

The Gleaner ~ June/July 2024



From Pastor Tony

It's amazing how time catches up with us.

We decided to go with a bi-monthly Gleaner, and you'd think that I would be on top of it with an extra month to prepare, but NO! I get caught writing at the last minute because I FORGOT that there was a deadline coming up!

I, along with all who've been participating, have been enjoying our survey of every book of the Bible using the [BibleProject.org](https://www.bibleproject.org) animated cartoon-style overviews. These have been incredibly helpful in understanding certain books of the Bible. I've taken the liberty of going through the Old Testament in the Jewish order of the Bible, and that has been a lot of fun. We're almost done with the Old Testament, and will move on to the New Testament in a few weeks.

As I'm writing this on Thursday May 30th (the editorial DEADLINE!), I'm looking back at our study of the Book of Ecclesiastes that we discussed this morning. Both groups had good discussions, and Ecclesiastes is a good reminder that OUR LIVES have a deadline. Unlike Chris, who says, "Such and such date is the deadline for the Gleaner", we get no tip-off as to when our deadline with life will be.

When I was young I didn't much care for Ecclesiastes: I thought it was gloomy and pointless. Now that I've lived well over two-thirds of my life, I see the wisdom of the book, and am glad for the perspective it gives as we age. In fact, Ecclesiastes is good wisdom for someone of ANY age, as it gives us a realistic view of life, a view that as the character of the Teacher in the book explains, can only be gained from experiencing LIFE, and lots of it.

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Celebrations

June Birthdays

Dick 6/3
 Karen 6/8
 Rebecca 6/16
 Judy 6/17
 Becky 6/17
 Kathy 6/30

July Birthdays

Tana 7/3
 Barbara 7/14
 Kerry 7/18
 Don 7/26

Anniversaries

June

Lee & Nancy 6/13
 Dick & Esther 6/17
 Rob & Kristine 6/19

No July

Anniversaries

We'd all like to get a tip on a company whose stock is poised to take off, or a note with the winning Lotto numbers, wouldn't we? Ecclesiastes is kind of a tip off on what our focus in life should be. It shouldn't be on the things we normally strive for, but on things that matter, like loving God and keeping his commandments. The reason for this, as the Teacher explains, is that the things that we normally strive for in life tend to, in the end, become a sort of vapor or smoke that can't be grasped, no matter how hard we try. That's one of the problems with youth: One thinks that you can achieve happiness through wealth, a good marriage or job, or the pursuit of pleasure. But the Teacher of Ecclesiastes says that all of those things will vanish like mist, and in the end, there will be nothing to show for "our labors under the sun".



That's why I appreciate this wisdom book more and more every time I read it, and if you haven't read it lately, I would encourage you to do so, preferably in a modern translation of the Bible, like the NIV, ESV, or NASB. You'll be glad you did.

A counterpoint to a grasping after things is to seek joy, and there can be no greater joy than seeking relationship with the living God. A life lived in pursuit of God, rather than things, will have the greatest, lasting effect on those around us. I know for myself, I would rather leave a legacy like that, than any kind of wealth. True wealth lies in relationships, and the ultimate relationship is with God himself. Obtain joy through giving him your all, and you'll never be disappointed...

Pastor Tony

Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10

Upcoming Events

- June 3 Communion
- June-Nov. Series in Acts
- June 9 Potluck Sunday
- June 16 Father's Day
- June 20 deCycles overnight event at TPC
- July 7 Communion
- July 11-14 Cheese Days

Blood Drives
June 21 & Aug. 16
 Below is direct link to schedule a donation.

<https://www.redcross-blood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=toledoWA>

I don't know about you, but hearing the bells last week was a sweet moment. I reflected on how we not only survived, but have flourished. We were blessed when the Reynolds joined us. A big thanks to our leadership who dealt with the nuts & bolts of our church and all who came together, rolling up their sleeves. Thanks Gary, for the bells.

