

# The Witness

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March 2015

## Pastor's Message

How much thought do you give to good and evil in this world? If you turn on the news on a regular basis you might give it a lot of thought. Or you might just change the channel. How do you define "good" and "evil"? Is good always good and evil always evil? Have you ever known someone who was a pretty bad person to do something incredibly good? Vice-versa? Did that change your opinion of that person? If it was a good person who did bad, did you forgive that person?

Good and evil, forgiveness and condemnation – these are hard topics for anyone, but they are the bread-and-butter of Christianity. Where do Christians stand? Where do you stand?

Early Christians had it pretty easy. The Apostle Paul told them, "From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise.

Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you."

(Philippians 4:8-9 CEB) But, then, Paul firmly believed that the Second Coming of Christ was imminent and His followers need only wait a short time before they would no longer have to bear the pain and evil of this human world.

We are still waiting and still being confronted daily with the evils of this world. Lent is a good time to contemplate how a Christian should act and react in the face of this human world.

When I asked, last summer, for sermon topics, I was a bit surprised by how many of you want to contemplate the nature of Good and Evil. I am engaging some of your topics this Lenten season. You all asked some tough questions. I am taking

my sermon titles from your questions and basing my research and scriptures on what you wanted to know.

Here are the sermons for Lent:

February 22 – *"What is Heaven Really Like?"*

March 1 – *"If God is all Forgiving..."*

March 8 – *"...why is there a Need for Hell?"*

March 15 – *"And, at the Heavenly Banquet, Do I have to sit next to...!"*

March 22 – *"God is forgiving... How do I get to Forgiveness?"*

March 29 – Palm Sunday *"Defining Forgiveness"*

April 5 – Easter Sunday *"The Forgiveness of Easter"*

I love these topics and I've been having lots of fun with the research and shaping each sermon. These topics not only touch our Christian roots, but deeply touch our Methodist roots as well. John Wesley believed so deeply in God's redeeming grace that he defined that grace differently than any other theologian of his time. He saw the

redeeming grace of God as working in three ways, like the porch, door and living room of a house.

The porch is Prevenient Grace. It is "preventing" grace or the grace we receive from God before we know we need it. It is given without cost – because the love Jesus feels for all of us called him to go to the cross to express that love. He has paid the cost in love. Wesley believed that even the most "reprobate" (an eighteenth century word for an unrepentant, unredeemable sinner) person would recognize the grace of God reaching out, especially if someone showed that person the way.

(continued on page 2)



*(Pastor's Message continued from page 1)*

Wesley also believed that grace was “resistible.” In other words, any one of us can say “no” to God’s grace. But who would? Who could say no to unconditional love? Prevenient Grace is the porch of the house – the invitation to come to the door, the desire (repentance) to come inside.

Justifying Grace is like the door of the house. It is that brilliant and beautiful feeling that “I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”<sup>[1]</sup> Justifying Grace is pardon, forgiveness and assurance, as the great old hymn says, “Blessed Assurance!” Come on in!

The living room is Sanctifying Grace. Boy! Did Wesley ever get in trouble over Sanctifying Grace! The theologians of his time believed that a soul could only achieve true perfection in the next Life – that Life of perfection in Heaven with God. Not according to Wesley! We can all achieve the perfect love of God and Neighbor in THIS life! We can be Sanctified right here on earth. Or as Jesus called it, having abundant life! (John 10:10) We may not ALWAYS perfectly love God and Neighbor. But we will achieve this love, if only for a moment, now and then. And when we do, we will know perfect love and perfect peace, The God of Peace that Paul was talking about.

Knowing that we live inside this kind of grace changes how we feel about ourselves and others... changes the way we understand God. It might change how we look at an all-forgiving God if it allows us to contemplate repentance and when, or if, God ever ceases to recognize our repentance. It might make a difference in how we look at Hell, or the need for a place like Hell. It might allow us to rethink whether or not we’d be willing to sit next to that mean-girl cheerleader from high school at the Heavenly Banquet. Who knows, this Grace thing could make a non-church-going-atheist-leaning-ex-Episcopalian-musician-type go into the Methodist ministry. Stranger things have happened.

