night programs during February. Watch the Sunday morning bulletin for details.

Don't forget the February 14th Anniversary Celebration during fellowship hour.

Brunswick Stew Lunch on February 21st.

# WITHIN THE CHURCH

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## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Tuckahoe provides contribution envelopes to its members on a quarterly basis. Since the majority of our members contribute to the capital campaign on a quarterly basis, we decided to provide only one envelope per quarter for these contributions as a cost saving step. If you would like to make capital campaign contributions on a more frequent basis, please use the yellow special offering envelopes located in the pew racks. Indicate on the envelope that the contribution is for the capital campaign and provide that information on the memo line of the check.

Dick Mateer

## THE LAMB'S BASKET LUNCH

(formerly known as The Lunch Bunch)

The Lamb's Basket Lunch Bunch will meet on Monday, **February 1st at 12 Noon**. There is no charge for the lunch, but we ask you to contribute canned goods which are delivered to the Lamb's Basket by Pat Brady. We hope you will make plans to be with us, along with a good appetite. Just call Becky Dale at 282-2860 and let her know that you are coming and whether you plan to bring someone.

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## FOOD MATTERS

Tuckahoe's contribution of food to **Lamb's Basket** in December was 250 lbs.; in January 126 lbs. This was food collected from the Lunch Bunch and the congregation the first Sunday of each month .

## CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET???



The Fellowship committee asks that you mark your calendars for **March 20th, 6 pm** for our next mystery "**GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER VI.**" Plan to attend! It will be a Saturday night of fun and surprise.

**THIS IS HOW IT WORKS** - Sign up to **Host** 4, 5, 6, or 8 people for dinner, OR sign up to **Attend** dinner. **Hosts WILL NOT** know who their guests will be ... **Guests WILL NOT** know (until the day before dinner) where they will be going. No one will know who the other guests will be at their dinner. (You **MUST** be able to keep a secret, so you cannot tell anyone that you are hosting or attending this dinner). After dinner, all hosts and guests will gather at church around 8:15 p.m. for coffee and dessert.

**Sign up now!** If you would like to host or attend dinner, get in touch with Amy Glass at [akglass@hotmail.com](mailto:akglass@hotmail.com) or call her at 379-3072, **or use the signup sheet below** and leave it in her mailbox at church. Remember, **DO NOT** tell anyone that you are attending or hosting!! Mum's the word!!

### SIGN-UP SHEET

**"GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER VI"**

**On Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 6 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I WILL COME TO DINNER.** I WILL NOT TELL

ANYONE I AM COMING. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ WILL COME WITH ME.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **I WILL HOST A DINNER.** \_\_\_\_\_ (number of people who can be invited to come to my home.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND EDUCATION**

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### **Vacation Bible School 2010 What EVERYONE Needs to Know NOW**

Yes, it's only February, but as most of you know, planning for VBS begins in late fall. No one needs "too much information" at this time, but there are tasks that need to be done now, a volunteer sign-up display in Duntreath Hall for *all* ways to help, and dates of "the week" that should be marked on everyone's calendars.

**WHEN: JULY 19 – 23   AGES: 3 years old – rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
THEME: Galactic Blast – A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!**



Registration forms will be available in mid-February

#### **HELP NEEDED NOW :**

*Can you do this?.....*

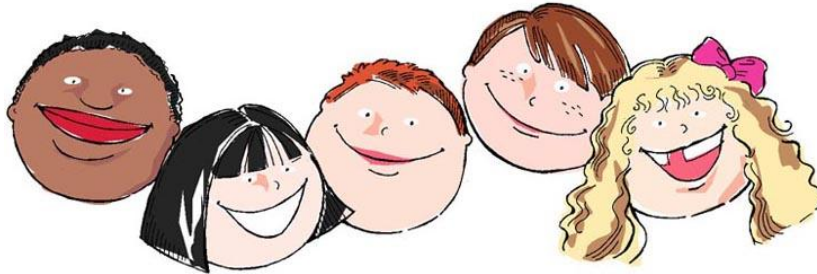
**THE TWO TASKS BELOW ARE ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO REACH OUR GOAL OF 65 PARTICIPATING CHILDREN !**

**TASK ONE:** *We are in need of two new, reusable outdoor banners and display frames (or secure posts) for Vacation Bible School. This would require choosing one of the many sign businesses and, with input from Becky Loggins, order one large banner for display in front of the church and one smaller banner for median display. The banners would include basic VBS information and allow for dates to be changed annually. These banners would need sturdy frames or posts, also. This is not a difficult task, but does require time and needs to be accomplished no later than MARCH 29.*

**TASK TWO:** *We need people to display small VBS posters in local businesses and to take flyers to area neighborhoods. The former needs to begin the last week of March; the latter needs to begin earlier – in mid February.*

Contact **Becky Loggins** a.s.a.p. if you are willing and able to help! \  
Email [bg18@comcast.net](mailto:bg18@comcast.net)  
Phone 201-0571

*-Becky Loggins, Director of Children's Ministries and Director of VBS*



## 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, Feb. 7 – First Sunday Children's Church** for age 4 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Following “Moments with the Children” during the service, the children walk with Ms. Loggins to room 200 for the *Godly Play* story of *Baptism*, 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! In Sunday School, Library Time for the Class of the Dove (2-3 year olds) in addition to their regular lesson. Thank you to our librarian, Kaye Keyes!
- ☐ **Sunday, February 14 – Transfiguration of the Lord** (Luke 9:28-43). Always the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. In Sunday School, *Godly Play* lesson with Class of the Scripture (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades).
- ☐ **Wednesday, Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of Lent. Please come to the evening service with imposition of ashes. This is appropriate and encouraged for all ages, including children!
- ☐ **Sunday, Feb. 21-** First Sunday in Lent. Lenten Term begins in children's Sunday School.
- ☐ **Sunday, Feb. 28-** Second Sunday in Lent. During Sunday School, *Godly Play* lesson with Class of the Flames (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grades), Library Time with Class of the Font. (4 years old – kindergarten).
- ☐ **Vacation Bible School July 19-23 *Galactic Blast! A Cosmic Adventure Praising God.*** Mark your calendars now and sign up to help at the display in Duntreath Hall. Please read, elsewhere in this issue, details of help we need now to get the word out!

☐ **Every Sunday, Sept. through May (except December 27) – Children's Sunday School** arrival time is 9:25 and dismissal is at 10:40. At dismissal time, parents must come to their child's classroom for children through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade unless arranged otherwise with the child's teacher on a single Sunday basis or ongoing plans that need to be arranged with the teacher *at the beginning of every term.*

- ☐ **First Sunday of Every Month, October through May-** First Sunday Children's Church for age 4 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Following “Moments with the Children” during the service, the children walk with Ms. Loggins to room 205 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!

**Questions? Contact Becky Loggins,  
Director of Children's Ministries: phone 201-0571 and email [bg18@comcast.net](mailto:bg18@comcast.net)**