

The Scribe - June 26, 2008

Notes from Richard ...

As this newsletter goes to press, Martha, William, and I are moving into a new house in the Churchland section of Portsmouth. Although we considered houses in Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Norfolk, we wound up choosing a house that's only a few minutes away from our current home.

It's a nice place, a two-story basic ranch house in a pleasant neighborhood, right next to the elementary school that William will attend in a couple of years. He won't even have to cross a street; our yard is adjacent to the soccer field and the baseball diamond.

It's the first house either Martha or I have ever owned. We approach the closing date, June 26, with a mixture of fear, trembling, and excitement. To have a place of our own! To make a commitment to a neighborhood, an investment in a city! To pledge ourselves to a serious mortgage! To enjoy the rewards—and assume the responsibility—of home ownership!

What a lot of exclamation marks! Maybe we should take out the one after "serious mortgage".

I'm sure we'll settle down after the movers drive away. As we survey the boxes that are stacked to the ceiling, as we gird up our loins and roll up our sleeves (or is it the other way round?) and get to work unpacking, I'm sure sober reality will take away a few more exclamation marks.

But, still...a house. A home.

Though the pace of moving has slowed significantly for me in the last fifteen years, I've lived at over forty addresses. And, usually, at each new address, a good part of my thinking was directed to the next address, or to the next stage of life, or to some distant notion or ideal or dream. That's just a natural way to think when you're leading the life of a nomad.

But...

I received "the call". I packed the tents and sold the camels. I went to seminary. I got married. I had a son. (Well, Martha helped.) Our family came to the Hampton Roads area for the sake of a very fine call, and now I have a very fine call, too. Buying a house seems like the falling into place of the last piece of one of the great puzzles of providence.

Martha and I are too busy, and too happy, to be thinking too much about any other time but *this* time. What a strange and wondrous feeling to be so fully engaged with the present, with the here and now, leaving the future to take care of itself.

Thursday we will receive some particular papers to a particular address to prove to all and sundry that we have a house. We're thrilled to be moving in. But, really, when you opened your arms and your hearts to us from the very first day that I began to serve among you, I've known that I was home.

In Christ,

Richard

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SUNDAY HELPERS

Sunday, July 6, 2008

Liturgist – ; Lector – ; Greeters – ; Ushers – Jules Robichaud & Gene Kennedy; Acolyte – Josh Gibson; Worship Class – Carol Matthews; Counters – Sue Harper & Jon Hagadorn; Fellowship Hosts – Kay Sawyer & Kathryn Valentine.

Sunday, July 13, 2008

Liturgist – ; Lector – ; Greeters – ; Ushers – George VanArsdale & Tim Green; Acolyte – Nico Robichaud; Worship Class – Carol Matthews; Counters – Sid Rader & Anne May; Fellowship Hosts – Clarine Kelsay.

Sunday, July 20, 2008

Liturgist – ; Lector – ; Greeter – ; Ushers – George VanArsdale & ?; Acolyte – Becky Bushnell; Worship Class – Carol Matthews; Counters – Cindy Black & David Scholefield; Fellowship Hosts – The Bushnells.

Sunday, July 27, 2008

Liturgist – ; Lector – ; Greeter – Kathryn Valentine; Ushers – George VanArsdale & Scott Wilhoit; Acolyte – Jake Gibson; Worship Class – Carol Matthews; Counters – Kathryn Valentine & Catherine Williams; Fellowship Hosts – The Kennedys.

Please note that A GREAT MANY of the above responsibilities are not filled in. If you can help on any of the dates, please sign up in the book on the podium in the Narthex, or call the church office to sign up.

**"The Scribe" is published once a month.
Thalia Trinity Presbyterian Church
420 Thalia Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-1851
Issue #2008-6**

Repeat Notice from the Ad Hoc Anniversary Celebration Committee



Please make note on all calendars, computers, and human memory banks that the 50th Anniversary of Thalia Trinity Presbyterian Church will be celebrated in weekend events scheduled for: **October 10-12, 2008.**

So ... you think you've got talent!?!?
Start planning how you're going to showcase that in the Talent Show that will be a part of the festivities.

