

# THREE CHOPT NEWS

Three Chopt Presbyterian Church

April 2008

## ***Helping Freedom House with our Shared Abundance***

Last month, TCPC offered shelter, food, fellowship and love to 38 homeless men as we hosted one week for CARITAS. Freedom House in Richmond offers shelter, food and assistance with the hopeful transition to a new, improved lifestyle.



For the month of April, we can share our abundance by helping supply the daily needs of running Freedom House (read more at [www.freedomhouserichmond.org](http://www.freedomhouserichmond.org)) in its ongoing mission. They also appreciate volunteers as they serve breakfast and dinner to 300 people each day. Below is a list of items needed. Thank you for lending the hand of Christian love to our neighbors on their trying journey ahead which, with assistance, is attainable.

### **Styrofoam Products:**

- Plates, bowls, cups, napkins
- Paper towels, toilet paper

### **Kitchen/Food:**

- Cooking oil
- Disposable gloves
- Coffee, creamer, sugar
- Plastic utensils
- Aluminum foil
- Salad dressing
- Cans of potatoes, green beans, corn, collard greens, fruit cocktail

### **Cleaning Supplies:**

- Detergent, cleansers
- Large plastic bags

### **Personal Items:**

- Soap, deodorant
- Shampoo
- Razors, shave cream
- Toothpaste, toothbrush
- First Aid kit
- Hand lotion
- Fem. hygiene products

## ***Food for the Soul Saturday, April 19, 9-11am***

Food for the Soul, a ministry of food preparation for members of the congregation or others who are ill, suffering a loss, or celebrating an occasion in their lives, will meet again on Saturday, April 19, 9:00–11:00am in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall kitchen. Please come join the cooks if you would like to help prepare a casserole. Cooking skill is not required. You can assist in other ways by providing ingredients, sharing a recipe for a casserole or dish that freezes well, delivering the food, or letting us know who might enjoy receiving a gift of food. For more information, please call Karen Cullen at 747-6549 or email at [karen.cullen@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:karen.cullen@dss.virginia.gov).



## ***CARITAS Recap - Thanks!***

(Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter)

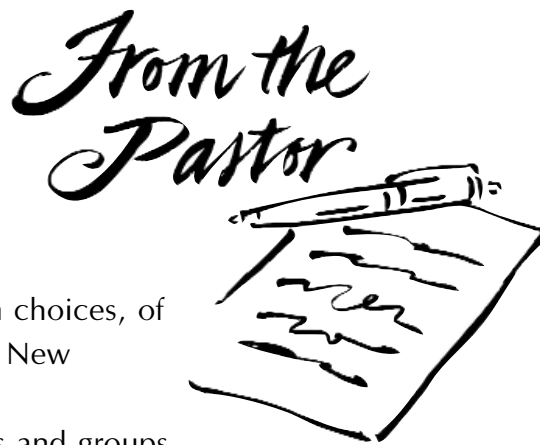
On Saturday, March 8, 2008, the linens were bagged, the cots folded and picked up by a truck, and our CARITAS guests moved to their next temporary home with another caring congregation. Congregations like TCPC are truly the backbone of support to the homeless in the Richmond area. Did you know that CARITAS continues to be the largest provider of emergency shelter in the area through its host congregations? In 2007, that added up to 38,000 nights of shelter and over 115,000 meals. For our TCPC congregation this year that added up to 7 nights of shelter and over 840 meals!!!

Thanks go to all the many helpers that again made our week hosting CARITAS a huge success. The overnighters, the drivers to showers and laundry, and those who prepared and/or served breakfast, lunch and dinner – all of you helped to make the week of March 1 - March 8 a visible sign of Christian compassion. This year we combined a “mission” within a mission by ordering our coffee for the week from the Presbyterian Coffee Project – an Equal Exchange market. This offers a new link between our congregation and people in other countries. Equal Exchange is an employee-owned Fair Trade Organization committed to providing a fair price with a guaranteed minimum to ensure that the farmers receive a fair return for their labors, works with cooperatives that are owned and governed by the farmer themselves, and buy directly from the farmers so the benefits of trade go to the farmers and their communities. We were also able to offer a worship service for our guests this year.

Thank you members of TCPC, for your combined efforts to reach out to Richmond's most vulnerable citizens. Please remember that by offering shelter to the homeless, we show our compassion and extend a helping hand to families to assist them to regain their independence and achieve self-sufficiency. I hope you will feel the call to assist next year. We tentatively plan to be a host site in March 2009 – please prayerfully consider joining our efforts.

## *Friends,*

As we move into the future as TCPC, I invite us to engage together in discernment about the direction in which God is leading us. In my next few newsletter articles, I will be introducing and exploring the concept of discernment.



Discernment has been described as “a way of making Christian choices, of following the Spirit of God in the decisions we make.” In the New Testament, the word for discernment is diakrisis, which means “differentiating” or “distinguishing.” In discernment, individuals and groups allow the experiences of a dynamic relationship with the living God to give shape to their decisions, seeking to judge between choices that are obedient to God’s will and those that are contrary to God’s desires. Discernment is an ongoing process rather than an isolated event, and is grounded in a life of prayer. It makes use of rational processes, intuition, imagination, and emotion, and always includes the testing of a discerned decision.

Discernment has been central to the life of faith at least since Biblical times, and is referred to in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the writings of the New Testament. As a systematic method of using spiritual tools to make concrete life choices, it is most closely associated with Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), the founder of the Jesuit order. Ignatius first formulated the classical process of discernment as a method that differentiates between two opposing kinds of interior movements of the soul. Those two movements he referred to as “consolation,” which is the result of choices that are in harmony with God’s desires, and “desolation,” which is the result of choices contrary to God’s desires.

