



Volume 61, No. 8

October 2018

WELCOME LINDA KURTZ!

Linda is our Union Presbyterian Seminary intern this year. She is in the fourth year of a dual degree, Master of Divinity/Master of Arts in Christian Education. Linda is on track to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament having successfully completed her ordination exams, and is awaiting her final assessment this month. In addition to her seminary work, she is a part-time Communications Specialist for *NEXT Church*, a PCUSA organization committed to equipping church leaders to strengthen

congregations. Linda, like Bruce last year, will be covering a broad spectrum of ministry. In addition to assisting with the Youth Group and in worship, she will be assisting in hospital and home visits, teaching classes, and attending committee and staff meetings.

A team of seven members representing various ministries will serve as a *Mentoring Team*. Members of the team are: Kathy Bauer (Administration and Personnel), Walter Hogan (Worship), Alex Miller (Youth Group), Nancy Millsaps (Outreach), Leslie Shimer (Christian Formation), along with Diane Prevary and Ginger Spence. They will meet with Linda on a monthly basis to provide feedback for her professional development. We will also have the benefit of learning from her seminary training and church background as we enjoy the gifts she brings that will further our mission and ministry. I hope you will join me in warmly welcoming Linda and continue to be in prayer for her

and offer your support as she journeys with us this year.

*Blessings,
Patrick*



GREETINGS FROM LINDA

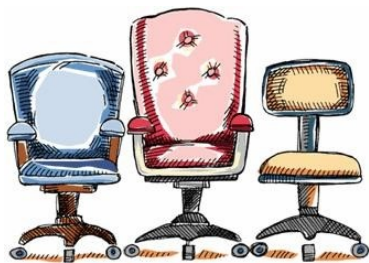
Friends,

I am so grateful for the warm welcome you've extended to me over the last couple of weeks as I've entered this community as your Seminary Intern. As I reflect on my seminary journey thus far, it is clear to me that while my classroom learning has been essential to my development as a person and pastor, it is the out-of-classroom experiences that have given me the most unique opportunities to explore my call. Seminary is a testament to the power of lived experience that shapes how you sense God at work in you and in the world. So as I embark upon this last out-of-the-classroom experience as my time in seminary comes to an end, I am so glad to be doing it here with you. I look forward to learning more of your stories (and names!), breaking bread with you, and discovering what God has in store for us together this year.

Peace, Linda



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY



Staff Changes

STAFF CHANGES

It is with a mix of excitement and sadness that I update you on several staff changes which will take effect in the next few months:

Mary McGee will be officially retiring December 31st as the *Office Administrator* after seven years in that role; but, fortunately for us, will be remaining on staff in the newly created ten-hour-a-week position of *Financial Administrator* in which she will retain the accounting responsibilities of her current position. Mary has overseen and coordinated the church activities with excellence and efficiency. She has also contributed ideas that have enhanced the ministry of Tuckahoe. Please take time to thank her for the great work she has done.

Ginger Spence will also be retiring at the end of the year having served as the *Director of Visitation* for over six years. Her contributions to our ministry have been enormous. She has cared for our members with compassion and empathy in home and hospital visits, helped lead Stephen Ministry, taught classes and seminars, and been an invaluable contributor to new ideas and initiatives. Our church will always be her home, however, she will be spending more time at her daughter's church so please make an opportunity to thank her for her service.

Sarah Dennis is nearing completion of her ordination journey. Once ordained, she will retain the responsibilities of her current position as the *Director of Christian Formation* under her new title as *Covenant Pastor*. She will then be permitted to administer the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism and will do pastoral visits and preach more frequently (see article on page 3 for more details.) I encourage you to congratulate Sarah on fulfilling her journey.

Linda Kurtz is our Seminary Intern through April (see article on page 1). She brings with her great experience and a willingness to engage in all areas of the church's ministry. Expect to see her in worship weekly, at Sunday School, Youth Group, and on Wednesday Nights. Please welcome her and take time to get to know her.

Patrick

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SARAH DENNIS, A CALL TO MINISTRY

If you have heard Sarah Dennis's life story you know she first experienced a call to ministry when she was a junior in college. Working at a Christian summer camp, she felt a definite call on her life to partner with God in ministry. After finishing college, she worked at her home church in Katy, Texas in the youth program. Through her two years there, she discerned that local church ministry was where she was being called and Seminary was the correct next path for her.

