

# Triangle Presbyterian Tidings

Dear Friends,

I recently told you about being elected as Moderator of the Presbytery of New Hope for 2012. Some of you may wonder why I would agree to do such a thing when I have been outspoken about my concern over denominational issues that have in many cases been supported by our Presbytery.

I admit that my first reaction to the invitation, although I didn't say it, was simply, "Thanks but no thanks." Rather, I told the person who came to see me on behalf of the Nominating Committee that I would think and pray about the invitation and would let him know soon.

As I entered into that process of thinking and praying about what I should do, an Old Testament story came to mind. I'm not sure why I thought about this, but I did. It was the story of Esther. I would invite you to read that story in the Old Testament book that bears her name. In a nutshell she was put in a particularly influential place at a strategic time in Israel's life but hesitated to act. Her cousin, a fellow named Mordecai said to her, "Perhaps you have come to this royal position for such a time as this."

I began wondering if this was for me a "for such a time as this" moment. Being elected Moderator entails two things. One is to moderate the three meetings of Presbytery throughout the year. My job will simply be to help the Presbytery navigate its way through the agenda for the meeting. The other is serving on the Presbytery Council. The moderator is automatically given a seat on the Presbytery Council for the year they moderate and for the year after they moderate.

This is what I found out. There is only one person on the Council who professes an evangelical position. That one evangelical will finish his term and rotate off the council at the end of 2011. In 2012 and 2013 there will be several substantive issues that will come before the Council that could potentially have an impact on churches like ours who hold an evangelical or orthodox theological position. Being on the council will at least allow me to be a part of those discussions.

Still I was hesitant. I don't believe those discussions will be "fun" discussions. Being in that room has potential to be an uncomfortable place. I decided to invite others into my decision making process. I wanted the counsel of others who know me and who I trust. I asked the Session for their feedback and received some wise counsel. I put in a few calls to trusted colleagues usually prefaced by "help me know why I shouldn't do this?"

I had left a message for one of those colleagues and he called me back on a Monday when I was out doing a little yard work. I told him about my hesitation in serving and asked him what he thought. The first words out of his mouth were, "It sounds like this is a Mordecai and Esther moment." And with that word, I knew what I needed to do.

That afternoon I emailed the representative of the Nominating Committee and accepted the invitation but did so giving full disclosure to my misgivings concerning certain denominational issues as well as clearly stating my position on those issues. At the October meeting of Presbytery my name was placed in nomination and I was elected and will serve as Moderator next year.

Is this one of those "God Moment" things? I don't really know for sure. Was it a coincidence that the Scripture that came to mind was the story of Esther? Was it a fluke that the statement, "For such a time as this," was confirmed by my colleague? Only time will tell.

I readily admit that I'm not really looking forward to entering into this service. I do feel a certain sense of call. Sometimes when all the indicators seem to be pointing in a particular direction the best we can do is say "yes" and then see what God might do.

In those times we can rely on the words that God spoke to Moses when Moses noted his personal inadequacy for the task to which he was being called. God simply said, "I will be with you."

I'm counting on it!!!

Together with you in the service of Christ,




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## 40 Days in the Word

We need your help for this church-wide campaign! In January 2012 our church will be starting a 6-week program called "40 Days in the Word," written by Rick Warren from Saddleback Church. We need people to join the team and help with logistics, planning, advertisement and most importantly: prayer. Talk to one of the pastors, Rachel Clark or Warren Saunders to find out where you can get involved.

## Adult Education

### Sunday Morning Topical Classes



#### HomeBuilders

Facilitators: Grant & Hannah H., John & Sherene M.

Location: Media center

The HomeBuilders have begun a class that looks at financial matters and how we can be faithful stewards with our money. This class will open itself up to anyone who is interested in this topic, so if you've never attended, now is the time.

#### The Reformation's Transformation

Facilitator: Casey Clark

Location: Fellowship Hall A

The Presbyterian church is a descendant of the great Protestant Reformation that shook the world beginning in the 16th century. This class will introduce the context of the time and what brought about such a change and then open up the Word to study the Scriptures that led the church to recapture its vibrant faith and the powerful truth of the Gospel.

