

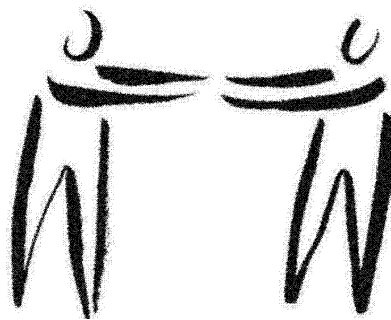
MOVING FORWARD IN MISSION AND WITH VISION

By Pastor John Beck

I am terrifically excited about the St. Timothy community. We are friendly, caring, and energetic. Our Sunday gathering points us back toward the world God has given us, and we have shown we are ready to be God's hands and feet, serving others in Jesus' name. We continue to develop a reputation for not only believing in the importance of diversity, but of being a place that practices what it means to be a community where everyone is affirmed. And we are a growing community. We take in 11 new members this week; we await with joy the baptism at the Easter Vigil for Alithia and Redley's new daughter. This year we were given a chance to reach out to our neighborhood as we knocked

on 630 doors. We reach out for a variety of reasons, the biggest one being that Jesus commands it. The good news of God's love for us in Jesus is not something we keep to ourselves; it is not our "private" possession. We share it with others. **However, most of us do not know how to do that. In fact it scares and intimidates us.**

In response to this normal fear I propose that we practice learning how to share our faith in simple ways this year, especially during the Easter season. We will provide opportunities to get specific about what it means to follow Jesus. We will learn how important relationships are in God's kingdom. We will practice simple behaviors that can make all the difference, both in your life and in the lives of those you touch each day. It will be rather mundane and down to earth. Sharing Jesus' love is not about yelling Bible verses at people; it is not about trying to convince them of anything. Sharing Jesus' love begins with a simple thing: a relationship – a special gift from God that we are to nurture.



Getting ready for this emphasis will be fun because we have a chance to get to know one another better. Each week at worship we will be experimenting with ways to help us meet other members of the community. If

we are going to be the body of Christ, and practice living our faith, we need to know for whom we are praying, who might need a ride to church, who wants a ride to the doctor, or who I could call to offer some encouragement. For those of you who are shy and introverted, I ask your forbearance. For those who are outgoing, don't overdo it. For those who easily get confused, know you are not alone.

The body of Christ becomes stronger when we are able to raise our tolerance for anxiety, that bubbling up inside us and that coming at us from outside. This is what Jesus empowers us to do; to stay focused on the goal, the Kingdom Vision that God holds out to us. Thanks for being part of our exciting, blessed community.

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18th of the month

St. Timothy Web Site
sainttim.org

A Recurring Hunger

By Betty Canham

As I look back, I realize that I've been reading the Bible all of my life, as a kid in Sunday School, as a college student exposed to other world religions, even atheism. As a young mother, discovering beautifully illustrated children's Bibles to give my kids, (although I never actually sat down and read them to them). Later, as a grumpy, unwilling student of Harry Wendt, Bible scholar, I learned more than I ever wanted to know. I've gone through the "read-it-straight-through" stage, which was really confusing. I've gone through that phase where you just play the lottery, open the Bible to a page, drop your finger on a verse and that is somehow the solution to whatever your dilemma of the day is. Nothing wrong with that, but it felt like reading the daily horoscope in the "Oregonian." Not a lot of authentic illumination!

Time after time, I would reject the Bible as, depending on my mood, "a beautiful fairy tale," or "a pack of lies." Yet time after time, I came back and read more. There was within me a "recurring hunger." I yearned for the Bible to be central, and correct.

I kept thinking, "There must be something I'm overlooking here. People I loved and respected kept referring me back to the Bible." People I wished I were like. Good Christian people who, no matter how difficult their lives, showed a sturdy joy nonetheless. I hungered for that joy. Elenore Keller is one of those people. I can't listen to her for five minutes before I get stirred up, get really hungry for the Bible.

What has been helpful for me is to think of the Bible as a new country - God Country. The Kingdom Country maybe. There's a geography to this country.....The big mountain range of the Psalms, right in the middle. The Psalms, largely written by King David, a hero and a jerk. (What do I learn from that? That even with my many transgressions and limitations, I can legitimately serve as a tour guide in Kingdom Country.)

The beginning stories, after the Creation, the lovely beginning stories starting in the Garden of Eden. We proceed to the Tower of Babel. We float on top of it all in Noah's ark. We spend time underwater in the belly of Jonah's Big Fish. Lovely communal fairy tales in Genesis, and afterward, stories that don't give scientific answers, but which suggest important questions to ask of God.

