

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST CHURCH MEMBERS:**

Les and Rosey Laubach  
7525 Riverpark Rd  
Gloucester Point, VA 23062  
757-817-1624

**SOCKS AND SHOES AND UNDERWEAR...OH MY!** No, we are not off to Oz but to North Dakota! Please help us show the love of Jesus to Native American children by supplying them with back to school essentials. WMU VA is once again traveling cross country to minister to many of the 8200 Native Americans living on Standing Rock Reservation in poverty. We are collecting new socks, shoes and underwear to distribute while there. Please place these items in the bin in the Narthex. We are appreciative of all the ways you make possible the sharing of the Good News.

**THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** would like to inform the church body that Robin Stortz has resigned her position as Church Pianist effective May 24th. Robin has served in this capacity for 16 years and has enhanced the music program with her talents. We will be praying for Robin in all her future ministry endeavors.

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**2016 GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY** will be held June 5th during the 11:00am worship service.



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**HELPING HANDS FUNDRAISER** sponsored by the Youth Council will be held June 5th at 12:00pm.



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### **BENNY RUSSELL AND THE PBA CONNECTION**

We are currently collecting a special offering for the PBA. And, the WMU just celebrated Benny Russell's birthday this week. If you are new to the church or to WMU, you may be wondering who Benny Russell is and why we celebrate her birthday. And, what in the world does that have to do with the PBA?

Simply put, she was a devoted, lifelong member of Hampton Baptist Church. Her work with missions should inspire us all. Miss Benny Russell was born in 1856, just before the Civil War. When the war came to Hampton, her mother evacuated with her two girls, Fannie and Benny, and went to Warrenton, NC to wait out the conflict. Later, the family returned to Hampton and Benny served the Lord there until her death (at 90) in 1946.

In 1904, the Baptist churches on the Peninsula withdrew from various associations to form the NEW Peninsula Baptist Association. The church women followed suit and chose Benny Russell to be their first WMU leader, the Superintendent. We now would call her a Director. Miss Benny Russell served faithfully and capably for 25 yrs, inspiring WMU ladies to support missionaries such as her sister, Fannie, who served in Mexico.

In 2004, a Benny Russell Scholarship Fund was established at the PBA Jubilee Celebration. The money is used to help finance the education of men and women dedicating their lives to Christian service. Our own Ryan Goude received this scholarship twice!

GPBC has a special tie to Benny Russell through Paul Garber, who was our pastor for 15 years, 1978-1993. Miss Benny Russell was superintendent of Hampton Baptist Primary Sunday School Department for 40 years. She was Dr. Garber's Sunday School teacher for one year when he was her only student! What a witness she made on this young boy. Miss Benny was also a close friend of the Garber family and generally ate Sunday dinner with them. Paul remembers it was his task and privilege to escort her home after the meal.

We support the PBA and the WMU in honor and memory of Miss Benny Russell.

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## DEACON RECOMMENDED CONSTITUTION CHANGES 5/8/16

### ARTICLE II.MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 3. Voting Rights of Members

1. Every **active** member of the Church (**as defined below**) is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the Church in business session provided the member is present.
2. **Definition of Active Member**
  - a. **Must participate on a regular basis in the services of the church.**
  - b. **Must support the church financially.**
  - c. **Above 18 years of age.**
  - d. **Members whose attendance and participation are hindered due to military service, college involvement, medical reasons, and/or age are honored exceptions.**

### ARTICLE III. CHURCH OFFICERS

GENERAL STATEMENT—In addition to the Pastor, the Church Officers shall be as follows: Deacons, Trustees, Clerk Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Recording Secretary, Constitution Steward, Librarian, Assistant Librarian, Historian, Nursery Coordinator, and the Chairman of the following committees: Audit, Building and Grounds, Children's Ministry, Church Ordinances, Flower, Hospitality, Nominating, Personnel, Stewardship, Tellers, Youth Ministry, Ushers, **Audio/Visual & Information Technology.**

1. All volunteer officer assignments are for a one-year term (except Deacons, and trustees) unless otherwise indicated.
2. It is the responsibility of each committee chairman to:
  - a. call the first meeting of the committee as soon as possible for the organizational year;
  - b. preside at all meetings of the committee;
  - c. provide request to the Stewardship Chairman for budgetary needs to carry out the work of the committee for the ensuing year by the first week in November;
  - d. keep abreast of all activities and expenditures of the committee; and,
  - e. in the event of inability to attend scheduled meeting(s), have another committee member designated to serve as chairman for that time.

#### Section 1. The Pastor

1. Election: The Pastor Selection Committee shall seek out a suitable Pastor and shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one minister at a time. His election shall take place at a business meeting called for that purpose, the membership have been duly notified. Election shall by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those **active** members present.

#### Section 3. Deacons

3. Election: Deacons shall be elected at the annual election of Church officers, except as additional deacons may be needed and elected during the Church year. The following procedure shall be followed to obtain nominations for deacons:

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- a. At least three months prior to the election date, the Nominating Committee shall be responsible for sending a letter to **active** church members requesting nominations for deacons. The following items will be forwarded with the request for nominations:
  - i. A current list of eligible deacon nominees. All active church members are eligible to be nominated for deacon except:
    - persons who are now serving as active deacons.
    - persons having just completed a term of three years as deacon.
    - persons under the age of 18 at time of election date.
    - persons with less than one year of membership at date of election.
- b. Each **active** Church member may nominate one candidate for each deacon vacancy.
- d. The list of deacon nominees will be presented to the Pastor and Chairman of the Deacons who will contact the necessary number of nominees, starting with those persons receiving the largest number of votes, to discuss deacon qualifications and duties and determine if they are willing to serve. **The Pastor and Chairman of Deacons will assess the candidates' active participation in the life of the church before recommending the nominee to the church.** Other persons on the list receiving the next highest number of votes will be contacted until the required number of nominees is secured.

## ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS

1. Unless otherwise herein provided, the election of all officers and committees shall take place the fourth **Wednesday** in **Dec.**

## ARTICLE IX. CHURCH MEETINGS

### Section 3. Regular Business Meetings

1. Quarterly Business Meetings shall be held on the last **Wednesday** of January, April, July, and October.

### Section 5. Quorum

1. a quorum at any business meeting of the Church shall consist of ten (10) percent of the **active** membership of the Church (see Article II Section 3.2). Every **active** member of the Church present at business meetings shall have the right to vote on all questions under consideration.

## ARTICLE XI. ADOPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BYLAWS

### Section 1. Adoption of Bylaws

1. These Bylaws shall require for adoption two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the **active** members (as defined by the GPBC Constitution) present at a regular or special meeting called for this purpose. Any of these Bylaws may be amended, altered, or repealed by two-thirds (2/3) of the **active** members present and voting at any regular or called business meeting of the Church; however such proposed changes must be submitted to the Church in writing at least thirty (30) days before the action on the amendment.

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