



Dear friends,

Well another Lenten season is upon us. If you grew up in a liturgical tradition you might know Lent is the forty day season leading up to Easter marked by simplicity, even austerity depending on the church. To many this is a season of preparation and contemplation, making us ready for Easter. As a part of this preparation you might hear folks ask one another whether they are giving something up for Lent. One of my friends down in Austin was on their local public radio about a week ago talking about how he's going to try to give up TV for Lent...and how the thought of it is already making him nervous. Or you might hear some of our more creative cats buck this tradition a little bit and say rather than giving something up, they are preferring to take something up- and they are committing to doing something positive like volunteer at the food pantry or to daily prayer.

I think this business of giving things up and taking things on may, depending on the person, be just the ticket. I do. If you feel this will help you get ready for Easter, I say bring it on. But I have to confess (it's Lent, so it's OK to confess) that I'm personally growing more and more disenchanted with this tradition. As a pastor it seems to me more and more the case that the greatest burdens we seem to be carrying as people are not our imperfections- but our inability to accept and receive God's grace poured out for us *despite* our imperfections. That's kind of a tortured sentence, so let me repeat: it seems to me more and more the case that the greatest burdens we seem to be carrying as people are not our imperfections- but our inability to accept and receive God's grace that's poured out for us *despite* our imperfections.

Well, I'm not sure repetition really improved that, so I'll spell out what I mean a little more clearly. While I think it is great to keep spiritual disciplines and to volunteer, the way we talk about Lent sometimes makes it sound like preparation for Easter means making ourselves a little more perfect, as if the more perfect we are, the more lovable we become. And while this is indeed the Gospel according to St. American Idol, it really isn't the Gospel according to Jesus Christ. Or is it?

Whenever I start talking about grace, the belief that God loves us freely and not because we've earned it, people always start quoting the fifth chapter of Matthew at me quoting Jesus saying, "Be perfect, therefore, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

Now, while quoting Jesus is always a low blow in my opinion, I have to admit it isn't an easy verse, is it? Be perfect? As perfect as God?? (And at this point, I often like to get a really unintelligent looking expression on my face and say something thoughtful sounding like, 'Wuh?') And all of a sudden I begin to understand why this Lenten tradition of trying to tidy ourselves up a bit before Easter is so powerful for so many of us. As much as Protestants talk about grace, I think there's part of us that really doesn't believe it- a part of

us that thinks what we are taught by the world is more true: that the more perfect we are the more lovable we become.

But here's the thing. Here again the words we use conceal as much meaning as they reveal. In this case it isn't Greek that helps us out, but Latin. Christ does indeed invoke us to be 'perfect'. But what does this mean? Most of us feel like we have a pretty good handle on the meaning of 'perfect': it means to be flawless, to make no mistakes. And to be sure this is certainly how the word has come to be used. But it isn't how it started out. The word 'perfect' comes to us from the Latin words 'per' and 'facio', meaning most literally, 'to be thoroughly done, or completely done'. To be perfect in the most literal sense doesn't mean to be flawless or without mistake, it means to be whole. Those of you who remember being tortured in high school English may well remember learning about the perfect tense. The perfect tense doesn't refer to the best tense, or the tense without error- no, a verb in the perfect tense refers to action that was completed in the past. The action is done, it is finished, it is whole.

Now seeking wholeness is a completely different thing than seeking moral perfection. When we seek wholeness our task is to learn how to see ourselves more clearly, to see the parts of ourselves we like, and the parts we don't. And while seeking wholeness is no excuse to act out of our darker aspects, it is learning to accept these aspects as part of the people we have been made to be. Seeking wholeness is quite simply the process by which we experience in our hearts what our heads know to be true: that we, our whole selves, are made in the image of God.

"Be perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect." Be perfect? Absolutely. Not in the sense that we can somehow avoid making a mistake or act like an idiot from time to time, but in the sense of knowing and trusting that all that we are, even our rougher edges, is known by God.

So this Lent you still may want to give something up or start some positive habit. This may be exactly what we need to do this time of year in order to remind ourselves of God's presence in our lives. But it won't make you any more perfect or any more lovable than you already are. And I know that may sound like bad news- but really, it's the best news of all. Because then we, like Paul, may know in our bones that "by grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing but a gift of God; not the result of works- so that none may boast." And in my book Easter is way more about grace than it is about not watching TV for a few weeks or riding ourselves of the evils of chocolate. But thankfully, that decision is up to you- not me. May you have Holiness this Lenten season, and more importantly, may you have wholeness.



