

Parson to Person by Pastor Dave

My mom said a lot of great stuff that has always stuck with me, and here is her quote for this New Year ahead of us: “The only difference between ordinary and extraordinary is...extra!” This was probably voiced during one of our frequent discussions about how I could get so *much better* grades with just a *little* more effort, but it nevertheless has survived that icky setting and has become a guiding factor in my life, when I remember and when I have the stamina and devotion to extend myself more fully into the world.

This kind of thinking, while extremely valuable individually, is even more so in a larger setting, like, oh, I don’t know... like maybe in a church? After all, there are plenty of ordinary churches in the world, churches that leave no visible marks on your

heart or your mind, churches that just keep dragging along, not really advancing the gospel, but not really hurting it, either. Ordinary, plain, uninspired churches. Every area has plenty of those... but as you can well imagine, they are not the kind of churches most of us would desire to attend, or the kind that I desire to serve. And as you can also well imagine, as the New Year turns and resolutions abound, being an ordinary church is not Trinity’s destiny, as far as I can tell and influence. We are meant to be extraordinary!

Which, of course, means that what we provide and produce should be more than other places... we create ‘extra’ on a regular basis. How is that for a guiding principle – that whenever anyone comes to Trinity, the expe-

Our Purpose
To ENGAGE people in joyful relationships with God and with each other, so we will GROW in Christ-like compassion, and SHARE the blessings of the Holy Spirit.



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rience they have here will be more than they expected. Fuller, more profound, more inspiring, every time. That is one serious mandate, my friends.

We certainly have a well-earned reputation of being extraordinary in some arenas; friendliness, local outreach, excellence of music or preaching or some other worship-connected form. But the challenge before us is to be nothing less than all things to all people, which seems nigh unto impossible, but isn't, really. It just means aligning our leadership and vision and energy towards being more than a church that survives; we want to be a church that *thrives*.

You are probably waiting for the other shoe to drop, and expect me to make a big plea any moment now for more giving or more service or more outreach. I am glad to disappoint you in that regard. Because at the end of the day, it isn't about the *quantity* of our giving, or serving, or reaching out, it is about their *quality*. Thriving is one of the *natural outcomes* that flow like water downhill from a mindset and balanced heart whose focus is beyond mediocre. The thinking must precede the action, always.

So, here is my wish for 2025 and beyond; that we stop regarding ourselves as poor, limited, tired, old, and even occasionally conflicted. I am not suggesting some Pollyanna approach to artificial living; I am simply suggesting that we embrace the *truth*, that we are part of a limitless universe energized by a boundless God who knows no limitation, no death, no poverty, and no lack. We are not guttersnipes scraping sadly by, unnoticed in this world; we are heirs to the eternal, and more than gifted enough to elevate one another and those around us if we simply have the presence of mind and heart to make habits out of excellence and passion. If the army encourages us to be all that we can be, should the church do any less?

Enough for now... I am going forth to have an extraordinary day, and I hope you do just that, too!

United Women in Faith (UWF)

We had a VERY successful Christmas Bazaar!! It's an event that exhausts us all, BUT we love the fellowship and the opportunity to raise funds for local charities – the chance to serve others! The goods for sale were impressive, the lunch was delicious, and the holiday music provided by Pastor Dave & Christina really set the mood! The Bazaar took in over \$9000, which we will distribute to local charities. We appreciate each and every one of you who gave a donation of time and/or goods to this worthy event!!

Our January meeting will be **Saturday, January 25th at 10 am**. The first half hour we will discuss the distribution of the Bazaar funds. Following that we will have a **baby shower for Chelsea Peterson!!** Her little girl Celeste will be about 8 months old; she and her husband Will are also expecting a boy this spring, so gifts can be for either child! Cake and light refreshments will be provided. **Ladies, please join us to celebrate these new lives!**

--Katya Yarosevich, President

News from Healthbridge Global

Romania - The RISE TOGETHER project in Targu Mures, Romania will be an innovative mental health & trauma healing center, providing personalized care for state institutionalized orphans who have been the victims of abuse & neglect. It will function as a daily care & counseling center, a training facility, & a transitional living facility for a subset of young adults aging out of the system. We launched this project in February.

Healthbridge Global has also long been involved with developing the LIFE Medical Center, their 2nd partnership with the ProVita Foundation of Romania. It will be the first non-abortive maternity hospital in one of the historic abortion capitals of the world!

