

# The Good News

December, 2009



## Biography - Jen McLaughlin



- ◆ **Where were you born?** Seattle, WA
- ◆ **When did you become a Christian and who led you to the Lord?** I became a Christian at the age of 16. I don't know if any one person led me to the Lord, as much as it was a very strong calling by God to learn more about Him. But there have certainly been loads of people who have guided my walk over the years, like Dennis Chivers and Christy Gallotte, and Tom and Val Norwood, as well as the whole Trinity family.
- ◆ **Single or Married?** Single ... And loving that right now in my life.
- ◆ **Children?** Hopefully someday.
- ◆ **Grandchildren?** Nope
- ◆ **Best job you ever had?** Working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) rebuilding homes in New Orleans, and running the Volunteer Village.
- ◆ **Worst job you ever had?** Working at a craft store.
- ◆ **Current Job?** Substitute Teacher in Illinois.
- ◆ **Hobbies?** I love playing softball, reading, and crocheting.
- ◆ **Share a turning point in your life and explain how God's hand was evident:** I think that a major turning point in my life was the call to go down to New Orleans on a full-time basis. It happened in the middle of the one week I was working down there with a Young Adult group, and I learned then that stages in my life open doors to do God's work. I happened to be single, in an okay job but wasn't tied to the desk, and God was using those circumstances to bring me to New Orleans (on His timing) to have an experience of a lifetime. God was preparing the way and teaching me skills that I needed to know before going to New Orleans through the jobs and experiences I had while waiting to get the green light to go.
- ◆ **What's the darkest valley you've been in and how did God help you through that time?** One of the darkest valleys I've been through came at the

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### Points of Interest

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**For November and December, we are collecting stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin and vegetables for Hopelink food bank. Many thanks for your contributions!**

We're on the Web at:  
www.trinpc.org

Phone: 206-363-3500  
Fax: 206-361-6004  
Email: trin@qwest.net

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Trinity Presbyterian Church

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## December Birthdays!



Warren Biskey	12/02	Abara Ijomah	12/05
Jim Halvorsen	12/04	Haley Kenville	12/09
Vada Higbee	12/09	Mary Burroughs	12/11
Betty Parkhurst	12/11	Hallie Stegelvik	12/11
Rebecca Birch	12/11	Ed Mercado	12/11
Cindy Wilson	12/21	Robin Turnblom	12/11
Hilde Cate	12/26	Marlis Fisher	12/12
Andy Goff	12/28	Alexandra Krajina	12/12
		Carol Paige	12/12

**DECEMBER 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!

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.

(Continued from page 1)

end of my first year at Central Washington University. School was pulling me down, I didn't feel close to God at all, and I was gearing up to move to another country for the summer; there were just a lot of unknowns at that point in my life. God helped me through it by putting some amazing people in my life. I had a core group of 5 friends in college whom I'm still close to today, and I made some new friends in Ireland that summer that helped me stay true to my faith, and I'm still friends with them today.

◆**What do you feel is the most significant "Life Lesson" you've learned?** The most significant life lesson I've learned is that nothing happens in my timing; it only happens in God's timing.

◆**If you had only 24 hours left to live, how would you spend that time?** If I only had 24 hours left to live, I would want to have my closest friends and family around, and have one big party and some quality prayer time with them.

### Deacons' "Warm Clothing" Drive

The Deacons will be collecting hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and soxs (in men, women and children sizes) - from November 29 through December 13 for Hopelink. Place your donation in the green felt box in the narthex. Many thanks for your generosity.

### 2010 Offering Envelopes

The numbered offering envelopes for 2010 will be appearing soon in the Narthex. If you do not currently use numbered offering envelopes and would like a supply, please contact the church office at 206-363-3500 to request them. Please indicate if you prefer weekly or monthly envelopes.

### Special Ornaments for our Sanctuary Christmas Tree

This Christmas season we will be having a live tree in the sanctuary and would like to decorate it with some very special ornaments. If you are interested in creating an ornament that reflects your joy in the birth of Jesus or if you already have an ornament in your collection that you would like to share with your church family this year, please bring it to the church by December 6th.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Ruth Nisco (206-365-3704).

### December 2009 Book Group

The Trinity Book Group will be reading and discussing The Shack, by William P. Young on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The reviews available on-line describe this book as a life-changing read, an invitation to journey to the very heart of God, a "guy-meets-God novel that has literary integrity." There is also controversy about the novel, stating that this is a "hodgepodge of theological error." So no plot summary this month – just an invitation to join in the discussion! We know many of you in the congregation have already read this book, so we hope you'll join us for the discussion from 7:30 to 9:00 PM on December 10<sup>th</sup>, at Carol Paige's house. If you plan to attend, please contact Carol Paige at 206-542-2420.