<sup>[1]</sup>\*From the journal of John Wesley, May 24, 1738

On The Path Together, *Pastor Kathy*

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## **Small Group Opportunities**

**Ruth Fellowship Group** The February trip to see the Ann Frank Exhibit was a huge success. The people who went to see the exhibit were impressed, enlightened and felt it was an exhibit not to be missed.

The March meeting of Ruth Fellowship will be on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Edie and Dave Flaming will show photos from their trip to the British Isles.

If you would like to see the photos and hear the narrative, please feel free to come to the meeting. Hostesses: Mary Ann Axelson and Maxine Zerba. Devotions: Esther Nichols. Bring a sandwich for your lunch. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be furnished.

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**Quilts and Crafts** will meet on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. For questions regarding Quilts contact Karleen Johnson and for Crafts contact June Reed.

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**Men’s Group** The Men’s Group will meet Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. David Flaming will talk about his experiences as a Bird Watcher. This meeting is open to everyone (men and women). Coffee and light refreshment will be available.

April 11, 2015, Ted Bunga will tell us about growing up as a Russian Orthodox Christian, and on May 9, 2015, Pam Smith will introduce us to Effective Communications Skills.

**Seafood Brunch**: Thank you all for your support of this Fund Raiser for the Church. With your support, we raised \$658.30.

## A Bit of Levity

A man took a fancy to a church notorious for its exclusiveness. He told the minister he wished to join. The minister sought to evade the issue by suggesting that the man reflect more carefully on the matter, and pray for guidance.

The following day, the man told the minister: “I

prayed, sir, and the Lord asked me what church I wanted to join. When I told Him it was yours, He laughed and said, “You can’t get in there. I’ve been trying to get in that church for 10 years myself, and I can’t get in”.

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## Church Finances for January 2014

Pledged Giving:	\$8,608.00
Unpledged & loose Giving:	\$561.50
Other Income:	\$1,657.91
Fundraisers:	\$0
Special Giving	\$115.00
Transfers:	\$ 0
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$10,942.41</b>

An average of \$18,500 is needed to cover monthly Apportionments and all bills due.

We paid \$200.00 toward apportionments this month. Apportionments paid to date for 2015: \$200.00

Remaining balance on both Church Loans: \$64,907.86

Special Giving: \$300.00  
(Includes gifts to special funds: not part of the operating funds. Includes building fund, Hunger Ministries, UMCOR, etc.)

