



# THE TORCH

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May 2017

## JESUS IS RISEN!!...NOW WHAT?

From Easter Day through the Sundays in May, we are in Eastertide. The time is defined as fifty days from Easter Sunday until Pentecost (which by the way means “the fiftieth day”). The first Pentecost occurred as the Jewish Christians were celebrating Shavuot (feast of weeks) which commemorates the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai. And so, you may wonder, what was going on before then?

We know from Scripture that Jesus was hanging around for forty days after Easter, doing ministry like he did before the Resurrection. The book of Acts records, *“In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning<sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”* (1:1-3)

With Jesus roaming around, what were the disciples up to? Well, our best indication is they stayed put in Jerusalem. The passage from Acts continues..., *So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”* (1:6-11).



(continued on next page)

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# HE IS RISEN...NOW WHAT? (CONT'D)

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The Day of Ascension is rarely “lifted up” in our tradition because it often falls on a day other than a Sunday, since it is forty days from Easter (this year it is on Thursday).

Jesus’ ascension connected heaven and earth like never before. Remember, it wasn’t the Resurrection, but the Ascension when he resumed his rightful place in heaven. Now the One who is fully human and fully God is not limited to earthly roaming but is in the heavenly realm where he works for our benefit. Like those men of Galilee we no longer need to gaze heavenward, for he is here by the Holy Spirit and will return. When we forget this, we easily lose heart in the face of hardship, tragedies and personal crises because these clouds obscure our vision and we drift back into believing and acting like this life is all there is.

So we must realize that he is not only present by the Holy Spirit, he is also in heaven, connecting us to eternity. Our living out the eternal life begins at the moment he ascended, making good on his words in John’s gospel that we are in the world, but not of the world. So the bottom line is we *need* Ascension Day, we need our Savior at the right hand of God praying for us and reminding us that this world and its struggles are not all there is. We need our Savior on the throne preparing our way ahead of us as we go out into the world, reminding us that by the Spirit and our connection to Christ, the possibilities to spread the Gospel are unbound and unlimited.

So, I encourage all of you to take time on Ascension of the Lord Day (May 25) to read the scriptures of the day (visit the PCUSA website and click on *follow the lectionary*).

Think on what this means for your life.

Jesus is risen...now what? Now go into the world confident that he is Lord of all and believe that all things are possible because of our connection with him.

Peace,  
*Patrick*



**SUMMER WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

Our summer worship will  
be at **10:30 a.m.**,  
beginning Sunday,  
June 18th!

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# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## END OF SEASON WRAP-UP!

Can you believe it is already May!? We have two regular youth meetings left this school year. But the fun will not stop, we will have summer fun activities so make sure to mark your calendars!

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR		
May 7	4:00 p.m.	"All Fired Up" with Westminster Presbyterian. <b>Bring \$20 and meet at church at 4pm to carpool.</b>
May 14 Mother's Day	No Youth Group	Be kind to your Mom's!
May 21	6–8:00 p.m.	Come join the fun for our annual "Scavenger Hunt"! This is our last regular youth group until September.

### UPCOMING EVENTS...MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Plan ahead for these special events:

#### June 4

We will recognize our graduating seniors during Sunday morning worship.

#### July Youth Get-Together

Stay tuned for more info on "Nerf War"!

#### August Youth Get-Together

We'll take a road trip to either Busch Gardens or Kings Dominion



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH  
CONFERENCE  
MONTREAT, NC  
JULY 30–AUGUST 5, 2017

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Save the date! There will a children-led worship service **June 11!** More information to come, but make sure you mark your calendar and plan to be here for this wonderful morning.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

May is our last month of Sunday School. We have had an amazing year working through The Story. Classes will meet through May 21 and recess until September 10.

Check back this summer to hear about the wonderful opportunities for Sunday School next year!

