



Dear friends,

I like to be in control. I do. I like to be able to do what I want when I want to do it. I like to be able to choose-choose what I eat, what I wear, what I think. I like to feel like I'm in control of my life.

I can remember playing hearts with my family- you know the card game? The card that is worth the most is the Queen of Spades. You do NOT want to wind up eating the Queen of Spades. Now, the first thing you do when you draw all your cards is pick three cards to pass. Some people, if they get the Queen of Spades, she is the FIRST card they pass. They just want to get rid of her- get her out of their hand. But not me. I always keep the queen when I get her. Why? Because I like to be in control. I like to know where she is. I like to feel like I'm in control of my own destiny. If I'm able to dump her on someone else, great. But if I'm stuck with her- at least I know it's coming.

The thing that ALWAYS surprises me this time of year, when we read the Easter story- the thing that gets me is how OUT of control Jesus is.

In Matthew when the women go to the tomb they talk to an angel perched on the rock that was closing the tomb. He tells them, "Oh, I know who you're looking for. You're looking for Jesus- the one who was crucified. Well, he's not here. He has been raised."

Was crucified. Has been raised.

Let me do a little grammar lesson here, take you all back to high school English class. Fun, fun. Greek, like English, makes a distinction between what we call the active voice and the passive voice. The active voice means you, the subject, are on the giving end of the action. I hit the ball. When you hear that, you know it was me doing the hitting, and it was the ball that was on the receiving end. That's the active voice.

The passive voice is the opposite. Instead of I hit the ball. You'd say, I WAS HIT by the ball. We still have me. We still have the ball. But this time everything is all turned around. Instead of me hitting the ball- I'm the one being hit. This is the passive voice.

The active voice? This is what I like. I like to be in control, right? I like to be the one doing things, hitting things in this case. I do NOT like the passive voice. I do not like to be the one things are being done to, the one who is being hit. No, I like the active voice.

Thing is. Jesus here isn't living in the active voice- he's living in the passive voice. He didn't crucify someone else. He WAS crucified. It happened to him. It was done to him. And he didn't raise himself. The angel doesn't say, "And then Jesus rose up. Jesus resurrected himself," like somehow he heroically struggled with death and pulled himself up by his own sandal straps. No, the text says, "He was raised." He was raised. It happened to him. Someone else was helping him. He didn't do this on his own.

Jesus, in the two most important moments of his life, when he died and when he was lifted up, at the two most crucial times in his life- he wasn't in control. He wasn't directing his life, he wasn't steering his own ship- life was

happening to him. At the most significant time in his life he didn't live in the active voice, but the passive voice, accepting and adapting to what life threw his way.

When Jesus died Matthew tells us that an earthquake hit the area- shaking the ground and opening up the tombs. And, when that angel descended, Matthew said it happened again- there was another earthquake. Our neighbors in the world- our neighbors in Haiti and Argentina have seen earthquakes this year, too.

Evan Muncie, a Haitian man who scraped by selling rice in the markets of Port Au Prince, Evan Muncie discovered the grace of living in the passive voice. On the day of the earthquake in Haiti, Evan Muncie was doing just what he always did- he was out on the streets peddling rice, hoping to eke out enough to have something for dinner that night. And then the earthquake hit. The sky literally fell upon Muncie, as wall upon wall of rubble crashed in upon him. When the first wave of searchers came looking- he was buried too far for anyone to find him. And then, a week later, when the recovery effort scoured the scorched earth for bodies- he was still too deep for anyone to locate. Finally, 28 days after he was trapped, nearly 4 weeks later, his family, who never stopped looking for him, finally dug him out- and, impossibly, he was alive.

One physician interviewed said the only way it made sense that Muncie survived, could have survived, is that he had to have made a choice very early on not to struggle and fight to get out of there. If he had tried to be in control and actively claw his way out- he would have used up every bit of energy he had. The only way he survived is that he somehow surrendered to the moment, depended upon the help of others, and lived in the passive voice.

I don't think I'm alone in liking to feel that I'm in control of my life. I think most of us like to feel that if they just worked a little harder or tried a little harder that there isn't much they couldn't accomplish over time. But, the truth is there isn't a person I know who doesn't experience some part of their life to be beyond their power, some part they'd like to fix that just isn't cooperating.

For some of us it is our own bodies that aren't behaving- bodies that are aging and becoming sick whether we have given permission or not. Some of us have people we care about who we see following hard paths and aren't interested in advice. And for some of us it's ourselves that are the problem. Like Paul we find ourselves doing the things we do not want to do.

For these parts of our lives Easter brings the good news of the possibility of living in the passive voice. Jesus surrendered to death without having the ability to raise himself up. He had to have help for this. He had to be raised.

What's beyond your control this spring? Where do you need help? If Jesus wasn't able to raise himself up, why on earth would we think we might?

