

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR!

Dear Friends,

In May, our session held a retreat in which they talked about what values drive them and what vision they have for the year ahead of us. As I've shared with many of you, one word kept popping up again and again: family. And it wasn't a narrow sense of family either- defining family in a kind of modern mom-dad-and-2.2-children kind of way. No, to our elders family has this larger more open sense to it, reflecting the truth that all of us are called to meet together at the Lord's table to share a meal as a new family in Christ no matter who we are, where we've been, or what we've done. And to our elders this sense of family includes not just those of us who started meeting in the Crall's living room, but those who might find their way to us for the very first time. Our elders dream of TPC being a place that feels like home to anyone seeking shelter.

That *sounds* great, doesn't it?

Of course the problem we face is the one that faces every group who has the guts to dream this big: how do you live out such a lofty goal? How can we actually walk this walk and not just talk this talk? How do we keep this desire to be family from being just an empty and hollow phrase?

A little while ago a person who has visited us regularly stopped by my office. It was early. They had business to get to and a schedule to keep. But they were upset enough to drop by anyway. They shared with me how badly they felt they had been treated- how our communication has been slow, our administration confusing, and (and this is the most important, I think) how even though I go on and on about being a family, that they certainly didn't feel this sense of a family here at all. They shared how on many Sundays after worship they would stand alone in our Narthex, watch folks form groups and clusters and talk and laugh, but how not one of us made an effort to even stop by and introduce ourselves to her. Now, if your family is like mine you probably have one of those "kid's tables" to which you consign the children and misbehaving adults. Well, it's bad enough to get stuck at the kid's table (believe me, I know, I still get stuck at the kid's table from time to time). Imagine

showing up at a gathering and finding no table at all. I ask you- if this happened to you at a family picnic, would you go back?

Now, I like and care about the person who showed up and did not enjoy hearing this news. I was unnerved by how strongly she felt about this. My initial response was to send an apology but then move on and put it out of my mind. My initial response was to think maybe this was an isolated event and just focus on my to do list that I thought was plenty big enough.

But, despite my efforts I couldn't stop thinking about the encounter. I wasn't able to "put it out of my mind". It bothers me greatly to imagine that at times our rambunctious fellowship extends only as far as our own friends and leaves our visitors feeling left out. So, I brought this story to session and asked for their help. We spent most of the evening on this issue and had a truly honest and energizing discussion about how we might address this problem, and how we might go from seeing new faces less as strangers and more as family we just haven't yet met.

So, our first action involves leadership. Our elders and deacons will now receive weekly reports of first time and regular visitors, and they have personally committed to making a stronger effort to get to know these folks. Second, our session is forming what I'm calling a Xenia (pronounced 'kzuh-NEE-uh') team, after the ancient Greek term for hospitality. (I thought about calling it a Xena team, but we just don't have enough warrior princess types yet.) This team will also receive these lists and will commit to finding and getting to know visitors after church *before* they catch up with friends they know. We are contacting people we think may be interested in this venture, but please, if you would like to be part of this team, I want to hear from you! Third, we need your help too. The session, deacons, and Xenia team will be working to ensure no visitor leaves TPC without at least one member making the time to get to know them, but if we are really to live out our dream of being a family, all of us will need to take part. So, some Sunday after church when you see someone you don't know- break out of your comfort zone a little bit and introduce yourself. And remember- it isn't a stranger you're talking to. It's just a long, lost uncle, aunt, or cousin you haven't met yet. Thanks!

In Christ, Ken

A Message from Charlie & Edda Brown

Dear friends,

Several have asked about the "religious" culture of France. Even with the limited, non academic study of the issue, I will share two observations. Here at the American Church in Paris on a typical Sunday morning, there is a 9:00 service which is best described as a Eucharist/Communion service every week. Because this is a non-denominational church, this is a service for those whose faith journey has been in "high church" liturgical style. Usual attendance is between 75 and 100. The liturgy at this service is different in that its emphasis is on the sacrament, prayers, reading of scriptures, preaching, and singing.

The 11:00 service is what you would recognize on a Sunday morning. Communion is served only on the first Sunday of the month and special days of emphasis in the church year. There is a children's message and outstanding music from the choirs...both bell, and vocal. The choirs of the church are comprised of volunteers but with paid section leaders. Visiting groups from around the world are invited to participate. At this service there is an average attendance from September through June of 650 people. We have over 40 different countries and the full theological spectrum represented in the service. We have a wide spread of ages. The children's program is well attended. The involvement of the Jr. and Senior High kids is tough here like it is in most churches. It is most interesting to see the next age group of college and young professional people. They have a group of about 90 - 100 involved in a weekly gathering and they have started a service of singing and prayer that is open to all. So far it is once a month. The African fellowship and Filipino fellowship are two very strong groups which meet monthly and help each other in all the ways you could imagine. The kicker in all of this is that with the obvious moments, when compatriots meet everything is done basically in English. Rick Steves even recommends this church as a place to come for any problems Americans may have.

