

# November 2020

# Third Presbyterian Church



## Words from the Pastor

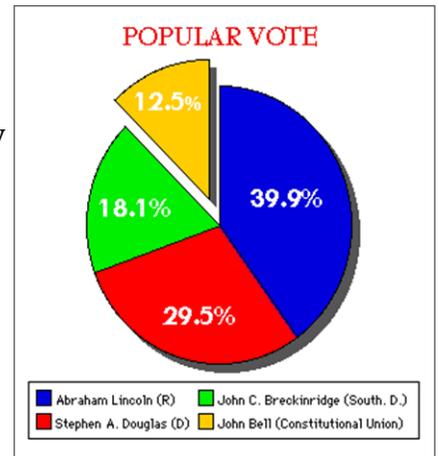
### Thoughts About the Election



On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, our nation will decide on a new president, representatives to the Senate and the Congress, and if you are voting in Norfolk you will be able to vote on amendments to the Virginia Constitution, and whether the citizens of Norfolk allow the city to have a casino.

All of these are important issues and if you have not voted, I encourage you to do so. I will vote. I have been asked how I plan to vote and here is the answer: *I will*

*vote for the candidate I believe most accurately reflects what God wants for the world.* With that said, I know this is not easy since one candidate may hold a view I think is scriptural on our responsibility to care for the environment, while the other candidate in the same race might possess a view on national security that I think is more in line with the adversaries we face in a fallen world. Voting for the candidate that most accurately reflects what God wants is not easy, but I pray for guidance from God, reflect on the Scriptures, and then attempt to vote for a candidate that best reflects what I sense God wants for us in the world.



Many people are afraid about what may happen after the election. I've heard some say this is the most divisive time in American history. I can hear that concern, but I suspect history might tell us our nation has been badly divided at other times too. Historians might suggest the election of 1860 as the most divisive in US history. Prior to the election of 1860, there were insurrections like the Raid on Harpers Ferry, fist fights in the US Congress, where members of congress beat up other members of congress (that's hard to believe and yet, it's true!) and a dangerous well developed plot to assassinate the newly elected president, Abraham Lincoln, before he could assume office. The election of 1860 was also divisive in terms of voting, Abraham Lincoln won the election in a four-way race with just 39% of the vote.

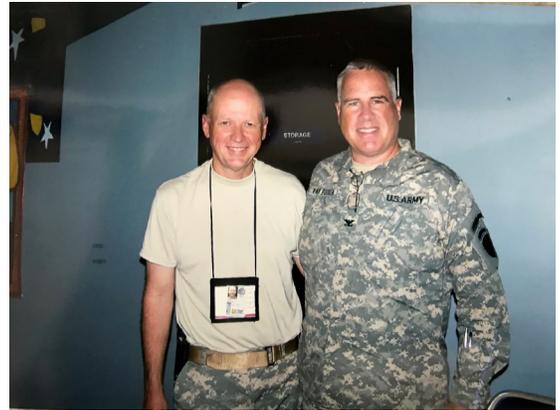
The election of 1860 was divisive. 1968 was a divisive time too. I remember the election of 1968, which was another heartbreaking time in our history. Several months prior to the election, the Rev. Dr.

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Martin Luther King, was assassinated in Memphis during a time when there was unrest, often violent, in the streets of America. Dr. King was one of the people who inspired me to become a minister. At the same time, the Vietnam War was in full swing and our nation was divided over our involvement in the war. The division was creating a rupture in our nation. Then, in May 1968, just a few months after Dr. King's murder, Senator Robert F. Kennedy the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, was murdered after winning the Democratic primary in California that June. In the fall election, Richard Nixon won a closely contested three-way election and went on to become one of our nation's most notorious presidents because of the role he played in Watergate, which was an office complex that housed the Democratic Party. The intent of the break-in was to gain sensitive information on the Democratic Party that would enable Nixon to cripple the Democratic Party and amass more power.

