



Naomi Makemie
Presbyterian Church

Onancock, Virginia

A Member of Presbyterian Church USA

January 2014 Special Edition Farewell to Robert and Nina

Editor's Note: Rev Dr Robert Close officially retired on December 31st, 2013

FROM ROBERT...

Dear and Beloved Friends

This is my final letter to you. I have been your pastor for 7 years, 4 months, and 1 week. We have celebrated Christmas 8 times together. I have loved every moment of my time here with you in ministry. Sunday, January 5, 2014, will be my final Sunday with you. I like it that we will all be gathered around the table together celebrating God's presence in our midst. I thank God for our time together. Though the pastoral relationship is coming to its conclusion, we shall be together again.

Am I going to another church? No! Nowhere could I find a church so compassionate and caring, so ready to walk the walk. After 45 years of ministry I am retiring. Your church will continue to be an outpost of compassion and loving service to those in need here on the ESVA. At NMPC people find, no matter who the pastor is, a spirit of love and justice, the energy of hope and new life. This will remain unchanged. You are good people, more good than you know.

My pastoral charge to you is that each one of you renew your faith commitment. Be steadfast and faithful. Continue your journey to God with holy boldness. Your prayer support and your financial support are needed at this time. Pray for and support the Elders and the Search Committee. In time you will have a new pastor. This will be an exciting time for all of you, a new adventure. Trust the process.

Nina has been very much a part of this time together with you. We thank each and every one of you for just being you. You are beautiful and compassionate people. You have become a part of the fabric of our lives. We shall always remember you with gratitude and love.

Let your hearts take courage,

Robert

A NOTE FROM NINA CLOSE

"Home... Continues"

There is a verse from 1st John that Robert used in a recent Soul Nugget:

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God... God is love and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them."

Abiding in love, here with you... so true. We have been the blessed beneficiaries of your love in so many ways these past seven years.

From day one... your welcome was warm and celebratory... there was a hurricane, technically, the day after we arrived, but we were cozy in Mike and Marge's lovely home.

That has been true ever since, in so many ways large and small... whatever has buffeted on the outside, we dwelled secure... Both in the literal home we have loved, with ongoing thanks to Joe's Boys, and in the "home"—spiritual, emotional, vocational—that these two churches embody.

Anyone who gets to dwell among you is blessed indeed.

When you live together, as we have these years, you become family. That does not change... ever.

For me, the concept of home is a quilt, made up of many pieces, all of them crucial, all of them a permanent part of the whole.

Even as we go forward, we are drawn back: Places and, especially, people lodge in our bodies and psyches, and we forever remember. So... don't be surprised to find me rattling some of your doorknobs... I believe in revisiting all parts of the quilt, and Debbie Ryon, Nancy Collins and I will continue to lead retreats here, as we have for the past four years.

Just as I write of returning, eternally returning, I am reminded of an image from Scripture, where it says "Jesus pitched his tent amongst them..."

Not built a big stone building. Not stayed. He pitched the most temporary of dwellings, knowing he would be moving on.

It reminds me of the metaphor at the heart of all our lives... that we are all here on a temporary basis, and all called to move on, if not literally, then inwardly, to the next place of new life, of service.

I think the best prayer I ever heard was by Dag Hammarskjöld. It was passed on to me by my grandmother, and you have heard Robert say it many a time:

"For everything that has been thank you. For everything that will be... yes."

May we ALL go forward saying, shouting..."YES." Traveling mercies to us all. And ongoing love and thanks forever.

New address:

PO Box 419, Purcellville, VA 20134-0419... phone to come!

SESSION DIGEST FROM CLERK OF SESSION

At the December 2013 Session meeting, Rev. Dr. Robert Close said that he and Nina have loved their 7 years and 4 months with us and will carry us in their hearts as they journey on. *"The people in this church are good, more than they know, and they are compassionate and generous and easy to be with. There is a strong Spirit of Life in this church. The outreach into the community of this church is considerable. This little congregation is committed, deeds not just creeds, and has a significant influence on the town of Onancock and the ESVA. I celebrate all the members and friends of the Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church.*

I have been impressed with all the Elders who have served so faithfully on the Session and the many functional structures within the church. While I celebrate the gifts and leadership of every Elder who has served, it seems right to me to say that Cada Grove, the Chair of the Pulpit Nominating Committee that brought us here, who said that he would never be an Elder, but who has just completed 6 years of exceptional service to the church—I feel that I must make note of this. There is not an area of the life of this church that Cada has not contributed to. I also thank those who are now serving on the Session for all the good work they have accomplished: Marshall Ryon, Rick Turner, Linda Arvidson, Meg Adams, Dick Freeman, Tom Nielsen, and Jody Humphreys, Clerk.

Please know that our love and prayers will continue with you all."

Ed Weber and his crew have been working hard to seal all the leaks on the church roof, around the burned vents and around the windows. Thanks to Buildings and Grounds for handling this necessary work.

The Mission Committee motion to send \$2,500 from the Belote Trust to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the Philippines typhoon was approved.

Many thanks to Linda Arvidson and Debbie Ryon for managing Robert and Nina's outstanding farewell celebration.

