

# The Scribe - May 29, 2009

## Notes from Richard ...

Thanks to all who worked hard to make our children's worship service May 17<sup>th</sup> a success. Thanks to the fellowship committee for "putting on the dog", both literally and figuratively—a couple of folks were grilling hot dogs and hamburgers in the rain. Thanks to all who welcomed our guests so warmly. Thanks to the folks from our Early Childhood School for extending gracious invitations to the families of our preschoolers. The invitations worked; eight children from the ECS attended worship.

My impression is that the children and families who were present were thoroughly engaged by the worship service. They participated wholeheartedly and joyfully. Their delight was contagious. It's always wonderful to see people enjoying themselves so much; it helps us enjoy ourselves more fully. And seeing people enjoy worship is one of the great pleasures of ministry.

When we tell families that we're honored and grateful to be able to teach their children, we're not just whistling 'Dixie'. Good teachers always tend to learn as much from their students as their students learn from them. We have much to teach children about worship—but they may have even more to teach us.

Jesus tells us that unless we become as little children, we will never enter the kingdom. This can be a perplexing message—until we realize that the children displayed in worship last week the joy and enthusiasm that God wants for all God's children, all the time. The children displayed no artifice, just straightforward feeling.

This is something both simple and profound to ponder in our hearts.

I thank the ECS for giving me a chance to learn how to lead worship for children. I'd never led preschool chapel services before, and wanted to do it right, but I hardly knew where to begin. Great teachers that they are, Miriam Callahan (three-year-olds) and Barbara Wykcoff (four-year-olds) allowed me to learn at my own pace.

I knew I didn't want to impose on the children the kind of happy-clappy, namby-pamby, goody-goody, trifling, sentimental pablum I'd been crammed with when I was their age. Children can't survive on such sugary confections and empty calories; they need stronger meat—and some wholesome fruits and vegetables and grains, too, for that matter.

My four-year-old son, William, has a complex emotional life, full of stresses and cares, fears and anxieties, joys and sorrows. He is vulnerable to illness, tragedy, loss, and loneliness—as are we all. William needs God at the center of his life—as do we all. He stands in need of the saving grace of God as much as any adult. He longs for a glimpse of the face of God as much as any other child of God on the face of this earth. If he doesn't yet know that that's what he yearns for, well...a lot of adults don't know it yet, either.

And woe unto the one who would tell any child of God, of any age, that following Christ is not perilous, that discipleship is not costly, that cheap grace is no grace at all.

Mindful of these concerns, I stumbled and fumbled my way through the first months of leading chapel. I got along great with the children, and we did pretty well praying together and very well singing together. I hope they found me to be cheerful and approachable and kind, and never condescending. But I couldn't pretend that having the children run around the sanctuary to the tune of "Skip to My Lou" or having them learn the story and all the motions to "Little Bunny Foo Foo" was of any great religious benefit.

Over time, I began to add elements from a traditional order of worship. Nowadays, the whole chapel service is a very deliberate worship experience, albeit a lot more interactive and participatory than our regular service for the Lord's day. Last Sunday, the order of worship we followed was the basic chapel service expanded.

So. We had a successful service of worship. What next? What did you think of the service? Some people have suggested that we do this on a regular basis. What do you think? This column will be continued next month, and I'd love to include your thoughts and comments.

My own thoughts? At the moment, I'm pleased that we did something that was new, but based upon traditional and familiar elements. At the session retreat the day before the service, ministry to children was hands-down the ministry that folks identified as the highest priority of Thalia Trinity both in the past and present. I thought the service fit in perfectly with that priority.

A children's service once a month during our regular time of Sunday worship, perhaps followed by a fellowship lunch? I'm pretty sure that no one else in the area is doing anything like that, and we may be uniquely qualified to do it and do it well.

The need is there. Lord, Lord, the need is surely there.

Of course, the children need it, too.  
In Christ, Richard

(to be continued...)

Congratulations ...

