



THE TORCH

Volume 56, No. 1

January 2013

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

"I never make New Year's Resolutions, anymore," the man told me, "I never keep them, anyway." I can remember all too many resolutions I've made and let slip away, too. But I believe New Year's resolutions are worth making. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need changes. Some we find very hard to admit to ourselves. I've heard people who say, "I have no regrets about my life. If I had it to do over, I'd do it the same way again." But that attitude is way too blind and self-serving so far as I'm concerned. There is great power in confession--to ourselves, to God, to others. Owning up to our failures is the first, painful step on the road to something better.

Second, when we change calendars it is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What do I want to do differently this year? This time of year always reminds me of a passage of scripture, better understood by farmers than suburbanites: "Break up your unplowed ground, and do not sow among thorns" (Jer 4:3). It makes sense. The more land you put into production, the more prosperous you'll be. But some of us are stupid enough to try to sow seeds in land overrun by star thistle without breaking up the soil and taking care to root out the thorns as they come up. Call it laziness. Call it stupidity.

Let me ask you a serious question. What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? How much "unplowed ground" do you have that ought to be broken up



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in this coming year and made useful? Reassessment. The brink of a new year is a good time for reassessment.

Third, New Year's is an excellent time for mid-course corrections. Sure, we might fail in what we set out to do, but if we fail to plan, the old saying goes, then we plan to fail. If you're so fearful of failure that you never set up your row of tin cans to shoot at, you're not very likely to hit any at all. Failure is not the end. For the person who determines to learn from it, failure is a friend.

One of my heroes in the Bible is the Apostle Paul. Talk about failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But during one of his stints in prison, we can see from one of his letters an unwillingness to quit. "Forgetting what is behind," he wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14, NIV) No wonder he made a mark on his world. He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn't let the fear of failure keep him from trying again.

Fourth, New Year's is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. Now I've met a few self-made men and women and so have you, but so often these people seem proud and driven. There is another way: beginning to trust in God's help. One more secret from the Apostle Paul: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength," he said (Phil 4:13, NIV). And God's strength saw him through a lot--through pain, through joy, and through accomplishment.

If this last year, you didn't practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution. In fact, why don't you say a short prayer right now--use these words if you like: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen." Good. Now you've got a much better chance of a Happy New Year.

~Dr. Ralph F. Wilson



Tuckahoe Youth Happenings

| | | |
|------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| January 6 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Dinner and Worship Service |
| January 13 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Dinner and Regular Program |
| January 20 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Dinner and Regular Program |
| January 27 | Time TBA | Activity |

If you are in Middle School or High School and not yet active in the Youth Ministry of Tuckahoe, please join us! Bring a friend and join in the food, fun and fellowship with great kids your own age.

We have a blast together and share our faith and our lives with each other!

**DATES TO REMEMBER
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**



February 15 – 18

High School Beach Retreat

March 10

Youth Sunday

April 14

Talent Show Fundraiser

June 20-23

Middle Schoolers to Masanetta MS Conference

July 20-27

High Schoolers to Montreat Youth Conference

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES?

Sunday, Jan. 6, *The Epiphany of the Lord - First Sunday Children's Church* for age 4 through kindergarten. 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 *Epiphany*.

Sunday, Jan. 13, *The Baptism of the Lord* - Library Time for the 1st-2nd grades class, Freedom House lunch preparation in the 3rd-5th grades class. *Second Sunday Children's Church* for 1st-3rd graders with the *Godly Play* story, work response, scripture reading, and prayer of *Baptism*.

Sunday, Jan. 20- Library Time for the 4 yr old - kindergarten class. *Godly Play* for the 2-3 year old class.

Sunday, Jan 27- Regular lessons in all classes.

Questions? Contact Becky Loggins, Director of Children's Ministries: *phone 201-0571 and email krebeccagoode@gmail.com*

*****PLEASE NOTE, BECKY LOGGINS' NEW EMAIL ADDRESS IS***
krebeccagoode@gmail.com**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD IN THE TIME AFTER EPIPHANY UNTIL LENT

What Jesus did and said helps us to know who God is and what God is doing for us:

Jesus called his friends to be with him and to help him in his work.