INTRODUCING PAT DEVORE



Pat Devore has been an active member of TPC for a number of years. When she first came to TPC she was active in the Outreach Committee which at that time was led by Del Judy. They became good friends. When the Outreach Committee decided that delivering a loaf of bread to first time visitors was a good way to make them feel welcome, Pat was enthusiastic and very willing to help make this happen. Because of her caring way with people, she was nominated and elected to the Board of Deacons. Unfortunately for all of us, shortly after her election, Pat was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. After much deliberation Pat chose to resign because she did not feel she would be able to fulfill the obligations of being a deacon. Pat is a warm and generous woman who loves people. She has a funny sense of humor, and loves our church. During a recent visit she talked about "my church...Tualatin Presbyterian Church". She now lives at Cedar Crest in Sherwood with her dog, Beau. Pat has three daughters. Two live in the Portland area and one daughter lives in California. She also has twin sisters. Pat recently had surgery to remove a tumor that was benign. We look forward to having Pat back in church soon.

Written by Pat's Deacon, Sherry Nelson, Parish #3.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

...words from Nicole

Lent is a time for prayer and reflection as Easter approaches. A devotional guide, with a gospel passage for each day of Lent, is available. Use the guide as a morning devotional, for a family prayer at dinner, or at bedtime. Make the Bible part of your daily life. The Lenten Devotional Guides are available on the counter in the office.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 LADIES AFTERNOON OUT

Ladies, are you interested in going to a movie after worship on **Sunday, March 8**? We, the members of the committee, invite you to join us to see an early afternoon matinee and have lunch afterward. If you're interested, you can join us for the movie, for lunch afterward, or for both. We'll choose the movie by consensus. Note: Hunger at the movie can be held off with popcorn. If you have questions, please talk to Paula Miller, fellowship elder (503) 692-5977.

DINNER FOR VOLUNTEERS AT THE ESSENTIAL HEALTH CLINIC

Wednesday, March 11 is our next opportunity to take dinner to the medical staff at the Essential Health Clinic in Tigard. We bring 2 main dishes, 2 salads, 2 desserts and rolls to feed a staff of 15 adult volunteers who come directly to the clinic from their day jobs. The desserts for this month will be prepared by our Sunday school staff and the youth; our sincere thanks to them! There will be a sign-up sheet on the tower in the narthex for the remaining items. If getting food to the clinic by 4:30 PM is a problem, arrangements can be made. Please make a note regarding this on the sign-up sheet.

The Essential Health Clinic is a free clinic located at 15296 SW Royalty Parkway in Tigard (to the left of the Safeway shopping mall.) It serves those who have medical needs but either have no insurance or inadequate coverage. If you have questions, please contact Joan Nardi at 503 684-6529.

MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY, March 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.

SAVE THE DATE

The Seder Dinner will be Saturday, April 4.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

BELL CONCERT

Saturday, May 16 at 7:00 PM

At the concert on **Saturday, May 16** 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 16.

ART NEWS

The TPC Art Team is sponsoring a series of art classes that begin this spring. We will offer a wide variety of classes including: getting the most from your digital camera, container garden design, concrete casing, jewelry making and fish printing! To receive our class email announcements, please sign up in the Narthex.

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2009 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATES

This year our Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held **July 6 -10** from 9 AM to 12 noon. We will have an exciting program for your kids – Discovery Canyon. If you are interested in helping or learning more about this year's program, please contact Marsha Steffen, Children's Education & Ministry Elder at 503-692-0120 or mlsteffen@verizon.net.

