



## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEN

Dear friends,

A couple of weekends ago I was given an extraordinary gift of a weekend in Spokane. No, this wasn't a great gift because I had the first decent night's sleep I've had in weeks (thank you Will and Ella! ☺), although that was a nice perk. It was a great weekend because I gathered with about a hundred other people to learn more about something called the Emergent church, an independent movement attempting to articulate alternatives to the stale liberal-conservative morass the church settles for most of the time. I'll admit I went with a fairly skeptical attitude, but I've come away with a renewed sense of hope for the beautiful things God is doing in the church today.

So what do they believe? How do they worship? And do you have to have vintage clothes and a nose ring to be part of it? These are all good questions, however our fearless leaders told us over and over again they couldn't really give us final "answers" to any of these questions. (All except for the vintage clothes and body piercing- apparently we're free either way. This was a relief to me. After having my wisdom teeth out a while back, I'm really hoping to put off any more close encounters with sharp things for at least a little while.)

Now honestly, while their reluctance to give clear answers was frustrating at first, I think this is what I find most convincing about my time with these good people in retrospect. They consistently refused to reduce what they were doing to easy answers, glib talking points, or 10 steps that you, too, could follow to make your church "emergent" and attract the 18-35 set. No, they talked about paradox and mystery, authenticity, being intentional about the things we do in worship and in our common life, and about how every expression of the church has something good to teach us- whether it be conservative, liberal, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Presbyterian, Anabaptist, or what have you.

Doug Pagitt, the pastor of an emerging church in Minneapolis, was one of the speakers I liked the best. In his book entitled Church Re-

imagined he shares twenty three dreams his community came up with for the kind of church they wanted to embody. Let me share just a few with you:

Dream 5: Beauty, art, and creativity are valued, used, and understood as coming from the Creator.

Dream 7: Joy, fun, and excitement are part of our lives.

Dream 18: Christian community is the attraction to outsiders and the answer to questions of faith.

Dream 22: Other churches are valued and supported

Dream 23: People's visions and ideas of ministry come to life

I don't know about you, but I want to be part of a church where creativity is valued. I want to be part of a church where joy is woven into our fabric. And I want to be part of a church where people who may or may not agree with every last tenet of Presbyterianism feel genuinely welcome, honored, and know they can join us in our work and ministry.

On the last day Doug shared with us a slide with a picture of a young woman and then read from an email she had written to him. In her email she shared with him that she was filled with doubt about God, Jesus, and the Bible, but that she loved his church and would it be OK if she kept coming and participating. With this huge grin on his face, Doug's response to this: "Are you kidding me?" And he invited us to imagine being a church where we evaluated people's faith not by their opinions or their ability to make certain public statements, but by their willingness to show up, to care for one another, and to follow the way of Jesus whether or not they've got it all figured out. Sounds really good to me. How about you? If you are interested in learning more, here are some helpful links:

<http://www.emergentvillage.org>

<http://www.presbymergent.org>

In Christ,  
Pastor Ken

## Here's what's happening at TPC!

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

#### Calling all carpenters to the rescue!

Our music and art departments need two more risers, similar to the ones we have now but half the size. If you have the time and the talent, we could use your help building them. There is no cost to you other than sharing your skills. Please contact Norm Dannemiller, Building & Grounds elder, at 503-885-2405 or [ndannemi@spiritone.com](mailto:ndannemi@spiritone.com).

Karen Stevenson, Worship Elder

### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee has made the decision to use less paper and plastic products. We will do this by using the silverware, cups and plates whenever possible. You will also see a clean-up section added to all the sign-up sheets for food events. We understand that the heavy plates, by themselves, are difficult for some to carry, let alone with food on them, so we are researching the cost to purchase lighter weight, microwave/dishwasher safe plates. Please feel free to email [fellowship@tpcspirit.org](mailto:fellowship@tpcspirit.org) with any suggestions on plates and sources for purchasing them. We hope to see the clean-up sign-up filled.

