



## THINKING OUT LOUD

By Michael Jinkins

Weekly messages about leadership, discipleship, theological education, and contemporary culture from Michael Jinkins, President of Louisville Seminary.

Tuesday, February 2, 2012

### Lessons from a Sandbar

The gospels don't have much nice to say about sand. The most familiar reference in the Bible warns us not to build our houses on the stuff. Good advice. I've spent some time reflecting on sand, sand dunes, and sand bars while meandering along a beach near our summer retreat, and I've noticed a few things which, frankly, I had not noticed before.

Sandbars are a landform right out of the pages of Heraclitus, the ancient Greek philosopher who famously observed that we cannot step into the same stream twice. From one tide to the next, sand bars are always changing, shifting. Walking among them your feet actually feel the change happening right between your toes, the water swirling little clouds of sand in the sparkling salt water. If you were to map the sandbars on a beach one day, the next day you'd almost have to start from scratch with a new map....

It occurred to me that there are some really valuable lessons hidden among the changing sand bars. The most obvious lesson is that everything really is changing all the time. Among the sand bars, this is obvious. You can't ignore it. The mountains, plains, even the continents are always on the move, too. But their rate of change is so slow that you don't see it, unless you check the fossil record. The change among the sand bars is something you can't ignore, and it is a great place to think about life, in general, and the church, in particular.

Another lesson occurred to me as I was walking in the shallow water off one of those sand bars farther out. You really need to learn the difference between the dorsal fins of sharks and dolphins. This is a lesson of some urgency when you are waist deep in the water. If it is a dolphin, your heart will sing with joy. There are few more graceful, beautiful creatures on God's earth than a dolphin, and they will come right up to you in the wild. If it is a shark, well, you may want to be elsewhere. There's also a lesson here about unnecessary anxiety. There are times when I suspect that lots of people are just too frightened to go into the water because they have convinced themselves that every dorsal fin they see is a shark. You will miss some beautiful, awesome sights if you let ignorance and anxiety keep you out of the water.

Two other very quick lessons from the sand bars: Not everything that is pretty is safe. Anyone who has ever tangled with a Portuguese Man of War or gotten a barb from a Sting Ray knows this lesson, and both of these lovely creatures are abundant in the streams that cut through the sand bars. Debbie and I saw a fellow yell out to his buddies, "Hey, watch this!" as he grabbed the tail of a Sting Ray. I wonder how often in life the spurting of blood has followed those fateful words. We suspected that a liberal quantity of beer was related to this particular close encounter of the painful kind.

And the final lesson: If you know where to go, just as the tide is shifting, you can walk along the top of a sand bar that is still slightly covered with surf. And it looks exactly like you are walking on water.



# Eco-Justice Outing

## **FAMILY NATURE WALK AT MENUCHA Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 22 miles east of Portland in the Columbia River Gorge**

The Eco-Justice Team of Cascades Presbytery invites families and individuals to learn about and experience a beautiful piece of God's creation during a nature walk at Menucha Retreat Center on Saturday, May 19th.

Menucha is a 100-acre conference center located 22 miles east of Portland that is a mission of First Presbyterian Church. It sits dramatically atop Chanticleer Point, the westernmost vantage point in the Columbia River Gorge. Its 180-degree view sweeps from the Sandy River Delta and Willamette Valley on the west to Crown Point and Bonneville Dam on the east.

During this nature walk we will go to some spectacular viewpoints, marvel at an old growth stand of Douglas-fir, and splash in Chanticleer Creek where it gurgles down into the gorge. We will see and learn about the effects of ancient lava flows that covered this area millions of years ago, the more recent Missoula Floods, how native peoples lived in this area, what Lewis and Clark saw, its forest fire history, and what we can see now in the way of native flora and fauna.