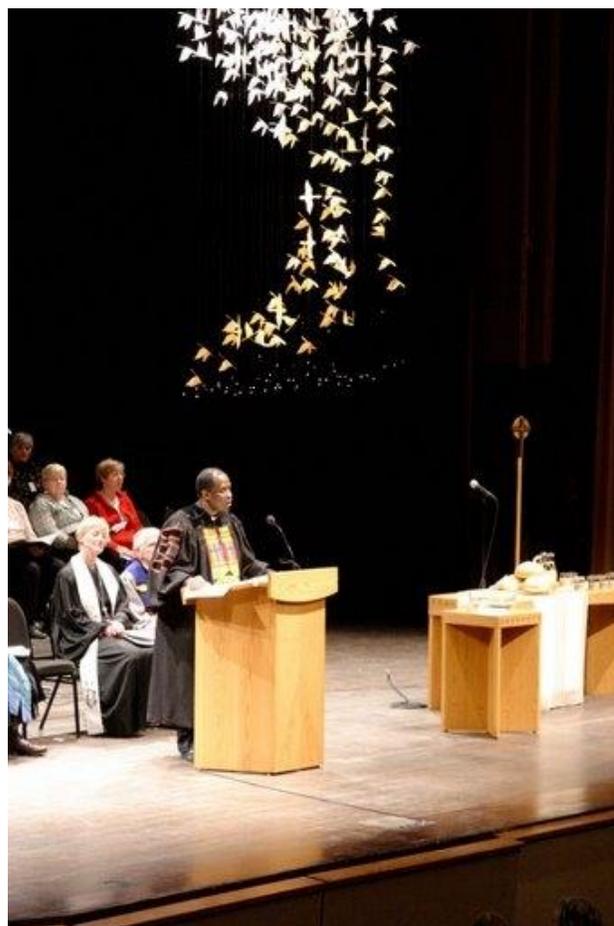
ART TEAM REQUESTS SEASONAL BRANCHES

Occasionally the Art Team has need of seasonal branches to enhance our worship space. If you would enjoy sharing branches from your garden, we would be very grateful! Here is a list of materials we are often looking for:

Spring: Pussy willow, forsythia, quince, dogwood and lilac

Winter: Red dogwood and birch branches

We would love to build a list of folks we could call when the need arises. If you would like to share any of the above, please call Ellen VanSchoiack at 503-692-7989 or email art@tpcspirit.org.



Ellen VanSchoiack has just returned from the Calvin Worship Symposium in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ellen presented to the attendees on the topic of Designing Art for Worship. The above photograph was taken at that symposium. More photos of her artwork, which was commissioned for the conference, are on display in the TPC Narthex.

A TPC COOKBOOK

It is time to share your favorite recipes for publishing in our TPC Cookbook. Recipe forms are available in a manila envelope on the Tower in the Narthex. Completed forms can be turned in to the same envelope. Thank you for sharing. This is going to be the best ever cookbook so share your favorites. (You are not limited to a number. If we have duplications, the committee reserves the right to screen the recipes.) Deadline for turning in recipes is June 1, 2009. If you have questions, please contact me at 503-620-4040 or at lynns44@verizon.net.

Lynn Scroggin for the Cookbook Committee

What's This About Per Capita? HOW TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FITS IN

Tualatin Presbyteriana Church and about 118 other Presbyterian churches and fellowships are members of the **Presbytery of the Cascades**, an organization that supports the activities of their member churches. We have a very basic connection with the Presbytery of the Cascades as it was the people at Presbytery who initiated this church. They hired The Rev. Thomas G. Nelson and they arranged for The Rev. Philip Martin to help us start Tualatin Presbyterian Church.

When Thom Nelson left, the people at Presbytery worked with us to find The Rev. Dick Wiggers who acted as our Interim Pastor while we searched for a new pastor, The Rev. Ken Evers-Hood. When we have questions and are in need of help, the people at Presbytery are there to offer assistance. They act as our safety net.

Eleven presbyteries, the Presbytery of the Cascades being one of them, combine to form the **Synod of the Pacific**. Synod has been good to us as well. They provided the loan that allowed us to build the original building and a second loan to enlarge the building. (We still owe them money.)

Sixteen Synods combine to form the General Assembly, a group that meets annually or biennially to work cooperatively on international peacemak-

ing, ecumenical relations, mission and issues of justice.

Tualatin Presbyterian Church benefits from our relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We, in kind, need to support the efforts of these groups. That's why we pay per capita. This year is it **\$22.55 for each communicant member**. The \$22.55 is distributed as follows:

Presbytery of the Cascades	\$11.23
Synod of the Pacific	\$5.17
General Assembly	\$6.15

How Much Has TPC Paid in Per Capita?

In January, 2009, TPC paid \$6,095.95 in per capita. Session does not include per capita in the annual TPC budget. For this reason, each member is asked to pay his/her own per capita expense. To date \$1,378.95 has been paid by TPC members; \$4,717.00 remains to be paid.

Who Pays Per Capita? Two examples follow.