She entered Princeton Seminary in 2004 and graduated in 2007. She was on a journey to ordination which she delayed because her marriage and raising a family took temporary precedence. This resulted in a delay in the completion of the final requirements for ordination in the PC/USA. In 2011 she began the ordination process in PC/USA as an inquirer, a term meaning someone who is a member of a congregation and who enters into a covenant relationship with a Presbytery to become a Teaching Elder. In 2014 she passed the ordination exams and in May of this year, after much perseverance, she satisfied almost all of those prerequisites and became "certified ready to receive a call".

The Presbytery of the James' Committee on Ministry has approved Sarah's path to ordination, assuming success on Saturday, October 20 where she will answer questions posed by the Committee and the assembled commissioners and where she will preach a sermon. Thus, she may be ordained to a yearly renewable position at Tuckahoe into a non-installed position, accountable to Session. This position is NOT in an installed role such as a Pastor, Associate Pastor or Co-Pastor. According to the Book of Order these positions would require a Pastor Nominating Committee in place and an open search conducted. In the PC/USA ordination is authorized by the Presbytery under conditions set only by the Presbytery. Sarah's ordination has been authorized by the Presbytery of the James and, in this case, according to the Book of Order it has been permitted as "a temporary pastoral relationship" renewable on a yearly basis. The title for this position may vary from Presbytery to Presbytery. It is referred to in POJ policies as "Covenant Pastor" and it is a position under the direct supervision of the Session.

What, if anything, will be different? Several upcoming changes in staff will require Session to develop a new staffing model for our church and, in so doing, Sarah's current responsibilities will be changed somewhat. Rest assured, however, a majority of Sarah's current duties and responsibilities to Christian Formation will remain the same. Most importantly for our congregation, once ordained, Sarah will be able to preside at the communion table and perform baptisms as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. This is the goal of all who feel called to and prepare for ordination. In addition, Sarah will also be available to preach, lead funeral/memorial services and weddings as needed.

Everyone is invited to attend the **October 20** Presbytery meeting (as visitors) in support of Sarah's candidacy. Sarah will preach at 1:30 pm at Lord Jesus Korean Church in Midlothian (we will send out a notice of that) followed by the final part of her examination. Let us give thanks and pray for Sarah as she prepares for that day.

Yours in Christ,
On Behalf of the Session,
Elder Harold Cothorn, *Administration and Personnel*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CHURCH SCHOOL

We are so excited to begin a new year of church school and we hope all members of your family have found a home in our Sunday School offerings. The Christian Formation Committee has been busy planning and praying for all the classes offered this year. It is our deepest hope that you will find a place to plug in and grow in your faith.

ADULTS OFFERINGS

THE FORUM CLASS - ROOM 108

Each week we look at a different event from the news and discuss how it affects our faith.

THE NEW COVENANT CLASS – ROOM 106

This fall the New Covenant Class returns to the Adult Bible Studies used last year. Our Leadership Team will rotate each week to facilitate the study and discussion of each week's lesson. In covering each lesson, the leaders direct the class discussions as to the relativity and application of these Biblical messages in today's world. We would love to have you join us!

NEW OFFERING – “IT’S ALL GREEK TO ME”

Led by Patrick Dennis, Sarah Dennis, and Linda Kurtz
There are a lot of words we use in church that we don't hear anywhere else. But what do they mean? What is Salvation? What about Justification?

Join us twice a month as we learn the original understanding of these words, as well as how we can understand them in our current age and context. Here are our discussion words for our October classes:

October 14 - Perichoresis
October 28 - Providence



DISCOVERY CLASS – ROOM 200

The Discovery Class is a Biblically-based discussion class that explores different ways of thinking about our Christian faith through the use of books and materials that are decided upon by the class members. The class is led by various members of the class who volunteer (not required) to lead the discussion for a particular Sunday. We enjoy open discussions about our Christian faith, and with the help of class members, discover how our faith can have a positive and meaningful impact upon our daily lives. The class meets upstairs in the old education building (Room 200). If you have any questions regarding this class, please contact Walter Smith, Phil Calhoun, Leslie Shimer or Walter Hogan.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL – ROOM 208

Our curriculum is re:form ancestors. Each week we will watch a video and learn about different people from scripture and how their story impacts our faith today.



