

# The Sounds & Spirit



**STONE HOUSE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2011 Volume 13 Issue 11

[www.shpchurch.org](http://www.shpchurch.org)

## Thanksgiving Brunch & Advent Wreath Making



Everyone is invited to attend the November 20, 2011, third Sunday Thanksgiving brunch after worship, and to bring a favorite Thanksgiving dish to share with friends. Children will have the opportunity to make an Advent wreath to take home for their families to light during Advent.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the kitchen with this brunch, as well as with the Christmas brunch on December 18, 2011. If you can help, please sign up on the sheets on the cookie table. Also, the supply of our white church tablecloths is very low. Please look around at home and see if you have any church tablecloths that you may have taken home to wash.

## THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER at SHPC

Would you like to join with other friends and guests for a Thanksgiving Day dinner at our church? Dinner will be served at 1:00 pm on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board. Turkey, stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce will be provided. Please plan to bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. This is a great outreach ministry, so reach out and invite someone who might be alone for Thanksgiving. If you have questions contact Happy Simmons at 564-7373 or email [happyralph@verizon.net](mailto:happyralph@verizon.net).



## Opportunities for Extra & Special Giving

The Finance Committee has put together a brochure listing the various opportunities for giving at SHPC; please pick up a brochure in the Welcome Center and consider giving to one of these great ministries!

## SMALL GROUPS & LOVING SERVICE

One of the most important goals of our church's Small Group Ministry is "Loving Service" -- that is, after all, what the 'L' in SAIL stands for. So, how long has it been since your group actually provided some kind of service to others?

If your answer is 'too long' -- that have we got a deal for you!

On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Discovery Time Ministry would like to offer a Parents' Night Out to friends and members of our congregation with small children. We want to give young mothers and fathers, the chance to go out for an evening to Christmas shop, see a movie, or just have a date, alone and without kids around.

Parents will be dropping their kids off at the church at 6:00 pm, and we'd love a small group to take charge of the babysitting. Dinner, snacks, and a movie will be taken care of by the Children's Ministry Team, but we need adults there to make it all happen.

If interested, please contact the church office and let us know. Let's lovingly serve this important segment of our church family

If that is not something you think your group can do, how about taking responsibility for one of our upcoming Sunday Morning Pot-Luck Brunches? We have one scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>, and one for December 18<sup>th</sup>. It only takes 3-4 people to get tables set, and to make sure everything is cleaned up at the end. Once again, contact the church office if you are willing to help out.

**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

While on a short-term mission trip, Pastor Jack Hilton from New Bern, NC, led worship at a leper colony on the island of Tobago. When the service was drawing to close, he asked if anyone had a request for the closing hymn. Looking around, he noticed a woman who had been standing with her back to the pulpit the entire service, turning around and raising her hand.

"It was the most hideous face I had ever seen," Hinton recalls. "The woman's nose and ears were entirely gone, and the disease was well on its way destroying her lips as well. Lifting her fingerless hand, she said softly, "Can we sing 'Count your many blessings?'"

Overcome with emotion, Hinton left worship that morning, followed by a team member who said to him, "Jack, I guess you'll never be able to sing that song again?!"

"Yes I will," he replied, "but I'll never be able to sing it the same way."

Friends, when we realize the many blessings that we have in this life, the way we live this life should change . . . and dramatically. You see that's what real gratitude – that's what real thanksgiving – does. It changes us.

This month, spend some time counting your many blessings, and then try to live into the gratitude. Allow the gifts that have been given to you – gifts of life, freedom, relationships, church, and \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank!) . . . allow them all to melt your heart, that you might live differently.

While I know I say this every year, of all the things I am thankful for, SHPC is at the top of my list. And SHPC is you! So thanks – for enriching my life, and the life of my family. We love you, and are grateful for you.

Peace and love always . . . because of Him,

*Bob*

## Sermon Schedule

November 6	Mercy and Justice-special sermon interview	
November 13	Stories-Elijah	1 Kings 19: 1-13a
November 20	Stories-The Recabites	Jeremiah 35
November 27	First Sunday of Advent "A cup of Christmas Peace"	Mark 5:21-25



# NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Stepping Stones 9:30am  Staff Mtg 10:00am  Preschool Chapel 11:40am	3 Better ½ 10:30am	4 Martin's Group 7:30am	5 Men's Group 7:30am
6 Communion  Sonrisers 9am  MS/HS Youth 11:30:1pm	7 Outreach Mtg 7pm	8 Election Day  No preschool	9 Stepping Stones 9:30am  Burnt Ordinary 11:30am	10 Better ½ 10:30am	11 Martin's Group 7:30am	12 Men's Group 7:30am
13 TLC Small Group 9:00am	14	15 Newsletter items due  Session 7pm	16 Stepping Stones 9:30am	17 Better ½ 10:30am  Staff Mtg Noon  Red Cross 2-7pm	18 Martin's Group 7:30am	19 Men's Group 7:30am
20 Sonrisers 9am  Thanksgiving Brunch/Advent Craft 11:15am  Youth Group 11:30am-1pm	21	22	23 Stepping Stones 9:30am	24 Thanksgiving  Dinner @ SHPC 1pm	25 Office Closed	26
26 TLC Small Group 9am	28	25	29 Stepping Stones 9:30am  Staff Mtg 10:30am	30 Better ½ 10:30am		



## Outreach Corner

- Burnt Ordinary:** We had another full house (or nearly full) in October. We fed 13 residents, including 3 who received delivered meals. Fall decorations livened the table, and pumpkin decorating was the highlight of the afternoon. Each resident took home a small pumpkin embellished by his or her own hand.
- St. Olaf's Food Pantry:** Note that peanut butter (and all items made from peanuts) will go up in price by 30% to 40% next month due to damage to the peanut crop. Buy now for savings. Also, see the article in this month's Newsletter about Thanksgiving foods; we can start donating them now
- Operation Christmas Child** Last date for collection is November 6.
- Salvation Army:** Traditional bell-ringing activities continue this year. Sign up on the sign-up sheet posted on the Outreach bulletin board. **Angel Tree.** See related article in this month's Newsletter. Our gifts this year will go to children who live in the Burnt Ordinary apartments. Barbara Johnston and Gretchen Ward are coordinating this effort this year.

## Thanksgiving Foods for Food Pantry

We donated 97 items in September and now is the time to begin contributing foods suitable for Thanksgiving to the Food Pantry. Such foods include canned sweet potatoes, canned and bottled gravies as well as packaged gravy mixes, canned vegetables (onions, green beans, corn, etc.), cranberry jellies, dried cranberries, dried mixed fruits, packaged nuts, pie crust mixes, canned pumpkin, canned mince pie filling and other fruit pie fillings, evaporated milk, stuffing mixes, mini-marshmallows.

## Salvation Army's Angel Tree

Your help this year will bring joy to a child at Christmas and that is truly a special gift. We will have 50 angel tags again this year, but we are very excited because they will all be from Burnt Ordinary. The Outreach Ministry team wanted to continue our support with Burnt Ordinary and the Salvation Army was happy to accommodate us.

**The tree will be up on November 13th and 20th.** The final **due date is Sunday, November 27**, but of course, as always, you may bring your gifts to the church before the 27th.

Please take a tag, sign your name on the clipboard by the ID number of your tag and pick up the instruction sheet. Some things have changed this year and it's important that you read all the instructions.

Thank you so much for all your support for the children in our community. If for some reason you cannot be at church on the 13th or 20th to get a tag, please contact Barbara Johnston, 757-741-2762 and I will arrange to get a tag to you.

## Holiday Worship Schedule

Session has decided to hold two worship celebrations Christmas weekend this year. Both will be held Saturday evening, Christmas Eve -- the first at 5:30, which will be a Family Gathering, and the second at 8:00, which will be our Traditional Candlelight Service. Sunday morning, we invite you enjoy your family traditions at home. Elders were in unanimous agreement that families want to both gather on Christmas Eve for worship, AND spend Christmas morning at home. So we are seeking to honor both of those practices.

On Sunday, January 1 -- we will have one regular worship time, gathering at 10:00 am for a Service of Lessons Carols, to welcome the New Year.

## Discovery Time Corner

Discovery Time is rolling! New and returning teachers are working their way through the curriculum and the children are growing in their knowledge and love for God. We are currently looking forward to a couple of fun events - first, we will, again, be decorating our church Christmas tree - each Sunday in Advent, the children in Discovery Time will craft hand-made ornaments to adorn our tree. By the 18th of December, the tree will be complete - showcasing all the gifts of the season: Peace, Hope, Love, Joy, and Jesus! Also, stay tuned for our December 9th Parent's Night Out! We will be hosting children ages 3 (must be potty-trained) through 10 on Friday, December 9 from 6 until 9 pm. This fun night accomplishes several goals! First, the children are given an opportunity to come together to experience the joy of the season with games, crafts, and dinner! They will end their evening with a special movie! Second, this evening allows parents to begin or finish Christmas shopping or just spend some special time together with the knowledge that your children are in good hands! Be on the lookout for more information about this event!

