

Tuckahoe Torch



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

VOLUME 54

NOVEMBER 2011

THANKSGIVING



“I will praise the name
of God with a song;
I will magnify him
with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 69:30, NRSV

We likely all associate November with Thanksgiving and the beginning of holiday celebrations. However, if you've been around Tuckahoe for a number of years, you may also associate November with our opportunity to give back to our community in a meaningful way, through hosting guests of the CARITAS Family Focus Program.

CARITAS, or "Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter" is the largest emergency shelter in Metro Richmond, providing shelter, food, and hope to families and individuals faced with homelessness. Tuckahoe will be hosting 28 guests from the CARITAS Family Focus Program from November 26 - December 2. Our guests will be mothers, fathers, and their children, who may range in age from birth - 18 years of age.

Our needs to make this week a success are many: dinner cooks and servers, breakfast preparers, bag lunch preparers, shower coordinators, overnight hosts, clothes washers, and set up/break down crew. Please consider giving of your time to assist in this meaningful week. A sign up board will be in the hallway outside Duntreath. Questions? **Contact Jennifer Albertson at 354-5584 or jhalbertson@yahoo.com.**

CARITAS



“What Lies Beneath”

Every Tuesday at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies the scholars and tutors gather to hear a guest lecturer. This week we heard Chris Wright of the Langham Partnership (Langham continues the teaching and educational ministries of the late John Stott, Anglican preacher and author). Chris Wright earned his doctorate in Old Testament studies and recently directed a team that wrote the *Cape Town Commitment*.

The *Cape Town Commitment* arose from the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization held in Cape Town, South Africa in October of 2010. I was privileged to attend that historic gathering. The *Cape Town Commitment* follows the *Lausanne Covenant* (1974) and the *Manila Manifesto* (1989) as declaration documents from the three Congresses of this missions movement.

The Commitment is written in two arts. The first is a long affirmation of what the people of God love. We love God, Jesus, the Spirit, the Scriptures, the Church, the World, truth, compassion, and so on. The second part is a call to action describing how the church in action bears witness to the love of God and the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Chris spoke at some length on how the Commitment tries to keep together both the emphasis on love and on truth. Truth keeps love from lapsing into sentimentality and love keeps truth from becoming hard or harsh. In my years of preaching and teaching I usually choose to err on the side of grace. I would rather tell people of God's gracious promises than remind persons about keeping God laws. Yet both are important and the grace of God's love and the truth of God's standards must be kept in balanced proportions.

We know that God calls us to be agents of good news. Such agency requires saying good news and living good news and loving our neighbors in ways that are seen as “good news.” But to live fruitfully as gospel witnesses we ourselves must grow as people who are being transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Icebergs often are larger below the ocean's surface than the ice that appears above the surface. Our hidden lives of quiet faith and trust and love and obedience undergird what others see in our public witness. This is one reason I did some concentrated preaching and teaching on prayer earlier this fall. Prayer and bible study form us inside so we can shine radiantly on the outside. The Christian life calls us to pay attention to all kinds of balances: inside and outside faith, grace and truth, individual and community, gathered for worship and scattered for service... Or, as the hymnwriter declares:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way;
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”

Blessings in Christ,

Richard Haney

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS



Alice Gilleece wants the congregation at Tuckahoe to know how much she misses you. She wishes to thank Beth Ayers for her visit and for bringing some news from you. She is also grateful for the flowers that Beth delivered on October 9th which brightened her day and her surroundings. Thank you, thank you!

The Self family would like to express their appreciation to the members of Tuckahoe for your cards, calls, love and support during the passing of Maggie Self. She was a dear lady who loved the church, family, all of nature's creatures and life. Gene and Jinny Self, Jeff Self, Jackie and Mustapha Laari.

The Moore family wishes to thank you for the wonderful meals, cards, flowers and phone calls. Matthew is back on his feet again (with the help of a walker) and they hope to be back at church soon. They write that your care and support has really helped them through this difficult time.

PNC Abbreviations

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began meeting in September and has been working diligently through October to prepare the Church Information Form (CIF), which serves as a resume and position description for Tuckahoe. Meeting with interested church members and using information compiled from the recent Visioning Process helped the PNC in completing the CIF. We hope to begin looking at possible candidates the first of the year. The members of your PNC are Julia Adair, Anne Beane, Greg Blevins, Karen Cooke, John Flournoy, Ruth Anna Langdon, Mary McGee, Jim McLeskey, and Walter Smith. Stay tuned for more abbreviation updates when you'll learn about the COM and the PIF.

