

# the Messenger

of Hilton Presbyterian Church (USA)

February 6, 2008

## Inside This Issue

Upcoming Events	2
Announcements	3
Remember in Your Prayers	4
Stewardship Update	5
Activities Schedule	6
Lait Assistant Schedule	7

## Sunday Schedule

9:00 am	Contemporary Worship
9:50 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Traditional Worship with Communion

*The Messenger* is published every other Wednesday unless noted. The deadline for the next issue is noon on **Monday, Feb. 18**. 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](mailto:SMcGinnis@HiltonPres.org)

You can receive *The Messenger* the same day of publication and in color, emailed straight to your computer. Contact Sarah now!

**M**onday night's Stated Session Meeting was one filled with active reports from the six committees plus subcommittees. It began with a devotion by Elder Jay Taylor reflecting on the life of Abraham Lincoln and his leadership as President of the United States of America during her most difficult years. Lincoln was not a "churchman" *per se*, but his leadership and language borrowed from the best of religion and Christianity. As Jay said, his leadership style was the epitome of strength and grace.

During the course of the meeting, Session acted on a committee recommendation to move worship at Hilton PC to a single service beginning March 30. The decision's focus was ultimately about what things make us healthy, cohesive, and positioned for growth. The decision was not about one style of worship over another, or one time over another. The ideal of the Worship Committee's recommendation and Session's decision is to draw from the best of each service in a cohesive single service.

What this means is that we won't or can't have one service with every element of each service each Sunday. What it will mean is that we will have more diversity in a single service and that we will get to know each other better. It will mean that when visitors come looking for a church home, we will have a full congregation to welcome them. It will also mean that we will be a united congregation until our membership grows to the point of needing to add a second service.

In his new book, *The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America*, Jim Wallis makes note of our nation's name (The United States of America) and points to the most important word in that title—*United*. Our healthiest citizens and leaders are always concerned about that which is best for the nation. Lincoln worked hard to unite the nation after it was embroiled in an internal war. He pressed Congress to be lenient on the rebelling South. And, in an unprecedented move after an agreement of surrender, the captured Confederate Soldiers were released and allowed to return home rather than remain in northern work camps, taking with them their horses to be used back on their farms, rather than having them confiscated.

"United" is also the most important, invisible word in our name. The question always appropriate in making tough church decisions is: "What is the best for Hilton Presbyterian Church *today*?"

As we move into a new chapter in the life of the church, let us make a good habit of asking that question regularly.



Rev. Dr. Gary Bagley

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gary".

# upcoming events

## Solomon's Café

Christian Community, Discussion,  
and Wisdom with Every Cup!

Open to All  
Beginning February 10  
7 pm - 8:30 pm



*Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped  
by the Christian Right?*

Join us Sunday nights at Hilton Presbyterian Church as we unblinkingly explore what it means to be Christian in the third millennium. What is the popular definition of a Christian and who defined it? Would Jesus agree with America's understanding of Him? Why has our modern model of Christianity become increasingly un compelling to the Western world, and dare we admit it - to ourselves? What then are we to do?

Using video excerpts from the series "Saving Jesus" as a launching pad for discussion, we will enjoy the candlelit comfort and coffee-house atmosphere that we have come to expect from Solomon's Café. Each Solomon's Café topic stands alone, but we encourage you to come to them all and bring a friend!

February 10	How was Jesus defined through the Ages?
February 17	Who exactly was Jesus?
February 24	The World into Which Jesus Was Born
March 2	What Can We Really Know About Jesus
March 9	Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition
March 16	Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
March 23	Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
March 30	Why Jesus Is Worth Saving

## Lenten Opportunities

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Variety Show	Tuesday, February 5, 6pm
Ash Wednesday Service	Wednesday, February 6, 7pm
<i>The Last Week</i> , book study Marcus Borg & Dom Crossan	Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 6, 6pm Thereafter, 6:30pm, Room 8
Solomon's Café <i>Saving Jesus</i> series	Sundays, 7pm, beginning February 10 Narthex
Palm Sunday	March 16, 9am & 11am
Maunder Thursday Service	March 20, 7pm
Good Friday Service "Stations of the Cross"	March 21, 12 noon St. Andrews Episcopal Church
Easter Sunday	March 23, 9am & 11am

## The Presbyterian Women of Hilton Presbyterian Church

Join us for this upcoming event:

### Winter Retreat

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Friday, February 22, 7:15-8:30 pm

Saturday, February 23, 8:30 am-3:30 pm

Retreat Leader: Rev. Margaret Starbuck Hausman

"Nurturing the Holy Spirit in Our Lives"

*Food for the Body & Spirit \* Music & Workshops \* Arts & Crafts*

## Covered Dish Supper

Sunday, February 24, 5:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Hilton Presbyterian is known for friendliness and good cooking! Come, bring your favorite dish, and take time to enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal. (A recipe card on the side would be a bonus.)