In Christ,



# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Members of TPC since 2002, Bruce and Donna Benner were born and raised in small towns in Montana. Donna got her nursing degree from Montana State U. and began working at Billings Deaconess. Bruce joined the Navy and served in the Pacific Fleet during the Vietnam era, then began college at Eastern Montana State College. They met on a double date, liked each other more than their respective dates, and married in 1965. From there to Pullman, Washington where Bruce received a degree in Police Science and Administration while Donna was evening supervisor at Pullman Memorial Hospital. After graduation it was on to Wayne State University for his Masters in Public Administration and working undercover narcotics for the Detroit Police Department for a number of years. Donna continued nursing at Sinai Hospital until Joshua was born. The opportunity for Bruce to set up a Department of Criminal Justice and teach at University of North Dakota arose, so off to the FROZEN north they went. Six years later, a solid program was in place, they had added Gretchen and Jordan to the family, and all knew the language of hockey and how to ice skate.

With the few random cells still not totally frozen, it was time to move back west; the ultimate goal. Corvallis became home for many years—Bruce, a Lieutenant on the police force and Donna working a variety of areas at Good Sam. It was a wonderful place to finish raising the children with all that entails---school, sports, music, camping, fishing, kayaking

and rafting and enjoying our membership at the Congregational Church.

After leaving the police department, Bruce worked for his brother in marketing/research until retirement in 2006. Donna had to unexpectedly retire several years earlier following a severe viral infection in her inner ear--a challenging time to say the least. If you see her weaving occasionally now, it's only coffee in the mug she carries.....honest!

They moved to Tualatin in 1998, then to Sherwood several years later. Both are enjoying retirement and keep busy with home, friends, kids, and grandkids. Joshua, lured to Colorado Springs to join the U.S. Judo Team, is now a Sergeant on the Colorado Springs Police Department and father of our ten year old granddaughter Sydney and stepfather to our two inherited grandchildren, Kyra and Aaron. Gretchen lives in Portland and teaches English/Lit at Canby High School. Jordan, also in Portland, is the public outreach representative for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and father of three year old Melanie and 7 month old Drake.

Bruce and Donna enjoy a little traveling, and baby-sitting regularly for their local grands. Donna loves anything at the beach, reading, and showing Bruce where to dig the holes for the new garden plants. He also volunteers every Monday at the Veterans Hospital and spends free time making sawdust in his shop and chasing the ever elusive trout---or salmon----or steelhead. Sometimes he even catches one.

Ronn Rhodes is their deacon.

## **NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS**

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, March 14 members elected elders and deacons. Our new, or continuing, elders are Randy Beyer, Barb Crall, Norm Dannemiller, Craig Walker and Katrina Weener. Our new deacons are Carolyn Locke, Robyn MacKay, Bob Nix and Jeni Wiggers.

Ordination/installation of these elders and deacons will be on Sunday, May 16.

# WHAT'S GOING ON

**NO SIMPLE SUPPER** on Wednesday, 3/31.

## **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES**

Palm Sunday, March 28, Worship at 10:30 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday, April 1, Worship at 7 p.m.  
Good Friday, April 2, Worship at 7 p.m.  
Easter Vigil, April 3, Worship at 7 p.m.

## **Children's Education and Ministries**

committee meeting, Tuesday, April 6 at 7 p.m.

## **CHILDREN'S EDUCATION**

**AND MINISTRIES** will host a parent meeting on **Sunday, April 18** after worship to discuss the results of our survey. Childcare will be provided. If you have questions, please contact CEM elder, Marsha Steffen at 503-692-0120 or by email at mlsteffen@verizon.net.

### *Mission in Motion*

“Dear Friends at Tualatin Presbyterian Church, Thank you for your continued generous support of the Tualatin School House Pantry. We now serve over **450 families** per month. You are a part of a special group of donors who assist us on a regular basis, both with cash contributions and gifts of food staples. Your contributions have helped us fulfill our mission to ‘provide emergency food to qualified households in a local, welcoming environment.’

As we all face difficult decisions in these challenging economic times, the mission of the pantry becomes even more critical as we work together to feed our hungry neighbors. Thanks again for your generous contributions.

Tracy Smith, Program Coordinator

P.S. The children's birthday party bags were a fabulous gift for many deserving children. Congratulations on finding such a special way to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of your church!”

## **PREPARING FOR EASTER**

A big thank you to everyone who broke out the scissors and glue and helped make the flowers for our Easter celebration! We hope that you enjoyed learning something new and that the presentation of the work of so many hands adds to your worship experience!  
Fondly, The Art Team

## **GREETER OPPORTUNITIES**

We are looking for wonderful people who would like to meet and greet our members and friends on Sunday mornings.