### MUSIC AND MISSION CAMP

All children ages 5-5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend our Music and Mission Camp, August 23 from 9-12. We will play games, play bells, make blessing bags for those who are homeless in our community, and decorate worship bags. Parents are invited to come and be with us or you may drop children off for the morning. Lunch will be served. Cost: \$12/child with a \$20 family max. If your child wishes to attend and you need help with transportation for your child, please let us know at [sdennis@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:sdennis@tuckahoepres.org).



### TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us Tuesday morning's at 9:30 am for a half hour of weekly time of prayer. We will join our hearts together to pray for our congregation, our city, our world and each other. We will recess for the summer after May 23.

Please contact Sarah Dennis with questions at [sarah@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:sarah@tuckahoepres.org).

Music &



Missions

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### WOMEN'S CONNECTION AT MONTREAT

There are 16 members of Tuckahoe registered to attend the Women's Connection conference at Montreat, August 11-13. We now have two houses reserved and have room for a few more attendees! Contact Sarah Dennis at [sdennis@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:sdennis@tuckahoepres.org), if you have questions or are interested in attending!



### 2017 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

*FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, LOVING THE LIFE YOU ARE LIVING.*

Come spend the weekend loving, laughing and learning with other women. November 3–4 there will be a Women's Conference, held locally (details TBA). Our keynote speaker is Jamie Ivey and there will be workshops to attend, worship to be part of, meals and lots of fun with other women from our Presbytery! Mark your calendars, you are not going to want to miss this!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Come join us for *Maker Fun Factory* this summer!**

**July 17–21, 9 a.m. – Noon**

At *Maker Fun Factory* kids will discover that God made them for a purpose...just the way they are! *Maker Fun Factory* is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life – something we call *God Sightings*.

[Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!]

If you would like to register please fill out the form found on the last page of this newsletter or online. If you would like to be part of the *Maker Fun Factory* team, please contact Sarah Dennis at [sdennis@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:sdennis@tuckahoepres.org).

See you this summer!



# OUTREACH

## MISSION TRIP

There will be a meeting of Mission Trip participants in Room 106 following worship on April 30th. Mission teams will be formed, supply and material needs will be finalized and travel logistics will be discussed. This year's trip is June 25 - July 1 in Wise County, VA. Please contact Greg Blevins with questions or let him know if you would like to participate and have not yet signed up! He may be reached at [blevinz4@verizon.net](mailto:blevinz4@verizon.net) or 804-741-3772.



## THANK YOU FOR FOOD DONATIONS FOR LAMB'S BASKET!

Food is needed throughout the year so don't forget our second Sunday of the month collections! You may leave your non-perishable food donations in the pull-out bin on the left side of the

Resource Center between the narthex and Duntreath Hall at anytime!

## PRAYER EMPHASIS FOR MAY... HURRICANE MATTHEW RECOVERY

Hurricane Matthew wrought devastation in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida as well as the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti.

Response to the physical damage and humanitarian crises was immediate, but by no means complete. International communities continue to struggle for basic food and hygiene needs. American towns are beginning the forgotten work of re-building. The organization of missions to assist those in the later stages of recovery is ongoing.

Please keep in your prayers the groups which are currently planning assistance and the many who will be dedicating their time and talents this summer to challenges which remain.



## PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA

On October 8, 2016 Hurricane Matthew brushed past the Carolina Coast only to unleash the brunt of devastation 100 miles inland. More than a foot of rain forced streams and rivers to swell to levels above those created by Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The counties of Cumberland, Robeson, Wayne, Johnston, Harnett, Lenoir, Nash and Edgecombe were heavily affected and over one million homes were without power for days while hundreds of roads, including I-95 and I-40, were closed. Twenty-six North Carolinians lost their lives.

