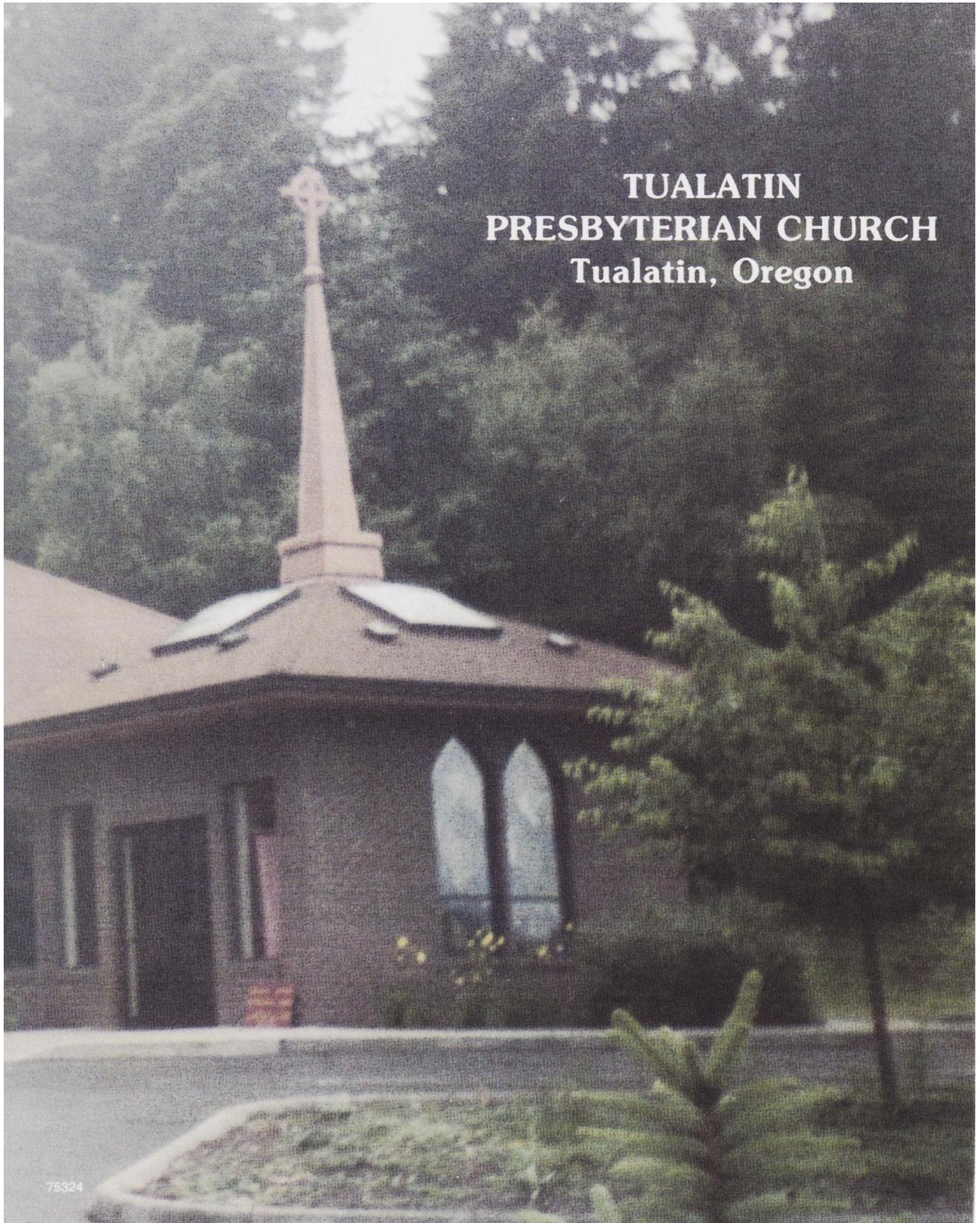


# CHARTER MEMBERS

1985



**TUALATIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Tualatin, Oregon

First printing 2007  
By Diane Barry

Slightly updated and reprinted, April, 2025  
By Rick Crall

## **THE HISTORY OF TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Presbytery of the Cascades made the decision, after years of study, that a Presbyterian Church was needed in the Tualatin-Wilsonville area. In November 1981, a committee of Presbytery chaired by Mike Nelson, called the Rev. Thomas G. Nelson to be organizing pastor of the Tualatin- Wilsonville New Church Development.

Rev. Nelson began the organization of the church from a rented office in the Moore Building on Coho Court in Tualatin. The first worship service was held January 10, 1982 in the living room of Rick and Barb Crall at 10055 S.W. Wasco Way in Tualatin. The 10:00 A.M. service was attended by 45 people, many of whom were interested presbyterians from Presbytery and neighboring churches. The congregation continued a 10:00 A.M. service in the living room of the Crall's until February 14.

The congregation, 11 adults and 13 children, was beginning to attract new members and a larger place for worship was needed. After completion of a survey of potential meeting places, the V.F.W. Hall at 8455 Seneca Street was found to be the only place open to church worship services.

The Presbytery Committee, that called Rev. Nelson and did the initial phase of survey work, was replaced by a local Steering Committee in February 1982. Peggy Hodge, Jim Skinner, Don Schmidt, and Mike Nelson were appointed by the Presbytery.

Those early days were filled with adventure and frustration. Growth was steady but slow. The children were included in the service, and the hall allowed for church school in the kitchen but that was a cramped situation. The hall also created a great deal of uneasiness among the congregation as to its desirability as a long-term, temporary home. Church school attendance grew and soon the children were taken to homes in the area for church school classes. The congregation decided to again survey the area for a possible meeting space. Again the VFW was the only space available to us. The congregation made the best of the situation. Each Sunday the teachers and children loaded into vans and drove to homes for classes.

The congregation weathered the summer with the Steering Committee hard at work looking for ways to find better space for worship and church school. In September of 1982, Jim Skinner and Thom Nelson happened to see that office space was available next to the VFW Hall. The space for lease was not adequate, but a shopkeeper offered to move into another room and allow the church to lease three rooms. The Steering Committee rented the space at 8415 S.W. Seneca Street with congregational approval. On October 10, 1982 church School was held in the new office building. Rev. Nelson also moved his study to the upper room of the office building.

The congregation decided that the VFW and the office building were going to be home for a long time. Energy and enthusiasm soared. Things were finally beginning to go smoothly. Reminiscent of the worship services of the circuit riders of 100 years ago, the congregation turned a tavern into a sanctuary.

Banners were made by handcrafters. Paraments and communion table cloths were made. Lake Grove Presbyterian Church Dingy Mariners gave the church a communion chalice and patten. Lake Grove Presbyterian Church also gave the congregation hymnbooks. Indeed the "trappings" made for a much better worship environment, but the people were aware that a church is the people and that this church was a warm and friendly one.

On November 14, 1982, John Andrew Skinner became the first person to be baptized in the Tualatin-Wilsonville New Church Development.

Rev. Nelson had been seeking land for a future building site since he began in 1981. The Presbytery had put in long hours of negotiations on a piece of land but the deal did not work out. The Holy Spirit was working because the present site, which had not been for sale during the first several months of searching, became available. Presbytery concurred with the recommendation of Rev. Nelson, the Steering Committee, and the Presbytery New Church Development Committee and purchased the 3.14 acres at Boones Ferry and Siletz in Tualatin. The site was purchased in the Spring of 1983 for approximately \$120,000. It is a wonderful location for a church.

In the Spring of 1983, the Steering Committee added Wayne Prindiville and Lynne Bolton. The congregation had grown to 33 adults and 29 children. More room was needed in the church school, and after negotiations with the landlord, Bruce Tabor, a crew built a ceiling in the back room of the office which had a cathedral ceiling, and we gained another room for nursery use.

In the Fall of 1983, the Steering Committee again expanded adding Kathy Bond, Del Judy, and Connie Myers.

The congregation, in January of 1984 had grown to 44 adults and 35 children. Growth had been slow no matter how hard we worked. Then in the Spring of 1984 the church began to experience significant growth. Fifty-five members were on the rolls in March of 1984. Programs such as choirs were formed, Mariners fellowship groups expanded, and retreats, Bible studies, service projects in the community, etc. began to happen. Worship remained the center of the church's life and children's involvement in the worship, in the church school, and the total life of the church remained a high priority. In the Spring, Colin Saxton and John McLain replaced Jim Skinner and Mike Nelson.

