

THE TORCH

Volume 55, No. 1

December 2012

*“Come all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant...”*

Come celebrate the coming of Christ with your Church Family!

Sunday	December 2	11:00 a.m.	Worship and Communion After Church Fellowship	Advent Sermon Series: <i>Fifth Business at Advent</i>
Wednesday	December 5	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper	Advent and the Arts: <i>Mark Sprinkle, Artist</i>
Sunday	December 9	11:00 a.m.	Worship After Church Fellowship	Advent Sermon Series: <i>Shepherds and Angels</i>
Wednesday	December 12	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper	Advent and the Arts: <i>Richard Haney, Poetry</i>
Sunday	December 16	11:00 a.m.	Worship After Church Fellowship	<i>Lessons & Carols of the Season</i> Tuckahoe's "Cookie Sunday"
Wednesday	December 19	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper	Advent and the Arts: <i>Mark Cain, Music</i>
Sunday	December 23	11:00 a.m.	Worship After Church Fellowship	Advent Sermon Series: <i>Mary and Joseph</i>
Monday	December 24	4:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Family Worship Service Candlelight Service	Christmas Pageant <i>Christmas Eve in Lake Wobegone</i>



The monthly Newsletter of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church
7000 Park Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226
804-282-2860; www.tuckahoepres.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

During my recent study leave in Oxford I had many opportunities to worship in Anglican chapels and churches. I have come to appreciate this sister denomination. We recently found the following Top 10 List of “things not to do during Advent” in *The Episcopalian Handbook* authored by Reverend W. Terry Miller. I hope you find these “do not” suggestions helpful for your own strategy of keeping Advent and Christmas.



Blessings,

Richard

The Advent season, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, are perhaps the busiest, most hectic times of the year. In the breathless rush to make the most of the season, it is easy to forget that this sacred season is less about “holiday cheer” and more about a “holy child”. Advent is our opportunity—a gift from God in itself—to reorient ourselves to receive the gift of Jesus. Here, in descending order, are the Top 10 things not to do during Advent.

10. Do not forget your rituals:

Be careful not to treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. When we enter the Advent season, life is supposed to be different. Rituals in you personal and/or family life can help you slow down and prayerfully ponder the gift of the Incarnation, the Son of God made flesh. Take time daily to relax, meditate and pray.

9. Do not add to the frenzy:

If you are a parent, try not to add to the craziness of this season by being frantic yourself about last minute shopping, entertaining or decorating.

8. Do not forget your Bibles:

What Bible passages point to Advent themes of preparation, promise, hope expectancy, God’ enduring faithfulness, the time when God’s kingdom will be fulfilled? Advent is an excellent time of the year to familiarize yourself again with the Bible’s stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus.

7. Do not try to be perfect for the Holidays:

Believe it or not, it is not the end of the world if the Christmas tree has a bare spot on one side, if a bulb in one of the window candles is burned out, or if you cannot find just the perfect gift for Uncle Bob. The holiday season can be stressful enough without allowing the drive for perfection to overwhelm you!

6. Do not overdo your schedule:

Learn to say “no” to some of the demands or events that may beg for your presence, however enjoyable or good they may be. Know your limits. As the saying goes, “Too much of a good thing is still too much.”

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY



5. Do not overdo gifts:

I recently heard of a study that indicates children on average receive 60% more for Christmas than they expect. Very good news for parents, right? But it also indicates that while parents need to be very clear with their children about expectations, evermore important is that they themselves need to be consistent with these expectations in their own gift giving. Remember, the focus is Jesus, God's supreme gift to us, not our gifts to others.

4. Do not go into additional debt:

Perhaps this is easier said than done. However, it is important to remember that the gift-giving of Christmas is supposed to spring from and be a sign of our gratitude to God for his gift-giving of Jesus. Rather than large grandiose, expensive gifts, consider giving smaller, more thoughtful items.