If you'd like more information about any of the activities planned, feel free to contact Susie Scott at 340-4041.

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Session



Called Session Meeting of June 15, 2008:

Session gave final approval to the loan of \$40,000 to Richard Goodman from the Manse Fund, along with the contract's wording for same. The contract is entitled "Manse Fund Benefit Agreement" and will be signed by the Clerk of Session, the Treasurer, one of the church's Trustees (Connie Bradford), as well as both Richard and Martha Goodman.

Stated Session Meeting of June 19, 2008:

→ Review of the Manse Fund Benefit Agreement in its final format.

→ Worship: Task force over the next year will go through hymns, with the possibility of developing a new songbook.

→ Congregational Activities: Will spearhead the production of an updated pictorial directory, hopefully by August 1st so it will be ready at the time of the 50th anniversary celebration. Breakfasts will continue this summer on the 1st Sunday of each month. July's will be a "streamlined" one with casseroles. Would also like to have a picnic sometime this summer.

→ Buildings & Grounds: Received estimates on gutters by the front of the church. This will be put off until the next budget year so it can be included in the 2009 budget.

→ Nominating Committee: Planning to meet soon.

→ Administration: Treasurer was given the okay to pull another \$20,000 out of investment income to cover budget shortages. Church members should be encouraged to keep their pledges up to date,

especially during the summer months when giving traditionally falls off. The Finance Committee will call a meeting to discuss a course of action for handling shortfalls and other matters.

→ Congregational Care: Committee members are continuing to stay in touch with those on the Cares and Concerns list. The Committee also continues to meet monthly.

→ Missions: Local missions (budget line item) amounts through the first six months of 2008 are being disbursed, as well as the Congo Mission budgeted amounts.

→ Minister: Vacation request to cover the period of July 8-21, which includes two Sundays. He hopes to have a lectionary group with other ministers starting up on the 22nd or 29th of July.

→ Session will try to hold a retreat around the 4th Thursday in July (which would be in place of the stated meeting). Details to determined later.

Committee Information

Worship

Average Worship Attendance:

January – 88	February – 80
March – 95	April – 87
May – 80	June – 77 (4 Sundays)

The July/August Upper Rooms are on the countertop in the Narthex.

Congregational Care

Please let Carolyn Powell or any of the other members of the Committee know of any cares and concerns. You may also call the office to let us know about changes or additions to the list, or to request assistance in any way.

Presbyterian Men

The men will be preparing breakfast for 9:00 on Sunday, July 6th. (Helpers, please arrive early!)

Presbyterian Women

Morning Circle:

The ladies of the Morning Circle celebrated the end of their season by filling two tables at the Coastal Restaurant at Willis Wayside. We welcomed Richard and Martha as our guests in fellowship and enjoyed good food and each others' company. We missed those members who were unable to be with us, some because of last minute schedule changes, but it's not over yet!

Mark your calendars for July 8th and August 10th. We will be meeting those two days at 10:00 a.m. to work on craft projects for various ministries and rippin' and rollin' bandages for the Congo missionaries. All women are invited. Just bring yourself and a bag lunch for some fellowship and fun as we work together ... you can even bring a friend!

Have a happy and safe summer!

Missions

Report on the Deacons' Fund activities for the first six months of the year:

Offerings received for the Deacons' Fund:

Sunday designated offerings: \$1,905.00
5 cents/meal: 30.29

Winter Shelter:

Received: 165.00*
Spent: 426.73

Assistance Given:

Families in need: 1592.51
(Primarily utility bill assistance)
Food Buying Week (through
Social Services): 660.00
Respite Care: 23.97

*Additional \$265 was received in Dec. 2007 for this.
Thank you to all who give to this fund ... because of your generosity we have helped 31 families with food or financial assistance so far this year.

Buildings & Grounds

We are continuing to clean up the flower beds and shrubs around the building. Thanks to those hardy folks who have been doing a lot of the work!

