



Dear Friends,

Congregational meetings can be a bit of a mystery. We don't hold them very often. There is a lot of time between meetings, so we have ample time to forget why we hold them, what their purpose is and how we should behave in such meetings.

We held our first congregational meeting in 2007 on January 28. At this meeting we elected members to serve on the 2007 nominating committee, voted on my terms of call, reviewed the 2007 budget and talked about our current 10:30 am worship time.

Our next congregational meeting will be Sunday, March 11. Why you ask?

1) What will take place at the Sunday, March 11 congregational meeting?

The main business will be to vote to elect 3 elders and 4 deacons. The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Elder Shari Olsen, will present a slate of three names for Elders and four names for Deacons. The Moderator of the meeting (that's me) will ask for additional names from the congregation. If there are no nominations from the floor, we will take a voice vote. If anyone present is uncomfortable with a name presented by the nominating committee, additional names can be suggested. (If you intend to submit a name during the meeting, please get approval from that individual before the meeting and tell me in advance.) We can then proceed with a written vote to elect our officers.

2) Who are the actors in the meeting?

The two main types of actors in a congregational meeting are member of the church body/congregation and the moderator. The church body includes church friends, church members and church officers. All are invited and encouraged to listen; only church members have voice and vote in meetings.

The moderator provides the structure for the meeting. While I remain your pastor, during a congregational meeting I must play a different role...that of the moderator. The requirements of this role are substantially different from those of a pastor. In parliamentary theory a good moderator acts as a catalyst who provides an orderly environment for the conduct of business, but does not participate in the actual decision

making, allowing the voice of the Congregation to be heard. When acting as your moderator, I cannot participate as a pastor might, providing leadership and insight. A moderator cannot express opinions on how to vote. A good moderator must stay out of the discussion not because they don't care, but because they know a strong church body must make some decisions on their own.

3) What's your role in this meeting, as a member of the body/congregation?

Listen and understand what we're voting on, and vote your conscience. If there is a motion before the congregation you don't fully understand, please ask about it before we proceed. Every member has a right to understand a motion before moving forward. And when it comes time to vote, please vote how you honestly feel. Unanimous votes just for the sake of agreement often mask important disagreement that can be instructive down the road.

Treat each other with what our Book of Order calls "mutual forbearance", especially when we disagree. While we need to get our business done, let us never put our business ahead of our love for each other.

Please be thoughtful about the whole congregation. Before bringing a question, ask yourself if it will help the entire body or whether it would be better to ask the question at a different time.

There's much more to do to make our meetings a more creative and productive time/space/environment, but I hope this is a helpful start. Please let me know if you have any thoughts or questions about this.

In Christ,

The Rev. Ken Evers-Hood

older kids

3/3/07 – TPC People Auction

3/17/07 – Snow campout – adult event

4/1/07 – Palm Sunday Brunch

Please contact John Lewis at 503-692-5504 if you have any questions concerning the snow shoe hike or the snow campout.

MISSION IN MOTION

The search for the TPC 2007 Peace Keeper Award is underway. We invite you to nominate someone or an organization who exemplifies the spirit of peacemaking within the Tualatin area. This award is intended to be a celebration of peacemaking efforts in our own community. All nominees must reside in, be an organization in the Tualatin area, or be involved in community efforts within the greater Tualatin area.

Examples of Peacemaking activities are:

- * Working to reduce hunger and/or feed the hungry
- * Involvement with programs to provide social services to the homeless
- * Work in rehabilitation programs within a correctional institution
- * Support of those in recovery from addictions or domestic violence
- * Assist in programs that provide services to those with developmental disabilities

We hope you will join us in the celebration of peace by nominating someone or an organization who reaches out in a Christ-like manner to spread peace throughout our community. To do so, please send the following information to the TPC Mission Committee:

- 1) Name of individual or group being nominated
- 2) Description of the efforts of the individual or group toward peacemaking

Nominations may be hand-delivered to the TPC office in a sealed envelope or mailed to the Peacemaker Award Committee, c/o Tualatin Presbyterian Church, 9230 SW Siletz St, Tualatin, OR 97062. The deadline for nominations is March 15th.

The award winner will be introduced at the TPC Peacemaker celebration on Sunday, May 6th. The celebration will include music and readings that honor peace and peacemaking activities. Watch for more details next month!

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Sunday, April 1st. The theme this year is “Who Is My Neighbor”. The question is sometimes asked, “how can we live out Christ’s commandment to *‘love all’* of our neighbors?” Too often we make the answer too complicated when it is actually quite simple. We can do so by treating them like neighbors – accepting their help when offered and offering ours when they are in need. One Great Hour of Sharing gives us an opportunity to share God’s love with neighbors from the shores of the Indian Ocean to the Gulf Coast of the USA. Through our gifts, Presbyterians become a part of Christ’s healing love in our broken world. As we open our hearts to our neighbors through these gifts, God’s love is poured out not only upon them but also upon us. May our gifts transform the lives of all they touch.