#### 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) Looking for Love in All the Right Places

Facilitator: Andrea R.

Location: Room 100

This six week series looks at what the Bible has to say about love as well as how we as Christians should give and receive love.

#### FELLOWSHIP: Joshua

Facilitator: Jeannie P.

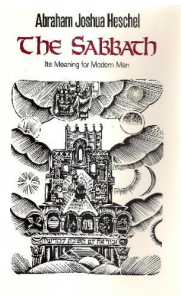
Location: Fellowship Hall B

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.

## 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.

"I am the true vine..."



## TPC BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on November 8 at 7:00PM in the Media Center. They will continue their study of the classic by well-known Jewish scholar Abraham Heschel, The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man. The Invisible Bridge, formerly scheduled for November, will be discussed January 10, 2012. Anyone interested in participating in the November 8 discussion is welcome. For details, contact the church office.

# Small Groups

### Get involved- join a small group!

Our fall programs are under way here at Triangle Presbyterian Church and many small groups who took a break for the summer are starting up again. If you'd like to join a group, please contact Rachel Clark and you'll get connected with a group.



Small Groups

### More times, more opportunities

We want to be able to offer as many times and places for folks to meet in small groups as possible. Have you considered leading or hosting a small group? It's a great way to serve and to make it possible for others to join. Please talk to Rachel Clark if you would like to talk about what small group leading looks like.

## Church-wide small group study for January 2012

Beginning in January of 2012, the small groups at Triangle will be participating in Rick Warren's new study called "40 Days in the Word." This 6-week study will introduce us to some helpful ways to study Scripture and will encourage us to get into God's Word daily. What a great opportunity to commit ourselves to reading Scripture in the new year. Talk to Rachel or Warren for more information.

## Children's Ministries

### Serving Others Through Children's Ministries & Community Outreach

#### Outreach Bags



It's not too late to help our kids put together Outreach Bags for ministering to homeless folks! Bring your donated items and place them in the Welcome Center collection bin. **We still need men's white socks, bar soap, wash cloths & juice boxes by November 6<sup>th</sup> please!** What's the purpose of Outreach bags? You may keep a bag in your car to hand out to a homeless man or woman you may see standing on a street corner. Offer a hand up, not a hand out! Kids will be putting the bags together on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> during our Wed. Clubs and Sunday Clubs.

#### Agape Corner

**What Is Agape Corner?** Agape Corner is a Christian boarding school located in the heart of Durham at the corner of Holloway and Park Streets.



**Why does Agape Corner exist?** Its mission is to provide education and a Christian home structure for disadvantaged children whose parents cannot take care of them. It serves a diverse, multiethnic population. The staff salaries, medical care, food and clothing for the children are provided by faithful churches, organizations and individuals who support the ministries.

**How has TPC been involved?** Triangle Presbyterian has been a part of Agape Corner's ministry support for 19 years. Our children's weekly Sunday Club offerings go toward supporting the children and staff of Agape Corner. Each year TPC church family members donate school supplies for each child. Agape Corner kids attend VBS at TPC and participate in Upward Basketball camp. The TPC Secret Pals program provides the link between caring TPC'ers and a specific child who receives Christmas gifts, Valentine gifts and an ice cream party in April or May. Contact the church office to volunteer NOW. The Singles group at TPC (SALT) and our Varsity Youth have provided a Halloween alternative party, called the Holy Ghost Weeny Roast, each year for the last 16 years.

#### What can I do today to help Agape Corner in its mission?



♥Agape Corner is looking for used bicycles in good condition. Contact the church office if you have a bike to donate.