In January of 1985, Rev. Nelson, Wayne Prindiville and Lynn Bolton appeared before the Presbytery New Church Development Committee with 75 names on a petition requesting the honor and privilege of becoming an organized church within the bounds of the Presbytery of the Cascades. On February 10, 1985 in Eugene, Oregon, Rev. Nelson accompanied by 18 people of the church made a presentation featuring slides of Tualatin Presbyterian Church before the Presbytery and formally requested that the Tualatin Presbyterian Church be chartered as an organized congregation. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. An Administrative Commission of Presbytery, Sid Birt, Moderator, Rev. John Harland, Rev. John Anderson, Rev.

Phil Martin, Rev. Rodney Sundberg, Elder Winnie Fisher, Elder Leonard Cain, and Elder Gale MacDonald, chartered this church at a 5:00 P.M. worship service in the Tualatin VFW Hall on February 17, 1985.

Rev. Thomas G. Nelson was called to be pastor. Lynne Bolton, Del Judy, Colin Saxton, Peggy Hodge, Connie Myers, Kathy Bond, and Don Schmidt were elected and ordained elders on the first Session. Wayne Prindiville and John McLain, previously ordained, were also elected, and these nine people were installed as the Session.

In January 1986, Peggy Hodge, Don Schmidt and Del Judy completed their terms as active elders. Sherry Nelson, Mike Gehlen and Becky Glover were elected to Session, and Steve Buffam was elected to serve the remainder of Colin Saxton's term. It was in January that the historic church building became available due to the "Clothes Seller" going out of business. The Session began to talk with a retail business called the "Wedding Center" about the possibility of sharing the building. On February 16, 1986 the first worship service was held in the Historic Community Church at 10100 S.W. Boones Ferry Road. The church was built in 1926 by the Methodist congregation of Tualatin. The congregation began the service on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February in the VFW Hall and then marched with banners, etc., to the new church building. One year after chartering, we had a new temporary home. The bulletin announcements that Sunday said, *"We are very glad to have you join us for worship today!! Please stay with us for coffee, tea and goodies in celebration of our first anniversary [of chartering] and our first Sunday in this house of worship."*

Occupying the church building required a massive remodeling and clean-up. Hundreds of hours were donated and coordinated by Wayne Prindiville, and the church was changed from a clothes store back to a church once again. It was a real thrill to have the church be a church again.

In October of 1986, the Session went to the congregation with its recommendation that the church build on its site in 1987. The congregation's enthusiastic response began the actual building process. The Building Committee, chaired by elder Wayne Prindiville, formed two sub-committees. The Construction Committee was chaired by Bill Wahl. The Finance Committee was co-chaired by Don Bond and Herb Zachow. International Ministries Fellowship, a church construction firm in Clackamas, Oregon was engaged to draw plans. The Finance Committee contacted the church financial campaign service of the program agency and the campaign for building pledges was scheduled for April 5, 1987. Rev. Gary Hall was the campaign director. The campaign total was \$140,000 and on April 12, Palm Sunday, this congregation celebrated Jesus' triumphant entry with balloons and yahoos. We had done it! God had done it through us. There would indeed be a building on our property.

Loans were secured from the General Assembly (\$180,000) and the Synod of the Pacific (\$60,000). Ground was broken at our worship service on June 14, 1987. Construction began in June of 1987 with I.M.F., and Frank Wood was hired as the contractor.

Meanwhile, back at the 19100 Boones Ferry address, we were growing. A tremendous surge of energy pumped through the heart of this family of faith as new members joined the church. We had people in the small narthex and on the stairs at our Christmas Eve service. It was obvious that it was indeed time to move.

We moved into our new home on February 14, 1988. What an experience it was. Nobody will ever forget that first service ... or the sound of our first hymn, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY", as it resounded in our new sanctuary.

The sanctuary was dedicated to the glory of God on March 6, 1988. Elder Connie Myers, Worship Chair for many years, Rev. Dr. John Anderson, Rev. Tom Castlen, Associate Synod Executive and Rev. Dr. Richard L. Clippenger, Pastor at Moreland Presbyterian led the congregation in worship. It was a time for tears of great joy ... a celebration of our past and of our hope for the future.

The communion table and pulpit were designed and built by Bill Hodge. The stained glass window of the sacraments, by artist David Schlicker, is a gift from Blanche Detweiller in memory of her husband D.K. Hodge. It is also in honor of our God and the people who began this congregation.

The "Jesus with the Children" window is a gift in memory of our member Ted Crawford who was killed in 1989. The Celtic Cross was designed and built by a friend of TPC, Presbyterian Minister, Dr. Will Dixon.

The TPC congregation paid its last mortgage payment in October, 1997.

The church continues to welcome God's future. And now you have become part of this family of faith. We welcome you! You bring to us a variety of gifts, and we give thanks to God for you. You can be very proud to call yourself a Presbyterian, and even prouder to be a Tualatin Presbyterian. You are now a vital part of the early history of this congregation.

# TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHARTER MEMBERS FEBRUARY 7, 1985

The following are the names of the original 75 charter members.

Carol and David Baber	Katie and Mark Littleton
Diane and Arthur Barry	Roni and Jim Mullens
Denise Lahiere Benson	Phyllis Mullens
Lynne and Robert Bolton	Connie Myers
Kathy and Donald Bond	Cynthia Nelson
Kay and Kent Brewer	Sherry and Michael Nelson
Luann and Steven Buffam	Dale and Wayne Prindiville
Barbara and Richard Crall	Helen and Norman Remington
Marjorie and Walter Dean	Linda Paisley Richter
Debra and Mark Dennison	Virginia Ritzer-Christie
Blanche Detweiller	Vera Rossa
Ruth and Wally Fowler	Linda and Bill Sanders
Marcy and Michael Gehlen	Janine and Colin Saxton
Rebecca and Dean Glover	Marilyn and Donald Schmidt
June and Joseph Griffin	Michael Simmons
Jennifer and Jeff Hecker	Marcia and Jim Skinner
Peggy and William Hodge	Linda and Michael Taitt
Esther and Erwin Hueckstaedt	Caroline Thompson
Cathy and John McLain, Jr.	Claudia and William Wahl
Delilah Judy	Nadine Wilke
Nancy Kelly	Stacy Wong
Kathryn and Brian Lawrence	Mary and Rodney Wyatt

