





Tualatin Presbyterian Church

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**If you find an item interesting or helpful,
Please give the author of that item your feedback.**

Contributions to the TPC Annual Report by the following members of the TPC family are gratefully acknowledged:

Coordinator and Editors, Rick Crall & Susan Springer.

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All the contributors of the individual reports.

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TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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PASTOR'S REPORT

March 1 marked my one-year tenure at Tualatin Presbyterian Church. Serving as your interim pastor has been a great joy for me. Heather and I came at the beginning of Lent. We walked toward the cross together, we celebrated the Resurrection together, and from there, we kept walking. Remember the congregational survey? The congregational survey revealed to us that TPC is a place of belonging and unconditional love. 91% of those who participated in the survey agreed that at TPC, we help each other in times of trouble. 65% of our members have been at TPC for more than 10 years. 69% enjoy our worship style. 99% enjoy inspiring sermons and many of us are open to new ideas (85%). This survey has become a helpful tool for the Pastor Nominating Committee as they seek God's guidance in discerning who will be the next installed pastor at TPC. Thanks for taking time to work through all those tedious questions.

As a congregation, we worked through budgetary challenges, grieved over the loss of dear friends, struggled with the changing nature of the church, and, along the way, celebrated several birthdays during worship (with the help of a chicken). Over the year, I hope I have demonstrated for you that it's okay to be different and try new approaches in worship. While preaching and offering public prayers is my jam, I'm never opposed to pulling out my guitar and singing an introit or a prayerful song. (Someone once told me that when we sing to God, we pray twice.) On any given Sunday morning, I've been known to light a single candle of remembrance, invite us to engage in a time of silent prayer and, occasionally, I've even orchestrated and spoke the children's sermon while standing on top of a ladder. And when life's difficulties seek to overwhelm both your mind and heart, please ask me to pray for you. Praying for and supporting one another is what makes TPC a place of God's healing love.

A few thank yous and acknowledgements. While I wish to thank all the TPC congregation for encouraging me to preach, lead, write, and ask hard questions about God and living out our Christian witness, I also want to give thanks for people like Susan Springer, Sarah Beck, Larry Nord, Jennifer Schloming, Evan Paul, Julie Flint and all the sound/video guys (esp. Mike Shiffer and Rick Crall). As I assess the vitality of TPC, your staff, deacons, session, and volunteers are the amazing people who dedicate both their time and energy so that all can experience what it means to live and breathe within a spiritual community.





Remember, I'm here at TPC until your new pastor arrives. That means, I will be here for the next 6 to 8 months serving the church's needs and leading worship. We'll see what God has in store for 2024. And yet, until my parting day, if you want to meet for coffee or receive a visit at your home or talk in my office at TPC, please reach out. I would love to hear your story. I'm at the church every week Wed-Sunday.

Come celebrate the journey and praise the Lord!

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

PARISH ASSOCIATE FOR PASTORAL CARE AND VISITATION

Editorial note: A much longer autobiography was printed in the March 2024 TPC Newsletter. The last portion of that article is included here.

In October, 2009, I was officially retired, and we moved back "home" to Portland — the only time in our 22 moves we moved back to a place we'd lived before.

Since my official retirement in 2009, I have not given up practicing what I want to be when I grow up. Beginning in 2013, I served half-time as the Parish Associate of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Portland. In August 2015, we came full-circle when Ken Hood and the Session asked me to become the part time Parish Associate for Pastoral Care alongside our good friend, Charlie Brown. What a gift these last 8 years have been. Thank you for allowing me into your lives, for the gift of your friendship, and for loving and supporting Jeni and me when at times we needed you the most.

The Rev. Dr. Dick Wiggers retired from TPC on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Dick Wiggers

FAMILY MINISTRIES



The threads of faith, community, and growth intertwine to create a rich narrative of Tualatin Presbyterian Church Family Ministries' journey over the past year. Guided by the dedicated leadership of Family Ministries Elder, Sandy Gurney and Director of Family Ministries, Sarah Beck, Family Ministries our youth programs focus on fostering spiritual development and connection among our diverse congregation. From the heartwarming Sunday mornings with energetic kids to the dynamic youth group activities and engaging camps attended by 12-22 participants, our church has embraced every opportunity to nurture the minds and hearts of our young people. The creativity of our children shines through in their plays, artistic endeavors, and culinary adventures, while field trips to city parks and the beach offer valuable experiences beyond the walls of our sacred space. With initiatives like prepping meals for the Good Neighbor Center, assisting with Family Promise Bingo nights and Starbucks Sundays, the spiritual calendar has been filled with meaningful moments, further enhanced by the collaborative efforts like, reimagining the nursery project led by Rachel Maxwell. As we reflect on a year marked by resilience, connection, and impactful mission projects, we celebrate the collective spirit that makes our church a thriving community of faith and service.

Holistic Wrap-Around Family Ministries

We upheld the TPC legacy by extending our services to students from kindergarten through high school, maintaining regular meetings. Embracing a comprehensive family ministry approach, we involve primary and middle school children in our mission and youth activities, catering to both TPC's families and those transitioning from college and beyond. Our commitment involves mentoring younger kids, providing opportunities for older kids to demonstrate compassion, patience, and care for the younger ones. We pride ourselves on offering a holistic ministry that encompasses the well-being of our young people.

Nursery

The nursery is currently under the dedicated care of the Director of Family Ministries Elder, Sandy Gurney and Sarah Beck. Additionally, we are fortunate to have a team of high school Seniors and college freshman, who graciously help out during Advent and Lent. This year, one of our high school seniors, Rachel Maxwell, has undertaken a transformative project for the church nursery, displaying unwavering dedication. She meticulously drew out and is hand-painting a vibrant mural depicting Jonah and the whale on the walls, actively involving younger kids aged 5-12 from the church in the creative process. Over the summer, Rachel secured an internship at the Architecture Construction Engineering (ACE) scholarship program at the University of Colorado. Drawing on insights gained from her experience, she presented to

the Session in the fall of 2023 an innovative plan to revitalize the nursery into a versatile, multipurpose space for kids to grow, learn and play.

Currently, Rachel is leading an intergenerational team comprising church members aged 5 to 80, emphasizing elements of ethnicity, diversity, inclusion, creativity, and safety. Collaborating with Wayne Willis, they designed and constructed a movable stage for younger kids to perform plays. Rachel is overseeing a group of children engaged in painting the wall mural. With an established fundraising committee, she aims to complete the project by the spring of 2024, leaving a lasting impact on our church community.



Worship Participation

On the first Sunday of each month, children are welcome to partake in communion, regardless of their beliefs or uncertainties, as integral members of the church congregation. TPC Family Ministries actively promotes the engagement of children & young individuals, spanning from preschool to college age, in worship activities. Encouraging a sense of community, our middle and high school students have voluntarily chosen to accompany preschool and primary-aged children during the children's message, providing support while they sit before the church congregation on Sunday mornings. This inclusive approach fosters a sense of unity & encouragement across all age groups.



Sunday Mornings

This year, our curriculum featured video resources from Sparkhouse and Godly Play, supplemented by an emphasis on storytelling around an artificial campfire. Recognizing the diverse challenges some children face, such as dyslexia, autism spectrum disorder and anxiety, as well as, varying comfort levels in reading Bible stories aloud, we adopted a more inclusive approach through storytelling and group discussions. Many new children were unfamiliar with the stories, making it important to create an environment that embraces all kids, regardless of their familiarity or understanding within the age group of 5-12.

To foster a supportive atmosphere, high school students played a key role in assisting younger children by answering questions and encouraging critical thinking. We offer the belief that

"everything in the Bible is true, and some of it even happened." Additionally, collaborative group art projects, sewing endeavors, and mission initiatives were undertaken, including crafting rubber band slingshots for the David and Goliath story, creating Valentine's Day cards for children residing at the Family Promise homeless shelter, and offering the choice for kids to memorize the Lord's Prayer for communion on the first Sunday of the month.



During Sunday services, high school students have the option to listen to the sermon upstairs with the congregation or engage downstairs, supporting younger children with their projects. They also volunteer to serve as youth liturgists on the second Sunday of the month, contributing to the overall sense of community and mentorship within our diverse age groups.

2023-2024 Sunday Morning Bible Story Calendar

Sunday, Sept 10	The Creation Story
Sunday, Sept 17	The Terrible Lie Adam & Eve – Youth Scripture Reader
Sunday, Sept 24	The Flood & the Ark
Sunday, Oct 01	The Ark– Kid’s Coffee Hour
<i>Wednesday, Oct 04</i>	<i>Blessing of the Animals Evening Service</i>
Sunday, Oct 08	Tower of Babel – Youth Scripture Reader
Sunday, Oct 15	Abraham and Isaac
Sunday, Oct 22	Moses & the Great Escape
Sunday, Oct 29	Reformation Sunday/Costume Party
Sunday, Nov 05	Ten Commandments – Kid’s Coffee Hour
Sunday, Nov 12	David & Goliath – Youth Scripture Reader
Sunday, Nov 19	Daniel and the Lions
Sunday, Nov 26	Jonah and the Big Fish
Sunday, Dec 03	Advent 1 Story of the Shepherds – Kid’s Coffee Hour
Sunday, Dec 10	Advent2 - Story of the Wisemen - Youth Scripture Reader
<i>Thursday, Dec 14</i>	<i>Dinner & Dressing Rehearsal</i>
Sunday, Dec 17	Nativity Play during the Sermon
<i>Sunday, Dec 18–22</i>	<i>Christmas Art Camp from 9 - Noon</i>
Sunday, Dec 24	Advent 4 – Birth of Jesus
Sunday, Dec 31	Jesus is Baptized
Sunday, Jan 07	Jesus in the Desert – Kid’s Coffee Hour
Sunday, Jan 14	The Lord’s Prayer - Youth Scripture Reader
Sunday, Jan 21	Sermon on the Mount
Sunday, Jan 28	Jesus Calms the Storm
Sunday, Feb 04	Feeding 5,000– Kid’s Coffee Hour
Sunday, Feb 11	Jesus and the Children
Sunday, Feb 18	Zacchaeus
Sunday, Feb 25	The Lost Son

Sunday, Mar 03	Sinful Woman Anoints Jesus – Kid’s Coffee Hour
Sunday, Mar 10	The Last Supper - Youth Scripture Reader
Sunday, Mar 17	Garden of Gethsemane
Sunday, Mar 24	Palm Sunday - The Crucifixion Story & Egg Hunt
Sunday, Mar 31	The Resurrection - Easter Sunday – Youth Scripture Reader
Sunday, April 07	The Ascension – Kid’s Coffee Hour
Sunday, April 14	Parable of the Good Shepherd - Youth Scripture Reader
Sunday, April 21	Parable of the Good Samaritan
Sunday, April 28	Parable of the Great Pearl
Sunday, May 05	Parable of the Sower – Kid’s Coffee Hour
Sunday, May 12	Parable of the Mustard Seed - Youth Scripture Reader
Sunday, May 19	Pentecost Sunday
Sunday, May 26	Story of Paul
Sunday, June 03	John See the Future – Kid’s Coffee Hour
Sunday, June 09	High School Students Graduate

Camps

Summer camps operated Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, for one week in June, July, and August. These engaging sessions accommodated 12-22 children and featured field trips, art projects, and hands-on sewing machine lessons. Activities included swimming at the local pool, playtime at city parks, visits to a farm, hair braiding, sunbathing on a parachute at the beach, and jumping over waves in the ocean. Pastor Ken, John Whitehurst, and Susan Springer attended the beach trip in August. Our campers also enjoyed ice cream, learned valuable life skills, fostered a sense of playfulness, and formed lasting friendships.



Art camp, which took place Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM for one week during winter and spring breaks, was facilitated by Family Ministries Elder, Sandy Gurney and Director of Family Ministries, Sarah Beck. The curriculum included various creative pursuits, including working with resin, crafting bags and coin purses, constructing messy gingerbread houses, and staging three dozen home-grown plays and talent shows. The goal of art camp was to provide a communal and secure space where younger and older kids could connect, unleash their creativity, and collectively express themselves through art as a form of community and worship.



Youth Activities

The youth from Primary and Middle School had many delightful excursions this year. They gathered at Sandy and Reed Gurney's residence for an enjoyable evening, wearing costumes, and decorating cookies with frosting. Later, they strolled to the Pirates of Pinehurst in Sherwood, where they connected with the Swanson family. Throughout the year, the kids engaged in drop-in days from 9 am to 3 pm on school-free days. Additionally, high school students convened monthly for "Starbuck Sundays" to discuss topics such as the church, God, prayer, current events, social justice, as well as, challenges in their personal lives. They also gathered for a church lock-in for the first time since the pandemic. Twelve kids attended.



Mission Projects

The Family Ministries Elder, Sandy Gurney and Director of Family Ministries, Sarah Beck, teamed up with our young people to prepare meals for families residing at the Good Neighbor Center (GNC) homeless shelter. This initiative replaced the usual monthly youth activities, such as roller-skating and zoo trips. During these adventures, middle and high school students took on mentorship roles, guiding preschool and primary kids in the meal preparation. The menu featured a casserole recipe passed down from the two of the kids' grandmother, while younger kids eagerly participated in tasks like heating up fried chicken and practicing knife skills to cut fruits and vegetables for salads. Once the meals were prepared, everyone enjoyed dinner alongside the shelter's resident families.

Additionally, the middle and high school students volunteered to organize and operate Bingo night at the Family Promise homeless shelter in Tigard. Collaborating with the Mission Committee, they actively participated in the Janus Project and the giving tree initiative for families in need within the school district. The collective effort resulted in the collection of \$1650.00 worth of gift cards to support those in challenging circumstances.



Extracurricular Activities

During the past year, the youth and families of TPC engaged in a variety of extracurricular activities. The students from primary, middle, and high school levels convened on Zoom for connection time every Tuesday and/or Wednesday night. This practice, initiated during the COVID-19 period, persisted as a means for kids living at a distance or who are no longer attending church to stay connected and offer mutual support during a challenging year. Looking ahead, high school seniors and college students plan to sustain this virtual gathering while at college.

In a creative turn of events, many young people took the initiative to acquire sewing skills using machines generously provided by members of the congregation. They also delved into crocheting, crafting purses, bags, wallets, finger-knitting, and tie-dyeing t-shirts and socks. These endeavors not only fostered artistic expression but also strengthened the sense of community within the church. Special thanks to Bob and Diane Paetsch for demonstrating how to construct birdhouses.



The youth participated in the Christmas play, where the three magi were creatively crafted from Styrofoam heads and wigs by Laura Byers. A talented individual, Monica Gibson, sang a solo and played the piano. Several high school students stepped in for their peers who were unable to attend church. Riley Redding delivered a magnificent narration, and Macy James assumed the role of the Christmas sloth MC, representing the new generation.



The youth collaborated with the Buildings and Grounds team to undertake a revitalization project, painting and cleaning the narthex, hallway, and both the front and back doors of the church. The front doors were painted red in observance of Pentecost, Christ's life shed for us and the holy spirit adding a vibrant touch to the church entrance.

Communion is served the first week of each month. On these Sundays, Family Ministries hosts the coffee hour, providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere for fellowship and connection among the church community.

