

**THE GOOD NEWS** is a monthly publication of Trinity Presbyterian Church 1315 N. 160th St. Shoreline, WA 98133 Phone: (206) 363-3500 Fax: (206) 361-6004 Email: trin@qwest.net  
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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.**

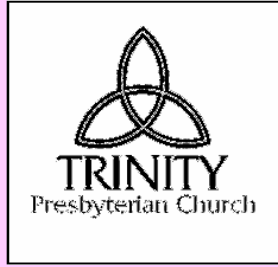
**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CORNER**  
**May your birthday bring you all life's simple joys . . . wrapped in God's love for you!**  
Please let us know the date of your birth so we can celebrate with you!

<b>Dawn Jarvis</b>	<b>2/2</b>	<b>Renee Ferrel</b>	<b>2/17</b>
<b>Layla Alavi</b>	<b>2/5</b>	<b>Joe Cox</b>	<b>2/19</b>
<b>Alyssa Goplen</b>	<b>2/7</b>	<b>Alex Krajina</b>	<b>2/21</b>
<b>Lincoln Hayes</b>	<b>2/7</b>	<b>Beth Paul</b>	<b>2/22</b>
<b>Paul Poehlman</b>	<b>2/8</b>	<b>Larry Johnson</b>	<b>2/25</b>
<b>Harold Berge</b>	<b>2/11</b>		
<b>Dorothy Faulk</b>	<b>2/12</b>		
<b>Walter Powell</b>	<b>2/12</b>		
<b>Gordon McPherson</b>	<b>2/14</b>		
<b>Betty Love</b>	<b>2/15</b>		

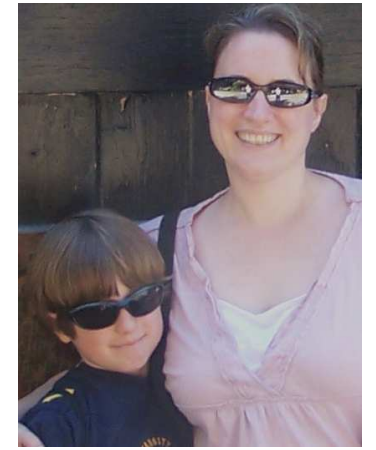


# The Good News

February 2010



## Biography - Rebecca Birch



- ◆**Where were you born?** Seattle, WA
- ◆**When did you become a Christian and who led you to the Lord?** I became a Christian when I was 25. I had grown up outside the church, but married into a Christian family. By the time my son was baptized, I had come to the point in my faith journey that I was ready to be baptized with him.
- ◆**Single or Married?** Married.
- ◆**Children?** A nine-year-old boy named Quinn, the sweetest child ever and the light of my life.
- ◆**Grandchildren?** No, although in about 15-20 years I'll be hoping for some!
- ◆**Best job you ever had?** Working as a Dicken's Caroler during the Christmas season. Dressing up in Victorian clothes and singing Christmas carols was a job that touched so many people's hearts. There's nothing better than when your job is to make people smile.
- ◆**Worst job you ever had?** Answering phones at a lawyer's office.
- ◆**Current Job?** Office Manager at Trinity Presbyterian Church.
- ◆**Hobbies?** Music, reading, writing, sitting outside and soaking in nature.
- ◆**Share a turning point in your life and explain how God's hand was evident:** For most of my life, I wasn't ready to see God's hand. Now, I am looking forward to my next turning point, and learning where He guides me.
- ◆**What's the darkest valley you've been in and how did God help you through that time?** I lost both my job and my marriage at the same time, during the Christmas season a few years ago. I didn't know how I would support myself and my son. Within days, a member of my church connected me with the man who would become my employer for the next two years and, through the selfless giving of an anonymous donor, Quinn and I had piles of presents under the tree - something I'd given up hope for. I could feel God's hands holding me up, keeping me afloat in what could have been a truly terrible time.
- ◆**What do you feel is the most significant "Life Lesson" you've learned?** God has a plan for you. It might be hard to see it and the valleys may be

### Points of Interest

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## Pastor's Corner

*Randy Butler*

In one of his books, United Methodist Pastor Paul Nixon outlines several choices that the church must make in order to thrive in the years ahead. I've been thinking a lot about one of them: **choosing community over isolation.** This one hits me right between the eyes, because I so often settle for and choose isolation over community. I can't just blame it on the Northwest – that inclination to turn inward during the dark and rainy days of winter. It's just sometimes easier to simply stay home and watch a movie. It's easier to stay in my office and work on the computer. It's easier to do something alone rather than arranging a time and place with someone else. But easier isn't necessarily best or right. So I have this growing conviction that not only must the church choose community over isolation, but I must choose community over isolation. And I am working on more intentional community building with others.