# HAPPY GRADUATION DAY

## June High School Graduates:

**Congratulations to Mitch Green** who will graduate June 19<sup>th</sup> from First Colonial High School. Mitch is planning to attend James Madison University in the fall.

**Congratulations to Taylor Coghill (Peggy Huffman's granddaughter)** who will graduate from Princess Anne High School, also on June 19<sup>th</sup>. She is planning to attend Old Dominion University in the fall.

**Congratulations to Gage Harris** who will graduate June 4<sup>th</sup> from North Marion High School in Florida. (We received this announcement in the mail and have put it, along with Gage's senior picture, on the Congregational Care bulletin board ... be sure to stop by and see this photo of a grown-up Gage!!! And thank you to Jenny & Jeremy ... or was it Sally Stahler? ... for sending this to us!)

**Congratulations also to:** Doug Campbell who received his Doctoral degree. from Regent University on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope many of you had the opportunity to greet Doug and Bev when they attended the service here on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please be praying



for...

THIS SECTION NOT POSTED ONLINE.



We are in serious need of **volunteers** to count the offering on Sundays. Counting is done in teams of two and training is provided by placing new counters with experienced counters for a few times until you feel comfortable with the procedure. Very specific written instructions also exist for each stage of the counting procedure if you should need to double-check yourself! Please contact Daryl Mitchell or the church office if you could help with this. At the present time we have four teams, but would like to have three more teams added to our roster. At least one team, after counting for several years, would like to "retire" when replacements are found.

## June



1 – Matthew Tuttle  
16 – Woody Stephens  
25 – David Langille

3 – Kenny Munson  
19 – Petie Slawson  
26 – Madeleine Siviter

11 – Jack Slawson  
21 – Joe Harkey

14 – Alisa Crider  
24 – Carol Simpson



June 2 – Pam & Juan Ponce – 35<sup>th</sup>  
June 5 – Dot & Gene Kennedy  
June 7 – Elaine & Woody Stephens – 40<sup>th</sup>  
June 10 – Louise & Alex McNeill  
June 12 – Angela & Don Hill  
June 13 – Petie & Jack Slawson – 55<sup>th</sup>  
June 29 – Brenda & David Langille

## A brand new column for “The Scribe” called . . .

### “Meet a Member”

Every Sunday, we all greet our head usher, George van Arsdale, as we enter the sanctuary but the Worship and Music Committee thinks you would enjoy knowing a little bit more about this dedicated member of our committee.

George was born in Montclair, NJ on December 30, 1952 and lived there until July of 1968 when he moved to Woodbridge, VA. This was a very fortuitous move, since this is where he met his wife Maryann. In 1981, they settled in Virginia Beach, where Maryann had an aunt and cousins. They started attending TTPC after Maryann met Lynn Huffman and heard what a nice church we have. That was the year that Cindy Black was pregnant with Shannon. George and Maryann have two children, Johanna and Chris, for whom we old-timers hold many fond memories. We are delighted that Johanna still attends TTPC with her boyfriend Kevin, and helps her dad with the ushering duties.

The year George joined TTPC, Daryl Mitchell was Worship Elder and asked him to be an usher. Kevin Krest was the next Worship elder, followed closely by Susan Simmons who subdivided the Worship Committee, assigning heads to each subdivision. She asked George if he would be Head Usher and attend to all the details involved with ushering duties. In case you didn't know, those duties include finding two ushers each Sunday to hand out bulletins, lighting the sanctuary, helping the acolytes, having the collection trays ready, keeping attendance records and whatever other special functions might be needed.

George is an auto technician by trade, and finds the details in his work to be interesting and challenging. He says that is part of what draws him to his position in ushering, which involves a lot of details in preparing and helping with the service. He also greatly enjoys the social aspect of his post since his auto work doesn't allow much time for talking with people. He says “our church is blessed with a very friendly congregation.”