## CHARTER MEMBER PROFILES

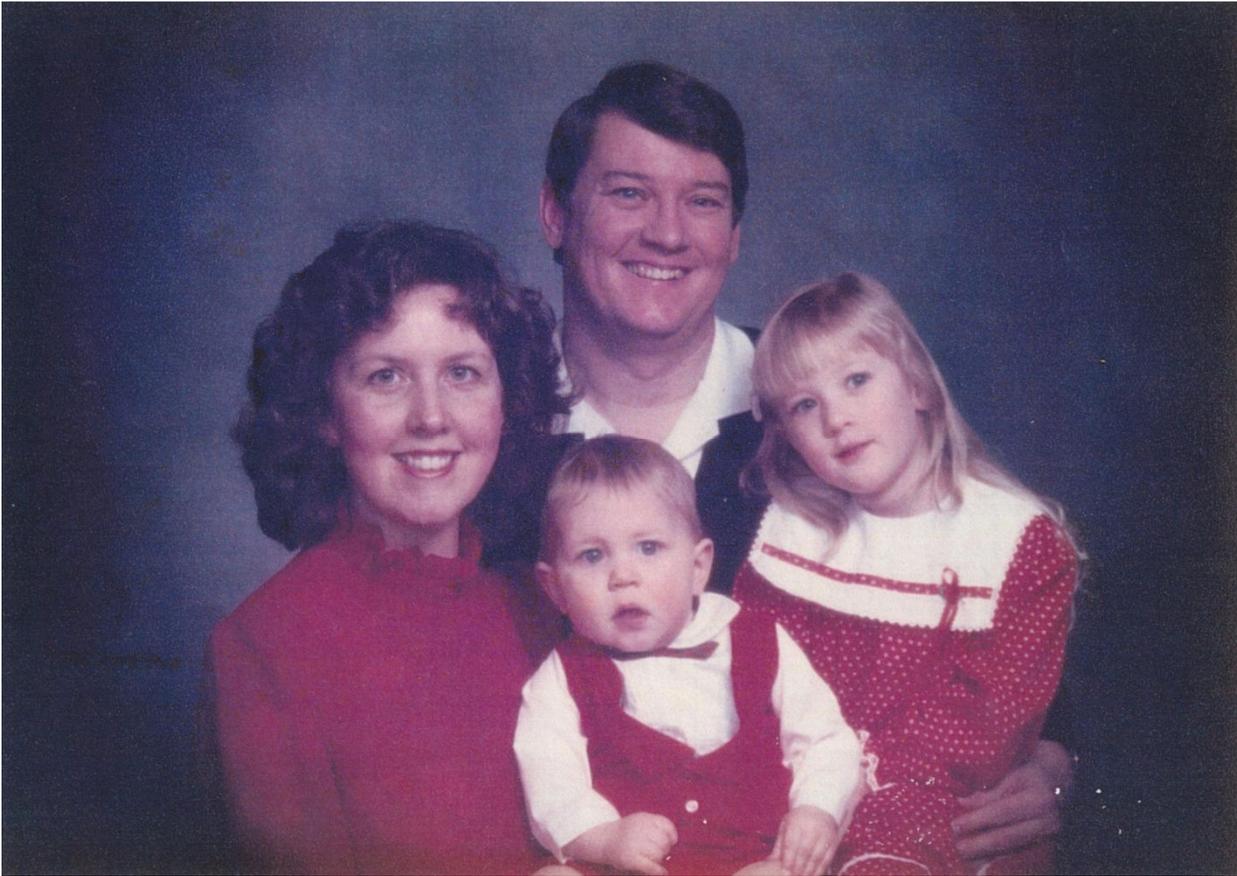
These are profiles of the original charter members of Tualatin Presbyterian Church. This list was not begun to be organized until 1995 and has struggled on to its completion now in 2007. Several of the original members have moved and addresses have been lost so there are only a few details available now on some of these people. This booklet was finalized in time for the church's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding on May 12, 2007.

Diane Barry

## CHARTER MEMBERS

### Baber

Carol and David were very active and Carol was a cousin of Thom Nelson's. She was a medical technologist and Dave worked for Rubbermaid and then for North Pacific Lumber. They had 2 children: Jill Kristen born in 1982 and Robert William born in 1985. Dave was an elder and worked with the youth group in many activities. Carol was one of the first deacons and very active in that role. Both of their children were confirmed in this church. In the early days of this church Bobbie was just a little guy and loved to crawl under the chairs during the service.



## Barry

Diane and Arthur began attending the church in the old VFW Hall after seeing the sign on the property advertising “the future home of the Tualatin Presbyterian Church” and a phone number to call for time and current place. They have 4 children, Karen (1959), Kathleen (1960), William (1964) and Brian (1966). Art was president and scientific director of the Clinical Microbiology Institute doing research on new antibiotics and Diane was a research tech there. Art has served as the Outreach elder and Diane has served as the Worship elder. She was also a deacon, sang in the choir, played the piano and organ for many years and was church librarian. Art built many pieces of furniture for the church through the years.

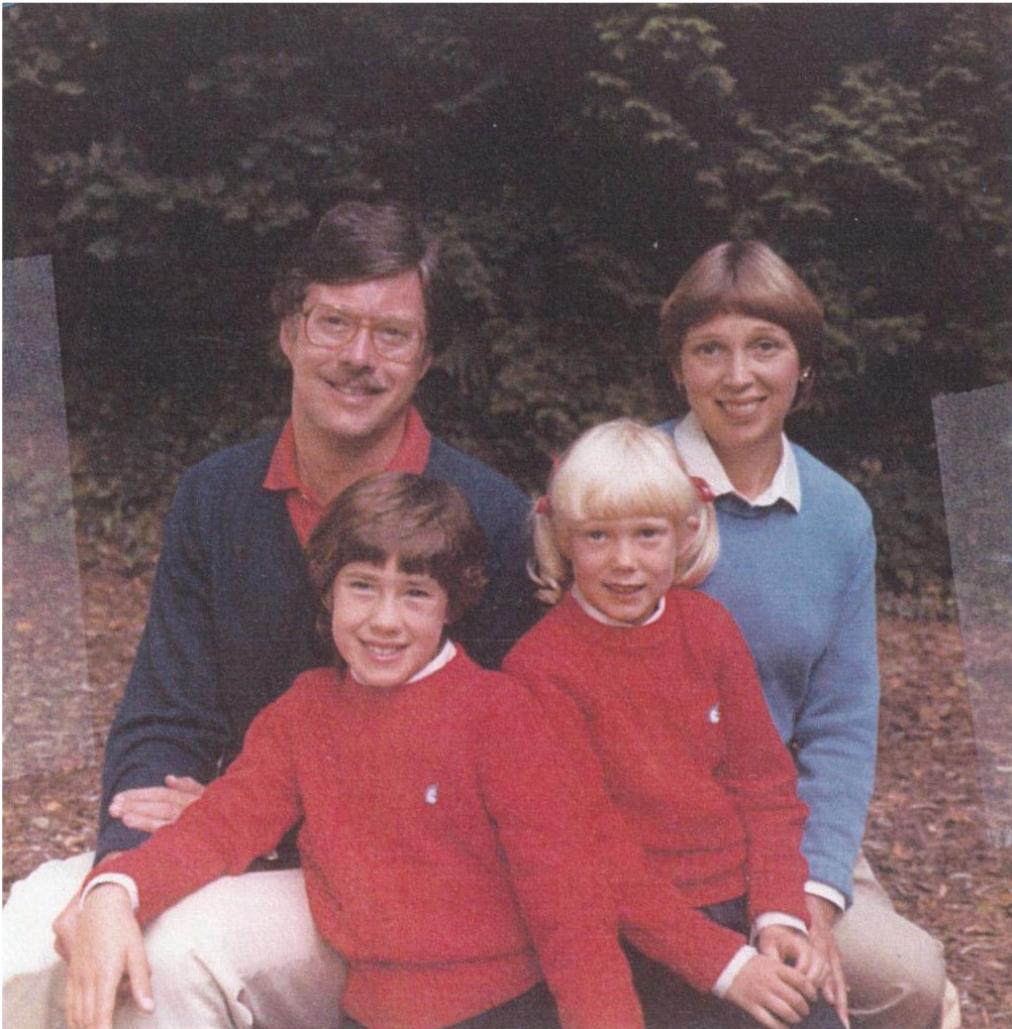


## Bolton

Lynne Mason Bolton and Robert Simeon Bolton have been members since the beginning. Lynne was on the original Steering Committee and was clerk of that committee from 1983 to 1987. She spent many volunteer hours on the Christian Education committee and as a Shepard and teaching on Sundays and in Vacation Bible School.

They are both native Oregonians. Bob moved to Tualatin in May 1974, he is a graduate of Portland State University and worked for Work Glove Industry in Oregon since 1974. He was a deacon of the church. Lynne has been in Tualatin since May 1974, is a graduate of Oregon State University in social work. She was a full time home maker and community volunteer from 1974 to 1991. At that time she began working for Dr. Craig Bowen, an optometrist who later joined the Tualatin Presbyterian Church also.

Their children are Jill Jeannette who was born on June 15, 1974 and Sarah Alice who was born on April 20, 1977. Jill was 11 years old when the church was chartered. She was part of the first Sunday school and youth groups. She was baptized into TPC on October 14, 1984. Sarah was 8 years old at the time of chartering and was also active in Sunday school and the youth groups. She was baptized the same day as Jill.