1. How much per capita do Rob and Jennifer Ayers and their son and daughter pay?

They pay for two, Rob and Jennifer. Per capita is not owed on their two small children.

2. How much per capita does Meg Lewis-Price pay?

Meg pays for two, herself and her college-aged daughter who went through communicants class and affirmed her faith before the congregation. Meg does not pay per capita for her 13-year old son and daughter.

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.

TUALATIN SCHOOL HOUSE PANTRY

The food pantry continues to feed many local families. They request boxes of macaroni and cheese, cans of stew, hearty soup and corn. Thanks.



Women's Retreat, January 31, 2009

Back row, left to right: Diane Barry, Carolyn Hale, Sarah Gall, Nicole Reibe, Cackie Kyle, Mary Shiffer, Susan Springer, Chris Robertson, Laura Spurrell, Adele Pelletier, Barbara Harriman, Judith Mears.

Center row, left to right: Gwen Hale, Dorothy Martin, Debbie Sweeney, Susan Fee.

Front row, left to right: Karen Jones, Marilyn Wood, Karen Carskaden, Cathy Chase, Carolyn Locke, Jaci Smith, Mary Feiler

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/01 Paul Miller | 3/17 Carolyn Locke |
| 3/01 Erik Spurrell | 3/20 Blain Grover |
| 3/04 Terra Shiffer | 3/22 David Norse |
| 3/06 Karen Schmitt | 3/23 Neal Reiling |
| 3/07 Nimmi Senthirajah | 3/24 Harry Chase |
| 3/08 Bob Nix | 3/24 Daniel MacKay |
| 3/08 Carolyn Meece | 3/25 Mitchell Peterson |
| 3/09 Sue Awdry | 3/26 Josie Reid |
| 3/09 Rod Kerr | 3/27 Lisa Ewing |
| 3/09 Owen MacHaffie | 3/27 Hilde Frey |
| 3/09 Andrew MacHaffie | 3/29 Mike Shiffer |
| 3/11 Dean Wells | 3/30 John Lewis |
| 3/11 Shane Breshears | 3/31 Maxine Jenovich |
| 3/13 Jonathan Ayers | 3/31 Piper Hammer |
| 3/14 Deborah Lewis | |

A MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH

Each Sunday morning blue fellowship pads are placed on chairs at the end of the rows. If you sit where there is a fellowship pad, please write your name on the pad and send the pad down your row so that members, friends and visitors can sign in. This is one way we keep our contact information up to date. Thank you!

General Fund Status		
January 2009		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 30,750	\$ 32,778
Expense	<u>\$ 19,770</u>	<u>\$ 17,012</u>
Net	\$ 10,980	\$ 15,766
<p>The January status includes pledges that are prepaid for the entire year. Note that some January expense was deferred until February until the annual budget was updated.</p>		
General Fund Budget 2009 as of 02/19/2009		
	Original Budget	Current Budget
Income	\$224,842	\$227,933
Expense	<u>\$240,591</u>	<u>\$232,531</u>
Net	\$ -15,749	\$ -4,598
<p>The current budget is the result of increases in pledged offering and a reduction in costs associated with the Pastoral Resident. Thank you for your prayerful review and adjustments.</p>		
Building Fund 2009		
Income (approx)	\$44,000	
Expense (approx)	<u>\$48,000</u>	
Net	\$ -4,000	

Session will be monitoring and adjusting the budget throughout the year based on updated pledges, actual income and actual expenses. Please contact Scott Mitchell or Mike Shiffer for questions about the budget status.

Tualatin Presbyterian Church - 2008 Financial Information

TPC 2008		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL
INCOME		
Pledges / Offering	221,550	213,052
Income from preschool rent	3,600	3,600
Interest	1,000	1,776
Cash Offering	5,000	4,181
TOTAL INCOME	231,150	222,609
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Care	55,566	55,566
Clergy Expense	24,178	24,949
Worship	3,800	2,090
Worship art	1,800	1,899
Choral Music	2,600	2,371
Bell Music	900	868
Outreach	5,000	3,478
Christian Ed	2,000	1,571
Adult Ed	1,250	1,258
Fellowship	1,900	1,848
Youth Program	2,820	1,220
Building & Property	29,400	30,049
Administration	43,000	45,358
Deacons	2,400	1,666
Nursery care	5,200	3,508
Musician expense	19,677	19,751
Janitors	2,235	1,365
Mission	1,500	1,200
Session & other expense	500	658
Unpaid per capita	0	1,156
Pastoral Resident	0	5,782
Theological Education Fund	2,311	2,311
GF Mission	23,113	23,113
TOTAL EXPENSES	231,150	233,035
NET INCOME	0	-10,426