### Parkhurst Christmas Open House

Sunday Dec. 6,  
2:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
11529 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE,  
Seattle, WA 98125

Everyone is welcome. If this day is not possible for you, please choose another day and give us a call – 206-365-3765 – Dale & Betty



## Youth Ministries

Chris McLaughlin, Youth Director

### God Encounters of the Third Kind

Sometimes I feel like God skipped me when he handed out the skill of Evangelism. Whenever I think about the "E" word, my palms get sweaty and I become all clammy and at a loss for words. I often think about what I would say to a co-worker when they asked me about my faith or if they asked me why I believed what I believe. I always plan it out better in my own mind compared to how it actually goes with someone. I always leave the conversation thinking to myself: "I should have said this or that" I really blew it.

One day I walked into REI and walked past the receptionist and said "good morning" as I usually do. This time I had a book in my hand, and she asked me what I was reading.

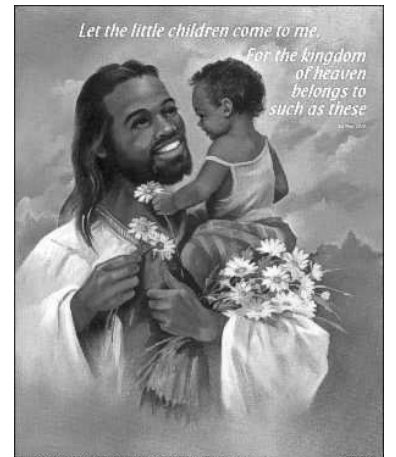
It was a book titled Bruchko, which is a story about a man named Bruce. Bruce felt a calling from God to go to South America to introduce Jesus to a very dangerous tribe that was known for killing anyone foreign to them. Once the tribe is finally comfortable with him, he has to design the Gospel of Jesus around their specific language which is very different from ours. Bruce needed to change his whole perspective on Jesus and turn it into something they could relate to and understand.

I thought about this as my co-worker continued to ask me about my faith. Based off of our conversation leading up to this, I could gather that she didn't really like the fact of people going to other countries and telling them about Jesus and telling them they need to change their ways. I could tell she didn't like the fact that people would impose such a thing upon others. I thought about Bruce and how he had to adapt the Gospel in a way the tribe would understand. She asked if I was a Christian. I told her I was afraid to say yes because of the things that may pop into her head about me if I said so. So I told her I am a follower of Jesus and his teachings. I told her that the Church as a whole has done things and killed people and hurt people over teachings I do not feel Jesus taught about or even taught the complete opposite. As I left to start work, I started to think that I had watered it down too much or that I should have told her I was a Christian because I am.

After several months, we never spoke about that and I basically had forgotten about it thinking I had failed at Evangelizing and that I will never be any good at it. However, another receptionist who worships at Bethany Presbyterian and I were talking and she mentioned that she was talking to the same girl. She mentioned this girl was going through a hard time and she invited her to Church and she said she would be interested and said that what I had said to her several months ago had an impact on her.

I still don't consider myself a very good Evangelist, and I know many of you feel the same about yourselves. But I feel like to evangelize isn't to introduce people to God right there, right now but to meet them where they are and let God work on them from there. Especially with the culture we live in where we believe what we believe and the person next to us just believes what they believe. We need to start out by introducing Jesus in such a way that people can relate and accept. After all, wasn't Jesus changed to fit our culture when people started to paint him with white skin?

Since then I have decided to just simply converse about my faith and my job here at Trinity. I have had other co-workers ask me questions ever since now and it wasn't something I get clammy about. It is simply casual conversation, planting seeds, being patient, watering them, letting them grow.



## Dan's Musical Musings

Dan Shelhamer, Music Director

Last month there was an article in a news magazine about how music evokes memory. Ah Christmas memories, the sights, the sounds, the smells - they all bring back such poignant memories. And the music of Christmas, especially the music. Christmas music, especially the traditional carols, touch us in a special way – we bask in their glow as we relive past Yuletide seasons. And woe!!! To anyone who messes with our musical traditions at Christmas. It may be “Silent Night,” or “Little Drummer Boy,” or even “I Yust Go Nuts at Christmas” – it doesn't matter, because each of us has a special place in our hearts that is touched by a particular Christmas song or carol.