I am also thinking a lot about the community where the church is located, particularly the Meridian Park, Parkwood neighborhoods, and praying for ways to make new connections with our neighbors. Here are some encouraging developments that will help us choose community over isolation as a church:

- ◆ Conversations with the Principal and PTA leaders at Parkwood School to become partners with Parkwood in school improvement projects, through the efforts of "Embrace Shoreline Schools."
- ◆ Encouraging talks with the city of Shoreline about Trinity's leadership and availability in re-establishing a Parkwood Neighborhood Association.
- ◆ My attendance in early February at a two-day workshop on Asset-Based Community Development, an event that includes an emphasis on helping church leaders who seek to join forces with their communities.
- ◆ Discussions with Phil Tom, the head of Small Church and Community Ministry for our denomination, about how to have more face-to-face contact with our neighbors.

All of these things present possibilities for us to move us into new engagement with our neighborhood, and I am looking forward to what God has in store for us. I am also looking forward to and praying for ways that God will lead us all from isolation into community with our neighborhood and with one another.

With God's blessings,

**- Pastor Randy**

## Youth Ministries

*Chris McLaughlin, Youth Director*

### Connecting

This day and age it seems the connections we make are becoming more and more distant from one-another. It used to be if you wanted to talk to someone, you did it face to face. These days we have other avenues of communication such as; email, texting, facebook, myspace, blogs, you can even communicate very easily through skype and other video technology. This is no mystery to us, with every new form of technology we can grow further and further away from any sort of awkward interactions face to face. However, we also grow further away from any important face-to-face interactions.

I bet that if everyone reading this thinks back they can pinpoint one (or more) adult who took the time to make an impact in our life through personal interaction. For me, it was Tom Norwood. It was simple to connect with him because we had many things in-common. Honestly if it weren't for Tom, I wouldn't be where I am now. Most of us have someone in our lives like that who made a difference. It's not difficult if it's the right person. What made it easy for me was we would do things like ride bikes together Sunday before church or go play Frisbee golf.

The lines of communication were always open. In a time where we are communicating further and further from one another, it becomes more and more important to be making connections with the youth around us. Making a connection doesn't mean that we have to take them to coffee and have a specific conversation. Sometimes it's just a matter of doing something you both like. Go to the zoo, play some Frisbee, basketball, play some video or computer games; the list goes on.

I hear a lot of things like "kids these days have no respect" and "we never acted like that when we were young"; things like this have been said for generations. And there are simple solutions to these problems: connecting youth with adults. I have a challenge for everyone who may read this article. If you are an adult and feel the nudge from God, let me know, think of someone you would like to connect with and we can set something up. If you are a parent, think of who else your student might connect well with especially if they don't want to listen to you. If you are a youth, be open to it. Yeah, it's kinda awkward at first but I will tell you from experience you will never forget it. I challenge everyone to listen to the voice of God. This isn't something to be intimidated by; it could be once a month, once a week, a few times a year, that's all. Let me know if you are at all interested, slip a note under the office door, send an email, give me a call, whatever it takes. The future is in our hands.



(Continued from page 1)

deep, but if you keep walking with faith, you'll come through on the other side into a new light that God has prepared for you.

♦ **If you had only 24 hours left to live, how would you spend that time?** I think I'd spend it surrounded by my family, in a place where I could see trees and the sky, and feel the sun (or the rain) on my face.

### Join a Small Group During Lent

Lent, which is the period of reflection before Easter, is a perfect time for deepening our relationship with God. Based on the success of last year's Lenten series, we will again have a small group series during Lent. Share a meal and meaningful study regarding "Your Spiritual Toolbox." The plan will be similar to last year's schedule:

*Wed. Feb. 17—Dinner for all and Ash Wed. worship*

*Feb. 24-March 24 6:00-6:30 dinner*

*6:30-7:30 small group meetings/WoRM*

*7:00 Youth Group*

*7:30-choir for those in choir*

*No class Wed. March 31—Good Friday Service will be that week*

Adults and children will eat together and then go their groups and be home by 8:00 pm.

Child care will be available. \$3.00 per person donation is suggested for the meal.

For those unable to attend on Wednesday evenings, a small group will meet on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 hour. **Sign-ups will begin Feb. 7.**

Prepare for Easter by joining a Lenten small group and gathering with your church family on Wednesday evenings. See you there!

### February Book Group



Trinity's Book Group will be reading *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford, for our February selection. This story takes place in Seattle's International District, alternating between the present day and the 1940's. The novel is based on the actual recent discovery of a hotel basement full of the belongings of Japanese residents who had been sent away to internment camps during World War II. The book's main characters, one Chinese, one Japanese, are childhood friends separated by the racism and uncertainties of the war years. Lisa See, author of a book we read recently, had this comment: "Jamie Ford's first novel explores the age-old conflicts between father and son, the beauty and sadness of what happened to Japanese Americans in the Seattle area during World War II, and the depths and longing of deep-heart love. An impressive, bitter, and sweet debut."

We hope you can join us for our discussion on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 to 9:00 PM. We'll be meeting at the home of Janice Ellis. If you would like to join us, and need a ride, please contact Janice Ellis or Tessa Machle.

Our book selections are always available at Third Place Books. If you have a Book Group membership card, you can use it to get a 10% discount there, on the current month's title. Contact one of us for a card, if you'd like to read along!