Outside of church, the children supported one another by attending each other's school plays, concerts, and sporting events. Additionally, they actively participated in CPR training at their church, blessing of the animals, and a family ministries panel discussion at a monthly Men's Group meeting.



This

year, at high school senior applied for the TPC scholarship. He shared his essay with the congregation in June. Jackson Allee is presently enrolled at Lewis and Clark College, pursuing studies in political science, and continues to attend church services, and participates in connection time, mission projects and volunteers at camps.

Adult Edge

This year Family Ministries is offering an Adult Edge scripture discussion every Sunday morning from 9:00-9:45 am in the Adult Edge room. Family Ministries Elder, Sandy Gurney and Director of Family Ministries, Sarah Beck, offer more than just spiritual insights – enjoy freshly brewed coffee and delicious cookies as well. All are welcome to participate in our open forum, which begins with a prayer, followed by a thoughtful exploration of the scripture reading for the upcoming sermon. We delve into the meaning of the passage, discussing its relevance to our lives and current events. The group concludes with a closing prayer, making it a unique and enriching experience akin to spiritual group therapy.



Submitted by Sarah Beck, Director of Family Ministries
AND Sandy Gurney, Family Ministry Elder

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES AND PIANIST

The choir has been steadfast in presenting anthems throughout the year, including smaller ensembles and soloists volunteering to offer music during our summer hiatus. The choir season is peppered with occasional absences which affect our VERY small sections by exposing even more fully, the voices still standing. To their credit, when faced with diminished numbers on a Sunday morning, no one blanches, and we sally forth with incredible good humor and determination. Even if we're down to a single singer in a section, that part will be represented. In short, the choir's commitment to a sung expression of faith is humbling. They work hard and show up because it matters to them.

PIANIAST: I know folks feel the same from Evan, who not only commands enviable technical expertise, but plays the heart of the text with unusual sensitivity. All of us remain grateful to his work not only in crafting the world of the anthems we offer, but for the thoughtfulness of the solo music he gives to us all.

TPC is lucky to have both Evan's commitment and the fidelity of the folks who sing in this choir. I don't make it easy for them, as I expect considerable individual practice. I am grateful for their gifts, every Sunday. It is a joy to stand before this choir, and with Evan's support, to make music together.

Submitted by Jennifer Schloming, Director of Music Ministries

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

This year's TPC bell choir continues to thrive and grow in our love for each other. As of this writing, we are almost a full group, allowing Debbie to go back to conducting! Everyone loves that!

In this last year, we have been happy to welcome Alan & Susan Kelchner to our tables, and just recently, we've added Christine Sauer, a friend of Carolyn Hale. We gladly welcome them. It's so fun to have an almost full group to play the music that Debbie knows they can play!

We've continued to play on the 2nd Sundays of the month, except for the occasional trading with the choir. In addition, we've played with Jennifer and the choir a few times; something we love to do!

We look forward to making music to God in 2024!

Submitted by Debbie Ivanov, Bell Choir Director

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Thank you for your continued financial support of TPC. As a reminder, TPC has an online giving option to set up regular contributions via credit card or ACH through the website. Email me if you would like more information. I also want to thank the current offering counters. On Sundays, two offering counters are needed to process the donations and deposit. We always need additional volunteers so please let me know if you would be interested in serving in this role. Giving statements are sent out in January for the previous year and mid-year. If you need a statement any time throughout the year, please contact me at finance@tpcspirit.org.

Submitted by Julie Flint, Financial Assistant

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The resignation of our previous pastor effective December 31, 2022, brought a lot of changes.

The first two months of 2023 were challenging. Without a pastor, we had to keep the boat moving forward without someone at the helm. The good news is that everyone pulled together. Sunday morning worship services continued both in person, and online.

Sandy Gurney made many phone calls to line up people to act as our Sunday morning pulpit supply. Liturgy for Sunday morning worship was pulled from our archives. It's OK to repeat, right?!

At the same time a group of individuals worked together to interview individuals for the position of Interim Pastor and by March 1, we had hired the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry as our interim pastor. Sigh of relief.

Ken Henry joined us at the beginning of lent. Ken took time to meet with us, talk with us and get a feel for what TPC is like, to determine how best to help us move forward and hire a full-time pastor. He is working himself out of a job.

Since Ken's arrival, a Pastor Nominating Committee has been formed whose responsibility it is to find a person to be our next full-time pastor. They meet weekly.

In addition to the task of finding a new pastor, the normal activities of the church continue. Every week there is a worship bulletin. Every month newsletters go out by email and snail mail.

We continue to lease building space to Iglesia Rios de Agua Viva. Boy Scouts and the Bells of the Cascades bell choir also meet in our building.

Some things have not changed. And we are thankful for this stability. Mike Shiffer continues to help with all things technical. Thank you, Mike. Julie Flint continues as our financial assistant and answers our financial questions.

I have endeavored to keep the church office open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 3 pm. Still, if you plan to drop by the church, it might be wise to call ahead. I am usually in and out of the office Wednesday through Saturday. I can be reached at office@tpcspirit.org. The office phone number is 503-692-4160. If you leave a voice message, the answering system will transcribe your message on my cell phone. I try to return calls in a timely manner. Thanks for your patience.

Now in the month of March, the people of TPC continue to show up, volunteer to help, and support the work of the church. We plan to continue moving forward, one day at a time.

Submitted by Susan Springer, Administrative Assistant APA Level III

BUILDING AND GROUNDS CARETAKER

Larry Nord does all kinds of things around the building. When something breaks, he fixes it. If he doesn't know how to fix it, he'll find someone in the congregation who does or can make a referral. Burned out light bulbs, doors that don't lock correctly, clogged toilets, overflowing gutters, stains on the carpet are all things Larry has dealt with. Thank you, Larry!

Submitted by Susan Springer

TECHNOLOGY & BUILDING & GROUNDS

Building and Grounds had many challenges this year due to the aging of the building and its systems. The impacts of time on the building will only increase over the years and will result in an increase in future building maintenance costs

Repairs completed during 2023:

- Replaced burnt-out lights and failed ballast. Thanks, Rick Mauer.
- Carpets professionally cleaned and regularly spot cleaned.
- congregational workday (weeding, trimming, sweeping, and general clean-up of the grounds).
- Cleaned, weeded Memorial Garden. Thanks, Mike Nelson.
- Professional inspection of building roof.
- Professional tree trimming of branches overhanging the building, A roof maintenance issue.
- Professional inspection of parking lot
- Adjusted parking lot light timer, as needed.
- Hired contractor to clean church roof, gutters, and downspouts of debris.
- Hired contractor to treat roof for moss and other organic growths.

- Painted Narthex and hallway walls, Thanks to Sarah Beck and Larry Nord and the church youth for their assistance.
- Re-assigned church storage room and changed locksets on storage rooms in church basement.
- Repaired panic bar / locksets on main church doors, Normal wear based on age. Thanks Wayne Willis.
- Sealed base to floor in main floor restrooms.
- Quarterly inspection and preventative maintenance of building HVAC units.
- Quarterly pest inspection and treatment of building perimeter.
- Repaired Building Fire Back-flow preventer based on failed inspection. Age related issue.
- Replaced Sanctuary smoke detectors and fire panel components based on fire alarm system inspection; these were age related issues.
- Replaced roof top HVAC unit heater coil blower unit, an age-related issue.