George received his first Lionel Train for Christmas just before he turned five and has loved Model Railroading ever since. He hasn't had a layout for a good number of years, but enjoys going to the Children's Museum in Portsmouth to admire the displays there. He also enjoys working with and building/rebuilding computers. He loves roller-coasters, live concerts and musicals. He enjoys time with his family, spending 99 out of 100 evenings at home and at least an hour in his wife's company before bedtime. Sounds like he has his priorities right!

George loves to make people laugh. He'll go way out on a limb or the long way around to try and make a funny point. As he sees it, *Reader's Digest* has it right, “Laughter is the Best Medicine.”

Thank you, George for your good humor and faithful service.

# Committee Information

## Session Report

4/23/09

- The Sunday breakfasts will return to the first Sunday of the month in July.
- The Session retreat is set for May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Cypress Point Country Club. The meeting fee has been waived, there will be no breakfast served, and everyone will pay for their own lunches, so there will be no cost to the church.

### Finance & Stewardship

#### Budget Report:

Income:

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Envelope Offerings	\$ 12,456.00	\$ 46,694.00
Loose Offerings	487.42	1,322.17
Other Offerings	684.00	1,850.32
Investment Income	0.00	20,000.00
Interest	<u>.28</u>	<u>1.31</u>
Total General Income:	\$ 13,627.70	\$ 69,967.80

Expenses:

Buildings & Grounds	\$ 5,473.92	\$ 16,642.48
Christian Education & Nurture	27.00	565.00
Communications	0.00	0.00
Congregational Care	0.00	0.00
CC: Presbyterian Women	0.00	168.00
Finance & Stewardship	11,845.30	41,525.14
Hospitality & Fellowship	0.00	0.00
Missions & Social Action	400.00	2,066.66
Music & Worship	1,502.00	5,408.76
Personnel	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 19,248.22</u>	<u>\$66,376.04</u>

INCOME LESS EXPENSES (\$ 5,620.52) 3,591.76

### Music & Worship

#### Average Worship Attendance:

January – 84      February – 76      March – 92      April – 106

### Communications

We are seeking a volunteer to decide what information should be displayed for the sign in front of the church. If you are interested, please contact Tim Gibson at 498-2422.

### Hospitality & Fellowship (Father's Day) Breakfast



*Sunday, June 21, at 9am*  
*(The women are cooking this one!)*

# **Christian Education & Nurture**

## **Youth Sunday**

Thank you to the middle and high school youth for doing such an excellent job leading worship on May 10<sup>th</sup>! A special thanks to Edward Mitchell for his dynamic sermon!

## **Mission Trip**

Our youth are looking forward to spending another wonderful week with ServiceWorks in Hendersonville, North Carolina, during the week of June 21-26<sup>th</sup>.

## **Youth Group Donates Money to Fight Hunger!**

Our youth collected money during Lent to donate to World Vision to fight hunger. We will be donating \$200.00 to go towards such gifts as small livestock or fishing equipment for a family, or a set of fruit trees.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School will once again be held in partnership with Thalia United Methodist Church. It will be held during the week of July 13-17 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at Thalia United Methodist Church. The theme this year is "Son Rock Kid's Camp". Registration forms are available in the narthex and in the church office. Be sure to register early as spots fill up quickly!

Volunteers are still needed for Vacation Bible School! If you would like to be involved in this wonderful ministry, please contact Gwen Bushnell.

Mandatory training sessions for Vacation Bible School volunteers will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Thalia United Methodist Church. If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, please contact Gwen Bushnell.

Food and craft item donations are needed for Vacation Bible School! The sign up sheets will be posted in the Fellowship Hall, and the craft items are also listed at the end of this newsletter.

## **Sunday School**

The last Sunday for spring Sunday school will be June 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Sunday school classes during the summer vacation. Classes will resume on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

# **Congregational Care**

## **Presbyterian Women**

The women will be having their Birthday Luncheon on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. We hope all women in the congregation will plan to attend. Please bring a salad bar ingredient that begins with the first letter of your last name (already prepared for serving in a bowl or on a plate).

