

Triangle Presbyterian Tidings

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2012 and the 45th year of ministry for the community of faith known as Triangle Presbyterian Church. The first 20 of those years took place in a facility near the intersection of Hwy. 54 and 55. The last 25 years of ministry have been based at our current location at 5001 Tudor Place. I can still remember the excitement of being the newly called pastor 25 years ago as we worshiped in the library of Jordan High School waiting to move into what was the first phase of our current facility. Every Sunday after worship, a steady stream of cars would leave Jordan as we made our way to Tudor Place to walk through the building then under construction and nearing completion. Anticipation was high.

In the 25 years we have worshiped in this location, God has done some amazing things as we have grown in our lives and ministry together. As we stand on the brink of 2012, it is with great hope and promise that this year will perhaps be our most exciting time of ministry and growth yet.

Near the end of last year the Session agreed that we should become an Acts 16:5 congregation. This is an initiative that has been entered into by about 25 churches in our Presbytery as a way of seeking to be more effective in ministry. For the next three years, the leadership team and others will engage in workshops with a church consultant who will help us continue to define our vision for ministry through worship, fellowship, growth in discipleship, and mission. Already, we have gained valuable insights and look forward to the ways we may be molded and shaped by our participation in this enterprise.

In conjunction with this initiative, in February we will begin a church-wide campaign called, "40 Days in the Word." Our focus during this six week endeavor will be on listening to God through his Word. We hope each member of our congregation will grow in his or her devotional life as we study and pray, all the while seeking to order our lives and ministry according to God's Word. We often take for granted the gift that God has given us of an authoritative and trustworthy testimony to his purpose and plan for creation. My hope is that each of us will use this as an opportunity to allow the roots of our faith to grow deeper into the rich and fertile soil of God's love and grace, as we seek to become more faithful followers of Jesus. The campaign will conclude with a church-wide day of service as we "live out" what we believe in the greater Durham community.

In 2012 our leadership team will continue to discern God's will for Triangle as we wrestle with decisions made by our denomination which we believe are contrary to the clear and consistent teaching of Scripture. We have been impressed with the work being done by a significant group of like minded people in our denomination who are now identified as "The Fellowship of Presbyterians." This group began with a number of pastors from some of our largest churches who have come to believe that our denomination is "deathly ill." They note, as a denomination, we have lost half of our membership since 1983 and neither of the predecessor denominations that made up the PC(USA) experienced any numerical growth since 1969. Recent decisions of the General Assembly have amplified the way in which we are deeply divided over matters of faith and how we understand the Bible. As a congregation, we were represented at the first national gathering of this group held in Minneapolis. Over 2,000 people attended that gathering representing nearly 850 churches in all but one state. Recently, our Session attended a day-long regional meeting of the Fellowship which was held in Goldsboro. We will have 8 representatives (staff, session and congregational members) attending the second national gathering of this group in Orlando, Florida this month. At the next gathering, among other options, a new reformed body will be constituted for churches who do not believe they can continue to remain in the PC(USA) in good conscience. I do not know where TPC will come down in all of this. We remain engaged especially on the level of Presbytery and as you know I will serve as the moderator of the Presbytery and will serve on the Presbytery Council in 2012. The Session remains committed to the task of knowing the issues involved and seeking God's will, and not our own, as we navigate in uncertain waters. In the days to come we will do our best to keep you informed and are always open to conversation.

Even though this is a somewhat unsettling time denominationally, I am excited about the New Year and what it holds for you and me and this church we love. I sense the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst and look forward to the ways that God will use us in the ministry that God is doing in Durham and beyond.