### MISSION COMMITTEE

"Christmas is coming; the goose (or ham or turkey) is getting fat. Won't you please put a penny in the old man's hat; and if you don't have a penny, a half penny will do - and if you don't have a half penny, well, then, may God bless you!"

The Advent Season is upon us and those who are in need are still with us as they have been even before the birth of the Christ child. This year we will again decorate the Christmas tree with hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the Janus Project which provides support for homeless youths. If you would like additional information, please contact Barbara Harriman who is the TPC project coordinator.

We will also host a Giving Tree to provide gifts for children of local families who otherwise would have none. The name, age and gift desired is on a tag for each child. There will be two or three tags per child; one will be for an article of clothing and the other for a toy or interest such as beads for jewelry making. Simply remove the tags, purchase the item requested, wrap the gift, put a new tag on it with the child's name and place it

under the Giving Tree in the narthex by Friday, December 21st. May God bless you abundantly as you share in this season of joy!

### SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

have been designated as follows:

▪ Memorial Fund offerings, given in honor of loved ones, will be given to the Tualatin Food Pantry. A list of those honored will be printed in the bulletin on Sundays 12/23 and 12/30.

▪ The Christmas Joy offering, which provides assistance to Presbyterian International Missions, will be received on Sunday December 23rd.

▪ The Christmas Eve offering will support Habitat for Humanity.

Joan Nardi, Mission Elder

### TPC BELL CHOIR CONCERT

#### Sounds of the Season III

Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm

The handbell choir presents their annual Christmas Concert on December 9th at 4pm. This year they'll be joined by the Lake Oswego Millennium Brass Quintet. This group is made up of very skilled brass players who delighted our congregation this past summer when they played in worship. The Christmas Concert has been called "the highlight of my Christmas season" by some in attendance. With brass joining us we expect a full house, so come early. It's also a wonderful opportunity to introduce friends and family to TPC! As always, there's no admission charge; a freewill offering will be taken to add to our fund to purchase of our own set of handbells...someday.

### TPC COOKIE SALE, SAT. DEC. 15, 2007

This year's cookie sale will be Saturday, December 15. This is an opportunity to bake and donate one kind of cookie, and then come to the sale and buy a wide variety of cookies. It's an excellent opportunity to create home-made Christmas gifts without all the work!

To the bakers and cookie eaters of TPC, please mark your calendars now so you won't miss out. Proceeds from the cookie sale will help cover the speaker's fees for the women's retreat at the end of February. There's a sign-up sheet on the tower in the narthex. Please sign up to bring several dozen of your favorite cookies, Christmas or otherwise, to this year's sale. Thanks.

## STEWARDSHIP

For the past several weeks we have included pledge cards in the Sunday bulletin. If you haven't turned in a pledge card and if you need one, there are cards on the small table in the narthex to the left of the glass doors leading into the sanctuary. Please take one, fill it out and place it in the offering plate, or take it to the office. And thanks to everyone who has turned in a card!

## SESSION ROUNDUP

As one more way of connecting you to what's going on at TPC, here is a quick summary of what happened at the most recent session meeting on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Session welcomed Abby Britton from Tualatin Valley Preschool (TVP) to share with us how things are going downstairs. Last year we signed a new, three year lease with TVP, and we all agreed that as part of our new lease we should meet with one another. I'm so glad we did this, because we have a great relationship with the preschool and this will only improve the relationship. Abby reported things are going great and we discussed some minor improvements we can make to the space.

We discussed a request made through Mission for TPC to join a network of other churches acting as emergency shelters in extreme cold and heat. The session had a great discussion about this, are supportive of the idea, but want more information before making a final decision.

Karen Stevenson gave us an update on some of the work being done on maintaining the sanctuary. Due to an extremely generous gift made last month, we've been able to replace sound equipment no longer working due to age. Further improvements will await a recommendation from Norm Dannemiller on whether we will replace our damaged HVAC unit (19 years old!) or whether we should simply repair it.

-Finally, Shari Olsen asked for Session's guidance regarding the request from Nursery Director Rob Ayers asking for a second nursery care provider for Sunday mornings. Session agreed that safe and reliable nursery care is critical, and voted to approve starting the hiring process.