Wednesday Night Supper in November

Thanks to all who have come out for this Fall season's Wednesday Night Suppers and programs so far. A special thanks to all the families bringing children who are participating in TPC's new **Music & Motion** program following dinner. The program has been a great success to date, thanks to both the coordinators and participants. Our great programming continues in November with the final three "What's So Amazing About Grace" sessions. Following our Thanksgiving break, Wednesday Night Supper returns on November 30 for the start of a three week series on Christianity in Christmas Art (presented by Pastors Haney and Good, as well as Director of Music Ministry Mark Cain).

November 2 - WSAAG* - The Church Backslides: How Legalism Corrupts Grace

November 9 - WSAAG - Dispensing Grace: How Can We Do It?

November 16 - WSAAG - Counterforce: Grace Set Loose in the World

November 23 - NO WNS - THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 30 - Christian Themes in Christmas Art (Dec. 7 and 14 too).

*What's So Amazing About Grace

(See Page 6 for your opportunity to speak out about Wednesday night programs for 2012)

SMELLING THE ROSES

Mary Shumate writes, "Having been on the Flower Committee in days gone by, I am appreciative to the extreme of what it takes to have a lovely flower arrangement in place for all of us to enjoy on Sunday morning. Many churches hire florists to assume that duty but how much more meaningful it is to have a very special arrangement made by one of our devoted congregants. Thank you!"



"Building Security Locking up & the Church"

The Property Division is again very concerned about our building security, as we are frequently coming to the building at odd hours and finding doors unlocked or doors not completely closed. For example, during the past month, there have been several instances of doors being left unlocked at early morning time periods, so presumably the doors were left unlocked overnight, and these include the Sanctuary doors being unlocked on a Tuesday afternoon.



If you are a TPC key holder, we ask that you do the following:

- (1) If you unlock a door for a particular meeting, please be the person to relock the same door. Don't assume someone else who is left in the building or coming behind you will do this.
- (2) When you leave the building in the evening, please take a few extra minutes to walk around the building and check the locks to make sure that the building is locked and secure.
- (3) Sometimes the doors do not close & latch so they appear closed but must be double checked to confirm that they have closed completely and have successfully latched completely. This requires retrying the door to confirm that it is closed, locked & firmly latched. **This is particularly true of the West Franklin Street doors.**
- (4) If you have trouble with a particular lock or you think that it is not functioning properly, please let the property division know, so that we can schedule a locksmith to come in and service the lock.

So please remember: **Treat the church like your home; make sure the doors are locked when you leave.**

**Thank you,
The Property Division**

2011 All Church Retreat Wrap-up

Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church held its annual Church-wide retreat at Camp Hanover on October 8 and 9. Much joy and camaraderie was on display, with families, youth, and older members enjoying each others company in beautiful weather and woodland. The outdoor worship service was attended by 75 congregants, who enjoyed Camp Hanover's famous Sunday Brunch. Nearly 60 members slept over, enjoying dinner, dancing, and a bonfire with s'mores. The weekend was a time for inter-generational connecting, quiet reflection, laughter, and a continuation of TPC members' process of deepening relationships with Christ and with one another (think Cross!). Look for your next chance to join fellow members when the dates for TPC's 2012 All Church Retreat are announced in an upcoming Torch.

Raising the Curtain on our TPC Youth by Rachel Burch

Meet our November youth, Marshall Cooke! Marshall is an eighth grader this year and has been coming to Tuckahoe all of his life. Marshall lives with his mom, Karen, and his dad, Jim. Marshall is the youngest of three boys. His older brothers, Grayson and Jeb, are both away at college. Jeb is a sophomore at William and Mary and Grayson is a freshman at Hampden-Sydney College. His Grandparents, Sandy and Butch Richardson, also are members of Tuckahoe.



Marshall currently attends Short Pump Middle School. He says his least favorite class this year is earth science and that his favorite is technology foundations. He enjoys technology foundations because of the hands-on aspect of the class. Outside of school, Marshall plays tennis and participates in Boy Scouts. He has been in Boy Scouts for two years and plans on eventually becoming an Eagle Scout.