## **Evening Circle**

The Evening Circle's end of the year dinner will again be held at Tautogs on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$25, which can be brought to the church office as cash or a check made out to Tautogs. It can also be given to Barbara Tuttle or Ann Zuidema. We need to have a head count by Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, so please let us know before then if you plan to attend. We will be meeting at the church at 6:00 p.m. to carpool, or plan to meet us at Tautogs at 6:30.

## **Around the Morning Circle**

It's been quite a busy season, and we have certainly earned a sit-down-to-a-good-meal and fellowship time at our usual spot, Coastal Caterers, on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please notify Lynn Huffman if you want to attend and did not sign the sheet.

Speaking of sheets, we will be meeting in July and August at our regular day and time --- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:00 --- for some ripping and rolling of bandages for the Congo missionaries. Bring a bag lunch and stay awhile to gab.

There will be a whole new look to the Morning Circle come September. We have two new chairs: Bonnie Young and Ruth Tubbs have graciously agreed to assume the roles of co-chairs. I would like to thank them and all of the ladies of the morning circle for a wonderful, productive two years and, once again, for all the love during my "minor inconvenience" this year.

Our ongoing mission projects needing the support of the entire congregation are: old calendars, new socks and undies for girls of all ages and sizes, and new boxer shorts for boys of all ages and sizes. The calendars are made into beads (beautiful) in Uganda and the socks and undies go to Seton House.

Thank you all – God Bless, and have a happy and safe summer!

Lynn Huffman

### **Thank you ...**

The family of Kitty Bennett wishes to thank everyone for the visits, calls, cards, flowers and food we received during her illness and after her passing; and a very special “thank you” to the ladies of the church for providing the reception after her funeral service. The church was a very important part of my mother’s life for many years, and your thoughtfulness and support during this difficult time was sincerely appreciated.

Thank you so much,

Amy Houston

My dear, dear friends,

Thank you. I made it through the surgery very well and the recuperation has also gone very well. I couldn’t have done it without you. Your prayers kept me calm and peaceful throughout.

Thank you for the beautiful cards, phone calls, visits, the gifts of food, flowers, books and most of all for being my friends and praying so diligently for me.

I started chemotherapy May 13<sup>th</sup>. Please continue praying for me as I go through these next 18 weeks.

Thank you.

Agnes Krest

### **Other News**

We received a thank you from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for our 2008 contribution of \$384.00 to One Great Hour of Sharing. The letter is on the Missions bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

As many of you may already know, Maryann VanArsdale has for several years been doing a Bible mission ... giving/sending Bibles to those who don’t have them. She recently gave us some information about a website (Christian Broadcasting Network) which gives away 3 free Bibles to anyone who asks for them. If anyone would like to do this, they can go to this website and request 3 Bibles, and then give them to Maryann to distribute as part of her mission. The site ships them in 4-6 weeks and Maryann would be glad to pick them up when they come in.

Thank you from Maryann .... 463-4485.

(Website: [www.Spirit1.us](http://www.Spirit1.us) Click on the “free Bibles” and enter your information.)

### **And now, finally ... that list of craft items needed for Vacation Bible School:**

Terra-cotta air drying clay

Nature items: seed packets, pine needles, small pine cones, acorns, etc.

Plastic forks

Paper clips

Dinner size paper plates

Newspapers

Large safety pins

Seed beads: multi-colored (pin-hole size)

Large craft foam sheets (variety of colors)

¼ inch (0-6 cm) wooden dowels

Masking tape

Washable markers

Fabric paints (bottles, multi-colors)

Small river rocks

Dried beans (pinto, kidney, lima)

150 3” styrofoam balls (floral)

Empty 16 ounce water bottles

**The deadline for the next newsletter’s articles and for the July calendar is Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.** We also appeal for volunteers to help prepare the newsletter (folding, sealing, flattening, etc.) during the summer months. Please call the church office if you could help with this. The first one will be ready on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!