HIGH SCHOOL – ROOM 206

We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at the Starbucks at the Village Shopping Center to discuss Coffee House: Questions about Faith.

Join us as we struggle together with some of the questions life and the church throw at us, such as:

- Is science more or less true than the Bible?
- How is Jesus God?
- What motivates God to continue loving us?
- Do we really have to close our eyes while talking to God?



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2 AND 3 YEAR OLD'S

This year the littlest of our church school attenders will be learning about how loving God is a fun adventure. Through the Spark! curriculum these toddlers will hear Bible stories, sing, craft and play while gaining a better understanding that they are loved children of God.

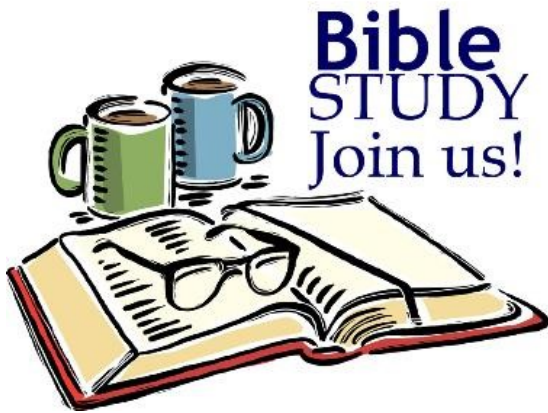
We hope your child will join us!

4 YEAR OLD – 5TH GRADE

Children's Sunday School will connect with each other and God through Kid Connection, a wonderful curriculum designed to help children grow in their faith. This year all children will gather together for a large group time where they will play a game, hear the Bible story and sing songs. After this time, they will journey back to their age group rooms for snack, crafts and reinforcement of the Bible Lesson.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION



MORE WAYS TO “PLUG IN” TO YOUR FAITH...

Tuesday Morning 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! The prayer group is reading together *A Guidebook to Prayer: Twenty-four ways to walk with God*. Each week we experience together a new way to pray. You do not have to read the book to come and join in the experience. All are invited to join hearts and minds together in prayer Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Church Parlor.

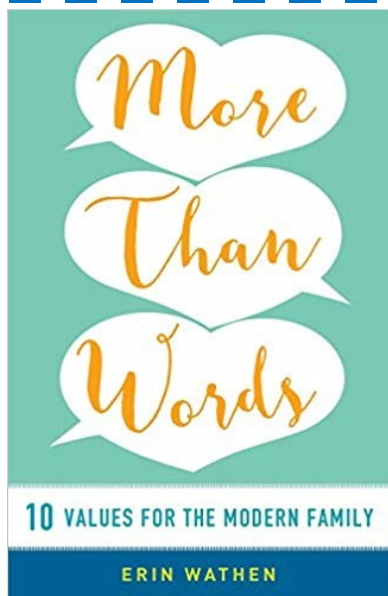
Theology on Tap: This year we will spend our time talking about faith, current news and how the two meet in today’s challenging world as we strive to understand how we, as Christians, can react faithfully and lovingly. We hope you will join us for great conversations and great drinks! We meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 pm. This month’s meeting is October 15th at Café Caturra on Grove Avenue.

Men’s Bible Study: This Bible study meets weekly at noon every Monday in Room 108. Come join us, bring your lunch and start your week refreshed and focused. Any and all are welcome to join us!

Women’s Study Group: The Women's Study Group welcomes all TPC women to a monthly study, fellowship and learning time the first Monday of each month. The first fall meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on October 1st. Monthly meetings are held in the home of Ruth Anna Langdon at 903 Register Parkway. We will complete the book *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* at our October meeting (chapters 11 and 12) and introduce a new study opportunity for the 2018/2019 year. Please join us – Come, learn, grow and share with us!



CHRISTIAN FORMATION



NEW OFFERING FOR PARENTS OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Beginning this fall, all families with elementary (and younger) age children are invited to join in a new group study. We will meet monthly at the Dennis household for dinner and conversation. Parents and children are invited. There will be childcare provided for the kids.