Marshall has recently joined Tuckahoe's choir as a bass. His grandmother and his mom are also in choir, making Marshall a third generation choir member. He also is part of the Tuckadings bell choir. Marshall sings and dances at Music and Movement (M&M) during Wednesday Night Supper.

Although it seems like a long way off, Marshall says he would love to attend William and Mary when it is time for college. When asked what he wanted to be when he grows up, he replied, "a multi billionaire". Marshall says he loves Tuckahoe because he has fun and enjoys the many opportunities to worship. Thanks, Marshall, for being our youth of the month!

Opportunities at Westminster Canterbury

I sometimes wonder who will take care of my needs when I can no longer manage on my own. Some might say that it is too early to think about that now, but having been through this with my own mother a number of years ago, makes me think about it now. Of course, we all want to be independent as long as possible. My mom did, too....and she was until she was well into her senior years. Then before we knew it, while she was still in her condo, she needed assistance with meals, walking, getting to doctors appointments, and general personal care. Well, by then, it was too late from a physical point for her to get into a place like Westminster Canterbury. How we were all wishing that she had made the move there where she could have been with many of her friends, including her best friend from childhood and had wonderful care for life.

I am the advocate to Westminster Canterbury for Tuckahoe Church and would love to hear from you if you think you might be interested in some information about living at Westminster Canterbury. There is a fellowship program available to help with financial assistance if needed. I would be happy to talk with you about it and/or put you in touch with one of the specialists at WMC. Several of our members live at Westminster Canterbury and would be happy to talk with you, as well.

I am also a volunteer there and have been for over 13 years. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer and it is a warm and loving place to spend time. You may contact Beth Clifton, Volunteer Coordinator, at 264-6258 for questions that you might have about volunteering or me at the number below.

Barbara Maiden
784-0220

LUNCH BUNCH

Make plans to attend lunch on November 14th at 12 Noon, and remember the Lamb's Basket with a donation of non-perishable food. Bring a friend if you'd like and enjoy this time together.

MEET THE NEIGHBORS



Please help me welcome our November neighbor of the month:
Wink Nelson.

Wink grew up in Bon Air and has been Tuckahoe's neighbor for six years. He and his wife, Whitney, have two boys ages 12 and 13. Wink has worked for 14 years selling light fixtures. At Relume, his job is to evaluate facilities on their existing lighting and to make recommendations on how to upgrade their lighting to be more energy efficient.

Whitney works as a flight attendant and because both Wink and Whitney's jobs require them to travel so much, they like being able to spend time at home. Wink enjoys working in his garage and being outdoors. On Saturdays Wink participates in a neighborhood family running group. I also found out from Shelly Galt that after Hurricane Irene, Wink and some other neighbors went door to door and assisted neighbors in clearing the debris left behind from the hurricane. Now that's a good neighbor!

Wink is a third generation member of Westminster Presbyterian church. In fact, his grandfather helped to build the church. What Wink likes about the neighborhood is the young and kind folks and how the kids in the area get along. He also remarked on how the church is a landmark of the neighborhood.

Thank you, Wink, for being a good neighbor to Tuckahoe!

Pam Burch

CLEANUP DAY



CLEANUP DAY

Cleanup Day is Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 8 a.m.. Please mark your calendar and plan to help us do our annual fall cleaning of building and grounds. Bring clippers, rakes, etc., We need lots of volunteers. If you have questions, call Tom Lee, Property

Division - 740-4907. Check the Flyer in the
October Torch for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women will hold their annual **Harvest of Love** on Sunday, **November 13**. All church members are invited to participate, as we seek to share some of our abundance with our community and also with more distant parts of the world. This year we will focus on three projects as follows:



1. Christmas Shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse: Please see <http://www.samaritanspurse.org> for details and to print a label for your box. This is a great project for families with young children. Completed boxes may be left in the women's closet in room 106. Optional contributions for shipping are \$7 per box, CHECKS ONLY, made out to either Samaritan's Purse or Presbyterian Women of Tuckahoe Church. The deadline for delivering boxes to the church is November 13. Suggested items to include are as follows:

TOYS - small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES - pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS - toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER - Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A PERSONAL NOTE - In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

DO NOT INCLUDE - Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

2. Socks and underwear for boys and girls at Crestview Elementary School. They have requested underwear in sizes 6 to 10, and socks suitable for children in third and fourth grades (adult medium size).