### Characteristics of Consolations:

courage, strength  
delight, deep joy  
satisfaction; “rightness”  
sense of freedom  
gratitude  
energy, vitality  
desires are rooted deeply (“true Self”)  
choices are life-giving

### Characteristics of Desolations:

discouragement  
sadness  
anxiety  
feeling of being trapped, imprisoned  
sense of burden  
enervation  
desires rooted shallowly (“false Self”)  
choices are life-draining

Well, that is our lesson on discernment for this month! I invite conversation regarding discernment – feel free to contact me! May we each be in discernment prayer regarding our walk with God as individuals as well as our journey as a congregation, even as we are part of the larger body of Christ in the world.

Grace and peace,

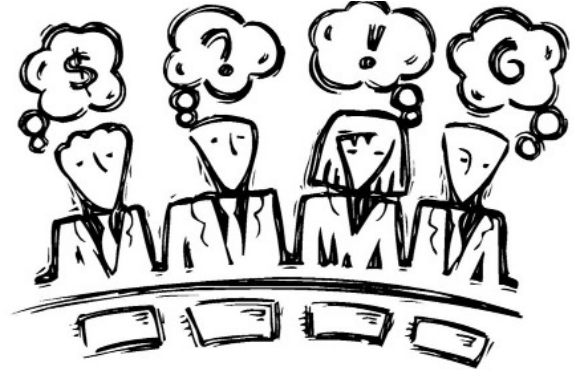
*Brenda*

## SESSION SUMMARY

The Session met for its monthly Stated Session meeting on March 17, 2008.

Highlights from the meetings:

1. Vacation Bible School will be July 14 – July 18, 2008 and the curriculum will be “God’s Big Backyard” by Standard Publishing.
2. Kay Sisler’s membership has been transferred to Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA.
3. The Administration Ministry Team presented recommendations from the Deacon Task Force to be adopted into the Board of Deacons section of the Policy & Procedures Manual.
4. The Administration Ministry Team presented the Elder Ministry Team Assignments for 2008-2009 which are as follows:
  - Administration/Personnel Chair Kate Baird, Elder Matt Stevens
  - Adult Nurture Chair Lisa Salita, Elder Donn Lancaster
  - Building & Grounds Chair Jim Barden, Elder Peter Coulson
  - Children & Families Chair Cindy Osborne, Elder Marci Davis
  - Finance & Stewardship Chair Barclay Bradshaw
  - Membership & Evangelism Chair Sally Bolte, Elder Linda Loving-Bolton
  - Mission & Service Chair Betty Ekabutr, Elders Sean Healy, Roger Gardner
  - Worship Chair Betsy Jackson, Elder Susan Holsten
  - Youth & Families Chair Dee White, Elders Dorothy Baird, Emily Harris and Emily Williamson
  - Congregational Nominating Committee Chair Donn Lancaster



### Statistics for February 2008

Average Attendance:	233
Active Members:	534
2008 Regular Operating Budget	
Pledges:	\$445,000
Budget:	\$469,500

Submitted by Patty Moerschell, Clerk of Session

### Thank-you to the Elders rotating off Session

The following Elders are rotating off Session and we wish to express our appreciation for their commitment and service to TCPC and to God:

**Stephanie Arvin** – Chaired and served on the Children & Families Ministry Team and led our Children’s programs with such joy and love of this work. Stephanie was a leader in the restructuring of the TGIW night program.

**Kathy Grasty** – Chaired and served on the Worship Ministry Team. Kathy provided consistent leadership during the transition of the leaders of Worship.

**Jeff Harris** – Chaired the Stewardship Committee and served on the Membership & Evangelism Ministry Team. Jeff provides such leadership through his passion and wonderful sense of humor.

**Betty Jarrett** – Chaired the Youth & Families Ministry Team and Chaired Finance Ministry Team and served on the Stewardship Committee. Betty is a strong leader in all areas where she serves and provided leadership to all of Session.

**Christi Shadbolt** - Served on Worship Ministry Team and served on Membership & Evangelism. Christi also served on the PNC. Christi serves with such wisdom and always provided much leadership to the session.

**Charlie Wood** – Chaired Administration & Personnel Ministry Team. Charlie is a true leader that guided the Session and TCPC through the transition of the retirement of Rev. Amos Hood. He is such a strong leader through his love and challenges that set our standards very high.

**Please join the Session in expressing our THANKS to these Elders for their service.**

# Food for Thought

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## **Dear Friends,**

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16)

It has always been the calling of Jesus' followers to be a distinctive presence in the world, to embody the truth, justice, mercy and grace of God in a world that is often unjust and without mercy. The work of the Mission and Service Ministry Team is to help TCPC be this distinctive presence by finding ways for the congregation to make real the Good News of Jesus Christ locally, regionally and globally, often by partnering with other churches or organizations.

Frederick Buechner, an author and Presbyterian pastor, states, "The place God calls you to is the place where

your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." There are countless ways for TCPC to be in mission, for the world abounds in need. I think the question for us as a congregation is, "Where does our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet?"

This April we will have the opportunity to explore this question in the Forum class, which meets in the upstairs fellowship hall. We will learn more about our connection with Trinity Reformed Church in Newark, New Jersey and more about Embrace Richmond, a local organization focused on helping people successfully transition from homeless shelters into housing. We will also have the opportunity to engage in some town hall-style meetings where we can have a conversation about where the deepest gladness of TCPC members meets the world's deep hunger. I invite you to consider your unique hopes and longings for God's world, and how we as a church can turn those longings into actions that allow the light of Christ to shine through us.

In Christ's Service,

*Ed*

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## **Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of GOD— what is good and acceptable and perfect." With these words from Romans 12:2, Paul charges each of us with an incredibly difficult task. The discernment of GOD's will in our own lives is a continuous process, which requires great focus and effort on the part of each person of faith. Knowing this, Paul precedes this challenge with three tips toward discerning GOD's will:

1) "Do not be conformed to this world" – if we find ourselves sitting around, waiting for GOD to "catch up with the times," then we've got a serious problem in perspective. Our world does not match that of the one that GOD envisions. If we allow this world to shape our perspectives, then we will never be able to have the focus that is necessary to share in GOD's vision for the whole world.

