

# the good news

trinity  
presbyterian  
church



connecting with God  
connecting with each  
other  
connecting with our  
neighbors

June, 2010

## points of interest

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## pastor's corner

Randy Butler

Do you remember the 1980's movie "The Karate Kid"? It is the story of a teenage young man named Daniel who was being bullied by his classmates. Wanting to defend himself, Daniel asked to learn the art of Karate from a master named Miyagi, a local handyman. Miyagi agreed, and began Daniel's training by having him perform various tedious chores – washing his car, painting a fence. Each chore called for very specific body movements. Daniel was told to wax the car with two motions – with the right hand he was to apply the wax in a clockwise fashion, and with the left he was told to remove the wax in a counterclockwise motion. "Wax on, wax off." This left Daniel feeling angry and frustrated. He was supposed to be learning Karate, not washing cars and painting fences. So Miyagi finally tells Daniel that through the performance of the chores he is developing the muscle memory needed to learn a series of very important defensive blocks. Daniel was learning Karate by practicing the boring repetition of certain physical movements that eventually led to competence and skill.

We discussed "The Karate Kid" recently when a group of men met to talk about our experience with a forty-day prayer journal in Martha Grace Reese's book *Unbinding the Gospel*. One of the exercises recommended in the book is that we pick a specific part of a day and spend one hour with the Spirit to practice the presence of God in all that we do. What is recommended seems kind of ridiculous: "If you choose the hour you wake up, open your eyes. Then ask God which side of the bed you should get out on. Ask whether you should wash your face or brush your teeth first..." You get the idea. Here we are – a group of men trying to learn the art of prayer and the author is suggesting we ask God whether we should wash our face or brush our teeth first. It seems like a boring and tedious way to learn to pray more deeply.

Yet maybe it is the practice of seemingly mundane conversation with God that develops the skill of more meaningful prayer. Perhaps we need to develop some muscle memory – our prayer muscles! Maybe we even have to re-learn our practice of prayer. After all, prayer is a kind of learned art. We don't come by it naturally, that's for sure. It takes work. Great athletes are always honing their skills. Professional golfers often have to break down their swing and completely re-learn certain motions and movements in order to become more skillful and competent golfers.

Perhaps it is the same with us. "Wax on, wax off." I am going to try that hour with God again this week. I hope to become a better prayer – and I pray to become a more devoted follower of Jesus.

## women's retreat

The 2010 Women's Retreat is scheduled and great plans are being made to introduce each of us to the Proverbs 31 woman. She's quite the gal and has much to teach all of us. Mark your calendars for June 25 - 27 and make sure your name is on the sign-up sheet at the Women's Cornerstone Closet.

The fun this year will be at Gwinwood Christian Campgrounds in Lacey. The cost is roughly \$100 but we will have a more accurate price when everyone has signed up. This is an event that no woman should miss!

## girls' movie night

Break out the popcorn, put on your slippers, it's time for a Girls' Movie Night. Friday, June 4, we will gather in Bethany to watch "Young at Heart," a documentary film about a group of geriatric singers who form a rock band. It has been described as "hilarious...vibrant and vivacious... immensely moving." Come for a fun evening of laughs and connecting with one another. See details at the Women's Cornerstone Closet.

## upcoming munchers & movers

On Saturday, June 5, at 7:00PM, RBCC Players present "Willy Wonka" dessert theater. We have a table reserved. Cost for adults is \$15 and children are \$12. Get your tickets from Carol Paige (206-542-2420) as soon as possible!

On June 9, we'll be going on an Alki Tour to Northwest Trek & Black Diamond Bakery. Cost is \$79 per person. We'll go by bus to Black Diamond Bakery, then on to Northwest Trek to ride on the tram and view the animals. Lunch is included. Call 206-935-6848 soon to make a reservation.

## hopelink

School will be out soon - no free breakfast and lunches for the kids - so Hopelink needs to have more things for the kids to have at home: Peanut butter, fruit cups, applesauce cups, crackers and cookies, pudding cups and soups.

## what is God doing in your life?

We would like to hear of your answers to prayer, what God may be teaching you, or of miracles that are taking place among us. We will be providing a time of testimony during upcoming worship services. Please let Pastor Randy know if you would like to share.

## june book group

Trinity Book Group is reading The History of Love by Nicole Krauss in June. This book is about Leo, who wrote a book 60 years ago in the Polish village where he was born. And though he doesn't know it, the book survived and inspired fabulous circumstances, even love. This book is also about 14-year-old Alma, who was named after a character in that book, and seeks to find her namesake and save her family. Come join us for our discussion on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at Carol Paige's house! Anyone who loves to read is welcome to attend.

# adult spiritual development team survey

Janice Ellis, Dale Parkhurst, with written input from Donna Timbrook and Donna Spencer  
Please circle or write in your answer.

Have you attended any of the Christian Education classes, small groups, or Bible studies during this year?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Do you have a preferred style of class? If so what is it?

- Instructor-led mostly lecture
- Primarily small group discussion
- Video with discussion
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

When in your week is an education time most useful?

- Sunday in the second hour
- Weekday evening
- Sunday afternoon or evening
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Which classes or education topics that you attended provided you with the most benefit? (Circle as many as you wish.)

- The Bible from Scratch: Old Testament for Beginners
- Prayer
- Unbinding the Gospel
- Confession of the Presbyterian Church
- Lenten Series on "Your Spiritual Toolbox"
- Sunday Small Group Bible Study
- "How does attending church make a difference in my life?"
- Presentations on mission projects
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

What topics would you like to see for Adult Education?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What can Trinity do or provide to help you grow in your Christian faith?