All the Pastoral staff lives in the church house on the third and fourth floors. It is easy to get trapped in the building for several days in a row. It is important to walk across the street and look at the people out for a walk, bicycles ripping by. Then there is the Seine, with all the tour boats and barges just a short hop and jump away. The skyline of Paris from here is truly beautiful. Oh yes, there is also the routine sound of the distinctive European whine from the coming and going of a police escort of "important people" passing by. As the weather warms, literally hundreds of Parisians put on their roller blades and skate along blocked off streets and boulevards.

We have had wonderful encounters with all levels of French society. There are no more "hard heads" over here than we have in the states. I find a willingness of people to take the time to talk about the issues and concerns that impact their lives. Meals are presentation and "non-Denny's" events. A tiny cup of espresso buys you a couple or more hours of talking and people watching without those words we hear so often: "Excuse me but is there anything else you would like?" (translated meaning, "could you please finish up so we can clear the table.") There is truly a different movement of time here. Of course driving is a bit more adventuresome. --Will share about coming to Paris at rush hour another day. Great fun driving like a Parisian! I'm not sure how Edda enjoyed our white knuckle event. However, I heard nary a honk or saw a gesture indicating the other person's I.Q. I think.

Paris is excited and hopeful to be selected for the Olympics in 2012. I'm pulling for them too. It would be a great venue for that gathering. Think of what the viewing public would have for a menu. I confess I have eaten some things I did not recognize and I don't think it or they recognized me. A little wine and fromage covers a multitude of sins.

A local report will be available when we return on August 4 at good ole PDX. We arrive on Continental Airlines that evening. (Thank goodness ... coming from humid Houston.).

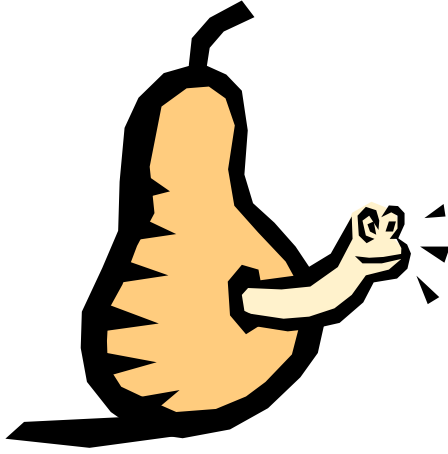
Well, it is now officially only 23 days till our assignment here is over on June 30. It has been a great and interesting ride. We have learned and shared with many wonderful new friends. Our prayers will always include the American church in Paris from this day on.

Before we return, we will go to Pforzheim, Edda's home in Germany, to visit our Mimi. Please keep her in your prayers. She is not aware of who we are, and is unable to communicate with us. It is difficult to see one whom we knew so full of life, now have so little quality of life. I ask St. Anthony, her favorite saint to receive her home in peace and with love.

We will also then go on to Berlin and Prague. Then we go to be with Edda's brother and his wife in Spain for a couple of weeks before we return to Paris and fly home.

We do miss and love you all so very much. Your visits, your cards, your emails and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Love, hugs, kisses and prayers,
Charlie and Edda



This

WORM's

(Workshop Rotation Model)

For You

Imagine a Sunday school classroom where children examine Van Gogh's *Starry Night* and paint their own version while discussing God's promise to Abram when God said, "Look at the sky and try to count the stars; you will have as many descendants as that." (Genesis 15:5, Good News)

Or enter a room where children are playing the "Laughing Game." When the giggles wind down, the teacher begins a discussion about laughter. He reminds the children how elderly Abraham and Sarah laughed when God told them they would have a baby, and asks if they know the meaning of the baby's name, Isaac. When the children hear that Isaac means "laughter," the giggles begin again.

And can you imagine visiting the church kitchen for Sunday school class? That's where some children are assembling a fruit salad while others are frying tortillas. They tell you they are making the kinds of food that might have been served when Abraham held a feast when Isaac was weaned (Genesis 21:8). They invite you to come back in a few minutes and eat with them.

Who is making these Bible stories come to life? Adults who use their specialized skills in art, cooking, music, computers, drama, and games to engage the children in the Bible for life!

With our new Fall rotation format curriculum, children will experience the Bible story in many different ways. When children see AND hear AND do, they retain 90% of the experience. As a result, the Bible story and its meaning for them will stay with them for life!

You can be part of this wonderful learning experience! We provide resources for eight stations, but our possibilities are endless. What are you passionate about? Where does your talent lie? What can you share with children of TPC?

We provide resources for

- Art
- Computer
- Cooking
- Games
- Music/Movement
- Science
- Storytelling
- Video

Can you/Do you ?

- Knit
- Teach Pottery
- Know the Hebrew Alphabet
- Fish
- Carpentry
- ETC...**

CHECK OUT THE TV IN THE HALLWAY BEFORE AND AFTER SERVICE.

SEE HOW OTHER CHURCHES DECORATED THEIR SPACE FOR WORM!



