

the Messenger

of Hilton Presbyterian Church (USA)

November 12, 2008

Inside This Issue

Upcoming Events	2
Stewardship Update	3
Announcements	3
Remember in Your Prayers	4
Activities Schedule	5
Advent Workshop	6-7
Laity Assistant Schedule	8

Lectionary Readings

Sunday, Nov. 16

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon

Daniel Burns
God in the Thin Places

Sunday, Nov. 23

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon

TBA

(Written from St. George Island, Florida)

Vacations for most ministers are times to get away from theological debates, ecclesiastical issues, and churches. To a degree, we ministers live in them 24-7.

Despite my efforts, after Election Day I found myself on a website of inauguration history: "Bibles and Scripture Passages Used by Presidents in Taking the Oath of Office." The specific page was linked to www.change.gov, the official website of the President Elect. Many wonderful educational resources are linked to this site. After poking around on a number of them, I arrived at the above mentioned webpage.

Flashbacks of a particular "West Wing" series came to memory.

Many family Bibles were used for presidential inaugurations. George Washington's Bible has been used at least three times other than in his own two inaugurations—Presidents Warren G. Harding, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and George H. W. Bush. (President Jed Barlett tried to arrange for its use at his second inauguration—"The West Wing.")

The swearing-in Bible for George Washington was opened to Genesis 49:13 (a haven for ships)...for Theodore Roosevelt, James 1:22 (doers of the word)...Gerald Ford, Proverbs 3:5-6 ("trust in the Lord with all you heart")...Jimmy Carter, Micah 6:8 (do justice, love kindness, walk humbly). For many of our former presidents, the Bible was not open. And, for a number of other Presidents, no record was indicated about the swearing-in Bible, nor if it was opened to a specific passage.

Last week, I also found myself being confronted with a theological question that I had never encountered, even during seminary days. "Who made God?" The question came from one of our 4-year-old granddaughters who visited us for three days here at the beach. She had been baptized the Sunday before at St. David's Episcopal Church in Roswell, Georgia. Everything comes from something else, we teach—kittens from the mother cat, milk from the cow, and tomatoes from a tomato plant. How do you explain to a 4-year old how One Thing came from nothing else...that God has always existed. Oh, I know all the pat answers that I grew up with. But to witness your own grandchild honestly searching to understand the realm of creation and God at an early age was mystifying.

Anna had received a child's Bible at her baptism. At Anna's insistence, our daughter had read many of the simple pages each night before they joined us (over 100). Lisa turned Anna and her religious zeal over to me for the next three days. At Anna's insistence, I read Bible stories each night trying to steer away from the violent ones, but not always with success. It seemed at times we were both children—she being fascinated with the idea of God, and I being fascinated with her passion to understand the Mystery about which I preach.



Rev. Dr. Gary Bagley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

upcoming events

Youth Lock-In

Friday, November 14 - Saturday, November 15



We are having our fall lock-in on Friday, November 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are planning many activities including going to Play-A-Round Golf and Games later in the evening. In addition, we are getting breakfast at Hardie's on Saturday, before getting picked up by 11:00 a.m. Please plan on coming to the lock-in for an evening of fun and group fellowship. Paperwork will be distributed in Youth Club and Sunday School. For more information, contact Daniel Burns at 880-1302 or dburns@hiltonpres.org

or Bob Sulzberger at 591-9634 or rsulzberger@cox.net. Even if you can't spend the entire night, we want you to come.

Blood Drive Update

Blood Drive at HPC
November 18, 2-6 p.m.

HELP!

Next Tuesday, help is desperately needed, especially at check in. We need volunteers for 90-minute shifts. Call Wanda Fletcher at (757) 249-0122 or sign up in the Narthex. Thanks!



Together, we can save a life

10th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, November 16, 10:30 a.m.
Reception following worship



The Hilton Ringers are celebrating 10 years of ringing at Hilton Presbyterian Church. Come to worship that day to hear our Chime Choir and the Hilton Ringers along with the Adult Choir. The Hilton Ringers will be playing a piece called *Fanfare and Celebration* that was written especially for them. After worship there will be a reception for the whole congregation.

