

The Sounds & Spirit



STONE HOUSE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2012 Volume 14 Issue 2

www.shpchurch.org

Session is still looking for energetic people to lead our Fellowship and Small Group Ministry Teams and our Buildings and Grounds Committee for 2012. If you would be interested in helping in one of these areas or would like more information please contact a session member.

2012 Leadership Team of Stone House Presbyterian Church

Session: Class of 2012	Char King, Karen Mason,
Session: Class of 2013	Scott Kiger, Jim Moore, Iris Redmond
Session: Class of 2014	Kelly Bogart, Tony Jaramillo, Marjorie Daniel-Winger
Clerk of Session:	Char King
Church Treasurer:	Sharon Stupp
Corporation President:	Karen Mason

<u>Ministry Team</u>	<u>Point Person(s)</u>	<u>Liaison</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>Children's Team</u>	Barbara Johnston/Dawn Padden		741-2762/369-2774
<u>Fellowship Team</u>			
<u>Foundations Team</u>	Char King		564-0724
<u>Outreach Team</u>	Liz Dye/Gretchen Ward	Kelly Bogart	258-5553/566-8467
<u>Small Groups</u>			
<u>Worship Team</u>	Pastor Bob Melone & Nicole Belanus		565-1130
<u>Youth Team</u>	Pastor Bob Melone & Nicole Belanus		565-1130
<u>Administrative Committees</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Liaison</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>Building and Grounds</u>			
<u>Marketing & Publicity Team</u>	Scott Kiger		250-3244
<u>Personnel Committee</u>	Marjorie Daniel/Scott Kiger/ Karen Mason		564-7155/250-3244/741-2174
<u>Congregational Committees</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Liaison</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>Finance Committee</u>	Casey Duplantier, Charlie Hart- Chuck Loppacker	Jim Moore	565-4334/566-0090/565-0079 566-8093
<u>Nominating Committee</u>	Selwa Fiskus, Kathy Douglas, Ruth Low, Scott Kiger		234-0034/804-966-2614/741-2040 250-3244

Our mission is:

To invite, encourage and equip people to discover the adventure of becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

9401 Fieldstone Parkway • Toano, VA 23168 • in the Stonehouse Development • Phone: 757-565-1130

Pebbles of Truth

"The church doesn't have all the answers to life's most important questions, but it's the one place in our society where life's most important questions are being asked!"

I don't know who the guy was who made that comment on the radio last week, but it has become my mantra. It's why I am so committed to the Church – flawed and broken though it may be. And it is one of the things that makes involvement and ministry at SHPC such a life-giving and fulfilling experience.

Looking back on the past 11 ½ years, we've considered the prophetic passion of Ezra, the bold faithfulness of Esther, the skeptical persistence of Thomas, and countless other Biblical characters and stories that give testimony to the fact that the meaning of life is not about answers, but questions. They have confirmed what so many of us have come to discover – that life is more about the journey, than the destination.

Hopefully, like me, y'all still have a few questions about our faith – about the will and ways of God, about the nature and identity of Jesus, and about the purpose and meaning of Scripture. For those are the real questions of life – and only when we ask them, can we ever hope to find real meaning in our days.

Stone House was literally built upon the asking of these kinds of important questions, and so if you're still searching for answers, then I'd like to extend a personal invitation to you – please join me for this year's Lenten Bible Study!

The class is going to be held at two different times – at 7:00 pm on Thursdays, on the second floor of the café at Martin's Grocery Store on Monticello Avenue; and then again at the church, at 9:30 am on Friday. Classes begin on February 23rd, and run through March 30. We will be 'feasting on the Word' together, studying and exploring some of the great themes of the Lenten season, and considering together what Scripture has to say about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

If you are interested in the questions that give our lives meaning, then join me later this month as we begin a movement toward Easter, with an inquisitiveness that is truly born of God's Spirit. You won't be disappointed, and perhaps once again, you'll discover why SHPC is as important to us as it is!