Jesus came for all the people of the world.

Jesus is like a light, helping us to see better.

We are baptized into God's family, the church.

WISH LIST FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AND 2013 VBS

6-pack boxes of Model Magic, "Natural Colors" (found at Michael's or Ben Franklin) – 6 individual packs in a box

Elmer's brand White Glue

Glue sticks

Crayola brand LARGE or "So Big" crayons (the "fat", toddler/preschool crayons)

In preparation for VBS 2013, donated or loaned items related to Japan ~Zimbabwe ~ United Kingdom
Australia ~ Mexico

A few items: red and white tablecloths, strings of multi-colored pennant flags, pinwheels of all colors, African drums.

Items can be placed in Becky Loggins' mailbox or the church office and should be labeled "For Children's Sunday School".



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Thanks to all of you for making the Ministry of Prison Fellowship "Angel Tree" project a huge success again this year. This year we sponsored 14 families and 22 children. Each child of an incarcerated parent received two gifts including toys and clothing. These presents provide a tangible reminder to these children that their parent loves them even though they cannot be with them at Christmas.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to buy gifts and/or deliver them to the families. It is a heartwarming reminder of how our congregation reaches out to the community with such a generous spirit.

2013 MISSION TRIP NEWS !

There will be a 2013 MISSION TRIP Informational Meeting in Room 106 on Sunday, January 27th following the Worship Service. We will be going to Asheville, NC with the **Timothy Project** from June 23rd through 28th to perform several different types of service projects.

We look forward to seeing you all there !

THANK YOU FROM HENRICO'S CHRISTMAS MOTHER

What generous support I received from my church family! As Henrico Christmas Mother for 2012 I have experienced how caring people in this county are, and this church is no exception. The Christmas Mother Program received generous contributions from Presbyterian Women as well as several more individual members. Some of you volunteered your time and energy, helping in the warehouse with set-up and distribution. In addition, members of the TPC Book Club conducted a book sale for the benefit of the program. Thanks to all of you who contributed books and/or purchased them. I really appreciate your giving in so many ways to this program. I hope you all experienced the joy of the holiday season as did those families you helped through The Christmas Mother Program.

Terry Brady

THANK YOU BELLEMEADE BAKERS!

A heart-felt thanks to the Bellemeade Bakers for their terrific response to my call for volunteers to bake small loaves of bread for the teachers and staff at Bellemeade. We surpassed the goal of 35-40 loaves, and I know that the recipients of the treats appreciated your efforts, as do I. Thank you, ladies, for your willing hands and generous spirit!

Mickey Mateer



FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

UPCOMING WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS MENUS AND PROGRAMS

We will resume our regular weekly Wednesday Night Supper Programs on January 9, 2013. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm with a program from 6:45 to 7:30.

Music & Motion will continue for children age 2 and above, and will run concurrent with the adult programming following dinner.

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>MENU</u> | <u>PROGRAM</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Jan. 9 | Tuckahoe's Cooking Team #4 | Sherry Flournoy and Barbie Keatts will discuss the new Stephen Ministry program...what it is, how it works, who it serves. |
| Jan. 16 | Lasagna, Salad, Bread and Dessert | Gina Maio – Church Hill Academy Church Hill Academy is a private, Christian faith-based, nonprofit high school and part of Church Hill Activities & Tutoring (CHAT). Their top priority is meeting the academic needs of at-risk 9-12 th grade youth living in Church Hill and reducing the area's dropout rate. |
| Jan. 23 | Covered Dish | Pat Macaulay will lead us in "Fun & Games" for all ages and stages. More details to follow. |
| Jan. 30 | Tuckahoe's Cooking Team # 1 | Richard Haney – Food & Theology Can't imagine the connection? Come join us for a "delicious" and "enlightening" discussion! |



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

2013 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS

THE NEW COVENANT CLASS

This is a long standing group that participates in the Uniform Bible Study each week using scripture but looking at the various interpretations of the word. There are various leaders throughout the year. Please feel free to join this class where you will feel free to express your thoughts and are encouraged to participate in the study of God's word. This class meets at 9:30 in room 106.