INADVERTENT CHRISTMAS EVE COAT SWAP

Women, did you wear a red coat to the Christmas Eve worship service? Diane Barry did. However, when she got home, she realized the coat she had was not hers. This red coat had red buttons. Her red coat has black buttons. So to all owners of red coats, please check your closet to be sure you got home with the correct coat. If you didn’t, give Diane Barry a call (503)692-1658, and you can swap again.

youth, the Tualatin Presbyterian Church has established a tradition of awarding scholarships to our graduating seniors who are members. As graduation time approaches, the Scholarship Committee has begun this process. With the deadline of March 21 around the corner, the Committee would like to remind the members of TPC that the Scholarship Fund accepts tax-deductible contributions. The Committee asks that as you complete your tax planning for 2007 and your overall estate planning, you consider donations and/or bequests to the Tualatin Presbyterian Scholarship Fund on behalf of our youth. Thank you for your consideration. Contact Bob Bolton for more information.

“OLD DOGS” & READERS

“What’s the relationship you might ask?” None, but it got your attention. There’s an old phrase that “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks,” but that’s long been proven untrue. Some members of our congregation have been scripture readers for a long time, but now have an opportunity to learn some new ideas to become even more effective readers. Other members who might be interested in becoming readers, but feel some hesitancy are all welcome to come to a training session offered by Dorothy Martin who will share with you methods that Ken taught in a training workshop several months ago.

You may choose one of the two following dates – March 11th and 18th, 11:45 to 12:15. If you are interested, but are unable to attend one of those two dates, please call Dorothy at 503-675-5396 or email pdmartin@teleport.com. Remember this is for both experienced readers and inquirers.

| March Birthdays | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| 3/01 | Paula Miller | 3/19 | John Hutchinson |
| 3/01 | Erik Spurrell | 3/22 | David Norse |
| 3/06 | Karen Schmitt | 3/23 | Neal Reiling |
| 3/08 | Nimmi Senthirajah | 3/23 | Lane Kadel |
| 3/08 | Bob Nix | 3/24 | Harry Chase |
| 3/09 | Carolyn Sanco | 3/24 | Daniel MacKay |
| 3/09 | Muriel Powers | 3/25 | Mitchell Peterson |
| 3/09 | Owen MacHaffie | 3/26 | Josie Reid |
| 3/11 | Andrew MacHaffie | 3/27 | Hilde Frey |
| 3/11 | Dean Wells | 3/29 | Evelyn Hart |
| 3/14 | Shane Breshears | 3/29 | Mike Shiffer |
| 3/15 | Deborah Lewis | 3/30 | John Lewis |
| 3/17 | Shannon Buckmaster | 3/31 | Maxine Jenovich |

Greeters are the first people you see on Sunday morning as you enter the narthex. They stand near the front door and welcome everyone as they enter the church for worship. During the worship service they help take the morning offering and during Joys and Concerns they walk a microphone to the people who wish to speak. To volunteer, talk to Dee Dee Hansen or Clare Hahn.

Servers are people asked by their deacon to come early on Sunday morning to put the coffee on to perk and then to hand out bulletins to worshipers as they arrive. After worship the servers pour coffee and juice and set out snacks. They also do the kitchen clean-up. If you’d like to help in this way, please talk to your deacon.

New Church Photo Directory

There are plans to create a new photo directory for Tualatin Presbyterian Church, but this time it will be done in house...not by an outside company. Scott Cameron will take the pictures and as the process becomes more defined, Pam and Scott Cameron will make appointments. More information will follow. Stay tuned.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA AND WHY DO WE PAY IT?

Per capita is similar to a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water and telephone to remain connected, we pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on our behalf. Every year TPC pays a per capita fee for each member; this year we paid \$5,506. This expense is not included in the annual TPC budget. Each member is asked to pay his/her own per capita fee, \$21.26. This is an individual fee, not a family fee. Please make checks payable to TPC and write per capita on the comment line. Thanks

General Fund Status January 2007

| | <i>BUDGET</i> | <i>ACTUAL</i> |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Income | \$ 17,383 | \$ 12,501 |
| Expense | <u>\$ 17,132</u> | <u>\$ 16,231</u> |
| Net | \$ 251 | \$ 3,730- |





Kids' Group during Worship

We are looking at forming a group for children too old for the nursery but too young to stay through the entire worship service. If your family would be interested in participating in this group, please contact the office or Shari Olsen.