This year we will dive into the book *More than Words: 10 values for the Modern Family*, by Erin Wathen. In this constantly changing world, how do parents know what values to instill in their children? Wathen walks us through what practices we might adopt to teach our families compassion, abundance, Sabbath, nonviolence, joy, justice, community, forgiveness, equality, and authenticity. We will read this book together and talk through what this looks like for our families, our communities and our church.

We cannot wait to go on this journey with you!

Our October meeting is Saturday, October 27th at 4:30 pm.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Wouldn't you love a night out without having to think about a babysitter? We are starting a Parents Night Out once a month at Tuckahoe.

The catch is – two families will be the babysitters each month. So you watch the kids one month, and get all the other months to hang out with your spouse or friends! We would like to encourage you all to sign up for a month, and to think about signing up with another couple you don't know that well so we can nurture relationships better. The families in charge of babysitting will provide dinner for the kids that night. Childcare will be here at Tuckahoe, so there can be movies, games and playground time. We will host on the second Friday of the month from 6-9:00 pm. Please let me know if you have any questions.

www.SignUpGenius.com/

[go/5080E49A5AC22A2FA7-parents](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080E49A5AC22A2FA7-parents)



Sarah Dennis, Director of Christian Formation

YOUTH MINISTRIES



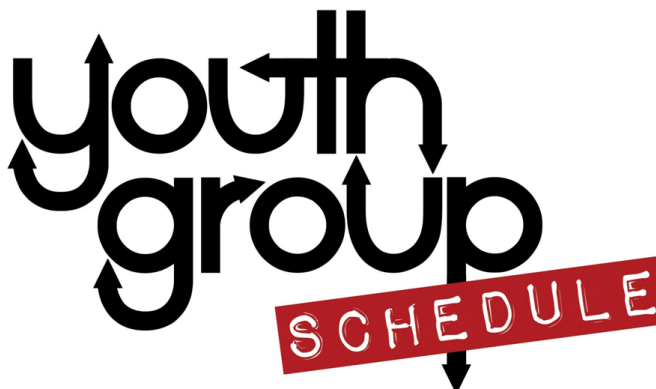
YOUTH GROUP BACK IN ACTION!

September was an awesome month for youth at Tuckahoe and October is full of so much more fun. Your Youth Advisors – Tom Adair, Lilly Chervenak, Eric Johnson, Barbara Lockett, Alex Miller, Linda Kurtz and Sarah Dennis – hope you will set aside your Sunday evenings for these upcoming events!

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

(ALL MEETINGS AT 5:30 AT CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 7: | Game Night! |
| October 14: | Faith Questions: Relationships, Part 3 |
| October 21: | Escape Room, right after church.
Bring \$\$ for admission. |
| October 28: | Trunk or Treat – arrive by 4:15 so
we can set up games for the kids! |



FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday NIGHT Dinner & Fellowship

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

Our nights together will continue each Wednesday in Duntreath Hall at 6:00 pm. This year our programming will vary, so stay

tuned to know each month's programs. And look in each Sunday's bulletin for the menu offerings to be prepared by our TPC Cooking Teams.

Each week promises to be full of laughter, learning and incredible food, so make sure you are there! Dinner is from 6:00–6:30, with programming beginning at 6:30.

During the programs the children's handbell group, KMD Bells, will meet for rehearsal in the bell room behind the sanctuary. Be sure to talk to Mr. Mark if your children would like to join this musical groups.

Bell Choir®



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER MENUS & PROGRAMS

October 3	Cooking Team 1	Enjoy an Italian meal of meat or veggie lasagna, salads, bread and Italian desserts.	Bill Millsaps will present a program on the elections and media bias.
October 10	Cooking Team 2	Deluxe grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato tortellini soup, applesauce, apple dumplings with ice cream	Jill Duffield, editor of the Presbyterian Outlook will talk with us about "where the church is going".
October 17	Cooking Team 3	Chicken enchiladas, rice and dessert	It's BINGO Night again...come enjoy a fun evening with the old-fashioned game of luck!
October 24	Pot Luck	Bring a dish for your family and some to share!	"How Well Do You Know Your Church?" – curious? Come see what we have in store for you!

THE HEALING PLACE CARITAS AND ADDICTION ISSUES

We are all familiar with CARITAS and its programs for the homeless. For many years Tuckahoe has housed homeless groups- in earlier years groups of men and more recently homeless families. What you may not know is that CARITAS sponsors programs other than that of providing shelter.

