



JULY 2006

## SPECIAL EDITION

### From the Pastor

#### The Reverend Bill Nickels

Dear friends,

Greetings to you, grace and peace.

Whenever clergy types gather for continuing education, you can be sure that someone eventually will toss out the truism that *In most churches, 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the ministry.* That may or may not be true; but, I urge you, let it not be true among you! In my resume material, I indicate that I haven't any interest in being the minister of a church. I think ministry is way too much fun and way too important for me to keep it all to myself. I want to be a minister among other ministers—at work with a whole congregation of people engaged in ministries of many sorts for the sake of Christ. And, I have to say, I've certainly had a lot of colleagues at work in ministry here at SPC—people providing pastoral care, leading worship, educating others, engaging in evangelism, carrying out mission efforts...getting involved in the game, in all kinds of ways. Contributing. And receiving. In large measure. It has been great to see.

Beginning in July, both the session and the diaconate will be reforming, with seasoned members rotating off and new members coming on and assuming various leadership roles. As these leaders anticipate working—before long—with a new pastor, they know that this is going to be a fertile time in the life of this church, and they are as eager as I am to have as many of you as possible laboring along with them. So for their sake and your own, I ask you to consider offering your gifts and service as a member of one of the session's ministry teams, or as a contributor to some other aspect of the church's work, like its music or educational ministries, its food pantry ministry or its work as a part of the Presbytery. Consider the needs and possibilities, and then pray over them, seeing if you feel a sense of call to something. I'm sure, whether you sense it or not, you are called to ministry. Everyone baptized in Christ is called! The question for each of us is, *to what, at this time?* In Christ I wish you

All the very best,

**Bill**

### Prayer Concerns

Gabe Harrah \* **Steven** and **Angie White** \* Our sister congregation, First Presbyterian Church, Hampton \* Noland Canter, **Ann Nickels'** father, post-surgery \* **Bruce** and **Tasanee Kidd's** fathers \* The Pastor Nominating Committee \* **Rob Saunders'** father, medical procedures

### Leaders Coming and Going

Following an examination by the session, six persons were approved to assume special leadership responsibilities at SPC. **Brooke Johnson** and **Jerolene Crusenberry** will begin their work as active deacons in July, and **Al Nash**, **Nancy White**, **Fran Alwood**, and **Fields Richardson** will join the session. Each of these disciples brings gifts, enthusiasm, and living faith to their service. Each has a strong sense of being called to serve Christ in a special way at SPC at this time. Support them with your prayers.

And offer a prayer of thanksgiving for those leaders who will be rotating off the Diaconate and Session after three years of devoted labor. **Lisa Morrison** and **Don White** have been active members of the Diaconate, and **Rob Saunders**, **Cliff Stewart**, and **Susie Stoughton** have provided wise and effective leadership in their capacity as active elders.

### Looking Good for 130!

In 1876, SPC was chartered as a Presbyterian church in this community. That makes this year the congregation's 130th. And that's not only worth noting—it's worth celebrating!

Hoping to plan something appropriate, the session has asked **Jeanne Banks** to gather input on how we might mark the occasion. If you'd like to help her by sharing your thoughts and ideas, she'd be happy to have you contact her at 539-6311.

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### July Calendar

- Sunday, July 2    Holy Communion
- Friday, July 14    BBQ Sale for Living Waters
- Wed, July 19    Session Meeting
- Tuesday, July 25    PEVA Meeting

Worship begins at 10 a.m.  
No Sunday School

#### Looking ahead...

August 6-10    Vacation Bible School

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Other Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

**Jason Wollerton** (July 1)  
**Sarah Harrison** (July 1)  
**Stan Byrum** (July 5)  
**Ann Nickels** (July 10)  
**Wesley King** (July 11)  
**Logan Harrison** (July 12)  
**Betty Chapman** (July 15)  
**Ryan Crusenberry** (July 18)  
**Jean Butcher** (July 19)  
**Cliff Stewart** (July 21)  
**Gary Cisco** (July 22)  
**Jack Stoughton** (July 24)  
**Taylor Doughtie** (July 29)  
**Maryanne Persons** (July 29)  
**J.B. Persons** (July 31)  
**Joan Tyler** (July 31)

### ANNIVERSARIES

**Nancy and Bruce Sharp** (July 1)  
**Lynn Johnson** (July 11)  
**Stacey and Jason Wollerton** (July 14)

## Funeral Resource Guide

By Don White

On Sunday, May 7, the Diaconate presented to the congregation a *Funeral Resource Guide*. If you did not receive a guide that Sunday, additional copies are located on the table in the narthex or you may request one from any of the deacons.

