



Dear Friends,

Well it's the season for Christmas carols! Isn't it? If you're like me, you probably sing these carols so often this time of year, you don't always think about the words- you just let 'er rip and see where the song takes you. But every once in a while, have you ever been singing a carol and wonder: "What the heck does THAT mean?" You wouldn't be alone if you did- most of these carols were written hundreds of years ago, using language and figures unfamiliar to most of us today.

Here are three insights that might help to clear up some of the most obscure moments in caroling:

1. What on EARTH are trolls doing in 'Deck the Halls'? In the fourth line of "Deck the Halls" we sing: "Troll the ancient yule-tide carols, fa-la-la-la, la-la-la." As a kid, the only trolls I knew hid out under bridges and waited for hapless billy goats to pass by. It was kind of nice to imagine that even these foul creatures sang the odd Christmas carol or two. Alas, 'troll' here does not actually refer to a fairy tale monster. As you can probably guess, although the usage has been lost today, 'troll' here means 'to sing'. The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) tells us 'troll' comes from Old French '*troller*' and High German '*trollen*', meaning literally to wander and stroll about. This meaning eventually gave rise to the meaning of singing, descriptive of how the voice travels up and down during song.
2. And who in the world is King Wenceslas, and what's so good about him? We can be forgiven for not remembering ol' Wenceslas- he was born all the way back in 907 CE in Bohemia, the modern day Czech Republic. His grandparents unified the government of the region and tried to bring the Christian faith to the people but were largely unsuccessful. Wenceslas eventually became king as a boy, but being too young to rule his mother ruled as a regent in his stead. Cruel and intolerant, his mother persecuted believers and had priests put to death. Wenceslas finally put an end to her oppression when he assumed his role as king. As king, Wenceslas managed what his grandparents could not- a Bohemia

unified in faith. He was known as Wenceslas the Good, because of his kindness towards the poor. Though King Wenceslas was assassinated by his own brother, Boleslav, in 929, he is to this day honored as the patron saint of the Czech Republic. Oh, and the Feast of Stephen? The feast of Stephen commemorates the stoning of Stephen in Acts and is celebrated on the 26th of December, the day after Christmas.

3. Finally, was it absolutely necessary for the author of "Silent Night" to portray Mary as a round, young virgin? That just seems to be too much information, doesn't it? Fortunately, the actual words are "Silent night, holy night. All is calm. All is bright. 'Round yon virgin, mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace" OK, still, "'round yon virgin"? Well, in 1862 John Freeman Young, an Episcopal priest at Trinity Church in New York City translated the popular German carol "*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*" into "Silent Night, Holy Night." Using language archaic even in his own day, Young describes the scene at the manger where all is calm and bright "there around" the Virgin and child. 'Round, of course is shortened form of 'around', truncated to better fit the meter. And 'yon' is a shortened form of 'yonder', as in "But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the East. And Juliet is the sun!" (Romeo and Juliet Act 2, Scene 2) You know in Texas, we would translate yonder, or yon, as "that there", as in "all is calm and bright around that there virgin, that mother and child."

Well, I hope this helps. I'm sure there are more things that don't make sense, but these are three moments that definitely put strange looks on your faces when you sing them- believe me, I know. I see you. ☺

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Ken

January Birthdays!

1/03	Cathy Lambeth	1/20	John Collins
1/04	Mary Shiffer	1/21	Pam Bowen
1/09	Steve Olsen	1/24	Greg Sundt
1/09	Milce da Silva	1/25	Evan Hutchinson
1/10	Kathryn Dix	1/28	Mark Hansen
1/12	Susan Springer	1/28	Ted Miller
1/14	Emily Hunt-Nelson	1/28	Nick Dannemiller
1/14	Jim Sanco	1/29	Randy Beyer
1/15	Karen Jones	1/29	Janet Winterrowd
1/18	Mary Maleta	1/30	Pam Cameron
1/19	Scott MacHaffie	1/31	Neil Olson

A Message from Chris Robertson

Happy New Year! As many of you know, 2007 is our twenty-fifth anniversary year. To help us reflect on who we are, Adult Education is publishing a statement of faith book. We hope that everyone in our TPC family, members, friends, visitors, will write a statement of faith no more than one page long. We will be collecting them during the month of January and have the collection ready for distribution on Ash Wednesday--God willing. So, please take some time to think about what you believe and then get your thoughts down on paper. You may email your statement of faith to Chris Robertson at christina_937@msn.com or you may place it in a specially marked box in the narthex.

Sunday morning Adult Education classes will start again on January 7 from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM. Rich Robertson will continue his Bible Workshop. We have a new adult education teacher. Shannon Hinkle, our newest TPC member, will be teaching a class on the minor prophets. Shannon has an MDiv from Yale, and we're looking forward to what she has to share with us. Information re: the exact start date of Shannon's class will be announced as soon as we have finalized plans.