Thankfully, the United States survived the elections of 1860 and 1968. I share this to say we have two critical things that have worked in our favor as a country. **First, we have the rule of law.** When I was deployed to Iraq, I served with the 360<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) from Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The brigade had over 1,300 troops spread across Iraq, which is a nation the size of Texas. Our Soldiers worked closely with the local people, the citizens of Iraq. The unit assessed the needs of the civilian population, advised American Army commanders about the needs of the people, and developed plans to help the nation recover from decades of terror, corruption, and abuse at the hands of Saddam Hussein.



Pastor Larry and the 360<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) commander, Colonel Hugh Van Roosen in Iraq, 2008

The brigade's personnel built schools, set up aquaculture farms, provided medical care, job training, irrigated farm lands, among many other things, but the one thing I want to tell you about is the brigade's work in the area of the rule of law. The brigade had experts in the rule of law and government that taught Iraq leaders the importance of being governed by laws. For decades Iraq had been ruled by dictators, which meant the only rule of law Iraq had was what the dictator said. By contrast, the US is governed by the US Constitution as well as many other laws that tell us what each person can and cannot do. Remember President Nixon orchestrated a break-in, which is a felony. He broke the law and even though he was president of the most powerful nation on earth, he was driven from office because he broke the law. The concept of the rule of law was not new to the people of Iraq, but the nation had been terrorized and brutalized for years by dictators who did whatever they wanted and so, re-establishing the rule of law in their nation would take time.

My wife, Peggy, adopted a dog several years ago. The dog's name was Princess. Princess was a beautiful animal who had this amazing capacity to feel whatever you felt as a person. She was empathic. Soon after adopting Princess, I discovered that every time I reached out to pet Princess on her head, she'd turn her head away and her face would grimace. Princess had been hit in the face at some point in her life, which is why she grimaced, when I raised my hand to pet her. Poor Princess expected to get hit because she had been hit. Princess had been abused. It took several years before Princess stopped grimacing when I reached to pet her. The point is, Princess expected to be hit. The people of Iraq expected to be hit. Like Princess, they had been abused and so, re-establishing the rule of law took time.

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My point in sharing this with you is to say we are blessed to live in a nation that has the rule of law. When a person joins the United States military as I did when I enlisted in the Army, we take an oath of allegiance. We do not take an oath of allegiance to the President or to a particular party. We take an oath to the constitution to *“defend the US Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic.”* The word domestic would refer to those that oppose the constitution in our own country and the word foreign refers to those who oppose our constitution in other countries. In other words, we have a system of laws based on the constitution. Because of our rule of law, we want to be thankful. **One, we have the rule of law.**

**Two, we have God.** I realize many people are not Christians in our nation so, I mean no disrespect to them. However, as Christians we serve a God who sends the rain to fall on those who are good and those who are not good (Jesus, Matthew 5:45). Our God is a God that cares for every person. And so, our God is a good God, and our God is a God who rules over the world. II Chronicles 29:11 tells us this about God: *“God is great and powerful...Everything in heaven and earth is His, and He is the king, the supreme ruler of all.”*

This verse of Scripture means that God, who we believe is a good God, rules. He is in charge. No matter what happens, we believe God rules.



- Chaos is not in charge. Things may look chaotic, but God is still in charge.
- Our elected officials in Washington, whom I pray for, seek to do good things, but ultimately there is so much in our nation and world over which they have no control. The good news is we have a God who rules. He's in charge.
- The credit card company, or the worrying report from the doctor's office, or the barrage of bad news from the media outlets are not in charge and do not have to dominate our lives because we believe God is in charge.

*“God is great and powerful...Everything in heaven and earth is His, and He is the king, the supreme ruler of all.”* Anxiety is high in America. Studies tells us this. What is one remedy for the anxiety we feel? God. We can trust God because we believe He is in charge. He is good and He is watching over us. He is watching over you!

As Christians sometimes we might wonder if we have any good news for the people who live around us. Wonder no more! We don't just have good news, we have great news! There is no need to worry. God is in charge. He's a good and loving God. He has a plan. His plan, the Bible says (Romans 8:28), is to work everything out for our good! People are torn, conflicted, angry, and afraid. The good news is you don't have to let any of those things control you. There is a God who wants to help you.