. . . because of Him,
Bob

Sermon Schedule

February 5	"The Young Jesus: The Temple"	Luke 2:41-52
February 12	"One Thousand Gifts" Anne Grossman	
February 19	"There's an APP for that!"	Ecclesiastes 3
February 22	Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm	
February 26	"There's an APP for that: The Sacrifice"	Hebrew 9:1-14



FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am Preschool Chapel 11:40am Band Rehearsal 6pm	2 Better ½ 10:30am	3 Martin's Group 7:30am	4 Men's Group 7:30am
5 Communion Sonrisers 9am Souper Bowl of Caring Collection MS/HS Youth 11:30:1pm	6 Outreach Mtg 4pm	7	8 Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am Burnt Ordinary 11:30am	9 Better ½ 10:30am	10 Martin's Group 7:30am Family Retreat in the Outer Banks	11 Men's Group 7:30am Family Retreat in the Outer Banks
12 TLC Small Group 9:00am Family Retreat in the Outer Banks	13	14	15 Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am Newsletter items due	16 Better ½ 10:30am	17 Martin's Group 7:30am	18 Men's Group 7:30am
19 Sonrisers 9am MS/HS Youth 11:30:1pm	20 President's Day- No preschool /Office Closed	21 Pancake Supper 5:30pm Session 7pm	22 Ash Wednesday Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am Worship 7pm	23 Better ½ 10:30am	24 Martin's Group 7:30am	25 Men's Group 7:30am
26 TLC Small Group 9:00am	27	28 Finance Mtg 9:30am	29 Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am			

YOUTH CORNER

We have had an exciting time in Youth Group! We ended the year with a White Elephant gift exchange, or a Pink Zebra exchange as Pastor Bob would like to call it. We caught up in January and worked together to accomplish moving some things around, without actually touching them. Sherri gives them weird tasks! But some creativity and teamwork got the job done.

We are looking forward to an exciting spring. On February 5th, we will have a "Souper Bowl of Caring"! Members of the congregation are encouraged even more than ever to bring in items or monetary donations for St. Olaf's food pantry. On a day when food becomes part of the entertainment of the big game, our youth will be standing by before and after the service to collect items to ensure that others have food to eat as well. We will meet after the service for our scheduled meeting to have soup (yes, we like themes) and discussion.

We hope all youth and their families will be able to join the church retreat in the Outer Banks the weekend of the 10th. If not, we hope to see you the next weekend at our 3rd Sunday of the month meeting where we will watch a movie and have discussion time.

Keep an eye out for laser tag information and more! We are excited that our youth group has grown from between 6 and 8 regular attendees to 15-18. We hope that you will be a part of this growing ministry full of amazing kids!

Upcoming Events:

February 5th: Souper Bowl of Caring

February 19th: Eat'ure Feature (Lunch and a Movie)

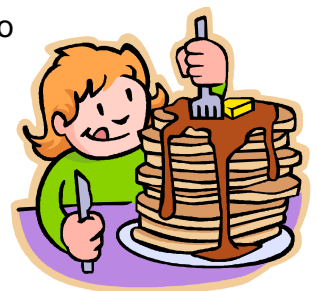
March 4th: Youth Family Laser Tag

For questions about youth events or how you can contribute to this ministry, please contact Sherri by email (sherri@makwoods.org).

Discovery Time Corner

Happy New Year! Many thanks to all the DT teachers and volunteers who helped our children make the church Christmas tree sparkle and shine! The kids had a lot of fun making their ornaments every week!

Now that we are through the holidays and January, we are gearing up for our annual Pancake Supper! This special event will take place on Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30. As always, we will serve pancakes (plain, blueberry and chocolate chip) and bacon...with all the fixin's. Keep your eyes on the Discovery Time Bulletin Board for sign-ups!



Stone House Preschool...in the News!

Well, we were hoping for SNOW upon our return to school but it just didn't happen! No matter the weather, we started off 2012 with a BANG! We spent the month of January studying all about winter, snow and ice, All Things New (Revelations 21), Polar Animals, Forest Animals and a special author/illustrator study of Jan Brett.



