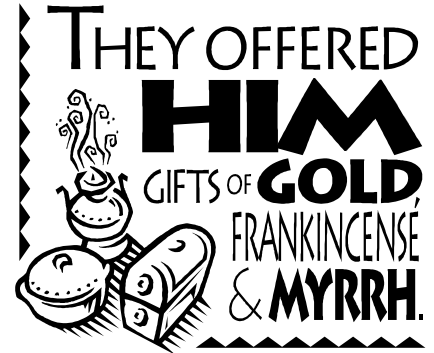




## Gifts That Keep on Giving

**B**y this time of the year, many of us are scrambling to find just the right gift for everyone who is on our Christmas list. It gives us special pleasure when we happen upon the gift that is more than a passing fad, something other than that which is purchased because we had no better ideas. To find something of lasting value, to give that which is so personal and yet so right for everyone on your list, to be able to offer so priceless and yet affordable a gift, is a rare treasure.



If you are like I am, then you, too, are especially receptive to suggestions for gifts that come close to fitting the above description. I hope that the following gift list will be as helpful to you as it has been to me. It is a list of Christmas gifts that promise to change your life as well as the lives of those to whom you give them. They are gifts that have stood the test of time and yet they are so original and personal that they must be rediscovered and given away year after year. I know that others will receive as much from them as you receive in the act of giving.

**Faith – The Gift of Mary**

**Justice – The gift of Joseph**

**Wonder & Joy – The gifts of the Shepherds**

**Service – The Gift of the Wise Men**

During this season of Advent, may your faith be born again, your vision of justice expanded, your sense of wonder and joy be childlike, and your desire to serve be inspired. I thank God for the opportunity of sharing these gifts with each and every one of you.

Grace and Peace,  
Dick Wiggers, Interim Pastor

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 NRSV



# Committee News!

## Mission Committee

**Holiday Baskets:** Thank you to everyone who participated in the special offering on November 23. Your contributions will help us prepare holiday food baskets for seven families. Additional contributions are welcome and needed. You can make a holiday food basket donation through December 13. Be sure to write "Holiday Baskets" on checks. Our church school classes will be helping us collect and wrap gifts for the children of these families. As soon as we get the "Christmas list", they will be decorating a special giving tree in the narthex. This will be a great chance for your family to share in our Advent mission projects by purchasing one of the gifts and returning it unwrapped to TPC.

**Peacemaking Offering:** TPC donated \$1,414 in our annual Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday. We will be sending \$1,061 to Synod of the Pacific for Synod and Presbytery peacemaking projects. The remainder of the offering will be contributed to Quiet Waters Outreach to help your mission of serving individuals with developmental disabilities and to our local Tuesday Treasures program. For more information on Quiet Waters Outreach, see [www.quietwatersoutreach.org](http://www.quietwatersoutreach.org).

**Christmas Eve Offering:** Based on recommendation of the Mission Committee, our Christmas Eve offering (undesignated contributions) will be given to the Washington County HopeSpring program for homeless women and children. "HopeSpring exists to promote self-sufficiency for homeless women and children by providing housing and social services through a collaborative community effort." There will be information on HopeSpring available in the narthex later in December. Their website is [www.lcsnw.org/washcounty/hopespring.html](http://www.lcsnw.org/washcounty/hopespring.html).

Mike Shiffer  
Mission Elder

## Christian Ed. Committee

Our children are involved in many Christmas projects and events this holiday season. They are helping with the giving tree by making tags/ decorations for the tree and wrapping the gifts at a party on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. You will find many of our children in the choir room after church practicing

musical pieces to share with us on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Hanging of the Greens and at the Christmas Eve service. They are busy filling shoe boxes for children less fortunate than many of us and are using their creative juices to decorate the Sunday school halls and classrooms. Look around this holiday season and enjoy our children and their many talents!

