



Naomi Makemie  
Presbyterian Church  
Founded in 1893 Onancock, Virginia

May 2013

Dear and Beloved Friends in the NMPC Community of Faith

Friends! This is an important letter. I write to you about our beloved community of faith- NMPC. For years when people came to the church and joined they would say "I was first greeted and welcomed by Anne Bagwell." or "I was first greeted and welcomed by Marge Carpenter." First of all, Anne has passed away, and Marge has moved away. And besides that, these days there are not that many first time visitors coming to the church--not that many people moving into the area. We have been most fortunate recently to welcome the Greens, the Freemans, and the Tompkins. They selected us. That alone is affirming as they visited other churches.

What are we to do? I suggest we must take the initiative. We must move out into the community to tell our story, to speak of our faith and of the incredible work our church supports. I ask each one of you to think about the 3 things you like best about NMPC. Things you would miss if it were not here.

Let me give you my list. Yours will be different but just as good. I would say first of all that this a free and open community of faith that welcomes everyone in the name of the Christ who has welcomed us and who welcomes everyone-- a community of faith that encourages each individual to be on their own unique spiritual journey. Each of us is an experiment of one. No cookie cutter theology here-- no one size fits all. We are a compassionate, positive and inclusive community. Our services are open and contemporary and we have a wonderful choir and a great ministry of music. Awesome!

Secondly, we are mission oriented! Here I have asked Cada Grove, Chair of our Missions Committee to list all of the activities and missions that we support. It's incredible all that is being done by only 58 people. Awesome!

*Financially we support the AICC, Lighthouse Ministries, Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Literacy Council, ESPM (school supplies) and the Foodbank. With volunteer action we support Habitat for Humanity work camps who are housed at the church, 2 Red Cross Blood Drives held at our church, the prayer shawl ministry, the baby cap project etc. In addition members of our church are involved in many other community groups ranging from the arts to history preservation and education.*

Thirdly, there is a strong supportive fellowship here. Folks get the feeling of family, of a loving community, a real place of deep belonging. We enjoy being with each other for both worship and for service and just for good times. We love this community of faith and we want it to continue long after we are gone. We are committed to make that happen.

So, my friends. These are the three strengths of the church that I would speak with others about as I invite them to come and to be with us. I hope and pray that each one of you reading this will find a way to reach out to others, to take some initiative, to welcome others, and to speak with them about your faith and about the amazing work and worship of this beloved community of faith -- the Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church.

Please, let me hear from you. Let the Session members hear from you. We need to all come together and to work on this. Remember, "with God all things are possible."

Let your heart take courage,

Robert

## A Process to Follow...

Robert and Jody, Clerk of Session, recently attended a workshop on church survival. They were given the following factors to think about in evaluating our church. In the next newsletter we will provide a questionnaire for each of you to complete. The session is currently completing this process independently and we will combine your questionnaires and report the results to all of you in a future newsletter.

*Factors of Congregational Survivability, Vitality, and Vibrancy: A Spiritual Strategic Journey Playbook  
Resource TCP Leadership Series By George W. Bullard Jr.*

**Age:** Your congregation is more likely to exist ten years from now with vitality and vibrancy if the average age of active congregational participants is less than 50 years old. You are marginal or uncertain to exist with vitality and vibrancy if the average age of active congregational participants is 50 to 65 years old. You are less likely to exist with vitality and vibrancy if the average age of active congregational participants is over 65 years old.

**Tenure:** Your congregation is more likely to exist ten years from now with vitality and vibrancy if the average tenure of active congregational participants is less than 15 years. You are marginal or uncertain to exist with vitality and vibrancy if the average tenure of active congregational participants is 15 to 25 years. You are less likely to exist with vitality and vibrancy if the average tenure of active congregational participants is more than 25 years.

**Buildings:** Your congregation is more likely to exist ten years from now with vitality and vibrancy if your buildings are in good shape and simply require routine and expected repairs. You are marginal or uncertain to exist with vitality and vibrancy if your buildings need regular repairs, and you are behind on routine maintenance. You are less likely to exist with vitality and vibrancy if your buildings are in disrepair and you must address major repair needs.