Don't forget the Women's Retreat featuring award winning novelist, Jane Kirkpatrick. We need to be at Menucha Friday night, January 19, 2007 in time to get settled and make it to the 7:00 PM evening meal. Chris Robertson is

putting together an email group to get participants more detailed information. Any questions? Call Chris at (503) 612-0963.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The peaceful repose of the soul of Jay Wilcox's sister, Carolyn Reid, who died on Dec. 12.; the MacKay family following the death of Bruce's mother on December 11; Linda Fukasawa and her family following the death of her father, Milt Beck; Craig Wiggers, who will be deployed on Jan. 9th to Iraq to train Iraqi police; Mike Springer, who will be in chemotherapy until March, 2007; Ruben Gonzales, Cacye Cobb's father, who is undergoing cancer treatments; Tom Hahn, who is about to start physical therapy; Dave and Barb Ring, friends of Toni MacHaffie, as they cope with Dave's ALS diagnosis; Wes Taylor from Hilltop Methodist Church, who is undergoing testing for memory problems; Gene and Barb Bradshaw, dealing with Gene's prostate cancer diagnosis; Elizabeth Shafer, undergoing medical tests; Delores Allen, Evelyn Hart's mother, dealing with Alzheimer's; Tim McBride, nephew of the Shiffers, for deployment to Iraq; Christina, Julie Van Buren's daughter while going to school in Sweden; Karen Trine in her fight against breast cancer; Robert J. Spivey (Diane Adams' nephew who is serving in Iraq).

Prayer request forms are in the front of the wooden Prayer Request Box on a table in the narthex. If you have a prayer request, fill out a form and place it in the box. On the form indicate whether you want your prayer request added to the prayer chain, shared during the service, or kept confidential.

General Fund Status January – November 2006



	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 205,433	\$ 180,290
Expense	<u>\$ 210,561</u>	<u>\$ 183,027</u>
Net	\$ -5,128	\$ -2,737

	November 2006	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 18,324	\$ 16,198
Expense	<u>\$ 18,869</u>	<u>\$ 17,924</u>
Net	\$ -545	\$ -1,726

A New Year in Faith Village



Winter Classes

Preschool Class for 3-5 yr olds

K-5th grade - David as A Boy, Peter & Cornelius

Middle School - Creative Lessons on Jesus

High School Class - Bookmarks: Bible Exploration

We are setting up teams of 3 to share the teaching in each class Jan. – March

Sign up on the sheets in the narthex or contact Shari Olsen at ssjkolsen@msn.com or 635-4019.

Teacher orientation and planning meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 11:45 a.m.

A light lunch will be provided. Bring your calendars!

If you are interested in teaching an occasional “specialty” class, – e.g. computer or cooking, please let us know.

Schedule Change



Starting October 29 we moved to a separate Sunday School and Worship time.

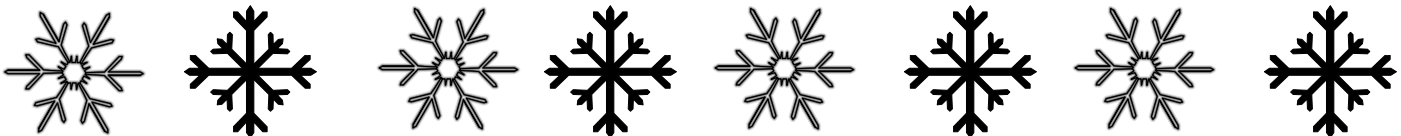
Classes for 3 yrs.-12th grade are now held from 9:30 – 10:15 am. All are invited to participate in the Worship Service at 10:30 am.

We would like to know how this change is working for you and your family. **Please fill out the form included in the newsletter and return it to the office.**



Thank you, the CE committee

We need someone to keep the **bulletin boards** updated on a regular basis; please let Shari or the office know if you would like to help!



Upcoming CE Committee meetings Thursday, Jan. 11 and Feb. 8 All are welcome!

25 YEARS of TPC

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of worship as a congregation
Epiphany Sunday -January 7th
with a
Special service commemorating our first worship and
Beginning our anniversary celebration year

Sunday January 7th 10:30 am
Reception following worship



STORYTELLERS

Throughout the anniversary, stay and hear tales during coffee time
Tales of joy (We got a building!)
of woe (It smells like beer!)
of silliness (birthday chickens??)
and cheer.

Storytellers for January include

Mike Nelson and the story of hiring a minister...where did they find that guy?
Barb Crall with the story of the first Sunday Morning...got tp??

Future storytellers themes include:

The birthday chicken...where did it come from?
The wackiest youth group trip ever.
The VFW hall – the perfect worship place!
And many more!



February celebrates our
TPC family members who do not worship with us with
Boy Scout, Tuesday's Treasures and Tualatin Valley Preschool Sundays.