3. Do not expect the culture to follow your lead:

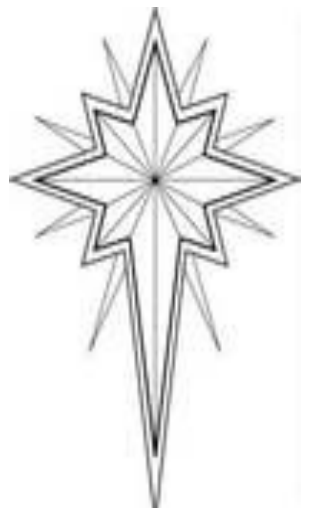
A truly Christian approach to the month of December will inevitably be counter-cultural. If you embrace much of this list, have faith in what you are doing. Christmas is not about the Martha Stewart-quality centerpiece, the gourmet Christmas feast, or getting the "hot toy of the year". Our spiritual health depends on our resisting the cultural message that we need to get out and "shop till we drop". Jesus came into the world to die for a different reason.

2. Do not forget the less fortunate.

Remember that the real Christmas story is not set in a warm and cozy house, tastefully decorated and filled with more gifts than can fit under the tree, however wonderful that all may be. The real Christmas story is set amidst those who know enduring poverty and danger. What more loving witness could you offer than to seek out some holiday opportunity to identify with the poor and downtrodden as God does?

1. Do not wait until Christmas Eve to come to Church!

Avoid the holiday rush and join us for worship in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Worship in the church is absolutely beautiful this time of year, with beautiful and powerful Advent hymns. Join us for Advent worship and allow it to bring you back to a sense of expectancy and alertness for the coming of God into our world, into your very life.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

ADVENT THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD



In Advent, we who are the church:
wait to celebrate the coming of the baby
Jesus whom God gave to us and to all people
because God loves us and has made us family;
celebrate God's promise to be with us
now and always;
remember that Jesus will come again in
glory and loving power to make all things
new;
can understand Advent by experiences
of waiting, hope, promises, and love in our
lives;

see the color of Advent, purple, and are reminded of royalty. We are getting ready to celebrate the coming of a King, but a King different from any other - and His coming again. He is the King who changes everything.

-Becky Loggins, Director of Children's Ministries

WISH LIST FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Cardboard bases from packages of bottled water (base only)
 - 6-pack boxes of Model Magic, "Natural Colors" (found at Michael's or Ben Franklin) - 6 individual packs in a box
 - Elmer's White Glue - small bottles
 - Glue sticks
 - Crayola brand LARGE or "So Big" crayons (the "fat", toddler/preschool crayons)
- In preparation for VBS 2013, donated or loaned items related to :
- Japan ~ Zimbabwe
 - United Kingdom ~ Australia ~ Mexico!
- A few items: red and white tablecloths, pinwheels of all colors, African drums.

-Becky Loggins, Director of Children's Ministries



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

URGENT: JANUARY TEACHER & ASSISTANTS NEEDED FOR THE CHILDREN!

Both the youngest and oldest classes of children's Sunday School are without anyone to teach or assist in their classes beginning January 6, for 6 Sundays. This time on and after Epiphany, before Lent, is a special kind of "in between" time, with important lessons and activities. The children in our church family need guides on their Christian journey. Please help if you can!

The specifics of who is needed:

**a teacher AND assistant in 2-3 year old class for the Epiphany Term
(Jan 6-Feb 10)**

**a teacher AND assistant in 3rd-5th grades class for the Epiphany Term
(Jan 6 - Feb 10)**

Contact Becky Loggins as soon as possible if you can help or have questions. Email bg18@comcast.net . Phone 201-0571.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Sunday, December 2 **1st Sunday of Advent.** 1st Sunday Children's Church, ages 4 years old through kindergarten with the lesson of *Advent I-III*.

Sunday, December 9 **2nd Sunday of Advent.** 2nd Sunday Children's Church for 1st-3rd graders with the lesson of *Advent*.

Sunday, December 16 Pageant costume preparation in children's Sunday School.

Sunday, December 23 Pageant rehearsal following worship.

