

FLOATING

In the weeks since I learned that our pastor was leaving and that we had no interim pastor, I have searched through the attic of my memory. I have rummaged through boxes, shelves, and trunks full of old Sunday morning sermons, looking for “good ones” that might provide encouragement, insight, or just a way to reframe our situation into something we can manage.

Rev. Derby of the Zion Gospel Tabernacle preached a sermon in 1956 that I still think about. God created light on the first day, three days before God created the sources of light, i.e., the sun, moon and stars. The first light came mysteriously. God is mystery. I think about the fact that our mysterious God is leading our church community to an unknown destination by unknown means. This is not new. God has been doing this sort of thing from the beginning. The floods are coming. Build a boat. Walk out of those Egyptian slave quarters and head for the promised land. Herod is trying to kill your baby. Leave the country at once. Drop your nets, abandon your families, and follow Jesus. Go to the ends of the Earth and preach the Gospel. We are in good company, even if we may be scared to death.

A sermon in 1963 by Dr. Charles Kessler of the Christian Catholic Church taught me that fear and doubt are a normal part of our spiritual development. We will cycle into dark periods and emerge stronger. I dread going into darkness. I ask myself how hard will it be, and what will it cost us?

One Sunday morning in 1980 I sat in Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago reflecting on the fact that I had quit my job and sold my house so that I could attend seminary. I wondered if I was out of my mind. Dr. Harvey Lord’s sermon that morning stated that God calls Christians to an ascetic life. You do not need to manufacture suffering. You only need to make the sacrifices and pay whatever required price necessary for God to accomplish God’s purpose for you, How do you know if it is all going to work out? My seminary studies helped make me the person I am today, but what about our church?

Pastor Bill Robertson of Christian Church of Arlington Heights addressed that question in 1987 when I asked him to preach on the will of God. His answer came in six words, “The water runs to the sea.” You can dam it up or cut a new channel, but the water will always run to the sea. God will accomplish God’s purpose for our church because of *and* despite us. But how do we go about accomplishing God’s purpose? Just exactly what do we do?

The sermon that has given me the clearest perspective on accomplishing God’s purpose without clear goals and objectives and no pastor on the horizon, is one Dave Backen preached at TPC in 2006. It is so good and apropos to our present situation as a church community, I am just going to quote from it with Dave’s permission...

Thomas Greene, in his book, *When the Well Runs Dry: Prayer Beyond the Beginning* offers a suggestion on how we might wait. Greene proposed that when faced with the prospect of waiting in the dark night, we practice “floating in the sea of God.” He goes on to say, the mystery of floating is that it requires much letting go and trust. “God is all directed at teaching us to float in the sea, which is God, and it is really the floaters, not the swimmers who get places and accomplish great things for the sake of the kingdom of God...It is only in floating that one really witnesses to faith and promotes justice in a Spirit-filled way...to reach a chosen goal, swimming is the best way to reach it. But to allow ourselves to be carried by the current of God is to trust that the Lord will deliver us to our destination.

I think our church’s journey over the next months will be challenging. The decisions and actions necessary to overcome these challenges will grow us into the people God wants us to become. Our church will come to embrace a new vision of what it is to love God and serve our neighbor. How do we know this will really happen? I believe that God will give us a sign, the same sign God promised Moses when that timid Egyptian prince turned shepherd stood before the burning bush. God said in so many words, when you worship me on this mountain, you will know that it was I who got you here. One day when our new, permanent pastor preaches his or her first sermon, we will look back and see clearly that it was the current in the Sea of God that carried us floaters safely to our destination. Christina Robertson

TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tualatin Presbyterian Church is currently in transition. Our previous pastor, The Rev. Dr. Ken Hood has resigned his call with Presbytery to pursue a consulting career. We have given Presbytery a job description that they have posted on line to spread the word that TPC is looking for an interim pastor. We have already received a couple of responses. Until we can identify and install an interim pastor, we are asking local pastors to preach for us on Sunday mornings.



Elder Sandy Gurney has pastors lined up to preach for us through the middle of March. Thank you, Sandy. That list represents a lot of phone calls and emails.

When session meets there must be a moderator present. Presbytery requires that the moderator be a pastor. We are pleased to announce that The Rev. Dr. Dick Wiggers has agreed to moderate our session meetings for the next several months until we can install an interim pastor. Thank you, Dick.

COFFEE CONNECTION - 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH - JANUARY 10, 10 AM

Last month we enjoyed the holiday spirit, decorations, and some special treats at Candy Richard's home.

