

# January 2025

# Third Presbyterian Church



*This month's "Pastor's Note" is Don's words to us at the conclusion of the service on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Don has completed his role as Covenant Pastoral of Third Church and for that we are very grateful and have been truly blessed. After a much-needed break, Don will still occasionally lead us in worship in 2025.*

## **Farewell – December 29, 2024**

My friends, since the announcement that today would be my last Sunday many of you have expressed to me your appreciation of my ministry here among you. Your words have touched my heart and while I still believe that it is time for me to move on, and by that, I mean requesting the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia to grant me the status of being Honorably Retired, it has not been an easy decision to end my time of ministry with you.

This morning, I feel the need to offer my words of appreciation to you. Let me take you back in time. On Christ the King Sunday, November 25, 1990, I stood on the steps of the chancel at Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church in Richmond and read a statement explaining why I would not continue to serve as an Interim Associate Pastor for the congregation. As mandated by the Presbytery of the James, I told them that I was a gay man and according to the Book of Order of the PC(USA) I was in violation of my ordination vows. The Presbyterian Church was demanding that I chose between who God created me to be and the call that I received to serve as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. I was being rejected by the church that I had been a part of since my baptism at the age of 2 ½ months. This led to a decision by the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia to remove me from the roll of ordained clergy.

This was a wound to my soul. I lived with that wound for many years. I achieved my licensure as a counselor and had a successful career in the mental health field. But the wound still festered. My beloved and caring husband, Tony, took it upon himself to explore the process that he hoped would heal my wound. And indeed, on January 22, 2022, the Presbytery took action to restore my ordination. But the wound was not fully healed.

As you know I did some pulpit supply work in 2022-23 but it was not until the possibility of serving Third Presbyterian Church as a Covenant Pastor that the wound finally began to close. Beginning on January 7<sup>th</sup> of this year until today, you all welcomed me and Tony into your fellowship. You accepted me as the person God created me to be and you honored the call I had received to be a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Who I loved had nothing to do with my ability to be your pastor nor did it impair my ability to bring the words of love, grace and peace offered by our Lord, Jesus Christ to you on a weekly basis.

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Being your Covenant Pastor has been the final step in my healing. As with any wound, there will always be a scar, but the wound is healed. Each of you has been an agent of healing. The only words left for me to say are, "Thank you and Thank you. You all will always be in my thoughts and prayers".

Let me offer for one last time the words of the Charge and Benediction:

Go out into the world filled with the gifts given by the newborn Christ Child. May you continue to be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Seek to lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. And may the love of God the Creator, the grace of Christ our Redeemer and the fellowship of the Spirit, the Sustainer be with each of you this day and always. Amen.

Peace,

*Don*

**PULPIT SUPPLY LOOKING AHEAD**

- January 5<sup>th</sup> – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- January 12<sup>th</sup> – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- January 19<sup>th</sup> – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- January 26<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Martha Mitchell
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rev. Martha Mitchell
- February 9<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Martha Mitchell
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Commissioned Pastor Sid Etherington
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Commissioned Pastor Sid Etherington
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – Marcy Wright, Candidate for Ministry
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – Marcy Wright, Candidate for Ministry
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Rev. Melissa "Lissa" Long, Transitional General Presbyter
- March 30<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Leigh Gillis
- April 6<sup>th</sup> - TBD
- April 13<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- April 17<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- April 20<sup>th</sup>, Easter - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- April 27<sup>th</sup> – TBD
- May 4<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Don Martin
- May 11<sup>th</sup> - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- May 18<sup>th</sup> - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass
- May 25<sup>th</sup> - Commissioned Pastor Paula Bass

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE FOR 2025**

To date, we have received **13 pledges totaling \$61,420 towards our proposed budget of \$104,250.**

If you have forgotten to turn in your commitment form or if you still need more time to prayerfully consider your part in the ministry and mission of Third, you may still turn in your pledge card. There are additional cards and envelopes on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Amy Griffin, Financial Secretary or you may send her an email at [financialsecretarythirdpc@gmail.com](mailto:financialsecretarythirdpc@gmail.com). Thank you!