2) "be transformed" – Paul does not tell us to "transform ourselves." Rather, he suggests us that the transformation, which must take place, can only happen when we submit to GOD. While it can be

difficult to accept this truth, we must admit that we simply lack the capacity to accomplish transformation for ourselves. Thankfully, our GOD, who loves us acts on our behalf.

3) "[renew] your minds" – For Paul and the rest of the Greek-speaking world, "minds" weren't just brains. The apostle is actually referring to our whole beings. When we submit to GOD, Paul tells us that, through GOD, our entire being is reborn in a new and better condition than it had previously existed. It is only in the act of renewal that people of faith gain the ability to discern GOD's will.

Friends, as we seek to live out our lives, both as individuals and as a community of believers, may we give thanks to our GOD, who shows us this path, in order that we also might know what is "good and acceptable and perfect."

May Christ's Peace be with You,

*Aaron*



## Summer Fun at TCPC!!!



**Vacation Bible School runs from July 14-18 this year.** Please be sure to mark your calendar now! It's still early but if you are interested in volunteering to help with VBS this year, contact Linda Garcia at lldgarcia@comcast.net or 364-4717. Watch the church bulletins and newsletters

for more information on TCPC VBS 2008!

**Camp Hanover's Traveling Day Camp will be at TCPC Monday, July 21-Friday, July 25.** The Biblical theme this year is "Handle with Care". The campers will explore God's call to care for the creation and will address practical means by which campers can respond to this call. Registration forms are available in the Narthex. Please contact Suzie Walker or Kerri Palmer if you have any questions or would like to assist with the camp. We are looking for one additional volunteer.

### ***Bibles for Third Graders***

Sunday, May 4 is a special day for the third graders at TCPC. This is the day they will receive their Bibles from TCPC! If you have a 3rd grader, please contact Jackie Raye Dyson or the church office to ensure we have their name on the list. And plan to join us at 11:00 on May 4 for this special event!



### ***Easter Egg Hunt – Thanks! And the Winners Are...***

Well, the Easter Bunny came to TCPC on March 15! A big thank you to everyone who helped with this event. A special thank you goes out to our youth who, despite their long night of being locked in the evening before, did a great job with our egg hunters! Our Golden Egg winners this year were Alex Percey in the 3 years old and younger category. Austin Anderson found the precious Golden egg in the 4 & 5 year old category. For the kindergarten and 1st graders the big winner was Ryan Heely and Rachel Williamson won for the 2nd to 5th graders. A big congratulations goes to Anna Gray who won the guessing game jar contest. The jar contained 592 candies and Anna guessed 592!! Nice job, Anna!

In addition – C&F sends a big "shout out" to Amy Spitler for her coordination of this wonderful event under the experienced guidance of Cindy Kiefer! Thanks to both of you for planning such a FUN event for the kids!

### ***You Are Cordially Invited!***

All are invited to attend a Children and Families discernment meeting on:

***Wednesday April 9, 7:00pm***  
in the downstairs fellowship hall.

The meeting will begin by asking the question "If a child is born to TCPC members and is active in our children's ministries, what knowledge and moral virtues do we hope they will have?"

- After answering this question, we would like to define specific outcomes for how children's minds, hearts and lives will be shaped through our children's ministries.
- Based on our desired outcomes, we can evaluate our current programs and events and discern which programs and curriculum would be most effective for achieving them.

Your input is critical to this process and we would be grateful if you would attend this meeting. Please r.s.v.p. to Kerri Palmer by April 7 so that we can plan accordingly.

***Dessert and coffee will be served!***

## ***TGIW - Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!***

It is hard to believe that we have recently completed another year of our mid-week children's program – TGI Wednesday. And what a great year we had! With 26 smiling and energetic children, and the assistance of 36 youth and adult volunteers, we came together each week to laugh, learn and share God's Love with each other. The program is a wonderful way for the church to honor our baptismal covenant to love and nurture the children of TCPC, and we heard that loud and clear from our 5th graders that were recognized at a "graduation" program on the last evening of the program. They each spoke and shared a testimony of what Logos/TGIW has meant to them, since virtually all of them have attended all through elementary school – some of them participating in the Logos nursery since they were 2!! To hear these children speak so sincerely and openly with memories about their table parents, Bible teachers, activity time teachers and choir/play leaders and how they appreciated what everyone had done to provide this program for them – it was quite moving! We are blessed with such awesome children!

Congratulations to those participating 5th graders who reached their graduation milestone this year:

***Coleman Behne, Ava Gardner, Adam Grim, Jack Lohmann, Jameson Staton***

Also, thank you to the following adults who were dedicated supporters of the program:

### ***"Administration"***

Ashley Sherdel  
Stephanie Hammond  
Kerri Palmer  
Michael Compton

### ***Nursery***

Caitlin Hahn  
Anna Grim

### ***Kitchen Coordinators***

Kathy Williamson  
Kelly Yeong

### ***Table Parents***

Judy Hahn &  
Claudia Ketcham  
Jim & Kitty Gravitt  
Donn & Carol Lancaster  
Tess Gardner &  
Emily Williamson  
Lisa Grim & Sue Rohde  
Ed Kross & Kerri Palmer  
Brenda Halbrooks &  
Amy Halbrooks-Fulks

### ***Bible Teachers***

Carol Givens  
Robin Lohmann  
Lisa Grim  
Janie Moyers  
Judy Hahn  
Claudia Ketcham

### ***King's Choir Director***

Laura White

### ***Kitchen Crew***

Julie Behne  
Cindy Kiefer  
Rod Kiefer  
Christine Gray  
Henry Gray  
Jackie Coleman  
Stacy German

### ***M&E Supporters***

Steve & Sally Bolte  
Cheryl Kirk  
Linda Loving-Bolton

### ***Dinner Dean***

Sherri Bellotti

If you were not in church at 11:00 on Palm Sunday, you missed a real treat - the TCPC King's Choir processed in with the Chancel Choir filling the sanctuary with Hosannas!! Later in the service, they sang "Little Grey Donkey" while looking at the smiling faces of the congregation. The children had so much fun! C&F is extremely grateful to Laura White for her willingness and excitement to lead a children's choir. And we are thrilled that she plans to re-establish the King's Choir in the fall! We hope to have many more children experience the joy of singing with this group, so stay tuned for more news in the fall! Thank you to Laura and the children for their participation in worship on Palm Sunday.