We need people to greet at the front door and to help with the offering. We also need people to pass out bulletins, help with the microphone during joys and concerns and help with the offering. For both positions we ask you to be at church by 10 a.m. This is something you can do once a year or several times a year, whatever you like.

If you are interested in helping, please call Clare Hahn at 692-4807 or Ronn Rhodes at 885-8066.

## **CAN YOU HELP SERVE LUNCH?**

**for Loaves and Fishes** at the Juanita Pohl Center near Tualatin City Park the first Monday of the month? Volunteers are needed to clean and sterilize the table tops, set out glasses, help in the kitchen, as needed, help serve the meal and help with clean up after lunch. The shift is from about 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You're welcome to eat lunch, but you must pay for it...\$2.75 for seniors. Aprons are available and hair coverings are supplied and required. On average, 30 people come for lunch. Questions? Talk to Marian Smith or Del Judy, volunteers planning to retire and pass their aprons on to someone else.

## ACCESS BIBLE STUDY HANDOUTS

for March through May are available on the table to the left of the glass doors leading into the sanctuary. You're invited to take a copy.

## HUNGRY FOR LUNCH?

If you're age 60 or older and looking for a great place for lunch and activities, consider the Juanita Pohl Loaves and Fishes Center at 8513 SW Tualatin Road, Tualatin, Or 503-692-6767.

They serve delicious and nutritious lunches with a choice of entrée every weekday. The suggested donation is \$2.75, but no one is turned away. And we have activities to meet all lifestyles. Drop in and ask for a tour and a monthly calendar. For more information, call 503-692-6767 or visit their website at [www.loavesandfishesonline.org](http://www.loavesandfishesonline.org).

## Special Update:

### Haiti Earthquake Bulletin

Heifer International has been fighting hunger and poverty in Haiti for over a decade. We had 16 projects underway with more than 16,000 partner families when the tragic earthquake struck the impoverished nation.

Heifer teams in Haiti have been working around the clock to assess immediate needs of our current projects and make plans for long term recovery and rehabilitation assistance.

To learn more about Heifer's long-term multi-year plan in Haiti or to make a gift, visit [heifer.org/haitirecovery](http://heifer.org/haitirecovery). Thank you for supporting Heifer International and our mission to help families in need in Haiti and all around the world.

## PER CAPITA for 2010

Tualatin Presbyterian Church is a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and therefore has a relationship with the governing bodies. We pay \$22.55 in per capita for each member on our rolls. Of this amount, \$11.23 goes to the Presbytery of the Cascades, \$5.17 goes to the Synod of the Pacific and \$6.15 goes to General Assembly. Since per capita expense is not included in the budget, we ask each member to pay his or her own. Please write a check to TPC and write per capita on the comment line. Thanks.

## ANTS IN YOUR PANTS CHILD CARE

To provide Ants in Your Pants child care during worship, we need a volunteer, or two, each Sunday to be with the children. There is a sign-up sheet on the tower in the Narthex. Please sign up. Thanks, in advance, for your help.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

02	Toni MacHaffie	13	Melissa Evers-Hood
03	Barbara Allen	14	Steven Springer
04	Lynn Scroggin	17	Nancy Wilcox
05	David MacKay	20	Jean Wells
06	Marian Larson	23	Stu Larson
07	Carol Rhodes	24	Ellen VanSchoiack
07	Mike Myers	24	Rob Weisenthal
07	Soren Gall	27	Senthi Senthirajah
08	Ted Lambeth	28	Sarah Gall
09	Abby Peterson	30	Stephanie Hoppe

## Treasurer's Report

### Operating Income and Expenses at February 28, 2010

	Received Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
*Income	\$53,394.82	\$54,786.55
Expense	\$43,583.12	\$45,929.00
Difference	\$ 9,856.70	\$ 8,857.55

\* Includes prepaid pledges of \$14,200



Tualatin Presbyterian Church  
9230 SW Siletz Drive  
Tualatin, OR 97062-9182

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
TUALATIN, OR  
PERMIT #57

# APRIL

Postmaster:  
TIME VALUE --- Please do not delay.  
Mailed Thursday, March 25, 2010

## **TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

9230 SW Siletz Drive, Tualatin, OR 97062

**The 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, Chip Kyle, Paula Miller, Joan Nardi, Adele Pelletier, Meg Price, Chris Robertson and Marsha Steffen.

**Deacons:** Rob Ayers, Edda Brown, Carolyn Hale, Dee Dee Hansen, Barbara Harriman, Ted Lambeth, Jack Lemmon, Sherry Nelson, Mary Ortez, Ronn Rhodes, Bill Smiley, Linda Watkins

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

**Clerk of Session:** Dee Johnson

**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:** Dr. 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 p.m., Friday – 9:00 a.m. to noon