



Well, it took a little longer than I wanted for the book to make it into print, but honestly, I'm glad it came out around Christmas time. And not just because it would make the perfect stocking stuffer, (although it seriously would. All your friends are buying it... J) but because Christmas is the perfect time to contemplate God's humanity.

One of the first questions I get about the book is why I refer to Jesus as irrational. It certainly isn't because I think he is seriously mentally ill or unpredictably erratic. Quite the opposite in fact. I think of Jesus as being irrational in the same sense that all human beings are impacted by emotion and predictable mental blind spots.

For instance all four Gospels recount Jesus throwing the money changers out of the temple. John remembers him using a whip of cords. It's hard to imagine Jesus doing this in a cold, logical, purely rational way. Of course not. This was a scene charged with emotion.

Or when Lazarus died. Jesus didn't go all Spock on everyone and assure Mary and Martha that their brother was somehow going to be ok. Instead, we get the shortest verse in the Scriptures: And Jesus wept. (John 11:35.)

And when Jesus tried to go on vacation to Syria, and that Syrian woman broke into the house he was staying in and wanted him to heal her daughter? He snarls at her that it wouldn't be right to take the food from the table and give it to the dogs. Yes, Jesus calls this woman a dog. Amazingly, the woman dishes it right back to him saying yeah, but even the dogs under the table get the scraps. While interpreters do all kinds of contortions to make Jesus sound nicer than he really is, the reality is that he is subject to decision fatigue like the rest of us. When he is exhausted, trying to get away, and is interrupted, he is not his best self. This, by the way, isn't sin: this is called being human. What's remarkable is that when she snaps back at him, he not only allows her to do so but tacitly acknowledges he is in the wrong and agrees to heal her daughter.

This is what Christmas is all about: God assuming our frail flesh, emotions, biases, and mental blind spots and all. By doing so he shows us being human and making mistakes isn't sinful; it's pretending to be perfect and without error that's the real sin.

So, this season remember to be human and be gentle with yourself. And remember the words of Neil Gaiman: "Make mistakes. Make amazing, glorious mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before."

Yours in the fully divine AND fully human Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood



COOKIE SALE - Sat., Dec. 10, 9 am to 1 pm

The famous TPC Cookies are coming on Saturday, December 10th from 9 am to 1 pm. This year we welcome any kind of tasty baked goods. Gift bags will be available. Cost is \$5.95 per pound.

If you're baking goodies for this sale, please bring them to the church on Friday the 9th from 9 to 5. This year we welcome any kind of tasty baked goods; gift bags will be available. Please bring a 3x5 card with a list of the ingredients so people with allergies can make wise choices.

Proceeds from this cookie sale will support Sarah and Estalin, the two children we sponsor through Compassion International.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE - Our annual holiday gift drive for families in need of some extra holiday spirit has started. Look for the tree with tags in the Narthex.

To donate a gift...take a paper ornament, fill out the while copy and put it in the big wrapped box near the tree. Take the colored paper ornament with you to shop (gift receipts are appreciated for clothes or shoes). **Return the wrapped gift by Sunday, December 18th.** Be sure to tape the colored paper ornament to the gift so it can be delivered to the correct child.

To donate money toward a Family Food Basket, write "food basket" on the comment line of your check and place in the offering plate, or put in an envelope and put in big wrapped box near the tree in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS ART CAMP For ages 5 to 12. **Monday, Dec. 19 through Friday, Dec. 23,** 1 to 4 pm daily, downstairs at the church. There is no charge for this class; class size is limited to 20.

Creating can get messy; wear old clothes. Contact Sarah Beck to register sarah@tpcspirit.org. Class will work in watercolor, collage, and clay. Chris Robertson, Sarah Beck and Pamela Russell will teach the class.

TUESDAY'S TREASURES INVITATION

If you are seeking a Christmas experience that is sure to warm your heart, please join us for our nativity reenactment at our December Treasure Night meeting, **Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7-8:30 pm** at TPC. For more information about this event, or about the Treasure program, serving adults with disabilities, please contact Carolyn Locke at clockezoo@gmail.com



Holiday
OPEN HOUSE

EVERS-HOOD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

You are cordially invited to the Evers-Hood Annual Christmas Open House on **Thursday, December 22, 5:30 to 8:30 pm.**

Join us to celebrate some Christmas cheer. All are welcome, including your Uncle Fred. Please bring an appetizer, dessert or beverage to share.

RSVP to the church office. (503) 692-4160 or office@tpcspirit.org.