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

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



ABOUT THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE WITH PAGEANT

On Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m., the solemn portrayal of the Nativity of Our Lord, the Christmas pageant, takes place within a shortened family-oriented worship service of about forty-five to fifty minutes in length. This service is *NOT exclusively for families*, though it is named such as families with young children find it well-suited in the length, the early time, and inclusion of the pageant. Attendance has grown every year since 2003. If you attend, plan to be awed and maybe find a tear in your eye as the infant Jesus is brought into the sanctuary, and then as you give your star - and yourself - to the Holy Infant and Savior. It is a truly wonderful way to begin a joyous and meaningful Christmas celebration!

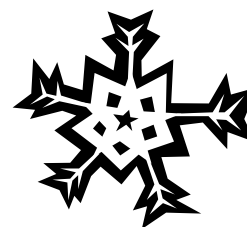
The pageant participants include children from our Sunday School from ages two years old through 5th grade; parents from our Sunday School families; two of our youth group members; an infant from our congregation; and the infant's father. Some of our Sunday School teachers, assistants, and parents serve as the backbone of the portrayal as the "traffic directors" of shepherds and angels. Within the portrayal is the reading of the familiar and awesome scripture, congregational singing of beloved Christmas hymns, and the opportunity for all in the congregation of every age to come close to the manger and the Mystery of Christmas. You will receive a star as you enter the sanctuary. At the culmination of the pageant, everyone will bring their star to the front of the sanctuary and place it around the manger, coming "up-close and personal" to the Mystery of Christmas in a tangible way. Becky Loggins will direct and narrate the pageant, and Reverend Haney will lead the service.

You might wonder...Why aren't the Three Kings - the magi - the wise men - in the pageant? The magi come from so far away that they probably don't arrive until about a year after Jesus' birth, when Jesus is in a house (Matthew 2:11). Because they are on their way to Bethlehem just as we are, we remember them but do not portray them on Christmas Eve. We celebrate their arrival every year on Epiphany, which is January 6.

YOUTH GROUP

SCHEDULE

Seasons Greetings



YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2012

Friday, November 30	MS Basketball & Movie Night
Saturday/Sunday, December 1 & 2	POJ High School Retreat
Sunday, December 2	No Evening Youth Group
Sunday, December 9	Cookies and Caroling
Sunday, December 16	Dinner and White Elephant: Bring a \$5-10 gift to exchange
Sunday, December 23	No Youth Group
Sunday, December 30	Youth Activity Out

ALL TPC COLLEGE STUDENTS...
YOU'RE INVITED!

Christmas Open House
Saturday, December 22
7:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
At the Lacy Home
2944 Glen Gary Drive
Hosted by: The Lacys and The Turners

MISSION AND OUTREACH

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Tuckahoe has been a sponsor for the **Ministry of Prison Fellowship “Angel Tree” project** for many years. This year we are again sponsoring **25 children**. Each child will receive two gifts: one toy and one clothing item.

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

Please consider helping with this very worthwhile project! **We need 50 members of the congregation** to purchase and gift wrap one gift each (approx. \$20-\$25). The gifts have been selected by the parents, so you can be sure they will be appropriate and appreciated. We also **need volunteers to assist with the delivery of the presents** to the children the week of December 17. **The Angel Tree will be up in the Fellowship Hall beginning November 24.**

Please pick an Angel from the tree to make Christmas special for a lucky child!

The wrapped gifts must be returned by December 9. Contact Rachel Burch at 364-5203 or vaburch@comcast.net with questions. Thank you in advance for your generous support.!



ALL GENERATION TALENT SHOW TO BENEFIT YOUTH MISSION WORK

On Sunday, April 14th after worship, the Youth Group and Parent Council will hold our 3rd Annual Tuckahoe Presbyterian Talent Show to benefit Youth Group Mission trips.

This year, in addition to amazing talent acts from our pool of rich talent, we are going to incorporate an auction. Each group or division within the church **MUST*** come up with a talent act or an item for the auction or both!

