

THE GLEANER

He is risen!



I'm busy putting the finishing strokes on my Easter message and time is short. I wanted to share this inspirational story that I found. It brought tears to my eyes. Whether or not it's based on a true story is immaterial: It tells the story of Easter through a child's eyes, and not just any child, but a child with disabilities. With that said, read on, and a Happy Easter to you all... Pastor Tony

Jeremy's Egg

by Ida Mae Kempel

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a chronic, terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. Still, his parents had tried to give him as normal a life as possible and had sent him to St. Theresa's Elementary School.

At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher.

One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Theresa's for a consultation. As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!" *Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."*

April 6 OCC Regional
Team Meeting

Communion

April 7 & May 5

Session Meets

April 9 & May 14

Italian Luncheon

April 16 by Chef
Brenda following
Service in
Fellowship Hall

Birthdays

April

Diane 4/9.

Megan 4/9

May

Ernie 5/29

Kristine 5/31

Anniversaries

April

Stephen & Barbara 4/8

John & Joyce 4/11

Jim & Sandy 4/27

Loren & Laura Lee
4/30

May

Larry & Pauli 5/8

Tony & Karen 5/31

Jeremy's Egg cont. Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy." From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares.

Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?" Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

Memorials to be held
at TPC

Dorothy Winter
April 13 at 11:30
followed by luncheon

Corky Summers.
April 20 at 11:00
Luncheon follows



Toledo Elementary
TPC has reserved a
table for this event
with our cookbooks
for sale & a variety of
baked items. (*An idea
is to make something
from a submitted
recipe.*)

May 4 Vader May Day

May 5 MMIW event
See Page 6

Jeremy's Egg cont. The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs.

In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too" Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and, of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "but Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again. Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away. Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty...

Prayer Barriers

Remove Barriers to Prayer

I have tried hard to find you---don't let me wander from your commands.

PSALM 119:10 (NLT)

SOMETIMES WE PLACE roadblocks on our prayer journey. We may come up with reasons such as being too busy, exhausted or distracted, but in reality, these things can actually help us pray. If there is something holding you back from devoting more time to your faith, seek God's assistance and ask for His guidance.

Heavenly Father, give me the grace to change, and help me remember what an amazing gift it is to spend time with You.

Reprinted from the devotional "60 days of prayer" published by Guideposts Submitted by Becky Vango

Gleaner Announcement

After much prayerful consideration and the input of Session, it has been decided to have the Gleaner published on even months only. The next Gleaners will be published for June/July, August/September, and so on.

There have been so many changes and responsibilities over the past few years, and it is difficult to find time for Session members and others to not only keep up with their many responsibilities but to write articles too. It remains our goal to make the Gleaner as interesting and informative as possible. Chris

Seeking Guidance

So, what is our part to play? We stand firm in our faith. We trust Jesus is who He says He is, and we obey what He's asked us to do by giving ourselves fully to the work He is already doing in the world. For some of us, it's

obvious what Jesus is doing and the part He's invited us to play. For others of us, it may be a little less clear. If you already know what it is, then identify one way you can contribute to that work today. If you aren't sure, then ask the Holy Spirit to show you where He is already moving in your community and for Him to give you the wisdom and courage to do what you can with what you



Treasurer's Report - March 2024

In the interest of security Session has asked that the financial report in the newsletter *not* include dollar amounts for income and expense and net income. That information is available in printed form on the bulletin board in the elevator lobby. You will also find there the *latest approved* Session meeting minutes.

So, here's a look at TPC mission spending. It can be a little confusing. First, Session recommends and approves mission budget items to be paid on a monthly basis. The Toledo Neighbors Program and the Winlock/ Vader Food Bank receive x amount of dollars per month. Community Outreach is allotted a certain amount of money for the year but of that amount can be revisited by Session. As a Presbyterian church, we have a per capita obligation to the Olympia Presbytery. That amount is divided into 12 monthly payments and is and has been considered mission spending.

The Christmas Shoebox mission along with the Greatest Journey is an annual gift giving effort spearheaded by Sandy B. It is separate, however, from the TPC budget. There are four denominational mission giving opportunities that are discretionary. Ask Paulli or the treasurer about participation in those missions.

When you note "food bank" on your offering envelope you can know that your money will go to either the Toledo Neighbors Program or the Winlock/Vader Food Bank.

I hope this helps you understand our mission spending but if you have questions about this or any aspect of TPC finances contact the treasurer by phone, text, or email.

Yours in Christ, Tom

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16



Recently there was a Facebook posting about one of our fellow church members, Megan Wallace, and it is submitted here.

A community has so many people that provide great services to the community but so often they are left "behind the scenes", out of the spotlight, yet they are a very important piece of the puzzle that makes a great community to live in. Megan Wallace is such a person. I have known Ms. Wallace since she was a little girl and watched her grow into such a wonderful young lady. She has a work ethic any employer would be honored to have. She always has a smile on her face, and a "Cheerful Hello". At Winlock's Senior Center, Donna's

Place in Toledo, or just out walking, she brightened everyones day. Let's all give a great big high five for this community member. Hey, do you know another "Behind the Scene" community member that we can give a shout out too, let's hear it. Thanks Megan for all you do!!! Reprinted from the Winlock Neighborhood Forum.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women MMIW

Chief of Police Duane Garvais Lawrence spoke about MMIW at the Big Toledo Meeting. During the covid pandemic Chief Duane ran/biked across the United States to advocate for more resources to address the crisis of MMIW. He met with families of the missing along the way. Duane had the number 18609 on his arm, that was the number of people who were missing in 2020 when he made his first run. The red handprint has become a symbol of this movement and Duane wore it across his face. There are compelling videos on YouTube from the run/bike across America, well worth watching. May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for MMIW.





Maundy Thursday Observance

TPC observed for the first time during my time as a member, Maundy Thursday. The service was contemplative, with only the candle on the Table of Remembrance and light from our windows. Pastor Tony read scripture bridging the events of Maundy Thursday through Easter and beyond. It was a beautiful and meaningful observance and I hope this will be a yearly event.

Maundy Thursday is also known as "Holy Thursday," and is the Thursday of Passion Week, one day before Good Friday (the Friday before Easter). Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known to Christians as the Last Supper.

Vision:TOLEDO

Vision:TOLEDO is a grassroots coalition of people and organizations created in 2011 after a series of fires and subsequent closure of several local businesses threatened to diminish the community. Through partnerships and alliances Vision:TOLEDO is committed to revitalization of Toledo Washington. (copied from Community - City of Toledo <https://toledowa.us/community/>)

The mission of Vision:TOLEDO is to efficiently utilize resources, to enhance the quality of life for the greater Toledo Washington community. The 12th Annual Big Toledo Community Meeting was held March 19, 2024. What a wonderful way to find out what is happening in our town. Photos and a video are available on Facebook. You may notice a number of posters on our bulletin board announcing upcoming events around town. We are a small town with a big heart.

There are many and varied opportunities to help:

- The Learning Garden (at the elementary school, teaching kids about food),
- Neighbors Program (feeding people),
- Thursday Market (local products for sale, their mission "to provide Nutrition, Education, and Community"),
- Community Foundation (helping children),

Just a few of the groups that are looking for volunteers. Currently we have committed to providing financial support to the Thursday Market and Neighbor's Hall. Paulli