ADULT EDGE

Beginning Jan. 8th and going forward Adult Edge will begin at 0830am and end around 0945am. Our lively discussions have been cut short due to running out of time, so the majority of regular attendee's have voted to begin 15 minutes early. January - March 2017 we will study and discuss the book, "The Muslim Next Door". Please consider purchasing a paper or electronic copy so your time sharing will be more personal. April-May 2017 we will study the book, "The Irrational Jesus". Check out Ken's super amazing website and purchase his book at TPC or at: www.irrationalJesus.com

John Casebeer Adult Ed Elder

WORSHIP

The beautiful Boehm Porcelain Nativity Scene resting in the glass display case in the Narthex, is a bequest made by a gracious, now departed member, Susan Collier. She collected the pieces over the years and proudly displayed them in her home for the Christmas Season. When she could no longer entertain guests, she brought the Nativity scene to TPC so her faith family could enjoy its beauty. At her passing, she left the Boehm to us as her generous gift. Please enjoy viewing this special gift and encourage your children, grandchildren, and others to do so also.

“Ding, dong merrily on high”, soon the bells will be ringing and the chancel choir singing “glory to God on High and Peace to all mankind on Earth.” We have begun our Season of Advent with the traditional TPC Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 27th, followed by a potluck dinner. Thus we have begun the season of waiting for the arrival of the Christ Child and the celebration of His birth.

Sunday, December 11th, the children and youth, under the guidance of Sarah Beck and Chris Robertson, will share in worship with a special Children’s Christmas Play. Be sure to come and enjoy this special worship event. The TPC Bell Choir will provide Christmas music that morning ringing an anthem and the offertory.

Saturday, Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve, we will share the joy of Christ’s birth at two services. **The first service is at 5:00 PM.** Families are encouraged to bring their children to participate in this special service.

The second service is at 8:00 PM. We will share the joy of our Savior’s birth with song, scripture, special bell and choral music, and conclude our celebration with Holy Communion.

Sunday, December 25th, - **Christmas Day** will be celebrated with a service of “Lessons and Carols” at the regular 10 am time.

A blessed & Merry Christmas to all!

Joan Nardi, Worship Elder

MISSION

KEEP PORTLAND WEIRD WARM

On behalf of The Janus Project serving homeless youth in Portland, thank you for your donations of hats, gloves, socks, coats and all sorts of warm, snuggly clothing. Thanks to Bob Eddy for his hours of time, and thank YOU for supporting our November ‘tree’!

AFRICAN EYES

“You made a significant difference!”

Dr. Craig Bowen and his students, shown in the picture later in this article, will visit Tanzania in mid-December. Thanks to TPC, they will take with them a new TONOMETER, dozens of solar lights and eyeglasses, and funds to pay for many glaucoma procedures - resources totaling over



\$6,000. As one of Dr. Bowen’s students shared, TPC’s contributions made a “significant difference in the quality of care we are able to provide.” Thank you to Dr. Bowen, his students and all members and friends of TPC who responded to this amazing mission

Cathy Lambeth for the TPC Mission Team

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Honor family and friends with a gift to one, or all, of the three great local causes listed below.

The Father’s Heart is a local, faith-based organization that helps anyone in need, especially the growing homeless population in south-metro Washington and Clackamas counties. Located in Oregon City, they assist with basic human needs (food, showers, warmth) and do comprehensive intake interviews that identify targeted support for individuals and families.

Refugee Care Collective helps legal refugees adapt to life in Oregon by providing household supplies (pots and pans, bedding, etc.) as well as social connections. In 2016, around 1,800 refugees resettled in metro Portland after fleeing war-torn areas such as Somalia, Myanmar and Syria.

Tualatin Food Pantry is Tualatin’s primary resource for on-demand assistance to families in need of food. TPC continues to support this amazing organization with volunteer time, donations and your contributions.

To donate to Christmas Memorials, use the bulletin inserts or give online at tpcspirit.org. (Click ‘Giving’ and list Christmas Memorials). Christmas Memorials will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas and New Year’s Day.



The Refugee Support Team is reinstating our bins in the Narthex for contributions to the Refugee Care Collective. This local organization serves as a conduit for assistance to refugee families who have fled war in the Middle East to legally resettle in the Portland/Vancouver area. Most families leave everything behind and arrive with nothing. In December we are collecting new kitchen items. While bargain hunting, look for Dishes (plates and bowls for 6) - Cups/glasses and mugs for 6 - Silverware (forks, knives, spoons for 6-8) - Silverware tray/holder for drawer - Dish towels (2) - Potholders (2) - Paper towels and holder - Hand soap - Trash can (11-13 gallons) - and Garbage bags. Thanks!