3. Knitted and crocheted premie caps for VCU Medical Center.

Contributions may be left in the women's closet in Room 106 at any time, or dropped off at the church on Saturday, November 12 between 10 AM and 12 PM. We would like to have as many items as possible in advance, in order to set up a display for Sunday. Please contact Gail Miller (359-1230) or Becky Theuer (364-8161) with any questions.

2012 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER PROGRAMS We Need Your Input

Here's your opportunity to let us know what kind of Wednesday Night Supper programs would be appealing to you. We are starting to line up programs for 2012 and would like your suggestions. It would be great if you could provide the name of an individual, organization or a video series that you feel would make a good Wednesday Night Supper program. If you have a suggestion(s), please complete the form below and send to the church office, drop into the offering plate or

contact Phil Calhoun (360-9034, calhoun80@verizon.net) or call Matthew Mahoney.

Wednesday Night Supper Program Suggestions

Topic for Program:

Name of Individual
Organization or Video:

Comments:

Your Name:

(Return to church office, drop in offering plate or contact Phil Calhoun (360-9034; calhoun80@verizon.net) or Matthew Mahoney.)

Interfaith Services of Henrico

Thanksgiving Food Box Program

This faith based organization is again coming together to directly help Henrico County citizens in need. This year we are again involved in the **Henrico Thanksgiving Food Box Program**. Individuals, families, or groups such as Circles, Sunday School Classes, or Youth groups can participate. Thanksgiving boxes are provided to needy families and individuals within the caseloads of the Henrico Department of Social Services. Donors prepare the food boxes which usually include food for Thanksgiving Dinner, plus other food items.

Some guidelines are that the food boxes should feed a family of six and should not include frozen or fresh turkeys and no perishables. Some ideas for the boxes are: **a gift card for the value of a turkey, canned gravy, stuffing mix, potatoes, dessert item, canned vegetables, canned soup, canned fruit, peanut butter and jelly.**

After you have filled a box, please take it to the church library by November 13, and if you have questions, **contact Meg Packard at 754-0602, or Kaye Keyes at 360-7371.**

Thank you again for helping with this worthwhile project.

Meg Packard and Kaye Keyes



Tuckahoe has been a sponsor for the **Ministry of Prison Fellowship "Angel Tree" project** for several years. Over the years we have increased the number of families and children we have served. This year we are sponsoring **26 children**. Each child will receive **2 gifts (one toy and one clothing item)**.

This project helps incarcerated men and women provide Christmas presents to their children who live in metropolitan Richmond. These presents will provide a tangible reminder to these children that their parent loves them even though they cannot be with them at Christmas.

Please consider helping with this very worthwhile project! **We need 52 members of the congregation** to purchase and wrap one gift each (**approx. \$20-25**). The gifts have been selected by the parents, so you can be sure they will be appropriate and appreciated. We will also **need people to assist with the delivery of the presents** to the children **the week of Christmas**. Your assistance with this project will mean a great deal to the families. **The Angel Tree will be in the Fellowship Hall in November**. Please watch the bulletin for more specific dates and details. When the Angel Tree is up, please stop by after church and pick an Angel from the tree to make Christmas special for a lucky child! Please watch for more information in upcoming church bulletins or contact Martha Campbell at 282-7029 or m.m.campbell@comcast.net. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING

In order to continue to promote communication and understanding within the Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church community, Session is interested in publishing information in the Torch regarding the monthly meetings held every fourth Wednesday evening of the month. Because of the timing of the meeting and Torch deadline, each article will contain information about the meeting held just over a month ago (e.g., this article, published in the November Torch, contains information discussed in the September 28 Session meeting). The Session Summary articles will not include information regarding the format or traditions of the group, but for this first article it will be noted that Session meetings typically open with scripture reading, meditation, and/or devotional provided by an elder, and close with a prayer led by another elder. The meetings also include approval of prior minutes, reports by the clerk on communications received, by the pastors, and by the treasurer. Important information regarding these reports and matters will be provided.