Choirs Leading in Worship

11/16	Adult Choir/Hilton Ringers/Chimes
11/23	Ensemble
11/30	Adult Choir/Ensemble
12/07	Ensemble/Hilton Ringers/Chimes
12/14	Adult Choir/Youth Jam/Junior Jam

announcements

“...to give and not to count the cost”

Stewardship Pledging To-Date

Many thanks to all who have already responded to this year's Stewardship Campaign!

Statistics

- 83 pledging units totaling \$273,638
- The average pledge is up 12.3% at this point
- Projected budget needs for 2009: \$400,000
- Current pledged amount: 68.4% of projected budget
- Pledges needed: \$126,000

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so soon. Session, with the help of the Administration & Finance Committee will work to complete the 2009 budget during the last of November and first of December. Your pledged support is needed to balance the budget.

Wednesday Night *Live!* Service Project Blessing Babies Kits

As a service project, 1st -5th graders will be decorating bags, making cards, and putting together Baby Kits, which will be delivered to Menchville House and distributed to new mothers. The children are being asked to bring one or more of the items (new) listed below to contribute to the kits. We invite all youth and adult members to contribute items as well, so we can complete as many kits as possible. Items may be brought on Wednesday night or Sunday mornings. There will be a collection box in the fellowship hall and the narthex **through November 19**. Thank you for supporting our youth and helping to teach them about service to others. For more information, please contact Judy Knight at (757) 595-3349 or knighall6@aol.com

New Baby items needed: *receiving blankets, crib sheets, onesies, socks or booties, bottles of baby soap*

Giving Back

The Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center serves as an extension of our congregation's ministry to persons seeking emotional healing and spiritual growth. The staff of the Counseling Center are all licensed and experienced clinical counselors who are also committed Christians and are familiar with the resources of faith and the congregation. Persons who wish to avail themselves of the Center's help may be referred by Pastor Gary Bagley or contact the Center directly at (757) 873-2273. Offices are located at 707 Gum Rock Court in the Oyster Point Commercial Park in Newport News. More information can be found at <http://peninsulapastoral.com>

ADVENT WORKSHOP *Save the day, and plan to set your alarm clock!* Sunday, November 23, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. There will be activities for preschoolers through adults, shopping opportunities, donations you can make in honor of everyone on your list. See pages 6-7 for more details; your help is still needed.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE & TEA on sale outside the Fellowship Hall. We offer many choices and you'll be supporting a great mission of HPC.

EXPERT SEAMSTRESS AVAILABLE Dorcas Maneng, from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa, is visiting her daughter in Hampton. While here, she is looking for odd sewing jobs. She can create from patterns or mend. If you need such work done, contact Dorcas at (757) 838-3159 to make arrangements.

remember in your prayers

Family, Friends and those Recovering will be kept on our pastoral care list for one month unless an extension of time is requested. Please notify the church office of any changes.

Riverside Hospital: Dot Adams

Sentara Careplex: Vera Rathkamp

Bayside Convalescent Center: Mildred Mathis

The Chesapeake: Gertrude Kinney, Anna Moyer

Colonial Harbor: Lauren and Virginia Bursch

The Hidenwood: Pearl Hawk, Dorothy Hogue, Alice Wertheimer

Mennowood: Allene Kidd, Arno Pauley, Charles Meissner

Morningside: Ellie Argo

NN Nursing and Rehabilitation: Angie Hodge

St. Mary's Children's Home: Katie Jones

At Home/Recovering/In Treatment: Aderon Gibbs, Dan Grimes, Claire Hubbard, Mark Sherrill, Jessica Doherty, Edra Mayer, Diane Davis, Ann Sharp, Terry Rankin

Family: Gary Padgett & Family (friends of the Moonis/Minium family), Mildred Bagley (Gary Bagley's mother), Bob Savage (Barbara Savage's husband)