On the first Sunday of each month, during the church school time, 10:00 to about 10:30 am, we will have a group session for children ages 2½ to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In November, Barb Crall led a thought-provoking unit on the "thanks" in Thanksgiving. We had a story, discussion, music and a craft project that can be seen on the bulletin boards downstairs. The older kids helped the younger ones and we had a great time! In December, Marsha Steffen will prepare a Christmas unit and in January, Barb will teach us more about Epiphany. So, parents, continue to bring your children down for Sunday school on the first Sunday of the month for our multi-age class.

## Worship Committee

It's still not too late to buy the new supplemental hymnals in memory of or in honor of a loved one. If you decide to do this, please make out your checks to TPC for \$10 for each supplemental hymnal you buy and note on the check that it is for the hymnal. Also include how you want the faceplate to read "in honor of" or "in memory of" and the name of the person exactly as you want it to read. Thank you for supporting this addition to worship.

## Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Your pastor nominating committee is hard at work creating TPC's Church Information Form (CIF). This document is designed to communicate our church's unique mission and personality to prospective pastors. Our recently completed Mission Study forms the basis for the CIF. In addition to its regular Monday-night meetings, the committee held a workshop on Sunday, November 9, to thoroughly review the Mission Study and begin applying key elements to the CIF. The multi-faceted process of calling a new pastor may take a year or more to complete.

Greg Imus  
PNC Committee Member

## A Note from Heather Chase

I love the season of Advent. It is a time of waiting. I find myself reflecting in silence about the hope there is in Christ. Living in the expectation of our Savior's birth. It is a beautifully wonderful time for me. I found this prayer in the Book of Common Worship, a resource used to guide us in Sunday worship. I hope it finds your spirits well. Things are fabulous here. I am enjoying my time in Louisville and growing a great deal.

Heather ><> (Louisville Theological Seminary)

Who are we, Lord God,  
that you should come to us?  
Yet you have visited your people  
and redeemed us in your Son.  
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
Make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your  
word,  
and move us by your Spirit to bless your  
wonderful works.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near,  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Book of Common Worship,  
Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.



Ingeborg MacHaffie and Dale and Toni MacHaffie

Ing and her husband Mac, who passed away in 2001, moved their membership to TPC some years ago, and Ing continues to enjoy the worship and fellowship at TPC. Ing lived in Tigard for a number of years and is best known as a local author. She has written a number of books including Henry the Heron and Danish in Portland. Her background is in Early Childhood Education and she has taught from preschool through college, including OSU and Warner Pacific College. She graduated from Nebraska and has a master's from Columbia. Ing has two sons and four grandchildren. She loves playing the piano.

Dale is a long-time TPC member and former elder. As a youngster, he moved from Nebraska to Roseburg, graduated from Corvallis High School and then OSU with a degree in Zoology. Finding that there wasn't a big call for zoologists, he went on to get a law degree from Northwestern Law School and an MBA and Master's of Taxation from PSU and has been Tax Manager at Esco Corp for the last 25 years. Dale's hobbies include golf, playing the drums, reading, traveling, and attending sporting events. He and Toni have two adult children: Scott and his wife Nancy who live in Tigard, and Heather and her husband Bart who live in Allen, TX.

Toni has served as both a deacon and an elder at a previous church and in the distant past was Outdoor Ministry Coordinator for the Presbytery for four years. Her kids thought that was a great job, as they got to visit all the camps during the summer. That job led eventually to others as a meeting and event planner. Having moved from Oklahoma to Oregon and graduating from OSU, Toni is both a Sooner and a Beaver fan. She loves to quilt and to travel and enjoys her involvement with church activities, volunteer groups, and friends.