Together with you in Christ's service,



Dear Friends,

Diane and I want to thank you for all the expressions of love and care that we have received from you throughout the year and especially during the Christmas season. We count it a great privilege to do ministry with you and are thankful that in the providence of God, He brought us to Durham 25 years ago. We look forward with great anticipation as we continue this journey of life and faith with you. As the saying goes, "We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future." It is therefore with confidence that we continue our walk with you into the new year, praying that God will richly bless you with a clear sense of his purpose and plan for your life. As you grow deeper in your faith and as you sink your roots deeply into the fertile soil of his grace, may you experience his gracious presence at every turn.

With love in Christ, Ray and Diane



Please plan to join us this year in our annual church-wide small group study! For six weeks we will be using Rick Warren's study entitled *40 Days in the Word*. We will learn different methods for studying and meditating on Scripture, and most importantly, we will put these lessons into practice by reading the Bible every day.

Mark your calendars for these important dates:

January 29

Sunday School Hour (10 a.m.): **40 Days in the Word Fair**

learn about the upcoming study, pray for the campaign and sign up for a small group

5 p.m.: **40 Days in the Word Kick-off Potluck**

bring a dish to share and celebrate the beginning of the 40 Days program with a time of food, worship and fellowship

February 5-11

First week of Small Group Study

March 11-17

Sixth and final week of small group study

March 17

40 Days in the Word Outreach Event

location TBD, but we'll let you know ASAP!

March 18

Single Worship Service: **40 Days in the Word Celebration**

we will worship and celebrate together at a single service, followed by a time of fellowship

If you have any questions or want to know how you can get involved, please contact Rachel Clark (RachelClark@trianglepc.org).

Adult Education

Sunday Morning Topical Classes

HomeBuilders-To Sit or Stand: Biblical Parenting in a Postmodern Culture

Facilitator: Jeff Spainhour

Location: Media center

This class is open to everyone. Parents who have children in 2nd grade through 6th grade are particularly encouraged to attend. We will explore our world today compared to the teachings found in the Bible.

New Years Resolutions

Facilitator: Casey Clark

Location: Family Life Center

We spend so much time thinking of ways we can better ourselves in the new year, but do we seek guidance from the Bible? In this class we'll spend three weeks taking a look at advice God has shown us in his Word on how we can be better disciples of Jesus Christ and what habits we should have as his followers.

Parent Care

Facilitator: Ray H. and members of CHAPs

Location: Fellowship Hall A

This class, which begins on January 8, will provide insights into issues of caring for parents or other older adults and will be of special interest to the Sandwich Generation, those who are caring for children and are also dealing with aging parents. The class will use a book, "The Christian Guide to Parent Care" by Robert Riekse and Henry Holstege as a study guide. This book provides practical information from both hands-on experience and a Christian perspective.

ESL

Facilitators: Jennifer M., Helene S.

Location: Classroom 204

This class is for speakers of other languages. In this class, we go over the very same topics covered during the church service – the Scripture text, music, and sermon– in a format that will be easy for ESL (English as a Second Language) speakers to understand and internalize. Feel free to invite any ESL speakers you might know!

Sunday Morning Fellowship Classes

SALT (Single Adults in the Lord Together) Leaving a Legacy of Love

Facilitator: Donna M.

Location: Room 100

How do we express love to children/grandchildren and teenagers? Using the five love languages used in the previous sessions, we explore way to express love to the children/grandchildren and teens in our lives.

FELLOWSHIP: Joshua

Facilitator: Jeannie P.

Location: Fellowship Hall B

After wandering for 40 years in the desert, Joshua had reason to be apprehensive about entering the Promised Land. But God commanded him to be strong and courageous, and the Book of Joshua shares the powerful story of how God fulfilled his promises and led the Israelites into the long-awaited land of milk and honey. This eight-session course shares lessons from Joshua on how to live a life of extraordinary faith.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for another great year of service together for Christ in this church and this community. Rachel and I take great pleasure in working with so many of you throughout the year and we couldn't do what we do without your support. Our family is truly blessed to be where we are at Triangle Presbyterian and we are excited to see where the Spirit leads us in 2012.