Total Expenses this Month: -\$16,509.80

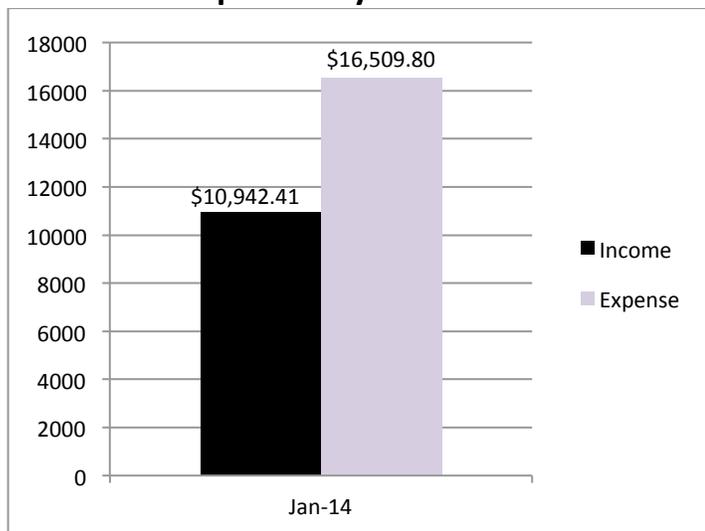
**Net income this month: \$-5,567.39**

### 2014 Budget Comparisons Jan- Dec

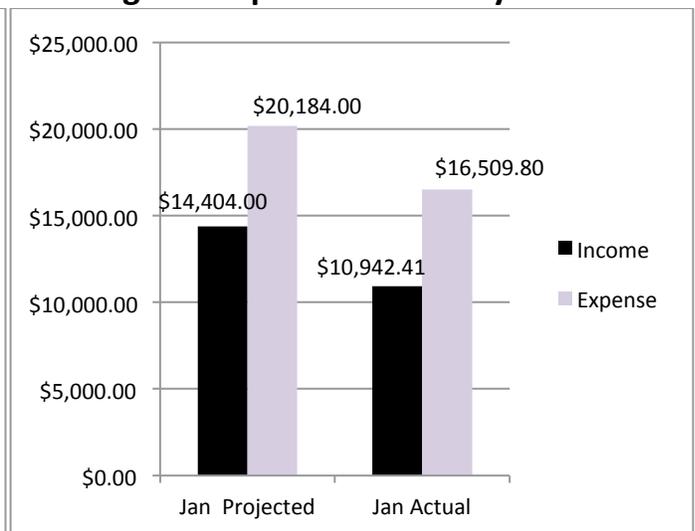
Projected income	\$14,404.00
Actual Income	\$10,942.41
Projected expenses	\$20,184.00
Actual Expenses	\$16,509.80

**Year to date total net income: \$-5567.39**

Income vs. Expenses by Month



Budget Comparisons January – December



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## **Missions that MOVE!**

### **Meals on Wheels People**

Tuesday, March 10th will be our church's day to volunteer for this Outreach Program at Elsie Stuhr Senior Center. Drivers should be at the Center at 10:00 a.m. Please call Pat Tervooren at 503-644-7475 regarding this program.

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**Risk-Taking Missions** The next meeting of the Risk-Taking Missions team will be Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

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**Hunger Ministry – Backpack Buddies** Our church furnishes 9 bags of food each week to Merlo Station High School to be distributed to homeless, needy students as their food source for the weekend. During the week these students get free breakfast and lunch; but, on the weekends many of them go hungry without this backpack program.

As you do your weekly shopping, please add some of the items below to your list for our Backpack Buddy Bags:

- 2 pints of shelf stable milk\*
- 1-5 or 7 oz. can or pouch of tuna
- Granola bars
- Fruit cups
- Saltine or Ritz crackers
- Cans of Chili, spaghetti, ravioli, or stew (pop tops)
- Can Soup (Ready to eat)
- Box of Individual Oatmeal Packages or Cereal

\*Could you live on this amount of food for a weekend?

Please put donations in Wicker Basket in the Fireside Room. Any questions, contact Gloria Gomez or call the church office.

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**Community Assistance Fund** At the present time, the Community Assistance Fund has a very small balance. We get requests every day asking for assistance with utility bills, rent, hotel, toiletry items, diapers, medications, medical/dental visits, gas and bus tickets. Bus tickets are needed for adults, senior citizens, and handicapped persons.

The Church Administrator and the Pastor are in charge of distributions from this fund. No funds are distributed for rent or utilities until the landlords or utility companies have been contacted to make sure they will take partial payments from the church. It is also helpful to have 10 - \$15 gift cards on hand to purchase gas, toiletry items (especially personal care items) and perishable items or dairy products which are not available from the food pantry. Not all requests for assistance are filled. Need is determined by the Church Administrator or the Pastor.

So far this year we have helped 54 families with financial assistance and bus tickets.

Books of bus tickets can be purchased from some grocery stores, i.e., Fred Meyer, Thriftway, and Safeway at the customer service counters.

The Pastor or the Church Administrator can give no more than \$40 to one person. Both signatures must be on a check to give more than that amount. No more than \$10 is given to an individual unless the church is paying a bill directly.

Contributions to this fund are desperately needed. Without funds, we are unable to give assistance of any kind. It would be greatly appreciated if you are able to make a contribution to the Community Assistance Fund. All gifts to this fund are tax deductible.

We have recently begun to collect toiletry items, especially personal care items like shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, to have in the church office to fill requests. The smaller sizes of these items are easy to store and distribute. If you wish to donate these items, give them to Carin in the church office.