We will also learn how Menucha is performing a stewardship role on this property by minimizing adverse human effects, controlling invasive species, and providing habitat for native species. There will be some scripture and other readings inspiring gratitude for, and stewardship of, God's creation. Our walk will total about 2 miles in the morning and another 2 miles in the afternoon -- rain or shine. The current plan is to start from The Barn at 10 a.m., return to The Barn for lunch, and complete our afternoon walk back at The Barn by about 3 p.m. There is a \$10 fee for lunch (let us know of any special dietary requests).

For more information contact Jenny Holmes at [jehrestore@aol.com](mailto:jehrestore@aol.com) or Warren Aney at [aney@coho.net](mailto:aney@coho.net) (phone 503-539-1009).

There are two ways to register-

-Print out registration form and mail to: Theresa O'Brien, Eco-Justice Team, Westminster Church, 777 Co-burg Road, Eugene, OR. 97401 by Thursday, April 26. Checks made out to Eco-Justice Presbytery Team, subject line- Menucha. There is a \$10 fee for lunch.

-Instantly register with credit card. Visit our website [www.cascadespresbytery.org](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## THE LENTEN SEASON AT TPC

Sunday, April 1— 10 am Palm Sunday service followed by potluck brunch and egg hunt  
Thurs., April 5—7 pm Maundy Thursday Service  
Fri., April 6—7 pm Good Friday Service  
Sat., April 7—7 pm Easter Vigil Service  
Sunday, April 8—10 am Easter Sunday service

## PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH AND EGG HUNT SUNDAY, APRIL 1 AFTER WORSHIP

Join the TPC family for our annual brunch after church on Palm Sunday. There will be an egg hunt for the kids after the meal.



## STARLIGHT SYMPHONY CONCERT Sunday, April 1, 7 pm at TPC

**Music from Stage, Screen and Railroad Yard**

General admission \$12, Seniors \$9, Students \$5.

Tickets at the door, cash or check only.

Questions? Call 541-386-6400.



Dinner for Volunteers at  
Essential Health Clinic

## ESSENTIAL HEALTH CLINIC

TPC will provide dinner for the volunteer medical staff at the free, Essential Health

Clinic, on **Wednesday, April 11**. The clinic, which is open every Wednesday evening at 15296 SW Royalty Parkway, (the North end of the Safeway Mall), serves both the uninsured and the underinsured. The patients range in age from infants to the elderly.

We invite you to volunteer and continue the TPC tradition of great meals for the medical staff. Sign up in the Narthex to help provide dinner on Wed., April 11. Please plan your contribution to serve 16 adults. Dishes can be brought to TPC by 2:00 pm on April 11, for delivery to the Clinic. If you have questions, please talk to Joan Nardi, 503 684-6529.

## TUALATIN FOOD PANTRY FUND-RAISING EVENT

**Saturday, April 14, 1-4 pm at TPC**

Come for a fun afternoon looking at lia sophia jewelry and enjoying time with the friends you invite! Up to 30% of total sales will be donated to the pantry. It's a great time to buy Mother's Day or graduation gifts. The more you buy, the more the pantry receives. Monies will go toward food and the high-need, low-supply feminine hygiene products. Please bring one such product to donate at the sale. Questions? (503) 313-7003.

## FELLOWSHIP DINNER GROUPS

The summer phase of fellowship dinners will start in May and run through August. Fellowship dinners are groups of 7 to 9 people who meet once a month for dinner and fellowship. The groups usually meet in homes, but they have also met in restaurants, parks, and the church. The dinners are simple. The dinner host supplies the main course and the others in the group supply side dishes, dessert and drinks. Each group decides when to meet. After four months, the names are scrambled and a computer software program comes up with new groups. This gives everyone the chance to connect and know even more people in the church.

If you are currently participating, you are already signed up for the summer phase. You do not need to do anything. If you are NOT currently participating, this is an excellent time to begin. If you want to skip the summer phase, now is the time to let us know. There is a sign-up on the tower, or email [crall@compix.com](mailto:crall@compix.com).

We are trying to form more groups for families with young children. If this fits your needs, please mention this when you sign up. The summer phase is usually a good time for families with children to get involved.