## TPC Memorial Garden

Granite and River Rock memorials for placement in the TPC Memorial Garden are now available. Request forms with further information and prices are located in the church office.

## Boy Scouts of America and Cub Scouts Walk & Knock Scouting for Food December 1, 2007

The annual Scouting for Food drive is coming up soon! We hope you will participate on the first Saturday in December. Last year Scouts in Oregon and southwestern Washington collected nearly 361,000 pounds of food to benefit local hunger relief agencies. Let's do it again! Scouting for Food kicks off Friday night with Boy Scouts serving dinner for many of our community's homeless people. Saturday morning Scouts will begin going door-to-door asking residents to donate canned and packaged foods for hungry people in our community. The Oregon Food Bank's shelves have been decimated by the recent recalls, so if adults would take a grocery bag to work and ask their co-workers to assist in our efforts, it would be greatly appreciated. Also, remind your volunteers that monetary donations are appreciated; make checks payable to: The Oregon Food Bank. Mike Shiffer of the Schoolhouse Pantry says that there will be volunteers to take donations from 10 AM to 2 PM on Dec 1. The Pantry is located in the portable structure at the old Tualatin Elementary School on Boones Ferry at Sagert. Monetary donations made directly to them help with their budget.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Tualatin based, Boy Scout Troops 35 and 530 will be conducting their annual tree recycling fundraiser again this Christmas Season. Door hangers and/or envelopes with program information, contact names and numbers will be distributed after Thanksgiving. The program is conducted on an honor system, and no door to door solicitation for service is conducted. Tualatin Troops are very active in the community, supporting the Food Pantry, local schools and city programs. The funds raised go directly to the Scouts, and are used for Summer Camp and other Troop activities. In advance we thank you for your support. Please contact Troop 530 Scoutmaster Norm Dannemiller, 503/885-2405.

## Social Justice Corner

This time of year is an especially good time to consider how we live out a life of justice when the cry is for consumerism. The question "are you ready for Christmas?" invariably is asking about whether we've completed our purchasing and wrapping process, and little to do with whether we've prepared our hearts to receive the gift of the Christ Child; the Child that shunned all symbols of wealth, status and power to become a helpless infant in a working-class family. Through His identification with the poor, sick, outcasts and marginalized peoples He changed the notion that the Messiah would come with great power to overturn Roman rule. His power was in His love, which led him to identify with those in need and meet them where they were.

At Christmas, we too have abundant opportunities to practice justice and let go of the one of the greatest defining features of our culture, our ability to consume. Now don't get me wrong...I love giving gifts, and truth be told receiving them too. I love seeing faces light up with delight when I really scored with the right gift. However, something in the back of my mind never quits wondering about how we spend at this time of year. In my life, I have no needs....really. I have only wants because all my needs are met. I don't "need" a new sweater---the old one isn't worn with moth holes yet! My shoes may be worn, but the soles are solid. Are all my clothes perfectly in keeping with this year's fashions---no, but does it matter?

I keep wondering, and have not yet been able to get over my own greed and pride to do this, what it would be like to go totally "alternative" in my giving one year. You know, actually buy a water buffalo for a family in the Philippines through Heifer International. Or, maybe buy textbooks for children in Senegal, Africa? How about providing funds to cover nursing home care for AIDS patients or planting a forest in Haiti? All these are options, plus hundred more, that you can access in five minutes on your computer. Try "googling"—a new verb, "alternative gifts." Visit [heifer.org](http://heifer.org) or [alternativegifts.org](http://alternativegifts.org) or [greatgifts.org](http://greatgifts.org). From the [PCUSA.org](http://PCUSA.org), our denominational website, you can enter "alternative gifts" in the search box and find out what the denomination recommends. Or, if you love to shop, visit 10,000 Villages on NW Everett in Portland. While I'm not

going totally alternative this year, I commit to making a start---feel free to ask me about it. How about you? Remember, Jesus tells us that when we care for the sick and the needy and the outcasts, we're caring for Him. Send Him some chickens for Christmas!