The deadline for the May issue is **Sunday, April 20** immediately following the 11am service. Submissions may be emailed to Anita Waters at: [tcnews@tcpresbyterian.org](mailto:tcnews@tcpresbyterian.org) or placed in the newsletter editor's box in the church mail room. Many thanks for honoring this date.

# **Adult Nurture Opportunities**

## **April Showers New Fellowship Opportunities on TCPC**

Exciting new activities are planned for April in response to the congregation's feedback. This includes opportunities for new small group formation and **Dinner For Eight**, a new fellowship opportunity. Sunday fellowship gathering is at 9:45 AM, and Sunday School classes start at 10:00 AM. Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. See you there!

### **What's New This Month**

**DINNER FOR EIGHT:** This is an exciting new fellowship opportunity for April (further details on page 9) that should prove to be fun and strengthen relationship among TCPC members. Sign-up using form on Page 9 or the online form on the TCPC website [www.tcpresbyterian.org](http://www.tcpresbyterian.org). Click on *Groups & Fellowship* under 'Events/Activities/News.'

### **This Month in Adult Sunday School**

#### **The Parents' Forum**

9:45 AM IN NEW DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOM OFF FELLOWSHIP HALL.

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT LISA SALITA (360-2098)

For April, Donn Lancaster will begin a series using these resources for raising children: *Raising Self-Reliant Children in a Self-Indulgent World*, by H. Stephen Glenn & Jane Nelsen and *The Pressured Child-Freeing Our Kids From Performance Overdrive and Helping Them Find Success in School & Life*, by Michael Thompson. Please join us as we gain valuable insight from these discussions.

#### **Forum Class**

9:45 AM IN UPSTAIRS FELLOWSHIP HALL. FOR DETAILS, CONTACT ED KROSS (270-5452)

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet," -- *Frederick Buechner, author and Presbyterian pastor*. There are countless ways for TCPC to be in mission, for the world abounds in need. The question for us as a congregation is: "Where does our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet?"

In April, the Forum class will take the opportunity to explore this question. We will hear from partner organizations which we have joined in mission, and we will also conduct town hall meetings to share how we as a congregation can act upon our longings and hopes for the world. Schedule of sessions:

**April 6:** Town Hall Meeting I: What Do We Hope For?

**April 13:** Wendy McCaig, Executive Director, Embrace Richmond

**April 20:** Newark, New Jersey Mission Presentation

**April 27:** Town Hall Meeting II: Putting Hope Into Practice

#### **The Present Word Class**

9:45 AM IN WORKROOM. FOR DETAILS, CONTACT GARY DARDEN (346-9093)

#### **Spring Quarter Theme: God, The People, and The Covenant — March Unit: Signs of God's Covenant**

This quarter focuses on the covenant of God with the people of Israel. God's faithfulness to the covenant is shown throughout the monarchy, the exile and the restoration of the people to Jerusalem. Through the years the people wavered between faithfulness and faithlessness to the covenant. Various prophets and kings led the way in restoring their covenant relationship with God. The ark, the temple, the ritual of the Festival of Booths and prayers speak of the covenant.

**April 6:** *Daniel Keeps Covenant in a Foreign Land*, Daniel 1:8-20

**April 13:** *Three Refuse to Break Covenant*, Daniel 3:10-24

**April 20:** *Daniel's Life-and-Death Test*, Daniel 6:4-26

**April 27:** *Daniel's Pray for the People*, Daniel 9:1-7, 17-19

#### **Enquirer's Class**

9:45 AM IN PARLOR. CONTACT BRUCE OSBORNE (270-0374), JEFF HARRIS (708-0597)

If you are a visitor who'd like to learn more about our church or Presbyterianism, please join us for Inquirer's classes. Classes meet for 5 weeks, as announced. For more info, contact Bruce Osborne (270-0374); email: [mightyoz@comcast.net](mailto:mightyoz@comcast.net).

NO MEETINGS IN APRIL

## ***This Month in Small Groups***

### **Women's Groups**



#### **The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study**

9:45 AM IN MEDIA CENTER. CONTACT JUDY DALTON (360-5922),  
GAYLE NELSON (320-6745)

We are studying the book *Bad Girls of the Bible: And What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Please join us as we study these interesting women of the *Bible*.

#### **Women's Sunday Book Study**

2ND SUNDAY AT 3:30 PM IN UPSTAIRS FELLOWSHIP HALL. CONTACT SCARLETT SAMS (221-0799)  
LAST TUES OF MONTH-TCPC WOMEN JOIN US FOR DINNER AT LOCAL RESTAURANT  
Next meeting is April 13. This is the rescheduled session from March. Read Chapter 16, "Leah: Feeling Blessed," in *Sarah Laughed* by Vanessa Ochs. Study and fellowship included!

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#### **Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study**

6:00 AM IN WORKROOM. CONTACT NEIL PALMER (360-1969),  
ROBERT OLSON (756-7546)

We are studying the Book of Romans, using the Life Change series book *A Life-Changing Encounter with God's Word from the Book of Romans*. Please join us as we study Paul's theological and spiritual vision.

### **MEN'S GROUPS**

#### **Sunday Night Men's Bible Study**

8:00 PM IN WORKROOM. CONTACT GARY DARDEN (346-9093)

In April, we continue our study of *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. A masterpiece of satire, this book portrays human life and its trials through the imagined correspondence of Screwtape (a highly placed assistant to Satan) to his nephew Wormwood (a novice demon). Wormwood is in charge of ensuring the damnation of a young man who has just become a Christian. Some call this the most engaging account of temptation - and triumph over it - ever written.