India - Healthcare is used in villages to help Indian pastors build trust, show compassion, & open gospel doors. Each year, a team of Americans & Indians come together to break new ground for the gospel by hosting medical camps. Afterward, on-going care & procedures are coordinated locally by Indian physicians. From November 4 -16, twenty-three American doctors & volunteers joined our Indian partners for a week of medical camps. While there, local authorities responded to complaints of Christian work in the area. They confiscated American passports & came close to shutting the medical camps down before they'd even begun. Yet, due to the obvious good done over the years & the reputation that has been built, both permission & encouragement were given from higher up (literally and spiritually) to continue. In the end, many received compassionate care: 6,540: total patients seen 3,219: eye-related issues cared for 1,346: primary care visits provided 1,445: dental procedures provided 530: cardiac and ENT care visits 697: cataract and pterygium surgeries 2,800: custom eyeglasses made.

Healthbridge Global has many projects all over the world, but began through the inspiration of Jon Hallsted and his wife Rebecca - from right here in northern California. Their aim is to expose people to the love and grace of Christ through providing medical care. You can find out more at healthbridgeglobal.org

Submitted by Katya Yarosevich

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Christmas 2024

Undesignated

In Honor of:

Dale Hoggins

In Loving Memory of:

Donna Hoggins, Bob Hoggins

Given by:

Vicki Hoggins

Given by:

Vicki Hoggins

6th Street Center for Youth

In Loving Memory of:

Jeff, My Husband

Given by:

Lucille Wanee

Jesus Center

In Loving Memory of:

Larry Loughlin & Loved Ones

Given by:

Lily Loughlin

Torres Shelter

In Loving Memory of:

Larry Loughlin & Loved Ones

Given by:

Lily Loughlin

Shalom Free Clinic

In Honor of:

Baby Blythe DeMartini
Cora Christine Barrett
Peace on Earth

Given by:

Maggie Banes
Christine & David Becker
Cleo Reed

CHAT

In Honor of:

My Grandchildren & My Greats

Given by:

Lucille Wanee

UMCOR

In Honor of:

Mason K. Roach, Isaac Heiman

In Loving Memory of:

Our Parents

Given by:

Louis & Neva Wacker

Given by:

Pauly & Pamela Beeman-Rabut

ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Christmas 2024

Missionary Support: Katherine Parker, Nepal

Suellen Rowlison

In Loving Memory of:

Our Parents, George & Frances Wacker
Ken & Anna Thompson
Carl & Merlon Fanno

Given by:

Louis & Neva Wacker
Larry & Mary Wahl

Heifer Project

Suellen Rowlison

In Loving Memory of:

Bert & Pat Perras-Clavey
June & Jean Rothe
Dick Whitmore
Frank Zebley, Beverly & Richard Swanson

Given by:

Leslie Clavey
Cindy Rothe Caswell
Liza & Wendell Whitmore
Rebecca Zebley

POINSETTIA GIVING

Christmas 2024

Thank you to those who gave poinsettias to decorate and beautify our church for the Christmas Season.

In Honor of

Julieta DeLa Cruz Becker
Dale Hoggins

Placed By

Christine & David Becker
Vicki Hoggins

In Loving Memory of:

Teresa Wilsey, Coleen Schloman's Daughter
Our Parents, Maureen Ediger Carpenter
Donna Hoggins, Bob Hoggins
John & Sue Kaiser
Larry Loughlin
Walter Rothe
Fleda Roy
Dick & Jeanne Sorenson
Les & Ethel Wahl
Our Parents

Placed by:

Coleen & Family
Bob & Pat Ediger
Vicki Hoggins
Kay, MaryJane, Amy, Carol
Lily & Family
Pat Rothe
Brad Roy
Their Children
Larry & Mary Wahl
Joe & Katya Yarosevich

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ENGAGE

GROW

SHARE



WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 5 **EPIPHANY** *and* the Eleventh Day of Christmas

Epiphany circles round again and brings the Magi back to astound and confound us. We will focus on the text found in Matthew 2:1-15, 19-23, hear the message “Dreams, Deception, and Diligence”, celebrate Holy Communion in a kingly way, and even honor the eleven pipers piping!

Sunday, January 12 **Rev, Brian Peterson guest preaching; Minda Fernish at the piano?**

Our worship time today will be wonderfully led by the Rev. Brian Peterson, with musical support provided by Minda Fernish. Two texts grace the day: Isaiah 43:1-7, and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, all stitched together with heartfelt, familiar hymns.

Sunday, January 19 **HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY**

Our annual celebration of the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, our first annual UM Special offering, the uplifting verse of Psalm 36:5-10, and the morning message “Did You Check to Make Sure It Was Plugged In?” will make for an inspiring morning together.

Sunday, January 26

We return to the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, vs. 14-21, where Jesus’ ministry really gets a-rolling. Aside from great music and prayer, the message “It’s a Lot Like Soap” will also feature prominently.