We also opened registration for the 2012-2013 school year and as of January 16th have approximately half of our spots available. We are offering a new option for our 3-year-olds to include a 2-day option. Please spread the word by letting your friends and family know we are currently accepting registration. And, as always, please come visit us to see what we are doing!



Pre-School Fundraisers

January was a double value month at Farm Fresh so be sure to turn in your receipts so the pre-school will benefit from your purchases. Just clip your receipt at the "Cut here" line and put the stub in the manila envelope on the pre-school bulletin board at the end of the main floor hall.

If you shop at Martin's you may have noticed that our pre-school had the 4th highest amount of money earned in November. If you haven't registered your bonus card yet, there is still time to do so. You can sign up at the Martin's web site.

Thank you for your support of our pre-school. It is proving to be a smashing success and a significant mission of our church.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January 21, 2012 – Stated Meeting

- Approved inviting David LaMotte to preach in worship on Sunday, March 18, 2012.
- Added to the SHPC Session Standard Operating Procedures the following: (1) Per Book of Order section G-3.0203 – a quorum for all session meetings shall include the moderator and one-third of the ruling elders in current service on the session, but no fewer than two. (2) The Session may invite members of the congregation to attend and observe its meetings if it so desires, without restricting its right to meet in executive session whenever circumstances indicate the wisdom of doing so.
- Approved collecting a special offering during the February 21st Pancake Supper to help offset costs.

January 29, 2012 – Stated Meeting of the Congregation

- Approved the Pastor's Terms of Call as presented in the 2012 budget.
- Amended the SHPC bylaws by adding the following to section V. Meetings
D. A quorum for all meetings of the congregation and corporation shall be ten percent of current membership, with public notice of the meeting being given on two successive Sundays and, in addition, electronically at least three days prior to the meeting. The meeting may be convened following the notice given on the second Sunday.

OUTREACH CORNER

Burnt Ordinary. In December we served 14 residents at our annual Christmas party, including 2 meals taken to those who were unable to leave their rooms. Anthony Burcher told us a rollicking and quite breathless tale about hunting with the family, and we distributed our annual Christmas gift of \$15 to each resident. In January 7 residents attended our lunch, and we took meals to 3 others. A number of residents were busy with doctors' appointments or were away.

St. Olaf's Food Pantry. In November we donated 331 food items--more than we have ever collected before. In December the total was 243, of which about 100 came from Kelly Bogart's employer.

Salvation Army, Angel Tree. We gave Christmas presents to 50 children, using all the tags on the tree.

Operation Christmas Child. We filled 97 shoeboxes, including 12 filled by Nell Wingfield and her group, as a project for Be the Church Sunday in October.

Outreach Committee--Reaching Out for New Members

Have you ever wanted (secretly, perhaps) to participate in an outreach activity (serving meals at Burnt Ordinary, for instance, or sorting clothes at The Thrift Spot, or filling backpacks during our school supply drive) but found that you just didn't have the time when that activity was scheduled? After all, working families have to juggle the demands of two jobs (usually) plus those of children, pets, older relatives, travel, community activities, and ordinary chores.

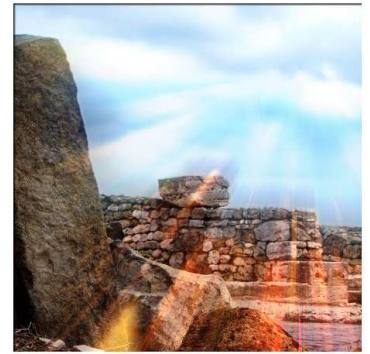
Alternatively, has your conscience sometimes reminded you that you'd like to give more of yourself (not just your money) to "the least of these," but the outreach activities offered at SHPC just haven't touched your particular spiritual strengths?

Perhaps in your former church in, say, a more metropolitan area, there was a wide array of choices for outreach, and the variety offered here just doesn't seem to measure up. Or perhaps you think there should be more of a particular kind of outreach--more fund-raising for international issues (children in Darfur, the homeless in Haiti, the poor in Congo), more attempts made to reach lonely hospital patients here in Williamsburg or support groups for prisoners, or help after (or during) local weather-related emergencies. Whatever your idea (or complaint, for that matter), we'd like to hear it, and we'd like to hear from YOU.

