

PASTOR:
Aaron McGruder

WORSHIP COORDINATOR:
Micah Linscott

YOUTH DIRECTOR
Hallie Michael

OFFICE MANAGER &
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Jenny McCoy

CUSTODIAN:
Adriana Cribb



My Confession:

Until, basically yesterday, I misunderstood the song Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song), and I don't know what I was thinking.

I think, when I heard the song, I always sort of assumed Mary was speaking to God the Son (Mary has this incredibly interesting space where she is literally a God-bearer even as she prays that her soul magnifies the Lord), or the Trinity. So, I presumed that the Song-writers (Chris Eaton and Amy Grant) were playing particularly on that idea.

But, one of the things that is repeated in Matthew 1:18-25, is the affirmation that the Holy Spirit is particularly involved in the conception of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 1:18, 20).

This is feeding into a larger theme of the work of the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit is that which brings life when there looks to be no reason to expect life. Perhaps the clearest example of this might be found in Exodus 37, where the prophet Ezekiel is brought out by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley full of dry bones. Ezekiel is commanded to prophesy to those dry bones, and skin covers them. The Lord then commands Ezekiel to prophesy to their spirits, until the spirit comes into them "and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude". The Spirit of the Lord brings restoration when the bodies are not only dead, but the bones are dry.

Now, if you were to look up Ezekiel 37 in your NRSV, you might notice a small discrepancy, in that it reads that Ezekiel was told to prophesy to their breath. So, how can we feel comfortable in saying that the Spirit of the Lord brought Ezekiel to a place where he might prophesy to the spirit of the dry bones? In Hebrew, the Spirit, Wind, and Breath are interconnected concepts that share words (In Ezekiel 37, the word is ruach). It is appropriate to think of the Spirit of God hovering above the Earth, and also appropriate to think of the Breath of God hovering over the Earth.

The connection offered to the song Breath of Heaven is wonderful, because the Breath of Heaven would also be described as the Spirit of God, or the Holy Spirit. The prayer, put into the mouth of Mary by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant, is to the Spirit of God who has made her pregnant.

The song recognizes not only the active work of the Holy Spirit, but also the Spirit's sustaining work. The Holy Spirit was given to later disciples of Jesus as a helper to be with us forever (John 14:16).

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Pen	1
FTPC Financials	2
January Missions:	2
January Calendar	3
February Calendar	4
FTPC Bulletin Board	5
February Missions	6
Community Outreach	7
Annual Meeting	8

(Continued on page 7)

Foster Focus January-February 2025

"Send your resources out over the seas; eventually you will reap a return."
Ecclesiastes 11:1



INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
November 2024	November 2024	November 2024
\$19,631.84	\$16,096.31	\$3,535.53
Year to Date	Year to Date	Year to Date
\$159,496.12	\$175,967.41	\$-16,471.29

January 2025: Wendy Linscott, Ethembeni

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Matthew 6:33

This verse has been a great reminder recently in all my ministries, prayer times and interactions with my son! Amazing to see how when we get our priorities more in line with Him, life done the Father's way makes more sense!

The picture to the right is Nik on his official last day of school lessons with his teachers. They held a Val-edicatory assembly for the Matric students that morning. It was quite the eventful day.



I have been enjoying prayer groups, Bible study, helping with a ministry of Grief Share which just started at our church, play mat sessions, and walking along with some of the people living on the streets. We have seen answers to prayers and had our hearts broken by some choices of these people. I can't even imagine what God's heart does?! Please pray for the Lord's great name to be lifted up in Howick and that people will come to Him and know Him as healer and guide and their answer!

We had a very successful Ethembeni Annual General Meeting in September with God honoring testimonies, practical stuff about ministry income and accountability, and of course, great fellowship. Here is the Maternal health team, with myself and Gail, our Ethembeni director.



For the most part, I hung out with the kiddos, keeping them entertained during the AGM.

We were in the States from December 5th to January 16th and spoke at our home church - FTPC, a Mom's gathering in Boulevard Park, and a lovely church in Sedro Wooley. We were joined by my friend, Tutu Sokhela.

Thunyiwe Sokhela is a well known and respected woman in the Mpophomeni community, where she has dedicated 20 years of service through Ethembeni Tribe of Hope. In 2014 she helped pioneer the organizations Maternal Health program, which she continues to lead with passion and expertise from Ethembeni's Pregnancy Centre. A devoted single Mom to a beautiful and successful daughter, Thunyiwe's life is anchored in her unwavering faith and love for the Lord. Her selflessness, compassion and leadership inspire countless individuals, earning her a special place in the hearts of her colleagues, family and the community she serves.



