

Greetings all, and a happy new year!

I write this letter as January is upon us and we say goodbye to 2005 and salutations to 2006. The month January is named after one of my favorite figures in Roman mythology- Janus. Janus is an ancient figure in Roman mythology and is most often seen with two faces. One face looks forward to the future, while one face reflects on all that has been. For this reason the Romans considered Janus the god of bridges, gates, and doors. The Romans named the month January after Janus, as this is the month in which we let go of the old and welcome in the new.

Now, as important as Janus was to the Roman people, something that I find interesting is how distant they kept him. For instance while Romans LOVED telling stories and writing verse about their gods, very few stories exist about Janus. And while Romans absolutely filled their homes with images of gods, even to the point of painting the goddess of door hinges, Cardea, and the god who protects against corn smut, Robigo (I'm not kidding), not one image of Janus survives in Roman domestic architecture as far as archeologists know. The Romans revered Janus, but they didn't exactly know how to live with him.

It strikes me we're not all that different. It's one thing to hang a picture of Janus on the Morrison Bridge (which, to my knowledge no one has done yet. Perhaps a TPC art project?), but how well, exactly, do we live with Janus? In other words- how well are we able to both look at the year gone by, give thanks for what was good, lament what wasn't, and *at the same time*, look forward to what might be? It's become a truism that the secret to happiness is to simply live in the moment. And while I suppose there is a kind of pleasure that might come from such focus; wisdom just might come in the ability to maintain a Janus faced honesty with regard to what has been and openness with regard to what might be. Rare is the soul able to look to the past without becoming mired in missed opportunities or stuck in the "glory days". Rare is the one able to look towards the future without losing touch with the present or becoming cynical over what seems "impossible". Wise are those able to do both, I believe.

Here's a wonderful story I came across recently that hints at this: "A certain shopkeeper sent his son to learn about the secret of happiness from the wisest man in the world. The lad wandered through the desert for forty days, and finally came upon a beautiful castle, high atop a mountain. It was there that the wise man lived. Rather than finding a saintly man, though, our hero, on entering the main room of the castle, saw a hive of activity: tradesmen came and went, people were conversing in the corners, a small orchestra was playing soft music, and there was a table covered with platters of the most delicious food in that part of the world. The wise man conversed with everyone, and the boy had to wait for two hours before it was his turn to be given the man's attention.

The wise man listened attentively to the boy's explanation of why he had come, but told him that he didn't have time just then to explain the secret of happiness. He suggested that the boy look around the palace and return in two hours.

allowing the oil to spill.

The boy began climbing and descending the many stairways of palace, keeping his eyes fixed on the spoon. After two hours, he returned to the room where the wise man was.

'Well,' asked the wise man, 'did you see the Persian tapestries that are hanging in my dining hall? Did you see the garden that it took the master gardener ten years to create? Did you notice the beautiful parchments in my library?'

The boy was embarrassed, and confessed that he had observed nothing. His only concern had been not to spill the oil that the wise man had entrusted to him.

'Then go back and observe the marvels of my world,' said the wise man. 'You cannot trust a man if you don't know his house.'

Relieved, the boy picked up the spoon and returned to his exploration of the palace, this time observing all of the works of art on the ceilings and the walls. He saw the gardens, the mountains all around him, the beauty of the flowers, and the taste with which everything had been selected. Upon returning to the wise man, he related in detail everything he had seen.

'But where are the drops of oil I entrusted to you?' asked the wise man.

Looking down at the spoon he held, the boy saw that the oil was gone.

'Well, there is only one piece of advice I can give you,' said the wisest of wise men. 'The secret of happiness is to see all the marvels of the world, and never to forget the drops of oil on the spoon.' (From Paulo Coelho's The Alchemist)

There will be many voices vying for our attention this January- all promising us we will be more happy if we work out more, eat better, read that book that's been sitting on our shelf, and more. And no doubt, these may all be good ideas. Consider one more possibility, though- this January, spend some time living with Janus. Spend some time reflecting on what has been, giving thanks for what was good, lamenting what wasn't, and *at the same time*, looking forward to what might be. And remember, our God, the Holy One of Israel, who walked beside us in 2005, lies down with us now when we go to sleep, abides with us upon our waking, and will be present with us wherever we go in the new year come what may. Thanks be to God.

