



# THE TORCH

Volume 61, No. 5

May 2018



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

On Easter day, we received ten new members into our congregation. This was indeed God's work and so I give thanks, especially in light of the downward trend of membership in mainline churches.

What is happening on a global scale is that more people are remaining "visitors", often for years with no inclination to join. Some have good reasons — their professions require moving around or they know they may only be in an area temporarily.

But on the whole, even with stable populations, church membership is on the decline. You probably know that this is not unique to churches. Many civic and fraternal organizations are losing members and younger generations are not as eager to join as were previous generations. In the not so distant past, membership mattered; people were proud to belong to such organizations as Kiwanis, Rotary, Shriners, Masons, and scores of other groups.

But that has changed and younger generations in particular are asking *why join?* The predominant culture is moving away from "memberships" and talking more about "affinities." Even grocery stores are aware that people are "membership weary" and are dispensing with this marketing scheme. Affinity, on the other hand, allows one to come alongside a group or organization without lasting commitment. This means that it is easier to leave if your schedule no longer allows participation or priorities or life situations change.

So when it comes to the Church, is there reason to sustain the practice of membership?

I believe this question can be addressed by reclaiming the theological sense of "member." Paul's definition was less about affinity of interests and convictions and more about essential connection to a person, Jesus Christ. In other words, his metaphor of the human body for the Body of Christ found in 1 Corinthians 12 is radical as it suggests that Christ's body can only be fully functional if the members are fully connected with and working together. For Paul, it is not a hopeful aspiration but is, in fact, the only way Christ's presence is made manifest in the world.

As Presbyterians, we add some definition to how these "members" are to function. Here is how it is outlined in the second part of our Constitution, the Book of Order: G-1.0304 ,  
The Ministry of Members.

*Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.*

(continued on next page)

The monthly Newsletter of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church  
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# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (CONT'D)

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*Such involvement includes:*

- ♦ *proclaiming the good news in word and deed,*
- ♦ *taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,*
- ♦ *lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,*
- ♦ *studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,*
- ♦ *supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,*
- ♦ *demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,*
- ♦ *responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,*
- ♦ *living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,*
- ♦ *working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,*
- ♦ *caring for God's creation,*
- ♦ *participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and*
- ♦ *reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.*

As you can see, there can be no such thing as “inactive” membership — that is a contradiction.

In fact, this category was eliminated from our Constitution several years ago.

Membership requires active involvement, it takes time and emotional, spiritual and material commitment as well as a full integration into one's daily life. Membership is a responsibility; but, it is also a joy. There is nothing like having your life in the hands of people who love you and care for you, nothing like being stretched to grow in faith and grace with those who want nothing from you but to see you find joy in living each day more like Jesus.

Church membership then is not about being proud of your association with the church; but, in understanding that you are the church, you are essential in making Tuckahoe and, by extension, the universal Church function.

This month we celebrate the birthday of the church on Pentecost, May 20. I often wonder if those first Apostles, along with the three thousand who were baptized and joined the church in Jerusalem that first Day of Pentecost, had not devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42) if the church would exist today. Membership in the Church matters; it matters to those who confess Jesus as Lord, it matters to our community, it matters to our society, and it matters to the world. So, I encourage you to claim your membership here at our church and ask:

“How am I helping the body be strong? Where might you seek to strengthen yourself or others? We ARE the Body of Christ himself! Let us always remember and celebrate that God has made our membership in Christ matter.

*Peace,  
Patrick*

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# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Pentecost, May 20th, will be Children-led Worship! This is an exciting Sunday, full of joy and laughter. This year it will be extra special because our Confirmand Class will be confirmed that morning as well.

Join us for worship this special day!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

May is our last month of Sunday School. Classes will meet through May 27 and recess until September 9. Rally Day is August 26th when we will "kick-off" the new year and curriculums! Mark your calendars!



## TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP

With joys and sorrows abounding, in our personal lives, in our church family and in our world, we are in need of prayer always! There are no prerequisites to join us, and you do not even have to do the praying! All are invited to join hearts and minds together in prayer Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am in the church parlor.

## YOUTH GROUP

What a great group we have! Youth Sunday on April 22nd was an amazing celebration of the talents of our youth. Here's what's in store through May:

Sunday, May 6	5:30 p.m.	Duntreath Hall
Sunday, May 13		No meeting...spend time with your Mother's!
Sunday, May 20	5:30 p.m.	Annual Scavenger Hunt...don't miss it!