Military: Robbie Casper* (Chris Cann), Joey Doherty, Mike Roane* (Lynne Peterson), Jason Wood*

*Deployed

Our Sister Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Brikin Church, Kinshasa

Our Missionaries: Tom & Nancy Rach in Mexico
Scott & Melanie Smith in India

Wednesday Night Adult Study

This fall, the Wednesday Evening Adult Study/Discussion will utilize the new *Living the Questions 2.0* series. The format is a 15-minute DVD conversation among notable scholars, followed by group discussion. Each session will focus on a theological theme. Contributors include Matthew Fox, Dom Crossan, Walter Brueggemann, Amy-Jill Levine, Marcus Borg, Meagan McKenna, Barbara Rossing, Helen Prejean, Bernard Brandon Scott, Jack Spong, et al.

The class is held in Room 8, Lower Level
6:30 p.m. - 7:25 p.m.

November 12: "The Myth of Redemptive Violence"

November 19: "Practicing Resurrection"



SPECIAL thanks

Dear Hilton friends,
Thank you for thinking of us during Bob's illness. We appreciate all the tender mercies you have given us. The calls, cards, food (especially the BBQ one Sunday) are all so appreciated. Bob is still unable to take chemo as of yet, but we're still praying that his fever abates and treatment can continue.

Barbara & Bob Savage

Dear Hilton,
We are enjoying the lovely flowers brought to us last Sunday. Thank you for thinking of us.

Virginia & Lauren Bursch

Dear Hilton,
I am enjoying the most beautiful flowers I have ever received. They have brightened my home and brought me much joy.

Allene Kidd

Stewardship Statistics

2008 Annual Budget	\$330,286
Year-to-Date Requirements	\$285,824
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$310,427
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$290,804
Net Income	\$19,623
Nov. 9, 2008 Receipts	\$7,264

FALL ACTIVITIES AT HILTON PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday Morning

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

New Member/Inquirer's Class for Adults: TBA
RSVP to the church office

Children/Youth

Our children's classes are using the
Faith Weaver materials this year.

Crib - 4 Years Old
Room 104

5 Years Old - 2nd Grade
Room 203

3rd - 5th Grade
Room 204

6th - 8th Grade
Room 202

9th - 12th Grade
Youth Room, lower level

Adults

Berean Bible Class
Room 102

Continuing Ray Vander Laan's acclaimed video series *Faith Lessons*, this class will journey through the Holy Lands and the Bible. Each class stands alone. Led by Chuck Webb.

Discussion Class
Fellowship Hall

A lively group who enjoy reading and discussing books on today's Christianity and related subjects. *Presbyterians Being Reformed: Reflections on What the Church Needs Today*. Led by Fred Cavale, Jay Taylor, Margaret Lassiter.

Faithlink Class
Room 208

This class provides a Christian perspective on contemporary issues using Scripture, Christian tradition and open thinking to guide the discussion. Led by Jennifer Bagley, Michael Mulkey, Drew Velkey.

Men's Bible Class
Library Classroom

This class uses the Standard Bible Series for study, questions and discussion. Led by Charlie Slagle.

Wednesday Night *Live!*

Please join us each Wednesday night for dinner at 6 p.m., with music and Christian education classes following. All WNL participants will be given the opportunity to be good stewards of their time and talents by being leaders in worship through song, movement, reading, drama, instruments or whatever creative ideas they come up with.

Children (Grades 1-5)
6:30-7 p.m./Junior Jam
7-7:30 p.m./Class

Youth (Grades 6-12)
5:30-6 p.m./Youth Jam
6:30-7:30 p.m./Class

Adults
6:30-7:25 p.m./Class
Lower Level, Room 8

Choirs

Youth Jam

Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Grades 6-12

Teamwork is what it is all about here. We learn to sing music in three and four parts and play drums with as many as seven parts at a time. This takes great focus and discipline.

Junior Jam

Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Grades 1-5

In Junior Jam, young people learn about worship and prepare to lead in the Sunday morning service of worship. We will explore new ways to share our talents in addition to singing, by using instruments and movements.