Some ideas for the auction are: lake house weekend, sporting event tickets, themed gift basket, etc. Youth will also auction off their time for a particular task such as helping with yard work or other household project, babysitting, etc.

***You don't want to know what happens if you don't participate!**

MISSION AND OUTREACH



A big thanks goes to all who participated in the two ISH projects, in November.
Thank you to all who had dinner at California Pizza Kitchen.
We had a great turnout.

Thank you to all who helped prepare Thanksgiving boxes. Because of your kindness
we were able to deliver 17 boxes of food to families in need.
We are grateful to our church family for always being willing to help others.

Meg Packard and Kaye Keyes

CHILDREN IN OAK GROVE/BELLEMEADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEED CHRISTMAS SUPPORT



There are children enrolled at Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School who will receive few, if any, Christmas presents as a result of their parental financial situations. We would like to brighten their Christmas by recruiting individuals or families in our congregation who would be willing to “adopt” these children by providing two relatively inexpensive gifts for each child 15 and under in a family. Two or more members or families in our congregation may join together to be Santa for a given family. Typical gifts would be school supplies, games, books, or clothing. These unwrapped gifts would need to be brought to the church on or before Sunday, December 9. If you have an interest in this opportunity, please contact Dick

Mateer (270-6932, rmateer@richmond.edu, or in person). Jennifer Moreno, our volunteer coordinator from Communities in Schools, will supply us with the names, ages, and gift suggestions from the parent(s) of each child.

We hope there are members of our congregation who may want to be involved as Christmas elves in these opportunities this year. Nine of our church members serve as classroom assistants/tutors for these children.

AROUND THE CHURCH



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Tuckahoe PNC has been working hard as we continue to search for our next Senior Pastor. We have read over 180 Pastor Information Forms and we have telephoned, Skyped, visited, and hosted a number of strong candidates. To date, however, none has emerged as the candidate who the committee believes is the right person for the position. As always, we appreciate all of the prayers from the congregation as we attempt to discern who it is that God has in mind for us and we welcome recommendations for worthy candidates.

SIGN UP TO GIVE FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

The beauty of God's creation is mirrored in the gorgeous flower arrangements that grace our Chancel each Sunday morning at worship. You can contribute to this important part of the worship experience by donating flowers on any Sunday. This gesture can be in memory of loved ones, in honor of someone special in your life or simply to the Glory of God. There is a Flower Calendar for 2013 on the Bulletin Board outside the church office. Please feel free to call the church office at 282-2860 or Bette Morton at 360-3330 if you have any questions about donating flowers.



A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

If you are planning to make a gift of stock to the church by the end of 2012, please initiate the process by December 1. We have found that it may take several weeks from the date of your request to your broker until the church receives the final paperwork. We want to deposit the check no later than December 28 if the gift is intended to be a 2012 gift. We appreciate your understanding.

Dick Mateer

AROUND THE CHURCH

“THANK YOU” FROM OUR MEMBERS

Suzanne Perry writes: “Many thanks to my church family for remembering me with a bouquet of flowers from the chancel. The flowers have added so much color to my room and your thoughts give me warmth. A special thank you to Sandy Richardson who made such a pretty arrangement.”

Ruth Nauman writes: “Thank you for expressing God’s love in such a thoughtful way. I’d like to thank my Deacon, Anne Anderson, and the Diaconate for all their efforts in finding a volunteer to help me with a very specific need. That wonderful, capable volunteer, Martha Burgess, gave of her time and talent in a way that not only warms my body, but lifts my spirits. How blessed I am to have a church family like this.”

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOR CARITAS

My name is Gus Beane and I am a Boy Scout working towards my Eagle Scout award. Each prospective Eagle Scout must plan and lead a service project benefitting the community. For my Eagle Scout project, I have decided to hold a furniture drive to support CARITAS—the same organization Tuckahoe supports each year by hosting families the week after Thanksgiving.



