

# THE RAPPAHANNOCK CHRISTIAN

October-November 2010



**Pictured above are Fitz and Sandy Dillard, Brittany Hammond and Kathy Wilbur preparing items for mailing**

Your generous support of the project, "School Supplies for Afghanistan" is greatly appreciated. The items you donated were 97 notebooks, 19 packages markers, 64 packages crayons, 66 packages pens/pencils, 84 hygiene items and 35 miscellaneous items which included scissors, stickers, chalk, glue, pencil sharpeners and erasers, plus generous donations

to help with the postage. *The children express a great big thank you for your help!* Eight crates filled with these supplies have been mailed to Chaplain, Major David DePinho USAF, in Afghanistan, under whose supervision the items will be distributed to needy children.

During the project, the entire congregation participated in learning about the people of Afghanistan. To learn about the land and culture of the people, Children and Youth Sunday School classes read books, "Three Cups of Tea" and "Listen to the Wind" by Greg Mortenson. One Sunday, the congregation joined the Sunday School to enjoy Afghan Fresh Fig Cake. Updates were posted

weekly on the bulletin board in the church vestibule.

Again, thank you for your support.

--Peggy Pursley

**BUSINESS MEETING  
WILL BE OCTOBER 10**

**RAPPAHANNOCK CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)  
Old Dunnsville Road, P.O. Box 1111, Dunnsville, Virginia 22454  
Dr. Kenneth C. Wilbur, Minister  
Sunday School 10:00      Worship 11:00**

**(804)443-5417**

The regular quarterly business meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, October 10. A light lunch, at a cost of \$3.00, will be served by the Social Committee and the business meeting will follow.

**FROM THE PASTOR:**

Those who attended the recent District Assembly at Zion Christian Church were treated to a presentation by two Disciples of Christ missionaries, Jon and Dawn Barnes. Before being posted to South Africa, Jon had served as Associate Pastor at 7th Street Christian Church in Richmond. The work of missionaries has changed quite a bit since the heyday of American foreign missions in the 1920's and 1930's. Today, our missionaries play a supportive role. Churches (especially in a mostly Christian country like South Africa, a former British colony) are already established. They have their own ministers and the native people are perfectly capable of plotting their own strategy of mission. Sometimes, however, they call upon their American friends for help, especially for technical help, such as in the digging of wells and education about diseases like AIDS. The assistance which the American missionaries give helps the churches to serve larger numbers of people in meaningful, noteworthy ways in the name of Christ.

It is good to know that there are people like Jon and Dawn (and their two children!) who are willing to sacrifice the comforts and advantages of living in the United States to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in foreign lands. We should pray for them as they return to Africa.

If you are interested in "global missions," you might want to know about a trip which a dozen or so people from Virginia made to South Africa earlier in 2010. One of those travelers, Carolyn Palmer, will be coming to Rappahannock Church on Monday, October 25 to give a presentation.

Praise God that we are not alone, but that we are joined in the bonds of Christian fellowship and service with millions of other people around the world!

Veteran's Day will be observed at Rappahannock on November 7. All veterans in attendance will be recognized and thanked for their service to our country.

**SERVING IN OCTOBER:**

- |               |       |                             |
|---------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Elder:        |       | <b>Peel Dillard</b>         |
|               | 10/3  | Ralph Elliott               |
|               | 10/10 | Nancy Wyatt                 |
|               | 10/17 | Scot Katona                 |
|               | 10/24 | Deane Lankford              |
|               | 10/31 | Tyler Ware                  |
| Deacons:      |       | Rob Waring & Garnett Hodges |
| Deaconess:    |       | Lucille Newsome             |
| Welcome:      |       | Anne Ritchie Waring         |
| Nursery:      | 10/3  | Gerry Haile                 |
|               | 10/10 | Nancy Wyatt                 |
|               | 10/17 | Etta Davis                  |
|               | 10/24 | Kathy Wilbur                |
|               | 10/31 | Emma Dunn                   |
| Sound System: | 10/3  | Doug Landrum                |
|               | 10/10 | John Childress              |
|               | 10/17 | Passagaluppi                |
|               | 10/24 | Doug Landrum                |
|               | 10/31 | Deane Lankford              |

**SERVING IN NOVEMBER:**

- |            |       |                              |
|------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Elder:     |       | <b>Ralph Elliott</b>         |
|            | 11/7  | Peel Dillard                 |
|            | 11/14 | Fleet Dillard                |
|            | 11/21 | Scot Katona                  |
|            | 11/28 | Spottswood Taliaferro        |
| Deacons:   |       | David Allen & John Childress |
| Deaconess: |       | Sandy Tate                   |
| Welcome:   |       | Nancy Wyatt                  |



Nursery: 11/7 Patricia Hammond  
 11/14 Sarah Pope  
 11/21 Libby Tribble  
 11/28 Arlene Lankford

Sound System:  
 11/7 Doug Landrum  
 11/14 Deane Lankford  
 11/21 Passagaluppi  
 11/28 Deane Lankford



## Growth Leaders Make Recommendations for Future Growth

On August 2, the Journey Growth Leaders (Fleet Dillard, Beth Katona, Deane Lankford, Sarah Pope, and Libby Tribble) along with facilitator Brooke Mullery met to review the summary of the June congregational meeting and the written surveys.