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## **Happy Anniversary!**

03/14/1992 Roy & Patti Guptill  
 03/15/2014 Lisa & Mark Erdmann  
 03/20/1982 Ron & Jeanne Fast  
 03/24 Ben & Charlotte Jackson  
 03/31/2007 Byron & Wyn Ward



## **Happy Birthday!**

03/01 Eishin Takahashi  
03/03 Pongi Taufoou  
03/04 Janis Wright  
03/05 Dr. Lowell Greathouse  
03/05 Ron Fast  
03/07 Lisa Erdmann  
03/08 Erin Pitney  
03/08 Georgia Hoffbeck  
03/09 Sharon Skrydlak  
03/10 Kimberly Thompson  
03/11 Makayla Powers



03/15 Stephen Sedler  
03/16 Roy Guptill  
03/18 Karen Wilson  
03/22 June Eggers  
03/24 Francis Cox  
03/24 Jayne Simmons  
03/26 Bud Goldhammer  
03/27 Glennly Franklin  
03/29 Pete Tervooren  
03/29 Stephen Wendt  
03/31 Peter Kleene

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## **April 25, 2015 is National Rebuilding Day!**

National Rebuilding Day is coming soon! Most of you know that Beaverton United Methodist Church has helped to support our mission of making homes safe, warm and dry for low-income homeowners in Washington County since 1994. Each year we assist between 85-117 homeowners who meet the Low/Moderate Income Standards given to us by the county. We repair and re-roof homes, paint exteriors, repair extensive dry rot, restore heat, install windows to provide egress, build wheelchair ramps, install grab bars and accessible showers, and many more tasks. All these repairs and modifications are performed without cost to the homeowners and are made possible by our donors and volunteers.

This year a team headed by Ted Sedler will work on painting a home for an elderly low-income homeowner and her son who is a veteran. This is a Beaverton location. If you are interested in being part of this team, please let Ted know, or call our office at 503-644-4544. You may even get to mingle with another church group on the project depending on how many volunteers sign up.

For almost as many years as we can remember, the women from our church have shown up at our church kitchen at 6:30 a.m. (some even earlier) to help prepare sandwiches for between 175-500 volunteers on National Rebuilding Day. To help with this please sign up on the sheet hanging on the bulletin board by the sanctuary entrance, or call our office at 503-644-4544.

Thank you Beaverton United Methodists for helping to make our work possible!

*Juan Aranda, Executive Director*

*Joan Goldhammer*

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## **GRUBBY SUNDAY**

The Nehemiah Ministry's "Grubby Sunday" is scheduled for Sunday, March 15th. The purpose of Grubby Sunday is to clean-up the Church Grounds before Easter, April 5th and also in preparation for warm weather. We will get started right after Church and lunch will be provided.

Wear your grubby clothes to Church, bring your garden tools, and, if you don't have any--guess what---we will provide them. It's a fun day of fellowship, a feeling of accomplishment, and a sense of pride--after all, "WE ARE THE CHURCH", and that includes taking care of our facility.

Everyone is welcome. Any questions, please contact Pat Lidrich at 503-524-4284; plidrich@comcast.net or Paula Elder at 503-524-3226; paula.elder2@frontier.com

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# Holy Week 2015

Palm Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am

*Palm Sunday Worship Service - Sanctuary*



Holy Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup>

10:00 am

*Bible Study with Communion- Wesley Chapel*

Holy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

7:00 pm

*Tenebrae Service with Communion- Sanctuary*



Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>

4pm – 6pm

*Chapel open for prayer vigil*



Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am - 10:30 am

*Breakfast provided by the Men's Group for our church family in Wesley Hall. The menu will consist of all you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, tea, and juice. The cost is Your Free Will Offering for the Church General Budget.*



10:30 am

*Easter Sunday Worship Service*

*After worship*

*Easter Egg Hunt for kids up to 5thGrade*



Beaverton First United Methodist Church  
12555 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Church Office Hours and Contact Info:**

The church office is open Monday – Friday from 9 am – 2 pm.  
You can reach the church office at 503-646-7107.

**Pastor Kathy is in the office Monday - Wednesday**  
**Julie is in the office Monday - Friday**

**Pastor Kathy Boyes email [kathy@beavertonumc.org](mailto:kathy@beavertonumc.org)**  
**Julie Berry email: [julie@beavertonumc.org](mailto:julie@beavertonumc.org)**