*Sponsored by the Congregational Care and Fellowship Committee*

# announcements

**KEENAGERS** will meet on Thursday, February 7, at Town Center Café at 11:30 am. Please contact Dot Turner at 249-8389 to reserve your spot.

**PORT CONTINUES** Our church is helping Hilton Baptist Feb. 14, 15 with PORT. If you are able to help, please sign up in the narthex or call Kathryn at 596-2166.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** begins Sunday, March 9. Please mark your calendars!

## Blood Drive News

Congratulations to our own **Tyler Caccavale** who donated blood for the first time at the Blood Drive held at St. Andrew's Church in January. He was both patient and brave. Way to go Tyler! Because of all the generous folks who came out to donate, the collection goal was again surpassed – **a total of 39 units were collected**. Thirteen people from HPC took the time to donate blood and it is greatly appreciated. I was unable to attend due to illness, but I heard that wait times for donation are still improving.

Thanks so much to the following heroes: **Tyler Caccavale, Julie Richter, Doris Slagle, Barbara & Bill Blowe, Allison Mulkey, Leslie & Gary Leser, John Hubbard, Debby Barber, Chuck Paul, Edith Elliott, and Robert MacLachlan** (OK, so Robert is technically no longer a member of HPC but he claims us on the sign in sheet and we claim him in our hearts!). Thanks also to the kind souls who provided refreshments for the donors: **Patti Caccavale, Margaret Lassiter, Cassie Brown, and David Fletcher**.

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive will be on **St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at Hilton Christian Church**. Mark your calendar both for the day of the Blood Drive and also make a note a week ahead to be sure to eat iron-rich foods in preparation for your donation. Thanks, everyone for your support of this life-saving cause.

Wanda Fletcher  
Hilton PC Blood Drive Representative



## Equipping the Saints 2008

Saturday, March 1, 8 am-4 pm  
Royster Memorial PC in Norfolk

The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia (PEVA) is providing its annual opportunity to learn, lead, grow and become a better informed workshop.

Equipping the Saints for 2008 promises to be a grand event; it will lift up Christian Education and its importance in the life of Christ's Church. The Christian Education Committee, Chaired by Lou Ventura of Suffolk Presbyterian Church, has worked above and beyond the call of duty to provide an excellent event for PEVA.

*Christian Education is the theme for 2008*, calling upon the gifts of people throughout the Presbytery, and beyond, to share their gifts for the good of all of us in PEVA.

The *Keynote Speaker* is *Dr. Y. Dianne Wright, President for A.P.C.E., and a Christian Educator, Professional Dancer, and Elder in the PCUSA*. Dianne has served the PCUSA on all levels, including local, presbytery, national, and international. She is a talented professional, outstanding servant for Jesus Christ, and a sincere, committed Christian person. We are excited about her presence with us this year.

After registration and breakfast refreshments, enjoy the worship and creative talents of the Praise Dancers of Community Presbyterian Church Portsmouth, the instrumental music talents of Matthew Krammes of First South Norfolk Presbyterian Church, and the dancing magic of the Spirit Loving Dancers of PEVA and Hampton Roads. The Christian Education Committee is planning an opening and closing worship that will give glory to God and inspire all who attend.

Some of the workshops this year are: Adult Bible Study; The Bible for a Visually-Oriented Culture; Baroque & Classical; The Creative Art of Christian Education; Liturgical Gifts; Educating Churches about Hunger; Presenting VBS, and much more!

You can attend all or part of the activities, but the fee of \$15 covers continental breakfast, worship, workshops, lunch and the closing. Share this day with people from the 64 congregations throughout PEVA — it's a wonderful experience that will energize you for the rewards and challenges of your church.

The registration form is available in the narthex and at [www.pcusa-peva.org/what.htm](http://www.pcusa-peva.org/what.htm) Click on What's New.

The deadline to register is February 25. Fee is \$15.00 and payable at the door or in advance. Child care will be provided. For more information call the church office at 595-1313.