Pictured above, left to right, are Ted Pelletier, Adele Pelletier, Liz Belz-Templeman and Nancy Church.



TUESDAY'S TREASURES

Mary Shiffer led the November Treasure Night lesson, "Families Forgive", sharing the story of Joseph and his family. Of course we also shared what we're thankful for: Jesus, pumpkin pie, job that I love, the Bible, family,

gerbils and other critters, holidays, a warm home, my mom, health, all the food, friends, going to Hawaii, God, rain, Blazers, Christmas music. Treasure volunteers are thankful for the blessing of Treasures in our lives.

Photo: Michelle Fromme (with 'Joseph's coat' project) & Mary Shiffer

For more information about this event or about the Treasure program, serving adults with disabilities, please contact Carolyn Locke at clockezoo@gmail.com

COMMUNITY BUILDING WITH OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS



On Wednesday, November 9, Sarah Beck and Pastor Ken delivered flowers to local mosques. Ken posted this message on Facebook: "I just got back from delivering flowers to local mosques with Sarah Back. Oh my goodness. We were received with eager hospitality and love.

One man welcomed us to worship with him and told us how hopeful he is that this will be a wake up to connect more with one another. One woman just cried and said thank you. Another man, who happens to be a local professor as well, invited us to his home for coffee and said he would come and speak to our community any time. To a person they were so hopeful and optimistic about our system of checks and balances and the willingness of our communities to rise to our best selves. I'm honestly feeling a little more hopeful. Be vulnerable. Reach out to one another. Choose love. This day and every day."

Mohammed Saeed Rahman "With all negativity after the dirtiest political campaign in our history and Trump nonsense and his gutter Nazi like mannerism, we have some positive news. Two wonderful, highly educated church folks from Tualatin Presbyterian Church brought flowers, love, respect, kindness and sunshine to the mosques in Portland, Oregon."



Saturday, Nov. 12, Sarah Beck, Jean and John Martin, Ken, Ella and Brynne Evers-Hood attended the Muslim Educational Trust Award and Appreciation Auction to show our support.

LOCK IN ON NOVEMBER 5, 8 PM TO 8 AM



The youth have arrived, can you tell?

Is everyone comfortable and settled down, at least for now?



HANGING OF THE GREENS



Sunday, November 27
Nothing says advent like Hanging of the Greens and *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* sung like in a mead hall. Note Pastor Ken's special red suit!

THE TPC ADULT (YOUTH) GROUP saw the Andy Warhol exhibit at the Portland Art Museum during the "First Thursday" showing on November 3rd and did a make-up trip, for those who missed it, on December 1st.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month the TPC Sunday School wore their costumes to church on Halloween and had a party, made cards for the local mosque and the Latino church, worked on sculpting clay, and created canvas and stitch projects with yarn. They had open discussions on the ten commandments, what it means to be a member of the TPC church and they talked about God's light shining through the darkness...to name a few.



CHRISTINA'S ATTIC

This year we have three amazing women to thank for the original Advent artwork: Nancy Wilcox painted the beautiful watercolors hanging on the back wall. Nancy Catanese, with help from Diane Barry, created the beaded stars for our mobile hanging in the sanctuary. Watch the mobile grow as Christmas approaches. Thank you, also, to everyone who helped prepare the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas worship.

Christina Robertson, Art Director

NOVEMBER CONGREGATIONAL AND SESSION MEETINGS

At the Congregational Meeting on Oct. 23rd:

The 2017 budget calling for a 7% overall increase was presented. Members of the congregation asked questions and discussed the budget. Sarah Beck, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, reported on plans and programs being implemented.

Special Session Meeting on November 6th

We welcomed seven new members, Jack Allee, Megan and Ian Swanson, Lizzy and Kerry Hormann, and Peggy and Scott Gibbons.

At the regular Session Meeting on Nov. 18th:

Moving the January communion to the second Sunday, January 8, 2017, was approved. With survey results showing a statistical tie between 8 pm and 10 pm as a time for the late service on Christmas Eve, Session made a difficult decision to hold the service at 8pm. As part of our mission outreach to refugees, placing a sign over the front entrance saying, in three languages, Spanish, English and Arabic, "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor." was approved.

