



Naomi Makemie
Presbyterian Church

Onancock, Virginia

A Member of Presbyterian Church USA

November 2013

Dear and Beloved Friends in the Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." St. Paul Philippians 1:3

This is the month of November, a month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving. This will be the second to last letter that I will be writing to you as your Pastor. There will be one more in December, when Nina and I will be celebrating our eight and our final Christmas with you. We can't believe how fast the time has gone by. We have loved being here with you. It is now time for me to retire, to move on, to make room for your new pastor.

It is a time to remember, to give thanks. We are filled with thanksgiving as we remember:

The initial phone call from the pastoral search committee with Cada and Judy calling us. Our first visit to Onancock, where Debbie Ryon greeted us. We stayed with Mike and Marge at 76 Market Street, at their B & B. We visited the town, and I gave my candidate's sermon to the search committee at the Makemie Presbyterian Church. Nina says, she knew then we were coming to Onancock.

I want you to know that we have loved being with you on the journey to God. I love the functional structures-- your willingness to work, to contribute, to love and serve others. Your congregation is like *"The little engine that could."*

"I wrote in my Personal Information Form I believe that people today are seeking a faith that has integrity, a faith that inspires them to live passionately with compassion in our world. And with you I found folks doing all of this and even much more. You inspired us.

I remember with deep caring, some baptisms, too any funerals, some wonderful weddings, and worship services with the best choir on the ESVA. I remember hours and hours when you trusted me with the most personal and painful moments of your lives. I remember most of all your willingness to love and to serve others, your generous financial and hands on support for so many ministries here on the ESVA. This is and will continue to be a Matthew 25:31-46 church. Deeds, not just creeds. You have a strong and healthy community of faith.

We want you to know that we will cherish you in our hearts forever. Let us use these next few weeks, to remember, to celebrate, and to give thanks to God for this special time. I want to conclude with this prayer from Dag Hammarskjold which means so much all of us:

For everything that has been -- Thank you.

A NOTE FROM NINA CLOSE

Giving Thanks for Change

A lot of what I love is slipping away this time of year: the long days, the sun's warmth, summer's languid rhythms. And... our remaining days with you all, our community and our home for over seven years.

This is a luminal time, a time of transition, an in-between time. And, profoundly, a time of Thanksgiving. My usual habit is to cling and linger, to deny the fact of change, despite my tendency to talk about it enthusiastically during retreats 😊.

But transition times demand both acceptance and alertness: Acceptance of the natural ebbs and flows of life; alertness to the "new thing" God is doing... and there is always a new thing!

I remember so vividly the "new thing" for us that this faith community was when we came, and how welcoming and joyful that time was... and has continued to be.

And I know that just as we are now called to a new phase of life, you are also-- both corporately and individually. You are called to sense and to live into and to embrace the stirrings, opportunities, glimpses and promises that are part of any Advent, any time of new life and surprising birth.

Amidst our profound thanks for our time with you, Robert and I will also be praying for the new life that this church will embrace in this transition. God is already up to something here, and you will all play a role in that great, ongoing and vital work.

There is a translation of a familiar Isaiah passage that Debbie Ryon and I use often in retreats and groups. I both love it and take great solace in it, for it speaks to the unpredictable but trustworthy mystery at the heart of any change... and it invites us to dance with all that is unfolding:

"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 this."

- Isaiah 48: 6-7, from The Artist's Rule by Christine Valters Painter

Friends, seven years ago you revealed many wonderful new things to us, and we will be forever grateful. The next person to love and serve in your midst will be lucky indeed.

JOE'S BOYS NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Joe's Boys group has been meeting as scheduled each month, with a good turnout of workers sharing some stories, a cup of coffee, a donut, and some work around the Church and Manse that would otherwise require professional help. In November, we will be performing our annual Fall clean-up at the Manse. All men of all ages are invited to join us--and interested women too--on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 A.M. This is an important work session to get the manse ready for winter - come and enjoy the fun.

SESSION DIGEST FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION

We accepted with regret Rev. Dr. Close's resignation and retirement effective at the end of his contract. We have scheduled a celebration of Nina and Robert's ministry on December 22 after church. A Search Committee (Jack Humphreys, Gloria Miller and Rick Hall) has been working with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry representative on finding a new pastor. The necessary Church Information Form has been updated and requests for resumes have been initiated.

The Nominations Committee has been searching for a new class of elders for 2016 and for a replacement for a two year term. The nominees will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting scheduled for December 1, 2013.

Financial Management Committee reinvested the reserve funds in Lord Abbott. Thanks to Debbie Ryon for serving on this corporation committee and contributing her expertise. We welcome Harry Rush as the new member.

The memorial garden in front of the church solved a drainage problem and is a beautiful contribution to the neighborhood. Watch this newsletter for details on how to order a memorial brick.

Cada Grove, who has served on Session for the last six years, has come to the end of his term as active ruling elder. Accordingly, we celebrated his many, many contributions to the mission of our church and gave thanks for his leadership in this congregation.