## TPC Birthdays

12/1	Debby Owen	12/15	Philip Cook
12/3	Brenda Lobbato	12/15	Jackie Dannemiller
12/4	Dick Kadel	12/15	Judy Parsons
12/4	Emma Steffen	12/16	Stacy Bartlett
12/5	Emma McGregor	12/17	Clare Hahn
12/5	Patricia Killinger	12/17	Greg Imus
12/6	Greg Owen	12/20	Zachary Gonzales
12/7	Nancy Catanese	12/20	Dottie Farrell
12/7	Rick Crall	12/21	Jaci Smith
12/9	Leah Olson	12/22	Rich Norse
12/10	Matthew Buck	12/25	Allison Blair
12/10	Philip Martin	12/27	Myrna Friese
12/10	Tanuja Senthirajah	12/28	Norm Dannemiller
12/11	Marlene Hines	12/28	Ian Shearer

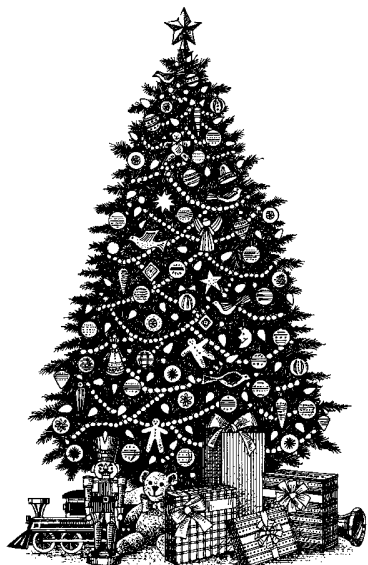
## Youth News

The Youth group will meet December 7, 14 and 21 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. There will be no meeting on December 28. Crystal will be mailing a newsletter to all youth group participants.

## Advent/Christmas Highlights

Sunday, November 30	First Sunday of Advent "Anticipation" Jer. 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36
Sunday Eve November 30	"The Hanging of the Greens" & Soup supper potluck
Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday of Advent Communion "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Mal. 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6
Saturday, December 13	TPC Christmas Progressive Dinner
Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday of Advent "Mary's Song" Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-56
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata TPC Choir "Holy Child" by Marty Parks
Wednesday, December 24 7:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Services Family Christmas Eve Service with Children's Choir Candlelight/Communion Service Sermon: "Handle With Care"

## The Origin of the Christmas Tree



It's difficult to pinpoint when and why Christians first began to use evergreen trees at Christmas time. There are many legends and myths regarding the origin of Christmas trees. For example, the ancient Romans brought greenery into their homes in winter to symbolize life in the midst of bleakness and death.

German Christians in the early part of the 16th century may have been the first to use evergreen trees during Advent and Christmas. Those trees had no candles on them, but were decorated with items at hand: colored paper, gold foil, apples and dolls. German immigrants brought the custom to America around 1700 when they settled in Pennsylvania.

Some scholars say that evergreen trees represent Christ, because they, too, are everlasting. Others say that Christmas trees remind us of salvation which came to us through Christ who died on a "tree."

St. Peter wrote: "He [Christ] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24, RSV).

The forbidden fruit of the tree in the Garden of Eden, when eaten, brought guilt and death. On the other hand, the "tree" on Calvary was the instrument by which God through Christ ushered in salvation, new life and hope. The Christmas tree can remind us of those wonderful gifts.

## The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as the birth of Jesus approaches. The circular form of the wreath symbolizes eternity or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World who brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). We light a new candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent. As the light grows, so does our anticipation and joy.

For many denominations, each of the four weekly candles is purple, the traditional color of royalty. For the third Sunday, some denominations use a pink candle to symbolize joy. The other three candles are purple and represent hope, peace and love, respectively. In the center of the wreath is a large white candle — the Christ candle — which we light on Christmas Eve. White represents the purity of Jesus.



At home, many families observe regular devotional times around the wreath. The practice builds family memories and develops Christmas customs that are likely to pass from generation to generation. For most of us the mention of mistletoe probably brings kissing to mind, but that practice wasn't the first involving mistletoe.

Two thousand years before Christ, the ancient Celtic people living in Gaul considered mistletoe to be sacred and medicinal. Druids, the priests of the Celtic tribes, used it in religious ceremonies held in tree groves where mistletoe was found.

In ancient Scandinavia, enemies, who met by chance beneath mistletoe, laid down their weapons and held a truce until the next day. This practice eventually led to the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe, the “plant of peace.”

