What on Earth is Tomato Sunday?

by Marsha Wallace

If you are new to our congregation, you might be wondering what Tomato Sunday might be. It was the inspiration of a former pastor (Valerie Coe Lowder) who was convinced that God’s best gift of summer is the homegrown tomato. Since Guy Clark wrote the perfect hymn, “Homegrown Tomatoes” and we are blessed with Dreda Symonds, the best clawhammer banjo player around, Tomato Sunday was born! Dreda and I rallied some other friends and named ourselves the Tomato Ramblers to provide gospel music for the service. It’s really a great nostalgic way to worship with music you might not hear very often that many of us grew up with.

It wouldn’t work in every church, but we are unique in our extravagant welcome and open hearts to ideas both old and new. So don’t miss the joyful sounds of Tomato Sunday and join me in being thankful for the music, friends, and God’s gift of summer, the garden tomato.
Hi Church Family,

I will be heading out to Hubli India from Sept 21 to Oct 1 to help fit and distribute wheelchairs to people who are underserved. I am really excited to go. I was in India in 2015 but that was in the northern regions. This is in the south. I have been asked to be the PT team lead. We have a great team but many new folks, some who have never travelled outside the USA before.

I would love to receive your prayers for safe travel. In addition, if you'd like to support me financially, you can make a tax-free donation at this link:


Other options are to make a donation to the church with my name in the subject line, or to me directly at 808 Navigator Court, Virginia Beach, Va 23454.

Thank you in advance, I have a large fund-raising goal of $3357.00.
What Shall I Render?
Kenneth Samuel

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

- Psalm 116:12 (KJV)

It’s estimated that approximately one third of the U.S. population, or some 64 million Americans, volunteer each year. This equates to $139 billion worth of time annually. Most charitable/nonprofit organizations, including churches, could not function without the dedicated volunteer hours and financial contributions of persons who believe in their causes and willingly invest time and resources for their support.

But what about the other approximate two-thirds of us who don’t volunteer to support any effort or cause outside the immediacy of our own comfort and convenience? And what about the approximate 30% of church volunteers in most churches, who are often called upon to do 100% of the work?

According to Jesus, what we receive in life is in direct proportion to what we are willing to give back: “Give and it shall be given unto you” (Luke 6:38). Jesus went on to say that to whom much is given, much will be required.

In God’s economy, our own desire for increase is connected to our willingness to give back. God doesn’t just send blessings to us; God sends blessings through us. We are not reservoirs of self-aggrandizement. We are conduits of amazing grace.

Wisdom tells us that service to others is the rent we pay for being on the planet. May the 70% of us who never ask the question, “What shall I render?” bring our rent payment out of delinquency.

And when new volunteers show up, may they not be discouraged by the insecurities and turf-wars that sometimes derail the enthusiasm of those willing to give freely of themselves in service to others.

Prayer

Lord, you have blessed me abundantly. Help me to not just count my blessings, but to make my blessings count. Amen.
Volunteers prepare July meal for the JCOC (Judeo-Christian Outreach)
Fellowship Get-Togethers

(formerly known as “Dinners for 8”)

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, LCCC offered a very successful program called “Dinners for 8.” That title may have been somewhat of a misnomer in that these events didn’t always involve a meal. Some groups chose to gather for a game night, attend a sporting event, or travel to the Eastern Shore to visit a winery.

Now that we all feel more comfortable gathering with others, the Fellowship Committee wants to promote the return of these “Fellowship Get-Togethers.” The concept is very simple.

- An individual, a couple, or a pair of friends volunteers to host a social gathering for 5 to 10 people.
- The host determines the day, time, size of the group and the type of event (e.g. gathering at the host’s home for a covered dish meal, meeting at a local restaurant, participating in some sort of recreational activity, or perhaps traveling to a nearby point of interest.)
- This gathering is promoted within the congregation (with the assistance of the Fellowship Committee) and others have the opportunity to sign up as a participant.

Anyone willing to host a Fellowship Get-Together, please contact Susan Williams at either 802-355-7256 or sdwilliams140@gmail.com.
Congregational Covenant

We, the members of Lynnhaven Colony Congregational Church, join together as a community of service for the purposes of worship, spiritual growth, and interacting with others as loving human beings, using the example set by Jesus as our guide.

Although we are many members, we are one community.

As such, we are called to love one another, to do justice, to offer freedom from oppression, and to walk humbly in our understanding of God.

We are an open and affirming church, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person.

We welcome into full membership and participation in this community of service persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, mental ability, socio-economic status, marital status, and faith background.

We welcome all people as they are, without reservation, to share in the full life, leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation.

The ideals we hold most dear are expressed in the two greatest commandments ascribed to Jesus: *to love God with all your being and to love your neighbor as yourself.*

All God’s Creatures Great and Small

In May and June, a family of fox made a temporary den in the crawl space of the church office. The mother found one of the picnic benches behind the office building the ideal spot for a nap.

The kits regularly played in the church courtyard.

One of the kits liked climbing the live oak tree in the courtyard.
August Birthdays

August 2        Kathy Weber
August 4        Jacob Cohoon, Cherry Davidson, Linda Allen; Katrina Buckles
August 6        Lily Bustria
August 7        Michal Wilson; Bonnie Kelley
August 11       Lauren Aversa; Bill Faulkner
August 13       Janet Benson; Benita Jefferies
August 17       Christian Uren
August 19       Shirley Dowdy; Cathy Combs
August 22       Michele Kingsland
August 24       Tommy Crain
August 26       Tracey Halman
August 27       Bailey Allman

August Anniversaries

August 5        Paige and Tim Barrow
August 17       Dana and Glenda Burrows-Huckfeldt
August 19       Mica Harris and Leigh Kenyon
August 25       Kenna and Ryan Hollingshead
August 28       Jean and Dave Muehlen
August 29       Michal and Neil Wilson

The Lauren Legacy Fund

From 2010 to 2015, Lynnhaven Colony UCC was blessed to receive pastoral leadership from Rev. Lauren Ramseur. At the time of her resignation - necessitated by her husband's job relocation - the congregation chose to honor her by establishing the Lauren Legacy Fund. Sustained by donations from members of the congregation, the fund provides emergency assistance to those in need - within the church family and beyond.

At the moment, the balance in this fund is rather low, making it difficult to offer any kind of assistance when requested. Want to help raise the fund balance? Donations are ALWAYS welcome! Make sure that a note accompanies your gift so these funds will be deposited appropriately.
Lynnhaven Colony Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
2217 W. Great Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Progressive Pints
Monday, August 21
Meeting at the New Realm Brewing Co.