



Dear friends,

As you walk into the Stitt Library on the campus of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, you pass underneath a key stone with an image of an open Bible and a sword with the words *spiritus gladius*, or “sword of the spirit”. This image comes from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians when he exhorts his hearers to “take the helmet of salvation and sword of the spirit, which is Holy Scripture.” (Ephesians 6:17) Part of the meaning here is a challenge to us to see that the way of Jesus always requires followers to trade in pistols for persuasion and arms for argument; to see that the way of Jesus Christ is never consistent with force or compulsion. It also reminds me of another passage from Revelation imagining scripture as being like a double-edged sword extending from the mouth of the risen Christ. And personally, while I find this image of Jesus *qua* sword-swallower just as bizarre as the next person, I resonate with the sense of scripture being like a double-edged sword, able to cut in both good and in not-so-good ways.

I write this piece on an historic day. This morning with broken-legged little Ella on my left and squirmy William on my right, we watched (as much as a trio like this could) the inauguration of our 44<sup>th</sup> President. Scripture played a prominent role in the inauguration, whether in Obama’s speech (“it’s time to put away childish things”), or the more obvious moments like Pastor Rick Warren’s prayer and in The Rev. Joseph Lowery’s surprisingly funny benediction. But as I watched this spectacle, I couldn’t help but think about how Holy Scripture played a more behind the scenes role in making this moment, a moment in which an African-American becomes president, so meaningful. And I couldn’t help but feel kind of ambivalent about the double-edged nature of this role.

On the one hand it is well known how fundamental Holy Scripture has been to the civil rights movement. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. filled his sermons and speeches with the power and promise of the words of the prophets. Dr. King identified with Moses saying he could see into the promised land even though he might not enter into it in his own life time. When marchers were attacked with dogs and water canons, it was Holy Scripture and hymns inspired by Scripture that nourished them in southern prisons. It was Holy Scripture that compelled northern, white pastors like The Rev. James Reeb to join black marchers in Selma, Alabama. Faithful unto death, Reeb was murdered in Selma, beaten to death by a mob of white men who had gathered to break up the march. Indeed, Paul’s words telling us in Christ there is no slave or free and that in Christ the dividing wall of hostility has already been broken down- it seems obvious to our ears today that Scripture impels us towards the love of our neighbor no matter who they are. But as is so often the case, what seems obvious to one generation was scarcely imaginable to another.

For it was Holy Scripture that fanned the flames of those who did not welcome change. It was Holy Scripture that supported those who resisted King and his Freedom Riders. It was Holy Scripture that led untold men and women to believe

that God did not make black men and women to be equal to whites. It was Holy Scripture that provided the grounds for Southern preachers to tell their congregations slavery was not only permitted, but it was *mandated* by the Bible.

Ever hear of the curse of Ham? In Genesis 9:20-27 we hear the sordid story of Noah and his sons. After getting crooked on new wine, Noah passes out in, let’s just say, a state of undress. His son Ham comes in and, gasp, sees Noah in the Full Monty. Noah’s other sons, Shem and Japheth, no doubt wanting to avoid having the unfortunate visual seared into their brains, walked backwards into the room with a coat on their backs. When Noah came to the next morning and mixed himself a bloody Mary (this one definitely not virgin!), he became so angry with Ham he cursed him and his offspring, Canaan, saying that Canaan was to be the slave of the other sons. The Hebrew Bible was probably attempting to justify the later violent takeover of Canaan. (No, we don’t want to take over your land...but the Bible says we *have* to...sorry!)

Yes, Ken, but what does Israel’s justifying their hostile takeover do with white Americans justifying slavery? Well it didn’t take long for other ancient interpreters to expand the meaning of “Canaanites” to claim Canaan referred to any race having a darker complexion. Listen to the church father Origen in a sermon probably delivered around the year 200 AD/CE: “For the dark Egyptians are prone to a degenerate life and quickly sink to every slavery of the vices. Look at the origin of the race and you will discover that their father Ham, who had laughed at his father’s nakedness, deserved a judgment of this kind, that his son Canaan should be a servant to his brothers, in which case the condition of bondage would prove the wickedness of his conduct. Not without merit, therefore, does the discolored posterity imitate the ignobility of the race.” I bet *that* made for lively discussion at the coffee hour after church.

