

# THE GLEANER

Feb/March/ April 2025 Edition



The next Gleaner edition will be for May and June. From that point we will be in a more logical every two month flow. This three month edition is an anomaly to get us to that two month pattern. Plain as mud? Thanks everyone, for being flexible and for your articles.

The Editor 

## New Thursday Bible Study at TPC

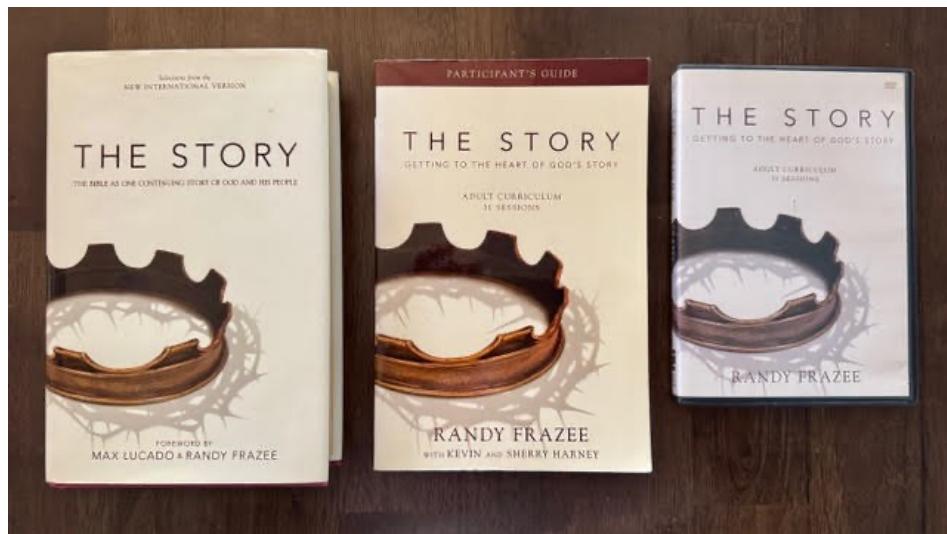
A new year, and we are almost finished with our overview of the Bible courtesy of the Bible Project. On March 6th we will begin a new series that I was able to experience at Calvin Presbyterian in Shoreline, WA about 15 years ago.

It's called simply "**The Story**", by Randy Frazee and Tom Anthony. Forward by Max Lucado.

**The Story is an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel.** Though there is material left out for the sake of the study, there is nothing added that isn't Scripture. The Story is all about the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. And like any good story, The Story is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption; and this story's true! There are no verse references, and Scripture segments are seamlessly woven together with transition text into a single grand narrative. *Continued page 2.*

Each story in these 31 chapters reveals the God of grace—the God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for his people culminated in his sacrifice of Jesus, his only Son, to atone for the sins of humanity. For those intimidated or overwhelmed by the unabridged Bible, The Story helps people understand God's Word more fully and engage with it more easily. Simple, accessible, and easy to use, many churches have found The Story to be a powerful way to engage their people in Bible reading like never before. It brings the Bible to life, helping us to be swept up in the story of God's love and his plan for our lives.

Each of our sessions will be comprised of a short video, followed by a discussion based on the reading from the book and following a study guide. ***The book and study guide will be provided from the church for all participants.***



**This should be an exciting study**, especially following up on our experience with the Bible Project videos and discussion. The caveat is that there will be a bit of **HOMEWORK** for this study, as I will ask everyone to **READ the chapter before coming** to our discussions ahead of time. You will also be able to glance through the study guide for the given lesson to familiarize yourself with what we will be discussing.

I am excited for this, and am grateful to Chris Anderson for suggesting it. After we complete The Story, everyone involved should be able to have a grasp of the great, over-arching story of God's plan for salvation from Genesis through the life of Paul. I'm excited for us to begin, so I hope this gets your Bible study braincells salivating!

***In Christ, Pastor Tony***

## Gleaner for February 2025 by Paulli

**Nominating Committee** Our first Gleaner of the year! Last month we held our Annual General Meeting and welcomed two new members to our Session. There is much work to do. We have a small, committed congregation. Many of us are struggling with health issues. No one says aging is easy on the body but our Spirits are strong, fed by the word. We have been leaning into the word. Thank you, Pastor Tony for your skillful teaching. As I begin my 6th year on Session I am excited to see where the Lord leads us.

