

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEN

People ask me from time to time whether I still like it here in the Great Northwest. (I notice I get this question more regularly on rainy days.) Well, I do. I love it here, rain and all. I am continuously amazed at the beauty that surrounds us here, and I know at TPC I'm not alone in this. We love to hike, bike, fish, hunt, ski, garden, and a zillion other things that take us outside. More than any other congregation I've ever been a part of, TPC understands the connection between God's good creation and our responsibility to care for it wisely.

Well we're part of a denomination that sees this connection, too. All the way back in 1990 the General Assembly agreed upon this policy:

- God's works in creation are too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful, too good to be desecrated.
- Restoring creation is God's own work in our time, in which God comes both to judge and to restore.
- The Creator-Redeemer calls faithful people to become engaged with God in keeping and healing the creation, human and non-human.
- Human life and well-being depend upon the flourishing of other life and the integrity of the life-supporting processes that God has ordained.
- The love of neighbor, particularly "the least" of Christ's brothers and sisters, requires action to stop the poisoning, the erosion, the wastefulness that are causing suffering and death.
- The future of our children and their children and all who come after is at stake.
- In this critical time of transition to a new era, God's new doing may be discerned as a call to earth-keeping, to justice, and to community.

More recently, the last General Assembly in 2006 passed a resolution specifically targeting carbon emissions, calling on Presbyterians to live a carbon-neutral life by reducing our use of fossil fuel energy and purchasing offsets to make up for

the amount we still contribute to carbon emissions, the main cause of global warming.

We already know many things to do to reduce your own dependency on fuel- we can drive less, buy more fuel efficient cars, and more energy efficient appliances among other things. But what's a carbon offset and how does this work? This is so cool. Carbon offsetting offers us the ability to invest in clean and sustainable energy generation that balances out the carbon emissions we create by driving, flying, or turning the lights on at home. By reducing our own emissions and participating in carbon offsetting programs, we can become carbon-neutral, meaning we create just as much non-carbon derived energy as the carbon based energy we continue to use. So we reduce what we can, we offset the rest: it's a practical way of caring for God's creation.

There's so much more to learn. To find out more about carbon offsetting for your family or business check out Native Energy, a company with which the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has partnered. (nativeenergy.com/Splash/PRC/PRC.html) Other well known carbon offsetting organizations include Carbon Fund (carbon.fund.org), Terra Pass (terrapass.com), and right here at home the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (greentagsusa.org).

Also, for a more comprehensive view, see the PC(U.S.A.) office for environmental justice (pcusa.org/environment), and Presbyterians for the Renewal of Creation (prcweb.org). There is so much we can do to make a difference. As individuals we may not be able to change the world- but we can surely take care of our little corner of it.

In Christ,

Pastor Ken

May Birthdays

5/02	Craig Walker	5/17	Sandy Reiling
5/02	Wesley Shiffer	5/17	Gary Frey
5/06	Marcia Bell	5/17	Scott Cameron
5/07	Mark Robertson	5/19	BJ Stevenson
5/09	Steve Kyes	5/21	Elizabeth Beymer
5/9	Mari Schuman	5/23	Kim Couto
5/11	Ron VanSchoiack	5/23	Emily Mazzuca
5/11	Dave Backen	5/24	Emerson Wood
5/12	Ronn Rhodes	5/24	Jose Corona
5/14	David Burggren	5/24	Brian Jones
5/15	Dorothy Martin	5/27	Sarah Springer
5/15	Stephanie Bartlett	5/27	Benjamin Schleicher
5/16	Alex Lewis		

BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

On Sunday, April 22, during the morning worship service, Bibles were presented to:

Mitchell Hutchinson, John Olsen, Bradley Olson, Arielle Mazzuca, Jackson Schleicher and Emma Steffen.

Baptisms and Memberships

McKinley and Blair Ewing, children of Tom and Lisa Ewing and Arielle and Emily Mazzuca, children of Jacki and Scott Mazzuca were baptized on April 7.

Tom and Lisa Ewing and Jacki Mazzuca were taken in as new members at the same time.

Adult Education

Rich Robertson's Bible Workshop will continue through mid June.

Chris Robertson is facilitating a 6-week discussion of the book, *Let Your Life Speak* by Parker Palmer. It started on April 22 and will run through May.

PER CAPITA

In January, 2007 TPC paid \$5,506 in per capita. To date we have received payments of \$2202. This expense is not part of the annual budget; we ask each member to pay his/her own per capita fee of \$21.26. If you have paid, thank you so much. To those who haven't, please do at your earliest convenience. Make your check payable to TPC, write per capita on the comment line and put the check in the offering plate. Thanks.

A CONCERT CELEBRATING THE MANY WAYS OF PEACE

Save the date: May 6, 3-5pm at Tualatin Presbyterian Church. Your Mission Committee is sponsoring this event to reach the wider Tualatin Community with the gift of music, which is the universal language of peace. The Tualatin High School Crimsonnaires are opening the afternoon concert. Our featured performer is Linda Allen from Bellingham, Washington. She is well traveled and has a long history of writing songs about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. Her songs are of justice, hope, spirit and love.

