

The Sounds & Spirit



STONE HOUSE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2012 Volume 14 Issue 1

www.shpchurch.org

ALL CHURCH RETREAT

Arrrr...a Pirate adventure on the high seas awaits ye!

***Come along for a grand adventure to
"Treasure Island" 2012! February 10-12, 2012 OBX***

Ahoy there lads and lasses! There is a special treasure chest that's been kept secret until now, and that we'll be seeking together in the Outer Banks, North Carolina. Think you're up for the challenge?

Then dig out your sea-worthy attire and get ready to set sail in February...forecast looks chilly so don't forget your pirate vests and coats. And be sure to bring along your entire family because everyone is welcome on this adventurous voyage into the deep, blue Atlantic! But beware...this is one adventure that will change you forever!

Total Cost (includes 2 nights lodging + 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch)

Single Room Occupancy	\$225
Couple/Adult and Child:	\$275
Each additional child	\$25 (under 4 are free)

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due to the church office by January 22, 2012. All payments are due by February 3, 2012. Please make checks payable to SHPC.



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

It's one of my favorite winter hymns, and we will sing it in worship on January 1 – "All Beautiful the March of Days." The words were penned 100 years ago, with phrases and images that powerfully speak of our wintry entrance into a new year.

All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go;
The Hand that shaped the rose hath wrought the crystal of the snow;
Hath sent the ancient frost of Heav'n, the flowing waters sealed,
And laid a silent loveliness on hill and wood and field.

O'er white expanses sparkling pure the radiant morns unfold;
The solemn splendors of the night burn brighter than the cold;
Life mounts in every throbbing vein, love deepens round the hearth,
And clearer sounds the angel hymn, "Good will to all on earth."

O Thou from Whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,
Thyself the vision passing by in crystal and in rose,
Day unto day doth utter speech, and night to night proclaim,
In ever changing words of light, the wonder of Thy Name.

I am writing this "pebbles" on the day of the Winter Solstice, the day that light begins to make its triumphant return to creation. That, along with the close of all our holiday celebrations mean that we are moving into the depths of winter – the coldest, quietest, stillest, and most barren of our four seasons.

Indeed, the calendar says its winter; but what season is it for you? What season do you find yourself in as we begin a new year? Is it a time of change, a time to adapt, a time of celebration or joy? Or perhaps it's a time of sadness, or a time of reflection, or a time of reevaluation?

For me, this is a season of renewal. I'll go into more detail at our annual meeting on January 29th, but for now, suffice it to say that the refreshing winds of renewal are blowing through my life and my ministry, and I'm excited to be sharing it all with you!

As we take our first steps into 2012, my hope and prayer is that each one of us experience, celebrate, and enjoy, the renewing work of God's Holy Spirit. For as the season come and go, and as years continue to flow, God continues to move all of creation closer and close to Jesus – our light, our way, and our life!

My family and I thank you all for your kind expressions of love through the Christmas season, and we wish you all good health and great joy in this new year.

Peace, hope, and much love always . . . because of Him,

Bob

Sermon Schedule

Jan. 1	Service of Scripture and Song	
Jan. 8	A message from Kwanzaa	Genesis 4:1-16
Jan. 15	Guest Preacher: Charles Tucker	
Jan. 22	The Young Jesus: Simeon	Luke 2:21-32
Jan. 29	The Young Jesus: Anna	Luke 2:36-40



JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Service of Lessons and Carols 10am	2	3	4 Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am Preschool Chapel 11:40am	5 Better ½ 10:30am	6 Martin's Group 7:30am	7 Men's Group 7:30am
8 TLC Small Group 9:00am	9 Outreach Mtg 4pm	10	11 Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am Burnt Ordinary 11:30am	12 Better ½ 10:30am	13 Martin's Group 7:30am	14 Men's Group 7:30am
15 Sonrisers 9am Newsletter items due Brunch MS/HS Youth 11:30:1pm	16 Office Closed Annual Reports due	17	18 Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am	19 Better ½ 10:30am	20 Martin's Group 7:30am Session Retreat Richmond, VA 5pm	21 Men's Group 7:30am Session Retreat Richmond, VA concludes 3:30pm
22 TLC Small Group 9:00am Ordination/Installation of New officers	23	24	25 Stepping Stones 9:30am Staff Mtg 10:30am	26 Better ½ 10:30am	27 Martin's Group 7:30am	28 Men's Group 7:30am Be The Church Day
29 Sonrisers 9am Annual Meeting	30	31				

Small Group Outreach

At Stone House, outreach is a constant presence in our lives. Outreach efforts range from the "official" activities initiated by the Outreach committee (such as the Angel Tree and the school supplies drive) to the actions taken by one individual to help another (bringing your sick neighbor a cup of soup, for example). In between are the varied efforts of our small groups to make a difference in our community.