♥Give an early birthday gift for Jesus! Help us honor the staff members at Agape Corner Christian Boarding School by making a donation toward a gift card for each one of the twelve staff members. We will present a Wal-Mart gift card to each staff member for Thanksgiving. Our target gift is \$25 per person, so let's put our \$5 gifts (or more) together and say thanks to God's servants at Agape Corner. You may make your gift today at the table in the Welcome Center or place an earmarked check to TPC (for Agape staff gifts) in the offering plate. **Please make your gift no later than November 20th or do it now, while you are thinking about it!**



## Advent Opportunities

Advent begins Sunday, November 27 and each year the Children's Ministries Team sponsors some special activities, highlighting the season of Advent. Advent is a term derived from Latin that means a time of waiting and special preparations for a coming event. The event we await is Jesus' entrance into our world as a human baby. During the four weeks leading up to Christmas we think about how our Lord came to earth as a baby, preparing the way for our salvation through his death and resurrection. The gifts we give, the songs we sing, the Bible stories we read all focus our thoughts on His most precious gift, His presence with us as Emmanuel!



### Support our Youth and Children's programs through our Advent Season dinner and a play.

Mark your calendars now for a TPC Christmas classic! Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Kids Clubs play and Varsity (Senior High) dinner fundraiser. This year our Kids clubs will present the musical message: The Great Christmas Giveaway. The setting is the mall, but the message is our salvation through Jesus our Lord. Come meet, eat and celebrate our sweet kids as they serve you, entertain you and sing songs of praise to our God. Mark your calendar for dinner at 5:00 and show time at 6:00PM! You can sign up on the bulletin board beginning November 13<sup>th</sup>!

**Advent booklets for families** containing a brief devotion and stickers for each day of Advent may be picked up from the Welcome Center beginning November 20<sup>th</sup>. This year we are also offering a "search and find" booklet of daily Advent devotions for elementary aged kids. We ask that you make a \$1 donation toward the cost of the booklet. These booklets would make a great gift for grandkids, neighbor kids or other family members!

**Serve others through a birthday gift for Jesus.** Alternative gifts sponsored by our Community Outreach team offer many opportunities for your family to invest in meaningful service to needy folks internationally. This year we encourage you to purchase an alternative Christmas gift from the TPC catalog! There will be a card you can send to the person in whose honor you have made your gift purchase. What better way to give a birthday gift to Jesus!

**Children's Sunday School Birthday parties for Jesus.** If you are interested in providing cupcakes, cookies or juice for one of our Sunday School classes on December 11<sup>th</sup>, please contact Nancy in the church office or email her at [nancyholton@trianglepc.org](mailto:nancyholton@trianglepc.org).



## Looking ahead to 2012

Spring Term of Wednesday Clubs

February 8

Wednesday Clubs play and Middle School Youth spaghetti dinner fundraiser

Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

Vacation Bible School 2012

Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm

# 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.

- 11/11 GAME NIGHT!! Starts at 7:00PM—watch emails for host location.
- 11/14 Monday Night Volleyball starting at 6:30PM in the FLC.
- 11/17 Thursday Night Volleyball starting at 6:30PM in the FLC.
- 11/20 Sunday Afternoon Volleyball starting at 1:30PM in the FLC.
- 11/27 Sunday Brunch—meet at Rudino’s after the late service (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.

# ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mark your calendars

Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00PM

# Youth Ministries

## November Youth Groups

“Sitting or Stand Up”

Sundays, 11/13, 11/20

MLY 4:00-5:30, Varsity 6:30-8:00

Great Escape Middle School Camp

June 11-16

Fun in the Sun High School Camp

July 15-20

Varsity Small Group  
“James”  
Wednesday  
6:30-7:30PM  
11/8, 11/15, 11/29

## Congregational Care

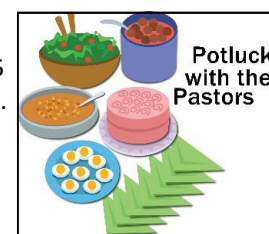
For info or questions contact Wendy Pease, [wpease@pobox.com](mailto:wpease@pobox.com).

### Just Older Youth

It's time for our next lunch at the Golden Corral. Join us on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 for a time of fellowship, food and a short devotion. Have ideas for future meetings? We'd love to hear them. Join us and find out what's available for those in our congregation who are 55 and older.