The Tualatin Peacemaker award is also being presented at the concert. This award which is sponsored by TPC is presented to the community member or business who demonstrates one of the many ways that peace is made in our community.

There is no charge for the concert, and people are invited to bring donations, cash or canned goods, for the Tualatin School House Food Pantry.

So come and welcome your friends and neighbors to Tualatin Presbyterian for a fun afternoon that promises to be an inspiration about peace in many ways.

TPC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, May 12th
6:30 - 8:30
Desserts and MORE!

General Fund Status January – March 2007



	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 52,150	\$ 44,919
Expense	\$ 53,722	\$ 50,647
Net	\$ -1,572	\$ -5,728

	March 2007 BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 17,383	\$ 15,302
Expense	\$ 19,407	\$ 18,828
Net	\$ -2,024	\$ -4,516

Come Join Us at Galilee By-the-Sea



Mark your calendars and reserve the mornings of July 16-20 for Galilee By-the-Sea! Our building and grounds will be transformed into a bible village as we recreate the enthusiasm around the markets in Jesus' time for Vacation Bible School this year. Check out www.group.com/vbs to check out the overview!

Now, here's what we need to get us there:

Children ages 4 yrs. through just finishing 5th grade, beg, plead, or annoy your parents to be a part of this annual event.

Parents, write these dates on the calendar today. Then decide how you will try to keep your child/children from getting too excited about going 'tribal' (groups will be named after the original 12 tribes of Israel!)

All middle school students through adults of the church, make a commitment to find a way to help us provide the best VBS we've ever had! **Our first need is membership on the VBS planning team.** Before you know it we'll also need shop keepers for stations such as the toy-making shop, jewelry-making and fishermen's hut. We'll need decorators, snack coordinators, craft prep staff, and more. And let's not forget other jobs such as tribe leaders, supply/equipment procurement staff, photographer and registration personnel. No one will be turned away; we'll find a job to fit your time and talents! We'd even be delighted if you signed up to be part of the VBS prayer team! We can't do this without you, and what we are able to offer the children is only limited by the help we get.

Sign up on the VBS poster in the narthex, call or email Denise Collins (collinsd55@hotmail.com or 503.682.3785,) or call or email the church office. Thanks for your prayerful consideration in sharing in this Holy Land adventure.

Church Photo Directory now available

Thanks to the efforts and devotion of Pam and Scott Cameron, the photo directory is finished and available in the church office... until they're gone. Donations to help defray the cost of printing the pictorial directories will be accepted and greatly appreciated.

ALL-COMERS CHOIR... THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!!!

On the fourth Sunday of each month, TPC will offer a drop-in choir opportunity!! It's open to ANYONE who loves to sing but just can't commit to being in the Chancel Choir which meets every Wednesday evening. Here's how it works...

Show up at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room on any fourth Sunday and learn an easy anthem. Spend between 30 - 40 minutes having fun singing and then present the anthem in worship that very morning!! There is no need to come with musical expertise!!!! Most anthems will be either unison (everyone sings the same part) or two-part (2 groups singing different melodies). Members of the Chancel Choir will also be a part of this choir, so you don't have to worry about singing a solo!

Come! Give it a try! The next opportunity will be May 27th, so mark your calendars now!! Talk to Kris Sparks if you have questions or seek out a member of the Chancel Choir.

NEW DONOR REGISTRY- www.donatelifenw.org

The miracle of organ and tissue donation has made a huge difference in the lives of two TPC members, Rob Ayers and Craig Walker. Both are recipients of liver transplants and they are proof of how lives can be saved by organ and tissue donation. Simply by signing up at donatelifenw.org, you can save up to eight lives as an organ donor and improve another fifty lives as a tissue and eye donor. In the past a "D" designation on your driver's license or carrying a donor card indicated your wish to donate life. But it only showed intent and did not formally record your decision on a list that ensured your wish was known and honored. The good news is that has all changed. Now you can go on-line and sign up to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. Your personal information will be kept secure and confidential, and you can change it at any time

Social Justice Corner

by Martha Wilson

Issues of justice can be sticky wickets. What may seem justice to one person may seem unpatriotic or even immoral to others. At their most intense form, acts of social justice can be provocative and even illegal, as when acts of civil disobedience are committed. The issues are rarely without controversy. But, is it possible that controversy can be viewed as positive? It never hurts to have two sides of an issue, it only hurts when the two sides cannot talk and listen to each other. I will mention, in each newsletter, recent news items related to social justice, knowing we won't all agree, but we can all talk.