West Coast Bank / Washington Mutual Bank	\$40,283
RBC Dain Rauscher	\$83,569
Presbyterian Foundation Income Funds	\$55,443
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$179,295
Scholarship Fund	\$25,052
Reserve Fund	\$49,759
2007 Earnings	-\$10,426
Preschool Rent Income	\$14,088
Memorial Funds	\$17,894
Mission Accounts to be disbursed	\$2,900
Youth Fund	\$3,466
Memorial Garden	\$2,038
Helping Hands	\$15,893
Bell Fund	\$12,620
Building Fund	\$10,378
Special Gifts	\$4,618
Community Help	\$3,285
Prepaid Pledges	\$17,300
Building Use	\$1,683
Other Fund Balances	\$8,747
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$179,295

TOTAL MISSION SUPPORT 2008	
Mission Partnership	\$23,113
Theological Ed Fund	\$2,311
Food Bank / Pantry	\$6,168
Heifer Fund	\$8,623
One Great Hour	\$2,552
Helping Hands	\$9,680
Christmas Joy Offering	\$600
Pentecost Offering	\$726
Community Help	\$1,200
	\$54,973
Percent of income	24.69%

NOTE: 2009 Per Capita = \$22.55 per communicant member; total \$6,095.95

SYNOD LOAN RECAP	
Dec 31, 2007 Balance	\$392,158
Interest charges	\$26,757
- Interest and fees paid	-\$26,757
- Principal reduction	-\$21,243
Dec 31, 2008 Balance	\$370,915
ORIGINAL LOAN AMT	\$503,000

Note: The Synod Loan is for the building remodel and addition. It was converted to a permanent mortgage loan in 2004. The term on the loan is 15 years. Building contributions and loan payments are reflected in the Building Fund which is recapped below.

BUILDING FUND RECAP	
Dec 31, 2007 Balance	\$18,548
Contributions	\$39,830
Payments (prin and int)	-\$48,000
Dec 31, 2008 Balance	\$10,378

01/25/2009

TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:30 Children's Sunday school 10:30 AM Worship	2 7:00 PM Spiritual Formation. off site 7:00 PM Bell practice	3	4 7:00 PM CEM meeting 7:15 PM Choir practice	5	6	7
8 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Women's Outing 5:00 PM Youth Group Penny Night	9 7:00 PM Deacon meeting 7:00 PM Bell practice	10 7:00 PM Mission meeting	11 7:15 PM Choir practice	12	13 10 AM to noon Loving Stitches (N)	14
15 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16 7:00 PM Bell practice	17 7:00-8:30 PM Tuesdays Treasures 7:00 PM Fellowship Meeting	18 7:15 PM Choir practice	19 Session meeting rescheduled to 3/26	20	21 Men's Breakfast 7:30-9:00 AM
22 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	23 7:00 pm Bell practice	24	25 7:15 PM Choir practice	26 7:00 PM Session Mtg.	27 10 AM to noon Loving Stitches (N)	28
		SPRING BREAK—NO SCHOOL				
29 9:15 AM Adult Ed 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	30 7:00 pm Bell practice	31				



TPC office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 AM to 3 PM and Friday, 9 AM to noon.

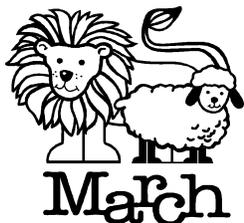
Have you moved or changed your email address? Please let us know.

Call (503) 692-4160 or email Rhoda@tpcspirit.org

Church website: www.tpcspirit.org

TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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

Worship Service – Sundays at 10:30 AM

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

Clerk of Session: Mary Shiffer

Webmaster: Melissa Evers-Hood
e-mail: webmaster@tpcspirit.org

Newsletter Editor: Susan Springer
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Administrative Assistants: Rhoda Friesen and Susan Springer
e-mail: rhoda@tpcspirit.org susan@tpcspirit.org

Music Director: Kris Sparks
e-mail: music.director@tpcspirit.org

Bell Choir Director: Martha Wilson
e-mail: 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 AM– 3:00 PM, Friday – 9:00 AM to noon