On to Egypt, build some pyramids, and then back to the eternal battleground of the Holy Land, and the Jews establishing themselves as God's People. Then Babylon and back. finally, much later, we are in the Promised Land, the New Testament. Surprisingly late in the Bible, we meet Jesus. Jesus our Lord, Son

of David, Son of Man, Son of God, our Messiah.

As I do my daily Bible reading and prayer, I have the palpable sense that God is talking to me, through the stories of His people. I've not been in the habit until just the last year of a daily devotional time. I've not had then sense that this was a holy time, until very recently. I've asked myself, why do I feel that now? Why now?



I don't know. I'm sure it has something to do with people like Elenore, and Jean and Teddy Whitford, and Hannah Ta'ale, and Pastor John, and John Burtlehaus, and the Ukrainians who sing grace at the Food Bank, and folks back home in California, and - it's a long list.

But what else is different? I'm older, and that could be a reason.

These days I'm still arguing with God, all the time. But now, I think its a good thing, not a sin, to argue. As I read, I ask, "Why did You do this? Why that?" What do these obscure stories have to do with me? What can I learn about the love of Jesus from a story, for example, about the Ark of the Covenant causing the Dagon god-idol to fall down and break its neck? It's kind of humorous, but the spiritual relevance escapes me.

Pastor Joan (not Pastor John) is doing a series of devotions on this year's Lenten Psalms. Betcha you can access these if you ask Pastor John nicely. The latest Psalm I read is Psalm 91, the one that says The Almighty will protect us from "the snare of the fowler," the "deadly pestilence," and "destruction that wastes at noonday." I love hearing in my mind Ramona Kandel's sweet voice as she sings about this passage to us. But I want to howl at God! We all know devout people who die of cancer. Who can deny the strong faith of those folk in Haiti, who worshiped in the ruins of the recent earthquake? "How dare you make these promises, God? Unfulfilled, they make ruins of my faith!"

Pastor Joan suggests we read the part in the New Testament where Satan tempts Jesus with words from this very Psalm. Temptation.

Suddenly God answers me: "Read it again, Betty." I do and it comes clear to me: God is not promising the absence of disasters and trials. He is saying, instead, I need to cling to Him with all my might, so that the Devil cannot tempt me by adversity to lose faith. In the Psalm, God promises to protect us from that Fowler (nice pun!) even in desperate times. The "Fowler" is a metaphor (or simile, or whatever) for the Devil. That's who. The Devil wants above all for us to lose Faith. But God says, you belong to me. Not the Fowler.

Save us, God, in the time of trial.

Sometimes, I don't argue. Sometimes I just say "Thank you, God. Thank you, Jesus, just for being there.

And then my hunger is satisfied, for the while, and there is joy.

Amen.

Health Matters

By Sherry Willmschen

The Health Ministry Team is going to focus on nutrition and healthy eating. Look for recipes in the bulletin and at the coffee hour on March 7th. There will be Blood Pressures taken by Karen Kohl and team as well. Watch for our young people to start planting healthy food from seed as well.

April brings recognition of volunteers with a potluck. Watch for a spectacular show! And bring your favorite food to share on April 18th.

Remember that the Care Coordinators assigned by month are available to provide help and support for members, families, and friends. If you or someone you know is in need of support like visits, phone calls, meals, transportation, etc. contact the Care Coordinators for the month. For March they are Sherry Willmschen and Betty Canham.

Blessings to all and try to stay healthy!

RELAY FOR LIFE TO BENEFIT THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY IS COMING AGAIN JULY 31-AUGUST 1. St. Tims has a team with Sherry Willmschen as Captain. We are looking for the following:

Team members to register for the walk which lasts from 12 noon Sat the 31st to 8 am August 1--done in time for church. You can register on line paying \$10 fee at www.relayforlife.org/greshamor or see Sherry to register with \$10 in hand. I have a hand-out with the information for team members. If being on the team is too much of a commitment come and join us for awhile on Saturday especially for the Survivor walk. Members who have friends or family that would like to participate as team members are

welcome to join us. Let Sherry know of their interest.

If you are a survivor see Sherry for Survivor registration so you can be recognized at the opening ceremony.

If you are creative, please join the contest for a Team Name. The theme is Carnival so let your mind wander and write your suggestion on paper and give to Sherry by March 13th. A valuable prize will be given.