The devastation of that storm remains to this day.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Governor Roy Cooper was touring devastated farm land in Robeson County and discovered that more than 100 families from that county alone are still living in motels. While the usual channels of immediate assistance, such as the Red Cross and FEMA, were active immediately following the storm, that help was not concentrated on housing. The Red Cross focused on basic human needs and FEMA funds were dedicated to restoring 124 roads which were closed due to storm damage. A great need remains, yes, even 8 months after Hurricane Matthew, for cleaning homes, repairing homes and rebuilding homes.

The Outreach Committee encourages you to consider support of the many groups who are seeking to continue the hard work of restoring the devastation. Organizations concentrating on family homes include: Fayetteville Area Habitat for Humanity ([www.fayettevillenchabitat.org](http://www.fayettevillenchabitat.org)), North Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster ([www.ncvoad.org](http://www.ncvoad.org)), North Carolina Disaster Relief ([www.ncdisasterrelief.org](http://www.ncdisasterrelief.org)) and the First Presbyterian Church of Lumberton ([www.fpclumberton.org](http://www.fpclumberton.org)). Also, the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina ([www.presbycc.org](http://www.presbycc.org)) operates a "Disaster Relief Fund" which supports churches that are rebuilding.



# FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



## UPCOMING WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER MENUS AND PROGRAMS

Join your Tuckahoe Family each Wednesday night through May 24th for dinner beginning at 6:00 pm with a program following dinner, until 7:30 p.m.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MENU</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
May 3	It's Cinco de Mayo! Cooking Team 1 is preparing a traditional Mexican feast...for meat-lovers and vegetarians! A range of fillings for your tortilla, black bean and corn salad, guacamole, salsa & chips, frozen ice cream & Churro Cheesecake!	There will be a Piñata and traditional games and activities for young and old alike.
May 10	TPC Cooking Team 8 hosts Italian Night with pasta (meat and meatless sauces), salad, bread and dessert.	Patrick Dennis will report on the Presbytery's Vision 2020 effort.
May 17	Covered dish supper	Ginger Spence and Sarah Dennis will lead a program on "The Five Love Languages"
May 24	<b>Annual Low Country Boil –</b> A meal of shrimp, sausage, corn on the cob, potatoes, onions and garlic cooked and eaten outside. It's an experience you don't want to miss!	Come join your Tuckahoe family for great food and fellowship!



**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**

Make plans to attend the all-church picnic on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. The Fellowship Committee will provide barbecue and buns along with drinks and paper products. You are asked to bring a side or a dessert and a blanket or lawn chair.

The Pops Band will play at 6:00.

Put this on your calendar so you can join the fun!





## AROUND THE CHURCH

**Kathy Lacy writes:** *“Dear Members of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church, Thank you for the many expressions of sympathy sent to our family during the recent death of Kathy’s father, Walter T. “Tom” Sult, Jr. We are humbled by Patrick’s outreach, the many cards, calls and delicious food received, as well as the lovely bouquet of flowers that Barbara Maiden so kindly delivered. A special thanks goes to our wonderful deacon, Dee Daughtrey, who has been a tremendous support throughout Daddy’s illness and death. God is great, and so are the people of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church. Fondly, The Lacy Family – Bob, Kathy, Kathryn and Anna.*



**Henry and Katharine Calhoun called to express their thanks for the beautiful Easter flowers delivered to their house, which they are still enjoying.**



### OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES

Our Christian sympathies and prayers for God’s comfort are extended to:

The family of Floyd Dixon who died on April 17, 2017.

The family of Virginia Newton who died on April 23, 2017.

On Sunday, March 26th Reverend Patrick Dennis baptized Mike McCauley by profession of faith. Welcome to the Tuckahoe family of faith, Mike!



### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, March 26th the Session received into the membership of Tuckahoe:

Betty Cauley, Jennifer Eads, and Mike McCauley.

On Sunday, April 23rd the Session approved Heather Brannon as an Affiliate Member of Tuckahoe.

Make a point of seeking out our new members and welcoming them to our church family!