So with this long tradition of seeing the curse of Ham as referring to a Biblical mandate for enslaving African people, and Biblical books like Philemon in which Paul not only does not question the institution of slavery but fully supports it, isn’t hard to see how most American pulpits until the civil rights era either saw Holy Scripture as either supportive of slavery and segregation or at least ambivalent. And what a sharp edge this side of Scripture proved to be and continues to prove to be indeed for America.

The truth is Scripture can be used to heal or to hurt. The good news is we’ve been given free minds to know the difference. So while we look forward to a new day, and we continue to walk the hard path of forgiveness, we as the church must not forget our painful past, lest we forget the heroes it produced. And when the truth becomes too hard for us to bear, we can take comfort in Christ’s words from the Gospel of John: “You shall know the truth. And the truth shall set you free.”  
En garde, friends- there’s a sword around here.



## Note from Nicole

A new year means some new changes at TPC and I am pleased to be a part of them! For me, I will be concentrating more on coordinating all of our wonderful ministries and communicating them to the congregation. Hopefully, this will lead to more people being served and better quality programs.

As a first step, in coordination with your wonderful elders and deacons, we have made a ministry directory. This directory has sections for every area of ministry with listings of programs offered and contact information. This is a great resource for new members or for established members who are looking for new areas of involvement. I have to say, in putting the book together, I was impressed by all the different ministry opportunities that TPC provides. Whether you are looking for a one-time opportunity, or a more long-term commitment, there is a place for you! The ministry directory is now available for you to pick up any Sunday morning.

Over the next few months, we will be doing more to raise the profiles of our ministries, including a whole month dedicated to ministry and service. We will be exploring different ways to communicate with the congregation and to make our ministries spiritually nourishing, faithful to our gospel calling, and a whole lot of fun. If you have a great ministry idea, please feel free to contact me. My door (or really, email inbox) is always open.  
nreibe@gmail.com

### INTRODUCING

#### Bill and Barb Thomason

Bill was born and raised in Kingsport, Tennessee. He joined the Air Force at a young age and was stationed in North Africa, northern New York and California.

Barbara was born in San Jose, CA and lived in the L.A. area until age 11 when her parents wisely



moved to Lake Oswego. Barbara graduated from Lake Oswego High School and went on a scholarship to Oregon College of Education (now WOC). When she received her degree,

she moved to California to teach.

Bill and Barbara met at the apartment complex in Lompoc, CA where Barb was living—near Vandenberg Air Force Base. After they were married, they moved to Santa Maria. They had two children while living there – Tami and Bob.

Bill decided it was time to leave the Air Force so they ended up in Oregon living near Barb's folks. Barb soon had a job with the Oregon City School District and taught first and second grade for 32 years in the same classroom. When Barb began having children of former students, she knew it was time to retire. Barb loved teaching and it was hard for her to leave.

Bill worked as a salesman for an industrial laundry and then became District Manager of Overall Laundry in Portland. He decided to retire when Barb retired.

Their daughter, Tami, is Office Manager for the City of Newberg. She has 3 children, 2 girls and a boy. Their son, Bob, lives near Sacramento and is a Computer Systems Analyst. He also has 3 children, 2 boys and a girl. Their oldest granddaughter now has a 16-month-old girl. They're great grandparents!!! They love to be with their grandchildren and to watch their ball games – even in the rain.

Bill and Barb have traveled to the Boston/New York area to see the fall colors. They love going to Mexico and have been to Guadalajara and Mazatlan. They hope to take many more trips.

Pam Cameron is their deacon.

# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS and WHAT'S HAPPENING



This is to introduce the Ewing family. Meet Lisa, Tom and their boys, McKinley and Blair. They have been coming to TPC for almost two years. They became members in the spring of 2007 at the same time that McKinley and Blair were baptized.

Lisa and Tom have been married for 14 years and live in Tualatin. Lisa grew up in Oregon and attended the U of O. She works at a pacemaker defibrillator company. Her passion is horse back riding and scrap booking. However working and being an active parent takes first place. Tom grew up in Michigan and went to OIT. He works for a winch company. He enjoys snowboarding and remodeling, and has been known to even move walls.