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#### **Trailblazers**

3RD WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 AM. FOR OUTINGS, CONTACT MYRA GARRETT (273-0920)  
NEXT MEETING: April 16.

#### **Men's Fellowship and Nurture Group**

4th SATURDAY AT 7:30 AM IN LOWER FELLOWSHIP HALL. CONTACT RUSH COWHERD (740-3139)  
NEXT MEETING: April 26. We will be hosting a breakfast for the Elders and Deacons prior to their annual retreat. We look forward to having them as our guests.

#### **The 4F Club**

MEETINGS AS ANNOUNCED. CONTACT SUZIE WALKER (270-1314), CORY RYAN (741-5936)

#### **Widowed Persons Service (WPS)**

THURSDAYS 2-4 PM. CONTACT NANCY STEWART (747-1607)  
Special program every 2nd Saturday at 2:30 PM.



#### **Young Adults Group**

GROUP CONTACTS: SCARLETT SAMS [Scarlett.Sams@union-psce.edu],  
BETH CURFMAN [eacurfman@gmail.com], ZACK PARKER [ZParker@FandR.com]

If you contact one of us and provide your email, we will notify you of events as they are scheduled.  
We remain flexible and committed to enjoy each other's company and fellowship.

#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM IN JUNIOR HIGH ROOM. CONTACT JOAN KERBY (364-2838)

This group knits or crochets shawls for individuals of all ages experiencing difficult or special life circumstances. New knitters are welcome. A pamphlet with more information is in the front foyer. Also additional information is located in this newsletter on page 13.

## Ukrop's Golden Gift is Back!

Hurray! Ukrop's wonderful program for giving money to non-profit organizations is back in a user-friendly form! TCPC is registered and will be collecting your Golden Gift certificates after they are mailed to you on April 28. Use your valued customer card every time you shop at Ukrop's and consider giving your certificate to TCPC. The Session has designated the monies received from this program to go towards the general operating fund. This is the easiest fundraiser there is! Please bring your certificate to TCPC by the June 8 deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Curfman (ncsuva@comcast.net).

## Locking of Exterior Doors



When leaving the building after a function, please make sure all lights and exterior doors are locked and tightly secured, even if there are still groups or people in the building. Please remember the safety of the staff or other congregation members that may be in the building alone. If the doors are locked, the members in the building can still get out, but people cannot get in without a key. Thank you.

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## Food and Fellowship - a Great Combo!

**A new exciting adult Fellowship program during April: DINNER FOR Eight** is being organized right now. The details are on the form below for a 4 week small group dinner format. Even if you are not available for all 4 dates, register to be a part of a group. We have plans to accommodate flexible attendance. You may register on this hard copy and place it in the offering plate through April 6. Additionally you may register online via the website link: Click on *Groups & Fellowship*. Registration deadline is April 6 at 3 pm. If you need a ride, a babysitter, or have questions contact Lisa Salita (360-2098 or the-salitas@comcast.net) or Sally Bolte (270-0467 or shbolte@verizon.net). Come join the fun!

### DINNER FOR EIGHT

**WHAT IS IT?** Do you want an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with a very small group of 7-8 TCPC members; do you want to get to know those folks you only say hello to each Sunday, but don't know too well? If your answer is yes, then register for a small group experience centered around a meal & conversation for a couple of hours one night a week for a four week period. In general your dinner group will meet on a selected day at 7 pm, unless your group decides on another start time. **Singles, couples, young & old are invited**, so just fill out the form below or register online to participate. Our goal is to mix a variety of members in each group that are not already intimately acquainted. You'll gain new friends, have entertaining conversation, and eat well.

**HOW DINNER FOR EIGHT WORKS:** We already have hosts who have volunteered for the first meal. Once your small group meets the first night, you can then schedule rotating hosts for the next 3 meetings. A different host pair is needed for each dinner meeting. If you wish, you can dine in a restaurant or at a member's home. If you are not a cook, then carry-out works well, or hosts can organize a pot luck meal. Bring your calendars & creative meal ideas to the first meal.

**REGISTER for DINNER FOR EIGHT** through April 6 by placing this form in the offering plate or registering online at: [www.tcpresbyterian.org](http://www.tcpresbyterian.org), click on Groups & Fellowship. You can also contact Sally Bolte (270-0467 or shbolte@verizon.net) to register no later than April 6 by 3 pm. We will make every effort to phone or e-mail your first meeting location on the evening of April 6 as groups begin meeting on April 9 or 12. Dinners continue through the month of April until May 3 for some groups. Singles as well as couples are encouraged to register, and all adult age groups are welcome.

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Cut Here

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) contact: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (print clearly!)

Preference on meeting night & start time: **Check one day & time that is suitable for you.**

Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Start time: \_\_\_\_\_ 7 pm \_\_\_\_\_ other time? (List a time)

Wednesday dates: April 9, 16, 23, & 30

Saturday dates: April 12, 19, 26, & May 3

Are you a vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

**List any food allergies below:**

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**A list of TCPC youth babysitters is available to call, so that parents of young children may be able to attend.**

Contact Lisa Salita (360-2098 or the-salitas@comcast.net) or Sally Bolte (270-0467 or shbolte@verizon.net).



## ***Thanks to Our Outgoing Deacons and Elders for Their Service to Our Congregation***

**Stephanie Arvin** - As I come to the end of my term on session, I have one thing I want to say THANK YOU!!! Thank you for electing me to serve this wonderful church in such a special way! Having been a member since 1981, and serving 2 previous terms as Deacon, this was my first experience as an Elder and it was truly a blessing. Our church is filled with loving, energetic and devoted members and I have continued to grow in my own faith by witnessing first hand the true meaning of the phrase "living for Christ." And what a blessing to have worked with the children of the church – our future church leaders – to equip them with the foundation they need for a lifetime in Christ!!

I also feel blessed to have served with an incredible group of "ministers" for all three years, and I am just overjoyed with the potential of the group we will soon be installing to "accept the torch!" We have incredible staff, dedicated elders and deacons and a congregation filled with the Love of Christ - what a perfect setting to equip us all for taking Christ into the world! Blessings to you all!

