



2010 has been a rough year for Portland's finest, and it's only April. Already we've seen two shootings. Aaron Campbell died on January 29th and Jack Dale Collins died on March 22nd. And, of course, two officers have been in the papers due to road rage. The paper this morning greeted me with the news that due to his off-duty incidence of road rage the head of the police union, Scott Westerman, has decided to step down from his post.

And I find myself thinking this morning about how our community views our police officers- especially how our pastors view them. One especially vocal group of pastors, a group who has formed the influential Albina Ministerial Alliance (AMA), has been outspoken in their criticism of the thin, blue line. The AMA invited The Rev. Jesse Jackson to speak to a standing-room-only crowd in Portland's Maranatha Church on February 16th. Jackson called the death of Aaron Campbell "inexcusable" and referred to it as an "execution."

Now, let me be the first to say that I certainly don't know all the facts involved in these cases. I believe that officers abusing their power should be held accountable, and I support the right of the AMA to speak out on behalf of justice. Standing firmly within the prophetic tradition, this is what pastors do at times. BUT. But, I write to offer my own perspective as a pastor who relates with the police on a regular basis. And I write to praise the police, not to bury them further.

To date my experience with the police is exclusive to the Tualatin Police Department. I realize Tualatin isn't Portland, but I suspect some of what I've experienced here carries over to Portland as well.

Several years ago a man came into the church office asking to speak with a pastor. He shared with me he felt suicidal and asked me to "talk him out of it." So we talked. And we talked. After several hours I asked him if he felt any better. He looked me straight in the eye and said, "Nope." As a "mandatory reporter" I am bound to refer anyone who I believe is a credible threat to self or other. Knowing how this man was feeling and knowing he had a plan and the means to carry out his plan, I knew I needed help.

So, I told this man of my responsibility to call for help and could I have his name. He refused to give me his name and left my office quickly. After consulting with another pastor I called Tualatin's non emergency police line and spoke with officers. They assured me this was the correct action to take, and they sent officers over to me within minutes. Then, with only a physical description these officers were able to find this man and get him in touch with a psychologist less than an hour after I called. After they did this they called me back to give me an update and to thank me for my help. At every step of the way the officers were competent, polite, and concerned about this man's safety.

Twice since I have been here we have experienced a "lock down" at the church due to people with weapons being spotted in Little Woodrose Park. Having Tualatin Valley Pre-school below us during the day, the police are extremely respon-

sive to any threat to health or human safety. Each time we experienced something like this the police gave us information about what was going on, the actions they were taking, and what we needed to do to help them and to stay safe.

Again, at every step of the way the officers were competent, polite, and extremely concerned about the safety of everyone involved- including the people responsible for the disturbance.

Although, I've had other times I had to contact Tualatin's police department, the last thing I'll share is a time they were forced to contact me. Last spring I was leaving a deacon meeting. During that meeting I learned one of our members was in the hospital. Although it was pretty late, and I felt like going home, I knew what I needed to do. So, instead of turning left onto Boones Ferry to head home, I turned right for I-5 and St. V's. However, in my turning right...I didn't exactly remember to come to a complete stop. And sure enough, a Tualatin police officer heading north on Boones Ferry saw my driving excellence in action and pulled me over.

Immediately I was angry. WHY did there have to be a cop?! WHY did he have to see me?! And I fumed while the police officer wrote down my information and took that long walk to my vehicle to ask me for my license and registration. In my head it was as if all this was the officer's fault.

That officer took pity on me and gave me a warning, but he sure didn't have to do that. I knew the law, and I chose not to obey it. As I drove away it dawned on me how ridiculous it was for me to be angry in the first place- and certainly how ridiculous it was for me to be angry at anyone but myself. And yet my first response was to blame the officer- for simply doing his job.

Now again, shootings aren't traffic stops. And Tualatin isn't Portland. I know that. But I guess I just wanted to weigh in as someone who relates to the police more often than most regular citizens do to offer at least one other perspective on the complicated, unpleasant, and extremely dangerous work we ask these men and women to perform day in and day out- especially since the majority of their work will never be reported or appreciated by the public at large.