YOUTH GROUP LEAVES FOR MEXICO

Friday morning, June 17, seven high schoolers left with Crystal Shearer and Meg Price for their mission trip to Mexico. They return on Monday, June 27.

Thank you, members and friends of TPC, for contributing to the youth. They did, in fact, raise enough money to cover costs. The change jar alone brought in \$110. Thank you all for your support and for your generosity. And Bruce MacKay, thank you for driving to Medford.

A Big Thank You to the following individuals for their service to our CE Department during this past year!



Shepherds: Denise Collins, Barb Crall, Kim Warne, Marsha Steffen, Gina Olson, Jackie Dannemiller and Kim Galey

Teachers: Rebecca Crall, Connie Myers, Debbie Reid, Caroline Hale, Virginia Lenneville, Brittany Hutchinson, Tracey Peterson, Jodie Breshears, Jean Correa, Sherry Nelson, Gil Garcia, Clint Warne and Pam McGregor.



Presbytery of the Cascades Family Camp July 30 to August 5, 2005

Come join other families from throughout the Presbytery for a week of fellowship, fun in the sun, and worship at Honeyman State Park in Florence, Oregon on the coast. The following TPC families have already signed up: Crall, Harriman, Lambeth, Lenneville/Hutchinson, Lewis, Maleta, MacKay, Robertson, Springer. Pastor Ken is contemplating attending for part of the week.

Questions? Talk to Susan Springer (503) 692-2893 or any of the other Family Camp alums.

--- It's not too late to register! Forms are in the office.



Pastor Ken was presented with this stole on June 19 from all the Sunday School children. Shirl Garcia came up with the idea and all the children (including Will) placed their handprint on it. I know this means a great deal to Ken.

July Birthdays

7/02	Rebecca Crall	7/10	Elizabeth Warne
7/02	Rick Springer	7/11	Cameron Chase
7/02	Robin Hughes	7/13	Kim Warne
7/03	Don Schmidt	7/14	Elise Steffen
7/03	Carol Kadel	7/14	Dillon Peterson
7/03	Kris Sparks	7/14	Wyatt & William Hammer
7/03	Molly Maleta	7/22	Bruce MacKay
7/04	Marshall Miller	7/25	Riley Breashears
7/06	Hannah Reid	7/27	Kip Stevenson
7/07	Robyn MacKay	7/29	Marilyn Schmidt
7/07	Kay Kinyon	7/29	Karen Stevenson
7/09	Anne Winterrowd	7/31	Shivani Senthirajah

**Please remember
in prayer:**



Please pray for: The Hassman family whose 28 yr old son is in critical condition (Lynn Scroggin), Randy a 16 year old diagnosed with Schizophrenia (Lynn Scroggin), the family of Ronnie Tucker who died this week (Charlie Brown's cousin), Herb Zachow family in the loss of Herb's sister, Rosemarie Hughes, the Youth of TPC as they travel to do the Lord's work, Sherry and Mike Nelson as they travel to France

Continue to pray for: Angie Massey (friend of the MacHaffie family) and Clare Hahn who have both had surgery and are recovering nicely, Jeff (a friend of David Norse) who is grieving a loss, Dorothea (Ted Miller's mother) who fell and broke her wrist, Maynard Rorman (Karen Jones' father) who has health problems, Ronnie Lee King (Cameron family) who is still having seizures, Don and Elizabeth Schafer, Janet Seraphine (submitted by Cathy Chase), and Maureen Goodrich.

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.

The Dannemiller family would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, kind words and concerns for Matthew Dannemiller during the week of his heart surgery. He is doing well.

General Fund Status January – May 2005



	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 94,567	\$ 91,420
Expense	\$ 91,315	\$ 84,117
Net	\$ 3,252	\$ 7,303

	February 2005 BUDGET	ACTUAL
Income	\$ 18,035	\$ 18,942
Expense	\$ 18,163	\$ 16,232
Net	\$ -128	\$ 2,710

The offerings collected from the "Birthday Chicken" are given to Heifer Project International. Since 1944, Heifer International has helped more than 4.5 million families in need, providing more than 29 types of food - and income-producing animals and intensive training in animal management and farming and community development.



Don't forget the TPC picnic on July 17 following Worship. The picnic would be held at the Tualatin City Park. Contact Elder Deborah Lewis for more information.



INTERESTING IN LEARNING TO RING HANDBELLS?

Have you always wondered how these instruments work and how the members know which technique to use? Have you played other instruments and found your curiosity piqued? Would you just like to have a little fun? During the month of August, our handbell choir director, Martha Wilson, will have "non-ringer" rehearsals. These are purely for fun and involve no long-term commitment. If you fall in love, we could certainly find a way to keep you ringing, but there's no expectation of future involvement, just the hope that you have fun and learn something new! Interested? Mark Thursday nights on your calendar. We will meet from 7:30-8:30 every Thursday EXCEPT Aug 11th. Come to any or all. For more information, contact Martha Wilson at (503) 691-6728.