# AROUND THE CHURCH

## BE SURE WE HAVE YOUR GRADUATE'S INFORMATION!

If you have a child graduating from high school or college this spring, please be sure the church office has all the information necessary to share their exciting news with the congregation. Email your child's full name, school they are graduating from, degree type, future plans (job, if known, or college to attend). You may email the details to Mary McGee at [office@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:office@tuckahoepres.org).



**The deadline to be included in the June Torch edition and the June 4th bulletin is May 25th.**

# CHANGES

## HAVE YOU NOTICED CHANGES TO OUR PARK AVENUE FOYER?

The Property Committee would like to thank Hal Breitenberg for the inspiration and Bill Carter and Harry Edwards for the craftsmanship needed to turn the two neglected display niches in the Park Avenue foyer into beautiful, lighted, glass-enclosed display cases. These cases hold various elements of our history and our present. If you haven't used that entrance lately, make an effort to go see the transformation and be sure to express your gratitude to Bill and Harry for their efforts to implement the vision!

Sign up  
Now!

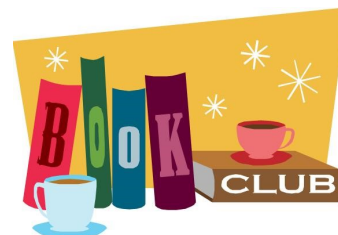
## AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED!!

Please check the After Church Fellowship Calendar in the hallway between the Narthex and Duntreath Hall.

Most Sundays during the summer are still in need of hosts/hostesses! Keep it simple...lemonade and cookies will suffice at 11:30 a.m., following our earlier summer worship.

## TPC BOOK CLUB FINAL MEETING UNTIL FALL

The final book club meeting is Monday, May 22nd at the home of Barbara Maiden. Jean Hayes will be reviewing the book, *Gray Mountain*, by John Grisham. Please note that this is a date change due to the Memorial Day holiday the following week.



# AROUND THE CHURCH

## COMING THIS SUMMER



**CHILDREN-LED  
WORSHIP  
JUNE 4TH  
11:00 A.M.**

**SUMMER  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR FELLOWSHIP  
AND  
CONVERSATION**



Stay tuned for  
further details on times,  
dates and locations!

## MUSIC MINISTRY AT TUCKAHOE

What a wonderful Easter season we have enjoyed through our Music Ministry.

Both of our Bell ensembles, the KMD Bells (Kids, Moms and Dads) and the Tintinnabulation (Adult bell choir) played exceptionally well recently. We are happy to welcome Aubrey Poole and Tate Wilson to the KMDs. They both have learned to play well, very quickly. The adult bells' rendition of the Mozart "Alleluia" was met with high praise on Easter.

Our Chancel Choir has worked tirelessly this spring, culminating with singing the favorite Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter Sunday. There's work still to be done until we take a summer break beginning in June. During the summer the Chancel Choir ordinarily sings once per month and we have many small ensembles, soloists, etc. to lead in worship.

Check out Sarah's article on page 4 about our upcoming Music and Mission morning activity for our kids. We'll introduce chimes, and bells, and other activities related to our Fall Music Ministry.

A special thanks to all of our music participants.

I look forward to a great Summer and Fall. Come join us, won't you?

*Mark Cain, Director of Music Ministries*



# AROUND THE CHURCH

## A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER

As of the end of the first quarter our congregation and visitors have provided \$142,531.61 in envelope contributions toward the operating budget figure of \$498,000.00 or 28.62%. Additionally, Tuckahoe has received \$582.66 in loose offering and \$556.80 for the CentsAbility program. Sixty per cent of the CentsAbility contributions are forwarded to the Presbytery of the James for use in their hunger program in central Virginia and Haiti. The remaining forty percent of the contributions underwrite the bag lunch program for veterans who are cared for by Liberation Family Services. Finally, our church has received, through April 16, \$1,586.00 for the Easter offering. These funds support three programs of the Presbyterian Church at the national level: the Hunger Program, Disaster Assistance, and the Self-Development of People. On behalf of the Stewardship & Finance Committee and other church committees, I would like to express our gratitude for your generosity.