# CHRISTIAN FORMATION



## LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER, MAY 9TH

There is no Wednesday Night Supper on May 2nd, but be sure to plan on our end-of-season Wednesday Night Event, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. – the Low Country Boil!

This Wednesday Night Supper is the last one until the fall. The meal consists of: shrimp, smoked sausage, corn on the cob, potatoes, onions and garlic. The cooking and eating will take place outside, weather permitting. Steve St.

John's band, "Sleepy Hollow Blue Grass Band" will entertain us for the evening. This is fun for all ages! Please sign up on the friendship pads during worship on Sundays, call the church office, or register on line by clicking on the event box on the home page of our web site by Monday, May 7th to reserve your family's spot!

## THEOLOGY ON TAP

May 21st at 6:00 p.m. at Café Caturra on Grove.

Join us as we spend our time talking about where the rubber meets the road of our faith. We will take a look at a current news headline and strive to understand how we as Christians can react faithfully and lovingly. We hope you will join us for great conversations and great drinks!



## CHURCH TRIP TO ISRAEL

We are planning an exciting trip for members and friends of Tuckahoe to visit the Holy Land, November 2-11, 2018. We will walk where Jesus walked, see where Jesus taught, performed miracles, died and was resurrected. It will be an amazing faith-formation time and a wonderful time to be with members of our church family. The trip is \$2,979.99/person, which includes airfare.

All are welcome on this trip, so if you have family or friends who would like to come, please let them know. You can find more information at <http://www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/tuckahoeisrael.htm>

If you would like to reserve your spot, you can bring your check for \$300 and your registration form to the church office. The registration deadline is July 20th and final payments must be in by August 31st.





# CHRISTIAN FORMATION



## WOMEN'S CONNECTION AT MONTREAT

We are so excited to offer women of the church the chance to attend the Montreat Women's Connection Conference, **August 10-12** in Montreat, NC.

There will be a chance for worship, workshops, fellowship, hiking, sleeping, and lots of fun! Those of us who had the opportunity to go last year had a wonderful weekend and can't wait to go back!

This year the keynote speaker is Kate Bowler. At thirty-five, after writing her first book about the American Prosperity Gospel, Bowler was a professor at the Duke Divinity School and a new mother when she received the earth-shattering diagnosis of Stage IV colon cancer. Reckoning with the news, Bowler discovered, to her chagrin, that she would have to learn how to give up her own "prosperity gospel." As she learns to live with cancer as a chronic condition, Bowler speaks powerfully about the ways in which her brush with mortality transformed her. She also frankly addresses the uniquely American concept that tragedy is a test of character and looks at the different ways that people try to rationalize suffering and catastrophe, for better or worse. Each registration will receive a copy of her book, *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved*.

This year we have the option for women to indulge in a couple of Sabbath days before the conference begins or come for the weekend of the conference only: (the cost includes part of your registration fee and housing)

Choose either: August 8-12 for \$400/person (Leaving Wednesday, returning Sunday) or August 10-12 \$200/person (Leaving Friday, returning Sunday)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Dennis. We do have some scholarship money available if you would like to come but are in need of some assistance.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come join us for *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus* this summer!  
July 16 – 20, 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.



We are busy planning and praying for VBS. Save the date **July 16- 20!** We will be *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*.

It is going to be a fun, faith-filled week. Plan on bringing your children, grandchildren and friends children! And plan on volunteering during this amazing week. Children must be 4 years old to participate.

The cost is \$15/child with a \$30 family max.

If you would like to be part of the *Shipwrecked* team, please contact Sarah Dennis at [sdennis@tuckahoeepres.org](mailto:sdennis@tuckahoeepres.org).

Registration forms are on our website and on page 15 of this newsletter.

# OUTREACH

## MISSION TRIP

Mission trip planning continues for our Greenbrier County, WV trip on July 1-7. **Our One and Only Cover-Everything Planning Meeting will be held on June 3,** after worship in Room 106. We'll figure out who has what tools, discuss accommodations, and boil down our trip details. Contact Nancy Millsaps at [nhmillsaps@gmail.com](mailto:nhmillsaps@gmail.com) (or 288-0996) if you have questions.



## OAK GROVE/BELLEMEADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For thirteen years Tuckahoe Presbyterian has had a volunteer presence at a Richmond City elementary school, first at Bellemeade School and then at the consolidated, new Oak Grove/Bellemeade School. Our involvement started with three classroom

volunteers, but has grown over the years. Our summer mission trip one year was a five-day project where members of our congregation enhanced the old Bellemeade School with art, new paint, and some new landscaping. For several years our Vacation Bible School and the Presbyterian Women have collected school supplies that are donated to the students.