### CHAPs

**Christians Helping Aging People (CHAPs)** will meet at **6:30 pm**, Tuesday, November 15 in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be a fellowship dinner for sharing and support. Our special guests will be the TPC Pastors: Ray Cobb, Jeff Spainhour, and Casey Clark. The pastors will speak briefly and answer questions you might have about how CHAPs fits into the mission of TPC. You will want to be here and bring a friend. Each person is asked to bring a dish to share. Note the change in meeting time due to this featuring a dinner.



CHAPs 'Christians Helping Aging People' is a caring mission dedicated to the Christian care, support, and nurturing of the caregivers and the elderly within our church and our families, and is open to individuals of all ages who have an interest in a **ministry to older adults**. For more information, please call the church office.

### Save The Date

#### Share The Spirit Of Christmas

It's not too early to think about Christmas, Christmas Caroling and the busy month of December. In an effort to make sure our neighbors in assisted living centers are not forgotten in the rush of the season, CHAPs again will sponsor a church-wide collection of small gifts for the residents of **Spring Arbor**. Everyone is encouraged to donate items like personal toiletries (except shampoo), books, gloves, stationery, lotions, socks, etc., for the residents. Collection boxes will be available in the narthex and in the Family Life Center in early December. We request gifts **not be wrapped** to enable us to more equitably divide them.



Also a reminder to save the date **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Caroling at Spring Arbor**, a Triangle Presbyterian tradition. Watch the TPC Tidings and December Newsletter for more details.



CHAPs will offer a Sunday School class on Parent Care that will provide insights into issues of caring for parents or other older adults. The class will begin in January 2012 and will be of special interest to the Sandwich Generation, those who are caring for children and are also dealing with aging parents. Ray Huml and members of CHAPs

who have firsthand experience in dealing with older adults will facilitate the class.

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.

Watch the TPC Tidings and the bulletin boards for start date and more details.

## Community Outreach

### FOOD BANK

November

### Mac n Cheese



### Alternative Gift Catalog

Once again this year, Community Outreach will be offering the Alternative Gift Catalog for your holiday shopping. The catalog contains 4 international ministries, each with a variety of monetary gifts you can purchase. You may pick and choose and appropriate cards will be sent to your recipient telling them of your gift. If you have any questions, contact Nikki Goss at [nikkigoss@trianglepc.org](mailto:nikkigoss@trianglepc.org) or Matt McLaughlin, at [mattmclaughlin@trianglepc.org](mailto:mattmclaughlin@trianglepc.org).



### Outreach Bags for Homeless Folks

There is still time to purchase the following items for our Outreach Bags for the homeless. Please have these items here by Sunday, November 6. **Juice boxes, men's white socks, face cloths, and bar soap.**

### Housing for New Hope Bus Tour II

If you missed the August bus tour, now is your chance to find out what really goes on at Housing for New Hope. Heard of the Dove and Phoenix houses, but don't really know what they do? Worried about the homeless in Durham? Then come out and join us for a bus tour with the staff of Housing for New Hope. They are excited to show us their work on behalf of the homeless in Durham and how they employ the financial support TPC offers. We have a bus tour scheduled for 1:30PM on November 20. Reserve your spot on the sign-up boards.

### Murphey School Radio Show Saturday, November 12, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 13, 2 p.m. Historic Murphey School

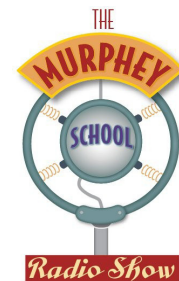
In the tradition of the *Grand Ole Opry* and *Prairie Home Companion*, the Murphey School Radio Show features performances, comedy and readings by local musicians and writers.

Triangle favorites Lee Smith, Frank Stasio, and Stella will join an all-North Carolina troupe for this old-time variety show benefitting Housing for New Hope and Community Home Trust on Saturday, November 12, and Sunday, November 13, 2011.

Seating is limited to 150 in the auditorium of the recently restored historic school in rural Orange County. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [housingfornewhope.org](http://housingfornewhope.org).

*Proceeds from both events will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Stewards Fund, which has awarded Housing for New Hope a \$150,000 challenge grant to support its work.*

If you have questions or would like more information about either of these events, please contact Eric Breit at 919.489.6282 x103 or [eric@housingfornewhope.org](mailto:eric@housingfornewhope.org).