Things on my heart:

Praise:

- Thank you for your friendship and prayers!
- The Lord's provision

Being able to pray for this beautiful town and surrounding areas and it's people!

(Continued on page 7)

January 2025 - Foster Tukwila Presbyterian

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 1-2:30 pm: Youth Outreach at Ridge Cliff Apartments
5 10:30 am: Worship/Jr Church COMMUNION OUR FINEST GIFTS	6 10 am-12 pm: CEF	7 1:30-3:30 pm: Women's Study 6:00 pm: Youth 6:30 pm: YA Bible Study	8 1:00 pm: PrayTukwila 6:30 pm: Session	9 10:00 am: Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's/Women's Bible Studies	10	11
12 10:30 am: Worship/Jr Church	13	14 6:00 pm: Youth 6:30 pm: YA Bible Study	15	16 10:00 am: Prayer 5 pm: Missions IT 7:00 pm: Young Adults	17	18
19 10:30 am: Worship/Jr Church SOHLS	20 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BDAY OBSERVED	21 1:30-3:30 pm: Women's Study 6:00 pm: Youth 6:30 pm: YA Bible Study	22	23 10:00 am: Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's/Women's Bible Studies	24	25
26 10:30 am: Worship/Jr Church ANNUAL MEETING	27	28 6:00 pm: Youth 6:30 pm: YA Bible Study	29 7:00 pm: Worship IT	30	31	
Youth Retreat @ Island Lake Bible Camp: Friday January 17 - Sunday, January 19, 2025						
2024 ECO NATIONAL GATHERING - DALLAS, TX: ABIDE						

February 2025 - Foster Tukwila Presbyterian

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 1-2:30 pm: Youth Outreach at Ridge Cliff Apartments
2 10:30 am: Worship COMMUNION	3 10 am-12 pm: CEF	4 1:30-3:30 pm: Women's Study 6:00 pm: Youth 6:30 pm: YA Bible Study	5 1 pm: PrayTukwila	6 10:00 am: Prayer 7:00 pm: Young Adults	7	8
9 10:30 am: Worship	10	11 6:00 pm: Youth 6:30 pm: YA Bible Study	12 6:30 pm: Session	13 10:00 am: Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's/ Women's Bible Study	14	15
16 10:30 am: Worship Sweethearts' Potluck	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY	18 1:30-3:30 pm: Women's Study 6:00 pm: Youth 6:30 pm: YA Bible Study	19	20 10:00 am: Prayer 5 pm: Missions IT 7:00 pm: Young Adults	21	22
23 10:30 am: Worship	24	25 6:00 pm: Youth 6:30 pm: YA Bible Study	26 7:00 pm: Worship IT	27 10:00 am: Prayer 7:00 pm: Men's/ Women's Bible Study	28	

Foster Focus January-February 2025

Our Finest Gifts

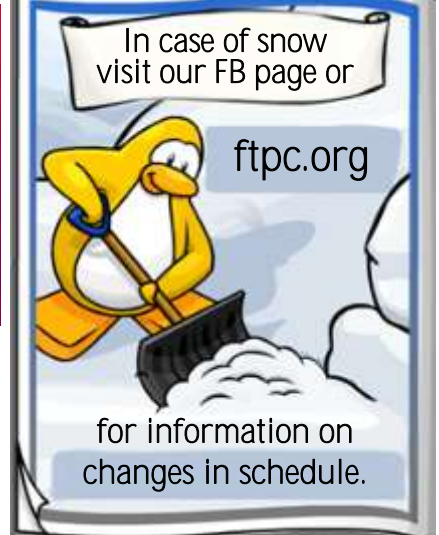


**Epiphany Sunday,
January 5, 2025, 11:30 am**



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS
DIVE INTO GOD'S WORD

Tuesdays, 6:30 pm
YA Bible Study
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7pm
Young Adults
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 pm
Men's/Women's Bible Study



In case of snow
visit our FB page or
ftpc.org
for information on
changes in schedule.

women's
bible study

growing deeper, together

Alternate Tuesdays, 1:30 pm
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:00 pm



Morning
Prayer

Thursdays
10 am

ABIDE

2025 ECO National Gathering
January 27-29, 2025



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders:
2nd Wednesday, 6:30 pm
Deacons: TBD