## The Roots of Holly



Like many Christmas traditions and symbols, the use of holly began long before the time of Christ. Thought to be a sacred plant and a good omen, holly was used by the ancient Romans to honor Saturn, their god of the harvests. The festival, Saturnalia, was held annually on December 17. Wreaths and other gifts were exchanged and homes were decorated with holly. During the early years of Christianity, many Roman Christians continued to decorate their homes with holly to avoid detection and

persecution. When Christianity became the dominant religion of the Romans, holly continued to be used.

Its sharp, pointy-edged leaves are thought to represent Jesus' crown of thorns, while the red berries represent the blood he shed on the cross. This seems to make holly a suitable decoration for Easter as well as for Christmas.





# Upcoming Events at TPC

## Hanging of the Greens

**Sunday, November 30 at 5:30 pm**

The annual Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday, November 30th, starting at 5:30 p.m. This service, that marks the beginning of advent, has us singing carols as we decorate the sanctuary and the tree for Christmas. Please bring warm hats, gloves, or scarves for the tree; after Christmas these articles will be donated to the Janus Youth Program for Portland Street Youth. Following the service there will be a soup/chili dinner. Please bring a soup, salad or dessert to share. The sign-up sheet is on the tower in the narthex. We hope you'll plan to join the festivities.

## Cookie Sale

TPC is having our 4<sup>th</sup> annual cookie sale. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6 from 9 am to 2 pm. Proceeds will go to the Women's Retreat and programs. Bring six-dozen cookies for the sale and some extra for gifts for sharing with others in need. Contact Carolyn Hale for more information.

## Operation Shoebox

Once again TPC is helping needy children through donations to Operation Shoebox, a nonprofit organization providing medical / dental teams, equipment and supplies to Honduras and needy areas of Oregon. This year 30% of the donations will go to help needy Oregon families through programs such as the Good Neighbor House and others. Please fill one or more shoeboxes with school and personal hygiene supplies and bring it to the church by Sunday Dec. 7. See the display in the narthex for details. Thank you for your continued support.

## Photo Directory Dates

The photo sessions for our new directory will take place on Fri. & Sat. Dec. 5 & 6 and Dec 12 & 13. Remember to be 10 minutes early and allow 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete the process. Contact your Deacon if you have any questions.



## Progressive Dinner

The progressive dinner, an evening of food and fellowship for adults, will have three stops, one each for hors d'oeuvres, main course and dessert. There is an \$8.00 charge per person to

offset the cost of the main course and participants are asked to bring one dish to one of the stops. This event takes a bit of coordination, but it does work out! There is a sign-up sheet on the tower in the narthex. Mark your calendar and come join the fun! If you have questions, call Susan Springer, Fellowship Elder, 692-2893.

## Children's Choir

Come listen to the Children's Choir on November 30 (Hanging of the Greens), December 7 (as they sing with the TPC Choir) and the Christmas Eve Family Service at 6:30 pm.

## Christian Ed Committee Fun!

**Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 pm**

Take a break from the Christmas rush by joining other TPC families for a spirit of Christmas celebration. We will provide a variety of activities including singing carols, making children's craft projects, eating delicious homemade soup and bread, and participating in a Christmas outreach project.

## Red Cross Blood Drive at TPC

**Monday Dec. 22nd**

**3:30pm to 7:30pm**

- ⇒ Blood donors and blood drive volunteers needed
- ⇒ Donor sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex after Dec. 7th.
- ⇒ To be a blood drive volunteer contact Scott Cameron - 503-692-3368  
E-mail: [Scam97062@comcast.net](mailto:Scam97062@comcast.net)

## Day-Long Retreat for Women

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan. 31, 2003. *Make New "Habits"* is the theme for a daylong retreat for women to be held at TPC. Start the new year out right by taking time out for yourself. It will be an exciting, fun, and relaxing day. Stay tuned, more information coming soon.

## The Food Pantry

As we move into the Holiday Season, cake mixes, stovetop stuffing and cans of yams, cranberries and pumpkin are especially appreciated. You may also write checks to TPC and note "Food Bank" in the memo.