The September Session meeting commenced its business with the questioning and acceptance of a new member, Jessica Lurey. Jessica has been attending TPC, with her two daughters, for over a year, and has been a faithful member of the Seekers Sunday School class. Jessica is a nurse working at St. Mary's hospital, and comes to TPC from her home church in Ohio. Session also approved the baptism of Delaney Morgan Keller, granddaughter of Camellia and Lucky Wroniewicz. Pastor Haney and Elder McLeskey followed these joyous acts with a discussion on the Inquirers Class, an introductory faith class for new and prospective members. The first three week class will commence on October 30, and will be held during Sunday School hour.

Session also discussed the state of pastoral care at TPC, noting the passing of Kitty Amato and the needs of several congregants. Steve Kramer discussed attending a seminar on "Stephen Ministry" with several other TPC members. There is interest in commencing a Stephen Ministry at Tuckahoe to assist the pastors with critical care needs of the congregation. This would require that one or two members of the Church attend a 50 hour course and return to TPC to train additional members. Elder Kramer will be reporting to Session regarding proposals for moving ahead with this ministry.

Session also discussed several matters regarding staffing at TPC. Session was informed that Charlie Brown, our long-time pastoral care minister, has decided to leave this position effective December 31, 2011. Session wishes Charlie all the best and expresses its deepest gratitude and appreciation for the immeasurable service, care and love Charlie has given to Tuckahoe during his tenure here. The departure of Sabrina Lindfors, office administrator, was also announced. Sabrina was recognized for her positive attitude and willingness to work hard at her new position. Administration and Personnel is currently accepting applications for a new office administrator. The position will once again incorporate the accounting/books component handled by Becky Dale.

Several monetary issues were discussed, including preparation of 2012 budget requests from divisions, information regarding the Stewardship Campaign, and the status of the Capital Campaign, including outstanding pledges and the next work phase, focused on the second floor of the education building. It was announced that the Church received an anonymous \$40,000 gift. After brief discussion, Session voted to deposit the gift in the reserve fund.

Nancy Millsaps reported on her attendance at the Diaconate meeting. Of import, the deacons voted unanimously in support of a possible future measure to ban consecutive officer terms. Bob Miller reported on the progress of the nominating committee in securing officers for the upcoming 2012 class. Jim McLeskey provided Session with a status report regarding the Pastoral Nominating Committee, which is working on the Church Information Form.

Finally, Session discussed the upcoming 60th Anniversary of the founding of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church. A committee is working on plans for the celebration, which will likely occur in May, 2012. If you are interested in assisting with the celebration plans please speak with Jim McLeskey.

If you have questions about any of the information provided herein, please contact a current Session member with your concerns. Session asks for your continued support and prayers as we practice our faith, in part, through the governance of this wonderful Church.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND EDUCATION

What's Going on with Children's Ministries



☑ **In the Narthex** –Available every week: 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 and help him or her to follow along in the bulletin, the hymnal, and the Bible.

☑ **Sunday, Nov.6** - The children's Sunday School will explore Modern Day Saints with special visitors. Don't be alarmed if you see a fire truck! Greyhounds from James River Greyhound Rescue and Christy Ellis from Freedom House will also visit. The children will donate supplies to all as the fall service project. **First Sunday Children's Church** for age 3 through 1st grade. Following "Moments with the Children" during the service, the children walk with Ms. Loggins to room 201 for the *Godly Play* story, work response, scripture reading, and prayer of *The Good Samaritan*.

☑ **Sunday, November 13-** First Sunday of the Advent Term in children's Sunday School. Godly Play in Class of the Dove (2-3 year olds); Library Time, Classes of the Font and Flames (4 yrs old-kdg and 1st-3rd grades).

☑ **Sunday, November 20- Christ the King Sunday.** Chrismon-making in all classes.

☑ **Sunday November 27- 1st Sunday of Advent.** CARITAS week. Godly Play in Class of the Font (4 yrs old – kdg); Library Time with Class of the Dove (2-3 yr olds).

Looking ahead:

☑ **Sunday, Dec. 11-** Pageant costume preparation in children's Sunday School.

☑ **Sunday, Dec. 18-** Pageant rehearsal following worship.

☑ **Christmas Eve-** Family Service with Pageant at 4:00. Traditional Service at 7:30.

Reminders:

☑ **Remember to read *Sunday School Notes* every week and check the Education Bulletin Board for information.** *Sunday School Notes* is the weekly newsletter for the children's Sunday School. It is distributed to all children attending Sunday School. Copies are also available on the table in the narthex and posted on the education bulletin board.