## Dan's Musical Musings

*Dan Shelhamer, Music Director*

Right about now, around Valentine's Day, all our thoughts turn to LOVE – one of the most important things in all our lives. We sing many Christian songs about love (Oh Love of God, I Love Thy Kingdom Lord, What Wondrous Love Is this, etc.), but do we really stop to consider the awesome, magnificent, and yes, terrible love of God?

God is a god of love, who, because of love of mankind, allowed His only Son to die a horrible agonizing human death; He is also a jealous God of love who demands our complete allegiance; and He is a just God of love who demands retribution for sin.

I have been reading C.S. Lewis as part of my daily devotions this year, and he has a lot to say about God's love:

"You asked for a loving God: you have one. The great spirit you so lightly invoked, the 'lord of terrible aspect,' is present: not a senile benevolence that drowsily wishes you to be happy in your own way, not the cold philanthropy of a conscientious magistrate, nor the care of a host who feels responsible for the comfort of his guests, but the consuming fire Himself, the Love that made the worlds, persistent as the artist's love for his work and despotic as a man's love for a dog, provident and venerable as a father's love for a child, inexorable, exacting as love between sexes."

So the next time we sing of God's love on Sunday morn, we sing in praise, not of some warm, fuzzy, wishy-washy love that expects nothing in return and allows everything in its name. We sing of an overwhelming, all-consuming and, yes, terrible love that demands, in return, everything from us – our love (small though it may be in comparison), our lives (though not death on a cross), our everything.

This God of Love will be satisfied with nothing less and, in return, will shower us with untold blessings in this life and eternal joy with Him in the next.

In Christ,

Dan



*Sing psalms, hymns and  
spiritual songs with gratitude  
in your hearts to God.*

*Colossians 3:16*

# Christian Education Notes

Donna Saltzberg, CE Director

Being a good parent has always been a challenge. Each particular generation has had it's own unique set of events and issues to help children navigate, learn and grow into adulthood. Our times now offer its own set of dilemmas as we guide our young ones through troubling times.

As I sat down at the computer to write this, I have just completed a project for WoRM to help the students at Trinity learn and remember the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> commandments. Our workshop reviewed the events when Moses returned from the mountain top to find the people had made a golden calf, were offering sacrifices, and worshipping that idol. I was able to find a piñata in the shape of a bull, and by spray painting it with metallic gold, we had a false idol to smash. Every student got several turns hitting the "golden calf" with Moses' staff (a dowel stick) and we all said the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> commandments together. It was tons of fun and I think all of the kids who participated will remember those commandments.

As part of the workshop last week, we discussed what kinds of things could be considered idols now in 2010. The kids' answers were amazing. Then we talked about how we can live by putting God first. That was an interesting conversation. They didn't hesitate with their ideas. Their answers poured out of them. They all had to do with living life by doing things that would serve and honor God. What wisdom!

And so our challenge is ever present, to foster and assist our children to discover their unique gifts, and throughout their growth, nurture them so they have opportunities to serve and honor God. Times change, and each generation will face a changing world as God continues to shape it. We can help Him.

**Relief for Victims of the Earthquake in Haiti**

St. Teresa of Avila wrote:

*"God has no hands but our hands to do his work today;  
God has no feet but our feet to lead others in his way;  
God has no voice but our voice to tell others how he died;  
and, God has no help but our help to lead them to his side."*

We have been reading about the disastrous earthquake in Haiti. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, among others, has made an immediate response. If you would like to support their efforts financially, you can go to PCUSA website (pcusa.org) for more information. We will keep the country of Haiti in our prayers.



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Trinity Women's Ministry

Are you interested in nurturing the women at Trinity? An exciting new ministry team is forming which will plan fun women's activities (including the 2010 women's retreat) and coordinate the Women's Cornerstone Closet in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to become involved, please contact Brenda Williams by February 7.

## Landscaping Changes

You may have noticed all the changes going on in the landscaping. The facilities team has been busy for the last year cutting back huge shrubbery that made the area feel unsafe at night. Sightlines to the street have been opened up and bushes pruned down into more reasonable sizes. Neighbors have commented that they appreciate the changes that enhance neighborhood safety.

This fall the Session decided that the front door was almost invisible from the street and that at night entrances surrounded by huge bushes look frightening instead of welcoming. Thus began the process of change to our entryway. The circle in front has been cleaned up and bushes pruned. Along the path to the front door large rhodies were removed; planting beds cleared back; and it looks bare. That is all preparation for a new landscape plan. A master gardener is planning for plants that will not grow out of control and will enhance the entryway, creating an inviting path to our front door. Watch for more about these plans in the future.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next gathering of the Trinity Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Saturday, February 27th from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Simple patterns are available, and we invite anyone interested in sharing a special time of prayer, knitting and crocheting to come. We can teach those who don't know how to knit or crochet, or haven't done so in years.

If this ministry calls to you, plan to join us. Any questions may be directed to Tessa Machle or Donna Saltzberg.



**Just for KIDS**

*Our first love*

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.

*... your heart and with all your soul ..."*

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ...; to walk in all his ways; to love him; to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

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