Based on the comments from the June congregational meeting, the written surveys, and verbal comments provided to the Growth Leaders from members, the Growth Leaders made these general conclusions: 1) There is a great love for our church and a desire to see it grow. 2) There is a true spirit of brotherhood and fellowship within the congregation. 3) There is great opportunity in the larger community for attracting new members and growing the programs and fellowship of our church. 4) Currently, there is a lack of effective communication and structure among the overall governing body of the church and those committees that perform the weekly functions. 5) It is unclear to many members “who does what” in the church. Roles are not clearly defined, including the duties of the elders, deacons and deaconesses, committee chairs, officers, and the pastor. Rappahannock Christian Church is a congregationally managed entity. As such, it is especially important for the governing body of

the church (elders? deacons/esses and elders? officers?) to: clarify roles, set goals, maintain accountability to reach those goals, and once a year evaluate the progress of the church community and reaching our vision.

The Growth Leaders crafted a vision for where Rappahannock Christian Church wants to be in five years: *To be a healthy, active, and diverse church body that is recognized as a leader in the community.* How will the church accomplish that vision (our mission)? *Communicating in word and demonstrating in deed the good news of God’s love made known through Jesus Christ, and encouraging all to believe, imitate and serve him.*

The Growth Leaders have suggested four major strategies that the church should focus on to meet its vision:

**STRATEGY 1: “PROFESSIONALIZE” CHURCH GOVERNANCE: CLARIFY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND MAINTAIN ACCOUNTABILITY.**

**STRATEGY 2: INCREASE MEMBERSHIP**  
**STRATEGY 3: INCREASE INTERNAL PROGRAMS AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**STRATEGY 4: INCREASE EXTERNAL PROGRAMS AND FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH**

By January 15, 2011, the Growth Leaders will develop specific actions to take under each strategy, assign responsibilities and a time frame for accomplishment of those actions. This will be a draft document to be approved by the congregation. Stay tune for more news on the Strategic Plan!

--Sarah Pope



Thank you so much for the dinner

you had for me. It was a nice evening and the songs were a blessing. I am glad to have had fellowship with you at Rappahannock Christian. I will keep you in my prayers as you serve the Lord and seek His will for the future of the Church.

Love in Christ, *Louise Brown*

My new address: 1435 William Road  
Fairmont, WV 26554



Pictured are Rev. Rebecca Highfield and son, Owen; Rev. Bill Palmer, Rev. Michael Weeks, Helen Ware, Rev. Lyle Predmore and Rev. Mark Anderson

## **DISTRICT IX ASSEMBLY WAS SEPTEMBER 18**

District IX Assembly was held on Saturday, September 18, at Zion Christian Church in Beaverdam with 63 in attendance.

Dr. Wilbur has served as moderator for the past two years and presided at the business meeting. Rev. Lyle Predmore will complete his service as District Minister on December 31. The Moderator will appoint a Search Committee which will recommend a person to the Board to replace Rev. Predmore. The new moderator will be Fred Dant from Philippi, who will begin his two-year term on January 1, 2012.

Rev. Predmore, on behalf of the District, presented a plaque to the Rev. Bill Palmer for his nine years of service in the District as pastor of West Point. He also presented a certificate of appreciation to Helen Ware for serving 14 years as secretary of the District. Rev. Predmore welcomed the new ministers in District IX – Rev. Michael Weeks of Slash and Rev. Mark Anderson of Ephesus, and announced that Rev. Audrey Underwood is new pastor at West Point. He then introduced the newest Disciple present, Owen Highfield, new son of Rev. Rebecca Highfield, pastor at Independence. Regional Moderator David Herrick brought greetings from the Region and Rev. Predmore briefly spoke about Global Missions. Following special music, members of Zion served a delicious meal.

The program was a presentation by Revs. Jon and Dawn Barnes, missionaries to South Africa, who told of their work and showed pictures of folks they ministered to and of work in progress among the residents.

An offering was received for Meesha Joshua, and the day was concluded with a communion service.