IMPACT TEAMS

3rd Thursday:
Missions IT, 5:00 pm

Last Wednesday:
Worship IT, 7 pm



SANCTITY OF
HUMAN LIFE
SUNDAY
JANUARY 19, 2025



Winter
Youth
Retreat

**LIGHTHOUSE
YOUTH RETREAT:**
January 17-19, 2025



The Lord's Table
1st Sunday
of the Month



1 pm Wed, January 8
& February 5, 2025
PrayTukwila
Southcenter
Community Baptist

February 2025: Ruth & John Carr, Wycliffe

It seems like in today's world there is not much to celebrate. Unless it is a God thing. In 1999 our organizational leaders gave us a goal. At the time it didn't seem achievable: That by the year 2025 a Bible translation project will be in progress for every people group that needs it. But faith and hard work (and God!) has put the goal within reach. Only 985 to go. It is not about the numbers. It is about God's faithfulness in touching people's hearts, calling workers and providing funds that has brought us closer to this goal. Rejoice with us that the number of languages needing translation has been reduced from over 6,000 in Wycliffe's 90 year history to 985 today. Currently there are 2,146 languages with work being done in them now.



to temporarily change the program into each of the languages so that we could get accurate screen shots. Then John used a computer translating tool to translate the text into each language. Now any of our global staff who speak French, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean or English have the instructions they need for applying for expense reimbursement.

Health-wise we continue to have the occasional minor aging issues. We are sure that many of you agree with us that it is not easy getting old. Ruth asks for prayer for her heart. Occasionally she has a rapid atrial heart beat. It competes with her regular heart beat and is basically harmless, but still dis-

concerting. Even so, we are grateful that we can still do our part.

Our most recent work was assisting the global finance team as they rolled out a new program for use across the whole organization. Our part was creating user guides for those of our staff needing expense reimbursement such as flights to conferences, or even office supplies. It may seem small but it is vital for them to be effective in their jobs.

The challenge for us was that the user guides had to be produced in five languages. We were authorized

But we don't do it alone. It takes a team. A fellow missionary reminded us that when God calls a missionary, He also is calling 30-50 people and several churches to serve alongside them. These will provide the prayer and finances to make the labor effective or even possible. It is not just a call of one missionary family but a team of families and churches that make mission work possible. We thank you for answering that call to partner with us in God's work.

Serving God together with you in His BIG plan for the world!

Ruth & John

If you are interested in supporting the ministry of Ruth and John Carr, visit their Wycliffe information page at <https://wycliffe.org/partner/8dad53> and click on the "Give Now" button.

To send a message of encouragement scroll down to the bottom of the page and click "Send a Note".



Opportunities for Community Outreach

Riverton Park United Methodist has continued in their commitment to care well for asylum seekers living in our area. There are still a large number of adults and children living on the premises today, many of whom are still working to develop skills in English.

One way of addressing the children's need has been to have an additional English class at the church on Mondays at 4 PM, but they need more help! They need additional readers who will be able to read short picture books, and sound out words, with the kids.

If you are interested, please contact Barb Ivanov.

(Continued from page 2)

Prayer requests:

- Father, please reveal Yourself to us all and show us what is in our lives that You hate!!!!
- May we bring You glory, Father God, Jesus and Holy Spirit!

Thank you for your love and prayers!

Shalom,

Wendy and Nikolai Linscott



(Continued from page 1)

In the person of Mary, the Holy Spirit has brought life where there looks to be no reason to expect life, in the womb of a virgin. The language used in Luke 1:35 is "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you". Mary conceives by the Holy Spirit, even as the Holy Spirit fills her. God has not called her to a grand task and left her to it, but has also equipped her for it.

This idea is important to us for we are ones inhabited by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been given to us and lives in us. We carry the One who brings forth life in unexpected places. Today, we are reminded that the same Holy Spirit that is within us also sustains us and helps us in our time of need.

At the core of the song, Breath of Heaven, is the chorus, a prayer which has been answered for every believer in Jesus. The Spirit of God does indeed hold you together. He has been given to you, that He might forever be infinitely close to you. The Darkness has been banished, and the Lord has clothed us with the garments of salvation. Praise the Lord!

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.(1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Pastor Aaron



Jan-Feb 2025

**Foster-Tukwila
Presbyterian
PO Box 88576
Tukwila, WA 98138**

Web: www.ftpc.org
206-243-4455

"To Know Christ & to Make Him Known"