At Christmas each year, Dick and Mickey Mateer head up two projects for the school. Tuckahoe members generously buy presents for students whose families cannot afford gifts for their children. The Mateers then deliver these gifts to the school. Also, Mickey organizes the "Tuckahoe Bakers" who bake mini loaves for the faculty and staff at Oak Grove/Bellemeade.

Other volunteer opportunities our members are part of include: writing birthday cards for every kindergartner and first grader at the school, reading to the students on "Dr. Seuss Day", helping with the "Back to School" luncheon for the faculty and staff, and assisting with the "Moving On" celebration for the fifth graders at the end of the year. This year one of our volunteers, Betty Cauley, has assisted the music teacher by playing the piano for special occasions.

**It is evident that the members of Tuckahoe are committed to Oak Grove/Bellemeade. However, there is still a need for volunteers who are willing to spend an hour or two a week as a tutor or classroom assistant – no teaching experience is necessary. If you are interested in volunteering please contact: Ruth Anna Langdon at [ruthannalangdon@gmail.com](mailto:ruthannalangdon@gmail.com) or 282-4867.**

## CALL HER BY HER NAME A LETTER FROM CINDY CORELL, SERVING IN HAITI



Menaïka Dejean, 9, poses at the shoreline of Anse à Galets on the island of La Gonave, Haiti. Photo by Dianerie Dejean

I couldn't say her name. Ma-nee-ka. Meen-eeka. Ma-nee-kee-a. Ma-na-ee-ka.

Her sister Dianerie repeated it, repeated it, repeated it. It had taken me forever to learn Dianerie's name, but no matter how many times she told me, I could not pronounce her sister's name.

Finally, sensing that I am a visual learner, Dianerie, 13, wrote Menaïka's name on the little girl's left arm, then had her pose for a photograph. (It's pronounced Ma-na-ee-ka.)

This image has become one of the most powerful photographs I've seen. Maybe more powerful for me, because I have the good

fortune of getting to know these girls. After five years as a mission co-worker in Haiti, I know that the greatest gift is the people you meet. The people you come to love.

It's all right there in the photo if you really look. A 9-year-old girl with scuffed, sandy knees, bare feet and determination in her eyes that belie her age. She is Haiti. And she wants me to know her name.

Dianerie and Menaïka live with their mother and siblings in a community near the shoreline at Anse à Galets, the largest town on the island of La Gonave. It's a remote place. The island is mostly arid and dusty. There are few jobs beyond buying and selling goods and agriculture.

Buying goods means a trip across the bay to the mainland and back. It can be a slow and difficult journey.

And because there are no fresh water sources on the island and periods of drought are common, agriculture is a tough business, too. Most people just make ends meet or they leave for the mainland or other countries.

On occasion, I travel to Anse à Galets to meet with members of farmer organizations there or accompany groups visiting partners in the Episcopal Church. When I can, I try to meet with Dianerie and her family.

I first met the girls in January 2017 while visiting the beach with a church group. I was taking photos of the younger children, when then-12-year-old Dianerie approached. She bore all the characteristics of a preteen, she didn't want to smile and she wasn't impressed with yet another American mission worker visiting the area.

So I handed her my Nikon. Try it, I asked her. See what happens.

What happened was that this once-sulky little girl showed an emerging talent as a photographer. I have many photos to prove that point. Now when I return to the island, I make a point to visit the beach and spend time with this family.

*(continued, next page)*

What would it matter, you might think, that a mission co-worker can connect with an individual in the country where she serves? Isn't that what I'm supposed to be doing? I ask myself the same thing quite often. And then in moments like when Dianerie showed me the photo of Menaïka with her name written on her arm, it became clear.

Where it would be ordinary for a local person to tell a mission co-worker, "I am glad to be with you," Dianerie was saying, "I want you to know my sister's name."

It's that important. More than that I come back to see them. More than that I once was able to help get their little brother medical care when he was ill. More than that I always give Dianerie a bit of pay for taking photos for me.

More than anything, she wants me to call her little sister by name.

That is the challenge of Haiti to me. That is the love of Haiti to me.

And that is why I am here.

I thank each and every one of you for your prayerful and financial support for my ministry here in Haiti. I value my work here as a companionship facilitator with a network of grassroots farmer organizations.

But more than that, I value our friendships.