Coming up on Tuesday, January 10th at 10 am is the next Coffee Connection, and Judy Nix will host at her home: 10678 SW Dogwood Street, Tualatin (just 7 minutes from TPC). This is an informal way for our TPC women of faith to have coffee together and connect in person. We will each be choosing an individual focus word for the New Year.



ATTENTION MEN OF TPC Our first Men's Group Meeting will be on **Saturday, January 14** at 10 am in the narthex at the church. All men who attend TPC are cordially invited! Please let Dale MacHaffie know if you will be attending so we don't run out of donuts and coffee! 503-784-2476! Representatives from Oregon Ki Society will instruct us in Aikido for our age and in Kiatsu! Come and be enlightened and leave feeling better than when you got here! Questions? Call Dale MacHaffie.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 - MEETING BEFORE THE MEETING after worship

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after worship



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25; 12:30 TO 5:30 PM

To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org. Sponsor Code if STWCAC If you have questions, talk to Scott Cameron.



Happy New Year! Family Promise is gearing up for a busy but exciting year. Very soon we will be able to help 40 families at a time. Our food delivery system is changing as our numbers increase, so the real need right now is for money so we can purchase food. We also need volunteers to help in our food pantry to fill orders for our families each week. This happens on Wednesdays from 4-6:00 pm. If you would like to help, please contact Pam Bowen (503)407-2945 or Derrilyn Bayha (661)747-8447

TPC MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee has been reformed and is looking for members of the congregation to participate in its many activities. We have just passed through our busiest time with Janus, Cookie Sale, Giving Tree and Christmas Memorials, but there are many projects through the year. The committee meets monthly and plans to meet in person at the church. If you are interested in helping and being an active member, we would love to have your participation. Please see me before or after services on Sunday, or send me an email (cvkyle109@gmail.com).
Chip Kyle

MORNING PRAYER

If you are interested in joining a morning prayer group, there is one that meets weekly, Monday through Friday on Zoom from 9 to 10 a.m. All are invited. To join, go to the church website, tpcspirit.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page. Click on "Join Morning Prayer."

BIBLE STUDY - To continue the momentum generated by the Women's Retreat, Jeannette Beeger spear-headed a Bible study of the Marcus J. Borg book *Meeting Jesus again for the First Time*. This in-person study was attended by 20+ women and many interesting conversations and insights were shared. We are hoping to have more of these opportunities in the new year.
Judy Nix

JANUS YOUTH PROGRAM

From November through the middle of December, Family Ministries ran the Janus Tree, in the narthex where we collected mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks for homeless youth in Portland. Our church donated two HUGE bags full of winter items to the Janus Project.
Sarah Beck, Family Ministries

GIVING TREE - Family Ministries coordinated the Giving Tree for families in need in the Tigard-Tualatin School District at Christmas time. This year the schools asked for \$25 gift cards to Walmart and Fred Meyer. Tualatin Presbyterian Church graciously donated \$925 in gift cards to families in need. Thank you to all who helped out.
Sarah Beck, Family Ministries

GRIEF RELEASE CLASS

Grief is the process of putting back together the pieces of a broken heart - a hole so deep in the middle of your heart that it aches and hurts and you think it will never stop hurting.

Joanne Petrie will conduct a 5-week Grief Release Class that encourages unhurried healing, to bring back into focus from the blur of pain, confusion, and bewilderment caused by loss. Grief Release provides practical step-by-step support - a road to restoration.

Joanne Petrie is a bereavement chaplain for Bristol Hospice and author of *How to Say Goodbye*. She and her husband, Ron Petrie, host a weekly Saturday radio call-in show about grief on KPDQ 93.9, 4 to 5 pm.

This class will be an in-person class of 10-12 people. It will be conducted in the Wittenberg room, which enables social distancing. Mask wearing is optional.

Dates: **January 12 - February 9, 2023 (Thursdays)** Cost - No cost (sponsored by Bristol Hospice)

Class Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Living Savior Lutheran Church. Attending first class is mandatory.

Registration: Call Living Savior Lutheran Church - 503-692-3490 Questions? Call Karen Hoppert 503-936-3661

Additional Class Offering: Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, January 12 - February 9, 2023, Cost \$25

Rolling Hills Community Church, 3550 SW Borland Rd., Tualatin, OR 97062

Register - call Rolling Hills Community Church, 503-638-5900

GIFT OF HOPE A WORLD AWAY-KENYA VOLUNTEER MISSION TEAM, FEB 16 TO MARCH 6

While in Kenya we will help create adequate housing. We will sponsor a medical camp for 500+ people who lack medical care. We will make a difference. You can support our outreach by donating. Checks can be made out to: First United Methodist Church of Portland. Please write on the memo line that the check is for "Kenya VIM Team 2023. Mail check to FUMCPDX, c/o Paul and Kathleen Cosgrove, 6211 Buena Vista Drive, Vancouver, WA 98661. Deadline for donations is January 15, 2023.