# Congregational Commitment/Finance & Budget

## Souper Bowl Sunday

**2011 Fall Stewardship Campaign Celebration**

**November 6 at 5:00PM**



We'll have all of our passes completed and come together to celebrate the successes of the campaign. Everyone is encouraged to make their famous or favorite pot of soup and bring it to share. Sign-up sheets will be posted so you can help us to plan accordingly. Entertainment for the evening will be presented by our P&W Team.

Financial Report				
September 2011				
Pledges	Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Net Gain/Loss
\$81,590	\$91,576	\$71,639	\$74,899	-\$2,695
Year to Date				
Pledges	Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Net Gain/Loss
\$571,130	\$641,029	\$751,548	\$743,259	\$8,290

## November Worship, Fellowship and Outreach Opportunities

***November 6 at 5:00PM***

Souper Bowl (soup dinner)

Stewardship Campaign Results Announced, Praise & Worship Concert

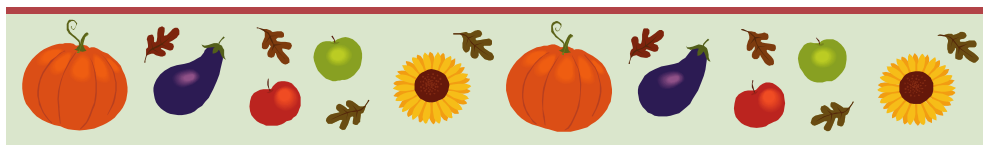
(Childcare provided for 5 and under)

***November 20***

Stop by the TPC Angel Tree and pick a gift for those less fortunate

***November 23***

Thanksgiving Service at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary (childcare provided)



## Advent Worship, Fellowship and Outreach Opportunities

### *December 4*

Worship at 8:45 & 11:15AM in the Sanctuary, Sunday School for all ages at 10:00AM

Sr. High Chili Fundraiser Dinner at 5:00PM (FLC)

Wednesday Clubs for Kids Musical at 6:00PM (FLC)

### *December 9*

Adult Christmas Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange at 6:30PM (FLC)

### *December 11*

Worship at 8:45 & 11:15AM in the Sanctuary (Cantata),

Sunday School for all ages at 10:00AM

Open House at the Cobbs from 1:30-4:00PM

### *December 13*

Christmas Caroling at Spring Arbor at 6:30PM

### *December 18*

Worship at 8:45 & 11:15AM in the Sanctuary, Sunday School for all ages at 10:00AM

### *December 24*

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 & 8:00PM in the Sanctuary

(Childcare provided for children 4 and under)

### *December 25*

Single Worship service at 10:30AM in the Sanctuary, No Sunday School



# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:30PM Wednesday Clubs 5:30PM Ministry Team Night 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Cantata Rehearsal
6 Communion 12:45PM SALT Brunch 5:00PM Souper Bowl & Praise Concert	7	8 General Election 7:00PM Session 7:00PM Bridge Club	9 4:30PM Wednesday Clubs 6:00PM Bible study 6:30PM Varsity Small Group 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal	10 11:30AM JOY Group Lunch	11 7:00PM Pathways Game Night	12 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Cantata Rehearsal
13 4:00PM MLY 6:30PM Varsity	14 6:30PM Volleyball	15 6:30PM CHAPs Potluck 6:30PM Deacons	16 4:30PM Wednesday Clubs 6:00PM Bible study 6:30PM Varsity Small Group 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30PM Volleyball 6:30PM Prayer Shawl	18 Session Retreat	19 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Cantata Rehearsal
Session Retreat					Youth Leader's Retreat	Youth Leader's Retreat
20 Pennies for Hunger 1:30PM HFNH Bus Tour 1:30PM Volleyball 4:00PM MLY 6:30PM Varsity	21	22 7:00PM Session 7:00PM Bridge Club	23 6:30PM Thanksgiving Service	24 Holiday—Office Closed	25 Holiday—Office Closed	26
27 12:45PM Pathways Brunch	28	29	30 4:30PM Wednesday Clubs 6:00PM Bible study 6:30PM Varsity Small Group 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal			