

Triangle Presbyterian Tidings

Dear Friends,

I'm writing these words to you on August 23rd. The significance of that date is that I am just back from a week of study leave where I spent a week by myself in the mountains of North Carolina. During that week I prayed for you. I read Scripture, as well as other books of a theological nature. I did sermon planning for the coming year. And, I did a lot of thinking. Perhaps a better way of putting it would be "pondering." When you are by yourself for a week you actually have the luxury of praying and reading and pondering.

This date is also significant because I am also leaving town again tomorrow for a two day meeting in Minneapolis to meet with nearly two thousand other Presbyterian Pastors and elders who are concerned about the direction that our denomination has taken especially in recent months. No one really knows what the outcome of that meeting will be. No doubt we will be spending hours discussing the nature of the church and what God intends for His church to be and do. Already, even before we have gotten to Minneapolis, there is talk of a new reformed body that is more biblically faithful...or of separate presbyteries that are more theologically oriented...and there will undoubtedly be talk about the possibility of separation from the denomination.

There is a sense in which I feel like I am being taken from calmness of a placid lake (my study leave) and thrown into a rushing torrent of rapids (our denominational issues).

Those things being said, the thing that is especially significant about this date is that 24 years ago I entered into my call as pastor here at Triangle. Fresh from a pastorate in the rural/resort community of Hot Springs, Virginia, I found myself in the midst of the Research Triangle Park.

I had no idea when I sat in worship on that Sunday (I didn't preach on my first Sunday here) that 24 years later I would still be here. Nor would I have imagined that together we would have survived two major building programs and a host of other challenges. But here I am, and here we are moving into our 25th year together.

On this occasion I want to thank you for being the congregation that you have always been and continue to be, one that is often characterized by the term family. I love it when in Inquirer's Classes I hear over and over again how "warm and welcoming" this congregation feels to those who come looking for a church home. In this transient culture there are many who are looking for a sense of family. I love the way you provide that for all who come.

I love the way children are nurtured here from the cradle to high school and college. My own children were the recipients of your love and care. I am blessed to see each of them taking their own places in churches in three different cities and two of them actually working for the church. It is pretty obvious that they didn't grow up "hating" church in large part because of the good job you did nurturing them. My heart is warmed when I see other young people, your children, who have grown up in this congregation and who are now worshiping and serving the Lord in the places where they now live. I love the way you support and encourage our children and youth.

I love the way you continue to have a desire to grow in your faith. I love it when you readily jump onboard when we have church-wide small group events. I love seeing you continue to learn and grow in small groups and Bible Study and in the many wonderful Sunday School classes we offer for adults. I love it that you treasure the Bible as God's Word and you seek to live according to its teaching.

I love the way you reach out to others in our community, from "Housing for New Hope" to "Agape Corner" and the list could go on. I love the way you tirelessly seek to share the love of Christ in very tangible ways. From building Habitat houses together, to feeding the homeless together, to reaching out to the parents of children in Duke Hospital together through the Ronald McDonald House. I love the way you seek to represent Christ in this community.

I love the way that you look beyond Durham to the world. This year alone no less than 4 separate mission teams have gone or will go to various places to join God in the work that God is doing in those places. I love the fact that you generously support each other in taking those mission trips, as well as giving your support to our missionaries who labor in other parts of the world on a full time basis. Some of those missionaries were actually sent out from this church.

I love that you pray for each other and care for each other in so many ways. I love that you see this community of faith as family.

As we begin Triangle's 25th year on Tudor Place and our 25th year together, I'm not at all sure what the future holds for us. I do, however, know who holds our future and I look forward to walking forward with you as we seek to discern God's will for us as His people in this place.

Honored to serve Christ with you,



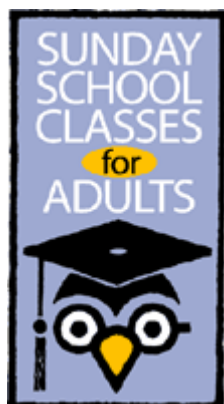

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Adult Education

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.

Sunday Morning Topical Classes



Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

Facilitator: Casey Clark

Location: FLC

In times of so much turmoil it seems impossible to have any expectation for peace. But peace is a promise of God and it is one of the fruits of the Spirit. In this class we'll study six passages that teach us about God's peace and how we can experience it more.

HomeBuilders

Facilitators: Jon & Amie P.

Location: Media center

Starting September 18, the Homebuilders class will begin a class on financial stewardship. This class will open itself up to anyone who is interested in this topic. Keep your eyes on the tidings for more information.

Sunday Morning Fellowship Classes

FELLOWSHIP: Avoiding the Sin Word

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.

SALT (Single Adults in the Lord Together)

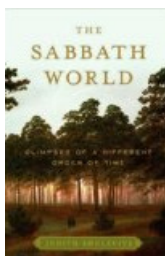
The Best Question Ever: Learning to Foolproof Your Life

Facilitator: Donna M.

Location: Room 100

In this class, Andy Stanley introduces you to a single question that will revolutionize the way you make decisions, in a six session video series, "The Best Question Ever."

TPC Book Club—September 13



What's the Sabbath anyway? A holy day? A deal to protect the rights of workers? A way to manage stress in a world that never shuts off? Or simply an oppressive, outmoded rite? In *THE SABBATH WORLD*, Judith Shulevitz delves into the legends, history and philosophy of a "day of rest," from its origins to its complicated observance now, informing us why and how to use it to reclaim balance from our over-networked culture. Join us on September 13th at 7:00PM at "A Stone's Throw Gallery" at 600 Market Street, #101 in Southern Village. For more information, contact the church office.

Don't miss out on TPC's Roads to Faith Savannah Tour March 23-25, 2012



This tour will feature visits to 7 historic Houses of Worship and the 77th annual Homes & Gardens Tour. An expert on Savannah's history and architecture leads our own private tour of remarkable 18th & 19th century churches and has contracted guides to enrich our Homes & Gardens Tour.

- ▶ Leadership and tickets require deposits SIX months ahead (tickets to homes open to view are limited to assure a quality visit).
- ▶ Other features of the tour~Travel by luxury motor coach~city tour by private trolley~2 night's lodging~2 breakfasts~a Southern Feast~luncheon with the congregation of the 3rd oldest synagogue of the U.S. following attendance at their Sabbath service.
- ▶ Ask the church office for the Savannah Tour Factsheet and contact me with any questions you may have: Donna Rudolph pisco@nc.rr.com 919 484 9075, for TPC Adult Ed.



To hold your space please get a deposit with the reservation form to the church office by September 22

Small Groups

Young Adults & Families Fellowship

We'll be having a September get-together — watch the tidings and your email for the date and time! Contact Rachel or Casey for more information.

New Groups Starting Up This Fall

Are you wondering about how to get involved in a small group? Are you looking for ways to go deeper in your relationship with God and fellow believers? Sign up for a small group! We'd like to get you connected with other folks to study God's word and fellowship together. We are hoping to get some new groups started in the fall and will also offer training and resources for those who'd like to lead a group. All you have to do is contact Rachel.



Small Groups

Financial Report

July 2011

Pledges	Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Net Gain/Loss
\$81,590	\$91,576	\$84,022	\$94,125	-\$10,103
Year to Date				
Pledges	Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Net Gain/Loss
\$571,130	\$641,029	\$603,653	\$576,606	\$27,047

Children's Ministries

Wednesday Clubs for Kids begins September 21

Register through September 14th. Wednesday Clubs for Explorers (K-1st grade), Kids Club (2nd-3rd grades) and Youth Club (4th-5th grades) will begin the Fall 2011 session on Wednesday, September 21st. Youth and Kids Clubs meet from 4:30-7:30 pm with dinner provided. Explorers meet from 4:30-6:30 with dinner included. The clubs include Bible study, recreation, dinner, preparation for our Christmas musical, community service projects, and more! Pick up forms for your kids and the neighbors' kids too from the Welcome Center desk or register on our website. Registration is completed upon receipt of the club registration fee for the 10 week program. Youth and Kids Club registration fees are \$50 per child, including meals and a musical practice CD. Explorers' fees are \$35 per child, including dinner and CD. The family maximum charge is \$100. Dinner will be prepared and served by parents under the direction of our meals team. Each participating family helps with one week's meal. Contact Nancy with questions or to volunteer to help.



Children's Ministries volunteers around the church

Did you know it takes a community of faith to provide Christian education for kids and adults? Look at some of the volunteers in action spotted this month! Consider whether you might be able to donate a couple of hours per month to help with these or similar activities. Contact Nancy with your ideas, your questions or to volunteer. Our schedule is flexible and will accommodate any spare time you may wish to donate!

- ♥ Upwards Camp Directors Taylor T., Teresa M. and Kevin P. spent many hours praying, planning and preparing for coaches and campers.
- ♥ Volunteer Brittney H. prepared bulletin boards, cleaned out supply closets and cabinets and organized teacher/leader materials for the youth and children's programs.
- ♥ TPC and TPPK staff moved furniture, changed bulletin board displays, and spruced up our children's classrooms in new and appealing ways.
- ♥ 20 Sunday Bible Clubs teachers and assistants were busily planning, preparing and praying for new and familiar class friends.

Volunteer Opportunities

Would you make some play dough for our kids? Many of our programs for children utilize play dough as a fun and therapeutic tool. Play dough is a great calming device for anxious kids (and workers, too!) We need three or more batches of play dough each month for the downstairs nursery classes and the Christian Moms program on Tuesdays. Contact Nancy if you can help with this easy but important ministry.

Vacation Bible School Offering update

Thank you for your generous gifts through TPC VBS and the International Outreach Ministry team!!! Vacation Bible School gifts purchased 111 days of camp for kids to attend a wonderful Young Life Camp (Vida Joven) in Nicaragua. Want more info? Check out Vida Joven's website at Nicaragua.younglife.org.

Christian Moms Group

Put down the iron, start up the crockpot, pack up the kids, and meet us every Tuesday morning at 9:00AM until 11:00AM beginning September 13th. The kids can play while you nosh on a bagel because you forgot to eat breakfast. Share your week with another Mom who is elbow deep in the same daily struggle and triumph. Center the rest of your week with a short devotional and return home empowered and ready to bless your family. Together we can weather this season of our lives through grace, humility, and camaraderie. Please contact the church office for more information on joining Christian Moms.