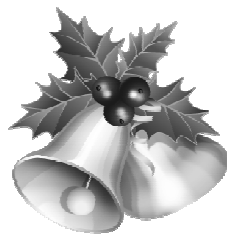
Several years ago in the 90's, a church I was working at updated their hymnals which were almost forty years old at the time. The new hymnals had been laboriously compiled, using the most respected church theologians and musicologists to amass and edit, carefully balancing the need for the old while striving to provide the best of new church music – and, oh, yes, all hymns had been carefully screened so as to be gender neutral, i.e. to avoid any hint of patriarchy or sexism.

The hymnals were purchased at the beginning of one year and were in the pews right after Easter. All went pretty well – there was the usual grumbling about having to learn new songs, and trying to find favorites that had been excluded, etc., but, by and large, the new hymnals were a success.

Until Christmas...

The first time the congregation turned to page 198 and sang “Good Christian Folk, Rejoice...” – everything hit the fan. I tell you, they were not happy campers that year in that church. Almost every one of the traditional carols which we all know and love had been changed in some way – perhaps it was an elimination of reference to “Men” or maybe it was an inclusion of a modern verse in place of an old favorite. Still, the changes were, to put it mildly, not received well. By the next Christmas season, the new hymnals were still there, but the old hymnals were there also – and they were steadfastly used in the carol singing that year and ever after.

Music hits us where we live – often we can remember the songs we grew up with long past any other specific memories in our past. Music has that wonderful power to speak to both sides of our brain, the imaginative and the cognitive, at the same time! And at Christmas, music connects us, not only to the traditional Christmas story of the Babe in the manger, but to our individual, family, and social memories which are life itself to us.



Use the traditional music of Christmas to reconnect with your memories this year – but don't be afraid to try something new, also, to create a new musical memory for your future.

In Christ,

Dan

## Pastor's Corner

Randy Butler

In the 1950's Bible translator and pastor J.B Phillips wrote a book called “Your God is Too Small.” It's become a classic and has been read worldwide. I confess that I've never read the book. But I have never forgotten the title. I am sure that I would benefit from reading the book, but it's almost like the title is enough for me, enough for me to chew on for a lifetime. It says so much – “Your God is Too Small.”

Most of us settle for fitting God into our experience and life. We limit God, and we don't let God become any bigger than our lives and our viewpoints. We sort of add God to the list of other things and activities in our lives – family, work, leisure, God. Such a view sees God as one more thing to do. Our God is too small.

By contrast, in the book of Exodus when Moses turns aside to see the burning bush, God says, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” Now that's big! The God who speaks to Moses from the burning bush is no small deity. Later, when Moses asks who God is, God replies, “I am who I am.” God is bigger than our lives, bigger than our limited experience. German theologians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century used the Latin term “mysterium tremendum” for God – the tremendous mystery that is the supreme being and creator and sustainer of all things. That's big. Out of reverence for this mystery, Jews in the first century didn't even pronounce the name of God. Many still do not.

Preacher Fred Craddock reminds us of the sacred, holy and sanctified name of God. When he was a child, his mother would play word games with them in the evening by the fire. He says, “She taught us phonic spelling. If you say it, you can spell it. And she led us deep into the deep waters of *oviparous*, *ovoviviparous*, and *hypotenuse*. I once knew how to pronounce and spell *asafetida*. But one word she never put on the list because she knew we were just children. She never put on the list *God*.”

God is a big word. It is, of course, a word for children, but it is also a very grown up word, bigger than any word in our vocabulary. This Christmas season remember that God is bigger than any challenge you have. He is not just an addition to your Christmas list of things to do. The God we have come to know in Jesus Christ is the source of all life.

Merry Christmas!

-Randy



**2010 WoRM - God's Top Ten**  
**Sundays 11:00-noon**  
**Wednesdays 5-7:00p.m.**

We begin the new year with a wonderful new round of Rotation Workshops designed to teach our grade school students the Ten Commandments and how they apply to our lives in 2010. Sunday sessions will begin January 10th. Wednesday sessions will begin on January 13th and run 5 weeks ending on the 10th of February. More information will be available in upcoming bulletins.

## Christian Education Notes

Donna Saltzberg, CE Director

One of my earliest memories as a child is from when I was about four. I sang a solo in our Children's Christmas program at Concordia Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. My part was to sing the first verse of a popular Norwegian tune, 'Her kommer dine arme smaa,' in Norwegian. The entire choir was behind me and I still recall the feeling of hearing their full, strong voices singing the rest of the song. It was so thrilling that it felt like I was literally raised up in the air!

Last year I heard this song on the radio and, to my delight, I remembered the words!

