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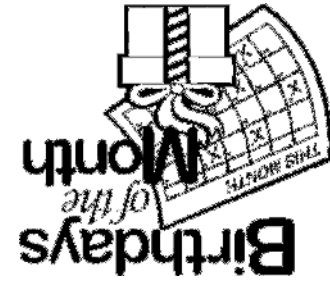
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Trinity Presbyterian Church

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Please let us know the date of your birth so we can celebrate with you!

4/17	Wyatt Hayes	4/2	Ron Kirstein
4/18	Diane Iliomah	4/2	Sara Mainwaring
4/19	Judy Hodson	4/5	Faye Rasmussen
4/21	Cherie Dutton	4/5	Josh Guldry
4/22	Miriam Alavi	4/6	Yeon Uk Jeong
4/23	Virginia Immanuel	4/13	Bob Dutton
4/25	Jennifer McLaughlin	4/14	Caden Norwood
4/27	Mason Malone	4/14	Val Norwood
4/29	Hope Crippen	4/15	Heather Bean

APRIL BIRTHDAY CORNER
May your birthday bring you all life's simple joys ... wrapped in God's love for you!

THE GOOD NEWS is a monthly publication of Trinity Presbyterian Church
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*Unsolicited, legible, signed material is gladly accepted. Articles may be submitted on computer disk (Windows 95/Word); also include a printed copy. We reserve the right to edit for content and quantity. Please leave your articles in the church office by the newsletter deadline of the 15th of each month.



- Points of Interest**
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Worship For Holy Week



- April 5-12**
- April 5 Palm Sunday**
- April 10 Good Friday Service**
7:30 p.m. (in Bethany)
- April 12 Easter Sunday**
8:00-9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. **Children's Easter Egg Hunt**

The Good News

April, 2009

One Great Hour of Sharing

Dear Trinity Friends,

Easter season is coming and we celebrate the risen Christ. This is also the season when we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Since 1949 this offering has helped people in need around the world and allows us another way to respond to an opportunity to reach out to individuals and communities at a time when they are experiencing needs. The ministries our gifts support let them know they are not alone.



The offering supports three main programs—Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Both within the USA and throughout the world, the gap between those who have enough and those who don't continues to widen and the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is a way our gifts can be used to enrich the lives of others in Christ's name. (Online see <http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/> for more information)

You can help provide food, shelter, medical aid and hope to millions of God's children through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Please consider how you can join others by sharing your gift. You can pick up a specially marked envelope in the narthex or downstairs in the fellowship hall for this offering. The children will receive their fish banks through Sunday school. Please bring your special offering gift to church on Easter Sunday, April 12 and together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,
Lois Halvorsen
Missions Elder



This month we are collecting Tuna and Rice for Hopelink food bank. Many thanks for your contributions!



Biography of the Month



Name: Ron Hecht

Where were you born? Everett, WA.

When did you become a Christian and who led you to the Lord? I became a Christian over a long, long time. No one person led me to the Lord but many have and continue to do so.

Single or Married? Married to Geri.

Children? Well, kind of yes and kind of no. While I have no children of my own, I have 4 stepchildren. Go figure.

Grandchildren? Yes, and there are 6 of them, 5 boys and 1 girl. Go figure.

Best job you ever had? I don't know if I can really say I have had a best job, but I have enjoyed all the jobs I have had. Probably being a resident advisor in college was the best, if that counts. The problem is, as I get older I become more fond of things in the past. I don't know if my memory reflects the reality of the past, but I am happy with the memories I have.

Worst job you ever had? The worst job was helping a friend do some plumbing under his house. It was a very old house with a very cramped crawl space covered in old dirt, dust and spider webs. I don't want to do that again.

Current job? I am currently employed at a swimming pool construction company as an operations/purchasing/do other things manager.

Hobbies? I enjoy photography, golf, day trips around Puget Sound and pheasant hunting with my friends.

Share a turning point in your life and explain how God's hand was evident? A big turning point in my life was marrying my wife Geri. It was a turning point for both of us as we brought two different backgrounds together, melted them into one, and yet there are still two. The hand of God is evident to both of us as our marriage is really a result of His grace and mercy.

What's the darkest valley you've been in and how did God help you through that time? There was a time where I just didn't think the good things in life were coming my way. The things of life were not bad; it was just that it was incomplete and certainly not fulfilling. I sat down one day and asked myself, "What is this anxiety that eats inside of me? Is it the person I am or the person I ought to be?" It turned out that I had not fully accepted Christ in my life and once I did accept Him, that anxiety began to diminish. Once in a while, a little bit of that anxiety sneaks back into my life, but now I know it can be overcome by lifting my concerns up to Christ in prayer.