Thank you, in advance, for your support. Bunny Lewis

CONNECTION/FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Ken's departure celebration on Sunday, December 18, took our entire TPC village to orchestrate, but it was a fellowship connection celebration enjoyed by a hundred plus attendees of all ages. Many thanks to all who contributed to making this celebration a success. Judy Nix, Connections Elder

KEN'S FAREWELL POEM, December 18, 2022, Created by Carolyn Locke

A "Ken Event"! It must be time
To celebrate with one more rhyme

On August 6, 2004
Ken with his family
Showed up right here in this place
To officially meet TPC.

And this is some of what we learned:
Ken is blessed with a gift of preaching,
Sharing God's word through passionate teaching.
Using scripture, life experience, literature and wit
He delivers messages that certainly fit
To challenge and inspire all who hear.
God's voice, with humor, is obviously near.
As a child of God, Ken has studied and found
That spiritual truths in his life abound

So Ken was here and ten years went by
Creating memories - how time did fly.
Here are some of those memories at the 10-year mark: 2014

It's hard to believe it's been a decade
But what a significant impression you've made.

ADVENTURES

You talk about life and keep it real
There's no limit to what you might reveal!

Once in the wilderness you lost yourself.
Some say Rob (Ayres) should be your GPS elf.

One awesome adventure, especially grand,
Was an educational trip to the Holy Land.

Of such an opportunity who would have thought
That is really paid off to know a guy named Scott.

STORIES

A special, recent notable story
Began with praise, giving God Glory.

Our mortgage was finally fully paid.
The completion of so many pledges made

Such an accomplishment was our desire
But we hadn't planned to celebrate with fire.

You burned the mortgage (and some of the floor)
A few of your faults we've just learned to ignore.

GIFTS

But have you more useful talents? You bet!
When we need a drummer, we are all set.

Your mentoring skill was used of course
For ministry candidate David Norse.

He and TPC 'kid' Heather Chase too
Have now officially been ordained like you.
And now you can add Annika to this list!

SUCCESS

When we picked (candidate) '97 who would guess
You would bring TPC noteworthy success.

You felt personally responsible for TPC's growth
So along came Ella...then Brynne...then Jean and John both!

Another success, amazingly big
TWO Heifer Project arks...requiring you to kiss a pig!

In recent years it's been not an art, but a zoo
As husband, father, pastor and student too.

With flights, classes and research for Duke
Your Doctorate of Ministry is no fluke.

That's a fine accomplishment of which we're most proud
It's a joy hearing "Reverend Doctor Ken" spoken out loud.

And then Ken turned 40...so we surprised him in worship with a special song:
"The more we get to know Ken," featuring several of his notable qualities.

I'll name a few:

INSPIRATIONAL

He encourages our thinking when we hear him speak
Enlightening us with messages in English, Hebrew, Greek
Often times his sermons deeply touch our hearts
Moving us to action, challenging our minds ...and bringing tears to our eyes

FASHONABLE

In 2004 Ken's ties were plain...then what do you know!
Those disappeared and now he sports styles in the shape of a bow!
Likewise in the fashion department...there is also footwear news:
Check his boots, wild and crazy socks.. And those bright yellow shoes!

WELCOMING

Ken knows that we're not perfect and yet he welcomes all:
Texas Horns, Beavers or Ducks all creatures great and small.
When visitors come through our doors what will they find? Or not...
Birthday chicken, humor, love mixed with comments from Erik or Scott.

The next years were filled with all kinds of writing.
Irrational books, poetry - pretty exciting
No shortage of action at TPC
Such as awesome youth programs and family ministry.

Along came the pandemic, bringing challenges galore.
It was unknown territory. No one knew what was in store.

Gone were Sundays done the usual way.
How would we celebrate Tom Selleck's birthday?!

You were forced into preaching to empty pews
Were those at home watching non-verbal cues?

Isolation was definitely real - so different from TPC's family feel.
Creativity, flexibility - they were the key, to try to hang on to our sanity

Morning prayers have already been special for you
During COVID you issued an invitation to
Join in that time to share together
On Zoom, so you met regardless of weather.

For 18 years you've blessed us with leadership and fun
Compassion and lessons, creatively done.