*Dick Mateer, Church Treasurer*

## 2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### “PUTTING OUR BLESSINGS TO WORK”

*“God speaks through community when we are facing difficult trials in life. #newmerciesisee”*

*“Welcoming all, becoming one with the One who loves us, lifts us, heals us, fills us, sends us. #thanksbetoGod”*

*“The impact of the church on me at my lowest and the recovery it supported gives the impetus to gratefully try and impact others.”*

*“The gospel needs feet to carry it out into the world. #faceofGodtomycommunity”*

These were some of the responses at the Presbytery Stewardship Seminar we hosted on April 8 when the leader asked us to “share a story of hope in 140 characters or less” in a “tweet” style (hash tag “#” optional).

Of the nearly 50 responses, all focused on stewardship as imparting the good news of Jesus Christ. Stewardship may be understood as caring for what God has given us and using what we have to help others to know God’s goodness and experience God’s love. It is about more than money, but does not exclude a monetary share. Jesus, throughout the Gospel’s, links faithful stewardship with changing lives. The story of the Good Samaritan is one in which stewardship of time and money are both evident as the Samaritan cares for the battered stranger physically and monetarily.

Our church’s stewardship is a delight to behold. As one of the Great Ends of the Church states it, we are called to be “An exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.” How we do this requires being good stewards. It takes careful attentiveness to the work of God in us through the Holy Spirit, to be faithful and make a difference. Our joy grows as we share our lives and see the wonders God can do through us.

So, what is your “story of hope”? Can you sum it up in 140 characters or less? Try it— and then tell someone and together let’s put our blessings to work for the Kingdom of God.



## TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

Vacation Bible School will be held from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** the week of **July 17-21**. VBS is open to all children ages three years through rising fifth graders. Please note that all participants must be toilet trained. Nursery will be available only for younger children of VBS volunteers.

Please register each child with the information below and return this registration form to the church office (mailing address below) or to Matthew Mahoney's mailbox inside the church **with a check for \$10 per child (a maximum of \$25 per family)** to Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church **as soon as possible**. Please contact Sarah Dennis (804-282-2860) or [sarah@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:sarah@tuckahoepres.org) if you have any questions or need additional forms.

***"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!"***– Psalm 139: 14

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Age on 7/17/17 \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Child will be entering: \_\_\_\_\_ Preschool 3 year old \_\_\_\_\_ Preschool 4 year old \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in the fall of '17

Attends what church? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Vacation Bible School? \_\_\_\_\_

Other Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Conditions:

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Please Check here if interested in volunteering and we will be in contact with you \_\_\_\_\_



**TUCKAHOE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7000 Park Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23226-3624

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## TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### **TUCKAHOE STAFF**

Patrick Dennis, Pastor

Mark Cain, Director of Music Ministries

Sarah Cothorn, Assistant Director of Music Ministries

Sarah Dennis, Director of Christian Formation

Mary McGee, Office Administrator

Diane Prevary, Parish Associate

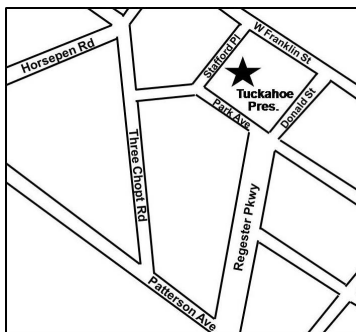
Ginger Spence, Director of Visitation

Telephone: 282-2860

E-mail: [office@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:office@tuckahoepres.org)

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

Called by God, to be the heart,  
voice, hands and feet  
of Christ where  
the Spirit leads us.



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Deadline is the 18th of each month.

Editor-Mary McGee; email: [office@tuckahoepres.org](mailto:office@tuckahoepres.org)