**Just for KIDS**

## The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.

START: ① b a s m l t r h g e c v d i e n f e g y h o i u j a k r

a v f f l i s s e u h t c t n s a r r q b p e o h n t m e l

w m x a y n z r a e a m b a c i d n e s f i f n m m n e o a

e c b a l l r i q w f e o h b m m i l h k n j i l i d q n p

d a e r f m g u h c c h d f d r e u e i j t

\_\_\_\_\_ ;

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\_\_\_\_\_ ;

\_\_\_\_\_ ;

\_\_\_\_\_ ;

apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5, NIV

## youth ministries — Chris McLaughlin, youth director

I have some great friends. I love the conversations that come up as we just hang out. The other day several of us staff for Beyond Malibu were talking about a particular Bible passage, and I learned a lot from the conversation on this passage. The passage is Acts 20:7-12:

“On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. Seated in the window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. ‘Don’t be alarmed,’ he said. ‘He’s alive!’ Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking to daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.”

When I read this many times before I thought about how cool it is that Paul revived him! But now I don’t think that is the point of the story. The point is that all of this could have been prevented. Eutychus was a youth that fell asleep because he was not interested in what was going on. Something like that happens a lot these days. It makes me think about those youth that fall asleep in our own church service in the back or even in the front pew. I even know of a few older folks who fall asleep as well (you know who you are). The fact of the matter is that if Paul had geared what he was talking about towards the youth and engaged them, then this wouldn’t have happened. I am just as guilty as the next person when I choose a church. I want one geared towards me and one that appeals to me. But if we think about ourselves and forget about the youth, then they fall asleep in the back because they are forgotten.

There are too many forgotten youth around Shoreline, and it is sad. Of all the youth that show up to youth group, I would say that only half of them actually come to Sunday service and half of those are asleep in the back. Where are the ones that don’t come to Sunday service? They are at home asleep most likely. Hearing all of this really should wake a person up. The youth of our church aren’t the church of tomorrow; they are the church of today, and if we forget about them then there is no church of tomorrow.

Now you are free to take any meaning you want from this, but I think God is trying to communicate to us how much we forget about the youth and how dangerous that is. When you really think about it they are completely capable. Jesus was even teaching Pharisees at the age of 12!

I want to thank everyone in supporting me with prayers, and thanks to those who have heard the call in their own heart to reach out to me. I’m sorry I have to go, but I suppose there is always a next chapter.

*-Christofer McLaughlin*

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” – Matthew 19: 14

# musical musings — Dan Shelhamer, music director

“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones”

-Prov. 17:22

Last week, while waiting for the copy machine to do its thing, I was glancing through a cartoon book someone had left on the counter in the office. It was filled with hilarious, insightful, wry visual comments (in cartoon form) on church life. Most of them were generic – i.e., they were interchangeable and pertinent to Catholics, Protestants (maybe even Jews), main-line, evangelical, etc. They spoke volumes about the life of our church and our own foibles, personal as well as communal.

I still have a copy of that well-known cartoon which describes the Minister of Music's life – a long line of people waiting at his office door, each with their own ideas about music – traditional organ hymns, the rock 'n roll star, “hippie” folk music (peace sign), inclusive language (dressed as a suffragette), karaoke star (with microphone), etc. Music is very important to each of us – in our personal life, as well as when we worship. We take it very seriously – sometimes too seriously.

Here are a few (non-visual) humorous lines related to church music.

## Ways To Tell If You Are In the Wrong Church:

The only song the church organist knows is “Inna Gadda da Vida.”

The choir wears leather robes.

They have karaoke worship time.

The sanctuary piano has snakes crawling out of it.

The Worship Leader is wearing KISS makeup.

The pew hymnals have cobwebs on them.

Conversely, let me say that, on my very first visit to the church, while interviewing with the choir for my present job as Music Director, I KNEW I was in the right church the moment I heard Brenda Williams's hearty, unembarrassed laugh response to one of my quips. Any congregation that not only tolerates but celebrates such unfettered joy as that has got my approval!

So, the next time you think the Praise Band is too loud, or you can't see the lyrics on the projection screen, or you don't know the melody to all these new-fangled songs they keep throwing at you, remember the words printed on my newest t-shirt:

God Said: 'MAKE MUSIC' - Psalm 98:4

He surely expects beautiful harmonies to come from instrument and voice...

Remember His expectations when the piano is out of tune, the drummer can't keep a beat, the conductor is crazy, everyone else is flat, you have the wrong music, and your soloist just started without you...

**MAKE MUSIC!!**

In Christ,

Dan

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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.**

**JUNE 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!

Marylin Ferrel	6/2	Gabe Williams	6/11
Dale Parkhurst	6/3	Peter Kenville	6/12
Andrew Wilson	6/4	Matthew White	6/13
Carol Tonne	6/5	Anne Butler	6/16
Lauren Turnblom	6/6	Marietta Oswald	6/23
Nick Berge	6/7	Betsy Poehlman	6/23
Aidan Osborne	6/8	Willy Tinoco	6/23
Max Saltzberg	6/8	Robert Johnson	6/24
Randy Butler	6/9	Arthur Sikora	6/25
Lucy Liu	6/9	Barbara Cox	6/27
Doug Machle	6/9	Ellen Kalvig	6/29
Cameron Machle	6/10	Cliff Williams	6/29
Bob Halvorsen	6/11		
Stan Saltzberg	6/11		

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