

CARING FOR TPPC DURING THE SABBATICAL

The Sabbatical Leadership team is Deacon Brian Richmond and Elders Mary Jacksteit Lisa Kiely, and Peter Lukehart. The Sabbatical Leadership Team and Deacons will provide pastoral care.

Our Office Administrator, Una Kettering, will keep the church office running as usual. Please contact the church at 301-270-5550 or office@takomarparkpc.org

The Session and Ministries of TPPC will have a calendar for all of 2013 to continue our regular schedule.

Sabbaticals are an excellent time for congregation members to grow in practicing their own ministries. Worship will be led primarily by TPPC elders and leaders.

Our stated-supply pastor, the Rev. Margee Iddings, will preside at communion and moderate Session meetings. She and our parish associates will be available for pastoral emergencies.

In June, July and August, Pastor Mark will send a pastoral letter to the congregation to share his journey with TPPC. However, he will not be in touch via e-mail.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

The Bread of Life nourishes us (personally and as a congregation) so we have much to share. Takoma Park Presbyterian Church nourishes God's people through both joy and tribulation.

Sabbaticals help us grow deeper, to face the challenges before us, and to grow.

- Pray for Pastor Mark.
- Pray for our congregation's deepening worship and mission.
- Worship here regularly.
- Continue to serve faithfully in your ministries.
- Encourage the summer worship leaders.
- Over the summer, read L. Shannon Jung's, Sharing Food: Christian Practices for Enjoyment.
- Join Pastor Mark in adult education discussion in the autumn, 2013.

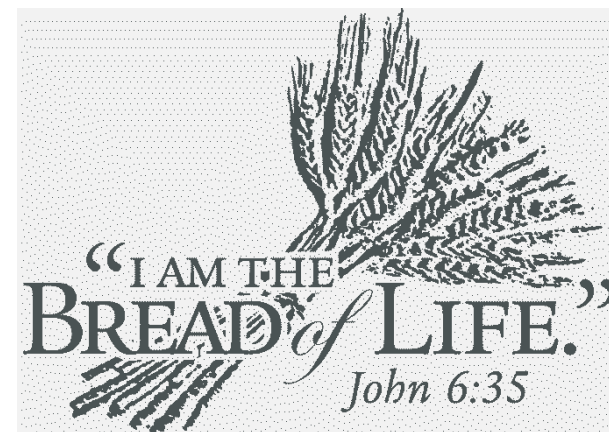
You can see what Pastor Mark is doing through the online sabbatical calendar and reading list at www.takomarparkpc.org.

† † †

*"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
- Jesus (John 6:35)*

THE BREAD OF LIFE

PASTOR MARK GREINER &
TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SABBATICAL
MAY 20 TO AUGUST 26, 2013



"The Bread of Life" Sabbatical Aims

- Connecting Holy Communion with feeding the hungry
- Learning hands-on farming skills for local food production.
- Praying and planning to fulfill our church's listening campaign goals, especially with our community kitchen.
- Rest and renew with family

WHAT IS A SABBATICAL?

“Sabbatical” comes from Sabbath, following the Biblical command to observe the seventh day of Sabbath.

A sabbatical is an opportunity to step away from the many tasks of daily ministry to rest and be renewed by God.

Through time for in-depth study, a sabbatical nourishes the soul for ministry. A pastor’s sabbatical includes praying and playing, resting and learning in order to return with renewed focus and energy.

A sabbatical is a sign of congregational success: that we have the health and continuity to support a sabbatical and a long-term pastorate.

WHEN IS THE SABBATICAL?

Congregations in our presbytery practice the seven year sabbatical. When TPPC called me to be your pastor on October 22, 2006, you kindly agreed to a sabbatical in the seventh year. I am so grateful for our first six years together.

My family and I are very thankful for this congregation and plan to be here for many years to come. We will be on sabbatical from May 20 to August 25, 2013.

THE SABBATICAL & TPPC’S GOALS

Our listening campaign listed several aims:

- To care for the environment
- To address local inequalities
- To deepen our relationship with God.

Our commercial shared community kitchen already is making the connection between our worship life (communion), hunger, and the local need for jobs.

The sabbatical will give me time to reflect and gain new insight about how God is shaping our life as a congregation.

By learning with my hands in soil, in touch with creation, I will gain practical farming skills. (And “get out of my comfort zone!”) I hope to lead our church to embody local, sustainable food security.

Reading will help me further preach “public witness for the common good”. How? By understanding the connections between the farms that make bread, the worship that serves bread, and the people of God who feed the hungry.

As a pastor, I want to be equipped to address the needed transformation in soul and society for a local, faithful and sustainable way of life.

Both TPPC’s Session and our Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry have approved the plans for this sabbatical.

WHAT IS THE BREAD OF LIFE?

Jesus speaks of himself as the Bread of Life. In Bread, broken, God touches our pain and the world’s aching hunger.

The Bread of Life is God’s beauty and abundance for a world of desperate and deepening scarcity.

The earth yields both grape and grain for the communion table. In Holy Communion, we feast on the Bread of Life. Nourished at that Table, we are sent to feed others.

WHAT WILL THE PASTOR DO?

- Study the theology of Holy Communion and hunger.
- Learn local, sustainable farming skills
- Plant a perennial edible garden
- Pray for discernment how TPPC can address local inequalities
- Rest and renew with family
- Fall more deeply in love with the land where we live

Upon return, the pastor will

- Seek to deepen our worship life.
- Preach and lead adult education on the Bread of Life and public witness
- Lead our kitchen initiatives to vitally serve our community.
- By God’s grace, have grown in faith, hope and love.