**PW BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP****JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 12:00 PM FOR LUNCH AND BIBLE STUDY**

The author describes her call for creation justice in this way: "When I first learned of the climate crisis, I wondered how a biblical scholar with few practical skills could help and found my purpose in learning about ecology and teaching people of faith what I could. Such is not everyone's skillset or desire, but each of us has something to do with all our hearts." We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "you shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fast-changing world.

Join us Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> for lunch, (bring a sandwich or snack) lively discussion and fellowship. We meet in the church conference room at the end of the hall and have zoom access if you are unable to join us in person. Please let me know if you need zoom access so I have the computer set up.

**LOOKING AHEAD .....****Ladies' Morning Out**

**"UNSTUCK.....it's like a spa for your soul"**

**Saturday, January 25, 2025**

**Great Bridge Presbyterian Church - 333 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA**

Gathering – 8:30 AM Program – 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Praise and Worship! Inspirational Speakers! Continental Breakfast!

Speakers – Paula Bass and Carol Miller

Mark your calendars now. More information to follow as we move closer.

Transportation from Third to Great Bridge will be coordinated.

If you have questions, please contact Amy Griffin at 757-618-3006.

For more information about the program, call Paula Bass at 757-482-2460.

### MOST ASKED FOR ADDRESSES

Teri and Ken Howard  
109 Windsong Drive  
Macon, NC 27551  
757-274-3311 - Teri

Dot Grandstaff  
The Gardens of Virginia Beach  
5620 Wesleyan Drive #247  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
757-583-2244

Peggy Russell  
Aspire at West End  
5020 Sulky Drive, # 415  
Henrico, VA 23228  
Phone: 757-387-9301

Lexi White & Marc Cahill  
89 Winchester Dr.  
South Kingstown, RI 02879

Judy & Tim Cook  
2909 Arc Road  
Mobile, Alabama 36605-4466  
251-385-0615

### OFFERINGS

December 1<sup>st</sup> - \$2,111.00  
December 8<sup>th</sup> - \$3,766.00  
December 15<sup>th</sup> - \$11,151.00  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> - \$6,192.00  
December 29<sup>th</sup> - \$796.00

# Happy Birthday!!!

January 7<sup>th</sup> - Peggy Russell  
January 7<sup>th</sup> - Steve Babor  
January 9<sup>th</sup> - TJ McKinney  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> - Stacy Apelt  
January 26<sup>th</sup> - Ginny Davis

### PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people and families in your prayers, that they might be lifted up through your conversations with God:

Claudia Cary  
Jessica and Ray Fitzgerald  
Ginny Davis  
Steve & Claudia Glover  
Carol Maxwell's Mom  
Darlene Pick  
Holly Gaff  
Nancy & Steve Babor  
Toy Hefner  
Judi White - Lexi's Mom  
Heather Sipe  
Jimmy Singer - Cheryl's Cousin's Husband  
Greg McGlaun - Fred's Nephew  
Dorothy Mosko - Teri Howard's Mother  
The Family of Larry McKinney  
The Family of Sandy Campbell  
The Family of Patricia "Anne" Basnight  
The Family of Ruth Bray  
Our Church  
The Session  
Our Community  
Our Nation

Love <sup>the</sup> Lord <sup>your</sup> God  
with all your heart & with all your  
soul & with all your strength  
& with all your mind; & Love  
<sup>your</sup> neighbor as yourself. <sup>Luke</sup> 10:27

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY  
IN-PERSON AND LIVE STREAM AT 11 AM**

Below is the Zoom link where you will be able to see those leading worship and along with parts of our liturgy. Below is the most updated link, phone number and password.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/605837516?pwd=V0R5VmNCQ2Mraml1TFdOVXpGMEpiQT09>

If you do not have computer access, you can call in with your home or cell phone using Zoom's dial in option.