Operation Christmas Child 2024

Theme: ATTN All Tongues, Tribes, and Nations For" whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in who they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:13-15 The goal for Olympia Region this year is 14,250 boxes or Gospel Opportunities Karen and I attended the first Local Workshop held May 18 in Centralia. A copy of the slides is posted on the Large Bulletin Board. Good News Stats: 220+ million boxes have been distributed since the inception of OCC in 2009 11,330,126 were collected in 2023 13,441 came from the Olympia Region in 2023 29,000 children hear the Gospel every day as a result of the Boxes and the Greatest Journey followup program. Since 2009 40.5 million children have participated in the Greatest Journey 20.2 million have made decisions to follow Jesus through the Greatest Journey 7,632 people give their lives to Christ everyday We are called to share the gospel and children are our future. Thank you Sandy for heading up this Important Ministry for us. We are truly blessed to be partners in this Outreach. We are collecting items for the November packing party. Currently shopping for paint kits (see example in the Library), and AAA batteries.

Submitted by Paulli

Toledo Neighbors Program



Starting in June instead of God's Portion in Centralia, Neighbors will be partnering with Newaukum Valley Farms for fresh produce. Food distribution will continue Saturdays from 11am to 1pm. Community members are encouraged to pick up food and distribute it to their neighbors. The meeting room has coffee, drinks, and snacks. It is a great place to visit with Community. There is educational material available. Jackets are being added to the rack along with socks, hats; another way to share resources. The board is working on developing a Food and Nutrition Policy (written commitment outlining the kind of food and services Neighbors intends on providing) Neighbors are all about healthy food. Education will be a part of this plan. Many in our community have health concerns (high A1C and cholesterol) so salt and sodium content can be an issue. We will be sampling and showcases fresh produce. I am looking forward to exploring new and unusual vegetables. Neighbors sharing with Neighbors is a wonderful concept. Currently Neighbors have been receiving farm fresh eggs, rhubarb, butter lettuce (from the Cowlitz tribe), frozen ground beef. Please consider "shopping" for vegetables at the Hall. Donations are always welcome and funds can be used to purchase bread, dried beans, and other staples. the garden project is coming together. Fruit tree and berry canes have been planted. The raised beds were built, soil added, and planted with seeds and plant starts. Brooke is now hosting work parties. Someone has volunteered to build an arch for the entrance to the wheelchair accessible raised beds. Plans are underway to build a chicken coop this summer. Please follow the progress on Facebook. The Lord continues to bless this project. I encourage you to come by, tour the garden, and stay for coffee. Everyone is welcome! Pauli

GROUNDS

Changes are constantly happening around TPC. First the roof was cleaned, then the building, then the windows fixed, the lower windows were painted, a new landscaper was hired, lines were painted in the parking lot, new handicapped parking signs were installed and now the bell tower repair is underway. It was wonderful to hear the bell ring again last Sunday!

A smaller change was the new lock installed on the memorial garden water faucet. There were a couple of instances where the water was left on or the auto watering hose was disconnected, so this should prevent a reoccurrence.

There's more to do, but for now things are shaping up around TPC. Thank you Gary and all who help. Diane, (for all of us at TPC)



Winlock Foodbank / Rowdy Rooster Bistro and Thrift Store

“The Winlock-Vader Foodbank provides quality food items to households experiencing food insecurity.” and so much more. Shoppers can enjoy soup and sandwiches on Food Bank Days. There are fresh vegetables and some staples on the back deck all week long and people are encouraged to take what they need. No one is turned away. Rylee makes sure that all who ask are helped. The Bistro and Thrift store are open during the week so people in need can be served. There is a large dedicated team of Volunteers that keep things going. With links to Our Closet is Your Closet donations get to those in need. The Thrift store proceeds keep the Food Bank going. Pricing in the Thrift store is great for meeting Community needs. Paulli

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ 1Peter 4:10-11

Outreach Happenings

Cheese Days will be upon us soon. This has always been a fun weekend filled with much to do.

-Look for our Cheese Days banner on the fence in late June.

-We have a 1/4 page ad in the Cheese Days book this year.

-This year we will once again be handing out free watermelon slices after the parade in front of the church. Want to help out as a Slicer or Server? Drop a note to tpcpray4me@gmail.com and let Diane know.

-We will gather in the park after church for the big town bbq. You're welcome to bring your own lunch and enjoy some fellowship in the park.

-A small table of cookbooks for sale will likely be set up.