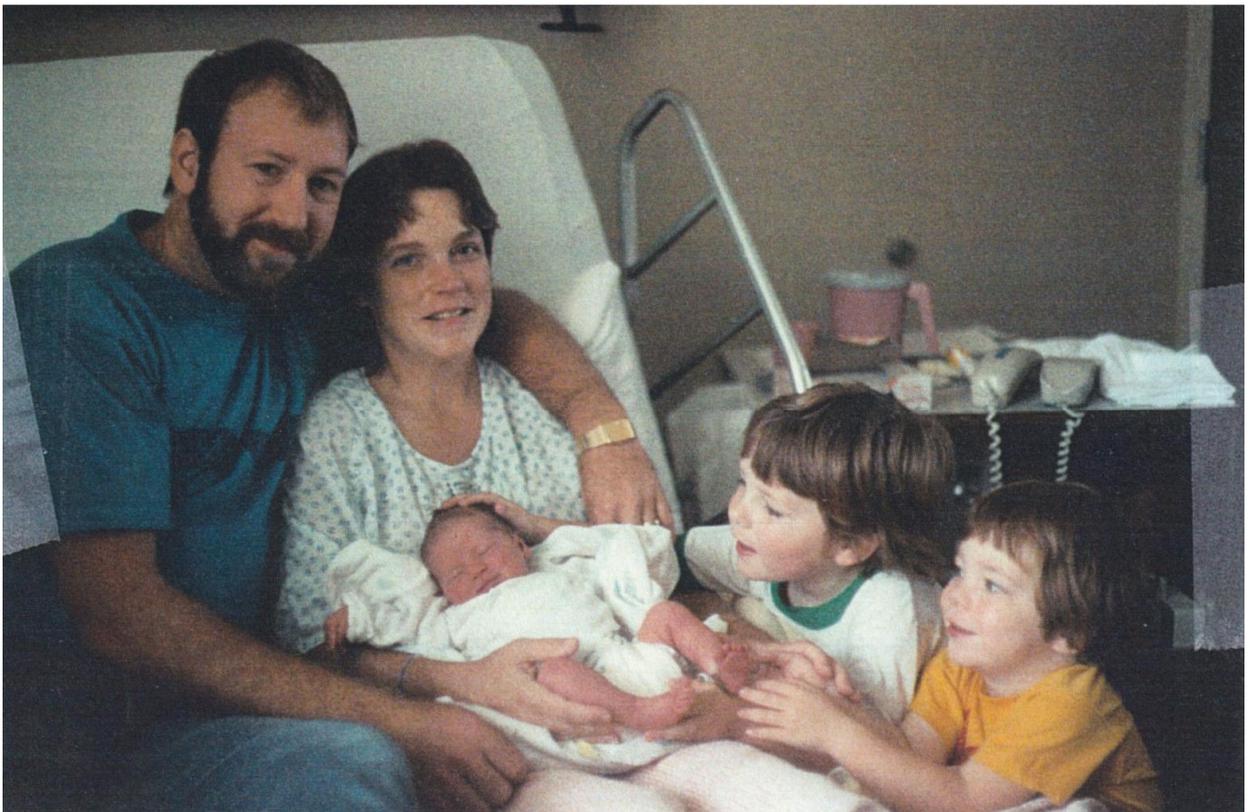
## Buffam

Louann Clark Buffam and Steve Buffam started attending the church in 1984. They had 2 children, a toddler and an infant, and were looking for a church home so “we could raise the kids right”. Steve became the youth elder for 2 years when then-elder Colin Saxton moved away, then served his own 3 year term. Luann spent 5 years on the Christian Education committee, 3 years on the Fellowship committee and 1 year on the building maintenance committee.

Their children are Clark J. who was born on September 15, 1982, Chase J. who was born on February 18, 1984 and Noelle who was born on October 1, 1987. The children were active in the Sunday school programs of the church.

Luann told of her first visiting TPC. “The first day I went to the church (I was the official locater of a church) Bobby Baber was there as a new infant and it was his first time in church. Joshua Glover was about 4 years old and I was impressed that he recited the Lord’s Prayer with the congregation while standing on a chair!”

Steve was CEO of International Trade Services (Foreign Freight Forwarder) and Luann eventually became a director and employee of the same firm. Luann was a devoted mother and, in spite of working very hard, they enjoyed their family very much.



## Crall

Barbara Miller and Richard Franklin were on the organizing session of this church. The first meeting of the church was held in their living room. They were members at Calvin Presbyterian Church until the New Church Development committee organized a church in Tualatin and it met in their home for the first 6 weeks. Rick was vice president of Compix, an engineering company and Barb was a very active volunteer in the school library, scouts and has been on the Christian Education committee from the beginning. She was the C. E. elder for 2 years, the Fellowship elder for 2 years, worked on Vacation Bible School, was in the Bell choir and organized many church picnics and other Fellowship events. Rick sang in the choir, directed the first children's choir, directed the chancel choir several years, played in the Bell choir, and played piano for services in the early years. He was on session where he chaired the outreach committee, worship committee and then buildings and ground committee. Their children are Matthew Eric (born 1972), Timothy Allen (1975), and Rebecca Christine (1978). All were very active in youth groups and musical productions.



## Dean

Marjorie and Walter N. were the parents of Cindy Nelson, wife of TPC's first pastor. Walt was born in Brooklyn in 1919 and graduated from Columbia University with a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering. Marge was born in Port Huron, Michigan in 1923. She attended Williams Smith College then joined the Coast Guard during World War II. Walt worked for the government at this time, developing the LORAN system of navigation. They met after the war and were married in 1946, and lived on Long Island, New York while Walt worked for Sperry Rand. In 1967, they moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana and in 1978 to Torrance, California. In 1983 they moved to Charbonneau while Walt continued to work in Salem, Oregon. Here they could also be close to their daughter and son-in-law Cindy and Thom Nelson. They immediately became active in the Tualatin Presbyterian Church and especially enjoyed the church building project. Marge served as one of the first deacons. They had 2 daughters: Marilyn (1948) and Cynthia (1952).



## Detweiler

Blanche was born in Kansas in 1910 and moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, in 1925. Whenever she visited her son and daughter-in-law Bill and Peggy Hodge, in Tualatin, she attended TPC with their family. She was present at the ground breaking and had a keen interest in the building of the new church. As construction neared completion, she secretly conspired with Thom Nelson to commission a local artist to produce leaded glass windows for the narthex. You can imagine Bill's surprise when the windows were dedicated in memory of Bill's father, Duane.

Even though Blanche remained an active member of her Presbyterian Church in Twin Falls, she was greeted like a member of the TPC congregation when she came to visit. She doted on her grand-daughters, and was always interested in their participation in youth activities at the church. Blanche lived to the same age as her father: 93. Her son, Bill, states, "Her departure from our daily lives has left a very empty spot in all of our hearts."



## Fowler

Ruth Ann and Wallace Finch joined Calvin Presbyterian in 1978 where Rev. Thom and Rev. Jim Cayton baptized their 2 children on New Year's Eve of that year. Wally served two terms as an elder at Calvin. About a year after Thom started the new congregation at Tualatin, they transferred their membership there and became charter members. Ruth served a term as elder for Adult Education. They have 2 children: Brandon Richard (born 1975) and Leslie Catherine (1978). Wally was the manager of Western Sales at ILSI and Ruth was a busy school volunteer, car pooler, wife and mother.



## Glover

Rebecca Miller and Dean Scott were a young family when they moved to Tualatin from SE Portland. After months of searching for a church to attend, they found TPC when it was meeting at the VFW Hall. Dean recalls, "Even though it was a very strange place to meet, the small congregation at that time made us feel very welcome and we were happy to make TPC our church home." Their two older children, Joshua and Emily, were baptized when we were in the "Old Methodist Church" building. They had a third child, Rachel, in 1987, and she was baptized at the new Tualatin Presbyterian Church building. They were very active as their children were growing up in Tualatin. Becky was on the session and Dean helped with the Building and Maintenance committee that constructed the first church building. Dean worked for Hunter-Davisson, Inc. and is now part owner in the company. Becky was an excellent baker and made many special goodies for congregational activities. They moved to Sherwood and remain very active in church and community activities.



## Griffin

June and Joseph had 2 children, Shelly and Jim. Joe worked for U.S. West and June worked for the Clackamas County sheriff. They both love the outdoors. June comments, "We'd rather be camping, gardening or sitting on our back deck". Joe went on many fishing expeditions to Alaska with Thom, Don Schmidt and Bill Hodge. They were faithful, quiet members of the church through the years.