And, while we all sort out what changes may need to occur with our police departments, I invite every one of us to refuse the stale polarities offered to us by both protesters and supporters telling us we must view the police as either all good or all bad- as if we have to like everything and criticize nothing, or see every police officer as a potential "executioner." Ridiculous. Our officers are better than that- and we are, too.

In Christ,



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



The Marc and Gina Olson Family

Campy, Louisiana is where Marc and Gina Olson first met. They were both working for Willamette Industries, Marc as a project engineer, and Gina as a summer scholarship student. Marc was a graduate of Washington State University and Gina was a student and graduated from N.E. Louisiana University. If you listen very carefully, you may be able to pick up a very slight hint of an accent from Gina because of her Louisiana upbringing, but she left that behind in the south for the most part.

It was fun in the sun during spring break for Marc and Gina with their children, Neil, Leah, and Bradley. Returning from their recent family vacation in Maui, now it is back to the old grind at home in West Linn for Neil, who is 15 and a freshman at West Linn High School, Bradley, age 13 and a 7th grader at Athey Creek Middle School, and Leah, also at Athey Creek and 12 years old.

The three of them are busy with many activities. Music plays a role for each of them as Neil plays saxophone, Bradley is concentrating on drums and clarinet, while Leah focuses on the bassoon and piano. They also enjoy participating in a variety of sports and other activities. Leah plays classic soccer and basketball and enjoys acting. Basketball, scouts and soccer occupy Bradley's time. Neil concentrates on chess, tennis, and scouts. The newest member of the family, Lucky, a 9 month maltese/bichon/poodle cross, is the center of attention at home for everyone.

For Marc and Gina, their vacation was a nice family getaway from the routines at home where Marc works as an engineer for Weyerhaeuser as a project manager for 6 pulp mills. In his spare time, Marc has run 33 marathons and the Boston marathon twice (WOW!!). He enjoys scouting activities with the boys and is assistant scout master. In his spare time, he likes to spend time woodworking.

When she isn't running the kids around to all their activities, Gina enjoys cooking, gardening, and particularly enjoys photography. The family participates in Logos and Gina teaches the third through fifth graders twice a month at TPC.

What a gifted, energetic family! TPC is so fortunate to have Marc, Gina, Neil, Bradley, and Leah as members!

Jack Lemmon is their deacon.



MARIAN LARSON'S BIRTHDAY

On Sunday, April 11, members of the congregation counted as Marian put her change in the chicken and upon reaching the number 95, all rose in congratulation.

Following worship Maureen and Herb Richardson served birthday cake and punch to commemorate this milestone. Scott Cameron took the picture. It was a special day.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Mission in Motion

Wednesday, May 12 is the next time TPC will provide dinner for the volunteers at the Essential Health Clinic in Tigard. Watch the tower in the Narthex for a sign-up sheet to volunteer to provide main course, side dish, salad, dessert or bread.

If it's not possible for you to deliver the food to the clinic on Wednesday night, it can be dropped off at the church by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11 and someone will transport the food to the clinic. If you have questions, please talk to Joan Nardi, Mission Elder, 503-684-6529.

ORDINATION OF ELDERS&DEACONS has been rescheduled to **Sunday, May 23**.

POTLUCK SUNDAY, MAY 23

Join us for a potluck after worship and the installation of new officers on **Sunday, May 23**. See the tower in the Narthex for a sign-up sheet.

The fellowship committee is looking for volunteers to help set up tables and chairs before potlucks and to help with clean up afterwards. If you are able to join us in this service to the congregation, talk to Barb Crall 503-692-1677 or just show up and we will put you to work. Many hands make light work and we have fun, too!

YOUTH MISSION

Sunday, June 6 our children/youth will prepare dessert during Sunday School as part of the dinner TPC will deliver on Wednesday, June 9 to the Essential Health Clinic. All classes, K & Pre-K, Elementary, Middle and High School will prepare a dessert as part of their lesson and mission. All kids are welcome to help even if they do not typically attend Sunday School. Please let me know if your child will participate that day so we can have enough supplies. You can contact Marsha Steffen at 503-692-0120 or by email at mlsteffen@verizon.net.