Pax, Ken



BIBLE TEACHINGS

JAN 8TH -29TH

Shema Israel Adonai Elechenu Adonai Achad

Rotations

Science – Shari Olsen
Music – Lillie Grand
Art – Mary Shiffer
Games – Jana Hudgins

**Children's Education Committee Mtg.
Jan. 5th @ 7:00**

**Teacher Training for Feb. Rotations
Jan. 15th @ 11:30**

Beginning January 8th, students will learn that, when we read the Bible, we can discover what God expects us to do and be. They will explore the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) and its importance; examine the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) and their meaning; study Christ's commandment to "love our neighbor as ourselves." and be challenged to think about ways Jesus' teachings were radical and new. In Science, students will be challenged to see the world in a new perspective as they make a giant kaleidoscope. In Music children may learn the 'Beatitude-Attitude Rap' or sing praise with "I Will Love the Lord" & "Hear O Israel". What is a Mezuzah? Students will find out in Art class and help to create a Be-Attitude Quilt as they create Blessing Squares. Shema Relays, A Beatitude Match and Cooperation Challenges all await your child at the Game rotation with Ms. Jana. Your children will not want to miss our January Rotations!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGES BEGINNING JAN. 8TH

**Children ages 3 and under will be in the nursery.
Children ages 4 & 5 will now make up our Kindergarten Class.**

It is our desire that these changes will provide the best learning environment possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Crystal Shearer or Shari Olsen.

Have you forgotten something?



Your pledge of financial support helps the Session plan TPC's activities in 2006. If you have not yet made a pledge, help us venture boldly into the future by making your pledge now. Pledge cards and envelopes are available in the narthex on the table with the name tags.

A Note from Shirl and Gil Garcia

"We are fine. We are in process of building a house. Due to close in April. Gil is enjoying retirement. He is substitute teaching. I am working for the school district, in student services....with kids who have speech impairments.

Our address is
PO Box 1036
Erie, CO 80516
720-519-0218

Anyone going through Denver, give us a call!"

Miss you!

Shirl G Garcia



Kaia Justine Kadel and Kade Jackson Kadel were baptized on December 11. Their parents are Lane and Candace Kadel.

On Sunday, December 25, Lauren Elizabeth Ayers and her father, Robert Michael Ayers were baptized. We also welcomed Rob and Jennifer Ayers and little Lauren into our TPC membership.

Fellowship Events

1/14/06 - Hockey night - It's the best game of the year. Prices and times are listed on the sign up sheet on the Tower and there are only a few seats left.

1/29/06 - Super Bowl Potluck following church service.

2/11/06 - Tea party for our senior ladies. More info will follow--watch your bulletins.

The **Quilting, Knitting, & Crocheting** group will meet next on Saturday, January 14 at 9:30 AM to make quilts and blankets to show our love for children in need. Come join us January 14!

*We have some donated yarn and (cotton and flannel) fabric. Please check with Jaci Smith, Mary Shiffer, or Shirley Schultz to see these – or to donate a gift of quilt or blanket you have made.

**General Fund Status
January – November 2005**



	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 201,667	\$ 200,890
Expense	<u>\$ 201,292</u>	<u>\$ 188,124</u>
Net	\$ 375	\$ 12,766

November 2005

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 17,850	\$ 18,124
Expense	<u>\$ 18,163</u>	<u>\$ 20,085</u>
Net	\$ -313	\$ -1,961

January Birthdays

1/03	Cathy Lambeth	1/20	John Collins
1/04	Mary Shiffer	1/21	Pam Bowen
1/09	Steve Olsen	1/24	Greg Sundt
1/09	Milce da Silva	1/25	Evan Hutchinson
1/10	Kathryn Dix	1/28	Mark Hansen
1/11	Susan Springer	1/28	Ted Miller
1/14	Walt Dean	1/28	Nick Dannemiller
1/14	Emily Nelson	1/29	Randy Beyer
1/14	Jim Sanco	1/29	Janet Winterrowd
1/15	Karen Jones	1/30	Pam Cameron
1/18	Mary Maleta	1/31	Neil Oslon

If we missed your birthday, please contact the Church Office.

**Please remember
in prayer:**



The Wood family; Ota Binegar (Deborah Lewis' father; Marilyn Heath; Andy Koning (Kris Sparks' nephew); Nadine Manke and her husband (Maxine Jenovich's brother) who is caring for her; the Coday family; Don Peterson, Mike Kellog (Hansen); Elizabeth Shafer, TJ Grand; Maureen Goodrich; Ronnie Lee King (Cameron family); and Craig Wiggers on assignment for the Marines in Baghdad.

The Prayer Request Box is located in the narthex. Prayer requests can be made confidentially, if desired. You may indicate whether you would like prayers to be shared in the service, or added to the prayer chain.