**Relationships:** Your congregation is more likely to exist ten years from now with vitality and vibrancy if relationships within the congregation are about true friendships with one another. You are marginal or uncertain to exist with vitality and vibrancy if relationships within the congregation are about meaningful fellowship. You are less likely to exist with vitality and vibrancy if relationships within the congregation are about face familiarity with many people.

**Worship:** Your congregation is more likely to exist ten years from now with vitality and vibrancy if worship services are about a true relationship with and praise to our Triune God. You are marginal or uncertain to exist with vitality and vibrancy if the worship services are a weekly program in keeping with our faith traditions. You are less likely to exist with vitality and vibrancy if worship is a weekly cultural gathering where we celebrate the traditions of the church.

**Budget:** Your congregation is more likely to exist ten years from now with vitality and vibrancy if more than 30 percent of your budget goes to programs and missional efforts outside the congregation. You are marginal or uncertain to exist with vitality and vibrancy if 20 to 30 percent of your budget goes to programs, and missional efforts outside the congregation. You are less likely to exist with vitality and vibrancy if less than 20 percent of your budget goes to programs and missional efforts outside the congregation.

**Debt:** Your congregation is more likely to exist ten years from now with vitality and vibrancy if you have no significant debt for your buildings and/ or other areas of your church. You are marginal or uncertain to exist with vitality and vibrancy if you have significant debt for your buildings and/ or others areas of the church. You are less likely to exist with vitality and vibrancy if you have overwhelming and burdening debt for your buildings and/ or others areas.

## APRIL SESSION AND CORPORATION UPDATES...

At the April Session meeting, John Tamm visited on behalf of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. He updated us on his role and discussed the transition plans in the wake of the retirement of the General Presbyter. We briefed him on all our missions and other church activities.

Buildings and Grounds will repair the manse dishwasher and will sell hot dogs on May 18 for the Super Saturday celebration. Work continues on the plans for a Memorial Garden. The Session approved a motion to use the capital improvement funds in the trust regular account for the manse hot water heater.

Congregational Life has accepted the responsibility of managing the blood drives twice a year. Let Meg know if you can help.

The Mission Committee will provide lunch for two Habitat for Humanity work groups on May 7 and 14 at the site. In addition, the church will house the William & Mary group and host them for dinner at the Blarney Stone on Tuesday, May 14.

The Membership, Friendship and Service Committee was busy planning the May 3 Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser. It is a great community gathering from 5-7 PM.

The Worship and Music Committee will re-evaluate having personal palms next year depending on the cost.

For April, the average attendance was 42 and our active membership is 58.

At the Corporation Meeting, we reviewed the quarterly financials which were favorable. In addition, Cada reported that all required paperwork has been filed with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### **New Adult Study: PARABLES**

True fellowship occurs in small groups. Come join us (Mary, Susan, Jody, Cada, Jack & Rick) for some fun and perhaps a new perspective on the Parables. The conversation usually goes as the Spirit leads but it shouldn't come as any surprise that Rick and Jack are cut-ups. Drop ins are also welcome at 9:30 AM in the Makemie Room.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
May 5	4	The Seasons of the Soil	Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
May 12	5	The Sad Story of the Embarrassed Farmers	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
May 19	6	Love Always Wins...Sometimes	Luke 15: 11-32
May 26	7	Why Doesn't God Like Religious People?	Luke 18: 9-14

See Jody for a copy of the study guide *Parables from the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas or call 678-5308 or send an e-mail to [jojaceast@verizon.net](mailto:jojaceast@verizon.net).

### **From our Clerk of Session... "THE PRESBYTERIAN TRADITION"**

More than 2 million people call the Presbyterian Church their spiritual home. There are nearly 11,000 Presbyterian congregations throughout the United States serving the communities in which they live.

Presbyterians are distinctive in two ways: they adhere to a pattern of religious thought known as Reformed theology, and a form of government that stresses active, representational leadership of both ministers and church members.