Submitted by Greg Owen, Technology & Building & Grounds Elder

WORSHIP

During 2023, worship continued its return to a new normal following the Covid pandemic, with gradually increasing numbers for in-person worship. The on-line streaming option born out of pandemic lockdowns is now a permanent alternative for those who prefer to worship from home. Other measures for minimizing the risk of infection were incorporated into the in-person service, with the congregation learning to sign “the peace of Christ be with you” in American Sign Language in lieu of shaking hands. Front-door greeters, who also made their return in 2023, began handing bulletins to those arriving for the service, again in lieu of shaking hands.

Regular Sunday services were held throughout 2023, with Communion as usual on the first Sunday of each month and members of the TPC youth program helping to lead the service on the second Sunday. Because Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday in 2023, three services were held that day, including the regular Sunday morning service; a family service in the afternoon; and an evening candlelight service (with Communion). Robust efforts are under way to encourage more congregants to participate in services as liturgists, greeters, and Communion servers. This was never more needed than on a Sunday with three services! It’s been gratifying to see lots of new

faces volunteering to help lead worship. A sheet is now available in the Narthex each Sunday for volunteers to sign up.

An essential and revered part of worship, TPC's music program is back in full operation. Pianist Dr. Evan Paul continues to inspire at the piano; Director of Music Jennifer Schloming directs the choir each Sunday and shares her talents at the piano when Evan is absent; and Debbie Ivanov leads the bell choir in its beautiful contributions.

Following the departure of the Rev. Dr. Ken Hood at the end of 2022, TPC welcomed the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry as its interim pastor. With Rev. Henry's guidance, the Session began the process of selecting a Pastor Nominating Committee. Following approval of the committee by the congregation, the PNC began its search for a new, called pastor to serve TPC.

Submitted by Eileen Eakins, Worship Elder

STEWARDSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

Committee Members:

Chip Kyle, Treasurer; Julie Flint, Financial Assistant; Mike Shiffer, Carolyn Barker, members; and Lynne Neilson, Elder.

Tasks:

The Committee meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm via Zoom. We review the previous month's financials prepared by Chip, compare actual income and expenses with the Session approved budget, and decide on any actions needed to keep the Church on solid financial ground. These actions, if any, along with the Financial Statements, are presented at the monthly Session meeting. In September the Committee begins planning a Stewardship campaign by issuing pledge cards and by asking people to speak to the Congregation about giving for the next year. After gathering pledges and estimated expenses, the Committee develops a draft budget for the next year to be approved by Session.

2023 in Review:

The Annual Financial Review was done and approved by the Committee in May. The challenge for this year was setting a salary for the interim pastor and in budgeting for 2024 the expenses for the PNC and potential salary for the new Pastor if chosen before the end of the year. With so many unknowns and knowing that we can't keep using the reserves to balance the budget every year, salary increases have been deferred and will be revisited later in the year. Susan Kelchner agreed to join the Committee beginning in 2024.

Submitted by Lynne Neilson, Stewardship and Administration Elder

MISSION

Committee Members:

The following members have served on the committee this past year: Derrilyn Bayha, Carolyn Hale, Donna Hammersly, Mike Nelson, Larry Nord, Andrew Perkins, Mary Shiffer and Chip Kyle, Elder

On-going Activities: Traditional mission activities have developed into an important part of the life of TPC. They help define who we are and where our interests lie. These include the following:

- **Giving Tree** – this outreach effort has changed over the years. Formerly, TTSD requested gifts and food baskets for families in the district. The district now requests gift cards from Fred Meyer, Winco or WalMart. A tree decorated with “ornaments” of \$25 and \$50 gift cards stood in the Narthex. All of these “ornaments” were taken and a total of \$1,625 was donated and delivered to TTSD before their Christmas break.
- **Janus Project** (a.k.a. the “Mitten Tree”) – provide homeless Portland area youth with winter gloves, scarves, hats and socks and other needed items. Over 610 items were delivered to Janus the week before Thanksgiving.
- **Annual Cookie Sale** – proceeds in 2023 went to Compassion International in support of our sponsored children, Sarah and Estalin (see below) and the Memorial Garden. We are a hungry congregation that loves cookies. A total of \$1,084 was collected through good will offerings and the sale of donated, well decorated cookies.
- **Annual Presbyterian Offerings** – There are 4 denomination-wide offerings that we support each year: One Great Hour of Sharing: World Communion Sunday, Christmas Joy, and Pentecost. Each of these was well supported by the congregation.

Special Activities: In addition to the traditional activities, we also have special or focused interests and efforts. These include:

- **Compassion International:** For the last several years we have committed to the support of two youth – Estalin, a boy living in Ecuador; and Sarah, a girl living in Uganda. The annual cost of the program is \$516 per child. In the coming year (June), Sarah will age out of the program. The intent of the committee will be to continue sponsoring two youth, committing the church to \$1,032 annually.
- **School House Project:** this project provides school supplies for needy children in the Tigard-Tualatin School District (TTSD). This project was accidentally overlooked by the chair of the committee and was missed. In 2024, we will reactivate the project and solicit donations from late July to mid-August, before the start of the school year.
- **Youth Involvement:** The committee was approached by the Director of Family Ministries who asked for more direct involvement by younger members of the congregation in outreach activities. The youth group assumed responsibility for the Giving Tree project and very capably and actively promoted the effort through pre-service announcements, collection and counting of gift cards and delivering them to TTSD.

Submitted by Chip Kyle, Mission Elder

CONNECTIONS

Everything is interconnected...recognize the beauty in relationships and the importance of connecting with one another.

The Connections Elder position was created to oversee TPC's efforts in reaching out to new people who might be interested in joining TPC and helping seasoned members to deepen their sense of connection to the church and the community.

New Member Recruitment – We were delighted to welcome 15 new individuals to information sessions culminating in joining TPC as members. We are looking forward to the gifts and talents our new members will bring to TPC.

All Church Fellowship - 2023 was an exciting year for TPC, as we hired the Rev. Dr. Ken Henry as Interim Pastor. With a March 1 hire date, we welcomed him with a reception, complete with balloons, banners, and special treats. A second all church gathering was held for his wife, Heather, when we met her. These fellowship gatherings were joyful get togethers given our previous reluctance to come together due to COVID concerns.

Things seemed to take on a flow of normalcy as potlucks were held before the snowy February Ash Wednesday service and again in November upon completion of the stewardship campaign. The Palm Sunday brunch and Easter egg hunt for children brought successful turnouts. Summer saw us gathering at the annual picnic, coordinated by Barb Crall and team. As always, brats, good food, games, and laughter made up the agenda for the day.

A celebration was held for the Rev. Dr. Dick Wiggers, and his lovely wife, Jeni, on the anniversary of Dick's achieving 40 years of pastoral service. Then in December, we celebrated Dick's retirement as TPC's Pastor Associate.

Coffee Connections/Women's Ministry – Held the second Tuesday of each month, these informal gatherings allow women of faith to gather for conversation and camaraderie. These gatherings are usually attended by about 20 women. A bit more interest and fun was interjected as we gathered at members' homes. Thank you to: Donna Hammersley, Dianne Lemmon, Marilyn Staples-Sundt, Candy Richard, and Judy Nix. These settings were great for gathering input for the TPC Survey and desired leadership characteristics of TPC's next called pastor. In addition, Gina Olson gave us a program about Family Promise programs, we stuffed eggs for the Easter egg hunt, heard Bunny Lewis talk about her trip to Kenya, and enjoyed a tour of the new Family Promise Bridge to Home Facility.

Submitted by Judy Nix, Connections Elder

CLERK OF SESSION

The clerk serves at the discretion of the session and is elected annually. The clerk must be an elder, and is not a voting member of session. Primary duties are to prepare minutes for session and congregational meetings, maintain official membership rolls, prepare the statistical report for the Presbytery, compile the annual report to the congregation and other duties as requested by the session.