Stay tuned for more details as we draw closer to Toledos big celebration!

Diane :)



Treasurer's Report April/May 2024

As before, you can find exact dollar amounts in the Financial Report pinned up on the bulletin board in the elevator lobby. Here we'll talk about budgeting challenges. Our church has not been, in my experience, one that practices pledging. Some churches have a stewardship program that includes asking congregants what or how much they intend to give as an offering for the upcoming year. Twenty some years ago former Pastor Steve recruited me to help gather pledges from the congregation, much bigger at that time. That effort was completely unsuccessful! The takeaway from that experience is that we get what we get. We know now that we'll receive \$20,148 per year from the rental of the manse. There are a few very steady givers in our congregation but in the end, we simply don't know how much money will come into the church. What that means is as simple as this. The money comes in, we pay the bills, and we try to track, as accurately as possible, where the money goes. Committee chairpeople try to anticipate what expenses might come along in the coming year but you can imagine that's quite a challenge. This year, I've set up a budget in the Quickbooks program to hopefully see the progression in each budget item. In years past I haven't put a lot of effort into it because we don't know our income. This year I used last year's income as a model. No telling how accurate that might be. I'll put up a report, in the usual place, that will be based on that budget feature. The report should show what percentage of the budget item has been used as of the end of May. As always, call, email, or text with questions.

Yours in Christ, Tom

Missing Sal

We have learned of Sal's passing and I know our hearts are heavy for the loss. Our pastor reminds us that he is in the care of Jesus and that is the best news, the Gospel. We pray for Jen and family; Sal's daughter Holly and her husband Kyle. In the days ahead we can show Jen the love we feel for her in many ways. Right now please say a prayer for them and remember to do so every time a prayer is said or you are reminded of Sal and Jen. TPC

Social Media

While I am off Session, Kathy is a natural partner for replacement; thank you Kathy for agreeing to do that, and all you do. In the meantime, I am still doing what I do. So a few things first. If you have a favorite hymn, please let me know so I can share it to our daily devotionals. And remind me if it gets lost. My brain is a foggy place these days. Kind of like the Moors in an old Sherlock Holmes moving from decades ago. Once again, thank you, Tana for your faithfulness in typing the devotionals up everyday, not even taking a day off when you are not feeling well. Otherwise if you don't send me your favorites, you will be victims of hearing the same ones over and over, lol. Secondly if you see a social media post you like, please share. The more God's Word gets spread, the more we remain faithful to Mark 16:15 which are Jesus' words "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation." That may sound impossible for TPC. But remembering it is our God who gives this command, who is capable of anything. And surprisingly enough, we have followers from Australia 1, the Democratic People of Congo 1, Germany 1, Pakistan 1, Philippines 1, the other Congo 1, Somalia 1, Turkey 1, and India 2. Not much, but not nothing either. So please share and a big thank you to those who already do. Facebook followers from the US are at 173. Instagram is at 88 followers. And one more little thing. I love doing the Gleaners every other month. Last edition I realized the file was too big though so this time I am not using as many pictures in hopes it will go smoothly at disbursement. Thanks to all who submitted articles. Any Gleaner suggestions, please let me know, Chris.

Secret Hero

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Roman 8:26 We try so hard to be self-sufficient. Although we delight in helping others out of our strength, it takes a giant swallow of our pride to accept help. We avoid feelings of brokenness and dependence. We would rather struggle for months on end before admitting we need help. This tendency stunts our growth before it rejects the help and power God has provided. Although unseen, the Holy Spirit is the invisible hero dwelling within us. God knows our weakness and provides the Holy Spirit to guide, strengthen, and sustain us. The Spirit comes to our rescue time and again. We are loved, and our weakness is never mocked. When God calls us, we can rest assured that the Holy Spirit will equip us through His insight and power. The evidence is clear in both the life of Christ and the lives of His followers. Turning Point The first thing that accounts for God's using D. L. Moody so mightily was that he was a fully surrendered man. Every ounce of that two-hundred-and-eighty-pound body of his belonged to God; everything he was and everything he had, belonged wholly to God. R. A. Torrey Reprinted from Turning Point Magazine—Founder/Publisher Dr. David Jeremiah
Submitted by Becky