# TPC Announcements

## Baptisms



On November 2, The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Abby Jane Peterson, born April 9, 2003 and Paul Dillon Paquette, born July 14, 1993. They are the children of Derek and Tracy Peterson.

Baptized on November 16 was Colman Dean Killinger, son of Brad and Patricia Killinger, born March 20, 1995.



The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are with the Hale family at the death of Bill Hale, who passed away on October 30; and with the Brown family upon the recent death of Carolyn Brown in California.

**Please remember in prayer:** Elizabeth Flandsburg (Roger Smith's mother); Cesaltina da Silva (Milce da Silva's mother); Judy Frank (Dave Backen's mother); Terrance (Becky Backen's nephew); Nancy & Chalmer Martin (sister and brother-in-law of Philip Martin); Janet Wilson (Martha Wilson's mother); Charlie Shearer (Crystal Shearer's father-in-law); Rev. Gary Lawson; Gary Bell; Joyce & Maynard Rorman (parents of Karen Jones); Ed Dorn (Lori Beymer's uncle); Fran Best (Mark Craig's aunt), Madelyn Carlson; Janet Nesbitt, (Debbie Imus' mother); Homer Perry (Becky Backen's father); Christopher Beam (Nancy Catanese's son), the members of our PNC; and those who lead and serve our nation, communities and congregations.

**The Spirit** is published monthly and is also on our website at [www.tpcspirit.com](http://www.tpcspirit.com). Please contact Debby Owen at 503-692-6920 or e-mail her at [newsletter@tpcspirit.com](mailto:newsletter@tpcspirit.com) with any news, corrections or ideas. The deadline for the January issue is December 20.

## TPC Engagements

Brian Imus, son of Greg and Debbie Imus, recently announced his engagement to Audra Tollefson. They met while attending college at Western Oregon University. They will both graduate from WOU in June 2004. He's a Business Major - she's an Education Major. She's planning a fifth year of college at Portland State Univ. to earn her Master's in Education. They are planning a July 17, 2004 wedding.

Kevin Owen, son of Greg & Debby Owen, announced his engagement to Patchanan (Pat) Phomrose. Kevin is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year law student at Washington College of Law and Pat received her master's degree in International Communications from American University School of International Service. They plan to be married in Washington DC and in Thailand next summer.

## Stewardship News

If you haven't turned in your 2004 pledge cards, it's not too late!!!! We won't be calling those who haven't turned them in until Sunday afternoon, December 7. Please prayerfully reflect on the wonderful work that God has challenged TPC to do and turn your card in as soon as possible. Also, please make your pledge to the Building Fund for 2004 and 2005, if you have not already done so. Also, a word or two from the tax guy: remember that prepayment of all, or part of your 2004 pledge in 2003 may reduce your tax bill next April. Further, if you have any stock with unrealized capital gains, and you donate it to TPC, you may avoid those nasty capital gains taxes, while getting a deduction for the full market value at the time of donation. A double benefit! No tax on the gain and get a full deduction!

Don Schmidt

## General Fund Status January – October 2003

	<i>BUDGET</i>	<i>ACTUAL</i>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 110,212	\$116,243
<b>Expense</b>	<u>\$ 119,176</u>	<u>\$123,142</u>
<b>Net</b>	(\$ 8,964)	(\$ 6,899)

	<i>BUDGET</i>	<i>ACTUAL</i>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 6,711	\$ 10,682
<b>Expense</b>	<u>\$ 11,993</u>	<u>\$ 14,227</u>
<b>Net</b>	(\$ 5,282)	(\$ 3,545)

# Make Ornament Cookies!



Make Christmas ornament cookies to hang on your Christmas tree.



### You will need:

- \* package of refrigerated cookie dough
- \* rolling pin
- \* cookie cutters (star, bell, tree, etc.)
- \* cookie sheet
- \* icing
- \* a drinking straw
- \* ribbon
- \* an adult to help!