**Tina Barden** - I have been a member for 30 years. Jim and I raised our three children Chris, Peter and Jill at TCPC which has always been our second family. I has served as an Elder, a choir member, assisted with starting Women of the Church, Logos, fellowship after church, assisted with the re-settlement of our family from Laos and I am the TCPC Promises Pre-School Chair just to name a few of the areas of involvement. TCPC is definitely been a large part of my life! God has blessed me in the three years I have served as a Deacon. My first duty was to assist Amos with his new diagnosis and I have experienced first hand the love of our church family when asked for help. I worked with the Cluster re-organization team and from that was assigned to the wonderful Nursing Home/Older Shut-In population who love their visits and calls. I also served as the Deacon representative on the CNC for three years. It was a privilege to be a part of such an important group who witnessed the CALL OF GOD to the many folks who serve on the PNC, APNC and as officers. God has certainly blessed me during these three years to be His servant in love, care and prayer.

**Clay Bradshaw** - I was born into the TCPC family almost 17 years ago. I grew up attending Sunday school, Logos, VBS and now youth group. I have enjoyed helping with Logos and VBS after I was too old to be a participant. I served as a member of the Youth Council of the Presbytery for the James for two years. I am a member of TCPC's youth band and looking forward to attending Montreat Conference this summer. It as easy for me to have a cluster gathering since we get together every week at youth group!

**Jackie Coleman** - My husband Steve and I have been members of TCPC since April 2000. Currently, I am involved with the Prayer Shawl and Food for the Soul Ministries, the Family Festival and TCPC funeral receptions. I have been a Deacon for Cluster 4B, which is one of the several clusters comprised of "empty nesters and baby boomers." I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to form and deepen relationships with both cluster members and fellow Deacons.

**Gary Darden** - I attended TCPC for several years before becoming a member in 1999 transferring my membership from the Methodist church, in which I was raised as a youth In Virginia Beach. I am currently the co-coordinator of the Sunday night men's Bible study group and coordinator of the Sunday morning Present Word class. With the exception of two enjoyable years in Pittsburgh, PA, I have been a lifelong resident of Virginia. My wife Janet and I have been married for almost 30 years and have lived in Richmond since 1981. We have three children Kenneth, Kirsten and Nola. I am employed with Dominion Virginia Power, in the position as a nuclear fuel project engineer. In my spare time, I enjoys reading, traveling and jogging.

Being a Deacon has been a rewarding challenge. It has sometimes been humbling to just listen and try to provide an understanding presence for individual TCPC members experiencing joys and various life issues. Hopefully this has provided some sense of a "faith family" for those I have tried to serve. I have a hope that the clusters can consider themselves as "small groups" with some common connections and interests. This could help to fulfill the original vision when the clusters were restructured into the present groups a couple of years ago.

**Louella Glessner** - I joined TCPC in the fall of 1989. I am married to Greg and we have a son Brian. Previously, I have served as a Sunday School teacher, Logos table parent, involved with CARITAS and served as a Vacation Bible School teacher. In rotating off the Diaconate, I have finished serving as the Vice Moderator/Secretary. The most challenging and rewarding duty was compiling and keeping the new cluster arrangement in order. It gave me the opportunity to really focus on putting names with faces.

**Kathy Grasty** - I joined TCPC in 1992 when Tom and I were married here. Since then, I've been privileged to serve in many capacities, most recently as an elder serving on the Worship Ministry Team for the last three years. I thank everyone for their support during this time, and for the honor of being called to serve. TCPC is in an exciting time right now with a full (and more importantly, caring and committed) staff, a session that works smoothly, with Ministry Teams that are empowered to do their work, a wonderfully renovated facility, and a caring and involved congregation.

## ***Thanks to Our Outgoing Deacons and Elders For Their Service to Our Congregation***



**Henry Gray** - My wife Christine and I have been members of TCPC for five years. We have two children Anna, 9 and Evan, 2. I work in the IT department at Circuit City's corporate headquarters. Christine works at Capital One.

In addition to completing my first term as a Deacon, I have been involved as a childrens' Sunday school teacher and as a TGIW and CARITAS volunteer. I have served in the past year as a Deacon for one of the "parents with small children" clusters. Serving as a Deacon has been challenging, but it has been extremely rewarding to see first hand how the members of TCPC care for each other during times of need.

**Jeff Harris** - I joined TCPC in the Spring of 1990 and on that Sunday morning I was able to watch my one year old daughter, Emily and wife, Eleanor be baptized. During my term on Session, I was able to work on Adult Nurture and Membership and Evangelism Ministry Teams and this last year served with Emily who was the Youth Elder. During my term, I saw a dedicated group of elders willing to work hard and have honest and open discussions about where God was directing TCPC. Though we may have disagreed on specific points from time to time, we always came together as a group and were able to remain focused on being true to the TCPC Vision:

"....Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will enthusiastically proclaim God's love, grace and hope; faithfully nurture one another through God's Word; and generously reach out with God's care to those in need."

I like to think as a Session we did just that. Praise be to God!

**Betty Jarrett** - I was honored to serve as Elder with such a dedicated team of spiritual leaders these past three years as we navigated and were led by God through many transitions. A member since 1995, during this term as Elder, I served on Youth and Families and Finance Ministry Teams and am currently a Stephen Minister and confirmation class teacher. At TCPC, I have served as Deacon and on Adult Nurture, Congregational Nominating and Pastor Nominating committees. I love my work with youth, teaching Sunday school and chaperoning youth conferences and mission trips. I have participated on two Honduras mission trips (once with each of my sons) and several mission trips to the gulf coast for Katrina Hurricane recovery efforts. I enjoyed small group experiences at TCPC and even tried Liturgical dancing. My son Bryan lives and works in Boston, and my other son Chris is a freshman at Elon University. Currently, I work at the Federal Reserve in the Information Technology Project Management Office.