**PLEASE CHECK THE TEACHING BULLETIN BOARD
DOWNSTAIRS NEXT TO THE CHOIR ROOM TO SIGN
UP TO TEACH IN APRIL OR MAY!**

**The new curriculum can be taught on a week-to-week
basis, no long-term commitment is required!**



New Curriculum – In Lent we will be starting “**Seasons of the Spirit**”, a lectionary-based curriculum connecting worship, learning and service for all ages. The children will be studying stories and ideas related to the lectionary reading for each Sunday.

Upcoming topics: March 4 – Built on a Promise Genesis 15
March 11 – Thirsting Psalms 63
March 18 – Love that Welcomes Luke 15
March 25 – Outpouring of Love John 12

Preschool Teachers needed!

Please contact Barb Crall (503) 692-1677 or Shari Olsen (503) 635-4019 if you would like to help. Minimal preparation is needed; come have fun with our 3-5 year olds!

Needed: **Bulletin board “wizard”** to decorate our boards
1-2 hand-me-down computers

Please contact Shari or the office if you can help with either.



For Parents: During the Sunday School hour, you are invited to join one of the Adult Education classes or relax in the narthex for a “Coffee Hour”. A table is set up, the Oregonian and coffee are available. The choir also rehearses during this time, contact Kris Sparks regarding joining the choir on Sunday mornings!

The TPC People Auction will be held at the church on Sat., March 3rd. Doors open at 6:00 pm for appetizers, desserts and Silent Auction. The Oral Auction begins at 7 pm. This is a night to gather with your TPC Church Family for fun and laughter....or something in that order!

We have a lot of wonderful things in store for you for the evening. Charlie Brown and Craig Walker will be our auctioneers with a lot of fun and surprises. Remember last auction when we had Charlie and a cardboard figure of Craig?



Sign-up sheets are on the tower in the Narthex for appetizers, desserts and helping.

Raffle tickets will be sold that evening by Scott and Pam Cameron. Two Lake Oswego flowering baskets and a soup gift basket will be raffled off with the tickets selling for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Tickets for \$2 each or 3 for \$5 will be sold for \$25 Hayden's certificate, \$25 Skin Deep and Beyond Spa certificate, and Oil change certificates.

Don't miss the oral auction which will include two baseball Mariner's tickets, eight dinners, two nights at a beach house, a diamond necklace, a dogwood tree, a fishing trip, a quilt made by Mary Shiffer and many more items.

Don't miss the pie in the face. Scott Cameron and Greg Imus will be the lucky ones to get two pies each in the face. Bring your money to bid on the opportunity to throw one of the pies. What fun to get back at these two gentlemen!



Mike Nelson, at our last auction, about to get a pie in his face!!



Will Scott and Greg look better with pie on their faces?

If you will need child care the night of the auction, please let Clare Hahn know so she can make arrangements for a sitter, dinner for the children, and a movie and games. Please call 692-4807.

Proceeds from this auction will go to the Deacons' fund, which helps TPC people in need.

A special thanks to Clare Hahn and all the folks at TPC who helped coordinate this event.

Did you know the benches you sit on out front after worship were built by a TPC Eagle Scout? Or that the Coffee Creek cub den, where imprisoned moms stay connected with their kids, is organized by TPC members? On **February 4th, Boy Scout Sunday**, Dr. Craig Bowen shared a terrific slide show, reminding us of the impact that scouts have at our church. Both the troop who has used our building since it was built, and scouts and leaders who are members of our congregation have contributed to what makes us TPC. The most moving evidence of this was when members involved in scouting were asked to stand, and nearly half the congregation stood.

Tualatin Valley Cooperative Preschool's history is intertwined with the lives of our church families. On **February 18th, Tualatin Valley Preschool Sunday**, Abby Britton, a past president of the co-op, shared her passion for the preschool and her personal appreciation for the opportunities that a cooperative preschool at TPC provides to strengthen the connection between a parent and child. It was our congregation's honor to present the preschool with a gift certificate for materials and supplies, and our continued pleasure for their participation in our church's mission.

Ask any TPC Treasure volunteer, and they will tell you that Treasure Tuesdays are one of their favorite days each month. For almost 6 years, Tuesday's Treasure program for developmentally disabled adults has been hosted by a loving and lively group from TPC. On **February 25th, Tuesday Treasure's Sunday**, our congregation hosted the Treasure's during worship, with a potluck following. Rik De Bruyn and Paul Dechaine movingly shared their treasure experiences, Erik Spurrell lead us in worship and members of our Treasure community were honored.

Celebrating 25 Years of TPC

You are invited to an evening of Song, Laughter and Love

Saturday, May 12th 6:30 p.m.

**Hymn Sing-a-Long
accompanied by
Kris Sparks and the Sparkettes**

**A Picture Show
with silly, solemn and sweet moments
from the first day to today**

**Share moments with
our very special guests**

and

Feast on Sweet Treats

**Enjoy the company of your family and our church family
at our biggest birthday yet!
(Get the chicken!)**