The CARITAS Furniture Bank is Virginia’s only furniture bank and provides furniture assistance to over 700 households a year through partnerships with 50 nonprofit agencies. To realize their motto—From Shelter to Stability—they collect and distribute household items such as mattresses, sofas, bed frames, dining tables and chairs, dressers, pots and pans, bed linens, bath towels, dishes/flatware, night stands, coffee and end tables, recliners, desks, lamps, rugs, pillows, fans and micro-waves. They cannot accept clothing, toys, books or built-in appliances.

I have arranged with CARITAS to have a PODS storage unit at Tuckahoe from Friday, November 30 through Sunday, December 9. I will be there along with fellow Scouts and my Dad from noon to 2:00 pm on weekend days and from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm on weekdays. If you need to drop something off earlier, you can simply leave it by the POD, at the church office or at my home at 406 S. Mooreland Road. I can also arrange for pick-ups. If we fill the POD, CARITAS will come and empty it. I hope they have to make several trips to the church between November 30 and December 9!

For more information about CARITAS, visit their website at www.caritasshelter.org. Thank you for supporting CARITAS and the Boy Scouts. Please call me at 754-0496 if you have any questions.

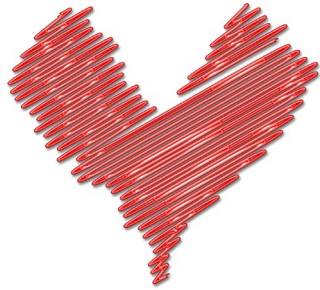
Gus Beane

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

HARVEST OF LOVE

Thank you to the members of Tuckahoe who contributed to our Harvest of Love, donating boxes for Operation Christmas

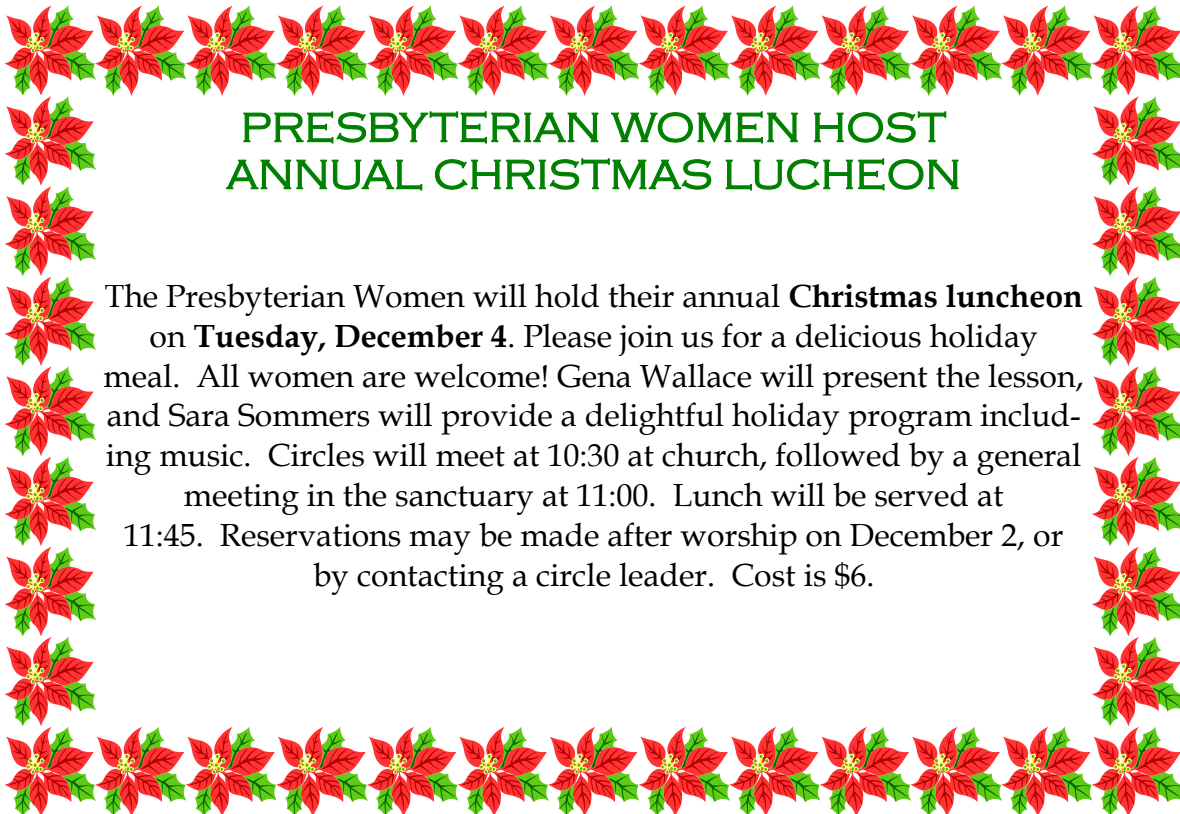
Child, knitted and crocheted caps for preemie babies and underwear and socks for the children of Oak Grove-Bellmeade Elementary. We had a bountiful harvest!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY CIRCLE MEETINGS