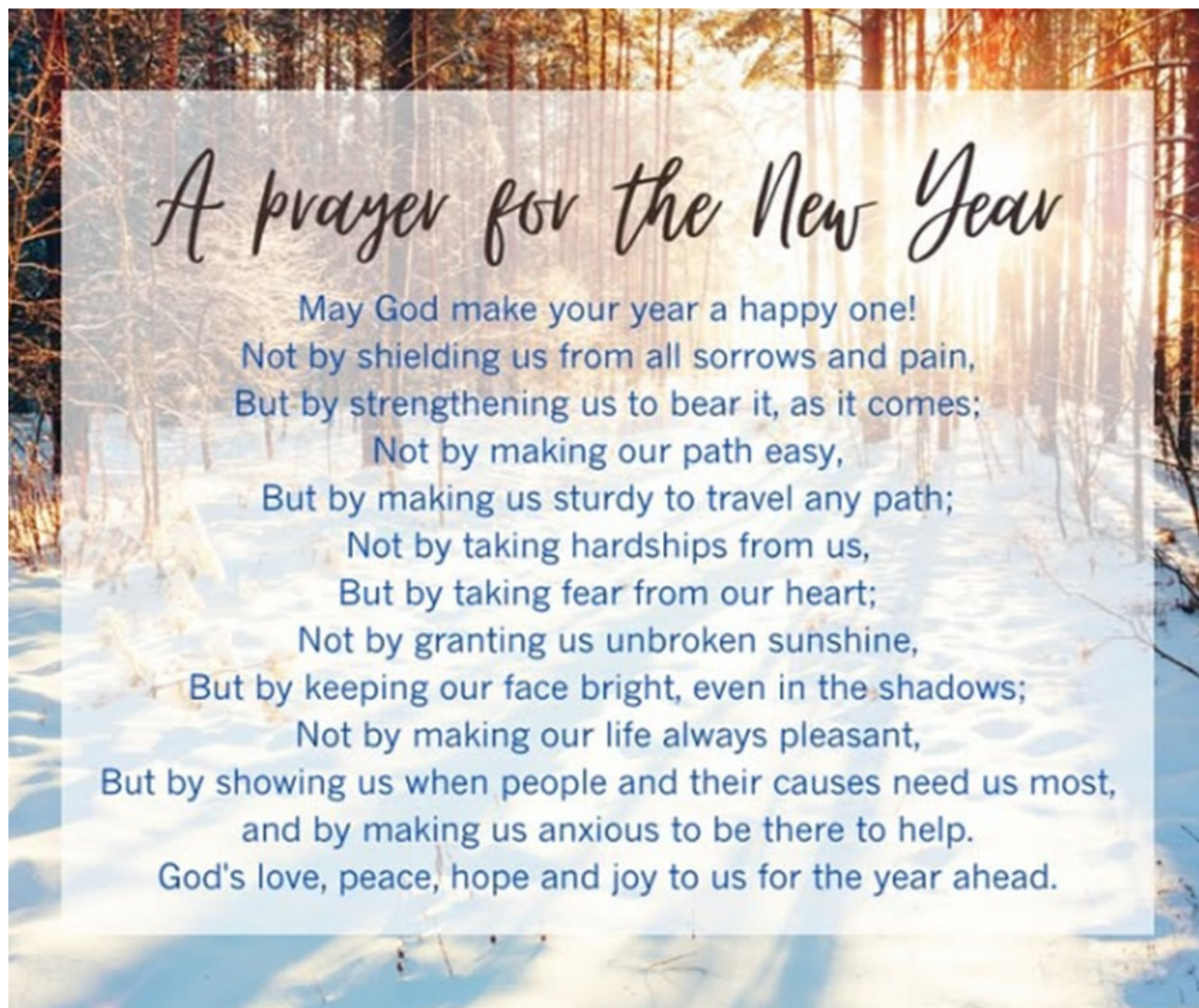
Meeting ID: 605 837 516

Password: 23518

Phone: 312-626-6799

**CHURCH OFFICE**

If you need assistance, please feel free to call 757-587-7576 and leave a message (phone is being forwarded to an elder), send an email to ([thirdpc@hrcoxmail.com](mailto:thirdpc@hrcoxmail.com)), or call one of the elders or the pastor. Thank you!



