



Naomi Makemie
Presbyterian Church

Onancock, Virginia

A Member of Presbyterian Church USA

December 2013

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Every Day Should Be Advent

I want to write about Advent and I want you to know that the above statement, *Every day should be Advent*, comes from Harry Rush. And I agree with Harry. So, I think would Dag Hammarskjold who wrote:

Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back. It must be held out empty --- for the past must only be reflected in its polish, its shape, its capacity.

My first year at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1965, I remember an Advent poster

May the baby Jesus open your eyes and shut your mouth

Every day should be Advent -- the awe and wonder, the astonishment, the gift of new life. Bill Dols speaks of the baby in a way that connects intimately to each one of us.

"Know the babe as that in you which has had no real place in the world you have carefully constructed and tended over the years... does not have a room at the inn or at the office or in the church or even, perhaps in your home. Imagine the babe as the you who is a threat to emperor, king, or ruler of your world, one who has a different idea of how things ought to be..."

"Be with the babe, that in you which yearns to be born, where there remains in you some hope or harbored deep longing, a yet unfinished and incomplete one within you who still dreams of a chance of being birthed and finding life."

So, my dear friends, this is my 8th Advent and Christmas season with you. I know you will want to open your hearts and embrace the new life that is coming to you individually and to you as a congregation. You have a great adventure ahead of you. Take courage!

Debbie Ryon shared this passage with me and I want to give it to you for Advent.

*Now I am revealing new things to you
Things hidden and unknown to you
Created just now, this very moment.
Of these things you have heard nothing until now.
So that you cannot say, Oh yes, I knew*
Isaiah 48:6-7

Nina joins me in wishing you a holy Christmas
and a blessed new year,

Robert and Nina



A NOTE FROM NINA CLOSE

Advent as Possibility

Suddenly, we are here again... Advent: A new beginning. Seems odd, as winter's cold sets in, but yes, it is the beginning of another church year, and a beginning for Robert and myself, as we voyage from a beloved home into a land which no doubt will be new and strange for a while.

Amidst clearing and packing, I want to stop on these cold clear days and nights and notice the eternal sense of new life that is so latent in Advent: The small stirring, the slight or sudden hint, the whiff of the possible, even amidst mystery... *especially* amidst mystery.

There is a phrase in an adult education course I was part of recently, and that phrase is "Adult as possibility." It is a phrase that asks us all to look at both ourselves and the people in our lives as newer, bigger, wider (maybe even stranger) than the narrow labels that we tend to bestow on the people we think we know best. It is an invitation to new eyes, and the new life that can come from a lack of preconceived notions.

I think this is a profoundly "Advent" idea, and it feels especially potent and moving to me now, this year, as we are literally moving. *Advent as possibility*—for each of you wonderful people we have come to cherish, and for your beloved church as it sails into its next chapter, with devoted people aboard who know so well its possibility and promise in the days to come. May you all, corporately and individually, discover the new life and vision that await.

Advent is about the surprise, the in-breaking, the unlikely, and the Holy... all amidst waiting and trusting. Thank you all for being a place where, over these last eight Christmases together, the Advent blessings were born, over and over. We will remember each year with you, and give thanks for each and every one.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR G F HORNE DECEMBER 18TH

Planning is well underway for this year's dinner for the residents at G F Horne Assisted Living. The signup sheets, for how you can help, are in the Makemie Room. We have our turkey and ham roasters, but we still need more pies and servers. Please take time to check out the signup sheets and see where you can be of help. As a reminder:

- ❖ If you signed up to help get ready you are to be at the church by 2:00 pm on the 18th.
- ❖ All turkeys and hams need to be at the church by 3:00 pm on the 18th.
- ❖ If you signed up to bake cookie (for their gift bags) we need them at the church by 2:00 pm on the 18th.
- ❖ If you signed up to bake pies (pumpkin or apple) they need to be at the church by 3:00 pm
- ❖ If you signed up to serve you need to be at the church by 4:00 pm.



If you have ANY questions please see or call Cada Grove.

We are also looking for ideas on what to put in their gift bags along with the cookies!

SESSION DIGEST FROM CLERK OF SESSION

At the November Session meeting, Jack Humphreys reported on the work of the Pastor Search Committee. Gloria Miller, Rick Hall (MPC) and Jack have completed the new Ministry Information Form (MIF) which replaced the old Church Information Form. The Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery will review it on December 2. If approved, the MIF will be placed on the national database and recruiting may begin.