One such program is The Healing Place which serves men with addiction issues. The Healing Place model was identified in 2000 to help fill a gap in the homeless services network since addiction recovery resources were not available to people with little or no income. The Healing Place model was chosen based on sobriety outcome, long term connectivity, peer -to-peer recovery mentoring, cost effectiveness, and the ability to return participants to society where they become tax-paying citizens.

Recently three members of the Outreach Committee toured The Healing Place. We were most impressed with the program and its very strict requirements for the participants as they move through the program's progression. We were especially impressed with the mentoring of the participants by those who successfully completed the process. The rate of sobriety at the end of one year is impressive. The Healing Place serves only men, so what about women in need of such services? Currently such facilities for women in our area, who have limited or no income, are virtually non-existent. So how does CARITAS address the needs of these women? Currently some are sent out of state for treatment but since this is a costly solution, very few women are able to get help. In order to address this problem, CARITAS is in the process of developing a similar program for women.

On October 21 you will have the opportunity to learn more about this latest project when Tiffany Terry from CARITAS will be presenting a Moment for Mission at our worship service. Plan to be present to learn more about this newest program which addresses the widespread problem of addiction.



THE HEALING PLACE

OCTOBER PRAYER EMPHASIS

God in Heaven, we come to you with prayers for all those who have been hurt by the recent storm waters of Hurricane Florence. We lift those people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. We lift those people whose spirits have been crushed. We ask your special grace for those who have spent two years recovering from other storms, only to have all their efforts washed away with the recent flooding. Bathe them with your love, and guide us to share our blessings with them.

[For information on how you can contribute to Hurricane Relief for victims of Florence, see page 13.]



CARITAS FAMILY FOCUS IS COMING

Did you know that Tuckahoe serves as a shelter to homeless families for one week every year, providing food, shelter, and fellowship to community members in crisis? Tuckahoe is part of the vast community network that is part of CARITAS, a local non-profit whose

mission and purpose revolve around helping our most vulnerable neighbors break the cycles of homelessness and addiction.

Tuckahoe will be hosting the CARITAS Family Focus program from Saturday, November 3 – Saturday, November 10.

What does this mean? It means that for a week, we will be providing food, shelter, and fellowship to homeless families in our community. The upstairs Sunday School classrooms will become makeshift bedrooms and living quarters for families, as we provide shelter for up to 30 individuals, which includes infants, school age children, teens, and parents.

There are a number of ways that you can support this effort: assisting with set up, making bagged lunches, purchasing breakfast items, preparing and serving dinner, or assisting with doing laundry. Keep an eye out in Duntreath for the sign up board in early October for more information and specific ways you can get involved. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Albertson at jhalbertson@yahoo.com or 615-6262.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR LAMB'S BASKET FOOD COLLECTION EACH MONTH!

The LAMB's Basket collection in September was a measly 25 lbs.

If you stocked up on canned goods for the power outages anticipated as a result of Florence's visit and did not use them, think of dropping them off in the Lamb's Basket collection bin on the lower, left side of the Resource Center. Thank you for remembering the hungry in our community! Let's stock the bin with non-perishable items for our October collection!



AROUND THE CHURCH

MEMBERS WRITE:

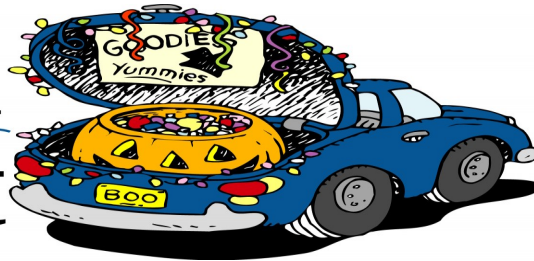
From Tony DeLesDernier: *Dear Church Family Members, Thank you for the flowers from the church service a few weeks ago. They lasted so long that I began to wonder if they were real. I enjoyed them for a number of weeks before they were really spent. Also I want to thank Ginger Spence for her timely visit. She is truly a gift from God!*

From the Robinson Family: *Our family is very grateful for all of the encouraging words, cards, thoughts and prayers we received after the death of Hilary's Dad. We feel so fortunate to be part of this loving church community.*

From Sherry Flournoy: *John and I are so grateful to be members of Tuckahoe. We have genuinely experienced the love of Christ through our church family since my brother's death. The hugs, flowers, cards, and messages have been a real blessing. I now know first-hand how people at Tuckahoe are the heart, voice, hands and feet of Christ.*

thank
you!