The Session celebrated a great October weekend with Francis Makemie and hosting the Godspeed crew and the neighborhood at a spaghetti dinner. A contribution of \$500 will be made to Makemie Woods Camp and Conference Center to continue their youth ministries.

At the Presbytery meeting the day after the Session met, we welcomed a new Transitional General Presbyter (Liza Hendricks) and a new Interim Stated Clerk (John Tamm.) Presbytery voted to continue working to improve the management of Makemie Woods.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Each fall the Stewardship Committee of NMPC asks the church members to think through their financial commitment for the next budget year. This helps the session and our treasurer to calculate a budget that makes sense for the up-coming year. Last year we worked very diligently and successfully to shift revenue and trust money to balance the current budget.

This year our church faces membership challenges as well as a pastoral change. Rev Robert Close will be sorely missed as he and Nina transition to a much deserved retirement.

We are a very strong church, with excellent leadership. Our Fellowship and Membership Committee has set a strong tone just in time for a new pastor. Our Mission Committee is second to none on the Shore. Our Building and Grounds Committee has made significant improvements over the past year. Our choir is the heart and soul of our church. Our PW is vital and active.

We face the future together. To be successful we need your continued prayers, active participation and continued financial resources.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely and with great devotion

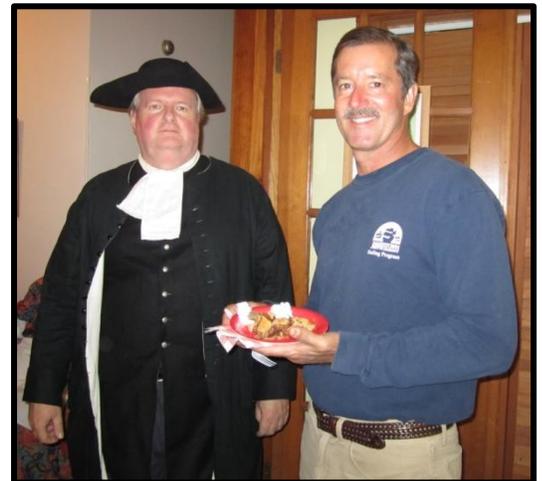
Co-Chairs of the Stewardship Committee

Richard Freeman and Rick Turner

IT HAPPENED IN OCTOBER - A SPAGHETTI DINNER WITH THE CREW OF *GODSPEED*



October 16th, the Church's Spaghetti Dinner hosted the crew of the *Godspeed*, A GREAT TIME FOR EVERYONE! Pictures top and clock wise: The ladies get dessert ready, the *Godspeed* crew, special guest Rev Francis Makemie meets the captain of the *Godspeed*, one great dish washer, Rev Makemie discusses his home site with Mr. Godwin from the Makemie Society. And a special appearance by Bev and Jim with their granddaughter!



The *Godspeed* was at the Onancock Wharf as part of a community wide celebration. Rev Makemie (aka Anthony Burcher) came over from Williamsburg to help celebrate the week end. Rev Makemie also joined us for the Sunday morning service providing an interesting and sometimes humorous sermon on the life and time of his experiences on the Eastern Shore. Francis was a Presbyterian minister here from the late 1600's until his death in 1708. NMPC is named in honor of his wife Naomi Anderson Makemie.

A Summary of Upcoming Events and Announcements for November

The Church Calendar of Events for November *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 4th at 11:30 am
Prayer Group at 10:00 am on the 7th and 21st
Session at 2:00 pm on the 18th
Joe's Boys (ladies welcome) 9:00 am on the 12th

**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 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 Caroling December 15th
G F Horne Christmas dinner December 18th
*Look for details - we need 14 volunteers to help get ready
and serve the meal.*
Choirs Annual Christmas presentation December 22nd
Robert and Nina Good Bye Reception December 22nd
following church Service
Christmas Eve Service December 24th

Christian Education UPDATES

The Fall schedule for both Sunday School and Adult Class has begun, with some changes. Sunday School is meeting in the completely refurbished classroom with several teachers sharing the instruction and fun. The Adult Class is meeting upstairs in the Church with a new format which appears to be successful, and all involved are happy to be in the new meeting room. Both classes meet at 9:30 A.M. on Sunday. All young people and adults are invited to join the excitement in learning more about Christianity.

The Annual Hanging of the Greens

Following Church on
December 8th
Please plan to stay and help put up
and decorate the trees!

NMPC PW Bible Study

Nov 4, 2013 is the next PW meeting. All are welcome. We meet in the Makemie room at 11:30 A.M. A Year Of Biblical Womanhood by Rachel Held Evans is our study book. Please read Chapters 1 -2 for discussion at the November meeting. Books are \$10.00 and can be purchased through Carol Rush. Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be served. Hope to see you there.

A short business meeting will follow after the book discussion.

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

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
Onancock, VA 23417

To:



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

Did we miss someone?
Please let us know.

Antonina Schuyler	11-11
Jack Humphreys	11-13
Laura Naylor	11-21
Mary Ryser	11-24
Bob Gibb	11-27
Cassie Parker	11-27

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

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