Bible Study—Gospel of John Wednesdays 6:00PM, Room 206

We are continuing our study into this amazing book that introduces the reader to Jesus Christ. We meet for an hour each week, except when we have Ministry Team Nights. You're welcome to join anytime, all are welcome. Contact Casey for more information.

Men Bible Study— Thursdays 6:30AM, McDonalds (Hwys 54/55)

Men of the church are invited to Join Pastor Ray at McDonalds at Highway 54/55 intersection for a study on Romans 8. You can be on you way to work or play by 7:30AM.

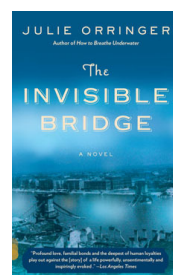


TPC Book Club

◆TPC (TRIANGLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH) BOOK CLUB discusses fiction & non-fiction works which we believe will enlighten & enrich our spiritual journey. We meet at 7:00PM in the TPC Media Center 2nd Tuesdays eight times a year. You may join us to discuss *any* or *all* of our annual book selections.

◆TPC Book Club's **first 2012 discussion is January 10** at 7:00PM in the Media Center - **The Invisible Bridge** by Julie Orringer. Inspired by her Hungarian grandfather's survival, the author's novel presents relationships that endured the upheavals of Europe in World War II. The story unfolds in the garrets of Paris and mansions of Budapest and continues through sacrifice and hardship in Hungary and beyond to the eventual postwar rebuilding of personal and civil life.

◆For a list of all TPC Book Club titles to be discussed in **2012** check the bulletin board outside the Media Center. For more information contact the church office.



Small Groups

Join a Small Group for 40 Days in the Word

Everyone is encouraged to get involved in a small group for the 40 Days in the Word campaign, beginning in early February. January 29th, during the Sunday School hour (10a.m.), will be an excellent opportunity to join a small group. We will be having a **40 Days in the Word Fair**, and there will be a station set up for each small group with the day, time and location of its meeting, and all you need to do is sign up! Make room in your calendar for this important study!

LOVE THE WORD, LEARN THE WORD, LIVE THE WORD.

Community Outreach

CROPWALK – Volunteer(s) needed

JOIN THE CROPWALK TEAM! A fun and fulfilling service opportunity is now available with the Community Outreach ministry – to help make CROPWALK a big success in 2012! Last year, over 60 TPCers walked and raised \$3,800 to help feed the hungry, here in Durham and around the world. We're looking forward to another great showing this year, but we need another pair of hands.

We are looking for an AT-CHURCH CROPWALK COORDINATOR (ACCC) to join the organizational team. The duties of the ACCC will include: (i) coordinate volunteers to staff a table in the church lobby on four Sundays (March 11, 18, 25, April 1), to hand out pledge envelopes and sell T-shirts; (ii) collect money from T-shirt sales; (iii) for each CROPWALKer, tape-up a "foot" on the walls of the church. ("Feet" will be provided. They help advertise the CROPWALK and create a sense of fun anticipation. Be creative!)

By design, the ACCC's duties are all _at church_. This minimizes the number of tasks associated with the position. In particular, you do NOT need to worry about: (i) dealing with CROPWALK officials; (ii) getting pledge envelopes or other materials; (iii) buying T-shirts; etc.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. With your help, we can make CROPWALK 2012 a fun and exciting event for our whole church family!

For more information, please contact the church office.



Food Bank

Jan—Canned Beans
Feb—Canned Tuna/Chicken
Mar—Soup

Thank You

The Ministry Teams involved in the planning and carrying out of the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection and the TPC Angel Tree wish to thank the congregation for their generous support of these projects. 246 shoeboxes were sent to the Charlotte collection center and 105 Angel Tree gifts were distributed to local children at Iglesia Emanuel in Durham.