Duties of the Session: The session functions like a corporate board of directors conducting regular meetings each month with occasional special meetings as needed. Meeting minutes are available in the church office or upon request from clerk@tpcspirit.org.

Congregational elections occur annually in March. Ruling elders serve three-year terms by classes. Each elder is associated with an area of responsibility.

Current elders:

Building & Grounds – Greg Owen

Family Ministries – Sandy Gurney

Mission – Chip Kyle

Connections – Judy Nix

Finance/Admin – Lynne Neilson

Worship – Eileen Eakins

Active Membership Report for 2023:

Active Membership as of 12/31/2023: 204

Deaths: Bud Bender, Cathy Chase, Barbara Allen, Bill Dunlap, Marion Maxwell,

Transfers/Removals: 1

New members: 11

Baptisms: none

Submitted by Craig Bowen, Elder, Clerk or Session

DEACONS

Hello from the Deacon Family!

We all stayed together for another year, seeing that we stayed connected with you coming out of Covid, Pastor transition, and soon to welcome a new Pastor!

We're so grateful for our Deacons, (Left to right in photo) Derrilyn Bayha, Susan Cameron, Rosemary Willis, Dianne Lemmon, Kerry Weaver, Jason James and Linda Fukasawa for staying on an extra term. We're focusing on the light this year. The light in each one of you, the light in which Jesus wants us to seek, and the light within us.

We reach out to our parishes monthly, via email, cards and phone calls. It's important to stay in touch with you, keeping you informed and seeking our joys & concerns in your life. We continue to provide meals when needed, home visits, and look forward to seeing you in church to get caught up with one another.

We have a lot of fun creating fun events at church to keep us all connected. Serving Deacon Dogs seems to be a favorite amongst the congregation! This year we went apple picking and handed you each an apple wishing you good health. Souper Bowl brings out TPC's competitive spirit. How much soup can we collect for the Tualatin Food Pantry? We keep topping off the amount every year! We celebrate the game day with a chili tasting after service. This and more bring us together!

We currently have 3 young men in college. We reach out to them 3 times per year sending care packages, cards, gift cards, and chocolate. It's fun to support their success and remind them we're all thinking about them.

We're here for you! We lift you up in prayer! We continue to grow together seeking ways we can continue to connect with you all bringing joy and kindness.



Submitted by Susan Cameron, Deacon Team Leader

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry continues to be a quiet ministry. It doesn't draw attention to itself. While our numbers have dropped in recent years, our commitment and loyalty to the program have held strong.

Stephen Ministry is a ministry of caring. It's about people caring for people. Life can be challenging. When challenges arise, it's helpful to have someone to talk to. That is what Stephen Ministry is all about.

When someone decides that they would like to have a dedicated listener to help sort things out, they are paired with a Stephen Minister. This is a one on-one relationship. Women are paired with women, men with men. The person seeking help is referred to as the "care receiver." The Stephen Minister is referred to as the "care giver." The care receiver/care giver relationship continues until it comes to a natural conclusion. At that time the care receiver/care giver relationship is formally "closed." Some pairs meet for months, some for years.

Stephen Ministers are not counsellors. They are listeners. They provide support for their care receivers for whatever is going on in the care receiver's life. Stephen Ministers can't fix their care receivers, but they can walk alongside them and provide support.

Ideally, Stephen Ministers and their care receivers meet once a week to talk, but that is not always possible. They meet when they can. And they keep in touch by phone, email or text. All forms of communication are good.

Care receivers can talk about anything with their Stephen Ministers without worrying that what they talk about will be shared with others. All conversations are confidential.

If you think you might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, talk to one of the Stephen Ministers listed below.

Stephen Ministers: Sandy Gurney, Jean Martin, Susan Springer, Nancy Wilcox.

Submitted by Susan Springer

ARCHIVIST

An archivist assesses, collects, organizes, preserves, maintains control over, and provides access to records and archives determined to have long-term value.

The position of "TPC Archivist" was created by Session at its April 2021 meeting in recognition of the importance of properly archiving TPC records.

Early in its history, TPC began keeping the minutes of Session in a fire-proof vault that is located in the Pastor's office. That's fine for preservation of these important records but does little to provide access to them. During the past four years, all those records, from 1982 to the present, have been converted to WORD documents and are now available over the internet. Next year, February 17th will be the 40th anniversary of our chartering.

Another source of records of TPC is the monthly newsletters. The last 21 years of our monthly newsletters are readily available on the TPC website at Members > Newsletters.

We are currently developing quite a collection of audio-video records that could also be regarded as part of the TPC archive.

If you find yourself cleaning out old files and have old documents that might be of importance to our archive, please let me know.

Submitted by Rick Crall, TPC Archivist

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

The purpose of this program is to have fun and to encourage and expand fellowship among members of our church family. Randomly formed groups of 7-9 adults share Fellowship Dinners once a month for 4 months, and then the groups are re-shuffled to form new Fellowship Dinner groups.

The Fellowship Dinners program started its 12th year in the fall of 2019. There were 43 participants from 24 households. Almost a third of the participants had been in the program since its beginning. The Covid came along and interrupted this program. After three years it began its 13th year with 43 participants in the spring of 2023. We are finally back on its optimum schedule of starting phases in February, June, and October. There were 35 participants at the start of the winter phase in February of 2024.

Participation is based on a sign-up during the month preceding each phase. A steering committee meets about once a year to review and revise the program as needed. Thanks to Mary Ortez, Rick & Barb Crall, LaVette Columbo, Pam & Scott Cameron, and Kerry Weaver for serving on this committee. If you have any ideas or suggestions about how this program should operate, or change, talk to someone on the Steering Committee!

Submitted by Rick Crall

BLOOD DRIVE

For the last thirty-four years TPC has hosted an annual Red Cross Blood drive around the Holiday season and for the last few years has hosted a second drive in the summer. I have happily adopted this program as my contribution to the mission of TPC in the community. So when you see me at the microphone during the announcements portion of the Sunday service most of you know that I am asking for volunteers, donors or cookie bakers for a Red Cross Blood Drive. I have even been referred to as a “vampire”. An image that I wear with pride.

In 2023 we had two drives, one drive Jan. 23, 2023. We did well, collecting 23 units. Another one on Aug 23, 2023. We did better, collecting 24 units. We already had our first drive for this year. It was held Jan 24, 2024, where we collected 32 units. We are having our summer drive Aug. 21, 2024 so please help and or donate if you can. We have been blessed with the help of many eager volunteers to work as greeters/registers, escorts, and canteen servers. Many of these volunteers have become regulars who work the drives every year. Some of those are: Pam Cameron, Diane Barry, Candy Ferguson, Jay Wilcox, Lynn Neilson, Bob Carlson, Stacy Mauer, Sue Hayhurst, Neil & Sandy Reiling, not to mention the many cookie bakers that make our canteen the best blood drive canteen west of the Mississippi.

The donors who regularly participate (several from our own congregation and most from the community at large) are to numerous to mention. One thing to note is that the donors are able to schedule their appointments on-line. This makes it easier for me to juggle donor’s donation times and for them to see what time slots are available. It also makes it easier for me to see who donated before and who will likely be willing to do it again. They can also complete their health history questions on “Rapid Pass”. “Rapid Pass” makes the wait to donate shorter by about 15 minutes. You gotta love technology.

It is well known that giving blood saves lives. (Each unit can save up to three lives). On a personal note, in case you ever wondered, I have donated 176 units of blood over the years. So that you don’t have to do the math that’s 22 gallons. However, due to the fact that I am now on blood thinners that number will remain forever. I encourage each and every one of you, who is capable, to donate every 56 days if you can. That means that you could squeeze in up to 6 donations per year. Or you could donate Double Red every twelve weeks. The need for blood is constant. The Red Cross always needs more blood and at times they reach a critical point where there isn’t enough blood available to fill the needs.