## SHEPHERD'S LIST 2025



**Amy Griffin**

**757-618-3006**

\*Dee Glover

\*Steven and Claudia Glover

Ginny Davis

Nancy and Vernon Barham

Dorothy Grandstaff

Marguerite Duke

Peggy Russell

Teri Howard

Sybil Crooks

Ginny Keisel

Claudia Cary

**Stacy Apelt**

**757-583-5872**

Nancy and Steve Babor

Jim Rudiger

Carol and Tom Maxwell

Mary Ann Shepard

Kayla and Bryson Shepard

Margaret Chewning & Dan Cudney

Di Babineau

Debbie and Ray Platte

Cheryl and Fred Holtz

Mike Gallond

Jessica Fitzgerald & Family

**Tom Maxwell**

**757-531-9851**

\*\*Brittany French

Dave and Jenni Joyce

Holly Gaff and CJ Jones

TJ McKinney

Lexi White and Marc Cahill

Deb King

Joseph Bray

Darlene Pick

Amy and Dennis Griffin

Artie and Milinda Derrenbacker

Stacy Apelt and Judy Floyd Apelt

The Rapacon Family - Amanda,  
Manny, Christian, Samantha, Rachel,  
and Peter

\*no email-please call

\*\*text

**Calvin Presbyterian Church**

2901 E Little Creek Rd, Norfolk, VA  
23518

(757) 587-1591

**• Food Pantry Hours**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

• Third Saturdays of the month  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**The food pantry serves Norfolk  
zip codes 23518 and 23503.  
Those in need of assistance  
may obtain a referral from any of  
the participating churches.**

**Pantry Wish List:**

- 25 oz Apple Sauce
- 16 oz Baked Beans
- 24 oz Beef Stew
- 15 oz Peas
- 15 oz Green Beans
- 1 lb 13 oz Canned Fruit
- 32 oz Jelly
- 18 oz Peanut Butter
- 32 oz Pancake Mix
- 24 oz Syrup
- 1 lb Rice
- 8.25 oz Tuna Helper
- 6 oz Tuna
- 15 oz Spaghetti O's
- 15 oz Thick Soup
- 64 oz Juice
- 12 oz Luncheon Meat
- 7.25 oz Macaroni & Cheese
- 13.75 oz Mashed Potatoes
- 13.7 oz Oatmeal Individual Packs
- 16 oz Spaghetti Noodles
- 26.5 oz Spaghetti Sauce
- Dry Milk, Individual Packs

*Please, no baby food, coffee, tea, sugar, pickles, olives, condiments, tomatoes, cranberries, canned milk, crackers or mushrooms.*



# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>Happy New Year</b>	<b>2</b> 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 11 am Worship with Communion In-person and Virtual	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	<b>9</b> 7 pm Civic League	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10 am – 12 pm Clothes Closet
<b>12</b> 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 12 pm PW Lunch and Bible Study 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	<b>16</b> 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6 pm Session Meeting 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	<b>23</b> 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30 am – 12 pm Ladies' Morning Out Great Bridge PC "Unstuck" with
<b>26</b> 11 am Worship In-person and Virtual	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 – 10 pm Dance Group	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7 pm AA Meeting	<b>30</b> 7 – 9:30 pm Square Dancing	<b>31</b>	



**Third Presbyterian Church**  
8065 Carlton Street  
Norfolk, VA 23518

**CHURCH STAFF**

Amy Griffin, Clerk of Session  
Holly Gaff, Treasurer  
Amy Griffin, Financial Secretary  
Joseph C. Bray, III, Organist/ Choir Director  
Clara Barnes, Sexton  
Lexi White, IT Facilitator

**Presbyterian Women**

**Presbyterian Men**

Tom Maxwell, President  
Fred Holtz, Vice-president

**Memorial Committee**

**SESSION**

**Building & Grounds**

Stacy Apelt

**Stewardship**

Amy Griffin

**Witness & Outreach**

Tom Maxwell

**Worship**

Amy Griffin

**Administration and Personnel**