DISCOVERY CLASS

The Discovery Class is a Biblical-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 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, we discover how our faith can have a positive and meaningful impact on our daily lives. This is a great class for those who have other commitments during the Sunday school year and cannot attend every Sunday. This class meets upstairs in the education building in room 200. If you have questions contact Walter Smith, Phil Calhoun, Walter Hogan or Leslie Shimer.

FORUM CLASS

The Forum Class is an adult Sunday School class that discusses current topics. We use the Faithlink series and videos by Rob Bell to generate discussion in the class. This class is an option for adults who may be teaching a youth class and who do not wish to miss lessons. This class discusses a new topic each week and reading ahead is not required. Room 108 at 9:30.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEEING GRAY IN A WORLD OF BLACK AND WHITE: THOUGHTS ON RELIGION, MORALITY, AND POLITICS - Adam Hamilton (Elective - Jan. 6 - Feb. 10)

Everyone agrees that America is polarized, with ever-hardening positions held by people less and less willing to listen to one another. No one agrees on what to do about it. One solution that hasn't yet been tried, says Adam Hamilton, is for thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Hamilton rejects the easy assumptions and sloppy analysis of black and white thinking, seeking instead the truth that resides on all sides of the issues, and offering a faithful and compassionate way forward. DVD and class discussion. Wilson Hall. Contact Pam Dickerson or a member of the Christian Formation Division to register.

CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE - SMALL GROUP STUDY ON SELECT DISCIPLINES (Elective - 4 Week Blocks starting Jan. 6)

This small group study will utilize Richard J. Foster's "Celebration of Discipline" as a starting point as members select one of twelve Christian Disciplines to study and practice over four weeks. Work Room off Office and additional rooms as needed. Contact Matthew Mahoney.

**NEED ANOTHER NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
TO HELP YOU REASSESS AND REAFFIRM?**

**JOIN AN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
THIS YEAR!**



AROUND THE CHURCH

THANK YOU

Kathy Manzer writes: *“My sincere thanks for the cards, flowers, calls, visits and especially the wonderful meals that I have been so blessed to receive. Thanks also to Ginger and Richard for their prayers, calls and visit.”*

Arline Dowdy writes: *“Dear Friends, Thanks to my Deacon, Beth Ayers, for the beautiful flowers from the Chancel, food and keeping in touch through 2012. Thanks to Betty Loftis for taking me to the Women of the Church and to Bob and Gail Miler for bringing food and to other members, thank you for the beautiful cards, calls and visits, especially to Ginger Spence and Richard Haney.”*

Tony DeLesDernier writes: *“The residents and staff of the Zuni Home Unit of Presbyterian Homes and Family Service express their thanks for the recent peanut orders from Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church. Through your enjoyment of Zuni Gourmet Peanuts, we have meaningful work to keep us busy. We greatly appreciate your business! The year 2011 was a banner year for the Zuni peanut business with a total of 9,965 cans of peanuts sold, and 13,000 pounds of peanuts cooked by Zuni residents. We hope 2012 will be just as good a year.”*

Bette Pandak writes: *“To the Members of TPC, Thank you for all of the beautiful flowers brought to me the past several weeks meant to brighten my spirits – they have! Also, the thoughtful, kind, messages are very special. God Bless.”*

Callie Fabrie and her fellow Girl Scouts, Annie, Allie, LaRucksha, Sophie, Kiera and Miranda write: *“Thank you for letting our troop use space in your church to meet!”*



MEMBER NEWS

Welcome New Members: John Campbell, III
 Gladys and Tom Challoner

Transferred membership to Second Presbyterian Church,
Richmond, VA: Georgia and Caroline Rose

AROUND THE CHURCH

NOTES FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Many thanks to all who helped to make
The December luncheon a success.
We especially appreciate the wonderful
program presented by Sara Sommers.