Finance & Budget

Financial Report

November 2011

Pledges	Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Net Gain/Loss
\$81,590	\$91,576	\$64,374	\$108,054	-\$43,680
Year to Date				
Pledges	Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Net Gain/Loss
\$897,490	\$1,007,331	\$930,953	\$942,506	-\$11,553

Children's Ministries

Safety and Security for Children and Youth: 2012 Update



As staff and volunteers for Children's and Youth Ministries we frequently ask ourselves, "How do we most effectively keep our church family children and youth safe when participating in church and church sponsored activities and programs? How do we recruit and train responsible and loving caregivers, teachers and leaders, making sure that those folks are trained for emergencies of body as well as soul?"

The Children's and Youth Ministry Teams have had a safety and security policy in place for 10 years, and are in the process of updating that policy. Several areas are being evaluated. Our first priority is to make sure that everyone who has contact with minor children has undergone a criminal background check. Up to this point, we have asked volunteers and parents to fill out a ministry application, and provide us with two references, as well as give us permission to conduct a criminal background check.

Why haven't we been doing the background checks, you are probably wondering. We have been reluctant to ask church folks to give us social security numbers. We have been concerned about secure storage for such sensitive, personal information. However, we are hearing from our insurance carrier and from other risk management folks that we MUST use due diligence in making sure that each person who has or will have contact with babies, children and youth has NO relevant criminal history. We are not checking driving history unless the volunteers in question will be driving youth to a church sponsored function such as a camp or retreat. We have researched a variety of companies and have entered into a contractual agreement with Protect My Ministry, a Florida based company with a proven track record of responsible reporting, working specifically with churches. Protect My Ministry will create a link for our website, which will allow volunteers to enter their own personal information, which will be securely stored, and give an e-signature consent to having the background check completed. There will be no paper trail in our church facility. The information will be available ONLY to those who absolutely need to know. Staff members having direct contact and oversight with children and youth will be the first persons on whom we run background checks. Beginning in January we will initiate background checks on those volunteers who have the most daily or weekly contact with children and youth, beginning with youth leaders, paid Sunday nursery staff, and our Sunday Clubs teachers. During the first quarter of 2012 we will include all Wednesday Club teachers, nursery volunteer workers, and parents who assist in our CMMO (Parents' Morning Out program) and TPPK (preschool and kindergarten) classes.

We are very blessed to have many adults and young people caring for and leading our Youth and Children's Ministries programs. The Session has affirmed and approved this course of action, not because we have had any unpleasant situations arise, but because we want to prevent anyone with unscrupulous motives from gaining access to our children and youth. We want to be vigilant and proactive, not fearful and reactive. We also want to protect our volunteers and workers from being falsely accused of any inappropriate action, so we continue to implement our 2 volunteer minimum in all program settings. All offices and classrooms have viewing windows and parents are welcome to enter our nursery rooms and classrooms at will.

Agape Corner support update

Thanks for providing Agape Corner staff gifts: Your contributions were a huge blessing for those folks! We are delighted to share the news that we were able to give a \$60 gift card to each of the nine members of the Agape Corner staff. Thank you so much for giving generously!

Sunday Clubs offering: We encourage you to remind your children to save their dimes, nickels and pennies for our Sunday School offering which also helps to support the ministry of Agape Corner. This year our collection totaled \$430. The folks at Agape Corner greatly appreciate your support through the year, In 2011 we donated several bins filled with notebooks, dry erase markers, copy paper, and other school supplies in addition to our children's Sunday Clubs offering.

Looking ahead in 2012



40 Days in the WORD Is for kids, too! As more and more information comes to you about our church wide program, 40 Days in the Word, you may wonder if/how that will impact kids at TPC. Each week beginning February 5th, the Sunday Clubs classes, children's worship classes, and Wednesday Kids Club groups will focus on the same memory verses that the adult small groups and sermon topics will highlight. Sunday programs will provide a short devotion on the weekly topic, and Wednesday programs will devote the class lesson period to studying and meditating on God's Word, the Bible! Interested in a daily 10 minute family devotional tool? Nancy has obtained sample copies of Long Story Short, Ten-Minute Devotions to Draw Your Family to God by Marty Machowski for you to review.