McKinley is a 4th grader at Byrom and is a soccer player. Blair is a second grader at Byrom and likes football. Both boys are cub scouts and I am sure you have seen them in their uniforms selling popcorn,. They really like helping in the kitchen at church! They also like Logos on Sunday nights.

Not to be left out of the family is Chance, their three year old Australian Shepherd. The boys consider Chance a younger brother! All dog lovers will understand this.

The Ewings enjoy camping and spent a few weeks in Montana last summer in their RV. This February they are making a return trip to Disneyland. Lisa is an expert on scheduling a Disneyland vacations and I know I wish I had talked to her before I scheduled my trip!

What Lisa and Tom like best about TPC is the small community flavor and the authentic, genuine worship. Make sure you meet this great TPC family. Look for them on Sunday morning seated on the kitchen side of the sanctuary.

Carolyn Hale, Deacon

**Blood** **RED CROSS**  
**DRIVE** **BLOOD DRIVE**  
**AT TPC**  
**Wednesday**  
**January 28, 2009**  
**2:00 to 7:00 PM.**

**2009 WOMEN'S RETREAT**  
**Friday, Jan. 30 through Sunday, Feb. 1**  
at Alton L. Collins Retreat Center.  
**Being and doing –**  
**the Mary and Martha in all of us.**

The deadline to sign up is Sunday, January 25. Registration forms are on the tower in the narthex. There's still space. Don't miss out.

Collins Retreat Center charges \$180 for a single room for two nights, \$150 per person for a double room for two nights. This includes 6 meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch). Linens and towels are provided.

Saturday, full day with lunch, is \$37.00 (no overnight stay). Breakfast is \$9.00, dinner is \$15.00.

## **NEW CHIME CHOIR FORMING!**

Ready to make some music? Join the new chime choir that will begin rehearsing on **Monday, February 2nd**. The chimes are the tubular instruments that the bell choir often plays in conjunction with the bells. Chimes are much easier to play than bells. This is a **BEGINNING** group, absolutely no experience is required and you don't need to know how to read music (yet!) We will meet Monday evenings from 6:00-6:45 PM. Rehearsals will be fun; we'll laugh as we learn to make music together.

## **Lake Oswego Millennium Dance Band**

will play a benefit dance for  
Lakeridge High School  
Valentine's Day

**Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

7:30-9:30 PM

Questions? Talk to Scott Mitchell  
503-885-0766

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**SATURDAY, FEB 21ST, 7:30 AM**

Please join us for a great breakfast, good conversation and a chance to get to know other men in our church family.

If you have questions, talk to Chip Kyle after worship or by phone at 503-387-3940.

## **FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

The fellowship committee is hosting a Family Game Night on **Sat., February 21 at 6:00 PM.** This is an evening of fun for kids of all ages. We'll share hearty hors d'oeuvres and dessert and play games...board games, card games. Bring your favorite game. Look for a sign-up sheet on the tower.

## **PRESBYTERY OF THE CASCADES LEADERSHIP FAIR**

**Saturday, February 28, 2009**

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church, Portland

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)

The Cascades Leadership Fair is an event sponsored by the Congregational Support Committee. It features guest speakers and timely workshops for a day-long event of fellowship and learning. This is an event for every Presbyterian in the pew as well as for church leaders and staff. For more information, go to [www.cascadespresbytery.org](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org). On the home page in the Coming Events section, click on Feb. 28, Leadership Fair.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

The Seder Dinner will be Saturday, April 4.

## **BELL CONCERT**

On **Saturday, May 2**, your TPC bell choir will present a concert sure to delight. You'll hear original compositions written specifically for bells, as well as some familiar arrangements. You may hear some of the Christmas pieces that were never played due to the snow and ice. It promises to be a delightful evening of music and laughter. Please save the date: Saturday, May 2.

## **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

**A mega thank you** to everyone who provided gifts and donations for our annual Christmas Giving Tree. This charitable act assists local families who would not otherwise be able to provide Christmas gifts or a special dinner for their children. Each family served sends their gratitude for your kindness.