In the news at the time of this writing, shock-jock Imus has called us to face issues of bigotry not only on the airwaves but as it permeates our culture and festers quietly in our hearts. On the day I write this article, the cover of the Living section of the Oregonian featured a story on a former pastor of mine, John Schwiebert, as he and his wife Pat refuse to pay their portion of federal income tax that is used for military purposes, being conscientious objectors to any form of violence, sanctioned or otherwise. Also in the news, our state legislators are expected to pass bills that make discrimination against gays and lesbians illegal, while granting them many of the legal and financial protections afforded to married couples.

While those news highlights alone may stimulate some of you into action, others of us need smaller, more concrete ways we can make a difference. And, it just so happens I have an idea about that. We live in a global economy, but there's no doubt who's controlling much of that: westerners in general, and US citizens in large part. The economic decisions we make directly affect

the lives of others around the planet. Take coffee for instance...

Over the past few years, when visiting other churches, I've noted that they serve fair-trade coffee at their coffee hour. Fair-trade coffee provides a living wage to the coffee grower, helps support the education of his children and encourages environmentally sustainable growing practices. A cup of java in the US goes for 130 times what an Ethiopian farmer gets for his beans. Many farmers, earning less than \$.50 day in areas unable to afford schools for the children have pulled up their coffee plants in exchange for illegal drug plants just to survive. A recent documentary, "Black Gold" honored at the Sundance film festival, beautifully and articulately explains the dilemma for Ethiopian coffee growers and the need for fair-trade coffee. I have ordered the film and will be showing it at 11:45 on Sunday, May 20th, here at the church and will bring fair-trade coffee that morning to be served at the coffee hour.

Our denomination recognizes the problem of unfair coffee trade and the corresponding problems of under-education, drug proliferation and environmental harm done by the unfair practices. The PCUSA has developed the Presbyterian Coffee Project in response. Learn more about the project at: <http://www.pcusa.org/coffee/index.htm>. Do we want to have fair-trade coffee at TPC? Do you want to have fair-trade coffee in your home? Many of the local stores and coffee merchants carry fair-trade certified coffee. It's one way we can each make a difference that might feel small to us, but large to the farmer and his family. The use of fair-trade coffee can help break the cycle of poverty and reduce the production of illegal drugs and all the devastation that comes in their wake. It may cost a little more, but after all, it's only fair.



Over 36 women enjoyed cake, punch and watching Melissa open all of her gifts. Her little girl will be the best dressed baby around. Talk about "Pretty in Pink"! Check out the picture above. It's a "disposable diaper cake".

Five Fun Facts about Mike and Mary Shiffer



You've seen Mike Shiffer manning the camera every week to videotape the church service. Of course, if you have been at TPC for a few Easter services, you know about his egg trick! You've seen the creativity that Mary Shiffer has with the quilts she has artistically designed and sewn. She is an incredible gardener, digging a fish pond in her back yard! You might know that they are avid Winterhawk fans and that their daughter, Larissa, participated in "Dash for Cash" two years ago. You probably know that they are a very civic minded couple. They have been extremely involved in the Food Pantry which serves 250 to 300 families monthly.

But did you know that:

1. Mike and Mary met in the 8th grade at Kellogg School in Portland.

They graduated together from Marshall High School where they attended the Senior Prom together. They went to different colleges, Mary in Minnesota, Mike at Lewis and Clark, but their continued friendship brought them closer together. In fact, Mary came back to Portland to complete college. They married after graduation.

2. Mike and Mary's daughter, Larissa, was born on Mary's birthday. Their son, Matt, was born on their anniversary. Matt is the father of Wesley, age 7 and Quentin, age 4½, who come to church with Mike and Mary. Sofia, age 5 is Larissa's daughter.

3. Mike and Mary spent their honeymoon in Napa Valley and San Francisco.

It was because of their exposure to wine during that trip that they became wine connoisseurs. They know a staggering amount about wines from all around the world. Their favorite wines are from France, particularly from the Alsace Lorraine. Wine was such a family affair that Matt became a wine salesman!

4. They spend a week every five years in Fiji on their anniversary.

When they were there for their 25th wedding anniversary, they renewed their marriage vows surrounded by the other guests on the island. They will be returning in two years to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

5. Mike and Mary do volunteer work at Coffee Creek Correctional Institution.

They participate in a prison run program that brings the Cub Scout program into the institution for the sons of incarcerated mothers. By working as scout leaders, they can bring in activities for the mothers and sons to interact and bond with one another. It has become a labor of love for them.

What an amazing couple! TPC was so fortunate to get them 17 years ago!



What's Happening in Faith Village

Class Calendar:

May 6 – May 27

Regular Sunday School classes for Preschool – Middle School

June 1

End of Year Party during Sunday School time

VBS – July 16-20

Watch for registration and opportunities to help!

“Ants in Your Pants” has launched and has a coordinator. Thank you to Joanna Martson for volunteering to coordinate volunteers for this group. “Ants” is a worship-time group for preschool-early elementary children provided as an alternative to staying through the entire worship service. Please help Joanna by signing up to help –no preparation is required. Sign-up sheet located on the narthex tower.

Upcoming CE Committee meeting Monday, May 21. All are welcome!