The word "Presbuteros," from which we get "Presbyterian," is a Greek word meaning "elder." It's used 72 times in the New Testament.

### **Church Women United...**

If you look closely at the month calendar you will find that every 3rd Tuesday at noon, Church Women United meet at NMPC. They are a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive group of Christian women who celebrate unity in diversity working toward world peace. Founded in 1941, they sponsor a number of worldwide celebrations each year, such as the World Day of Prayer and Human rights Day among others. They also support a number of local mission projects that include meals for habitat volunteers, supplies for Head Start and several others. If you are interested in this program please see Mary Ryser, who has been active for many years.

### **What is a denari?**

Several times "denari" is mentioned in the Bible...so Jody researched it and reported...

One denari was one day's pay. Some estimate it to be \$20--that seems low but I don't know the Middle East pay scales today. Jody



### **Remembering Jean and Bob Haines,**

We asked Alison (their daughter) how they were doing. In short "Mom and Dad are doing OK". They have been in assisted living in Traverse City, MI for some time now. Bob continues to deal with dementia and Jean's cognitive state has improved dramatically since her illness while still on the shore. Alison indicated that through all their problems "... they remain remarkably VERY JOYFUL and still very much in love. They go downstairs for movie night every night and hold each other's hands through the entire movie." They love hearing from friends and even calls - if you can catch them in their room. Their address is :

521 Cottage View Apt 210E  
Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone:231-883-8360

## Upcoming Events and Announcements for May and Later

### **The Church Calendar of Events for May** ***Please mark your calendar***

Church School starts at 9:30 – every Sunday  
Church Services start at 11:00 – every Sunday  
Choir Practice is 5:30 pm - every Thursday  
YOGA is 10:00 am – every Friday  
PW is 11:30 on first Monday of month  
Prayer Group at 10:00 am on the 2nd and 16th  
Session at 2:00 pm on the 13th  
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**

### **Upcoming Event in May...**

A Habitat Camp staying at church May 13th to the 15th  
*This is a small group from William and Mary who will be graduating this month and wanted one more camp together. They are supported by the First Presbyterian Church of Williamsburg.*

***To reserve any room at the church you only need to post it on the calendar in the Makemie Room - please include your name! Remember, regular church and special church services always take priority.***

**May 12th at 7:00 pm,**  
NMPC will be hosting the  
Baccalaureate service for  
this year's graduation class  
Eastern Shore  
Community College

### **Habitat Camp Update**

We reported that we would be doing two (2) lunches for Habitat Camps. Both lunches have been cancelled...one camp is not coming and the second camp is only 5 students.

More camps are being scheduled for the summer months and we will announce schedule when available.

### **NMPC PW Bible Study**

NMPC Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, May 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the Makemie Room. Don Broad will lead the discussion on his book "Reconciling the Heart and Mind: Essays on Faith". Please read chapter 4, The Apostles' Creed. Bring a brown bag lunch (dessert and beverage will be provided) This month is also our Birthday Offering. Linda Arvidson will be leading us.

We continue to put together the "First Night Kits" for CADV. Items to focus on for the kits are socks, deodorant and hair brushes. Please bring what items you can to the meeting.

Please join us for this informative study and bring a friend.

The staff and editor of our newsletter want to make sure it is what you want. If you have comments or suggestions please feel free to send an email to [cadagrove@att.net](mailto:cadagrove@att.net) or talk to Meg or myself at church. The newsletter is now available on our web page or **via email** – sent out Saturday before the newsletter is available in church. If you would prefer an email copy please send me an email from the address at which you want to receive it and we will be sure to make it happen!

Naomi Makemie Presbyterian church  
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To:



Happy Birthday to all  
our members and  
friends born in May

Danielle Colona	5th
Cada Grove	5th
Julia Schuyler	9th
Skylar Stapleton	13th
Brenda Eldrid	14th
Norma Barnes	20th
June Soud	21st
Peggy Eames	23rd
Bob Armstrong	26th
Pat Stevens	30th

**Did we miss someone? Please let us know!**