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

Rick Crall, Clerk of Session



Charlie and Edda Brown recently visited Dorothy Martin. Edda sent this sweet picture. Dorothy commented that "oh it's nice to have friends visit."



TUALATIN SCHOOL HOUSE PANTRY

The pantry currently needs canned fruit, canned soup, canned meats (chili, pasta, etc.), boxed macaroni and cheese, and powdered laundry detergent. Thanks for your continuing support of this ministry.



STEPHEN MINISTRY We're building a great team.

If you're interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, now is a good time to pick up an application, fill it out, and turn it in as soon as possible. Classes will be Tuesdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m., January through May.

If you have questions, talk to one of the four Stephen Leaders: Stephen Ricker, Nikki Martin, Susan Springer or Pastor Ken

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- ??-Rebecca Olsen
- 01-Karen Carlin
- 01-Henry Harris
- 01-Debbie Owen
- 04-Tomette Schuhmann
- 04-Emma Steffen
- 06-Greg Owen
- 06-Wayne Willis

- 07-Nancy Catanese
- 07-Rick Crall
- 08-Liz Reding
- 09-Leah Olson
- 10-Tanuja Carlson
- 10-John DeHoney
- 13-Ches Evers-Hood
- 13-Barbara Kozak
- 14-Barb Thomason
- 15-Jackie Dannemiller

- 15-Tessa Kehoe
- 17-Greg Imus
- 18-Barbara Kerr
- 19-Dorothy Butts
- 19-Bonnie Nord
- 22-Rick Norse
- 26-Jacki Mazzuca
- 27-Myrna Friese
- 28-Norm Dannemiller
- 29-Dan Peters

TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

For the latest calendar updates, go to www.tpcspirit.org and click on About Us, then select Calendar from the drop-down menu..

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 10:00 Worship Sunday School	5 Deacon meeting off site	6	7 10 a.m. Loving Stitches 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	9 Cookie Sale drop off and set-up	10 9 am to 1 pm Cookie Sale
11 10:00 Worship Children's Xmas Play during worship	12	13	14 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 10:00 Worship Christmas Joy Offering this day Sunday School	19	20 7 pm Tuesday's Treasures	21 10 am Loving Stitches 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	22 5:30-8:30 pm Evers-Hood Open House 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	23	24 5 pm and 8 pm Christmas Eve Worship Services
	ART CAMP MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, 1 TO 5 PM					
25 10:00 Worship	26	27 9 am January newsletter deadline	28	29	30	31

2016 FINANCIALS	Actuals	Budget	Dollar Difference
Operating Income Year to Date 10/31/16	\$309,144	\$305,330	\$3,814
Operating Expenses Year to Date 10/31/16	\$304,662	\$311,207	\$6,545

TPC office hours can vary.
Please call ahead to confirm the office is open.
Monday, 9 a.m. to noon,
Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.



9230 SW Siletz Drive
Tualatin, OR 97062



DECEMBER, 2016

TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9230 SW Siletz Drive, Tualatin, OR 97062
Phone: 503-692-4160 **Email:** office@tpcspirit.org
Web Address: www.tpcspirit.org We're also on Facebook.
Worship Service – Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood

Parish Associates: The Rev. Charlie Brown, The Rev. Dr. Dick Wiggers

Elders: Craig Bowen, John Casebeer, Cathy Lambeth, Joan Nardi, Judy Nix, Greg Owen, Emily Ricker and Maureen Wolf

Deacons: Jan Bender, Susan Cameron, Russ Carlin, Bob Eddy, Susan Fee, Dianne Lemmon, Deborah Lewis, Bonnie Nord, Jackie Norman, Gina Olson, and Pamela White.

Administrative Assistant: Susan Springer

Financial Assistant: Mike Shiffer

Director of Music Ministries: Dr. David Kelly

Accompanist: Dr. Ron Fabbro

Bell Choir Director: Debbie Ivanov

Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Sarah Beck

Building and Grounds Caretaker: Bob Paetsch

Art Director: Chris Robertson

Bereavement Committee Chair: Barbara Crall

Blood Drive Coordinator: Scott Cameron

Clerk of Session: Rick Crall

Cookie Coordinator: Sue Hayhurst

Membership Coordinator: Jeni Wiggers

Newsletter Editor: Susan Springer

Parish Nurse: Susan Fee

Prayer Chain: Greg Imus

Treasurer: Jennifer Ayers

Tuesdays Treasures Coordinator: Carolyn Locke

Webmaster: John Martin

Wedding Coordinator: Stacy Mauer

Office hours may vary; call ahead to confirm.

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