Martha Wilson

## HANGING OF THE GREENS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2007 AT 5:00 P.M.

This is a family-friendly worship service at 5 p.m. followed by a soup and salad potluck. Bring hats, gloves, scarves and/or socks to decorate the tree.

## PROGRESSIVE DINNER SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2007

The TPC Progressive Dinner will be Saturday, December 8. There is now a sign-up sheet on the tower in the narthex.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

*Advent Candle Lighting*



Candles will be lit at seven worship services during the advent season. If you and members of your family, or you and several of your friends would like to light candles during advent, please contact Mari Schuman at 503-422-3404.



## TPC Chancel Choir Cantata

The Chancel Choir will be presenting "A Great and Mighty Wonder", celebrating the Messiah's Birth on December 16 during the morning worship service.

**Sara & Eileen Eakins**



I live in Tualatin with my 7-year-old daughter, Sara. Growing up in the Sacramento area, I was a member of the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, and was active in the youth group and choir. My sister is married to a Presbyterian pastor. But, since moving to Oregon in 1987, I avoided church, mostly because, like a lot of people, I felt okay with God but differed with "church people" (relatives included). I didn't fit in.

In 2000, I joined a Lake Oswego law firm as an attorney, while I was pregnant and going through a divorce. After several years of raising a child on my own while succeeding in a very unforgiving profession (failure wasn't an option), I was physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted, desperate for peace and rest, and compelled to admit that I couldn't carry on alone anymore and needed God's help.

Sometime in 2005 I decided to visit TPC, because I knew I could speak and understand Presbyterian. The first time I came, tears welled when I heard Ken say, "God has already removed from you your guilt and your shame." I realized then how weighed down I was by guilt and shame -- from a failed marriage, from feeling like I was letting my daughter down because earning a living was taking so much of my time and energy, from wanting to do and be so much more than I was--from a lot of things. I was moved to change what I could, and in 2006 I took a leap of faith and opened my own law office. In some ways I'm working harder than ever. But when I need time with my daughter -- or for myself -- I take it. That's a blessing. And it has helped so much to come to a place each week where life waits outside for an hour or so while I'm reminded that I'm loved just as I am, and that I don't have to be in charge all the time. That I also found "church people" who are warm and welcoming has made

me think that maybe I can be a "church person" again, too.

I'd like to tell you about all my interesting hobbies and active social life, but those things are mostly on hold for now. Sara attends Byrom Elementary and is in the second grade. She is taking a beginning jazz dance class, just finished soccer, and will soon move to the next level in her swimming lessons. She is my most important work. For money, I represent local governments (special districts, cities, counties). I am first vice-chair and serve on several committees of the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce. In addition to practicing law, I teach seminars around the state for local government board members and staff.

**"A New Look at an Old Tradition--  
"ADVENT"  
Sunday mornings: (9:15 am)  
December 2,9,16,23.  
All ages invited!**

As we explore "ADVENT", we will explain its strategic place in our faith year. Each Sunday we will focus on a theme/concept that will enrich our understanding and participation in this often misunderstood season. Each week in the bulletin will be Biblical passages to help us think together about the theme of the day for the coming Sunday. Doesn't that thought spook you? All you need to bring is your Bible, an open heart and mind to learn and share together. Hope to see you there!!!

Peace and joy, Charlie Brown

**What do these words mean in your personal faith journey?**

**Repentance...Faith...Holiness...Love...**

**WOULD YOU ENJOY BEING A FRONT DOOR GREETER?**

If you would enjoy greeting your fellow parishioners on Sunday morning, let Dee Dee Hanson or Clare Hahn know. Along with greeting, you would also help with the offering. It is a special way to say "Good Morning" to everyone and a good way to see those who you normally don't get to visit with on Sunday morning.