Attending from Rappahannock were Dr. Wilbur, Deane and Arlene Lankford, Peggy Pursley and Helen Ware. Those of you who were unable to attend missed a huge blessing!



The 2010 Reconciliation Offering will be received at Rappahannock on September 26th and October 3rd.

Reconciliation Ministry Offering is used to fund our Church's mission priority to become an pro-reconciling/ anti-racist church through

experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue across difference.

Funds from this offering provide Youth and Young Adult camps, training programs for leadership development, and resources to promote small group study and community-building.

World Communion Sunday is October 3. A special Lord's Supper celebration is planned.



**CHILDREN WILL PERFORM AT THE ORCHARD ON OCTOBER 8**

The children of the church will be playing their bells at The Orchard during the monthly Prayer & Praise service on Friday, October 8. The service begins at 7:00 and includes a devotional and group singing.

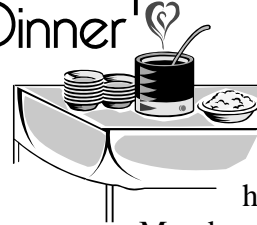
Prayer & Praise will also be held at The Orchard on Friday, November 12.

will be served by the Social Committee and the business meeting will follow.

**CHURCH OFFICER ORIENTATION WILL BE OCTOBER 24**

An orientation for church officers will be held after worship on Sunday, October 24. The duties of the Officers will be reviewed, as well as the general expectations which the church has of its leaders. All Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses are encouraged to lend a hand in reviewing the role of our officers.

**Fellowship Dinner**



A Fellowship Potluck Dinner will be held at Rappahannock on Monday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Each family attending is asked to bring a meat and a vegetable to share. The dessert and beverage will be provided.

Carolyn Palmer, who went on a mission trip to South Africa in the spring, will share the story of her trip and show pictures. Carolyn is the wife of Rev. Bill Palmer, former minister at West Point.

Plans are also being made to have special musical presentations.

Please call Carolyn Elliott at 443-4964 or Helen Ware at 443-4947 to let them know how many from your family will be attending. You'll not want to miss this special evening.

**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING IS OCTOBER 10**

The quarterly business meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, October 10. Lunch, at a cost of \$3.00,



A Time Change Breakfast will be held on Sunday, November 7, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The men of the church will prepare and serve the meal which will include salt fish, eggs, spoon bread and all the trimmings. Put the date on your calendar and plan to be there!

County Churches will sing. The Pastor of First Baptist Church is Bishop Darryl Williams.

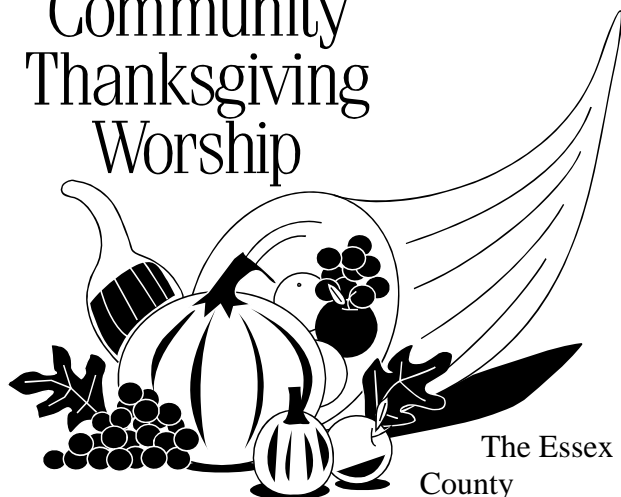
Rappahannock Christian Church  
 P O Box 1111  
 Dunnsville Virginia 22454



## DISTRICT IX BOARD WILL MEET AT RAPPAHANNOCK

The District IX Board will meet on November 7 at 3:00 p.m. at Rappahannock.

## Community Thanksgiving Worship



The Essex County

Ministerial Association will sponsor a Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 24 at First Baptist Church, Loretto, at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Tommy Crosby, Pastor of the Essex-King and Queen United Methodist Charge, will deliver the evening message. A choir made up of people from lots of Essex



OCTOBER  
NOVEMBER

**“MAKING A DIFFERENCE”**



Thanksgiving Special Offering

The education we choose reflects who we want to become. More and more, students who want to make a difference in the world are choosing Disciples higher educational institutions.

At the 21 theological institutions, universities and colleges related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), students discover vast

opportunities to educate the heart, the mind, and the soul.

Your support of these institutions through the Thanksgiving Special Offering makes a difference in the lives of the more than 26,000 students who chose a Disciples education.

The Thanksgiving Special Offering will be received on November 21 and 28.

**U.S. Postage Paid**

**Permit No. 23**

**Tappahannock, Virginia 22560**