# remember in your prayers

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

Bayside Convalescent Center: Mildred Mathis  
The Chesapeake: Anna Moyer, Gertrude Kinney  
Colonial Harbor: Lauren and Virginia Bursch  
The Hidenwood: Pearl Hawk, Alice Wertheimer  
Mennowood: Allene Kidd, Arno Pauley, Charles Meissner  
Morningside: Ellie Argo  
NN Nursing and Rehabilitation: Angie Hodge  
Riverside Convalescent Center: Libby Smith  
St. Mary's Children's Home: Katie Jones

At Home/Recovering: Nola Atkins, Diane Davis, Jo Pollock, Sara Bowman, Roger Butler, Terry Rankin

Family: Lewis Bailey (nephew of Janie Hurt)

Military: Robbie Casper (Chris Cann), Joey Doherty, Tommy Edison\*/Josh Runnels/Dennis Peterson (Heather McHale), Brian Morris, Jason Wood  
\*Deployed

Our Pastor Nominating Committee for an Associate Pastor: Debbie Barber, Sam Heatwole, Jack Jackson, Lee Anne Sulzberger - Co-Chair, Drew Velkey - Chair, Hannah Weeks

Our Missionaries: Tom & Nancy Rach in Mexico  
Scott & Melanie Smith in India  
Dan Grimes, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
Pax and Lucy Goodson, Honduras

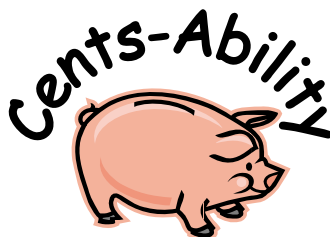
## SPECIAL thanks

Dear Hilton,  
Thanks to everyone for your prayers and good thoughts during and after my hip replacement surgery. If such a thing could be pleasurable, it was. I had an easy recovery and am now driving again.

Ann Hurt

Dear Family and Friends,  
It's been a little over two weeks since my knee surgery. It's still swollen and red, but I'm exercising and trying to get it to work for me. Thank you so much for the cards, calls, food and flowers. Your kindness will always be remembered — Oh! Thank you for your prayers too! It's such a joy to be part of a church who shows Christ's love in all they do. You are a blessing.

Love,  
Sara Bowman



The next collection is  
Sunday, February 10

Nickel-A-Meal is now Cents-Ability. This donation benefits our local FoodBank, which helps feed the hungry in our community. Please collect and donate all your coins (cash and checks too!). A basket will be located at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

# Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Friends,

For the past year, your Pastor Nominating Committee has been prayerfully considering applicants for the Associate Pastor position at Hilton. We wish to continue our work on your behalf in ultimately calling an Associate that will enrich the life of our congregation and help us strengthen our many ministries.

In our Church Information Form, we call for an AP for Christian Education and Youth. In our view, the AP will have a number of responsibilities, including oversight of Christian Education programs for children and adults, leadership for the youth ministry programs as well as development of CE volunteers, assistance to the Mission and Outreach Committee on our many local mission activities, and serving as staff liaison to the Hilton Presbyterian Church Preschool.

In addition to these specific duties, we are searching for an Associate Pastor that can share in all the pastoral duties and ministries of the church, including hospital visitations, meeting prospective members, leading worship services, and occasional preaching. In short, we are looking for an Associate Pastor that can contribute to all aspects of our work through Hilton Presbyterian Church. While we may be focusing on Christian Education and Youth, we seek a pastor that can contribute to the broader life of the church.

The APNC wishes to complete the work to which the congregation called us — which brings us to our current opportunity. During the next few weeks, we have the chance to respond to the call to fully support our entire program in the current year. If we cannot fund this position, we will be forced to suspend our search for an Associate Pastor. So, can we close the gap in our budget?

I believe our church community has the means to do so. In just a couple of weeks, we have made considerable progress in closing the gap in our current budget. A number of families have submitted new or revised pledge cards. Please prayerfully consider your current commitment. Many of us have already committed as much as we can; to those fellow members, we are grateful. However, others have yet to submit a pledge card at all, and perhaps a few of us could consider increasing our pledges. We are not called to equal levels of giving, for our means will vary from family to family. God calls us all to equal levels of sacrifice. Together, we can fund the position and turn the page to the next chapter in the Hilton story.

Yours in Christ,

*Drew Velkey*

Chair, Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

## Stewardship Progress Report

The news continues to be good. We have now received a total of 123 pledges yielding a total of \$313,435. The deficit is down from \$20,000 to \$3,838, with an additional \$2,200 pledged towards the Associate Pastor position (\$60,000 needed).