Adult Choir

Wednesdays 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

The Adult Choir is responsible for leading our congregational song as well as singing responses and anthems. We sing everything from Bach to Bernstein and Mendelssohn to Ray. We do two major musical works a year, at Christmas and in the spring.

Ensemble

Alternate Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

These are the leaders of our contemporary music. We have 4-5 singers and a group of instrumentalists including congas, guitars and bass.

Hilton Ringers

Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

6th grade and up

This is an intergenerational handbell choir for youth and adults. A basic knowledge of reading music notation is helpful to join this group. This choir adds to the worship experience through playing anthems, accompanying other choirs and hymns, and doing processions. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year!

Chime Choir

Sundays, 11:45-12:15

4th grade and up

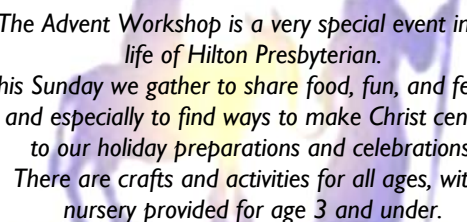
This is the group if you want to learn basic music reading and ringing. No prior knowledge or experience is necessary. All that is needed is the daring to try something new and the willingness to have a little fun along the way.

26TH ANNUAL

Advent Workshop

Sunday November 23 / 8-10:30 a.m.

No Sunday School / Worship at 10:30 a.m.



The Advent Workshop is a very special event in the life of Hilton Presbyterian.
On this Sunday we gather to share food, fun, and fellowship, and especially to find ways to make Christ central to our holiday preparations and celebrations.
There are crafts and activities for all ages, with a nursery provided for age 3 and under.

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES for all ages, **NURSERY** provided for age 3 and under. Bring a **BREAKFAST BREAD** to share.

VOLUNTEERS are still needed to work stations, set up and clean up. Find a blank spot in the list below and call or e-mail Susan Banning, 595-8942, or Doris Slagle, 595-9136 (scoutfox@aol.com), or call the church at 595-1313. The morning is divided into three sessions, plan to work two of these and enjoy the workshop on the third.

ADMISSION: Bring men's warm socks (white/gray) regular length, or men's underwear (briefs, size 34-40) for our guests at the PORT homeless shelter. Or put together a Gift-of-the-heart Kit, to be sent where it is most needed in the world. Instructions are in the narthex.

SET-UP will be Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. – noon, lots of hands needed.

CLEAN-UP will be on Sunday after worship.

Consider and discuss with your family giving a **GIFT TO THE CHRIST CHILD**. There will be opportunities to donate to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, to purchase an animal through **Heifer Project International**, to help provide housing through **Habitat for Humanity**, or contribute to the expenses of **PORT**. Through **Church World Service** you can buy blankets to help at disaster sites, contribute toward micro-credit loans to help women start a business, provide health care for AIDS orphans in Africa, or help dig a deep water well that can help a community survive and thrive. Look at your Christmas list and make a donation in the name of someone special, gift cards will be provided. There are giving opportunities to match the interests of everyone on your list!

Or **purchase gifts** of peanuts from **Zuni Presbyterian Training Center**, crafts from all over the world through **S.E.R.R.V.**, special fair-trade **coffee**, or crafts made by the women of our sister church in the **Congo**.

GREENERY is needed so that every family can make an **ADVENT WREATH**, to serve as a center for family devotions throughout the season. Plan to prune your small-leaved evergreens – boxwood, spruce, fir, cedar, holly, etc. Bring on Saturday if possible.

Look for your **STATION ASSIGNMENTS** on the list below, or volunteer to fill one of the missing spots.