Trunk
or
Treat



Join us October 28 at 5pm for Trunk or Treat
in the church parking lot!

Cars will be decorated, candy will be handed out,
Bako Tako food truck will be here for dinner and the
youth group will host a small carnival in Duntreath!
This is a Halloween event you don't want to miss!

*If you are interested in being a decorated car, please contact Dianne St John at
804-363-6658 or dstjohn@richmond.edu.*

AROUND THE CHURCH



BREEZE: WHY IT'S YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND & FAVORITE APP

We have a new, truly “user-friendly” database at Tuckahoe and we encourage all of you to make use of it! As a member with an email address on file, you would have received an “invitation” from Breeze to create your own account. If you just ignored that email, or deleted it, let the office know and another invitation will be sent to you. What can you do with this new data base?

- ◇ You have access to phone numbers and addresses of all Tuckahoe members. In other words...it's our church directory. So add it to your desktop on your computer or download the app on your phone! [tuckahoeadmin.breezechms.com]
- ◇ Load a current picture for each member of your family, or send us the pictures you want added to your profile and we can do it for you! How great to have up-to-date pictures so you can look up that person you met yesterday!
- ◇ Through Breeze you can communicate directly with other members:
 - ◆ Call or text someone directly from the app – select a name, hold down on the cell phone number to call or select the prompt to “Send Message” and text away!
 - ◆ Need directions to someone's house? – select a name, find the address (in blue), click on it and driving directions are yours!
- ◇ **Our Church ID is tuckahoeadmin. You will need this when setting up your personal sign on and password.**

RELIEF FOR HURRICANE FLORENCE VICTIMS

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support for our neighbors affected by Hurricane Florence. You may write a check to TPC directly; but, be sure to list DR000169 in the memo line! We will send collected funds to the Presbytery of the James for delivery to PDA. If paying by check or phone, specify your contribution for **Disaster Relief-US Hurricane Response (DR000169)**. Or you may mail a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

AROUND THE CHURCH



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR ANNUAL "THANKFUL TRADITIONS" LUNCHEON!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 18th! The Fellowship Committee will be hosting an extended fellowship hour of "Thankful Traditions."

Please bring a dish you are particularly thankful for in your family – main course, appetizer, dessert, or a side dish. We will eat and fellowship around tables together and celebrate all we have to be thankful for!



OUT WITH THE OLD.... COOKBOOKS AND DECORATIONS

As we approach the holiday seasons, we will no doubt be looking at our cookbooks for mouthwatering recipes but find the same ones we've used over and over. Perhaps new cookbooks could help. Let's do a **cookbook take-away**. Collect your cookbooks, old, used, new – ones you know you won't use and bring them to Duntreath Hall on December 2.

And...what about all those Christmas decorations you no longer want? Last year there was a **Christmas decoration take-away** where folks brought in decorations they no longer cared to display. The items were put in Duntreath Hall and folks were invited to simply take what they liked. It was a huge success!

So bring your cookbooks and decorations to Duntreath, beginning December 2nd. We'll leave everything in place through the next Sunday, December 9, giving everyone time to start holiday decorating. Feel free to bring things you no longer care to use, put them out with everything else, and if you see something you like, take it.





7000 Park Avenue
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TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuckahoe Staff

Patrick Dennis, Pastor

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Mark Cain, Director of Music Ministries

Sarah Cothorn, Assistant Director of Music Ministries

Sarah Dennis, Director of Christian Formation

Linda Kurtz, Seminary Intern

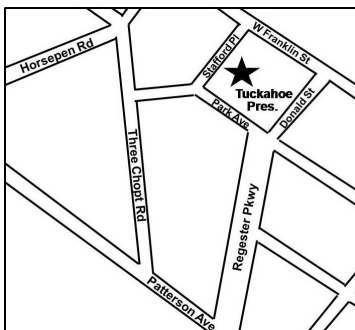
Mary McGee, Office Administrator

Diane Prevary, Parish Associate

Ginger Spence, Director of Visitation

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.

Editor-Mary McGee; email: office@tuckahoepres.org