As Presbyterians we have really, really good news for every person. If I were talking to a person who is anxious and they told me they were anxious, I might ask them if they'd like me to pray for them. At that point, I'm telling them I believe there is another power that can help them.

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Or, I might say this to the anxious person, *"I can hear you are anxious, and I appreciate your anxiety."*

The person with whom I am speaking might then respond, "Yeah. It's hard. How can anyone manage all this anxiety?"

And then I might reply, *"That's a good question. I know it's hard. For me as a Christian, one way I manage it is by believing in God. I believe that God is a good God and I believe He is in charge. When things don't look good in my life, I remind myself that God is in charge and He's working to bring good out of bad. When I do that, I am able to release the anxiety I have hanging over me because I know God will help me and work everything out somehow."* Notice, I never used the word "you". I never told the person what they should do. I told them what works for me.

There is a God and He is in charge. He was in charge the day before the election and He'll still be in charge the day after the election. Memorize II Chronicles 29:11 and say it whenever you feel anxious. *"God is great and powerful...Everything in heaven and earth is His, and He is the king, the supreme ruler of all."*

May God bless you,  
Pastor Larry



**What:** Worship on the Lawn with Communion

**When:** Sunday, November 1st, at 3:00 pm

**Where:** Front Lawn of Third Church

**Who:** Everyone

**How:** Bring your own chairs! Park in the back lot so worship can be visible from the street.

**Communion:** Will be individually prepared using gloves and masks and will be served using gloves for safety.

**Social Distancing:** Yes! We will maintain safe distancing at all times.

**Wear Masks:** Absolutely, this is a must! Bring and wear your masks please.

**Great Time:** Guaranteed!!!

**Speaker:** Pastor Larry

**RSVP:** Definitely!! We need to plan accordingly - call Amy (757-618-3006) or Carol (757-531-9851)

## Join Us For Worship Every Sunday

### Live Stream Worship Every Sunday at 11 am

Join us each Sunday morning for virtual worship at 11 am. Below is the Zoom link where you will be able to see those leading worship and along with parts of our liturgy. Below is the new and updated link, phone number and password as of July 13th.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/605837516?pwd=V0R5VmNCQ2Mraml1TFdOVXpGMepiQT09>

If you do not have computer access, you can call in with your home or cell phone using Zoom's dial in option.

**Meeting ID: 605 837 516**  
**Password: 23518**  
**Phone: 312-626-6799**

### Upcoming Schedule for Pulpit Supply

November 1st  
Pastor Larry

November 8th  
Pastor Larry

November 15th  
Pastor Larry

November 22nd  
Pastor Larry

November 29th  
1st Sunday of Advent  
Elder Jim Rudiger

## November 2020 Lectionary Readings

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – November 1<sup>st</sup>

Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Micah 3:5-12  
Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - November 8<sup>th</sup>

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
Amos 5:18-24  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – November 15<sup>th</sup>

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18  
Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11), 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

### Christ the King Sunday – November 22<sup>nd</sup>

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Psalm 95:1-7a  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – November 29<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37



## Stewardship Season

It's that time of year again—Stewardship Season. A time to renew your pledge for next year. Soon you will receive a letter from us. Prayerfully decide what the Lord is calling you to do. We know your situation may have changed this year, but take it to the Lord and you will have your answer as what He feels is right for you and Third. After filling out your pledge card, cut the far right half off for your records, put the rest in the postage paid envelope provided and mail it back to the church. Know that we appreciate you and your dedication to Third. Together, great things can happen.



We are no longer collecting plastic grocery bags. Please recycle them on your own.

**Volunteers are needed** to help with the Clothes Closet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. If you are interested in helping,



please contact Carol Maxwell at 757-531-9851. The Clothes Closet is in need of winter clothes. If you have some that don't fit or you aren't wearing, please arrange to donate them to the Clothes Closet.

## Stewardship News

Don't forget about tithing or your pledge. Most weeks, our tithing is pretty much on the money. Other weeks we're lagging. Now more than ever we pray that pledges stay up as we continue to minister to all of God's children. We are reaching out more than ever into a community that needs our help.