In addition, we thank Craig Bowen for hitching up his sled (4-wheel drive and chains) and coming to the Mission Committee's rescue by spending several hours plowing through the unpredictable roads to deliver the gifts in a timely manner – a true hero in the hour of need. Additionally, Barb and Rick Crall also deserve hero status as they graciously took the remaining three gift tags from the tree, purchased the gifts and also assisted in delivery of the gifts for one of the families. We are truly blessed to have folks in our midst who willingly respond to the needs of others in our community!

Joan Nardi, Mission Elder

## **OUR CHRISTMAS TREE**

Here's what decorated our Christmas tree:  
23 scarves, 9 combo scarves/gloves, 12 hats/glove combos, 76 hats, 65 pairs of socks, 136 pairs of gloves, 1 pair of slippers, 1 ear warmer and 1 jacket.

Thank you one and all for your generosity. These items were donated to Janus Youth Programs, an organization that has been changing lives and building futures for children, youth and families in Oregon and Washington since 1972.

Barbara Harriman, Mission Committee

**To Our TPC Family...**for your prayers and support this past year as we lost our parents, we give you thanks.

Carolyn and Brian Locke

## HELPING EACH OTHER

In these challenging economic times, it makes sense that we help each other. To this end, we're starting a new section on the tower in the narthex where you are invited and encouraged to post job openings/opportunities and job requests. Need a babysitter? Check the tower for available sitters.

## A NEW COOKBOOK

Tualatin Presbyterian Church is undertaking a new project in 2009. We are publishing a cookbook! The deacons initiated the idea and my sister called and asked "would you be interested in doing this?" I am very interested. So here we go, folks.

The project will include collecting personal favorite recipes from our members with little stories of how your family has enjoyed the recipe, where/who it came from, which special occasions you have served it, etc. I visualize this project as fun, a bit of TPC history, and a favorite aid in the kitchen as well as a fund raiser. The profits from this project will be deposited into the Deacons' Helping Hands Fund.

Would you like to serve on our Cookbook Committee? There will be very few meetings, but we will need to reach consensus on format, pricing, layout, etc. Also there will be some tasting. Please contact me at 503-620-4040 or at lynns44@verizon.net if you have an interest in serving on this committee.

Sincerely, Lynn Scroggin

## TPC LIBRARY UPDATE

Thanks to Chris and Rich Robertson the TPC library has purchased a series of DVD's. Listed below are DVD's that are now available in the TPC library downstairs. Thanks to Diane Barry for cataloging all of them.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| DVD/229   | After the New Testament: the Writings of the Apostolic fathers<br>Ehrman, Prof. Bart D.                    |
| DVD/222   | The Book of Genesis<br>Rendsburg, Prof. Gary A.  |
| DVD/201   | Great World Religions: Christianity<br>Johnson, Prof. Luke Timothy   |
| DVD/220.4 | The Christianities: Christian Scriptures and the Battles over -<br>Authentication<br>Ehrman, Prof. Bart D. |
| DVD/220.4 | Early Christianity: the Experience of the Divine<br>Johnson, Prof. Luke Timothy                            |
| DVD/221   | The Old Testament<br>Levine, Prof. Amy-Jill  |
| DVD/225   | The History of the Bible: the Making of the New Testament Canon<br>Ehrman, Prof. Bart D.                   |
| DVD/225   | The New Testament<br>Ehrman, Prof. Bart D.   |
| DVD/232.9 | The Historical Jesus<br>Ehrman, Prof. Bart D.  |
| DVD/238   | St. Augustine's "Confessions"<br>Cook, Prof. William R.  |
| DVD/270.5 | Reason and Faith: Philosophy in the Middle Ages<br>Williams, Prof. Thomas                                  |
| DVD/270.9 | The History of Christianity in the Reformation Era<br>Gregory, Prof. Brad S.                               |
| DVD/294.5 | Great World Religions: Hinduism<br>Muesse, Prof. Mark W.   |
| DVD/296   | Great World Religions: Judaism<br>Gafni, Prof. Isaiah M.   |
| DVD/297   | Great World Religions: Islam<br>Esposito, Prof. John L   |

**WHAT IS PER CAPITA? For 2009, it is \$22.55 per member.**

Tualatin Presbyterian Church is a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and, as such, has a relationship with every other church in the denomination, as well as with the governing bodies: Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

In our Cascades Presbytery, per capita supports meetings of Presbytery, Council and committees, regional offices in Portland, Eugene and Phoenix, work of our Presbytery Stated Clerk and his administrative assistant, and basic communications through Omnibus, the Presbytery newspaper, the web site and mailings.