If you had 24 hours left to live, how would you spend that time? I would spend my final hours with family and friends in a celebration of life. Part of that celebration would be to take my wife and maybe a couple of others on a flight in a small plane, and I would be the pilot, and slip the surly bonds of earth, flirt with puffy clouds, dance on silvered wings and reach out and touch the face of God. (Some words of this are taken from John Magee's poem titled High Flight.)

Youth Ministries

The Inner Workings of a Youth Group Member

In Seattle, April is usually known as a very rainy month. In actuality, we don't get all that much rain in April but it is probably due to the anticipation of sunnier weather. The nice thing about rain is sometimes it forces me to stay inside and contemplate. I contemplate life in general: God, what I am going to do when the sun does come out in August, etc...? The youth group has been busy during this very rainy season of Lent contemplating.

As we have mentioned in the past, during youth group we have occasionally been setting aside ten minutes at the end to take part in some contemplative prayer where we relax for ten minutes completely open to what God has to tell us. During Lent, we have also contemplated many important spiritual issues that occur during our everyday Christian lives. We have discussed lessons about silence, about judgment, and about mammon (or things of monetary value). Each day that we discuss these things, it's an eye opener for us.

In many ways, I believe God is just preparing us for some of the events coming up this spring and summer in the youth group. This month the youth group will be heading up to Cedar Springs camp in Lake Stevens, Washington, on the 24th and 25th to take part in the 30-hour famine with many other youth groups from around the US. While there, we will be building a cardboard city and sleeping outside: this will be a time of major contemplation. Contemplating on what it is like to be homeless or what it is like to live in a place where you don't get food for 30 hours. If you feel like supporting any of the youth in their journey in any way let Chris or Josh know.

Another time of contemplation is our annual trip to Wapato. This year will be our ninth year heading over to the Campbell Farm and doing farm chores and mission work for a week in the Yakima Valley. This week has always stirred up some contemplation in our hearts. I know that if it weren't for my experiences at Wapato, I definitely wouldn't be where I am today both physically and spiritually. While we are on the subject, Wapato is going to be the week of July 26-August 1.

Here at Trinity, we encourage you to take this journey of contemplation with our youth. All you have to do is relax for ten minutes and be open to what God has to tell you. It will be an encouraging time, a challenging time and an epic journey all in one. As has been a custom, if this Newsletter article has spoken to you in any way and you want to let someone know, drop Josh and/or Chris a line; our office is easy to find.

Be warm and well fed.

Josh Guidry and Chris McLaughlin



Dan's Musings

Dan Shelhamer, Music Director

One of the Easter's central messages is that of not only "eternal life," but also "new life" – regeneration of our physical, emotional, and spiritual selves here on this earth. But in gaining this "new life" (i.e. being "born again") that Jesus talked about and promised, let us not forget our "old life."

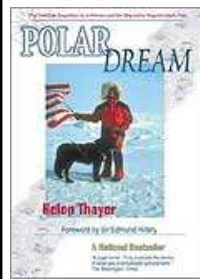
Life is a process. We are a process. Everything that has happened in our lives has happened for a reason and an integral part of our becoming. One of the challenges of our lives is to integrate the pieces of our lives as we live them. It is sometimes tempting to try and deny huge periods of our lives or forget significant events, especially if they have been painful. To try to erase our past is to rob ourselves of our own hard-earned wisdom.

In the movie "Ground Hog Day," the central character lives the same day of his life over and over again, each time carrying over his experiences and knowledge into the new day. In time, he becomes almost like a "god" because he knows exactly what will happen at any given moment in that day. Conversely, think of what our culture would be like if we had to start over each day with no previous knowledge of the music, art, dance, literature of the past. We would still be sitting around a cave campfire, beating drums and looking at simple crude wall drawings. Indeed, we stand upon the shoulders of "those" who have gone before us, and "what" has gone before us.

Christ's promise of "new life" does not mean blotting out our memories of our past life – these memories are what make us who we are right now. His promise is that we are no longer bound and shackled by the guilt and shame of our past life – that we have the freedom, in Christ, to embrace, and then transcend our past each and every day from now on. Now, that is Easter!

In Christ, Dan

Trinity Book Group Meeting - April 16



Trinity's Book Group will gather on April 16, 2009, at the home of Martha Halvorsen, to discuss *Polar Dream*, by Helen Thayer. This is a true story, told by an extraordinary woman who, at the age of 50, set out on a solo trip to the magnetic North Pole. Her only companion was her sled dog named Charlie, who saved her life on more than one occasion. Please join us for a lively discussion from 7:30 to 8:00 PM. Call Tessa Machle or Janice Ellis for more information, or if you need a ride.