You can help with fundraisers with ideas, volunteer time, etc. Last year we had silk flower corsages for ladies, Chinese Auction, etc. Other ideas--car wash, lunch/breakfast at sponsoring restaurants, etc. There will be fundraising events for all teams to participate in--more info is coming.

You can pray that this event to support American Cancer Society is successful in raising funds for research, programs like Lodging and Patient Navigators, and Volunteer support in the community.

Please pray for your team!
Sherry Willmschen--503-760-6819, sherrywil@comcast.net





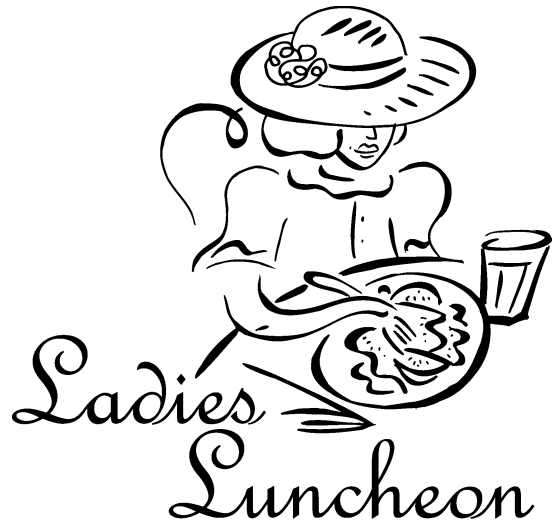
Cupid was dancing for joy, when the “Silver Linings” Cloud* hosted the Heavenly Wanderers Cloud** on Valentine’s Day. There was a lot of love and laughter floating around Grace Derschmidt’s beautiful home. Grace created a beautiful Valentine mood with her table settings, and fed us yummy ham and scalloped potatoes. The romantic note was that Lisa and Jeff Sanders really tied one on. Wait. That doesn’t sound right. What happened was Jeff and Lisa won the party game, which was a contest to see who could tie the longest strand of sections of red (naturally) yarn. Their prize was the chocolate goody box the Recipe Book ladies were selling in church that morning.

If Alice Pfeiffer had known was the prize was, she and Ray might have tried harder. Alice is a lady who really loves chocolate! Alice and Ray will be hosting the next Cloud Supper and are looking for lots of help from the rest of the Heavenly Wanderers Cloud.** Would you like to help develop a menu, and a theme, and/or send invitations? See Betty Canham. 503-667-7893.

Stay Tuned!

* (formerly known as the “Foster Road” Cloud)

** (formerly known as the “Northern & Southern Lights Cloud”)



Calling all St. Tim Ladies!

Mark April 17 on your calendars. The Annual Cluster Luncheon of ELCA ladies will be held at St. Timothy this year. Easy commute! The presentation is looking to be an exciting one – a lively, fun event exploring the variety of ways to enter Bible reading, following the ELCA’s Book of Faith initiative.



We’ll be asking all creative salad makers to help us out!

Questions? Check with Elenore Keller



We welcome new members: Tim Jupp with Mylie; Tom Jasper; Karen Alvarez with Abby; Linda Decker with Cassie; Fasa Mata; Mike & Lora Reilly with Spencer .

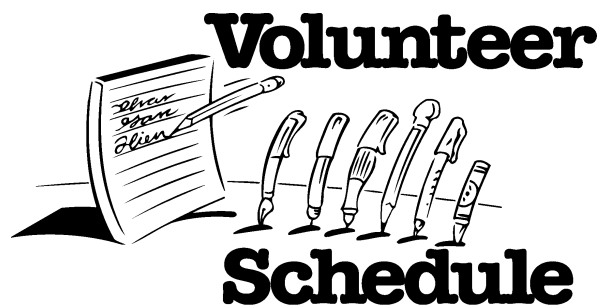
March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1 pm Fellow- ship Meeting	3 10 am Quilters	4 1 pm Service 6 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Evening Vespers Service 7:30 pm Choir	5 9 am Food Bank	6 Multicultural Training thru Gethsemane L.C.
7 10 am Worship Coffee Hour Worship Schedule Finale Blood Pressure Screening 1 pm Confirmation	8 10:30 am Census	9 7 pm Council Meeting	10 10 am Quilters	11 1 pm Service 6 pm Potluck and Service with Good Spirit 8 pm Choir	12 9 am Food Bank	13 9 am to noon Yard Work and Spring Cleaning
14  10 am Worship	15	16	17 10 am Quilters 10 am Office Volunteers	18 1 pm Service 6 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Evening Vespers Service 7:30 pm Choir	19 9 am Food Bank	20 10 am ELSIES Women's Bible study & meet- ing
21 <u>Food Drive Sunday</u> 10 am Worship 1 pm Confirmation 2 pm LFSL Coaches Meeting	22 10:30 am Census	23 7 pm Health Ministry Meeting	24 10 am Quilters	25 1 pm Service 6 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Evening Vespers Service 7:30 pm Choir	26	27
28  10 am Worship	29	30 1 pm Fellow- ship Meeting	31	Holy Week Begins on Thursday! April 1 Maundy Thursday April 2 Good Friday April 3 Easter Vigil April 4 Easter		