Contained within this funeral guide is a two-page Funeral Information Form. With it, one can convey to one's family and pastor what he or she wishes in regard to funeral arrangements. A death in a family is always a stressful time and many families have been grateful to have some guidance when faced with the loss of a loved one and the need to prepare for a funeral service. You will find included within the guide the following resources:

- a list of appropriate scripture readings for funeral services;
- A list of appropriate hymns for funeral services;
- Information regarding funeral services from the PCUSA *Book of Order*;
- Suggestions from a law firm about estate planning issues;
- A planning guide folder provided by the funeral home industry;
- A newspaper article regarding funeral planning

The Diaconate hopes these resources will prove helpful to those individuals and families who use them.



## Christian Formation Update

By Maryanne Persons

We've completed another great year of learning and faith development at SPC! Special thanks to all of those who taught and contributed to all of the Christian Formation programs, from Sunday School to Christmas Pageant to mid-week classes. Your participation, whether as learner or leader, encourages faith in others and makes SPC such a wonderful place to be on a faith journey.

The End-of-Year Aloha Picnic was held on June 11. There were hot dogs, games, water balloons, and LOTS of fun! Join us on **September 10** for **Rally Day** as we begin another great year. Plans are already underway for the 2006-2007 year. Enclosed you will find the **2006 Christian Formation Ministry Team Survey**. We hope you will take a minute to respond to it. We're looking for any thoughts and feedback so we can continue to strengthen our programming. Please mail back the form or deposit it in the "This Just In" box.

And you don't need to wait until next year to get involved! **Vacation Bible School** will be held from 5:45—8:15 PM on August 6-10 at West End Baptist Church. There will be classes for all ages as we share supper and travel the world, exploring how people are changed by God. There will be a Dessert Auction on Thursday, August 10 to benefit the Free Clinic being formed in Suffolk. The group is looking to raise startup funds to open a medical clinic that will serve the needs of Suffolk. The Wall of Hope will be collecting items for the Red Cross. New regulations mandate that each Red Cross chapter keep disaster kits on hand locally. Regional warehouses will no longer be used. The local chapter will need personal hygiene items to create kits. More details to follow on each of these projects!

Have a safe summer! Remember to fill out the survey! See you in church!

## Choir News

By Janice Thomas

During July, the choir members will rehearse at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, and in August we will take a complete break—no rehearsals, no anthem. Early in September rehearsals will resume.

The week of July 25, your choir director will participate in a music conference at Virginia Wesleyan College under the leadership of some fine musicians. Hopefully this will be a time of renewal and inspiration.

## Chorale Presbyterienne Du Congo Performs in Hampton Roads

Now is the time to start getting excited about our visit from the **CHORALE PRESBYTERIENNE DU CONGO** who will arrive during the last week of July!

This ensemble of 12 voices sang at opening worship for the 217th General Assembly, and is following this performance with a tour of various presbyteries in the eastern United States.

They will be at **BAYSIDE PC** for a **WELCOME FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP** on **FRI., JULY 21st at 6:30 PM**. Please call the church to **RSVP BY JULY 17th**.

In the days that follow, many joyous concerts, workshops, worship and fellowship activities will take place throughout our region including concerts at **FIRST PC VIRGINIA BEACH** on **JULY 22nd**, **ROYSTER MEMORIAL PC** on **JULY 23rd** and **HIDENWOOD PC** on **JULY 24th** - all at **7 PM**.

## Presbyterian Women Take Summer Break

By Janice Thomas

The Presbyterian Women will enjoy a summer respite until September, when we begin a new year's work with new officers.

**Jane Sommers** will serve as moderator, **Brooke Johnson** vice moderator, **Betty Chapman** secretary, **Helen Zekert** treasurer, and **Susie Stoughton** historian.

New study books are being ordered—at a cost of \$6 each—and will be available soon. This study will be *In the Beginning—Perspectives on Genesis* and promises to be an interesting one. We shall look forward to new lessons and to working with Jane and her officers in the fall.

## What a Cool Church!

Have you noticed? The east wing of the church is MUCH cooler now thanks to the installation of air conditioning. Much appreciation to **Rob Saunders** and the Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2006

Get your passports and visas ready—you're in for one great adventure with this year's Vacation Bible School!

We'll be "TRADING PLACES" as we travel around the world with stops in Brazil, China, Kenya, Mexico, and Poland.