I invite you to continue supporting our work here with your prayers and your financial gifts, and I invite you to come be with us in Haiti.

Come meet our sisters and brothers here.

Come be with me, and call them each by name.

*Cindy Corell*



## PRAYER EMPHASIS FOR MAY A PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

As we think about all those in our church family completing one phase of their lives and beginning another, we pray, with thanks for this passage from Jeremiah. We ask for God's wisdom and clear direction over their lives and understanding beyond their years. We give thanks that God's timing is perfect and pray that He will direct their steps and that every place that has been determined for them to walk will be paved clear. We pray that doors that need to be opened will open and those that should be shut tight will close. We pray that every gift and treasure He has placed inside their lives to grow, develop, and flourish, will bring Him glory.



## AROUND THE CHURCH

**Judy Mercer writes:** *"We are all waiting for spring. I am a lucky one. Yesterday Ginger Spence came to see me and she had spring in her hands – a beautiful pink hydrangea plant. Thank you, Ginger, and all the Tuckahoe members. I often look back on the happy times I spent taking part in the activities at Tuckahoe. Thank you all, Judy."*

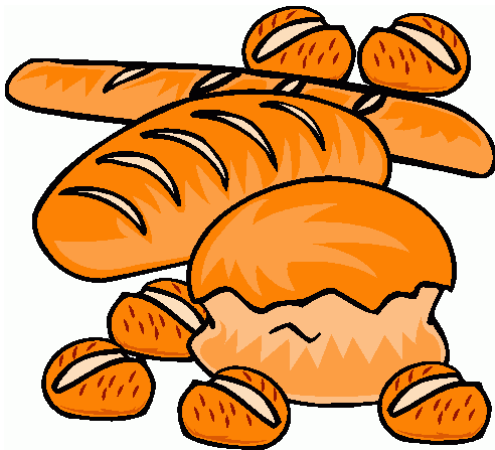


**Leslie Shimer writes:** *"Thank you so much for all the support I received after my mom passed away. The printed messages on the cards as well as your personal messages were such a comfort to me. I still have the cards many of you sent when my dad passed away in 2005, and I will keep these cards as well. Once again, I realize how wonderful it is to have the support and prayers from a church family, especially when times are tough. I felt your care and love."*

**Jim Cooke writes:** *"I would like to thank all who prayed for me, visited me, or brought meals for my family during my recent, unexpected, cardiac bypass. Your love was felt by my family, and by me. Tuckahoe is like a second family for us, and we appreciate and cherish all of you. Jim Cooke and Family"*

### BREAD FOR VISITORS

Did you know that a team of volunteers provides two loaves (sometimes more) of bread for our first-time church guests each Sunday? This bread may be homemade or it might have been purchased. Either way, it is tangible proof to our visitors that their presence is being recognized and appreciated. Thanks to Melissa Masher, Marilyn Estes, Sallie Rhett, Mickey Mateer and Dee Daughtrey. Each of these ladies takes responsibility for two months out of the ten months for which bread is provided. (July and August, with lower attendance, are not "bread Sundays".)



Thanks also to all church ushers who watch for visitors and present them with a gift of bread, or a *Holy Chow* cookbook to make them feel welcomed by our church.

*The Bread Team would love to recruit additional folks, men or women, who would take responsibility for a month or so of providing bread. If you are interested, or have questions, please feel free to contact Mickey Mateer or Dee Daughtrey.*

# 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@tuckahoe-pres.org](mailto:office@tuckahoe-pres.org).

# CLASS OF 2018

The deadline to be included in the June *Torch* edition and the June 3rd bulletin is May 25th.

## NAME TAG SUNDAY

Isn't it great to be able to greet someone by their name?! Maybe you have even been sitting in front of or behind someone for years and are afraid to admit you don't know their name? Our newest members are diligent about wearing their nametags so that we can get to know them...but, how do they learn who we are?

On Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> we will have a special worship service which will, no doubt, welcome many guests to Tuckahoe. The children will lead worship and the Confirmation Class will be confirmed. Won't you please wear your nametag for worship and throughout the Fellowship Time so that this can be a place where "everyone knows your name"? [And don't hesitate to do this sooner than the 20<sup>th</sup> — we would just appreciate a concerted effort from everyone on that Sunday!] Lost yours? Call the church office and Mary can make you a new one.



## AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED!!

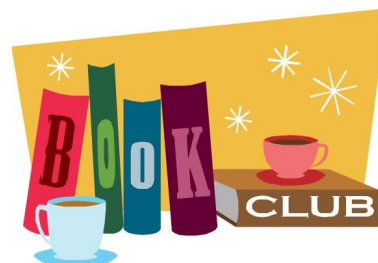


Please check the After Church Fellowship Calendar on the wall of the Resource Center, at the entrance to Duntreath Hall.

Most Sundays during the summer are still in need of hosts/hostesses! Keep it simple...lemonade and cookies will suffice following our earlier summer worship at 10:00 a.m.

## TPC BOOK CLUB FINAL MEETING UNTIL FALL

The TPC Book Club's final spring meeting is May 21st at the home of Dee Daughtrey at 7:00 p.m. Gena Wallace will be reviewing the book, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.



## AROUND THE CHURCH

### MONTE CARLO NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR TPC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS MAY 19, 7–10 P.M. AT STRANGWAYS BREWERY

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Monte Carlo Night Fundraiser at Strangeways Brewery, 2277 Dabney Road, Richmond. Proceeds will support the TPC Scholarship Funds, now in their fifth year of helping TPC youth with school expenses.

Come ready to play Black Jack, Craps, Roulette, Texas Hold'em or Poker! In addition, horse sponsorships will be available for \$30/horse. So, start planning what name you want for your special horse. Bragging rights come with victory, fun is guaranteed, and it all goes to support a great cause.

Tickets will be sold in Duntreath Hall on Sundays, as well as the night of the event (\$20/person; \$30/couple).

Strangeways Brewery offers a large variety of beer that will be on sale during the event. A food truck, courtesy of Grandpa Eddie's, will be available for purchase of BBQ and all the fixings!

We hope to see you there!  
Questions? Please contact Leslie Shimer (804-301-4716).



### WOULD YOU LIKE A NEW PRINT DIRECTORY?

We have had significant changes to our membership since the last printed directory was produced by the office. If you find you have misplaced yours or would like to have a more current version of the directory, please contact the church office (282-2860 or [office@tuckahohepres.org](mailto:office@tuckahohepres.org)) and I will be happy to print one for you to pick up at the office. If you are unable to get to the office, I can mail a copy to you.

*Mary McGee, Office Administrator*



# AROUND THE CHURCH

## STAYING CONNECTED, WITH A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE

I find that there are not enough hours in the day to keep in touch with all the people I care about. It is especially true with my work as Director of Visitation with the Deacons and Stephen Ministers. There are many people in our congregation who would benefit from visits and phone calls beyond what the Deacons, Stephen Ministers, Patrick and I can do. I'm dreaming of a group of people who would have one or two people that they would keep in touch with, develop a stronger friendship with, and be a listening ear for, when needed. Maybe you don't have time to be a Deacon, or Stephen Minister because you lack the time for such a weighty commitment. Maybe you have been a Deacon before and enjoyed it, or maybe you are hesitant to serve in that way, but you could be a Christian friend to one or two members. God created us to be in relationships. We will meet with those who are interested to begin this endeavor. All good action starts with a single step. Please, take this step! Call or email me: (804)399-0081 or [gspence@tuckahoe-pres.org](mailto:gspence@tuckahoe-pres.org).

*Ginger Spence*

CONNECT

## WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

On April 15th, during worship we commissioned the new class of Stephen Ministers for Tuckahoe. This special ministry is God's love in action!

Life at times is overwhelming and we

think, *"How am I going to get through this? Why do I feel so alone? I just cannot see a way through this situation."*

Well, there is a Stephen Minister who is equipped with the skills to listen and walk with you through the dark days until you feel whole and ready to once again stand on your own. There have been 11 Stephen Ministers working to help members of the congregation for the last five years. Now, we have 12 more that have completed the 50 hours of training and some are already at work providing emotional and spiritual support. The care you will receive is confidential, free and very helpful.

How do I get a Stephen Minister? Good question!

You can contact Patrick Dennis or a Stephen Ministry Leader:  
Ginger Spence, Sherry Flournoy, A.W. Dickerson or Barbie Keatts.





# AROUND THE CHURCH

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## HOW MIGHT YOU HELP A VILLAGE IN UGANDA?

This summer a Spanish teacher from Cosby High School (where Jane Werner teaches) is going on an education mission trip to a school in Uganda. In this community, the ability to speak English well is highly prized, so her team will be working with both teachers and students on English skills. The village recently received its first water pump with a spigot, saving the villagers daily treks to a river in the area. They will also be teaching the village residents about health and hygiene in the home.