Please sign up by **APRIL 15TH** so that the new group assignments can be emailed and posted on April 19th giving groups ample time to schedule their meeting dates.



## ATTENTION ATTENTION

Tualatin Presbyterian Church is hosting an auction on **Saturday, April 21, 2012**. The goal of this auction is to raise funds to help pay off our mortgage. TPC has

had several auctions in the past and we have found that raising money is just one of the benefits. There will be food and wonderful items will be donated and purchased, but more importantly, the auction is a really fun social event that allows us to come together as friends to do something that benefits this family of faith. Everyone is invited. And if you would like to bring friends, please do.

## COLLAGE CLASS SUNDAY, APRIL 29

The Art Team is excited to invite you to participate in a representational collage class at the church on **Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm**. Local Artist Susan Schenk teaches a technique of "painting" with paper that is attractive and fun! You may recognize her name from the Art and Soul retreats or her regular classes at the store, Collage, on Alberta in Portland. This class will focus on images using birds. You will leave with a piece ready to frame and enjoy. Cost is \$10, supplies are provided. There is more information on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. You can see her work on her website:

[www.susanschenk.com](http://www.susanschenk.com).

## BELL CONCERT SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 3 PM

Bells of the Cascades, an advanced, auditioned community handbell choir, which practices at TPC and has shared bells with our TPC handbell choir for the past 9 years, will perform at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 10445 SW Canterbury Ln., 97224, along with Calvin's own King's Ringers and world-traveled duo, Handbells Unlimited, on Sunday, April 29th at 3 pm. Handbells Unlimited, a duo of Beth Davidson and David Jordan has performed several times at TPC in the past. The concert will feature both secular and sacred arrangements. Works to be performed include familiar spirituals, original handbell compositions, a march and Gershwin medley. Bells of the Cascades is currently under the interim directorship of TPC's own Kris Sparks. Martha Wilson and Debbie Ivanov, both having directed TPC's handbell choir, ring with them. They have

two CD's and are also featured on Pink Martini's Christmas CD, *Joy to the World*. In addition to performing with Pink Martini, they have performed in collaboration with The David York Ensemble, Novum Chamber Singers, Masterworks Choral Ensemble, Willamette Master Chorus, and Portland's Singing Christmas Tree. Admission cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors/students and free for under 4 years of age.



Potluck Lunch and  
Variety Show

## POTLUCK AND VARIETY SHOW SUNDAY, MAY 6 AFTER WORSHIP

Do you play an instrument, can you sing a song, do a dance, tell jokes, do magic tricks, have a skit to perform or have a pet that does tricks? If so, we need you for the second annual TPC Variety Show. If you do not do any of these things, we still need you as every show needs an audience! Contact Barb Crall if you would like to be part of the show. 503-692-1677 or [barbc@compix.com](mailto:barbc@compix.com).

**The women of TPC are invited to a Mad Hatter Tea, Saturday, May 19th at noon.** Please wear your best hat. Do not have one? We will have some extras for you to try on. We will serve traditional tea sandwiches and sweets. More details next month!

## ADULT MISSION TRIP, OCTOBER, 2012

In late October, we will join the Presbytery of the Cascades in their annual mission trip to New Orleans. Even though the aftermath of the Katrina hurricane has faded long, long ago from the news, there is still much work to be done replacing housing that was lost. Along with 20 other volunteers from the Presbytery, we will spend a week, rehabbing existing homes or building new ones. The work is rewarding, the food is great, and the camaraderie is first rate. If you are interested in participating in this needed outreach, please contact Joan Nardi (current Mission Elder) or Chip Kyle (incoming Mission Elder) or the church office. An informational packet is available from the Mission Committee.

## **Congregational Meeting Highlights March 11, 2012**

### **Carolyn Barker, Clerk of Session**

The following new officers were elected to three-year terms:

Ruling Elders - Chip Kyle, Mission; Karen Schmitt, Administration; Kathy Sweetland, Youth  
Deacons - Julian Awdry, Dan Barker, Candace Fant, Barbara Kerr.