☑ **Use the library this year and remember to return your books!** Thank you to our librarian, Ms. Kaye Keyes who also leads Library Time once per term with each children's Sunday School class!

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



WISH LIST for Children's Sunday School:

- Someone to cut wood scraps into very small pieces
- 6-pack boxes of Model Magic, "Natural Colors" (found at Michael's or Ben Franklin) – 6 individual packs in a box
- Elmer's White Glue – small bottles
- Glue sticks
- Crayola brand LARGE or "So Big" crayons (the "fat", toddler/preschool crayons)
 - -Becky Loggins, Director of Children's Ministries

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (cont'd)



Music & Motion Wednesdays for Children Continue!

All families with children age two years old and up are encouraged to come to our weekly Wednesday night dinner and programs. Following the 6:00 dinner with our church family and while adults stay in Duntreath Hall for the program, children are having fun in room 200 with M&M (music and motion) with Mr. Mark, Mary Chris Werner, Rachel Burch, other helping youth and Becky Loggins as they sing and move to songs that will be shared in the future during worship. About 20 minutes of M&M is followed by some time for a story, power prayer and “winding down” in nursery room 102. We’re working on several songs in preparation to sing to the glory of God during Sunday worship. Join us on Wednesdays!

GETTING READY TO GET READY

What is Advent?



What is all this every year about “getting ready” for Christmas? Is it buying the tree, decorating the door? Sending the cards? Buying that dancing Santa that sings to us each time we go into the drugstore?

No! No! No! We must be able to look past the worldly surroundings and say with conviction, “None of the above!” With the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, nearly upon us, now is the right time to get ready to get ready – to be sure we know why Advent should mean so much and how we can be fully true to that meaning. Knowing “the whys” is important for us in striving to lead Christian lives, as well as in setting examples in word and deed to the children in our lives.

The four-week time of Advent begins a new church year and prepares us for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. During the Sundays in Advent, familiar symbols and scripture readings bring us “the bad news and the good news”. On the one hand, they sharpen our sense of unworthiness and need for redemption. On the other, they stir in us an eager expectation for our promised Savior.

Advent’s somber side reflects its message of repentance: “Prepare to meet your Maker!” Advent’s joyful side reflects its message of grace: “Prepare to receive God’s gift - Himself!” Preparation for the commercial/secular side of Christmas time usually means hectic planning and much activity. **But Advent’s preparation for Jesus’ birthday means time out and quiet moments.** “Christmas preparation” may be a dreaded burden with high emotional expectations that are seldom met. **But Advent’s preparation is God’s work, cleansing our minds, setting our hearts at peace, and fulfilling our inmost longings.**

And so, let us take these last days of Ordinary Time, the last days of this church year, to **know** Advent – to reflect on what it is about and to share that reflection with our children and grandchildren—so that when November 27 arrives, we will not spend time with the “hows and whys” of it, but will be able to start immediately the true preparation in our hearts and minds as we near the mysterious celebration of the birth of Our Lord. This Advent, let God speak to you and satisfy your need for deeply felt celebration. **Additionally, let us be sure the children in our lives know “the hows and whys” of living a faithful and appropriate Advent, both by explanation and by example.**

**Becky Loggins,
Director of Children’s Ministries**

What does the faith of "highly devoted" adolescents look like (and what do their congregations look like)?

Presented by Steven Good

Most were surprised to learn at October 12th's Wednesday Night Dinner that more than 50% of Mormon teenagers are getting up as early as 5:30 in the morning to make "seminary" classes before they head out to school. A few of you, no doubt, will bristle at this statistic, thinking that it indicates a kind of indoctrination that borders on abuse. While I am absolutely opposed to the kind of religious instruction that discourages meaningful engagement with contemporary cultural and ethical issues or that chastises students for raising difficult or threatening questions, I find myself surprised when I hear folks react so strongly to students spending an hour a day studying the content of their faith. No one ever accuses math teachers of "indoctrinating" students when it comes to the Pythagorean theorem. While there is certainly a degree of latitude in the way each of us understands and appropriates Christian faith, there is nevertheless a solid core of content within the tradition - it's virtually impossible to explain the content well with only one or two hours per week of instruction time.