I am proud that TPC has committed to hosting these blood drives for low these many years, and that the Red Cross Blood Drives are a regular component of TPC’s mission to the community that I hope will continue for many more years to come.

Sincerely Yours in Christ.

Submitted by Scott Cameron, Blood Drive Coordinator

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise equips vulnerable families and individuals to end the cycle of homelessness through a community-based response providing short-term emergency shelter, food, case management, and housing navigation services.

Family Promise now owns their own building, Bridge to Home, making a new chapter in efforts to end family homelessness in our community. Family Promise can now service up to 70 households. Enrichment programs bring children together for crafts and story times, after-school homework help and community events like bingo and movie nights, thanks to all the volunteers. Financial Literacy workshops prepare guests for life beyond our shelter with tools for independence and stability. Volunteers also help with shopping for food, preparing meals, running the food pantry and the clothing pantry. Donations have helped all of these programs to be successful.

In 2023, Family Promise had 452 individuals receive shelter services, 39,320 safe shelter bed nights provided, 77% of households exited shelter to stable housing, 87 days is the average shelter stay, 56 pets stayed in the shelter and 242 children stayed in the shelter.

THANKS to TPC for the thoughtful and generous members who continue to support Family Promise.

Submitted by Derrilyn Bayha, Family Promise Coordinator

PRESBYTERY COMMISSIONERS

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a connectional church: Tualatin Presbyterian Church connects one level up to the Presbytery of the Cascades, which links to the larger Synod of the Pacific, which joins up with the church-wide General Assembly of the PC(USA). Session elects representatives (called commissioners) to represent their church at presbytery meetings; TPC is entitled to send two voting commissioners to each presbytery meeting. Our pastor is a member of presbytery (rather than the local church) so he is also a voting member.

The Presbytery of the Cascades has been gathering three times a year, in March, June, and November. Historically, meetings moved around the presbytery and met in local churches. However, since Covid prevented in-person meetings starting in March 2020, The Presbytery of the Cascades has been gathering online via Zoom. In 2024, the Presbytery of the Cascades will hold their Spring Stated Meeting on April 19–20, which will return to the in-person format at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland.

Presbytery meetings intersperse worship with the conduct of presbytery business. Commissioners hear reports from presbytery commissions such as the Commission on Ministry and the Presbytery Leadership Commission (functions like a local church session), plus a variety of other committees. The presbytery votes on important General Assembly overtures, which can change the PC(USA) constitution.

If you are interested in connecting with the larger Presbyterian church and seeing how our presbytery governs, there is an opportunity for you to serve as a commissioner in 2024. Please contact the church office if you are interested!

Submitted by Jean Martin

LOVING STITCHES

“Whoever helps a child stands tall”

Our group makes blankets, hats and scarves for children and their families to comfort them. We work with Family Promise, Tigard Tualatin Resource Center, Avamere, King City, Good Neighbor Center, Janus Project and Veterans Administration Hospital. This year we also made numerous newborn, child and adult hats and scarves for local agencies and hospitals.

We have made and donated 95 blankets and lap robes, 149 hats, 68 scarfs and 24 washcloths. Many thanks to our generous donors including: Diane Barry, Yvonne Wagner, Mary Ortez, Susan Springer, LaVette Columbo, Bonnie Nord, Nancy Cantonese, Betty Taylor, Mary Elaine Shiffer, Shari Olsen, Linda Gilbert, Miran Park, Linda Bartlett and many other members of our congregation.

Contact Mary Ortez (503) 612-1993 for more information. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon in the Narthex of the church. Or contact Mary Ortez to make a donation of yarn that we can use to make these helpful items.



Submitted by Mary Ortez

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

The bereavement committee's main responsibility is to coordinate the reception following a memorial service. Services provided by the committee include organizing, supplying and serving food for the reception, as well as setting up tables and chairs and cleaning up afterwards. We might also supply flowers for the serving table, set up tables for displays, and do anything else we can to be helpful to the family on that day. In 2023 we assisted in two memorial services.

Right now we do have a committee. The coordinator contacts people as needed. Help is always readily forthcoming, but it would be helpful to have a committee to help with the organizing and reaching out for help. If this is something you feel as a calling, contact Barb Crall at 503-692-1677 or barbjcrall@gmail.com.

Submitted by Barb Crall, Bereavement Chair

MEN'S GROUP

The group normally meets on the second Saturday of every month in the narthex from 10:00AM to 11:30AM. We held eleven meetings in 2023, skipping the December meeting.

I worked with Andrew Perkins to choose 11 topics of discussion for the attendees to hear. I am always open to suggestions for topics from TPC attendees, ladies or men. We sometimes adjust the time, day, or place where we meet to accommodate the speaker schedule. We try to make the topics interesting and timely. Our attendance varies between 10 and 20 people each month. Donuts and coffee are available every time. I try to focus on community activities or local issues. The following topics and speakers have been discussed and heard in 2023.

January 2023: Slos Sensei, Louis Slos, from the Tigard Akido Dojo, came to our first meeting of the year to introduce attendees to Kiatsu, a Japanese healthy way of living. Several couples as the result of the presentation signed up for classes at the Dojo. One couple is still attending classes and attendees said they feel significantly better because of what they have learned and practice daily.

February 2023: I was the next guest speaker discussing current Oregon legislation and Court Cases of interest. I am a retired attorney, and a member of the Oregon State Bar.

March 2023: Greg Pickering, Tualatin Chief of Police talked about what kind of crime is most prevalent in Tualatin and how the church can help in making the city a safer place for all of us.

April 2023: Kelly Dickson from Presbytery spoke to us about her efforts studying and finding new ways of doing worship especially related to attracting younger generations to worship.

May 2023: I was the speaker for the May Meeting and the topic was Climate Change. My undergraduate Degree is in Zoology and my Juris Doctorate is from Lewis and Clark Law School the third ranked Law School in the country in Environmental Law. We discussed current studies and events happening now that are indicating impending environmental disasters.

June 2023: Sarah Beck, Sandy Gurney & Jackson Allee were the speakers. They spoke about what TPC's youth group has been doing in 2023. The young people have been helping at the Food Pantry & feeding people at a shelter. They have also been studying about the Presbyterian Church.

July 2023: Chris Wade, Head Chaplain for Washington County, explained the type of ministry he & the other chaplains do.

August 2023: Gina Olson, a member of TPC and involved with Family Promise, gave the attendees a tour of the Bridge to Home facility in Tigard. She also explained the outreach there.

September 2023: John Whitehurst & Andrew Perkins discussed youth outreach worldwide called Compassion International. It is an organization that helps children worldwide, including two that TPC sponsors. John & Andrew each sponsor other children through this organization.

October 2023: Annaleah Jackson, Head of Tualatin Chamber of Commerce, spoke to us on the economic activity in Tualatin & Tigard areas.

November 2023: This meeting was designated to honor veterans. Veterans and others attended and made posters of their or a loved one's service, and shared stories.

Submitted by Dale MacHaffie.

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of TPC supporting children through Compassion International.

Compassion International is a child sponsorship program seeking to lift children around the world out of poverty. Every child in the Compassion International program participates in a church-based program that addresses their spiritual, emotional and physical needs. While children receive nutritional support, educational tutoring, vocational training, life skills training and health care services, they are also participating in Christian discipleship activities through the caring staff and volunteers at their local church. The current cost of sponsorship for each child is only \$43 per month. TPC supports this program through money raised in the annual cookie drive.

TPC sponsors two children. Estalin from Ecuador and Sarah from Uganda.