**December Birthdays!**

12/01 Rachel Norse	12/15 Jackie Dannemiller
12/01 Debby Owen	12/15 Blair Ewing
12/04 Dick Kadel	12/16 Stacy Bartlett
12/04 Emma Steffen	12/17 Clare Hahn
12/05 Emma McGregor	12/17 Greg Imus
12/06 Greg Owen	12/18 Clyo Dickson
12/07 Rick Crall	12/19 Todd Sweetland
12/07 Nancy Catanese	12/19 Dorothy Butts
12/09 Leah Olson	12/20 Dottie Farrell
12/10 Tanuja Senthirajah	12/21 Jaci Smith
12/10 Philip Martin	12/22 Rick Norse
12/11 Marlene Hines	12/23 McKinley Ewing
12/13 Barbara Kozak	12/25 Allison Blair
12/13 Will Evers-Hood	12/27 Myrna Friese
12/15 Judy Parsons	12/29 Norm Dannemiller

**General Fund Status  
January – October, 2007**

	<i>BUDGET</i>	<i>ACTUAL</i>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 173,833	\$ 159,314
<b>Expense</b>	<u>\$ 183,114</u>	<u>\$ 168,918</u>
<b>Net</b>	\$ -9,281	\$ -9,604
<b>October 2007</b>		
	<i>BUDGET</i>	<i>ACTUAL</i>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 17,383	\$ 14,346
<b>Expense</b>	<u>\$ 18,157</u>	<u>\$ 17,855</u>
<b>Net</b>	\$ -774	\$ -3,509

**Note that our offering and pledge income continues to be below the budget.**

**Children's Smile**

Would you like to bring a smile to a child at Doernbecker's Children's Hospital, Emmanuel Children's Hospital, or at a shelter for abused women and children? Your gift of a new handmade blanket, be it knitted or crocheted, made from polar fleece, or from fabric squares to create a quilt, will be loved by a child in need of a hug. Contact Shirley Schultz (503-625-9810) for more information. Thanks.

**WOULD YOU ENJOY BEING A GREETER?**

If you would enjoy greeting your fellow parishners on Sunday morning, let Dee Dee Hanson or Clare Hahn know. Along with greeting, you would also help with the offering.

It is a special way to say "Good Morning" to everyone and a good way to see those who you normally don't get to visit with on Sunday morning.

**Families enjoyed the November Fall Festival**



Face painting, donuts on a string, "cupcake" walk, decorating cookies, crafts, food and FUN!





*Tualatin Presbyterian  
Church Calendar  
December 2007*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Ordained Council 10:00
2 Adult Ed. – 9:15 am Sunday School – 9:30 am <b>Worship – 10:30 am</b> <b>Communion</b>  <b>Hanging of the Greens</b> – 5:00 pm	3 Spiritual Formation – 7:00 pm (offsite)	4	5 No Morning Bible Study  Chancel Choir 7:15 pm	6 Bell Choir 7:00 pm	7	8 Progress Dinner 5:30 PM Appetizers
9 Adult Ed. – 9:15 am Sunday School – 9:30 am <b>Worship – 10:30 am</b>  <b>Bell Concert – 4:00 pm</b>  <b>Youth Groups– 5:30pm</b>	10	11	12 No Morning Bible Study  Chancel Choir 7:15 pm	13 Bell Choir 7:00 pm  Deacon/Elder Gathering 6:00 pm	14	15 Cookie Sale
16 Adult Ed. – 9:15 am Sunday School – 9:30 am <b>Worship – 10:30 am</b> <b>Choir Cantata</b>	17	18 Tuesday's Treasures 7:00 pm	19 No Morning Bible Study  Chancel Choir 7:15 pm	20 Bell Choir 7:00 pm  Session 7:00 pm	21	22 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 pm
23 Adult Ed. – 9:15 am Sunday School – 9:30 am <b>Worship – 10:30 am</b> <b>Children's Program</b>	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 5:00 and 10:00 pm	25 Christmas	26 No Morning Bible Study  Chancel Choir 7:15 pm	27 Bell Choir 7:00 pm	28	29
30 No Adult Ed. Sunday School – 9:30 am <b>Worship – 10:30 am</b>	31 New Year's Eve  Office Closed				30	