But researchers who study adolescent religiosity have found that there are a good many students who are learning and articulating their faith with a high degree of sophistication. Below is a list of commonalities that the sociologists and theologians of the National Study of Youth and Religion have found present in "highly devoted" adolescents. These are the students (roughly 10% of the overall sample population) for whom faith is not only something in which they participate, but is an indispensable part of their identity.

- Faith is not just a system of cognitive beliefs, it is a "way of being" in the world that takes on a variety of expressions (according to our spiritual gifts).
- Faith is patterned after the self-giving love of Jesus
- These students believe that God is involved in their lives.
- They feel a sense of belonging to their local congregation (not just youth group).
- These adolescents live lives marked by service. On a deep level, they understand that Christianity is not self-seeking, but oriented towards others.
- They seek spiritual growth (individually and communally).

- They exercise moral responsibility.
- They speak articulately and often publicly about their faith.
- Teens whose faith is a key part of their identity possess a great amount of hope. They believe that their lives have meaning and purpose and they seek to honor God out of a sense of gratitude for God's grace.

Unsurprisingly, researchers also found some commonalities among these teens' congregations. Their faith communities tended to exhibit the following behaviors and practices:

- Include children and youth in all levels of activity.
- Treat children as ends in themselves. Are warm and nurturing toward children and provide consistent age appropriate faith building activities.
- These congregations establish clear limits and expectations. Children and youth grow up with boundaries and horizons that give shape to their lives.
- The core of church work is performed by non-specialists (i.e. members instead of paid staff)
- Sponsor and encourage multigenerational activities.
- Have a "long term focus" (have more of a vision than "numerical growth").
- Have deep convictions about teleology, vocation, and discipleship.
- Encourage religious and spiritual development across all age groups.
- Oriented toward seeing Christ in all people.
- Place a high value on scripture.

As I look over these lists I am encouraged to see some recognizable traits. But I see a lot of potential for growth. How can we be a place that not only welcomes youth and children, but also one that reframes our ministry (budget, time, programming) in such a way that we place a strong emphasis on developing life-long disciples of Christ?



Poinsettias

2011 - Order Your Poinsettias

If you would like to supply a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas, please place your order by **December 11.** Fill in the order form below and mail with your check, payable to Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church, to Mrs. Bruce L. Frostick, 1806 LeSuer Road (23229), or leave it at the church office **no later** than the above date.

Poinsettias cost \$11.00. They are in 7" pots, two plants each.

Plants can be removed from the sanctuary after the 7:30 o'clock Christmas Eve service or any time thereafter. If you would like the plant(s) delivered to one of our shut-ins, please indicate that on the order form.

PLEASE PRINT – PLEASE PRINT

GIVEN BY _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

PLANT COLOR (**Circle One**) Red White

____Plant(s) will be picked up ____ (Plant(s) can be delivered to shut-ins



Christmas Poinsettias - 2011

If you would like to supply a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas, please place your order by **December 11.** Fill in the order form below and mail with your check, payable to Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church, to Mrs. Bruce L. Frostick, 1806 LeSuer Road (23229), or leave it at the church office **no later** than the above date.

Poinsettias cost \$11.00. They are in 7" pots, two plants each.

Plants can be removed from the sanctuary after the 7:30 o'clock Christmas Eve service or any time thereafter. If you would like the plant(s) delivered to one of our shut-ins, please indicate that on the order form.

____Plant(s) will be picked up ____ (Plant(s) can be delivered to shut-ins

PLEASE PRINT – PLEASE PRINT

GIVEN BY _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

PLANT COLOR (**Circle One**) Red White

____Plant(s) will be picked up ____ (Plant(s) can be delivered to shut-ins

tpcyouth 2011-2012 Calendar

November

- 6: Youth Group*
- 11-12: MS Lock In (6:00 PM - 9:00 AM)
- 12-13: POJ Fall Call (HS Retreat)
- 19: Fall Clean-Up Day
- 20: Leaf Raking
- 27: CARITAS (TBD)

December

- 4: Youth Group Worship Service
- 11: Youth Group*
- 18: Cookies & Caroling (4:00-9:00)
- 25: NO YOUTH GROUP: Christmas Break

January 2012

- 1: Winterfest
- 8: Youth Group*
- 15: Youth Group*
- 22: Youth Group*
- 27: 28: HS 30 Hour Famine
- 29: MS Movie Night