Per Capita Offering - 2009

Several of you have asked what the amount per member is for 2009 - it is \$40.44. Per Capita is our share in the support of the administration expenses of our larger Presbyterian bodies - General Assembly (national), Synod (regional) and Seattle Presbytery (local). The breakdown is \$6.15 for G.A., \$5.46 for Synod, and \$28.83 for Presbytery for each member of Trinity. Trinity pays this from our annual budget.

If you are able and would like to give this amount in addition to your pledged amount, you would allow a little more of our budget to be directed where we choose to use it. If you received envelopes to give your offering on Sundays, there is a Per Capita envelope toward the front of the box. If you don't use or can't find that envelope, you may just indicate "Per Capita" on the check or envelope for your offering.

Pastor's Corner

Randy Butler

A number of people recently have asked which version of the Bible I recommend. Because of the proliferation of new Bible translations and various study Bibles, Bible shopping has become sort of overwhelming. But let me try to offer some guidance.

First of all, I want to talk about English translations/versions of the Bible. Next month I will talk about the many kinds of study Bibles which add introductions, commentary, articles and maps. But study Bibles are still based on a particular version or translation. Translation is the first thing. So let's pretend for a minute that you just want a straightforward translation of the Bible, no bells and whistles, just a "stock" Bible. Here are the versions I recommend.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) – a 1980's update of the 1940's Revised Standard Version (RSV). You can find the RSV in our pews at Trinity, but I use and usually read from the NRSV. The NRSV attempts to be inclusive on gender issues when possible. For instance, where the original Greek translations of the New Testament use "brothers," and it is clear that the author means both men and women, the NRSV will use "believers" or "brothers and sisters."

Genesis 1:26 provides a helpful comparison. Some Bibles read, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image...'" The NRSV says, "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image.'"

The NRSV is a direct translation from the best Hebrew and Greek texts, utilizing both formal equivalence (word for word) and functional equivalence (thought for thought) methods of translation. This makes for a very readable version that is flexible enough to capture the intent and thought of the originals when a word-for-word translation would be awkward.

The NRSV is my "go to" version of the Bible and is common in many Presbyterian churches. **New International Version (NIV)** - another excellent and very popular translation. It generally inclines toward the more traditional uses of gender language. "Brothers" remains "brothers," not "believers" or "brothers and sisters." Genesis 1:26 reads, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image.'"

The NIV is also very committed to a word-for-word translation where possible and can sometimes be a little awkward for reading purposes. But generally, the NIV is quite readable and is a very popular Bible in Presbyterian and moderate Evangelical churches.

I am trying to keep this short, so I would say that the NRSV and NIV are my best recommendations. But this is where a lot of you say, "Wait a minute. What about my favorite Bible?" First, let me say that most English versions or translations of the Bible are dependable and "profitable for teaching...and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16). Some are better than others, but you can't really go too wrong here.

And I can comment briefly on a few other versions. I find the **New Living Translation (NLT)** helpful – it is gender sensitive where possible and is a true translation, not a paraphrase. The Living Bible, the predecessor of the NLT, is a paraphrase, and I don't really recommend it. Some people still love the King James Version (KJV). While this "Noblest monument of English prose," is beloved by many, it is based on outdated Hebrew and Greek texts. It has been updated, however, by the **New King James Version (NKJV)** which also eliminates the difficult "thees" and "thous." I also recommend a new translation called the **English Standard Version (ESV)**, a very readable, even poetic modern translation.

All of the above Bibles are translations, derived from the best Hebrew and Greek texts available, and written over years-long projects by teams of scholars. But there are two popular paraphrases as well. One is "**The Message**," by Eugene Peterson. Peterson is a Biblical language scholar and applies his formidable skill to translation, but his intent is to provide a "contemporary reading." It is thought-provoking and stimulating and I highly recommend it. I do not recommend the other paraphrase, "The Good News For Modern Man." It is outdated and elementary.

I hope this helps. Next month we will review the various study Bibles available.

Randy

Christian Education Notes

Donna Saltzberg, CE Director

“God never gives us more than we can handle” are popular words of comfort used these days when someone is going through a difficult time. But after listening to a tape of a fellow only known to me as Adam T., I see things a bit differently.

His response to those words are “If that were true, I wouldn’t need God’s help. As time has gone by I have learned to believe, trust and rely on God’s help to get me through the tough times.” With God’s help, we can endure anything.