Estalin is now 17 and is working hard toward completing high school. He enjoys time with friends and family. His recent letters include much detail about the beautiful countryside and his love for nature and riding motorcycles with friends as well as the trips and celebrations he shares with his family in Ecuador. In his letters he likes to include creative drawings and asks many questions about what life is like here and about our church activities.

Sarah is now 22 and is preparing to complete her training and graduate from the Compassion program. She has completed her education and is in her final year of vocational training in garment making and construction (fashion & design). Sarah also helps her family plant and harvest crops (sorghum, ground nuts and millet). In her letters she is very appreciative of our support and encouragement to complete her training. She is very spiritual, and she often shares her favorite bible verses with us.

Both children write about how grateful they are to receive our letters and for the love and support they receive from their sponsor church family. We are really making a difference in their lives!

For more information about sponsoring a child please visit the website at www.compassion.com If you have questions about our sponsorship, the children we support or the compassion program, please see Andrew Perkins or John Whitehurst.



Submitted by Andrew Perkins & John Whitehurst

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

TPC has a tradition of hospitality and service. What better way to show our hospitality than to provide a fellowship time with coffee and cookies after each service? Responsibilities for the volunteers are posted in the kitchen plus Derrilyn Bayha is happy to help new recruits. PLEASE volunteer to help serve - you can sign up at TPCspirit.com - click members then fellowship then coffee sign-up OR sign up at the table in the narthex OR contact Derrilyn Bayha at dabayha@mac.com or 661-747-8447. We are also very thankful for all the volunteer bakers who provide the treats. The Youth Ministry usually helps serve on the first Sunday of each month. What a blessing!!!

Submitted by Derrilyn Bayha

COOKIE COORDINATOR

The congregation enjoys Fellowship Hour after the church service on Sundays. The chance to visit is accompanied by cookies and coffee. My job as Cookie Coordinator is to be sure there is a good supply of cookies available every Sunday. I have a wonderful group that I call on to bring cookies. I try to keep track of the cookie supply by checking during the week or after church each Sunday.

I work from a list of volunteers who have agreed to provide baked goods. When the supply gets low, I email the next ten people on the list and request 3-5 dozen cookies or other baked goods. Store-bought items are welcome, also. The baked items should be placed in freezer bags and placed in the freezer. Instead of assigning specific dates, my request is for delivery during a range of a month or two. This seems to work well. I only need to ask each person 2 or 3 times a year, so the baking commitment is quite small.

We need additional cookie bakers! In recent years, I've lost several bakers from my list for a variety of reasons, such as moves or no longer attending TPC. If you would be willing to contribute to the cookie supply, I would be very grateful to hear from you. Please call or text me at 503-970-3214 or send an email to sue.hayhurst@comcast.net. This is such an easy way to contribute to our church family.

Thank you to all who supply cookies!!

Submitted by Sue Hayhurst, Cookie Coordinator

MOURNING PRAYER GROUP

For those who have wondered what this group was/is, after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global health emergency, Pastor Ken Hood offered an opportunity to those within the TPC family to meet virtually. The meetings were scheduled for an hour each weekday and the first meeting occurred on March 16, 2020 and were open to both TPC members and those who were not members. These meetings continued on after Pastor Ken's departure and well into 2023. For most of this time, the group met each weekday morning at 9:00am and the group grew to include out of state and out of country (Canada) participants.

For those who participated, Morning Prayer was described by many as a lifeline. Ken graciously offered his time to us by leading the group, but the gatherings were very participatory and many engaged in the heartfelt discussions that typically revolved around the weekly scripture passages, or other writings or poetry. Even when Ken took his sabbatical, the temporary Pastors filled in, keeping the meetings going. There was a wide variety of scripture, poetry and stories shared, told and retold. As mentioned, it turned out to be very much needed food for our souls during a seemingly darker time during the pandemic, especially for those who were not as comfortable meeting in person.

Recently, the group began meeting again. This time it is monthly, for a check-in, as we all missed each other's company and our online friendship.

Submitted by Dave Backen

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR

In 2023 we made an almost full recovery from the covid shutdown. We hold three annual events throughout the year. The first is the Palm Sunday Brunch and egg hunt. In 2023 we held our first one since covid closed us down. It was well attended as always. In July we had a picnic in Tualatin Community Park. About 70 people joined us for grilled brots and shared side dishes and desserts. The adults enjoyed the chance to gather outside for conversation and good food. Some even join in a yard game such as bocce ball. When we know that kids are coming, we have games and activities for them; however, the playground next to the picnic area is always a big draw for them. In December we had the first Christmas progressive dinner since covid. As we have for the past several dinners, we all gathered in the home of John and Sue Hayhurst to enjoy appetizers and their many holiday decorations. Some people opted to remain at the Hayhursts for the evening and others chose to go on to other homes for dinner and dessert in smaller groups. In the fall we started up potlucks after church. The goal is to have a potluck or some type of gathering at least every two months.

A fellowship committee has been formed to help with our on-going events and brainstorm ideas for other fellowship activities. The committee will meet several times a year to make plans. We would welcome other members. If interested contact Barb Crall at 503-692-1677 or barbjcrall@gmail.com.

Submitted by Barb Crall, Fellowship Director

VEGGIES FOR YOUTH

Our organic veggies for TPC were available in August and September . Tomatoes were our main item, with both Cherry Tomatoes and Beefsteak types available. A huge thank you to the generous TPC members that donated to our veggie project. Over \$2,300 was taken in that will be used by Sarah in Family Ministries. We have some friends to thank that help us with the planting and harvest. Undine Driese, Jennifer Leskovic, Marilyn and Emerson Wood, Carolyn Hale, and Alice Swartz are among the helpers. Al's Garden Home helps provide the starter plants for our project and we love their plants and generosity.

We are currently getting ready to plant our veggies for 2024. Our worry for 2024 is harvesting and transporting the produce in September. We are going on a trip in September and there should be a lot of veggies to harvest while we are gone. We have gotten some TPC members to volunteer to help, but if you are interested in helping, please let us know.

Submitted by Paul and Linda Fukasawa



WEDDING COORDINATOR

The first contact is usually with the church office. The Administrative Assistant checks the calendar and coordinates contact to see if the Pastor, TPC, music director, custodian and wedding coordinator are available on the desired date. The wedding agreement form is completed and reservation deposit remitted. With approval there have been other officiants and non-members use TPC and the wedding coordinator assists them.

Not a “pop-culture” wedding planner or consultant, the role of the TPC wedding coordinator is as a liaison between the wedding party and the Pastor, TPC music director or accompanist, sound technician, the building elder, custodian and any other needed TPC resources during the planning stage, rehearsal and day of the wedding.

The wedding coordinator helps with service cues between the Pastor, pianist/musician and the wedding party during the wedding rehearsal and the wedding. They also assist the day of the wedding as needed from receiving floral deliveries to assisting with other items that may arise. There have been a number of off-site weddings the wedding coordinator has been requested and was happy to assist.

The kitchen and narthex are available for receptions although they are usually held off site due to time constraints and the non-Communion alcohol policy. Families would be responsible for set-up and cleanup if they do want to use the kitchen and narthex area.

Submitted by Stacy Mauer, TPC Wedding Coordinator

TPC FICTION READERS

Thanks to a great idea conceived by Priscilla Hagan and Jean Martin, Tualatin Presbyterian Church launched two adult small groups for fiction lovers and insight seekers in September 2017. In 2023, we celebrated six full years of reading together!

There are two morning reading groups: one meets on second Thursdays, the other meets third Thursdays. Both groups read the same book and meet monthly on Zoom from 10 to 11:30 AM. Priscilla skillfully facilitates discussion of each month's fiction selection.