Mark your calendars for our Children's Ministries Dinner Planning meeting, February 1st! We plan to go through the line for the Ministry team dinner at 6 pm, fill up our plates, and eat together as a planning team. Parents, volunteers and interested folks are invited to join us as we look at how we can most effectively minister to our children, birth thru 5th grade and their families. Agenda items include planning for the season of Lent and Vacation Bible School!

Wednesday Clubs for Kids will begin our spring semester session on Wednesday, February 8th at 4:30pm. You may pick up a registration form or register on our website. Clubs provide Bible study, recreation, meals and music and drama preparation for our spring musical, April 29th. Call Nancy to volunteer or to obtain more information. Childcare for children of volunteers is provided. If you did not help first semester, but would like to join a team, please call Nancy to discuss team opportunities.

DC4K (Divorce Care For Kids) will not be offered at TPC beginning in January as previously announced. However there are churches in our area offering this wonderful ministry to separated, divorced or blended families. You may locate a church in our area offering DC4K (for kids) at this link, <http://www.dc4k.org/findagroup>.



OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

9:30AM – 10:30AM

Come and see a school where children, parents and teachers share a participatory learning experience in a Christian atmosphere!!!

Our school has ½ day programs for 2½ year olds through Kindergarten

For more information, please contact Nicolette Granata at 544-2872 or nicolettegranata@trianglepc.org

5001 Tudor Place, Durham, NC 27713, www.tppk.org

Fellowship

Pathways

Pathways: a Christian journey through life. Pathways is a place where anyone is welcome.
Continue to look for specific information in the newsletter and weekly tidings.

- 1/9 Monday Night Volleyball starting at 6:30PM in the FLC.
- 1/13 GAME NIGHT!! Starts at 7:00PM—watch emails for host location.
- 1/15 Sunday Afternoon Volleyball starting at 1:30PM in the FLC.
- 1/19 Thursday Night Volleyball starting at 6:30PM in the FLC.
- 1/22 Sunday Brunch—Meet at Rudino's after the second service (around 12:45PM)



If there are any questions or you would like to be added to the Pathways email list, please contact the church office at 544-2872.

Ministry Team Dinner—**TIME CHANGE**

It's time to start Ministry Team Dinner and Meetings for 2012! A great **dinner is served from 6:00PM to 6:45PM** and our **Ministry Team's meet from 7:00-8:00PM**. Our first meeting for the new year is January 5th and we'll be having chili, salad bar, hot dogs and dessert. Make your reservation today by clicking [here](#).

Calling All Men

TPC'S annual Valentine breakfast will take place on Sunday, February 12th and it's not too early to start thinking about your place in this great service to the church. This is an event that the men of the church have presented for over 26 years. Needs include cooks, servers, and kitchen clean-up. Breakfast will begin being served around 7:45AM and conclude around 9:30AM. Many of you have participated in this event in the past and are very familiar with the procedure. There will be a planning meeting at the Golden Corral on Highway 55 on Saturday, February 4th at 7:30AM. Men, if you are able to take part in the breakfast and/or would like more info, please email Jesse Holton at jholton@nc.rr.com.

Youth Ministries

- January Youth Groups**
- “TGIF”**
- MLY 4:00-5:30, Varsity 6:30-8:00**
- 1/6 MLY Lock-In begins at 7:00PM (eat dinner before arriving, [permission form needed](#)). Pickup at 8:00AM Saturday.
 - 1/8 Varsity Extreme Ice Skating (TBA, permission form needed)
 - 1/15 MLY & Varsity
 - 1/22 MLY & Varsity
 - 1/27 Varsity Lock-In at 6:30PM ([permission form needed](#))
 - 1/29 Senior’s Lunch (Dutch), No Youth Groups

Great Escape Middle School Camp
June 11-16

Fun in the Sun High School Camp
July 15-20

Camp Deposit Are Past Due!