February

- 4: POJ Rally to Serve
- 5: Souper Bowl Party (12:30-3:30)
- 12: Youth Group*
- 17-20: HS Winter Retreat @ Sandbridge
- 19: MS Event
- 26: Youth Group

March

- 4: Youth Group: Worship Service
- 11: Youth Group*
- 17: Talent For Mission Prep
- 18: Talent For Mission
- 25: Youth Group*

April

- 1: Youth Group*
- 8: Easter Sunrise Service
- 15: Youth Group*
- 21-22: POJ MS Retreat (Depart 9:30 AM)
- 22: YS Prep
- 29: YS Prep

May

- 5: Walk for Water
- 6: YS Prep
- 12: Youth Sunday Prep (10:00-12:00)
- 13: Youth Sunday (9:30)
- 20: Photo Scavenger Hunt
- 27: Cookout @ Good's

June


- 3: Church Picnic
- 10: Year End Pool Party



NOVEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR



2011

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Nov. 6 - DST ends Dedication Sunday		1 10:00 AM Circles 3,4 1:30 pm Circle 5 8 pm - Pops Band	2 12 N BULLETIN 5:30 PM Tuckadings 6:00 PM Dinner 6:30 PM M & M 7:30 PM Handbells 7 PM Endowment	3 7 AM Men's Bible Class 4 PM SPARC 7:30 Choir 8 PM AA Meeting	4 4 PM Wedding Rehearsal	5 9:30 AM SPARC 1 PM Webster/Alves Wedding
6 POJ CLERK OF SESSION TRAINING Centsability Offering 9:30 AMSun. Sch. 11AM Worship 12AM Fellowship YOUTH YOUTH	7 4 PM SPARC 4 PM Swing Band 7 PM Circle 2	8 VOTING PRECINCT SESSION PACKET 4 PM SPARC 5:30 pm Emergency Shelter Meal 7 pm Stewardship 8 PM POPS BAND	9 12 N BULLETIN 5:30 PM Tuckadings 6:00 PM Dinner 6:30 PM M & M 7:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Property 7:30 PM Worship/ Membership Div	10 7 AM Men's Bible Class 4 PM SPARC 7:30 Choir 8 PM AA Meeting	11 MS LOCKIN 10:30 AM MEALS ON WHEELS 	12 MS LOCKIN POJ HS YOUTH RETREAT 9:30 AM SPARC
13 POJ HS YOUTH RETREAT HARVEST OF LOVE 9:30 AM Sun. Sch. 11 AM Worship 12 N Fellowship 12 N Freedom House Session rec. New/M Youth Group	14 12 N Lunch Bunch 4 PM SPARC 4 PM Swing Band 7 PM Outreach Div 7:30 PM - Christian Formation Div.\ 8 PM Pops Band	15 SESSION PACKET DEADLINE 4 PM SPARC 8 PM POPS BAND Session Packet Deadline	16 12 N BULLETIN 5:30 PM Tuckadings 6:00 PM Dinne 6:30 PM M & M 7:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Diaconate	17 7 AM Men's Bible Class 4 PM SPARC 7:30 Choir 8 PM AA Meeting	18 5 PM WEDDING REHEARSAL TORCH DEADLINE	19 9:30 AM SPARC WEDDING - BURGESS/ MacKENZIE
20 9:30 AM Sun. Sch. 11 AM Worship 12 N Fellowship Youth Group	21 4 PM SPARC 4 PM Swing Band 7 PM Adm/Pers. Div	22 3:30 PM Hilliard House 4 PM SPARC 8 pm POPS BAND	23 12 N BULLETIN 5:30 PM Tuckadings 6:00 PM Dinner 6:30 PM M & M 7:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Session	24 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING	25	26 9:30 AM SPARC CARITAS
27 START OF ADVENT 9:30 AM Sun. Sch. 11 AM Worship 12 N Fellowship Youth Group CARITAS	28 4 PM SPARC 4 PM Swing Band 8 PM VA Kennel Tuckahoe Book Club CARITAS	29 10 AM PW Coord. Meeting 4 PM SPARC CARITAS	30 12 N BULLETIN 5:30 PM Tuckadings 6:00 PM Dinner 6:30 PM M & M 7:30 PM Handbells CARITAS	 NOVEMBER 6th at 2 a.m., Sunday		