*"Her kommer dine arme små  
O Jesu i din stall å gå,  
Opplys enhver i sjel og sinn  
Å finne veien til deg inn!"*

Here is an English translation:  
**'Your Little Ones, Dear Lord'**

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,  
And come your lowly bed to see,  
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,  
That we the way to you may find!

With songs we hasten you to greet,  
And kiss the ground before your feet,  
Oh blessed hour, oh sweetest night  
That gave you birth, our soul's de-  
light.

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
And to us all your grace accord;  
True faith and love to us impart,  
That we may hold you in our heart.

Until at last we too proclaim,  
With all you saints, your glorious name,  
In paradise our songs renew,  
And praise you as the angels do.

It is my dearest wish that as our grade school children participate in our annual Trinity program that lasting memories are being made. And sometime, when they are older and life has changed, they have a moment when they recall being a Wise Man or Shepherd or an Angel and remember the wonder they experienced in celebrating our Savior's humble birth. I hope they recapture and embrace the wondrous love given to us all as Children of God.

This Christmas, plan to come and participate in our annual Children and Choir Program. It will be on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. We hope it will create a sweet memory that touches your heart and helps you capture the real essence of Christmas.

Jesus is born, Alleluia!  
Donna Saltzberg

**TRINITY'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM -  
"TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS"  
SUNDAY, DEC. 13TH  
9.30 A.M. DURING WORSHIP**

We have a very special hour planned to celebrate Christmas this year. The Trinity choir will join our grade school children for an hour of worship and song.

Our script involves a very special narrator and a cast that depicts the people who were there in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. Circle the 13th on your calendar to make certain you join us for this year's program.



**Christmas  
program  
Rehearsal  
schedule**

SUN 12/6	Advent Fair 11:00a.m.
WED 12/9	(DRESS)REHEARSAL 7-8 pm with choir
SUN 12/13	Christmas program 9:30 a.m.

<http://www.norwaypost.no/content/view/21416/32/>

## THE 2009 CHRISTMAS OFFERING.

This year the Christmas Offering will again be split 50-50 between two programs.

**50% to Shoreline Community Care:** This is a program sponsored by six churches in Shoreline. The primary activity of Shoreline Community Care is to help people who are in need in Shoreline, WA in the name of Jesus Christ. Most of the calls they get are calls for help with rent, food, utility bills, and household goods. Typically, up to \$100 in financial assistance is available. Cash is never given directly to the client. The money is sent to the landlord or the utility company, the client is given food from a food pantry or household goods are delivered. They have a phone line available 24 hours a day, every day. Callers will always get an answering machine and can expect a call-back within 48 hours after leaving a detailed message.

**50% to Christmas Joy Offering (PCUSA):** One central way Presbyterians pass on the light of God's love is by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering. For nearly seventy years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas-time. Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education. The Presbyterian Church has long promoted education through establishing and supporting racial ethnic schools and colleges. Christmas Joy Offering funds provide scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic operating costs. These institutions develop leaders in the church and in society, and they enable students to discover and pursue their professional goals. All Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related schools and colleges are open to any qualified student regardless of race.

Christmas Offering envelopes will be in the pew racks and in the Narthex starting November 29<sup>th</sup>. We will use one envelope and split the total collection 50-50. The children will be receiving their Christmas Offering coin banks during their Sunday morning programs. The Christmas Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,

Lois Halvorsen  
Missions Elder

**Mission Project for 2009 Advent Fair**

We are preparing packs of products to distribute to homeless individuals as part of our Advent Fair. It is our goal to have Trinity children assemble 50 "Gift packs" with

**Trinity's Advent Fair, Dec. 6th at 11:00 a.m.**

**Christmas Crafts**

We have many fun projects planned! Advent Fair participants are encouraged to make at least two of each craft - one to take home and the other will stay at Trinity to decorate the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree.

**Nativity Display and Drawing**

Enjoy our wonderful annual display of manger scenes as Trinity families share their Nativity sets from home. Enter your name in a drawing to win a lovely crèche.

**Canned Food Drive**

Help stamp out hunger in Shoreline. Bring a canned food item to the Advent Fair, and it will be donated to our Deacons' Food Drive.

personal hygiene items. Many of these items are not eligible for purchase using public assistance vouchers. We are asking for donations of the following items: Travel or regular size toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, washcloths, lotion & deodorant. Donations can be left in the church office. Please mark "Advent Fair" on the bag.

We will accept cash donations, as well, to use to purchase items. Envelopes and a basket are available on the BBQ table in the Fellowship Hall.