## Hecker

Jean Elizabeth (Jenny) and Jeffrey Phillip were one of the younger couples in the church. Jeff was an accountant and Jenny was a technical writer for a computer company. They had 2 sons: Thomas (born 1985) and Joel (1988). They came from the Midwest to Oregon for their “great adventure”. They were just married when they moved to Tualatin. They worked with the middle schoolers and later in the nursery after their first son, Tommy, was born. Jenny recalls, “I remember coming to church in December 1985 when Tommy was one week old. They asked if he could play baby Jesus in a skit, so he laid his little head down in the straw of the manger and went to sleep! Pretty neat!” They enjoyed the Mariners group, especially the progressive dinners. They moved back to Ohio in 1990 where they joined another start-up church.



11/9/1983



1998

## Hodge

Margaret Ann (Peggy) and William Arthur (Bill) were very active in this new church. Bill was the Product manager at Tektronix and Peggy was an active volunteer in the community and schools as well as the church. They had two daughters: Meredith Lynn (born 1971) and Amy Elizabeth (1974). They lived in Tualatin from 1974 until 1988. Bill writes, "While attending Calvin Presbyterian Church in Tigard, we learned of the possible New Church Development for Tualatin, with Thom Nelson as pastor. When this finally came to fruition, we began with fewer than a dozen families. We first met in the living room of Rick and Barb Crall. After several Sundays, the children started having Sunday School in their basement. At that time, the church office was in a commercial building across the freeway. Peggy served on the steering committee for the New Church development. After several months in the Crall's home, we grew by several families and moved on to Tualatin's VFW Hall, with Sunday School in the narrow kitchen. Thom accompanied the hymns with his guitar and soon Del Judy was at the piano too. There was even a Sunday when the Bingo bells and lights came on during the service! The hall reeked of the activities of the previous Saturday night. The church office was now moved to the same block in another building. Within a few months of moving into that office, the rest of the rooms were available, so we began having Bible study, session meetings, and Sunday School in that facility. Bill created the wooden sign that announced the Tualatin Church presence in the office building."

Bill spent many hours renovating the basement of the "Old Methodist Church" building as a multipurpose room for Sunday School, church breakfasts, meetings and suppers. He was part of the team working with the architects on the new building and could often be found kibitzing at the building site and watched the four huge laminated beams put in place. Bill built the Communion table and the pulpit for the new building. They have memories of Christmas plays, Easter services in the park, breakfasts in the Community Center, retreats, planting the memorial garden, painting walls, and so much more. They moved to San Diego in 1988 but worship here each time they return.



## Hueckstaedt

Esther L. and Erwin A. were the parents of Dale Prindiville. When Erv retired, they moved to Tualatin with the Prindiville family. They were both brought up in Chicago and moved to Tualatin for six years. Erv was responsible for setting up chairs in our “sanctuaries”, and for taking the offering and “chicken” money to the bank each Monday morning. He was also a “janitor of sorts” as Esther put it! Esther helped Erv with the janitorial responsibilities. She did a lot of cooking for various church events and was active with the group that served meals once a month at the Tualatin-Durham Senior Center. They loved Mariner activities and were faithful members. Esther also sang in the choir.



## Judy

Delilah Rose Wheeler Judy was a retired teacher of the deaf. Her family lived on 6 ½ acres of land on Sagert Road from 1957 to 1978. She and her husband, Clayton, had built three rentals on Sagert Road in 1970. Their family was charter members of Calvin Presbyterian Church. Their family needs changed and so they stopped attending “what we thought of as the King City Presbyterian Church”. At this same time Del went back to school. Clayton was diagnosed with lung cancer and they moved to Grants Pass where Clayton died. They had four children: Jaurene Rose (born 1947), Pamela Jean (1949), Robert Scott (1952), and James Clayton (1955).

Del entered the Peace Corps in March 1978 and spent the next two years in Bangkok, Thailand. When Del left for the Peace Corps she moved all of her possessions into one of the rental houses they had built on Sagert Road and her two sons lived there until she returned. Then Scott, her oldest son, married so that left Del and her youngest son, Jim, living in the house, where she remains to this day (and till 2017).

When she returned from Bangkok she saw an ad in the newspaper about the Tualatin Presbyterian church. She attended one Sunday and renewed acquaintance with Marilyn Schmidt who had gone to school with her oldest daughter, and met Rick and Barb Crall, whose sister she had met in Bangkok in the Peace Corps! She also met Thom and Cindy Nelson at that time and has been at TPC ever since. She closes with this comment: “For me, it’s my extended family and I love them one and all! “

She has been very active in the church, especially in the music department, having played the piano for services for 17 years, sang in the choir many years, is in the Bell choir, and was the Outreach elder for 3 years.



## Lahiere

Marie Denise was the office manager for Bruce Tabor Accounting. She had one daughter, Jennifer Backley, born in 1972. Denise writes, "I was working for Bruce Tabor Accounting, who owned the building where Thom Nelson's office was, the Seneca Building. Thom invited me to attend church one Sunday, next door in the VFW Hall. I immediately felt at home and joined soon after." She attended regularly although was a busy working mother. She later remarried a man named Glenn Benson (in 1992) and moved to Neskowin and works in real estate for Kiwanda Coastal Properties in Pacific City, Oregon.



## Lawrence

Kathryn S. and Brian D. had two children: Brian B. (born 1975) and Melissa K. (1979). Brian was a telecommunications manager and Kathryn was a housewife/homemaker and active in city politics, having served several years on the Tualatin city council. Kathy and Brian met at the University of Oregon. After graduation, they lived in Eugene until moving to Tualatin in 1978 along with their 3 year old son, Brian B. Melissa was born in 1979 and the family stayed in Tualatin until she graduated from high school. They then moved to St. Helens, Oregon where they still live. The children were active in Sunday School and Kathy and Brian were busy with most of the events of the church Mariner groups, potlucks, plays and special events.

No photograph was available of this family.

## Myers

Connie Ann and her husband W. Michael have two daughters: Allison Renee (born 1977) and Erika Jeannet (1982). Connie was born and raised in McMinnville attending First Presbyterian Church there until she left for Oregon State University in 1968. In 1971, Connie and Mike were married in the Corvallis Presbyterian Church and then did not attend church until TPC was one month old and meeting in the VFW Hall and city park. Allison was four years old when they first attended and Erika was the first baby born into the TPC family on April 18, 1982. Both girls grew up involved with the TPC Sunday School, church, and all the youth activities. Mike was a pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente, then and now. In 1984, they started their own hospital software company, Apothecary Software, Inc. This company still employs Mike half time.

Connie has gone from volunteering in preschool to volunteering in the high school and with the school district. She also has worked for Apothecary Software, Inc. for all these years. Connie has been active in many areas of the church from Worship elder, Christian Education elder, and Fellowship elder. In fact, Connie is the only elder to serve a second term on session and again as Worship elder! She has been a long and faithful worker for the church and has also been responsible for getting servers for communion for many years.

Connie comments, "TPC and Thom Nelson continue to be a guiding light in our lives."



## Nelson

Cynthia Dean and Thomas have 2 children: Seth Dean (1980) and Kendall Dean (1984). Cindy writes: “As wife of the founding pastor at TPC and mother of two small children when the church was chartered, it was an exciting time for us. We were involved in every aspect of the church, from making banners to make the VFW Hall look like a sanctuary, to hosting Bible study in our home. I sang in the choir and taught Sunday School which was held in the kitchen of the VFW. I remember showing a film strip in the kitchen during worship and Seth, who was 5, touched the bulb, shattering it and burning his finger, causing him to scream! There were many unexpected interruptions in worship in those early days.”

Cindy held many different positions in the church and was head of the first deacon group. She was wonderful with the youth groups and kept them all busy and involved.

As organizing pastor and then pastor, Thom could not be a member of our church but a member of Presbytery. However, without him there would be no Tualatin Presbyterian Church and thanks to his careful guidance for 20 years, we grew from a New Church Development project to a congregation of 200 people in a beautiful building that we needed to expand before he left.



## Nelson

Sherry Lee and Michael William (no relation to Thom and Cindy Nelson) had two children: Erin Michael (born 1974) and Jaime Paige (1977). Mike was in insurance sales and Sherry was very active in volunteer activities at the schools and the church.