We began our 2023 reading journey in January with Peter Rock's *My Abandonment*, a local Portland story about a girl and her father living off the grid in Forest Park. Then we jumped on a wagon in February with an Irish traveler boy in *The Outside Boy* by Jeanine Cummins. March found us in a haunted Minneapolis bookstore in Louise Erdrich's *The Sentence*, and in April we shuttled between Ethiopia and Boston with two separated conjoined twin sons in *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. Next, we enjoyed the quirky tale of a widow and an octopus solving a mystery in *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. In June, Corban Addison helped us see the dark underside of the international fashion industry in *A Harvest of Thorns*. In July we cheered for Elizabeth Zott in her quest to be taken seriously as a chemist in *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus; and then in August we rooted for three lonely strangers on a Hood River honeybee farm in *The Music of Bees* by Eileen Garvin. In the fall, we shifted gears to a legal thriller by Stacey Abrams, *While Justice Sleeps*, and then learned about the importance of preserving ancient Native American practices and family connections in Diane Wilson's *The Seed Keeper*. We finished up our year of books with an engaging story of a champion racehorse and America's unfinished reckoning with racism in *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

In December, both groups donned their festive attire and gathered for virtual table fellowship and a chance to suggest book ideas for 2024. TPC Readers started off January 2024 with Isabel Allende's *The Japanese Lover*, a rich tapestry spanning WW II and Japanese internment to present day San Francisco—a tribute to aging with dignity and the enduring power of love. We announced the full schedule of 2024 book choices at the January meetings and in the February TPC newsletter.

Small groups are a great way for newer folk to enter congregational life and for longer-term members to reconnect. We have openings in both the Second and Third Thursday reading groups. Please contact Priscilla Hagan, Carolyn Hale, or Jean Martin for more information.

Submitted by Jean Martin

PRAYER CHAIN

Our prayer chain is a group of people who agree to pray for others during any time of trouble or need. Prayer is among the most ancient of human practices, and to this day billions of people believe in its power. Prayer transcends religions, denominations, sects and belief systems of all kinds.

At TPC, the Prayer Chain serves our congregation, community, friends, neighbors, and family by offering up our prayers for anyone who needs the comfort of having others pray for them.

In our own small way, in the quiet of our homes and privacy of our personal prayers, the TPC prayer chain seeks to serve others. We accept prayer requests from anyone seeking the comfort of prayer for themselves or others.



Never forget the three powerful resources you always have available to you: love, prayer, and forgiveness.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Our group includes approximately 80 members as well as our church's board of deacons. Coordinated by Greg Imus via email at rgregoryimus@gmail.com, we added **139 new prayers** to our prayer list in the past **12 months**. Of these, 73 were cleared to be shared with the wider congregation as possible, while 66 of the prayers were to be kept confidential among the prayer chain members only. During the previous 12-month period, we received 160 prayer requests, of which 59 were cleared to be shared with the whole TPC community.

While we do not necessarily publish prayer requests in the weekly bulletin, many of the non-confidential personal issues needing prayer are offered up to the congregation via "joys and concerns" during Sunday services. These tend to generate additional prayer support from other members of the congregation.

Prayer needs are often personal with the requestor wishing to maintain confidentiality while also feeling the loving benefit of our prayer chain members raising our prayers to God on their behalf. With the variety of issues and trials people face in their lives, it's often a comfort to know that others are thinking of us and lifting prayers on our behalf. Many people express their gratitude for the prayers sent up on their behalf. So, "thoughts and prayers" is not a just a mere cliché – it's a real thing that is often the best we can do to support and comfort others.

Submitted by Greg Imus

WORSHIP AUDIO-VISUAL SUPPORT

Almost all TPC worship services require support for sound and video. The AV (audio visual) desk at the back of the sanctuary is staffed by two or three volunteers. One of the volunteers monitors and adjusts sound and lights. The other volunteer manages the live-stream and recorded broadcast. This includes controlling the cameras and the titles for the streamed service. Current volunteers include Bob Carlson, Rick Crall, Greg Owen, Mike Shiffer, Erik Spurrell, and Jim Walchenbach. TPC would love to have more volunteers on the team. You can contact Mike Shiffer for more information or just sign up to observe what we do. You can sign up to observe on our Sign-Up Genius page at tpcspirit.org/AV. There is a slot for "A/V Observer (Training)" available every Sunday. We recommend that you sign up once to observe audio and once to observe video. Then if you want to continue, we will work with you one-on-one to learn the process. The team has created documentation to assist with training. This work does not require special technical skills and is a fun and rewarding way to be a part of worship.

04/07/2024 9:15am-11:15am Sunday	TPC AV Desk	Sound and Light Control 1 slot available Monitors and Controls Audio and Lights (comment not required)	Sign Up
		Video Control 1 slot available Monitors and Controls Camera / Streaming (comment not required)	Sign Up
		A/V Observer (Training) 1 slot available Observe / backup AV volunteers (put "Sound" or "Video" in comment)	Sign Up

Sign up at tpcspirit.org/AV

Submitted by Mike Shiffer

MARGE DEAN MEMORIAL GARDEN

Marge Dean was mother-in-law to Thom Nelson, our first pastor. She donated money to establish a memorial for members of the church. Since that initial step back in the 1990s the Garden has gone through several iterations while physically and mission-wise remaining basically the same. That is, to allow member families to purchase memorial stones for those members who have passed away. Please take some time when at the church to walk over and visit the Garden.

The Marge Dean Memorial Garden continues to be mostly a self sustaining part of our outdoor landscape. This spring I am sure it will need some TLC but nothing major. I am looking for small donations to fund another grouping of four blank stones for future memorializing. If you have questions regarding the Garden, do not hesitate to ask me.

Submitted by Mike Nelson

TUALATIN FOOD PANTRY



Tualatin Food Pantry has been an important part of our community since October 25, 2004. In 2024 the pantry will celebrate 20 years of service to our neighbors. Thank you TPC for all the food donations, “souper bowl” donations, financial support, and volunteer service! TFP provides food and other services to families in Tualatin, Durham, West Linn, Wilsonville, and Lake Oswego. The pantry is located on the lower level of Rolling Hills Community Church. TFP serves clients Monday 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM; Wednesday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM; Thursday 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM; and Friday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The pantry allows clients to select their own food for their family. It’s like going to a store but without the cash register! For more information about the pantry please visit tualatinfoodpantry.org .

Tualatin Food Pantry saw some changes in 2022. A new logo has been introduced (see above), a new website is in place and the mission statement has been updated. The mission of Tualatin Food Pantry is “Alleviate food insecurity in our community in a welcoming way that brings dignity and choice to our neighbors”.

TPC member, Mike Shiffer, has now retired from the board of Tualatin Food Pantry. Mike was part of the team that opened the food pantry in 2004. The pantry is operated under the great direction of Executive Director, Danielle Schneider.

TPC friends can support the pantry in several ways

- Donate non-perishable food items by taking them to the pantry or placing them in the donation bins located in the TPC narthex closet.
- Make financial contributions to the pantry by indicating food pantry on your TPC donation; clicking the “Donate” link on the pantry website; or mailing your donation to Tualatin Food Pantry, PO Box 248, Tualatin, OR 97062-0248
- Volunteer for a two-hour shift at the pantry by clicking the Get Involved link on the pantry website tualatinfoodpantry.org .
- If you are interested in other ways to help (for example, coordinating your own food drive) you can contact the pantry by clicking the Contact link on the Get Involved page.



Submitted by Mike Shiffer

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial reports have been omitted in this on-line version of the annual report. If you would like to see these financial reports, please refer to the hard copy of the report, check with the TPC office, or send a request to clerk at tpcspirit.org.