Please note that the first Tuesday of January 2013 is New Year's Day. Most circle meetings will be postponed until the following Tuesday, January 8. Please check with your circle leader for specific plans.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HOST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Presbyterian Women will hold their annual **Christmas luncheon** on **Tuesday, December 4**. Please join us for a delicious holiday meal. All women are welcome! Gena Wallace will present the lesson, and Sara Sommers will provide a delightful holiday program including music. Circles will meet at 10:30 at church, followed by a general meeting in the sanctuary at 11:00. Lunch will be served at 11:45. Reservations may be made after worship on December 2, or by contacting a circle leader. Cost is \$6.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER ADVENT SCHEDULE

Our December programs are a series on “Advent and the Arts”. Please join us for dinner beginning at 6:00 pm with the 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>
Dec. 5	Roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, dessert	Mark Sprinkle Senior Web Editor and Senior Fellow of Arts and Humanities at BioLogos. He is a graduate of Georgetown University with majors in painting and American studies. Mark received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the College of William & Mary. Mark writes and speaks on the role of creative practices in cultural mediation and renewal - especially in the area of science and Christian faith. His program for us will center on the
Dec. 12	Cooking Team 3 – Cranberry chicken, rice, vegetable, dessert	Richard Haney Richard will take a look at Poetry and the season of Advent
Dec. 19	Chicken marsala, rice, broccoli, bread, dessert	Mark Cain Mark will offer a program of Advent Music
Dec. 26	NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER	
Jan. 2	NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER	

TUCKAHOE NIGHT AT THE ROBINS CENTER

The Fellowship Committee is planning a night at the Robins Center to see the Richmond Spiders play Xavier: Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The group rate for 15 or more is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children age 16 and under. We understand the U of R - Xavier game is well attended, so we are advised to order our tickets by

mid-January. Send your check, made out to:

Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church (on memo write: basketball game) to
Dianne St. John, 9401 Lyndonway Dr., Richmond, VA 23229.





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to supply a **Red or White** Christmas Poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas, please place your order by **Friday, December 14, 2012**. Fill in the order form below and return it to the church office, along with your check made payable to Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church. Poinsettias are \$11.00 each.
Please Print--Please Print

Given By: _____

In loving memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Plant Color: (Indicate number of each color) Red _____ White _____

_____ Plants will be picked up _____ Plants can be delivered to shut-ins.



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DECEMBER 2012 CALENDAR

TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7000 Park Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226-3624

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Richmond, VA 23232
Permit No. 1962

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

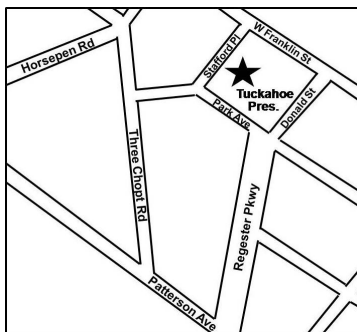
TUCKAHOE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuckahoe Staff

Richard Haney, Interim Pastor
Mark 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
E-mail: office@tuckahoepres.org

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