Mike served on the Presbytery committee that hired Rev. Thom Nelson. They were attending Calvin Presbyterian Church at the time. Mike and Sherry committed six months to TPC to see if it would get started. After those six months, they knew that TPC would be their church home. With the exception of Erin, who was born in Detroit, they were all born in Portland and all grew up there.

Mike was on the steering committee and the first session. Sherry has served on session as Worship elder, and as a deacon. Erin assisted with the high school youth group after he graduated from college. Sherry was the church secretary for 7.5 years. She states, "Tualatin Presbyterian has been a huge part of both our spiritual and social lives. We have many friends here and have been proud to say we helped start this church".



## Paisley

Linda Paisley and Robert Richter were the first couple to be married in our new church building. Linda was an administrative assistant at the time of chartering and now owns her own Employment Service. Linda writes, "When Tualatin Presbyterian Church was chartered, I was a resident of Wilsonville. I began attending the church when services were held in the VFW Hall! In 1988, my husband, Rob, and I were married in the new church building on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We didn't yet have a full address for the building for the invitations! But the building was finished on time and we were the first wedding held there. We have lived in Tualatin since our marriage in 1988." She sent one of their wedding invitations and this photograph of her with her nephew Kris.



## Prindiville

Dale Ruth and Wayne Roy had two children: Sheri Ruth (born 1971) and Scot Howard (1976). Wayne was a corporate airline pilot and Dale was a busy housewife, and volunteer. They were both born in Illinois but, after several moves around the United States, they came to Tualatin in 1982. Wayne found TPC after attending the Tualatin Methodist Church. One of their members told him about TPC and he called Thom and talked to him before he came to church. The rest of the family started attending after they moved to Tualatin.

Wayne was on session as Elder of building and grounds. He also headed the building project for the church building. He was very involved with the life and functions of the church, as was Dale. She was on the Fellowship committee and the Worship committee. She started the Children's Choir with Rick Crall and later directed the first adult choir. She was also a deacon. She served on a standing committee that served meals once a month at the Tualatin Durham Senior Center and helped organize many dinners and potlucks at the church. Wayne was the driving force behind the first building and always ready and able to help with any crisis that might arise with the property. He was a true handyman and could solve most of our problems.



## Remington

Helen Louise and Norman Henry were the senior members of the church. They had two children: Bonnie Jean (born 1931) and Robert Ernst (1933). They were retired when they came to our church.

Norman was born in 1905 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He had one sister. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1923 to 1927, where he learned the machinist's trade. He met Helen in Long Beach, CA while in the service and they were married in 1927 after he was discharged from the Navy. Norman was a machinist during his working years.

Helen was born in 1903 in Alva, Oklahoma. She had 2 sisters and 4 brothers. She moved with her parents and one sister to Long Beach, CA when she was approximately 15 years of age. After finishing high school, she worked in a doctor's office until she married Norman and became a fulltime wife and mother.

They lived in Cherry Valley, California all of their married life until they moved to Tigard in 1982. Helen was very active in the Beaumont, CA Presbyterian Church before moving to Tigard. They were a very devoted couple and were very proud of their family.

They visited TPC while looking for a new church home in this area and were welcomed warmly and felt at home. They especially enjoyed the children's participation in the Sunday services. Rev. Thom called them the "grandparents of the church" during the years they were able to attend, as they were the oldest members at that time. Norman died in November 1988 at 83 years of age and Helen died in December 1994 at 91 years. Both of their ashes are under tiles in the TPC memorial garden. (This biography was written by their daughter, Bonnie.)



## Rossa

Vera was an active member of the early congregation, having joined the church about 1983. She was retired and lived in a small house on her son's property until she passed away in 1987 at age 68. She had two sons: David Arthur (born 1943) and Bradley Lincoln (1947). She enjoyed serving lunch at the Tualatin-Durham Senior Center once a month with other members from the church as shown in the photograph. She had a cute sense of humor. At one of the fund-raising auctions of the church, she got in a spirited bidding war with one of the other members over one of Becky Glover's famous pies. She enjoyed attending the church activities. She was born in Dillon, Montana and worked with her husband as a wrapper when he was a meat cutter. They lived for awhile in Sherwood as both boys graduated from Sherwood High School. They bought a home on 65<sup>th</sup> Ave. in 1948 and her son, Dave, still lives there. She loved Christmas, it was her favorite holiday and she died the day after Christmas after valiantly trying to open presents on Christmas day. Her son recalls her as being "a good person".



## Saxton

Janine C. and Colin B. had 2 children while they were members then had another two: Hanna (born 1986), Ellie (1988), Amy (1992) and Samuel (1994). Colin was a student and in charge of youth services and was also program director. Janine was a zoologist. They were married on January 1, 1984. Colin writes, "After settling in our little old farm house just outside of Tualatin, I received a mailing from a "new" church in the community. Since I was looking for a new church, I decided to show up one Sunday. As I recall, I was the only visitor who responded to the mailing! Hmmm?!?"

The 2 + years at the church were great ones. I got to help start a youth program, be an elder, and pester Thom with lots of questions. Mostly, we loved the many friends we made, enjoyed summer league baseball and Mariner group adventures.

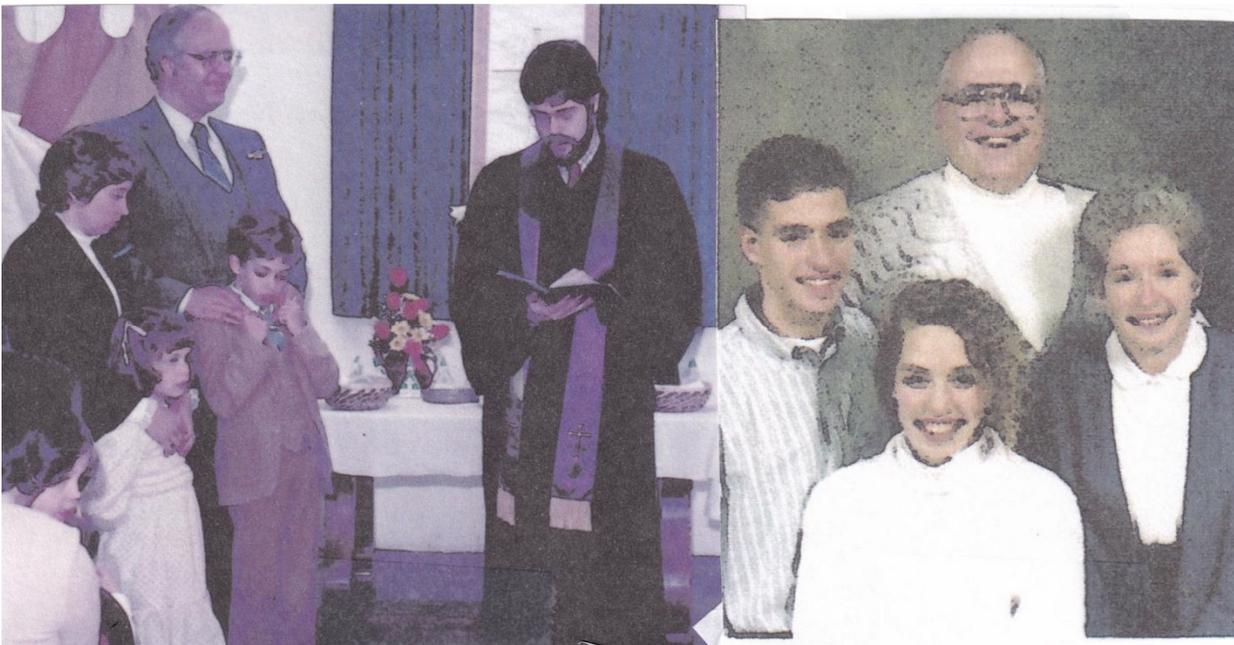
Since then, life has changed greatly. Janine "retired" from the Washington Park Zoo in order to raise our own four primates at home. After leaving Tualatin Presbyterian, we got involved with the Quakers. Over the past 12 years, I've gone to seminary, pastored a couple of churches and taught part-time at George Fox University in the philosophy and religion departments. We currently live in Newberg, Oregon. Life is rich and full of joy! All of us are thankful for God's deep love and lasting peace."