Per capita has been compared to a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water and telephone in order to remain connected and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us.

Tualatin Presbyterian Church must pay a 2009 per capita fee of \$22.55 for each member. This expense is not included in the annual TPC budget. Each member is asked to pay his/her own per capita fee. Reminder: This is an individual fee, not a family fee. Please make your check payable to TPC and write per capita on the comment line. Checks can be put in the offering plate or turned in to the office. Thank you.

**COOKIE PLATTERS LEFT BEHIND**

On the Saturday in December before the snow hit, we held a cookie sale. Many of you donated cookies to this sale, but have you picked up your platter? There are many still here at the church. Please take your platter home; you may need it...for next year. Thanks.

**POP CAN RECYCLING CONTINUES**

Proceeds go the women's retreat account to help offset the cost of the speaker. The next retreat will be Friday through Sunday, January 30 through February 1, 2009 at Alton Collins Retreat Center.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1/03	Cathy Lambeth	1/28	Erin Hagan
1/04	Mary Shiffer	1/28	Mark Hansen
1/09	Steve Olsen	1/28	Ted Miller
1/12	Susan Springer	1/28	Nick Dannemiller
1/15	Karen Jones	1/29	Randy Beyer
1/18	Mary Maleta	1/29	Casey Sparks
1/19	Scott MacHaffie	1/29	Janet Winterrowd
1/21	Bill Thomason	1/30	Pam Cameron
1/21	Pam Bowen	1/31	Neil Olson
1/24	Greg Sundt		

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2/02	Daylene Long	2/20	Shirley Schultz
2/03	Rhoda Friesen	2/20	Craig Bowen
2/07	Patrick Mauer	2/20	Arielle Mazzuca
2/07	Dale MacHaffie	2/22	Alexandria Winslow
2/09	Lynne Winkler	2/23	Brian Locke
2/11	Tom Hahn	2/24	Lynne Bolton
2/12	Marc Olson	2/24	Scott Mitchell
2/17	Skyler Stevenson	2/25	Cathy Chase
2/18	Terri Mitchell	2/28	Adam Kinyon
2/19	Mary Ortez		



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### **TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

9230 SW Siletz Drive, Tualatin, OR 97062

**Rev. Ken Evers-Hood**

**Phone:** 503-692-4160      **Web Address:** [www.tpcspirit.org](http://www.tpcspirit.org)

**Worship Service – Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

**Elders:** Craig Bowen, Norm Dannemiller, Paula Miller, Scott Mitchell, Joan Nardi, Adele Pelletier, Meg Price, Chris Robertson and Marsha Steffen

**Deacons:** Rob Ayers, Edda Brown, Pam Cameron, Carolyn Hale, Jack Lemmon, Sherry Nelson, Judy Nix, Bill Smiley, Kathy Sweetland, Julie Van Buren, Linda Watkins

**Treasurer:** Mike Shiffer  
e-mail: [treasurer@tpcspirit.org](mailto:treasurer@tpcspirit.org)

**Clerk of Session:** Mary Shiffer

**Webmaster:** Melissa Evers-Hood  
e-mail: [webmaster@tpcspirit.org](mailto:webmaster@tpcspirit.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Susan Springer  
e-mail: [newsletter@tpcspirit.org](mailto:newsletter@tpcspirit.org)

**Administrative Assistants:** Rhoda Friesen and Susan Springer  
e-mail: [rhoda@tpcspirit.org](mailto:rhoda@tpcspirit.org) [susan@tpcspirit.org](mailto:susan@tpcspirit.org)

**Music Director:** Kris Sparks  
e-mail: [music.director@tpcspirit.org](mailto:music.director@tpcspirit.org)

**Bell Choir Director:** Martha Wilson  
e-mail: [bells@tpcspirit.org](mailto:bells@tpcspirit.org)

**Music Accompanist:** Ron Fabbro

**Art Director:** Ellen VanSchoiack

**Bereavement Committee:** Pam Cameron

**Wedding Coordinator:** Stacy Mauer

#### **Church Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm, Friday – 9:00 a.m. to noon