## Stone House Preschool...in the News!

Happy fall y'all! This month was busy in the preschool - We began the month with a study of Community Helpers and Fire Safety. Firefighters from our local department came to visit and the children were able to practice "Get Out and Stay Out" and "Stay Low and Go," as well as spend some time exploring both a fire engine and an ambulance. During our "My 5 Senses" week, all four classes went on their first field trip of the year. We visited the Holly Fork Farm and Pumpkin Patch during the week of October 17. The children were able to play games, take a hayride, learn about pigs and chickens on the farm and choose a pumpkin of their very own from the pumpkin field. We rounded out the month of October with a study of pumpkins - the children explored the in and outs of pumpkins and learned that pumpkins are just one of the very special fruits God's earth gives us. We also learned that the light inside a jack-o-lantern is just light God's light shining inside each of us! Finally, we ended our month with our annual costume parade! Many thanks to all of you who helped make this special event such a "treat" for the kiddos!



# UPCOMING EVENTS- NOTE NEW DATE

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend “**TREASURE ISAND**” the All Church Retreat scheduled for **February 10-12, 2012** in the Outer Banks, NC. The date has been changed in order to accommodate more people. This event is designed for all ages; that includes everyone from families with children, to couples, and yes even singles! There are a variety of activities planned to appeal to everyone. The fun starts on Friday, February 10, at 7pm and ends on Sunday, February 12, at Noon. Watch for a flyer with more information coming soon!

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION

### October 18, 2011 – Stated Meeting

- Approved construction of a sidewalk leading from the lower level of the building at the outside door to the upper level existing sidewalk. Costs are to be covered by monies in the Preschool budget.

### October 23, 2011 – Anniversary Meeting

- The following nominations were approved:
  - Selwa Fiskus to chair the Nominating Committee
  - Casey DuPlantier to chair the Finance Committee
  - And to serve on the Session – Class of 2015:
    - Kelly Bogart
    - Marjorie Daniels-Winger
    - Tony Jaramillo
- The Long-Range Plan is available in the Welcome Center for those who have yet to receive a copy. Goals for one, three and five years are outlined.

## Financial Corner:

<u>October Income</u>		<u>October Expenses</u>	
Member Contributions	Monthly Budget	Actual Expenses	Budget
\$22,725.00	\$21,450.00	\$23,289.27	\$23,373.00

As of October 30, 2011 we are \$20,952.53 in the red –year to date.

## 2011 Leadership Team of Stone House Presbyterian Church

<b>Session:</b> Class of 2011	Scott Chisholm, Liz Dye, Ralph Simmons
<b>Session:</b> Class of 2012	Char King, Karen Mason, Jim Romesburg
<b>Session:</b> Class of 2013	Scott Kiger, Jim Moore, Iris Redmond
<b>Clerk of Session:</b>	Char King
<b>Church Treasurer:</b>	Sharon Stupp
<b>Corporation President:</b>	Liz Dye

<u>Ministry Team</u>	<u>Point Person(s)</u>	<u>Liaison</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>Children's Team</u>	Barbara Johnston/Dawn Padden	Dawn Padden	741-2762/369-2774
<u>Fellowship Team</u>	Carol Proctor	Char King	566-0819
<u>Foundations Team</u>	Char King	Char King	564-0724
<u>Outreach Team</u>	Ann Moore/Nell Wingfield	Liz Dye	565-0079/566-4524
<u>Small Groups</u>	Anne Grossman	Liz Dye	566-8245
<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>	Scott Chisholm	Colleen Lynch	2503202
<u>Marketing &amp; Publicity Team</u>	Scott Kiger		250-3244
<u>Personnel Committee</u>	Ralph Simmons, Scott Chisholm, Jim Romesburg/Scott Kiger	Jim Moore	564-7373/250-3202/ 566-9047/250-3244

<u>Congregational Committees</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Liaison</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>Finance Committee</u>	Casey Duplantier, Charlie Hart- Chair, Chuck Loppacker	Jim Moore	565-4334/566-0090/565-0079 566-8093
<u>Nominating Committee</u>	Selwa Fiskus, Kathy Douglas, Ruth Low, Jim Romesburg, Scott Chisholm		234-0034/804-966-2614/741-2040 566-9047/250-3202

<u>SHPC Staff:</u>			
Pastor		Bob Melone	X13
Director of Music, Arts, & Media Ministries		Nicole Belanus	X12
Director of Preschool		Dawn Padden	X17
Business Manager		Colleen Lynch	X10