Worship Ministry Schedule for March 2010

	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
Table	Dorothy Clark	Sherry Willmschen	Tim Henderson	Ray Whitford
Lector	Don Weber	Dorian Willmschen	Vivian Derry	Barb Vecsi
Acolyte	Rickson Sam	John Burglehaus	Ato Ta'ale	Rickson Sam
Greeter	Clyde Dunbar	Jean Larson	Elaine Scott	Grace Derschmidt
Usher #1	Allen Perhus	Pat Burg	Steve Tobias	Allen Perhus
Usher #2	Don Severson	Gary Markwart	LeAnn Tobias	Don Weber
Announcer	Don Weber	Hannah Ta'ale	John Beck	Fran Warner
Video & Sound	Clyde Dunbar	Ray Whitford	Dorian Willmschen	Clyde Dunbar
Counters	Don W./ Gene K.	Jean & Teddy	Mary & Shannon	Fran W. & Deanna
Percolators	Bert and Georgia Vogeles			
Lockup	Jean Whitford	Ray Whitford	Jean Whitford	Ray Whitford
Plant Care	Teddy Whitford			
Care Coordinators	Sherry Willmschen and Betty Canham			

Can't be at church on your assigned day? Call one of the other volunteers and ask to switch Sundays. Then leave a message on the church office phone, 503-761-8202, to get the right names in the bulletins.



NEW PROCESS: There will be a sign up sheet in the office for the next three month schedule. All worship volunteers are invited to meet at the March 7 Coffee Hour to finalize the schedule for April, May, and June.



Birthdays

March

- 1. Susie Nielson
- 2. Tom Strutz
- 5. Kathie Whittington
- 6. Kristy and Rachel McWilliams
 Suzie Dent
- 7. Siomy Sam
- 8. Shirley Smith
- 11. Dennis Motsinger
- 14. Taiilivasa Olomua
- 16. Jay Zimmerman
- 17. Alithia Sam
 Rebecca Victor
- 18. Christopher Kling
- 19. Brenda Atan
 Tim McWilliams
- 21. Guy Geaudreau
 Addison Markwart
- 22. Rickson Sam
- 24. Shirley Johnson
 Kai Hayashi
- 26. Don Reberry
 Christian Sterling
 Sean Strojan
 Donna Covington
- 27. Grace



LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

MID-WEEK LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

This Lent we are gathering on Thursdays for food, fellowship and worship. The afternoon service starts at 1 pm. A simple soup supper is at 6 p.m. Holden Evening Vespers begin at 6:45 p.m. Of course you are welcome to stay for choir practice at 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL GATHERING WITH GOOD SPIRIT

The only variation on the mid-week Lenten schedule comes on March 11 when we join with Good spirit for a joint gathering which begins at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck. The worship that night will include elements of each tradition. It will be a night to remember and celebrate our two communities joining together to eat and worship.



Potluck

MULTI-CULTURAL TRAINING Gethsemane Lutheran invites up to 4 people to join their Stephen's Minister Annual retreat, March 6 at Alton Collins Retreat Center to learn more of Eric Law and the Kaleidoscope Institute material that helps cultures come together in positive ways. Talk to Pastor John for details

FREE CHAIRS The blue-green padded chairs in the worship room in the Hospitality Bldg. are being replaced. Please take however many you would like.

BIBLE STUDY CHOICES Opportunities for Bible study are under consideration. If you want to weigh in on your preferences please talk to Jean Whitford.

ORDER EASTER LILIES NOW!!!
Frances Carpenter is your contact.
Cost is \$6.95.





Holy Week Begins on the first Thursday in April!

April 1 Maundy Thursday

April 2 Good Friday

April 3 Easter Vigil

April 4 Easter

**St. Timothy Lutheran Church
14500 SE Powell Blvd
Portland OR 97236**

Address Correction Requested

**March
2010**