Please continue to support all of our programs if you are able to. You can mail your check to the church, drop it off in the mailbox, or drop it by Nancy's house. You can also give online by using the link below. We appreciate your support of Third Church in any way you can.

<https://onrealm.org/ThirdPC/give/now>.

### Offering Totals for October 2020

#### October 4th

Weekly Offering - \$1,625.00  
Roof Fund - \$1,000.00

#### October 11th

Weekly Offering - \$3,152.00  
Roof Fund - \$510.00

#### October 18th

Weekly Offering - \$2,057.00  
Roof Fund - \$1,700.00

#### October 25th

Weekly Offering - \$1,896.00





- Nov 2 - Ian Glover
- Nov 8 - Nancy Babor
- Nov 12 - Dennis Green
- Nov 15 - Carol Maxwell
- Nov 17 - Susan Howlett
- Nov 18 - Carol Hogwood
- Nov 24 - Shawn Sipe
- November 29 - Larry Toney



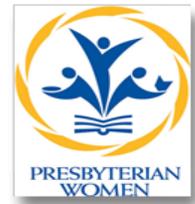
Nov 8 - Randy & Kitty Ribaud



### Presbyterian Women

Ongoing projects:

- A. new or gently used clothing for shelters.
- B. brown bags for St. Columba.
- C. stamps for the American Philatelic society.



### Prayer List

Please remember the following people and families in your prayers, that they might be lifted up through your conversations with God:

- Betty Graham
- Ginny Davis
- Betsy Wright
- Steve Glover
- Larry McKinney
- Anne Basnight
- Darlene Pick
- Carol Hogwood
- Marlin and Sylvia Stockdill
- Kitty and Randy Ribaud
- Phil and Claudia Cary
- Melodie Connely
- Joseph Bray's grandmother / Ruth Bray's mother
- Marlene Jordan
- Lorraine Joyner
- Holly Gaff
- Laurie Morrissey and her mother
- Pastor Larry
- Our Church
- The Session

If anyone has a prayer concern, please contact, Dee Glover. You can call a prayer request in by calling Dee at 757-588-7964, Betsy Wright at 757-857-5271 or call the church office. You can also email to [thirdpc@hrcoxmail.com](mailto:thirdpc@hrcoxmail.com).

# Trunk or Treat at Third Presbyterian



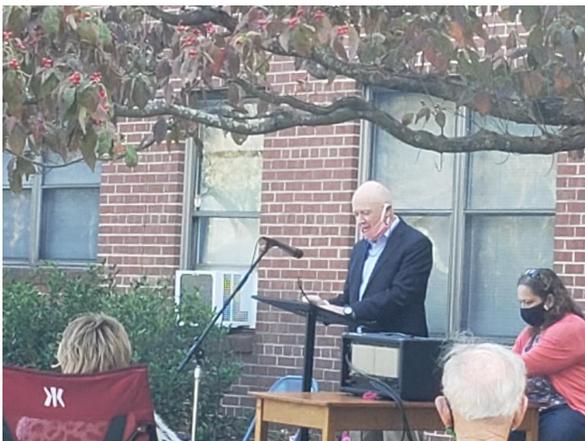
Costumed Children at the Church's  
Trunk or Treat  
Molly Ricks is the T-Rex Dinosaur



More Frightening Creatures  
in Front of the Church including  
Molly "T-Rex" Ricks



## Church on the Lawn October 18th



### Shepherd's List 2020



**Carol Maxwell**

**757-531-9851**

\*Carol and Ronnie Hogwood  
Cheryl and Fred Holtz  
Teri Howard  
Janice daSilva  
\*\*Brittany French  
Dave and Jenni Joyce

**Amy Griffin**

**757-618-3006**

Claudia and Phil Cary  
\*Dee Glover  
\*Lorraine Joyner  
Meghan Powell and Geno Morgan  
Ginny Davis  
Betty Graham  
Jessica Fitzgerald & Family

**Jessica Fitzgerald**

**757-581-1153**

Stacy Apelt and Judith Floyd Apelt  
Nancy Babor  
James daSilva  
\*Steven and Claudia Glover  
Ginny Keisel