Save the date: Saturday May 12th, 2007
TPC anniversary dinner with special guests

**MARK THESE FELLOWSHIP EVENTS
ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

1/13/07 – Egyptian exhibit at Portland Art Museum. Sign up is on the Tower. This is a family event.

1/28/07 – Potluck following the service.

2/17/07 – Winterhawks game – Dash for Cash. This is a family event.

2/21/07 – Ash Wednesday service and Soup/Salad Potluck

2/25/07 – Tuesday Treasurers are invited to attend church and Potluck. This is a family event.

3/3/07 – Deacons' Auction

Is anyone interested in putting on the Seder Dinner this year? Please contact Deborah Lewis if you would be willing to coordinate the dinner. 503-692-5504

MISSION IN MOTION...

Tualatin Presbyterian Church receives award for work with Treasures

On Dec. 13th Carolyn Locke, TPC Treasures Coordinator, shared the following **great news**:

"It is with great excitement and pleasure that I announce the news I received today: TPC has been selected as the recipient of the "James Goodpasture Award for Ministry with Special Populations", a Union-PSCE Congregation Award. The **Presbyterian School of Christian Education** administers five awards; open to all congregations in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

As a new award this year, the James Goodpasture Award comes with a check for \$1,000 and is based upon the following criteria:

- *Extent to which the program demonstrates excellence in ministry to persons with developmental disabilities and to their families.
- *Effectiveness of the program for encouraging congregation-wide awareness of the contributions persons with developmental disabilities can make to the life of the church.

*High level of support of the program within the congregation.

*Personal growth of teachers, leaders, and participants.

*The program's effective outreach beyond the church's membership.

*Spirit of creativity and sharing in the program.

At the urging of Joan Nardi, TPC Mission Elder, and with help from Laura Spurrell, Steve Ristow, Denise Collins, and Mike & Mary Shiffer, I composed the application segments with inclusion of supporting materials and photos. The process offered the chance to reflect upon the abundance of blessings that have come from our Treasures outreach ministry "...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". (Matthew 6:21) In the big picture, regardless of our silly snacks and crazy carnivals, what we are about is sharing the Good News of God's unconditional love. Thanks to all at TPC who have helped with our ministry to those with developmental disabilities."

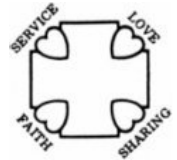
We are truly blessed to have Carolyn and the many others who share their gifts of time, love and understanding with the Treasures. It is an amazing thing to participate in a Treasures' event expecting to give and find that you have received much more than you have given.

Another Opportunity To Share Your Gifts

On Wednesday evening, December 27th, the Mission Committee will be coordinating a meal for the volunteer medical personnel who will be staffing the "FREE" Urgent Care Clinic for the un-insured. The clinic is located in the Washington County Health Department Clinic just off Hwy 99 at 15296 SW Royalty Parkway, Tigard. We will be serving 15 medical volunteers dinner which will include a main dish, salad, veggie or fruit platter and simple dessert. Please sign-up on the tower bulletin board, or call Joan Nardi @ 503-684-6529 for more information.



*Tualatin Presbyterian
Church Calendar
January 2007*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Bells - 6:45 pm TPC Spirit Jam- 7:00pm Choir - 7:30 pm	4	5	6 Middle School Activity Movie Night
7 Adult Ed - 9:15 am Sunday School - 9:30 Worship - 10:30 am 25th Anniversary Kick-off Connections / Teacher Training - 11:45 am 5:30-7pm Middle School Youth	8 Red Cross Blood Drive 2pm - 7pm Spiritual Formation (off site) 7:00 pm Deacons - 6:30 pm	9 Mission Cmt. 7:00 pm	10 Bible Study - 10:00 am Bells - 6:45 pm TPC Spirit Jam- 7:00pm Outreach Cmt. 7:00 pm Choir - 7:30 pm	11 CE Meeting 7:00 pm	12	13 Fellowshi p event - Treasure s of Ancient Egypt
14 Adult Ed - 9:15 am Sunday School - 9:30 Worship - 10:30 am	15 Worship Cmt. 7:00 pm	16	17 Bells - 6:45 pm TPC Spirit Jam- 7:00pm Choir - 7:30 pm	18 Session 7:00 pm	19 News- Letter Deadline	20 Women's Retreat 1/19-1/21 @ Menucha
21 Adult Ed - 9:15 am Sunday School - 9:30 Worship - 10:30 am 5:30-7pm Middle School Youth	22	23	24 Bells - 6:45 pm TPC Spirit Jam- 7:00pm Choir - 7:30 pm	25 Session 7:00 pm	26	27
28 Adult Ed - 9:15 am Sunday School - 9:30 Worship - 10:30 am Congregational Meeting Church Potluck Fellowship Event	29	30	31 Bells - 6:45 pm TPC Spirit Jam- 7:00pm Choir - 7:30 pm			