

**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.**

**APRIL 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!

Lleana Davison	4/2	Judy Hodson	4/19
Ron Kirstein	4/2	Cherie Dutton	4/21
Sara Mainwaring	4/5	Miriam Alavi	4/22
Faye Rasmussen	4/5	Virginia Immanuel	4/23
Josh Guidry	4/6	Jennifer McLaughlin	4/25
Yeon Uk Jeong	4/13		
Bob Dutton	4/14		
Caden Norwood	4/14		
Val Norwood	4/15		
Heather Bean	4/16		
Wyatt Hayes	4/17		
Diane Ijiomah	4/18		



# the good news

April, 2010



## pastor's corner ——— Randy Butler

It doesn't take much to see that the Apostle Paul believes in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. A cursory review of his letters in the New Testament reveals that his whole life and theology depend upon the fact of Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead. There are numerous high points in his writings to which we can turn, but I am struck by two brief references as I consider the resurrection this Easter season. One is found in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Paul has been talking about the struggles he is facing as he travels the Mediterranean world sharing the good news about Jesus Christ. He says that he and his fellow missionary travelers "were so unbearably crushed that they despaired of life itself." But then he points out that this has happened so that "we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead." (2 Corinthians 1:9)

The second brief reference is found in Paul's letter to the Romans. He is talking about God's astounding call of Abraham and how improbable it was that a simple Middle Eastern nomad would become "the father of many nations." Paul says that this surprising call came from God "who gives life to the dead and calls into being the things that do not exist." (Romans 4:17)

I love these two references to resurrection. When you read them in context, they are almost sidebar points. They are not in the main flow of Paul's thought; they just emerge in his discussion of other issues. The resurrection is so much part of Paul's life and ministry that he lives and breathes it. His faith in the risen Jesus just leaks from him no matter what he is talking about. He is saturated, soaked with the reality of Jesus risen from the dead. He is nothing without that reality.

How about for us? Does the resurrection go to the core of our being? When we are in distress, do we consider that we are learning not to rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead? When we are backed into a corner and we see no way out, do we react with hopelessness, or do we turn to the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being the things that do not exist? Too often our default position is hopelessness and despair. Paul knew despair – he admits it. But "at the end of the day" he trusts in God who raises the dead.

I have been carrying that little phrase from 2 Corinthians around with me this season: "God who raises the dead." I repeat it often as I go about my day. This is a kind of shortcut to Scripture memory by the way. If you don't have the time to memorize a short passage or verse, just take a phrase or word with you into your day so that the reality of the resurrection gets under your skin, begins to soak in to your head and heart: "God who raises the dead." "God who gives life to the dead." May God's resurrection power be yours this Easter.

With His blessings,  
*Pastor Randy*

### points of interest

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## musical musings — Dan Shelhamer, music director

As many of you know, I direct a musical comedy each spring for Richmond Beach Players. This year the show we are performing is “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,” based upon the Gene Wilder movie of some years ago. Many of the songs from the movie (Candy Man, Pure Imagination, The Oompah-Loompah Song, etc.) are in this production, as well as several others added for Broadway.

One of the new songs is entitled “Think Positive,” and is practically a musical embodiment of the Norman Vincent Peale book, “The Power of Positive Thinking.” Since the two were so closely related, I did some research about the book. Most of the reviews at Amazon.com were “positive,” but a number were critical of one aspect of the book – its religious overtones. “If you are a Christian, I’m certain that the ideas in this book will resonate. And more power to you! But for those of us who are not, the book comes across as extremely preachy and outdated. There are many better choices on the same topic that don’t have some mention of Jesus Christ on 90% of their pages.”

My goodness – the idea of a book about positive thinking mentioning Jesus Christ! The very idea! But, unfortunately, that is what so many of the secular population think of Christianity – a religion mostly based not upon a positive, uplifting gospel, but a system of rules mainly designed to tell us what we can’t do. And nothing could be further from the truth!

God, through Jesus Christ, seeks to liberate us, to free us from our separation from God and to re-establish our connection to the Father. This reconnection turns us around – in our thinking, in our thoughts about morality, in everything in our lives, and therefore, we give up or forego many of our previous ways of talking, thinking, acting. But this way of life we are granted is positive, not negative. It is not so much turning away from our old life as turning to a new life – a new life in Christ.

So let’s remember some of these lyrics from “Think Positive” – only the Christian spirit can truly appreciate them:

“You’ve nothing to lose, so why not choose to THINK POSITIVE?

Whenever my luck is on the blink, I THINK POSITIVE.

Whenever I’m feeling down and out, and don’t know what to do,

I never give way to fear and doubt, ‘cos THINKING POSITIVE sees me through!”

In Christ,

Dan

## “how does attending church make a difference in my life?”

How does attending church make a difference in my life? Can worship be more than an isolated hour on Sunday and instead become a foundation for living throughout the week? To ponder these questions, join the group discussion on Sundays at 11:00 am in Bethany as we look together at the elements of the day’s worship service and how each of them might speak to us in our daily life. These discussions will take place on April 11, 18, 25, May 2, and May 16. (No discussion group on Mother’s Day.)

## april showers game night

Want something fun to do out of the rain? Join us in Bethany on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, for games, snacks and lots of laughs! Feel free to bring your favorite snacks and games...and even your fuzzy slippers if you’d like! Questions? Contact Gordon McPherson at (206) 533-2360.



## compassion sunday

On Sunday, April 18, Trinity will participate, along with hundreds of other churches, in Compassion Sunday. The purpose of this event is to draw the Church’s attention to the world’s poorest children. There will be a short presentation in the church service, and you will be able to view a video and browse materials at a table during coffee hour. For further information, contact Dan Shelhamer.

### About Compassion International

#### Sponsoring children in need is breaking the cycle of poverty

Compassion International exists as a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults.

Founded by the Rev. Everett Swanson in 1952, Compassion began providing Korean War orphans with food, shelter, education and health care, as well as Christian training.

Today, Compassion helps more than 1 million children in 25 countries.

#### Changing the world one child at a time

Compassion focuses on the spiritual, physical, economic and social needs of children. The Child Sponsorship Program is:

- **Christ Centered.** Each child has an opportunity to hear the gospel in an age-appropriate and culturally relevant way.
- **Child Focused.** Engaging each child as a complete person, treating children like we’d want our own children treated.
- **Church Based.** Partnering with churches, parents and communities — to teach, train and mentor children.
- **Committed to Integrity.** Dedicated to delivering excellent programs with complete integrity.

#### Development through Christian child advocacy ministry

All of Compassion’s programs are rooted in Christian child development and child advocacy. It’s truly a long-term process, beginning in some cases with prenatal care and going all the way through leadership development for qualified young adults.

More information on Compassion International’s programs, including Child Survival Program, Child Sponsorship Program and Leadership Development Program can be found at their website, [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com).