Jack Humphreys reported on the work of the Pastor Search Committee. The Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery approved the Ministry Information Form and it was placed on the nationwide database. Daily e-resumes are posted and Gloria, Rick and Jack are busy reading, ranking and rating. ***Update note: The committee reports that they are receiving applications and have begun the review process.***

Pledge cards would be helpful in managing our 2014 budget. Forms were included in the bulletins and in each envelope set.

We received a lovely gift from Norma Barnes family. The Session will engrave one of the pavers in her memory and in honor of her work as Elder. Her passing brings our active membership to 56.

Laura Naylor shared a medical update on her son, Camillo Chuquin. He will be undergoing a major procedure in January and our prayers continue with the entire family.

A SUMMARY OF ROBERT AND NINA'S 7 YEARS WITH US IN PICTURES...

The Robert and Nina the timeline... The Churches selected Robert June 5, 2006, they arrived in Onancock in September and Robert's service of Consecration was held on March 25, 2007. Robert officially retired on December 31, 2013.

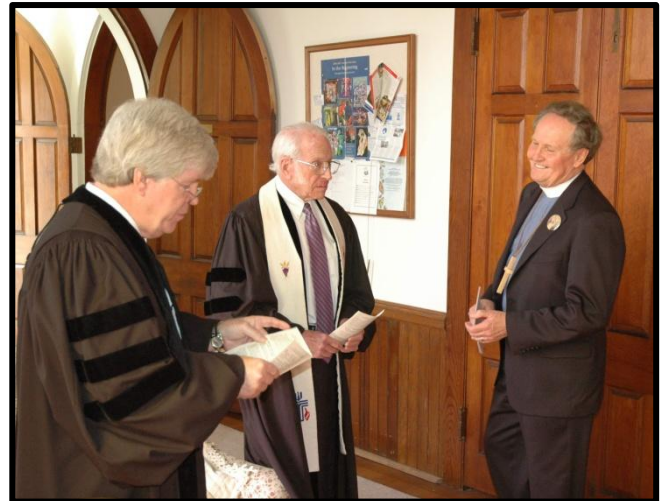
First, the teenagers painted the pastor's office...

Robert's First Sunday September 3rd, 2006, and greeted by Harry Rush...



Robert's Service of Consecration...

Rev. Richard Short
Rev. Donald Broad
Rev. Robert Close



We learned he liked to hug!



Robert and Nina were now part of the family



The flowers that welcomed them



Robert and Nina were quickly invited in to everyone's home...



Robert was here when lightning hit the steeple...



We celebrated many Easters with Robert and Nina...



Christmas was always special with Robert and the Choir...



GF Horne dinners....



We had picnics at the manse...



Robert even had some baptisms...



Robert getting his school supply team ready...



Robert was here long enough to see some grow and leave for college...

Nina helped with ladies retreats...



We said farewell on December 22, 2013



We will always remember you...



A Summary of Upcoming Events and Announcements for January

The Church Calendar of Events for January ***Please mark your calendar***

Church School starts at 9:30 am – every Sunday
Church Services start at 11:00 pm – every Sunday
Choir Practice is 5:30 pm - every Thursday
PW is on the 6th at 11:30 am
Prayer Group at 10:00 am on the 2nd and 16st
Session at 5:00 pm on the 6th
Joe's Boys (ladies welcome) 9:00 am on the 14th

**Don't forget to check the full church calendar on the web
or in the Makemie Room for non church meetings and
activities. WWW.NMPRESCHURCH.ORG**

On the Pulpit in January

January 5th - Rev. Robert Clove
January 12th - Rev Don Broad
January 19th - Rev. Dr. Elizabeth (Liza) Hendricks
January 26th - Rev Rhudy Naylor

February 2nd - Rev. Richard Goodman

Christian Education UPDATES

Sunday School has been meeting regularly every other week with a good group of children involved in learning about the Bible and having a pleasant time. The next date is January 12th.

The Adult Class is also meeting on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM and enjoying a variety of topics from the history of the church to Christianity in Japan. All adults are invited to join this fun and spiritual group. All topics touching on religion are encouraged

NMPC PW Bible Study

NMPC Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, January 6, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in the Makemie Room. Please read Chapter 4 on *Valor, A Year of Biblical Womanhood* by Rachel Held Evens .

CADV is still in need of adult toothbrushes, toothpaste and hair brushes.

Please bring a brown bag lunch (dessert and beverage will be provided).

A short business meeting will follow after the book discussion.

The Newsletter team continues to encourage you to consider receiving your newsletter by email. The newsletter is produced with lots of color and photos. The email version also saves money for the church. For those wishing a hard copy we will continue to distribute them the first Sunday of the month and mail those not picked up the following Monday. To receive by email send a message to cadagrove@att.net.

Naomi Makemie Presbyterian church
PO Box 397
Onancock, VA 23417
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

To:

JANUARY 2014



Happy Birthday to all our
members and friends born in
January.

Did we miss someone?
Please let us know.

Nina Close	01-09
Jean Freeman	01-21
Addison Stapleton	01-22
Juliann Green	01-23
Nancy Drew Pickard	01-28
Mary Helen Gardner	01-30
Tom Nielsen	01-30