In the meantime, preachers have been selected and confirmed for January. Robert's last Sunday preaching will be Jan. 5 and Don Broad will preach Jan.12. On Jan. 19, the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hendricks will preach. She starts her new job as the Transitional General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia on Dec. 1. We are honored and blessed to have her visit us so early in her tenure. On the last Sunday of the month, Jan. 26, Rhudy Naylor will preach.

The other major topic of discussion was the 2014 budget. The Treasurer, the Stewardship and Finance Committee and the Corporation Financial Management Committee have all worked very hard to develop and present next year's proposed budget. The congregation will vote to approve the budget and elect officers at the congregational meeting on December 1st.

Rick Turner reported on the memorial pavers ordered so far. He also brought us a status report on fixing the multiple leaks in the church.

There was a correction to the October Corporation minutes. The Financial Management Committee reinvested the reserve funds in the Merrill-Lynch Bank Deposit Program, not Lord Abbott.

The Session examined and accepted George Richard Heinrichs for membership at Naomi Makemie. He comes by letter of transfer from the First Church of Christ, Congregational in Connecticut. This brings our active membership to 57.

Sign up now for Robert and Nina's celebration luncheon. Advent starts December 1st. We hope you all can participate in the special activities planned for December.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Annual Christmas Caroling will take place December 22nd at 3:00 pm. NMPC signers have become famous in and around Onancock for the Christmas Caroling. We will make stops at some of our shut-ins, the Hermitage and anyone else willing to listen. Following the caroling we are all invited back to Rick Turner's house at 6 Onancock Street for some Christmas Celebrating. If you wish to join us, see Rick or Susan. We car pool to the various locations so you don't even have to drive. This is such a special time and event you don't want to miss it.



This is a date change...

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

It may have become obvious that we have developed a number of leaks, but the Edward Weber firm is busy working on the numerous leaks that need immediate attention. There should be no real inconvenience to Church activities, and it is important to deal with these problems before they become more critical. Also, it is now possible to dedicate a paver in our memorial area for deceased loved ones and friends. For a minimum donation of \$100.00, the paver may be engraved in place with two lines of message. If interested, speak with a Session member or call Rick Turner at 787-2797.

JOE'S BOYS

Joe's Boys is meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am at the Church. All men of the Church and members of Makemie Church and friends and interested ladies are all welcome. Last month the men spent a time of good fellowship while working on a Fall clean-up at the manse. In December there are some small projects to be done at the Church.



DECEMBER 8TH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICE

This has been a long tradition at NMPC. Join in and help decorate three Christmas Trees, the windows, set up the manger scene or just watch and enjoy the fun.

Everyone is invited to be part of this wonderful tradition.

ONANCOCK BUSINESS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATION (OBCA) OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 14TH

NMPC has been asked to be open for their annual Christmas House Tour. The event will run from 2 to 6 pm. The proceeds will be given to the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Old Onancock School. If you are interested in helping please see Cada or Harry.



A Summary of Upcoming Events and Announcements for December

The Church Calendar of Events for December ***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
YOGA is 10:00 am – every Friday
PW is on the 2nd at 11:30 am
Prayer Group at 10:00 am on the 5th and 19st
Session at 2:00 pm on the 9th
Joe's Boys (ladies welcome) 9:00 am on the 10th

**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 Special Events in December

Annual Meeting December 1st - following services
Hanging of the Green December 8th
Church open for Christmas House Tour on December 14th
Christmas Poinsettias' placed in church December 14th
G F Horne Christmas dinner December 18th
Choir's Annual Christmas presentation December 22nd
Robert and Nina Good Bye Reception December 22nd
following church service
Christmas Caroling December 22nd at 3:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service December 24th at 7:00 pm

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. In December Mr. Cada has a special surprise planned for the class. The Adult Class is also meeting on Sunday morning at 9:30 A. M. 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, December 2, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. in the Makemie Room. Please read chapter 3: Obedience, in our book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* by Rachel Held Evens . We will be discussing this chapter which should be interesting.

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

Don't forget to pick up your teddy bear at the church. Put an outfit on it and return it so it can be delivered to a needy child Christmas Day. See Linda Arvidson if you have any questions.

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
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To:



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

Did we miss someone?
Please let us know.

Debbie Ryon	12-01
Harriet Adams	12-05
Julie Chuquin	12-30
Diane Kelly	12-21

Be sure to check out all the activities
coming up in December. Mark your
calendar and remember to bring a
friend or two.