The Outreach Committee is asking for more volunteers and more input from the congregation. Our monthly meetings last no longer than one hour, and we are trying to reduce their frequency by using e-mail more often. We particularly welcome new ideas--suggestions for new projects or activities, other ways of doing things, or comments about possible needs noted in the community. Our fund-raising effort last summer for the Summer Feeding Program at St. Olaf's was the result of a timely tip from a friend who had read about the program in the newspaper. That kind of awareness, if passed on to one of our present committee members, is invaluable and would be warmly welcomed.

To summarize, we welcome all inquiries from possible new members, but even if you can't join our meetings, please feel free to mention your ideas and offer your comments to those on the committee now. Gretchen Ward and Liz Dye co-chair the committee; other members are Nell Wingfield, Janet Dombrowski, Happy Simmons, and Ruth Low.

FOUNDATIONS CLASSES ON DEMAND



Do you often ask yourself “Where DOES the time go?”
Do you promise yourself you are going to “get around to something” but week after week go by and it’s still on your to-do-list?
Do you wish things could be scheduled more conveniently so you could take advantage of them?

Have you been considering the Foundations Class at Stone House PC – perhaps to get to know more about what we believe and what it takes to become a member?

WELL!

Have we got a deal for you!

We are now offering FOUNDATIONS CLASSES ON DEMAND.

You may ask “What does this mean?”

Glad you asked – here are the Frequently Asked Questions (the FAQs)

Read through these questions and responses and then contact us. We are ready to meet with you “on demand” and work out a time and venue that will fit into your busy schedule.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) ABOUT FOUNDATIONS CLASSES AT STONE HOUSE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Q. What are Foundations Classes?

R. Foundations Classes are a specific way to learn more about what Presbyterians believe in general and what Stone House PC believes specifically. Some churches call them inquirers’ classes.

A. Who attends these classes?

B. Anyone is welcome to attend any class. They are designed to help people who are seeking more information. They help people decide if becoming a member at Stone House PC is a good decision for them. Sometimes people who are already members take these classes as a refresher course.

Q. When are the classes offered?

R. There are two scheduled classes a year – one in May and one in June. In addition, the Foundations Ministry Team offers a “Foundations Class on Demand”. Most of us lead very busy lives and it’s not always easy to come to a class at a specified time and date.

Q. Tell me more about the Foundations Class on Demand.

R. This class covers everything that is in each of the regular classes. The important difference is that it meets at a time and date to fit into your schedule. Just let us know.*

Q. Where are the classes held?

R. The classes can be held anywhere that is appropriate and convenient for inquirers. They are often held at Stone House PC but have been held in coffee shops and in people’s homes—we are open to venues. Also, we will assist with child care whenever we can AND we will buy you a cup of coffee or tea and even spring for lunch.

Q. Who teaches the Foundations Classes?

R. Pastor Bob covers all the theology. Members of the Foundations Ministry Team (who are elected by the Session) lead inquirers through the steps of what is entailed in being a member of Stone House PC. In addition, they provide general information on Stone House PC leadership to include Session, Staff and Ministry Teams, as well as, programs for everyone.

Q. Why should I take a Foundations Class?

R. You don't have to. Really! However, it helps to equip us to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ in the Stone House PC community of faith. It gives us a solid road to growing spiritually. We believe that excellence honors God and that part of that excellence is achieved through being better informed.

Q. Can't I accomplish all the things above without attending a Foundations Class?

R. Probably. But, do you really want to miss out on the adventure of being an informed and equipped servant! Bottom Line: You are loved whatever you decide. Most importantly, God loves you. Also, the folks at Stone House PC love you. So the decision is all yours and about how you want to bring honor and glory to God!

*FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: STONE HOUSE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT shpchurch.org or 565-1130 OR Char King at char_king@earthlink.net or 564-0724



Financial Corner:

January Income

Member Contributions
\$18,850.82

Monthly Budget
\$21,252.92

December Expenses

Actual Expenses
\$22,177.18

Budget
\$21,252.92