Congregational Activities

Our church will be producing a new pictorial directory. Please plan to have your picture taken. More information will be given to you in the next few weeks. The photography date is Thursday, July 31 from 3:00 pm to 9:30 pm. (Sign up forms are on the FYI Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall.)

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Sign up forms for Vacation Bible School are on the countertop in the Narthex. Please return these to Donna Wilhoit or Gwen Bushnell, or put them in the VBS mailbox in the church office. Thank you! If you want to purchase one of the music CDs for \$7.00, these are in the office.

VBS will be held with Thalia United Methodist Church during the week of July 14th through 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Methodist church. The theme this year is "Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power".

Thank you to all who have signed up for food donations. Please have all these items here in the church by Friday, July 11th.

Attention all VBS volunteers!!

All volunteers helping with VBS are required to attend a training meeting. We hope that most of you have already attended these meetings which have been announced in several Sunday bulletins, but for those who have not, one opportunity remains: for youth volunteers – Tuesday, July 1st at 7:00 p.m; for adult volunteers – Thursday, July 10th at 7:00 p.m. These meetings should last about one hour, and YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ONE. Please RSVP Cathy Graham at catrink98@yahoo.com to let her know which meeting you plan to attend. If you have any questions, you may contact Gwen Bushnell at 498-4888 or Cathy Graham at 306-1974. Thank you!

Mission Trip

Our youth are looking forward to another wonderful week with ServiceWorks in Hendersonville, North Carolina during the week of July 13th through the 18th. Nick Owens will be going as the second chaperone.

Library

THE SOURCE OF MY STRENGTH by Charles Stanley

This book fell into my hands while I was cleaning out a shelf in the library, so I took it home, and Bob and I both read it.

Charles Stanley wrote this shocking story of his early life, and his journey through its scarring emotional pain.

He takes us through chapters for those of us who are: Lonely, Fearful, Abused, Feeling Inferior, Struggling Under the Weight of Guilt, Frustrated, Burned Out, or Being Persecuted. The Conclusion is on The Purifying Power of Pain.

He describes each of these conditions, what they do to a person, and gives practical suggestions to help you.

He leads you to God's solution for you - request His healing. Trust Him to be faithful to His Word and to free you, and make you whole.

I don't think that I could spend the hours on the floor, knelt in prayer, that he did. But I can make a start . . .
Connie Bradford

Administration

The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is Monday, July 21st and all calendar items for August should be in by Friday, July 18th. The newsletter will be mailed out on **Thursday, July 24th**, and since school will be out, **we could use some assistance** in folding, sealing, and putting labels on them that morning. Please call the office to let Diane know if you can assist in this. Thank you!

Budget Report May, 2008

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$21,478.18*	\$71,596.79
Expenses:		
Admin.	10,917.63	50,186.10
Anniv. Celebration	0.00	0.00
B&G	5,785.33	18,285.10
CE	0.00	347.20
Church Growth	0.00	0.00
Cong. Activities	0.00	0.00
Congregational Care	0.00	0.00
PW	0.00	150.00
Missions	1,666.66	3,333.32
Worship	<u>2,307.54</u>	<u>8,528.04</u>
Total Exp.:	\$20,677.16	\$80,829.76
Inc. less exp.:	\$ 801.02	(\$ 9,232.97)

*May Income includes \$10,000 taken from investment interest.

Other News



To:

Jason Hagadorn – who was recently commissioned to the United States Navy as a Naval Intelligence Officer. The commissioning ceremony and reception took place on May 22nd in The Rayburn House Office Building, at the US Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Katie MacCall – for being chosen for the First Team All-District, First Team All-Regional and First Team All-Tidewater Softball!

Erin Green – who is a member of First Colonial High School's women's senior eight rowing team. This team placed 10th in national ranking after a meet in Tennessee on May 24th! Be sure to look at the full article on the FYI board in the Fellowship Hall.

Ana Ponce & John Kiess - on the occasion of their marriage June 14, 2008.

Mary (Sawyer) & Steve – on the occasion of their marriage June 22, 2008. (Sorry, we couldn't get their last name in time for the publication of *The Scribe*.)