**Each family will get a Ziploc bag filled with hotel-size shampoo, hotel-size lotions and small bars of soap. If you have a collection of these items or are traveling, please consider donating these items to be taken to this Ugandan community.**

In case you are interested in helping in other ways, the other items needed are combs/hair picks, toothbrushes and paste, and wash cloths. Another project is providing older girls with personal hygiene kits and underpants – sizes 10-16 are needed for that. A third is helping older boys learn how to use tools for installing mosquito nets in their sleeping quarters. For this project they could use drills, either hand drills or rechargeable battery models (they do have electricity at the school – courtesy of Engineers without Borders' solar panels – but not in the homes).

Please see Jane Werner ([sjswerner@yahoo.com](mailto:sjswerner@yahoo.com) or 804-288-3492) if you have any questions or have items to donate. Items may be left in the choir room (Room 210) with Jane's name on it. **The cutoff date for donations is Sunday, June 10.**

Thank you so much for considering this outreach opportunity!!

*Jane Werner*



# convergence

Convergence, a High School Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science, is being held June 23 – July 1, 2018 at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland. Open to rising 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, this residential campus program is a hands-on experience dedicated to challenging Christian youth to understand how faith and science come together. The cost is only \$100! Convergence is offered by Randolph-Macon in partnership with Union Presbyterian Seminary.

## AROUND THE CHURCH

### YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Hello from Boston! The snow has melted (finally), the ground is thawing (slowly), and my YAV year is well under way! I wanted to take this opportunity to thank members of Tuckahoe for supporting me with your prayers and with your monetary support, including the generous contribution of \$2,000 from the Endowment Fund.

I am learning about food justice through working at “A Place To Turn” food pantry and an adjacent Community Garden. My days include helping clients shop at the pantry, building a composting system, working in the community garden, and writing grant proposals. In the fall, I planned an Interfaith luncheon with my church – Hartford Street Presbyterian Church, a temple, and a mosque to celebrate a successful garden season and to share commonalities in the way our faith calls us to care for the Earth. Through the hard work of community volunteers, we were able to donate 400 pounds of fresh produce from the garden to the food pantry last year!

So, what exactly is food justice? The food justice movement advocates for all communities to have access to healthy, sustainable food. Think about the tomato in your salad. Now think about the journey it went through on the way to your plate – starting as a seedling, picked by a farm laborer, traveling to your grocery store, and being chosen by you! Being an informed consumer means being aware of the environmental, social, and nutritional impacts of the food you choose. The three YAV participants in Boston have spent this year looking at our food system through a critical lens. It is safe to say that all three of us have altered our eating habits in ways that will extend beyond just this year.

I am also pleased to let you know that as a result of my work this year, I will be attending General Assembly in June as an Overture Advocate on behalf of the Presbytery of Greater Boston. My interest in GA started when the Presbytery of the James sent me as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to Portland, Oregon, in 2016. The connections I made in 2016 contributed to my interest in being an Overture Advocate, and the GA experience also influenced my decision to become a Young Adult Volunteer. Once again, I would like to thank my church family at Tuckahoe for supporting me in these various endeavors. I

look forward to sharing more about my experiences when I am back at TPC.



*Sarah Jeanne Shimer*



# REGISTRATION FORM

(One Per Child)

Vacation Bible School will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. the week of July 16-20. VBS is open to all children ages four years through rising fifth graders. Please note that all participants must be toilet trained.

\$15 per child (a maximum of \$30 per family)

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew number or name (for church use only): \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_



In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_



7000 Park Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23226-3624

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## TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### **TUCKAHOE STAFF**

Patrick Dennis, Pastor

Hal Breitenberg, Parish Associate

Mark Cain, Director of Music Ministries

Sarah Cothorn, Assistant Director of Music Ministries

Sarah Dennis, Director of Christian Formation

Mary McGee, Office Administrator

Bruce McVey, Seminary Intern

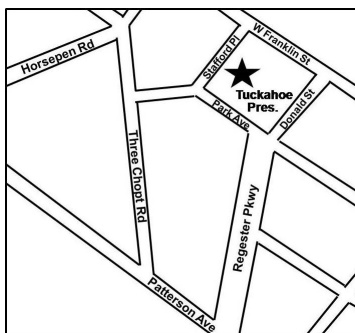
Diane Prevary, Parish Associate

Ginger Spence, Director of Visitation

Telephone: 282-2860

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

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



The Torch is a monthly newsletter of  
Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church.

Deadline is the 25th of each month.

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