## Schmidt

Marilyn Lawrence and Donald William were part of the original steering committee. They moved to Tualatin in 1976. They attended Calvin Presbyterian Church where they met the Thom Nelsons, the Mike Nelsons, the Rick Cralls and others. Their son Brian attended Tualatin Valley preschool where they met Peggy and Bill Hodge. As they worked together on preschool functions, and library fundraising their friendship grew. Their family attended the first service of the Tualatin Presbyterian Church in the Crall's home, where kids always outnumbered the adults. There were always challenges to overcome like Bingo bells ringing during church at the VFW, Easter at the park in dress-up clothes with the Joyful Noise children's choir competing with the birds and baseball practice. They painted the office building next to the VFW to earn money for the church school program. Later, when we moved into the old Methodist church, we shared space with a wedding center with gowns and dressing rooms in the basement church school space.

Don served with Peggy Hodge, Mike Nelson, and others on the Steering Committee as they worked to acquire our present land. He then was a member of the Session serving as Fellowship elder. Marilyn also was Fellowship elder. They have 2 children: Brian R. (born 1974) and Laura A. (1977). They listed some of the highlights of their years here: friendships forged with laughter, worship, food and families, repainting Thom and Cindy's heliotrope house when the neighbors objected to the color, Bill Wahl's diligence as our construction manager for the first building, painting messages on the sub flooring of the first building before the carpet went down, Bill Hodge building the pulpit and the Communion table and Will Dixon carving the Cross that hangs in our sanctuary.



1984

1992

## Simmons

Michael was single at the time he attended TPC and was there when we were chartered. He was a substitute teacher at the time and worked summers with Althea Pratt-Broome in her Willowbrook art camp. He described himself at the time of chartering as “a younger man dating the love of my life, Sherrie Fuhrmann”. He was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1952. He started attending TPC because he heard that Thom Nelson would be the “young” pastor to lead the congregation. Thom married Mike and Sherrie on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1985 then they moved to West Palm Beach, Florida where Mike taught for six years. Mike finally got a teaching job back in Portland in 1991. They have now moved to North Plains and are attending the Tualatin Valley Presbyterian Church there. Mike was baptized in the original Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna, Virginia in 1953. They have a daughter Sierra Lauren, born in 1994.

This picture of Mike was taken in front of the old barn in the Brown’s Ferry Park in Tualatin where he worked for the Willowbrook summer art camp from 1984 to 1997.



1985



SIMMONS, SHERRIE  
& MICHAEL  
1992

## Wahl

William Paul (Bill) and Claudia Marie Hannibal were charter members from Sherwood. They had three children: William Joseph (known as BJ) (born 1970), Tiffany Gale (1973) and Kimberly Marie (1980). Bill was a general housing contractor and Claudia was and still is a teacher, having taught kindergarten for 8 years and first grade for five years.

Bill was born in Salem and Claudia was born in Brownesville, Texas, but B.J., Tiffany and Kimi were all born in Portland. Their family has lived in Sherwood for 25 years. They were drawn to TPC by the friendly, warm manner of Thom. Claudia called one Sunday to inquire about service times and Thom answered, gave the time, and asked, "Are you coming?" They arrived not 20 minutes later to find him waiting outside for them! Claudia says, "How could that personal touch be beat?" They brought their friends, the Gehlen family, the following week and DOUBLED the youth group with B.J., Tiffany, Derek and Alison! That week Bill's pickup truck was "commandeered" to pick up a donated organ and Claudia began teaching Sunday School soon after on her own and then teaming with Becky Glover—later she shepherded the Preschool for one year. They were very active while their children were growing up and still come occasionally.



## MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN LOST OVER TIME

### **Bond**

Kathy and Don daughters Katie (1978) and Kyla (1981), he was a bank executive and very active in the Ore. National Guard, she was a pre-school teacher. Kathy was on the original session as the Outreach elder, she made flyers for our outreach program, had the church involved in one of the early Tualatin Crawfish parades on a flatbed truck showing our "Building a Church". Their daughter Katie was active in the church youth group and went to church camp with Jill Bolton. They moved to Canby in the early 1990's and switched to a church near there so their girls could go to church with school classmates.

### **Brewer**

Kay and Kent were in their mid-thirties. They had 2 blonde daughters and lived on 103<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Tualatin. They were divorced soon after the church's chartering and dropped out of membership in the church.

By the time this booklet was organized, there was no photograph of this family available.

### **Denissen**

Deborah and Mark were in their early thirties. They had 2 children. He worked for Texas Instruments. They moved to Texas shortly after the church's chartering and no photograph is available.

### **Gehlen**

Marcie and Mike Mike is a dentist in Tualatin, they had 2 children, Derek (born about 1970) and Alison (born about 1973), and were divorced in the early 1990's. No photograph available.

### **McLain**

Cathy and John Jr. were in their mid-thirties. They had a son and a daughter. She was a free-lance worker for the Cherry Growers Association and he worked for PGE Company. John was the church treasurer for several years. Cathy's father was a very active rose gardener and planted roses in our curved garden on the corner of Boones Ferry and Siletz. There is no photograph available of this family.

### **Kelly**

Nancy was a "stay-at-home mom", very conscientious, and had 2 sons. She was married at the time of chartering but her husband, who was a pilot for a private company, did not attend church and they were divorced shortly after chartering, then she moved to Corvallis. There is no photograph available of this family.

### **Littleton**

Katie and Mark were a low-key, young couple that moved to Colorado a couple of years after chartering. She was a more regular attendee than he was. There is no photograph available of this couple.

## **Mullens**

Roni and Jim were faithful members for several years before moving to Molalla. They had a son Joshua who was born in 1980. Jim worked as a cashier in a bank and Roni also worked. Jim helped the Buffams and Dave Baber with the youth group. They were chairmen of one of the Mariner groups in the 80's with the Barrys and the group was called "The Mull-barries" in honor of these two co-chairs. They were active in church activities but changed their membership when they moved. No photograph is available of this family.

## **Mullens**

Phyllis is the mother of Jim Mullens. Her husband drove the van for Loaves and Fishes. He was a career Navy man. Phyllis was a regular church attendee with Roni and Jim. She moved away when they went to Molalla and there is no photograph available of her.

## **Ritzer-Christie**

Virginia was a divorced mother of two. Her son, Chad, was born about 1971 and her daughter was born about 1972. She worked outside the home and in about 1987 got remarried and dropped out of the church. No photograph is available of them.

## **Sanders**

Linda and Bill were one of the younger couples in the church. They were active in the Mariner group. Bill was an ex-marine. They divorced soon after we moved into our new building. Linda continued to attend the church then moved to Tigard in the '90's. There is no photograph available of either of them.

## **Skinner**

Marcia and Jim - Jim was on the original steering committee that helped organize this church and was very active in the business of the church. He was instrumental in getting the office for the church when we were in the VFW Hall. Jim was the first treasurer and the first administrative elder. He was an insurance analyst. They moved from here to Idaho then to California. Marcia was a nurse. They had 3 boys and one girl, and probably had another son after they left Tualatin. Their oldest son was Chris, and the youngest son (while they were here) was John-John who is remembered for being a very lively 2 year old who wandered around during the service in his diapers and his cowboy boots. Marcia died of cancer in November 2001. There is no photograph available of them.

## **Taitt**

Linda and Mike had 2 sons, Ryan and Justin. They ran a temporary employment agency. She had a flair for cake decorating which she did a lot of for church functions. They moved to Yakima, WA in the mid-1990's. No photograph is available now.

## **Thompson**

Caroline she was Marcia Skinner's mother, she didn't live in Tualatin, but attended our church when ever she was in town visiting. No photograph available.

### **Wilke**

Nadine had 2 daughters who were active in sports and Girl Scouts, they moved to California. The girls were born about 1973 and 1975. No photograph available.

### **Wong**

Stacy had a master's degree in teaching the deaf. She moved to Phoenix shortly after chartering. No photograph available now.

### **Wyatt**

Mary and Rod had one daughter. Rod was in the military, they were divorced soon after chartering and each moved away. There is no photograph available of them.