Sunday Clubs pennies, nickels and dimes will help the children of Agape Corner, but we will accept dollars, too!

Encourage your child to bring a portion of his "income" for Sunday School offering. Our children's' Sunday clubs offerings support the children and staff of Agape Corner, a Christian boarding school in east Durham for disadvantaged children whose parents cannot take care of them. The staff salaries, medical care, food and clothing for the children are provided by faithful churches and individuals who support the ministries. Triangle Presbyterian has been a partner for 21 years. Many of you were blessed to interact with the Agape kids during VBS and Upward Camp



Offering information: You say you don't have offering envelopes for your child??? We have purchased undated envelopes with a kid friendly design and placed a box for each child in the Sunday Clubs classrooms. Please make sure to write your child's name on the envelope before he or she brings it to Sunday Clubs.

Update on Upward Basketball Camp 2011

The Children's Ministries Team thanks all the planners, coaches, and helpers for the wonderful job you did in providing a memorable experience for the 58 children who attended Upwards Camp August 8-12. Please note the comments from parents, when asked what their child liked best. 1) child playing basketball with friends. 2) scrimmaging and playing in teams 3) the whole camp.

One parent said: I thoroughly enjoyed the guest speaker (Van Hatchell). Multiple parents expressed their appreciation for the leadership team and encouraging coaches.

Are you looking for a

Pre-K or a ½DAY Kindergarten?



TPPK has openings for the Fall in our Pre K and Kindergarten classes. We are a Christian School with a wonderful, caring, and loving staff! Contact Nicolette at 544-2872 or at NicoletteGranata@trianglepc.org.

Congregational Care

CHAPs

Have you found the area in Triangle Presbyterian Church where you could give your time and your love? Would you be interested in a unique mission being carried on in our church? It is one dedicated to the Christian care, support, and nurturing of the caregivers and the elderly within our church and our families. It includes educational programs, communicating and visiting with our Special Friends who are homebound or find it difficult to get out without assistance. It is one that offers support and education for those who are concerned with the aging of their parents. In the winter season this mission offers an 8 week Sunday School Class entitled Christian Parent Care which is given to address the problems faced by caregivers. Who is going to visit you when you are old? Who is going to care?

YOU are invited to meet with CHAPs (Christians Helping Aging People) in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. for the kick-off meeting of the fall season. The evening will include planning programs for the coming months, discussion of the needs of each area of mission, and the commitment of people who recognize the importance of keeping connected with the elderly members of our church and our families. CHAPS meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Just Older Youth

Are you 55 or older and proud of it? Then join Pastor Ray for lunch at 11:30AM on September 8th at the Golden Corral on Highway 55. Come with ideas for field trips. Or, just come and enjoy lunch and fellowship followed by a short devotion. Why sit at home and eat a sandwich, when you can enjoy some great food with good friends.



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.

- 9/9 Game Night CANCELED this month
- 9/11 Adult Volleyball starting at 1:30PM in the FLC (NOTE: 2nd Sunday this month).
- 9/12 Adult Volleyball starting at 6:30PM in the FLC.
- 9/15 Adult Volleyball starting at 6:30PM in the FLC
- 9/25 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.

TPC Movie Night



Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 17th. We will gather in the FLC to watch Mary Poppins, a family friendly movie that will appeal to everyone! The movie starts at 6:30PM with popcorn provided! Bring a comfy chair and something to drink. You don't want to miss this classic!

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					2 9:00AM CMMO	3 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal
4 10:30AM Single Service 12:00PM SALT Brunch	5 Holiday—Office Closed	6	7 TPK First Day of School 5:30PM Ministry Team Night 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	8 11:30AM JOY Lunch	9 9:00AM CMMO	10 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal
11 12:30PM Youth Leaders Lunch 1:30PM Adult Volleyball	12 Staff Retreat 6:30PM Adult Volleyball	13 Staff Retreat 9:00AM Christian Moms 7:00PM TPC Book Club 7:00PM Bridge Club	14 Staff Retreat 6:30PM Bible study 6:30PM Varsity Small Group 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30PM Adult Volleyball 6:30PM Prayer Shawl	16 9:00AM CMMO	17 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM Movie Night
18 1:00PM MLV Pool Party 3:00PM V Pool Party Holy Infant 1-3:30PM	19	20 9:00AM Christian Moms 6:30PM Deacons 7:00PM CHAPS	21 4:30PM Wednesday Clubs 6:00PM Bible study 6:30PM Varsity Small Group 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal	22	23 9:00AM CMMO	24 10:00AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30AM Cantata Rehearsal
25 12:45PM Pathways Brunch 4:00PM MLV 6:30PM Varsity	26	27 9:00AM Christian Moms 6:30PM SALT Potluck 7:00PM Session 7:00PM Bridge Club	28 6:00PM Bible study 6:30PM Varsity Small Group 7:15PM Choir Rehearsal	29	30 9:00AM CMMO	