The congregation approved the amended Bylaws.

## **Session Meeting Highlights March 20, 2012**

### **Carolyn Barker, Clerk of Session**

Session examined and approved the following into active membership: Jason and Renee James, Drew and Julie Paimore, Dan and Sue Ann Peters, Mike and Kerry Weaver, Chapin Zakrzewski. Kathy Sweetland, Rik DeBruyn, and Kim Myers were approved for active membership without examination. Bill and Janice Smiley were moved from active to inactive membership at their request.

Session approved a policy that self-reimbursement payment requests greater than \$50 be reviewed and co-signed by a second Ruling Elder.

To solve meeting space scheduling for the same time slot, Bells of the Cascades will meet upstairs and the Preschool parents will meet in the large downstairs multipurpose room on the second Tuesday of the month.

Session received an initial drawing for a new sign on Boones Ferry Road.

The above information has been compiled from Session Meeting minutes. Complete copies of minutes are available in the church office.

## **TAKE A LOOK!**

Next time you leave the church parking lot, take a look to your right just as you exit to see the latest handiwork of the Men's Fellowship Group, namely, the thinning of 8 or 9 cedar and pines trees. The Fellowship group, under the guidance of Paul Fukasawa, paid a professional tree faller to cut down trees that had been planted too closely together and whose branches were stunting the growth of other nearby trees. The Fellowship's members then removed the pieces of tree trunk, branches and associated debris to a recycling facility. Here's a big **THANK YOU** to all who participated in making the grounds of TPC an even more beautiful environment.

The Men's Fellowship Group meets the 3rd Saturday of each month for breakfast, fellowship, and either hosts a guest speaker or works on a church or community project. We are always happy to welcome new participants. Contact Bob Paetsch at [bpaetsch@gmail.com](mailto:bpaetsch@gmail.com) or at [503-625-1587](tel:503-625-1587) for more information.

## **WORDS TO LIVE BY**

“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.”

Mother Teresa

Submitted by Dianne Lemmon, Parish Nurse

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU

We send a **very special thank you** to Rod Kerr for building and installing the new, enhanced cabinets in the Narthex. The cabinets are the storage facility for donations for the Food Pantry. In addition to adding an ascetic quality to the Narthex, they also make it easier to retrieve donations for transport to the Tualatin Food Pantry. Thanks again, Rod!  
Joan Nardi, Worship Elder

## ERIK SPURRELL IS ON THE MOVE

That's right. Erik Spurrell is moving into a condominium. If you'd like to send a card to him to celebrate this milestone, his new address is: 16100 SW Audubon, #101, Beaverton, OR 97006. We all know how much Erik loves to receive mail when he goes to camp each summer :)

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Meat (chicken thighs, legs and breasts), canned fruit juice, granulated sugar (any size), toilet paper, cereal, garden produce. Egg cartons are no longer needed; they have more than they can use.

The Tualatin School House Pantry is located at Rolling Hills Community Church, 3550 SW Borland Road, Tualatin, OR 97062. Website: [www.schoolhousepantry.org](http://www.schoolhousepantry.org)

## TPC 2012 ANNUAL PER CAPITA EXPENSE \$23.85 for each member

TPC has paid the per capita bill for 2012. Since this is not a budgeted item, we ask members to pay their annual expense. This year it is \$23.85 for each member. Please make your check payable to TPC and write per capita on the comment line. Thank you so much.

## RETIRE THE DEBT DONATIONS

If you plan to donate to help pay off the church mortgage, please consider paying early in 2012. This will reduce the principle amount on which the church pays interest. Every dollar helps.