### How to make them:

1. Roll out the dough and cut shapes with the cookie cutters.
  2. Place on cookie sheet.
  3. Use the straw to make a hole near the top of each cookie.
  4. Bake according to the package directions.
- Important: Have an adult help!**
5. When cool, decorate the cookies with icing and tie a ribbon through each hole.
  6. Hang them on your tree or give them as gifts to friends!



## The Shepherds and the Angel

What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?  
(Luke 2:11)

Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

“

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_”

Answer: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.







**Tualatin Presbyterian  
Church Calendar  
December 2003**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Volunteers serve lunch @ Senior Center 11:00 am CE – 7:00pm PNC 7:00 pm	<b>2</b> Mission 7:00 pm	<b>3</b> Bible Study 10:30 am  Bells 6:25 pm Choir 7:38 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Photo Sessions 3:00 – 9:00	<b>6</b> Photo Sessions 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  Cookie Sale 9:00 – 2:00
<b>7</b> Adult Ed. – 8:30am Choir – 9:25 am <b>Worship – 10:00 am</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>  11:30 Fellowship 11:30 Quilting Deadline for Operation Shoebox	<b>8</b>  CE Meeting 7:00 pm  Officers & Staff Christmas Party @ Hansens 6:30 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bible Study 10:30 am  Bells 6:25 pm Choir 7:38 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Photo Sessions 3:00 – 9:00	<b>13</b> Photo Sessions 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  Progressive Dinner 5:30 pm
<b>14</b> Adult Ed. – 8:30am Choir – 9:25 am <b>Worship – 10:00 am</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> CE Celebration & Soup Supper 4:00 pm	<b>15</b> PNC 7:00 pm	<b>16</b> Tuesday Treasures 7:00 pm	<b>17</b> Bible Study 10:30 am  Bells 6:25 pm Choir 7:38 pm	<b>18</b> Session 7:00 pm	<b>19</b> Hanukkah begins @ sundown	<b>20</b> Hanukkah  Jan. Newsletter Deadline
<b>21</b> Adult Ed. – 8:30 am Choir – 9:25 am <b>Worship – 10:00 am</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>22</b> Red Cross Blood Drive 3:30 – 7:30pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 7:00 pm & 10:00 pm (Communion )	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Adult Ed. – 8:30 am Choir – 9:25 am <b>Worship – 10:00 am</b>	<b>29</b> PNC 7:00 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

**Upcoming Dates to Remember:** Feb. 21 – Cascades Leadership Fair @ Lake Grove Presbyterian  
8:30 am – 2:30 pm. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Syngman Rhee  
website: [www.cascadespresbytery.org](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org)

TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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## TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9230 SW Siletz Drive, Tualatin, OR 97062  
Dr. Richard C. Wiggers, Interim Pastor

**Phone:** 503-692-4160

**Web Address:** [www.tpcspirit.com](http://www.tpcspirit.com)

**Elders:** Dave Leland, Sherry Nelson, Erin Nelson, Del Judy, Janet Winterrowd, Carolyn Hale, Don Schmidt, Susan Springer and Mike Shiffer

**Deacons:** Lynn Scroggin, Dee Dee Hansen, Debbie Imus, Paula Miller, Marion Beyer, Tom Hahn, Roger Reid, Mark Maleta and Marc Olson

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

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

**Clerk of Session:** Mary Shiffer  
**Bell Choir Director:** Martha Wilson

**Newsletter Editor:** Debby Owen  
e-mail: [newsletter@tpcspirit.com](mailto:newsletter@tpcspirit.com)

**Administrative Asst:** Rhoda Friesen  
e-mail: [office@tpcspirit.com](mailto:office@tpcspirit.com)

**Youth Director:** Crystal Shearer  
e-mail: [youth@tpcspirit.com](mailto:youth@tpcspirit.com)

**Church Office Hours:** Tuesday from 9am - 1:30 pm; Wednesday and Friday from 9am to noon and Thursday from 9am - 2:30 pm. Pastor Wiggers is in the office Monday – Thursday. Please call for an appointment.