Varsity Small Group

Wednesday—6:30-7:30PM

1/11, 1/18, 1/25

Welcome 2012! My prayer for us all is that we will slow down, understand God’s love for us in deeper ways and mature in how we relate with our neighbors. The youth will continue to make these our prayers in the New Year.

I am very grateful for this church community. Thank you for your prayers and for encouraging me in so many ways throughout the year and recently with many wonderful gifts and kind gestures during Christmas. I count it a blessing to minister at TPC. May you and your families be blessed this new year.

Through God’s grace, Jeff

Congregational Care

Tai Chi for Everyone!

Come to the CHAPs meeting on January 17 at 7:00PM and discover the many possible health benefits of this low impact martial arts form. Reduce stress and focus awareness on your body's alignment and energy flow. Jude Roman, our presenter, has a unique perspective on health and wellness that comes from his back-ground in physical therapy and advanced study in Oriental medicine, including acupuncture. He is a Tai Chi enthusiast and has worked extensively in outpatient and geriatric settings. Everyone is welcome to join us for this exciting, interactive program.



Thank You!

CHAPs would like to thank the congregation for their generous response to our collection of Christmas gifts for Spring Arbor. Thanks to your outpouring of gifts, TPC was able to brighten the season for 57 residents.



Men's Bible Study Fellowship

The Durham Men's Class of Bible Study Fellowship will be having introduction classes on Monday January 9th & January 16th at 6:55pm. The class meets at Blacknall Presbyterian Church, 1902 Perry Street, Durham, NC. If you have questions or would like more information you may contact the church office.

Sunday Morning Building Security

After consideration the Session has approved locking the double door entry into the Welcome Center and the side parking lot door at approximately 11:40, when the children come down to the nurseries following the Children's Sermon time. Locking the doors will secure the FLC equipment, the downstairs nurseries and the choir room. The front entry leading into the narthex will remain open for anyone needing to enter the building after 11:40.

Counseling Services Available

Are you, a family member, or a friend in need of counseling services? Claire Ruth will be interning at Triangle Presbyterian Church from January until May, offering free counseling sessions to individuals, couples, and families in the TPC community. Claire is in her final semester of the Masters in Christian Counseling program at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (Charlotte) and living in Durham. Claire is also pursuing licensure in marriage and family therapy. If you are interested in setting up a time to meet, or if you have questions you may send a confidential email to Claire at claireruth@trianglepc.org.

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 10:30AM Single Service 12:45PM SALT Brunch	2 Holiday-Office Closed	3	4 6:00PM MTN 8:00PM Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9:00AM CMMO 7:00PM MLY Lock-In	7 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal
8 11:15AM Ordination/ Installation Varsity Extreme	9 6:30PM Volleyball	10 7:00PM Session 7:00PM Book Club	11 9:30AM TPPK Open House 6:00PM Bible Study 6:30PM Varsity Bible Study 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30AM Men's Bible Study	13 9:00AM CMMO 7:00PM Pathways Game Night	14 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal
15 Pennies for Hunger 1:30PM Volleyball 4:00PM MLY, 6:30PM V	16	17 6:30PM Deacons 7:00PM CHAPs	18 6:00PM Bible Study 6:30PM Varsity Bible Study 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal	19 6:30PM Volleyball 6:30PM Prayer Shawl	20	21 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal
22 10:00AM Annual Meeting 12:45PM Pathways Brunch	23	24 6:30PM SALT Potluck 7:00PM Session	25 6:00PM Bible Study 6:30PM Varsity Bible Study 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal	26	27 9:00AM CMMO 6:30PM Varsity Lock-In	28 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal
29 10:00AM 40 Days Fair 12:30PM V Srs. Lunch 5:00PM 40 Days Potluck	30	31				