**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLine** **MAY NEWSLETTER**  
The deadline for the May Newsletter is 9 am on Tuesday, April 24. Please email articles to newsletter@tpcspirit.org. Thanks.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Toni MacHaffie
- 03 Barbara Allen, Dan Barker
- 04 Lynn Scroggin
- 05 David MacKay
- 07 Carol Rhodes, Brynne Evers-Hood, Mike Myers
- 08- Ted Lambeth, Jeff Weener
- 13 Melissa Evers-Hood
- 14 Steven Springer
- 17 Nancy Wilcox, Logan Winslow
- 22 Andy Shiffer
- 23 Stu Larson, Cameron Sweetland
- 24 Ellen VanSchoiack, Rob Wiesenthal
- 27 Senthirajah
- 30 Stephanie Hoppe

## 2012 FINANCIALS

Income Year to Date (as of 2-29-2012)	Actuals	Budget	Dollar Difference
	\$39,888	\$20,824	\$19,064
Expenses Year to Date (as of 2-29-2012)			
	\$33,920	\$27,644	(\$6,276)

# TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

## April, 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Palm Sunday</b> 10 am Worship Palm Sunday Brunch and egg hunt after worship 7 pm Starlight Sym- phony Concert	<b>2</b> 7 pm Spiritual Formation off site. For info, talk to Laura Spurrell 503- 692-7034	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7 pm Choir and Bell Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>6</b> 7 pm Good Friday Service	<b>7</b> 7 pm Easter Vigil Service
<b>8 Easter</b> 8:45 Adult Ed. 10:00 Worship	<b>9</b> 7 pm Deacon meeting	<b>10</b> 7 pm Mission meeting	<b>11</b> Dinner for Essential Health Clinic  NO Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>12</b> 7 pm Bell choir rehearsal	<b>13</b> 10 to noon Loving Stitches	<b>14</b> Jewelry Fund Raiser for Food Pantry, 1-4 pm TPC
<b>15</b> 8:45 Adult Ed. 10:00 Worship Sunday School dur- ing worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7 pm Tuesdays Treasures 7 pm Session meeting	<b>18</b> 7 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>19</b> 7 pm Bell choir rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:30 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast  6 pm TPC Auction
<b>22</b> 8:45 Adult Ed. 10:00 Worship Sunday School dur- ing worship 5 pm Youth Group LOGOS: Cartoon theme	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> No Chancel Choir rehearsal	<b>26</b> 6:30-8:30 pm Parent Survival: Whine and Wine 7 pm Bell choir rehearsal	<b>27</b> 10 am to noon Loving Stitches	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:45 Adult Ed. 10:00 Worship Sunday School dur- ing worship 2-5 pm Collage Class	<b>30</b>					

For the latest updates, check the calendar posted on the church website, [www.tpcspirit.org](http://www.tpcspirit.org)

Regular TPC office hours are  
Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Please call (503) 692-4160 or email [Rhoda@tpcspirit.org](mailto:Rhoda@tpcspirit.org)  
if you've moved or changed your email address.

Church website: [www.tpcspirit.org](http://www.tpcspirit.org) We're also on Facebook.

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



**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) We're also on Facebook.

**Worship Service – Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

**Parish Associates:** The Rev. Charlie Brown, The Rev. Philip Martin

**Elders:** Randy Beyer, Craig Bowen, Barb Crall, Norm Dannemiller, Chip Kyle, Joan Nardi, Maureen Richardson, Craig Walker and Katrina Weener.

**Deacons:** Bud Bender, Susan Fee, Barbara Harriman, Ted Lambeth, Carolyn Locke, Robyn MacKay, Bob Nix, Mary Ortez, Marilyn Staples-Sundt, Karen Stevenson, Jeni Wiggers, and Nancy Wilcox.

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

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

**Clerk of Session:** Carolyn Barker  
Email: [carolynjbarker@mac.com](mailto:carolynjbarker@mac.com)

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

**Webmaster:** Ted Pelletier  
e-mail: [webmaster@tpcspirit.org](mailto:webmaster@tpcspirit.org)

**Music Accompanist:** Dr. Ron Fabbro

**Art Director:** Ellen VanSchoiack

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

**Bereavement Committee:** Pam Cameron

**Parish Nurse:** Dianne Lemmon

**Wedding Coordinator:** Stacy Mauer

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

**Church Office Hours**

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