**Dennis Griffin**

**757-618-3005**

Marguerite Duke  
Betty Hart  
Susan Howlett  
Michael and Teresa Gibbs  
Garland and Peggy Russell  
Joseph Bray  
Ruth Bray



**Artie Derrenbacker**

**757-636-3500**

Pete and Debbie Goode  
Nancy and Vernon Barham  
Dorothy Grandstaff  
Jennifer Lavalley & Family  
Ron and Inda Ratcliff  
\*Chuck and Suzanne Olejasz

**CJ Jones**

**757-537-8174**

\*Dee Curtis  
Artie and Milinda Derrenbacker  
T. J. and Larry McKinney  
Marlin and Sylvia Stockdill  
Carol and Tom Maxwell  
Randy and Kitty Ribaud  
Shelli Quales  
Lexi White

**Tom Maxwell**

**757-531-9851**

John and Aileen Coggeshall  
Amy and Dennis Griffin  
Jim Rudiger  
Bonnie Green & Family  
Tim Green  
Holly Gaff and CJ Jones  
Malinda Hanna Davis

\* Anne Basnight

**Nancy Babor**

**757-588-7501**

Susan Mayo  
\*Dolores Ominski  
Darlene Pick  
Debbie and Ray Platte  
\*Betsy Wright

\*no email-please call

\*\* Text

Red = Shut-in

**Calvin Presbyterian Church**

2901 E Little Creek Rd, Norfolk, VA  
23518 (757) 587-1591

**• Food Pantry Hours**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

• Third Saturdays of the month  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**The food pantry serves Norfolk zip codes 23518 and 23503.**

**Those in need of assistance may obtain a referral from any of the participating churches.**

**Pantry Wish List:**

- 25 oz Apple Sauce
- 16 oz Baked Beans
- 24 oz Beef Stew
- 15 oz Peas
- 15 oz Green Beans
- 1 lb 13 oz Canned Fruit
- 32 oz Jelly
- 18 oz Peanut Butter
- 32 oz Pancake Mix
- 24 oz Syrup
- 1 lb Rice
- 8.25 oz Tuna Helper
- 6 oz Tuna
- 15 oz Spaghetti O's
- 15 oz Thick Soup
- 64 oz Juice
- 12 oz Luncheon Meat
- 7.25 oz Macaroni & Cheese
- 13.75 oz Mashed Potatoes
- 13.7 oz Oatmeal Individual Packs
- 16 oz Spaghetti Noodles
- 26.5 oz Spaghetti Sauce
- Dry Milk, Individual Packs

*Please, no baby food, coffee, tea, sugar, pickles, olives, condiments, tomatoes, cranberries, canned milk, crackers or mushrooms.*



# November 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11 am Live Stream Worship & Communion 3 pm Church on the Lawn & Communion	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8 11 am Live Stream Worship	9	10	11 	12	13	14 10 - 2 Clothes Closet
15 11 am Live Stream Worship	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 11 am Live Stream Worship	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29 11 am Live Stream Worship	30					



**Third Presbyterian Church**  
8065 Carlton Street  
Norfolk, V23518

**CHURCH STAFF**

Dr. Larry O. Toney, Supply Pastor  
Debbie Platte, Secretary  
Joseph C. Bray, III, Organist/ Choir Director  
Clara Barnes, Sexton  
Teri Howard, Clerk of Session  
Holly Gaff, Treasurer  
Nancy Babor, Financial Secretary

**Presbyterian Women**

Nancy Babor, Monday Night Circle  
Dolores Ominski, Tuesday Morning Circle

**Presbyterian Men**

Tom Maxwell, President  
Fred Holtz, Vice-president  
Jim daSilva, Secretary/Treasurer

**SESSION**

**Building & Grounds**

CJ Jones  
Tom Maxwell

**Stewardship**

Nancy Babor

**Memorial Committee**

Nancy Babor

**Witness & Outreach**

Jessica Fitzgerald

**Worship**

Amy Griffin  
Carol Maxwell

**Administration and Personnel**

Dennis Griffin  
Artie Derrenbacker