One of the most interesting of these is the outreach to a local retirement home offered by Sue Love's Tuesday morning small group. This group, augmented by several interested individuals, has been visiting the Madison Retirement Community, a local home for the homeless and indigent. This home offers a safe shelter for those who have no other recourse. It presently has 78 residents ranging in age from 18 to 96 years old. Most are single; there is only one married couple. Many are physically handicapped, but not all. As at Burnt Ordinary, residents must be able to take care of themselves; this is a retirement home, not a nursing home.

Amenities are sparse; nevertheless, in addition to three meals a day plus snacks, the home offers a program of some kind every day (designed by a program director), and a nutritionist comes twice a week. Four area churches contribute various mission activities there, and Williamsburg Library offers its services as well.

Sue Love's group has been there four times during the last 18 months. Twice they played bingo with the residents, and twice they provided an ice cream social. They played music once, which proved to be very popular; one wheelchair-bound woman, who used to be a dancer, said she wanted to dance, so Sue "danced" with her in time to the music. She was delighted. Actually, Sue says that socialization is the highest priority for her group; many volunteers go to the rooms of residents who don't appear in the common room and talk to them there. Many residents seem to be loners and find it hard to talk to each other, but when someone takes special interest in them, they open up. This special attention seems to be paying off: the last time the group was there (Dec. 17), the residents told them over and over how much they valued their efforts.

Small groups at Stone House are guided by the tenets of SAIL, of which the last is Loving Service. From what Sue and others have told me, it appears that a permanent relationship is being formed at Madison--one that benefits both sides and that demonstrates loving service in all its aspects. We all hope that this relationship continues to grow and prosper in 2012 and beyond.



Discovery Time Corner

December was awesome! As you may have observed, each Sunday of Advent, the children of our congregation created beautiful ornaments for our church Christmas tree. It is always amazing to watch it come together by Christmas Eve...and the kiddos are so very proud of their creations. Coinciding with Pastor Bob's sermon series, the children created ornaments associated with PEACE, HOPE, LOVE, and JOY - they were beautiful! If your child created ornaments, they will be available for pick-up in the office workroom for the next few Sundays.

On Friday, December 9th, we were blessed to have 4 grown-up volunteers, 3 youth and 16 children participate in our Parent's Night Out. The children wore their Christmas pajamas, brought their sleeping bags and settled in for several hours. During their time, they ate pizza and dessert, made Christmas cards for loved ones, and decorated adorable Gingerbread Men. There was time for a Christmas story, as well. The evening also included a viewing of the Polar Express and popcorn! Many, many thanks to Brenda Jackson, Marjorie Winger, Carol, Proctor, and Becky Ratcliffe for volunteering to share the evening with our children. And, last but not least, thanks to Taylor and Brandon Baldwin and Sheria for helping the grown-ups! The little ones love it when the youth are involved!!

Stone House Preschool...in the News!

Happy New Year! December simply flew by - learning the true meaning of Christmas and preparing for the holiday made the weeks go so quickly! Our children enjoyed their time of preparation and Advent! Each class hosted a special Christmas party during the final week of school and everyone had a great time. We sang carols and munched on delicious holiday treats!

Our preschoolers return to school on the 3rd of January - we will focus on the new year and the season of winter. If we're lucky, maybe we will see some real snow!

Beginning right away upon their return, registration for the 2012-2013 school year begins. It is hard to believe it is that time again but the phone is already ringing and preparations for the upcoming school year are under way. Registration will be open to current families for one week - January 3 through 6 - and then will open up to new families the following week. If you or someone you know is interested in Stone House Preschool, please give us a call sooner rather than later! This school year we had a waiting list so even though it's only January, the spots fill quickly! Please don't hesitate to contact one of our staff members for additional information. The registration form is available in the preschool office or on-line.

In the meantime, enjoy this new year and stay warm!!

Financial Corner:

December Income

Member Contributions
\$19,622.75

Monthly Budget
\$21,450.00

December Expenses

Actual Expenses Budget
\$26,966.14 \$23,373.00

2012 Leadership Team of Stone House Presbyterian Church

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

<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>			
<u>Outreach Team</u>	Liz Dye/Gretchen Ward		
<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>			
<u>Personnel Committee</u>			

<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, Jim Romesburg,		234-0034/804-966-2614/741-2040 566-9047/ 565-1130

SLPC Staff:

Pastor	Bob Melone	X13
Director of Music, Arts, & Media Ministries	Nicole Belanus	X12
Director of Preschool	Dawn Padden	X17
Business Manager	Colleen Lynch	X10