A reminder about
January Circle Meetings:
Daytime circles will meet on the second Tuesday,
January 8. Circle 2 will meet at their usual time on
Monday, **January 7.**

□ **SAVE THE DATE**

On Saturday, **March 2**, the Presbyterian Women will host a retreat for all women of the church. The theme will be "**The Power of Speaking Your Story.**" Guest speaker and facilitator will be Jeannie DuBose, Director of Spiritual Formation at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Please make plans to attend.
More details coming soon.

Please continue to save stamps for the Stamps for Missions project. Under new guidelines, the following stamps are preferred: all commemorative stamps, large Forever stamps, flags of the nations stamps, and higher priced stamps. They also want small stamps with the following themes: aloha shirts, weather vanes, varied colored eagle, dragonfly, panther, Eid, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, 64 and 65c wedding cake, 20c Washington, and Christmas stamps without Santa and reindeer. They do not want small common stamps, presorted, or non-profit stamps.

AROUND THE CHURCH

2013 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Our Stewardship Campaign this fall resulted in anticipated envelope contributions of \$470,300.00, an amount which is \$19,000.00 less than 2012 pledges. Beginning with 2008 and the “great recession”, Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church has experienced smaller total envelope contributions each year. Our Session authorized the use of two estate gifts and loans from the Reserve Fund to provide for a general operating budget that would allow us to compensate our staff appropriately as well as maintain our programs. Even so, we had to reduce our staff compensation one year and provided no increase a second year, and we had to curtail expenses for some of our programs. Below is a recap of the past six years history of anticipated vs. actual contributions:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Anticipated Contributions</u> | <u>Actual Contributions</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2012 | \$489,500.00 | \$412,256.45 (11/30/12) |
| 2011 | \$465,000.00 | \$480,454.73 |
| 2010 | \$457,593.00 | \$488,729.84 |
| 2009 | \$515,000.00 | \$494,901.98 |
| 2008 | \$511,782.00 | \$511,303.99 |
| 2007 | \$525,000.00 | \$529,925.40 |

As a result of the decrease in anticipated envelope contributions expected in 2013, we reduced our expenses for the year. We have been able to accomplish this reduction primarily as a result of having no second called pastor on our staff. We are not transferring any money from our Reserve Fund to increase the magnitude of the 2013 budget. The budget for 2013, approved by our Session on November 28 is as follows:

| <u>Budgeted Income</u> | |
|--|---------------------|
| Envelope Contributions | \$ 470,300.00 |
| Loose Offering | 2,500.00 |
| Use of Building | 7,360.00 |
| Interest | 2,565.00 |
| Total Income | \$482,725.00 |
| <u>Budgeted Expenses</u> | |
| General Assembly, Synod, Presbytery Administration/Personnel Division | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Compensation | 274,148.00 |
| General Administration | 40,927.00 |
| Christian Formation Division | 17,000.00 |
| Outreach Division | 12,550.00 |
| Property Division | 96,500.00 |
| Stewardship Division | 1,600.00 |
| Worship, Music, & Membership | 5,200.00 |
| Transfer to the Warinner Maintenance Fund | 4,000.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$482,725.00 |

If you have any questions about any of this information, please feel free to contact Dick Mateer , Church Treasurer (rmateer@richmond.edu; 270-6932; or in person).

JANUARY 2013 CALENDAR

TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7000 Park Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226-3624

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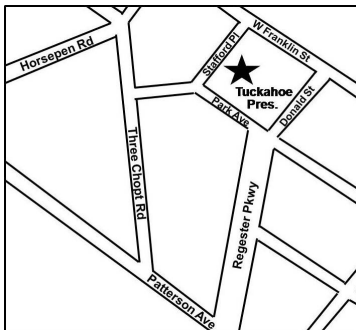
TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuckahoe Staff

Richard Haney, Interim Pastor
Mark O. Cain, Music Director
Rebecca Loggins, Children's Ministry
Mary McGee, Office Administrator
Joan Neff, Assistant Organist
Sarah Pugh, Youth Ministry
Ginger Spence, Director of Visitation
Telephone: 282-2860
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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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