## ADDRESSES OF THOSE AVAILABLE IN 2007 and 2025

Carol and Dave Baber	2003	PO Box 1447, Tualatin, OR 97062
Diane and Art Barry		Deceased 2025, 2021
Denise Lahiere Benson	2007	P. O. Box 375, Neskowin, OR 97149
Lynn and Bob Bolton	2025	17655 S. W. Cheyenne Way, Tualatin, OR 97062, 2025
Luann and Steve Buffam	2007	West Linn, OR 97068 (???) Their mail was returned 6/07)
Barb and Rick Crall	2025	10055 S. W. Wasco Way, Tualatin, OR 97062
Majorie and Walter Dean		Deceased 1990, 2006
Deborah and Mark Denissen	1988	Texas
Ruth and Wally Fowler	2010	13500 SW Pacific Hwy #408, Tigard, OR 97223
Becky Glover	2020	Powell Butte, OR
Dean Glover		Deceased 2021
June and Joe Griffin	2007	13589 S.W. Prairie Road, Terre Bonne, OR 97760-9348
Jenny and Jeff Hecker	2007	Westerville, OH 43081(???) Their mail was returned 6/07)
Peggy and Bill Hodge	2004	California, 2007: 1790 Felicita Lane, Vista, CA 92083
Esther and Erv Hueckstaedt	2007	608 A Plum Court, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
Del Judy		Deceased 2019
Kathryn and Brian Lawrence	2007	184 So. River St., Unit C, St. Helens, OR 97051
Cathi and John McLain	1989	xfr to Lake Grove, OR
Connie Myers	2025	17810 S. W. Shasta Trail, Tualatin, OR 97062
Cindy and Thom Nelson	2007	429 Sugarwood Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934
Mike Nelson	2025	10268 S. W. Susquehanna, Tualatin, OR 97062
Sherry Nelson		Deceased 2025
Dale and Wayne Prindiville	2007	100 Indian hill Trail, Crystal Lake, IL 60012
Helen and Norman Remington		Deceased 1994, 1988
Linda and Robert Richter	2007	22930 SW Miami Place, Tualatin, OR 97062
Vera Rossa		Deceased 1986
Janine and Colin Saxton	2007	511 E. Third, Newberg, OR 97132
Marilyn and Don Schmidt	2025	23985 Butteville Rd, Aurora, OR 97002
James and Marcia Skinner	1985	Montana
Sherrie and Mike Simmons	2007	P. O. Box 1369, North Plains, OR 97133
Caroline Thompson	1985	Montana
Claudia and Bill Wahl	2013	P. O. Box 744, Sherwood, OR 97140



CRAWFISH  
FESTIVAL  
Parade  
1986

**“We are building”**

This was the  
summer we broke  
ground for the  
building.

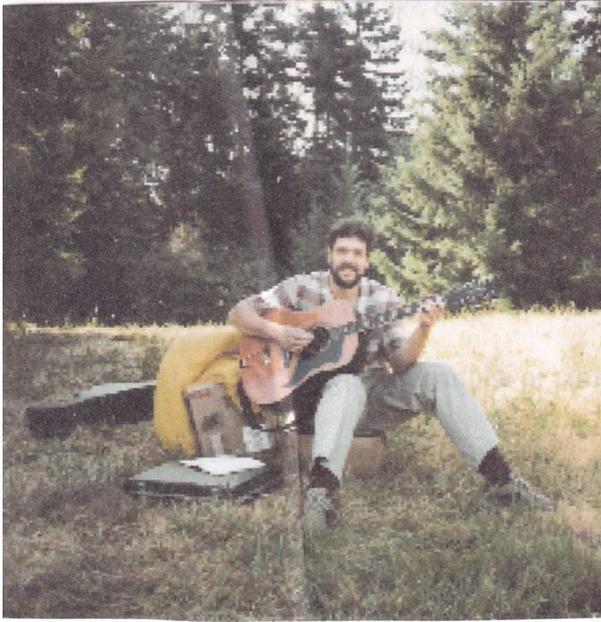




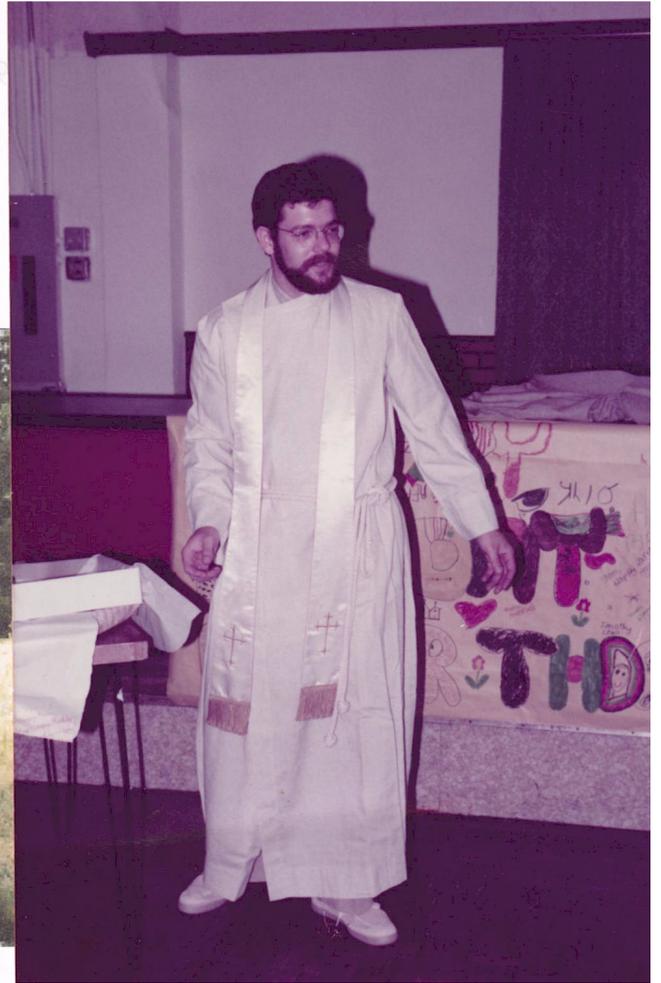
The Orange Team – Softball



Wayne and Dale Prindiville and her mother Esther Hueckstaedt



Let's sing!



The "Rev" in action



The Schmidts join us



The church surprises Thom with a “new” truck



The youth group receive a van

The Choir

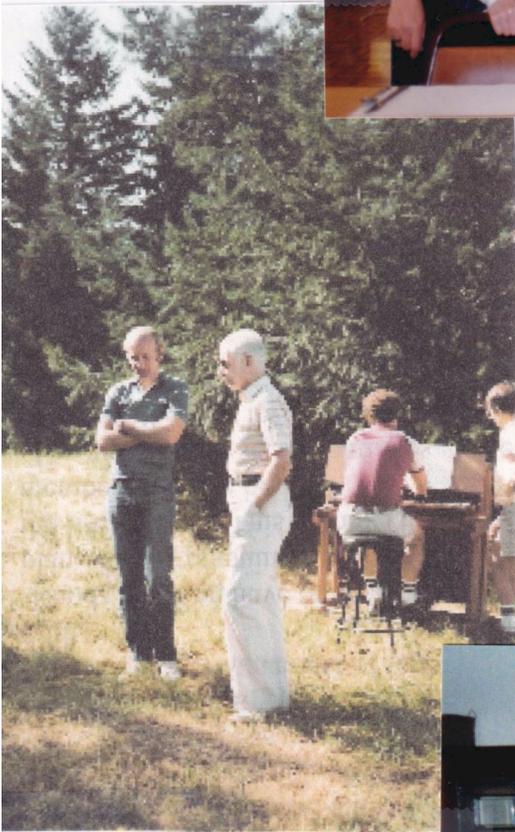


Once we wore robes! (About 1990)



Choir rehearsal (About 2000)

Serving lunch at  
The Senior Center,  
L-R: Diane Barry,  
Esther Hueckstaedt  
Marge Dean  
Dale Prindiville  
Vera Rossa



Worship on the property  
Wayne Prindiville talks to Walt Dean.

TPC's Seniors  
Marian Larson  
Walt Dean  
Susan Collier



On the Property



Getting ready for ground breaking



Worship on the property 1984



The youth  
go camping

Kendall Nelson  
and  
Erika Myers

The youth van  
and  
Andy VanSchoiack



Kendall Nelson  
and  
Katie VanSchoiack

Our cross and baptism bowl