Along the way there have been losses
Philip & Dorothy, Charlie, Ted & Cathy, Del, Karen, Marc,
Maureen, Art, Jaci, Zoe, Barbara, Gwen, Rick, Michael and more

Beloved friends are gone:
You helped us grieve, we miss them all
Especially your Dad John

Coaching and consulting-new adventures await
We hope your next chapter of life will be great.

We'll continue to think of you now and again
And remember the unique gift of experiencing Ken!
Appreciation and gratitude beyond all measure
We share with you, as you leave, to fondly treasure.

THANK YOU

I want to present a piece of memorabilia for this historic occasion:
Part of the interview process involved preaching at a 'neutral pulpit.'
So Ken and family flew out and participated in worship at St. Andrews.

Baby Will needed something to do
So I offered my bulletin on which he could chew.
Will grew up! He's in college now!
And Ken has completed his time here wow!
So here it is, to remember when
TPC chose Pastor Ken.

Amen.



JANUARY TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

For the latest calendar updates, go to www.tpcspirit.org and click on EVENTS.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 10 am in person and on line worship at www.tpxspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube.	2	3	4 10 an Loving Stitches	5 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube	9 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Deacon Meeting	10 9 am prayer on Zoom 10 am Tuesday Coffee Connect at Judy Nix's 7 pm Stephen Ministry Zoom	11 9 am prayer on Zoom	12 9 am prayer on Zoom 10 am TPC Readers/Zoom 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	13 9 am prayer on Zoom	14 10 am Men's Group Noon to 3 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
15 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube Meeting Before Mtg,	16 9 am prayer on Zoom	17 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Session Meeting	18 9 am prayer on Zoom 10 am Loving Stitches	19 9 am prayer on Zoom 10 am TPC Readers/Zoom 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	20 9 am prayer on Zoom	21
22 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube Annual Meeting	23 9 am prayer on Zoom	24 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Stephen Ministry Zoom February newsletter deadline office@tpcspirit.org	25 9 am prayer on Zoom	26 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	27 9 am prayer on Zoom	28
29 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube	30 9 am prayer on Zoom	31 9 am prayer on Zoom				

TPC 2022 FINANCIALS	Actuals	Budget	Dollar Difference
Operating Income Year to Date 11/30/22	\$329,238	\$332,649	\$3,411
Operating Expenses Year to Date 11/30/22	\$306,038	\$342,450	36,412

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WITH JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

04-Mary Shiffer
06-Rosemary Willis
07-Riley Reding
08-Deb Carlson
09-Steve Olsen

12-Jeff Cameron
12-Susan Springer
15-Karen Jones
16-Herb Richardson
18-Mary Maleta
19-Scott MacHaffie
21-Pam Bowen
24-Greg Sundt

28-Erin Hagan
28-Mark Hansen
28-Ted Miller
29-Janet Winterrowd
30-Pam Cameron
31-Neil Olson



9230 SW Siletz Drive
Tualatin, OR 97062



JANUARY
2023

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 a.m. in person, and on line at www.tpcspirit.org

Pastor: Open

Parish Associate: The Rev. Dr. Richard Wiggers

Elders: Dave Backen, Worship; Sandy Gurney, Family Ministries; Lynne Neilson, Stewardship and Administration; Judy Nix, Connections; Greg Owen, Building and Grounds

Deacons and their parish number: Derrilyn Bayha (5), Susan Cameron (7), Linda Fukasawa (2), Jason James (4), Dianne Lemmon (3), Kerry Weaver (1), and Rosemary Willis (6).

Director of Family Ministries: Sarah Beck

Financial Assistant: Julie Flint

Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor: Susan Springer

Director of Music Ministries: Jennifer Schloming

Pianist: Dr. Evan C. Paul

Bell Choir Director: Debbie Ivanov

Building and Grounds Caretaker: Larry Nord

Art Director: Chris Robertson

Bereavement Committee Chair: Barbara Crall

Blood Drive Coordinator: Scott Cameron

Clerk of Session: Craig Bowen

Cookie Coordinator: Sue Hayhurst

Fellowship Director: Barbara Crall

Hospitality Coordinator: Bonnie Nord

Membership Coordinator: Diane Paetsch

Men's Fellowship Group Coordinator: Dale MacHaffie

Parish Nurse: Susan Fee

Prayer Chain: Greg Imus

Technology Chair: Open

Treasurer: Chip Kyle

Wedding Coordinator: Stacy Mauer

Archivist: Rick Crall

The office is open limited hours. Leave voice message at 503 692-4160. We will get back to you.