**Cheryl Kirk** - I joined TCPC in 1993, along with my daughter. Since the reorganization of the cluster groups, I have been associated with one of the Trailblazer groups. Serving as a Deacon has provided more insight into our TCPC family; especially from the communications shared by Brenda and Ed and the interaction with other Deacons concerning their cluster members. I welcomed the opportunity to serve others.

**Milton Pritchett** - My wife Marge and I have been members for over 30 years. Our two children grew up in the church and are now grown and on their own. I have taught Sunday school and served on various Ministry Teams and committees. I have also served three terms on the Session and completing my second term as a Deacon. This has been a rewarding experience serving the church community and establishing new relationships.

**Christi Shadbolt** - I joined TCPC 16 years ago, and I can honestly say this church is like my second home - full of a wonderful extended family. I married my husband Lee in this church and both of our children Alyssa and Ricky were baptized here. Three years ago, God called me to serve TCPC as a member of session. I did not know at the time how very much I would learn over the years: policy and procedures, how very much it takes from so many people to run this church, the in and outs of three different Ministry teams and the depth of love and caring that abounds throughout. It has been a honor being a part of this group and a privilege serving on the PNC that called Pastor Brenda to TCPC. My faith has grown as has my love and deep respect for our church family. Thanks to all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

**Carroll Trice** - I joined TCPC with family in 1990. I served as Deacon for three years with my cluster including mostly the Trailblazers. The friendships are very rewarding. I enjoyed the time spent at University Park; also, it made me aware of the needs of others and I feel I received more than I gave.

**Charlie Wood** - The past 3 years I have had the honor and privilege of serving as an Elder as part of a wonderful team on the Session of TCPC. When I reflect on some of the things that were most meaningful, they would have to include the Session having the faith to move ahead with important projects such as the Stephen Ministry and the downstairs renovation when both funding and staffing were tenuous. While serving, I developed a strong appreciation for the many volunteers who go unrecognized, yet work countless hours every month or even every week to perform tasks that are very important to our church. I would like to thank these many volunteers for their dedication and very important work.



## ***News Youth Can Use!***

### **Looking Back**

- Jr. High had a great time at the lock-in! We had a lot of fun playing laser tag and seeing who could stay up really late. Can't wait 'til we have another one!
- Bake Sale & Auction raised \$3461 for Massanetta and Montreat conferences!! A big thank you to all the people who worked behind (or in front of) the scenes and to those who donated and/or purchased baked goods.
- Many thanks to the Youth and advisors who played an active role in making the Easter sunrise service successful.

### **Looking Ahead**

- Apr. 4-6 – D.C. Mission Trip
- Apr. 19-20 – POJ Middle School Retreat
- May 24 - Breakfast with Men's Fellowship
- May 31 – TCPC Annual Yard Sale is a great opportunity for our Youth to offer their time and talents. Funds raised go to Boy Scouts and TCPC Youth.
- June 19-22 – Massanetta Middle School Conference
- July 19-26 – Montreat Senior High Conference

## **Dinner Sign-Ups**

### **Junior High:**

- 4/13 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP
- 4/27 - Coopersmith
- 5/4 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP
- 5/18 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP
- 6/1 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP

If you have questions about when you signed up, or you would like to sign up, get in touch with Michael Compton (m\_compton@comcast.net) or Crystal Varner (cvarner@tcpresbyterian.org)

### **Senior High:**

- 4/13 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP
- 4/20 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP
- 4/27 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP
- 5/4 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP
- 5/18 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP
- 6/1 - NEED SOMEONE TO SIGN UP

If you have questions about when you signed up, or you would like to sign-up, get in touch with Janet Darden (jmcarden@verizon.net) or Crystal Varner (cvarner@tcpresbyterian.org)



**Our Church Family**

**Sympathy**

Christine Smith and family, and Christine's co-worker Jackie Pristas with the passing of Seth Smith

Kitty Gravitt and family with the passing of her aunt, Helene Briggs

Marci Davis and family with the passing of her father, Bernard Szmania

Betty, Bryan & Chris Jarrett with the passing of their friend, Maggie Burns

Jim Barden and family with the passing of his sister's mother-in-law

Don Higgins and family with the passing of his mother, Venitia E. Higgins

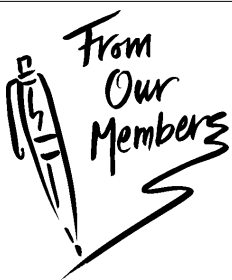
Heather Lufkin and family with the passing of her mother, Olive Hanna



**Come and Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry**

This wonderful ministry started at Three Chopt in September. The members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry pray while knitting/crocheting and each shawl is blessed when finished. It is hoped that shawl recipients will feel wrapped in God's love. We have members who knit/crochet from home, those who participate in Wednesday night meetings, and those who deliver the completed shawls. The prayer shawls go to church members and their family members in times of sickness, injury and death. Baby hats are knit for expectant mothers. We also honor special requests from the congregation. A special card has been developed to be given in a decorated bag with the shawl. Since September 25, fifty shawls/baby hats have been blessed and given to recipients. Knitters as well as recipients have been deeply touched by this ministry.

We would like to invite anyone interested in the Prayer Shawl ministry to join us. We are having trouble keeping up with the demand for the shawls. You may knit or crochet, deliver shawls to the recipient or purchase yarn. Gayle Nelson has donated knitting needles used by her grandmother, her mother, and herself for anyone who is interested. There are members available to teach you how to knit. If you would like to donate yarn, please purchase 3 skeins of Homespun Lion Brand yarn. For more information, call Joan Kerby at 364-2838 in the evenings. You may also check out [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com).