Advent Chains – Eleanor Day, Meagan Grayson, Julie Richter
Advent Wreath to Assemble & decorate – Mike-Mike Minium, [help needed](#), [help needed](#)
Raffia Winged Angels – Kathy James-Webb, Sarah Leser, Audrey Schlickemeyer
Paper Plate Baby Jesus - Debbie Barber, Amie Hellauer, Sue Hogue
Stamped Gift Bags - Paige Williams, Howard Williams, Joe Hogue
Paper Angel Chains; 3-D Star – Lois Oglesby, Patty Gibbs, [help needed](#)
Music Bell – Kathryn Grayson, Lois Reese, [help needed](#)
Cork Angel – Barbara Blowe, Lee Anne Sulzberger, [help needed](#)
Folded Tissue Star – Vicky Baker, [help needed](#), [help needed](#)
Shell Angel – Annalee Weeks, Nancy Stockard, [help needed](#)
Wood-block Nativity – Patti Grayson, Carter Moonis, Casey Leser
Nativity Sweat Shirts – Stencil your own – Wanda Fletcher, Francie Pearce, [help needed](#)
Paint the Windows – Paul Clear, Doug Baker, Vicki & Craig Signorelli
Advent Wreaths – Ann Sharp, Carole Taylor, Betty Blackburn
Keep the Nursery – Linda Philbrick, [help needed](#), [help needed](#)
S.E.R.R.V. , Beth Jackson, Margaret Lassiter, [help needed](#)
Zuni Peanuts – Harvey Hubbard, Bill Blowe
Crafts from Congo Church – Jennifer Bagley
Habitat for Humanity, Heifer, PDA, CWS, PORT – Andy Grayson, Mission & Outreach Committee
Kitchen – Charles Slagle

DON'T MISS THIS FANTASTIC TIME OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

Hilton Presbyterian Preschool Halloween 2008

Our teachers dressed up in the characters of author Eric Carle, inspiration for their school theme this year. Left to right: Betty Ann Pagels is “The Zoo”, Barbara Poteat is a zookeeper, Whitney Farris is a “Mouse Friend”, Mary Murray is a “Polar Bear”, Nancy Petters is a “Brown Bear” cave, and Susan Murphy is a “Very Busy Spider”.





Hilton Presbyterian Church
 34 Main Street
 Newport News, VA 23601

Non-Profit
 Postage PAID
 US Permit # 95
 Newport News, VA

The Messenger Staff
 Editor: Sarah McGinnis
 Copy Editor: Nelson Farley
 Pastor/Head of Staff: Gary Bagley

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

phone: (757) 595-1313 · fax: (757) 223-5011 · email: SMcGinnis@HiltonPres.org
[website: www.HiltonPres.org](http://www.HiltonPres.org)

Laity Assistant Schedule		
	Week of November 16	Week of November 23
Building Security	Chuck Webb	Francie Pearce
Greeters	Sam & Elaine Endicott	John & Linda Philbrick
Ushers	Susie Banning, Eleanor Day, David Fletcher, Lynn Gray, Pete Jones, John Philbrick, Michelle Schuler	Susie Banning, Eleanor Day, David Fletcher, Lynn Gray, Pete Jones, John Philbrick, Michelle Schuler
Counters	Paul Clear, John Philbrick, Kaitlin/Kevin Clear	Priscilla Bele, Leslie Leser, Susie Banning
Nursery	Kim & Mark McKnight	Lee Anne & Audrey Sulzberger
Moments for Children	Mike Moonis	Wanda Fletcher
Multimedia prep/op	Patti Grayson/Francie Pearce	Patti Grayson/Francie Pearce
Lay Reader	Blair Smith	Melissa Goodson
Flower Delivery	Kathy James-Webb, Jay Taylor, Bob DiPasquale	Kathy James-Webb, Jay Taylor, Bob DiPasquale
Giving Flowers	Jackie Peters	Kevin & Anita Sanborn
WNL Cook Team	Charlie & Doris Slagle	No WNL
WNL Desserts	J. Richter, A. Hellauer	No WNL

The Messenger is published every other Wednesday unless noted. The deadline for the next issue is noon on **Monday, Nov. 24**. To submit news, leave items in the office mailbox marked *office manager*, call Sarah in the office at 595-1313 or email her at SMcGinnis@HiltonPres.org. You can receive *The Messenger* the same day of publication and in color, emailed straight to your computer. Contact Sarah now!