**Missions** There is a lot happening at Toledo Neighbors. The monthly meetings are scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2025 at 6:00pm. Elections will be held at this meeting. Decisions on the building and next steps on the garden will be on the agenda. Amber and the board welcome ideas and comments. This upcoming meeting is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

**Rowdy Rooster and Winlock/Vader Foodbank** continue to meet many needs of our neighbors in the surrounding communities. Good food, quality used household items, and clothing are readily available. Rylee, the Board, and Volunteers have a generous heart for the public.

**Operation Christmas Child** is at this time, the only International Mission that our Session is financially supporting. Sandy Bickar has headed up this project for a number of years. Thank you Sandy for your dedication.

**Worship** Tony, Kathy, and I continue to work together to bring our Sunday Worship to life. This would not be possible without the dedication of our Lay leader/Moderators and Readers. Our time together is made more complete with congregational support and participation. This year Tony has started teaching through the Book of Hebrews. Kathy's music team includes Nayeli and Marie. We have been treated to exceptional worship music. Thank you ladies!



Thank you, Kathy and Nayeli for sharing your talent with us on this Sunday. We are truly blessed by all our musicians.  
Photo by Paulli

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

As you read this article, the inventory of supplies will be completed and we can start making out shopping lists. I must admit that I had a little trepidation for this year. We have not been able to find any of the discounts for supplies that we were able to find last year; however, I also know that together and with God's help and blessing, we will be able to meet the needs. Our Sunday School lesson on January 26 was titled "A Miraculous Multiplier." That's certainly what he does with our talents and abilities, our time and our resources. And he multiplies the effectiveness of the OCC shoeboxes beyond our wildest expectations.

### **In Genesis 18:14 God asks "Is there anything too hard for the Lord."**

In Malachi chapter 3, Malachi admonished the people in Jerusalem to not hold back from the Lord. Everything we have is a gift from God and everything we do is done to bring honor and glory to His Name and to further his work on this earth. We surrender our sin and failure to God and He replaces it with the flawless righteousness of Christ. God's commitment to us includes an eternal home and purpose for today. "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

I don't know about you, but when I think of the great privilege He has given to us to serve him through the shoebox program I start getting excited. I also get excited knowing that we are going to do this together. You are such a great team and with God's blessings we will have another outstanding year. Thank you for your support. Thank you, Lord Jesus. With love and prayers, Sandy

P.S. You'll soon be hearing more regarding shopping.

**2 Timothy 4:5 — "As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."**



*Thank you to Kathy, Tana and Tony for your daily Facebook postings.*

*Because of them, we are posting four times per day. It takes time and effort to assist with the TPC social media presence. The more posts, the more eyes on the word and work of Jesus.*

*Chris*

## Social Media

Our followers remain at 179. Once again I would ask to have anyone who sees a post they like, please share. Social Media has the possibility of sharing the gospel around the world, the operative word being "sharing". We would like to see our church grow locally and that too starts in part with sharing. We also have the ability to reach the greater world as we are admonished as it says in **Matthew 28:19 *Therefor go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.***

When these words were first spoken it was through foot traffic and letters that took a long time to a pretty small audience that shared the Gospel. These days there are many forms of getting the Word to the nations. We are now on line and reading the Gospel is being shared on social media and many other forms of communication. It is important not just for TPC to follow Jesus' admonitions to share the good news, but users as well. So please, if you see something on our social media you like, please share it. It is a great tool.

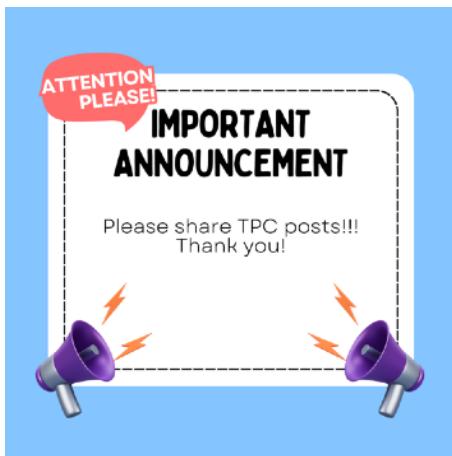
As of 1/29/25 and for the previous 28 days we had on Facebook: (not counting Instagram and YouTube)

**TPC Reached 5,248 people**

**Content interactions 417**

**Content reactions 283**

And remember this is a group effort with Tana, Kathy, and Tony adding valuable posts. So please, share our posts! Thank you, Chris.