Along the way, we'll discover how Bible characters changed their lives through faith and God's love—Daniel (loneliness for loyalty), David (sheep for subjects), Esther (beauty for bravery), fishermen (fish for faith), and Paul (violence for victory).

There will be a supper each evening (Pot Luck on Sunday), games, crafts, loads of fun—and, yes, the Annual Dessert Auction!

We take off to explore the world on Sunday, August 6 at 5:45 PM and continue on our journey each evening through Thursday, August 10.

So come join us for VBS '06 "TRADING PLACES", where Jesus makes a world of difference!



# Stewardship Update

Through May 31, 2006

Total Receipts through 5/31 (including the following key sources)	\$54,427
Apple Tree	\$4,550
Pledged offerings	\$38,346
Cash and non-pledged offerings	\$6,157
Investment income	\$3,580
Total Expenditures through 4/30 (including the following key disbursements)	\$56,959
PCUSA mission participation	\$5,699
Utilities	\$7,212
Pastoral leadership	\$29,239
Music leadership	\$4,208
Insurance	\$3,244
Maintenance	\$1,589

## June Session Notes

At its meeting on June 21, the session did the following:

- examined and approved officers-elect for ordination and installation;
- approved use of the church during a United Way neighborhood walk event on Sept. 9;
- elected **Bruce Sharp** commissioner to the July 25 PEVA meeting;
- completed a study of the report of the PCUSA's Peace, Unity, and Purity task force;
- approved a planned survey of the congregation on Christian education;
- began considering how to mark SPC's 130th anniversary;
- endorsed a July 14 BBQ sale to raise funds for the Living Waters mission;
- initiated plans to have leaders reflect on healthy pastor-parish relations;
- agreed to let the clerk take steps toward getting the church incorporated;
- prayed for individuals, the church, and its ministry.

## Millers in Transition

At the beginning of July, **Chuck Miller**, SPC's former pastor, will be honorably retired from his work as a PCUSA minister. And along with **Lori**, Chuck will be moving into a nice new home they've found in Chattanooga, TN. With many of their colleagues and with the congregations Chuck and Lori have served, we thank God for their ministry and wish them all the best in this new phase of their lives.

## Got BBQ?

On Friday, July 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., the driveway of SPC will be bustling with Leon Nixon Caterer's BBQ trailer and staff, and the Missions Team and other volunteers will be hustling some of the most delicious BBQ and chicken you've ever tasted!

Dinners will sell for \$7, and include BBQ, fried chicken, coleslaw, potatoes, and hush puppies. BBQ by the pound is also available for \$7 each. If 5 or more dinners are sold, we will deliver (schedule permitting).

Proceeds from the sale will send SPC members to Clean Water University in Oxford, MS as well as to Guatemala to install clean water systems.

We've got 500 tickets to sell—if you'd like to help, or know a local business that may want to order dinners in quantity, please contact **Lou Ventura** at 657-6461.

How many tickets do you want?

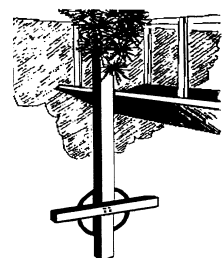
## PNC Moves Forward

By **Bruce Sharp**

Although it may not seem like it, your PNC is moving forward in seeking a minister. Our Church Information Form was approved by the Session at its April meeting and Presbytery's Committee on Ministry at its May 2 meeting. Despite our efforts to move the process forward, a long series of delays, miscommunications and software "improvements" on the PCUSA computer system meant that our CIF was not entered into the computer search system and approved for generating information on potential candidates until the first week of June. We attempted to stifle our impatience during this time with the certainty that God would allow us to go forward when the time was right. We also have adopted a toy donkey as a mascot and reminder of Who controls our path forward. (See Numbers 22 verses 21 - 35).

We are now back on the path and moving forward; we are receiving Personal Information Forms from candidates both referred to us from Presbytery and self-referred in response to the posting of our CIF on the PCUSA web site. If you would like to see our CIF go to [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). Click on Ministry and Vocations in the right hand column and then click on Opportunity Search under Church Leadership Connection. Click the appropriate buttons to limit the search to the state of Virginia and a Pastor (Solo) position. Our CIF should show up under the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue this search.



Suffolk Presbyterian Church  
410 N. Broad Street  
Suffolk, VA 23434  
757-539-3213  
www.suffolkpresbyterian.org  
Email: [suffolkpcusa@verizon.net](mailto:suffolkpcusa@verizon.net)

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