*Dear TCPC family,  
Your cards, calls, food and prayers were a source of comfort during Art's recent hospitalization and Joyce's chemotherapy. The prayer shawls are also a constant reminder of your support. Thank you so much, and a special thanks*

*to Brenda, Ed and Aaron who provided daily pastoral care. We feel blessed to be a part of such a church family.*

*In Christian love,  
Joyce and Art McGee  
Lisa Grim*

TCPC family:

Your calls, cards, food and the beautiful prayer shawls sent during Chunie's (Mel's) illness and death continue to be a source of comfort. We appreciate that you honored our request for no visitors, which was due to his physical condition, not our hearts desire. I often told Chunie he was "the most loved man in the world" in expressing the depth of my love and now I know he really was by others, too. He loved His church and you individually. I was always grateful he chose me and I am a proud, but heartbroken widow.

*In Christ,  
Jackie Williams*

## Worship Volunteers for April

<b>April 6</b>	<b>8:30AM SERVICE</b>	<b>11AM SERVICE</b>
Prayer	Pastor	Pastor
Ushers	Carroll Trice Tom Grasty	Bill Baird Kate Baird Abby Compton Helen Salita
Soundboard	Randy Baird	Ed Ward
<b>April 13</b>	<b>8:30AM SERVICE</b>	<b>11AM SERVICE</b>
Prayer	Susan Holsten	Judy Dalton
Ushers	Craig Waters Anita Waters	David King Tracy King Tommy Isom Ben Isom
Soundboard	Randy Baird	Lee Liggan
<b>April 20</b>	<b>8:30AM SERVICE</b>	<b>11AM SERVICE</b>
Prayer	Kathy Grasty	Stephanie Arvin
Ushers	Kathy Grasty Janice Evans	Jim Gravitt Wayne Hackett Elmay Navarette Del Nelson
Soundboard	Ed Ward	Becky Emmett
<b>April 27</b>	<b>8:30AM SERVICE</b>	<b>11AM SERVICE</b>
Prayer	Stan Desulis	Christi Shadbolt
Ushers	Fred Rentz Kathy Rentz	Keith Lufkin Heather Lufkin Wayne Garrett Myra Garrett
Soundboard	Ed Ward	Chris Arvin

## *In Worship This Month*

**April 6, 2008 (8:30 & 11AM)**

The Reverend Dr. Brenda Halbrooks preaching  
**Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-25**  
*The Breaking of Bread*

**April 13, 2008 (8:30 & 11AM)**

The Reverend Dr. Brenda Halbrooks preaching  
**Psalms 23; John 10:1-10**  
*The Good Shepherd*

**April 20, 2008 (8:30 & 11AM)**

The Reverend Dr. Brenda Halbrooks preaching  
**Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14**  
*The Way, the Truth and the Life*

**April 27, 2008 (8:30 & 11AM)**

The Reverend Dr. Brenda Halbrooks preaching  
**Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21**  
*The Giver of Peace*

## **Web Savvy?**

By now, you may have read about and visited our "new and improved" church website. If not, you will want to visit, [www.tcpsbyterian.org](http://www.tcpsbyterian.org). Efforts are under way to expand to our online web capabilities. They include event/activity registration, small group communication, and "private" channels where church members sign in to get information, etc.

Volunteers are needed to develop & maintain content and add new pages for specific ministry teams activities as well as general type information.

"Web programming" knowledge is not needed. You are a good candidate if you have an appreciation for the details of this kind of work, some patience for getting computers to do what you want, and a love of TCPC so we put our best foot forward on the internet.

If you are interested or just want to explore the possibilities, please email Martin Walker, [walk10809mw@gmail.com](mailto:walk10809mw@gmail.com), to arrange a brief overview and to discuss how you may contribute.

## **Calling all Lawn Mowing Lovers!**

We are looking for volunteers to help mow the church lawn this spring and summer. The grass is growing! Enjoy the opportunity to use our brand new mower while enjoying the outdoors! If interested, contact Donn Lancaster.

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**THREE CHOPT PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

9315 Three Chopt Road  
Richmond, VA 23229

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Worship Services  
Sundays, 8:30 and 11 AM

Church School Services  
Sundays, 9:45 AM

TGI Wednesdays  
Wednesdays, 5:15-8 PM

Office Hours  
Monday-Friday  
8 AM-12:30 PM & 1:30-4:30 PM

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Church Office: 804-270-5452  
Fax: 804-217-7249  
Email: TCPC@tcpresbyterian.org  
Web Page: <http://www.tcpresbyterian.org>

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**Pastor/Head of Staff** -Rev. Dr. Brenda Halbrooks  
[halbrooksbrenda@yahoo.com](mailto:halbrooksbrenda@yahoo.com)

**Associate Pastor** - Rev. Ed Kross  
[ekross@tcpresbyterian.org](mailto:ekross@tcpresbyterian.org)

**Youth Director** - Crystal Varner  
[cvarner@tcpresbyterian.org](mailto:cvarner@tcpresbyterian.org)

**Organist/Choir Director** - Laura C. White  
[lauracwhite@verizon.net](mailto:lauracwhite@verizon.net)

**Director of Children's Ministry &  
Promises Preschool** - Kerri Palmer  
[tcpcpromises@tcpresbyterian.org](mailto:tcpcpromises@tcpresbyterian.org)

**Administrative Assistant** - Michelle Southworth  
[tcpc@tcpresbyterian.org](mailto:tcpc@tcpresbyterian.org)

**Seminary Intern** - Aaron White

**Church phone number: 804-270-5452**

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**Members of Session**

Brenda Halbrooks, Moderator  
Patty Moerschell, Clerk of Session

**Administration &  
Personnel**  
Kate Baird  
Matt Stevens

**Adult Nurture**  
Lisa Salita  
Donn Lancaster

**Building & Grounds**  
Jim Barden  
Peter Coulson

**Children & Families**  
Cindy Osborne  
Marci Davis

**Finance & Stewardship**  
Barclay Bradshaw

**Membership & Evangelism**  
Sally Bolte  
Linda Loving-Bolton

**Mission & Service**  
Betty Ekabutr  
Roger Gardner  
Sean Healy

**Worship**  
Betsy Jackson  
Susan Holsten

**Youth & Families**  
Dee White  
Dorothy Baird  
Emily Harris (Y)  
Emily Williamson (Y)