Session discussed this situation last night, and informally agreed on two points:

- First, after the budget deficit is taken care of, the balance of the pledges that come in will be dedicated to funding the Associate Pastor, whether or not we get enough to move ahead now.
- And second, we will report back to the Congregation on the results of this mini stewardship campaign and on how we will proceed with respect to the Associate Pastor at a Congregational Meeting called for March 9.

This is slightly later than the February 24 suggested at the Congregational Meeting on January 27, to allow for a full response from the Congregation, and to allow Session to consider the results at their next scheduled meeting on March 3.

2008 Annual Budget	\$330,286
Year-to-Date Requirements	\$31,758
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$37,038
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$32,803
Net Income	\$4,235
February 3, 2008 Receipts	\$10,851
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$394

# 2008 Activities at Hilton Presbyterian

## Sunday Morning

Beginning January 6

9:00 am Contemporary Worship  
9:50 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Traditional Worship

Coffee is available in the kitchen following the first service.

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 - 1st Grade**  
Room 203

**2nd & 3rd Grade**  
Room 205

**4th & 5th Grade**  
Room 207

**6th & 7th Grade**  
Room 204

**8th & 9th Grade Confirmation**  
Room 202

**10th - 12th Grade**  
Youth Room, lower level

### Adults

**Discussion Class**  
Fellowship Hall

A lively group who enjoy reading and discussing books on today's Christianity and related subjects. *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* by Borg. Led by Fred Caccavale, Rick Kerns, 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**  
Arno Pauley Room

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

**Berean Bible Class**  
Room 102

Now studying Ray Vander Laan's *Faith Lessons*, which includes three or four video series over the course of the next year.  
Led by Chuck Webb.

## Wednesday Night *Live!*

Beginning January 9

Please join us each Wednesday night for dinner at 6 pm, with music and Christian education classes. 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

6:30-7 pm/Junior Jam (1st-5th grades)  
7-7:30 pm/Class

### Youth

5:30-6 pm/Youth Jam (6th-12th grades)  
6:30-7:30 pm/Class

### College & Career

6:30-7:30 pm/Class  
Led by Tim & Diane Davis, this class is for those who have finished high school and want to continue developing their faith through fellowship.

### Adults

(6-7 pm February 6)  
6:30-7:30 pm/Class February 13-March 26  
Led by Gary Bagley, Pastor  
*The Last Week* by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg  
(see page 3 for more information)

## Choirs

### Junior Jam

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. Led by Lois Reese and Patti Grayson.

### Youth Jam

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. Music led by Lois Reese, Debby Heatwole, Riki Murphy.

### Adult Choir

Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 pm  
The Adult Choir is responsible for leading our congregation in 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.

### The Ensemble

Alternating Thursdays, 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
These are the leaders of our contemporary music. We have 4-5 singers and a group of instrumentalists including congas, guitars and bass.

### Handbell Choir

Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
6th grade and up  
This is an intergenerational group 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 look forward to the possibility this year of joining 50 other choirs at the Hampton Convention Center for the AGEHR Area III Handbell Festival.



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## Laity Assistant Schedule

	<b>Week of February 10</b>	<b>Week of February 17</b>
Greeters	Martha & Patrick Hunt	TBA
Ushers	(9:00) Kevin Clear, Josh Perry, Bob & Kyle Sulzberger (11:00) Fred Caccavale, Doug Chapman, Aderon Gibbs, Randy Herrmann, Bill Sharp	(9:00) Kevin Clear, Josh Perry, Bob & Kyle Sulzberger (11:00) Fred Caccavale, Doug Chapman, Aderon Gibbs, Randy Herrmann, Bill Sharp
Counters	Joe & Sue Hogue, help needed	Andy Grayson, Jim Barnes, Julie Richter
Nursery	(9:00) Chip Shefelton, Karen Velkey (11:00) Julie Richter, Vicky Baker	(9:00) Debbie & David Barber (11:00) Carole Taylor, Nancy Stockard
Moments for Children	Kathy James-Webb	Kathryn Dabbs/Mike Moonis
Multimedia	Francie Pearce, Jack Doerner	Francie Pearce, Jack Doerner
Worship Leader Lay Reader	(9:00) Debby Heatwole (11:00) Chuck Webb	(9:00) John Philbrick (11:00) Nancy Milton
Coffee Fellowship	Margaret Lassiter	Charlie Slagle
Flower Delivery	Judy Knight, Al Riutort, Kevin Clear	Judy Knight, Al Riutort, Kevin Clear
Giving Flowers	Sue & Joe Hogue	Open
WNL Team	Pax Goodson (hot dogs)	Charlie & Doris Slagle (spaghetti)