I recently finished reading a wonderful book by the good Rabbi Harold Kushner. You may have heard of his best-selling book “*When Bad Things Happen to Good People*.” Before the holidays last December, I read “*The Lord is My Shepherd, Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-third Psalm*” every day while waiting to pick up Max at school. Little did I know how timely this book would be as 2009 began with my cherished father passing away quite unexpectedly.

In each chapter, Rabbi Kushner discusses one line of this most beloved Psalm. He discusses the context of both the time when it was written and possible applications in life today. I found every chapter thought-provoking and inspirational.

I have opened this book again and rediscovered new insights as I re-read it with new eyes.

One of my favorite chapters is *Though I Walk Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death*.

In it Rabbi Kushner writes:

“There are times when the shadow that death casts over our lives is not the prospect of our own death but the death of people close to us, people we love. They die and sunshine goes out of our lives. All we can see is the darkness. The pain and grief we feel at a time like that is the price we pay for having loved. If we didn’t love people that much, it would not hurt nearly as much when we lose them...”

...This is the advice the psalmist would give us: Don’t be afraid of losing, whether it is the prospect of your own death or the death of someone you love. Trust God to enter into your pain and make it less painful...Let God take you by the hand and lead you through the valley of darkness.”

Our God is good and He is faithful. Through hard times, He is near. All we have to do is draw near to Him and ask for His help. His love is immeasurable and abounding.

With God’s help we can endure anything.

Shalom, Donna

Trinity Women's Retreat

Plans are brewing for a women's retreat June 12 -14. If you would like to participate in this exhilarating event, begin by reserving the dates on your calendar, saving your pennies (approximate cost will be \$70), and praying for God's touch in your life. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please contact Brenda Williams.

Workshop Rotation Model WoRM

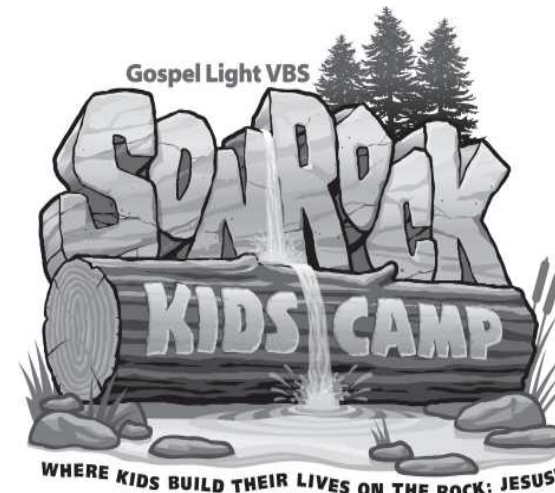
Our winter session of WoRM for our grade school students will run in tandem with the church dinners and small groups program during Lent.

BIBLE STORY DATES

Jesus' resurrection Wednesday 4/1, Sunday 4/5, Wednesday 4/8

Our spring session of Sunday WoRM begins the Sunday after Easter, 4/19

Our Wednesday WoRM sessions this spring will run for 4 weeks starting Wednesday, 4/29



Trinity's VBS 2009 for Shoreline

High above the cluttered schedules and ringing cell phones of ordinary life is SonRock Kids Camp-an outdoor adventure camp like no other!

This summer, from July 13 through the 16, we will bring God's great outdoors indoors and transform Trinity into an adventure site. Our focus this year will be inviting our friends and neighborhood children to join us for 4 days of fun and life-changing escapades.

As SonRock campers, students will learn how their lives can be transformed by God's great love for them: *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!* (1 John 3:1)

This month we will begin our planning and preparing for SonRock Kids Camp.

How can you join in the fun this summer? Prayerfully consider your skills and gifts and how they might fit into one of the following staff areas:

Publicity

Prayer Team

Crafts

Snacks

Music

Skit

Decorating

Recreation

Kids' Guides

Bible Games



Trinity's Shawl Ministry



“Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles...” Written in 1998 by: Janet Bristow © 2004

Our ministry continues with meeting on the 4th Saturday of the month. This month we will meet in Bethany on 4/25 from 10:00-11:30a.m. Beginners are welcome. If this ministry call to you, please join us.

Donations for this ministry are also gratefully accepted in monetary form or gift cards to JoAnn Fabrics, Fred Meyer or Michael's Craft stores. We use no church budget monies for our shawls.

If you have any questions regarding the Shawl Ministry, or you know someone who may find comfort in receiving a shawl, please contact Tessa Machle or Donna Saltzberg.