### Instagram

We are up to 95 followers (which are individuals or organizations that have chosen to follow us). We have quite a few churches following us at [tpc\\_70joy](https://www.instagram.com/tpc_70joy).

### Our website

is [www.toledopresbyterian.com](http://www.toledopresbyterian.com) where we try to keep up with all that is going on. I am behind in some photos which I hope to fix soon..

## Treasurer's Report for January 2025

In this report we'll look at general topics concerning the financial resources of the church. You'll find rows and columns of numbers on the financial reports in the elevator lobby. We have numerous bank accounts, certificates of deposit with the local bank and also with the Mission Development Certificate Program and an endowment fund with New Covenant Mutual Funds. One of the bank accounts is a Memorial Fund with no restrictions (meaning we can use it as Session sees fit).

One more thing.

Per capita is the same as last year, \$50.

Without going into detail, we have enough assets to take care of business for a couple years. That's not to say we can take a break from supporting the ministry of TPC. Our membership is shrinking and it's up to us that are left to keep our church solvent while we wait for God to send more people to us. January saw a small but positive net income due to some spending in "office supplies" and "evangelism/advertising". The new laptop computer that was mentioned in the last treasurer's report hasn't been put into service yet, but that's on the horizon. January is a very busy time not only for the treasurer but also for co-treasurer Rebecca.

It should be noted that the review of the books that was to take place in November or December has been put on hold due to technical and logistical issues. Stay tuned for fundraising information. It is hoped that we can set an electronic, programmable reader board on the corner of the block. That effort will begin after the bell tower project is completed. I'm looking forward to what God has in mind for us this year.

Yours in Christ, Tom Hill

**Reflections** I don't usually like to do thank you's since I know I will forget someone, but here goes. We know we have a small church that still takes pretty much the same amount of work for Karen to clean our building and cook so many wonderful things. Then we have Diane who faithfully sends out our Praises and Prayers every week and lends her talent to us with different projects to raise money for our church. Thanks, Gary & our donors for the Bell Tower. I love hearing the bells. Others willingly help with Communion, the counting of the offering plate and so much more. We have such tasty coffee hours by a variety of our members, the banners are changed, the flower arrangements too. The Advent decorations were really beautiful. Thanks Paulli for keeping us organized. The Spirit in the people of our church was there long before I came and through many changes is still with us. Keep praying and loving one another, forgive each for our faults as Jesus asks us to do. And remember

[TPCPray4me@gmail.com](mailto:TPCPray4me@gmail.com) Spread the word in some way that we are still here and worshiping. Please forgive me for forgetting someone. The editor

## Birthdays

**February** - these were sent out already

## **March**

Pastor Tony 3/3

Jim B 3/6

Georgia 3/8

Chris & Harley 3/12

Greg 3/13

Loren 3/17

No Anniversaries in March

## **April**

Diane 4/9

Megan 4/9

## Anniversaries

**February** None

**March** None

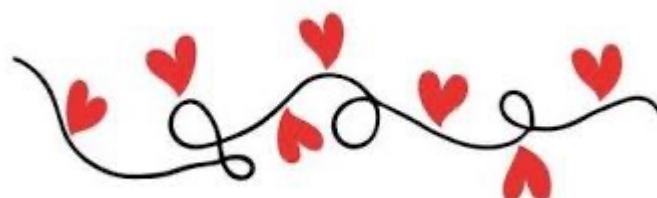
## **April**

Stephen & Barbara 4/8

John & Joye 4/11

Jim & Sandy 4/27

Loren & Laura Lee 4/30



## **BLOOD DRIVE**

**FEB. 21, 2025 11:30-5**



LDS Church  
122 Henriot Rd  
Toledo, WA 98591

Need prayer? [TPCPray4me@gmail.com](mailto:TPCPray4me@gmail.com)

TPC Website [www.toledopresbyterian.com](http://www.toledopresbyterian.com)

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