YOUTH SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Sunday, June 13 has been designated Youth Sunday. Our youth will help with many components of the service that day. All youth are welcome to help. There is a variety of ways the youth can help...pass out bulletins, act as greeters, collect the offering, or read scripture. We will start planning the service in May during Sunday School (9:30 to 10:15 a.m.). If your child would like to participate in this service, please contact Marsha Steffen at 503-692-0120 or at mlsteffen@verizon.net.

CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY JUNE 13

This annual church picnic will be Sunday, June 13 following worship at Tualatin City Park. When you leave the church, turn right on Boones Ferry Rd. and continue straight...through several lights. The park is on the right. Turn in at the first entrance and we'll be at the picnic shelter.

Sausages, buns, condiments and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Look for a sign-up sheet on the tower in the Narthex.

There will be activities for the kids and games for the young, and not so young...bocce, horse shoes, etc.

2010 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year our Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held Monday through Friday, **July 12-16** from 9 am to 12 noon. We have an exciting program planned for your kids—Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace. If you are interested in helping or learning more about this year's program, please contact Denise Collins at 503-682-3785/collinsd55@gmail.com or Karen Schmitt at 503-746-7229 or by email at pk.schmitt@yahoo.com.

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.

TUALATIN VALLEY PRESCHOOL

Tualatin Valley Preschool meets in the lower level of the church during the school year. They are now enrolling children for the 2010/2011 school year. They have openings for 3 and 4 year olds. Please contact Jill McCarty for more information, jillmccarty@hotmail.com or by phone at 503-639-1973. Information is also available on their website at tualatinvalleypreschool.org.

Ladies! It's golf weather! Let's go!

We invite all women golfers to join us this spring and summer out on the golf course. It doesn't matter what your level of play is; all levels are encouraged to come out. You can play 9 or 18 holes. Last spring and summer we played on Saturday morning at Sandelie or Charbonneau, but are open to other courses. Perhaps we can get a weekday group together for those who are available to play during the day.

Send your email address to Adele Pelletier at adelepelletier@earthlink.net and we will put together a mailing list so we can send you a note to see if you can play that week. Several of us take turns calling for a tee time, and we can always use help with that.

If you have questions, talk to Adele Pelletier, Sherry Nelson, Marilyn Wood or Carolyn Hale. Don't make us come looking for you!

TPC COOKBOOK STORIES

One of the delightful aspects of making recipes from the TPC *Cooking With Soul* Cookbook is reading the stories that go with them.

Now we're creating new stories with the fellowship enjoyed while sharing recipes from the cookbook. Seven friends threw Lynn Scroggin a dinner party to celebrate her birthday and they potlucked recipes from the cookbook. They had Norby's Chicken (page 130), Black Butte Salad (page 161) and Turtle Bars (page 75). All were excellent. It was an evening of fun and yum.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

01	Elise Schmidt	16	Alex Lewis
02	Craig Walker	17	Sandy Reiling
02	Wesley Shiffer	17	Gary Frey
03	Joan Nardi	17	Scott Cameron
04	Rick Mauer	19	BJ Stevenson
07	Mark Robertson	21	Ronn Rhodes
09	Robert Weener	21	Cackie Kyle
09	Ella Evers-Hood	23	Emily Mazzuca
11	Ron Van Schoiack	24	Emerson Wood
11	Dave Backen	24	Jose Corona
14	Megan Weener	24	Brian Jones
15	Dorothy Martin	27	Benjamin Schleicher
15	Stephanie Bartlett		
15	Jackson Cobb	30	Matt Winkler

Treasurer's Report

Operating Income and Expenses at March 31, 2010

	Received Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
*Income	\$70,733.30	\$78,031.00
Expense	\$63,391.94	\$66,965.00
Difference	\$ 7,341.36	\$11,066.00

* Includes prepaid pledges of \$14,200

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

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TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9230 SW Siletz Drive, Tualatin, OR 97062

The Rev. Ken Evers-Hood

Phone: 503-692-4160

Web Address: 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

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

Clerk of Session: Dee Johnson

Bell Choir Director: Martha Wilson
e-mail: bells@tpcspirit.org

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

Music Accompanist: Dr. Ron Fabbro

Art Director: Ellen VanSchoiack

Newsletter Editor: Susan Springer
e-mail: newsletter@tpcspirit.org

Bereavement Committee: Pam Cameron

Wedding Coordinator: Stacy Mauer

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

Church Office Hours

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