



# Newsletter

# April

## 2017

Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

April is here, and Spring has officially arrived! In one of his famous comedy routines, Robin Williams once said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's PARTY!'"

I think I speak for many of us when I say that I hope this Spring is nature's way of helping us party by bringing us some more sunshine! But, even if April showers just bring more showers, we have a couple of great reasons to celebrate at East Woods.

With the arrival of Spring, I'm excited to announce the arrival of a new member to the East Woods church staff: Charles Bivens. Charles joins our staff as our new Family Ministries Director. His primary roles will be coordinating and training volunteers for our ministries to children and youth and managing curriculum for Sunday School and Youth Group. Along with his wife Patricia, and Joshua (17), Elizabeth (11), and Elijah (9), Charles has lived in – and shared the gospel in – a number of countries around the world, including Taiwan, Japan, China, Singapore, and the Philippines. He has great experience in ministry with children, youth and families, and he is excited to bring that experience to East Woods.

Charles will begin his ministry at East Woods on Gathering Sunday, April 2. Please pray for him, look for him, and take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome him. Inside this newsletter, you'll find a paragraph and picture from Charles, telling you a little bit more about who he is.

As always, Holy Week will be full of activity and wonder within our church. We'll host our Annual Combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Worship Service on Friday, April 14, at 6 PM. Our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 11 AM on Saturday, April 15. And, on Easter Sunday, you're invited to any or all of our three morning worship services at 6:30 (Sunrise by the fire ring), 8:30 and 10:45. The Holy Week services are an excellent time to invite that friend, coworker, neighbor, or family member to share in the things we love about God and East Woods. I hope you'll seize the opportunities to extend those invitations.

May the Lord bless you and use you as a blessing ~ *Bill*

## CONNECTING TIME

**Christian Education** – the new BELIEVE study will include in April:

- ✦ Bible Study—April 2—Gathering Sunday
- ✦ Single Mindedness—April 9—Palm Sunday
- ✦ Total Surrender—April 16—Easter
- ✦ Biblical Community—April 23
- ✦ Spiritual Gifts—April 30

**Children’s Activity** – Lenten and Easter activities.

**Youth Gathering** – Middle school and high school students are invited to the Redwood/Youth Room for relationship-building and discussions on faith-centered and Bible-oriented topics.

**Mission Time** –

- ✦ April 9—Easter Card Making
- ✦ April 16—Easter!
- ✦ April 23—Mission Meeting
- ✦ April 30—Prayer Shawls

Prayer Shawls are donated to hospitals in Portland, Vancouver, and to people in the community.



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—MARCH 2017

**Tom Koecher**, Elder of Finance, reported that the congregation ended February with a financial surplus of roughly \$3,600. Tom noted the continued work of the Fundraising Committee and the effort on the part of Elders to keep monthly ministry expenses low.

Session approved a proposal from the Personnel Committee to hire **Charles Bivens** as East Woods’ new **Family Ministries Director**. Charles will begin on April 2, and will primarily be responsible for coordinating curriculum, events, and volunteer resources for our ministries to students and families.

Session discussed a possible partnership with **Family Promise of Clark County** (FPCC), an emerging mission affiliate that serves to assist situationally homeless families with children. East Woods has members of the FPCC Host Recruiting Team who will offer presentations about volunteer and hosting opportunities to the congregation with the hope of generating support for the partnership.

**Cathy Roeper**, Elder of Children and Family Ministries, offered an update to Session about the emerging plan for an alternative Vacation Bible School during the summer of 2017. The priority in designing this year’s VBS is offering discipleship experiences that will strengthen relationships and connections among East Woods families. It is likely that a VBS curriculum from a few years ago will be used, and the VBS will likely take place over 3-4 consecutive days, both on the East Woods campus and in various locations out in the community. Children from outside of the East Woods membership will be welcomed to participate by personal invitation from East Woods members.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

### CHILDREN

#### Connecting Time for Children

**April 9-**Lenten Activity and Lord's Prayer Activities

**April 15-**Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 11 AM

**April 16-**Easter Activity



**NOTE:** On **April 9<sup>th</sup>** during Gathering Time, Roberta will have a table set up with different **Bibles and Bible Story Books**. There will be information for ordering the books on your own or talking to Roberta about purchasing the books on the table. These are all great gift ideas for Easter for your children, Grandchildren, Nieces & Nephews or neighbor children. Be sure to check the table out!

*See Children's Choir photos from Sunday, March 19, on Calendar pages.*

### YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group welcomes students from middle school and high school to our regular meetings on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM in the Redwood Room, and at 9:45 AM on Sundays during Connecting Time.

Do you know a youth in Middle School or High School? We will have a **Youth Retreat** on **April 21-22** in the lodge at Camp Currie, on the shore of Lacamas Lake. We will have lots of fun, lots of worship, and lots of fellowship. All while enjoying the rustic lodge, and warming ourselves by the fireplace. All of our youth are invited, as well as friends and families. RSVP is greatly encouraged, to ensure we have enough food for everyone. Adults are also invited to participate for as little or as much as you like. Come for a few hours and enjoy the fun or bring your pillow and sleep over with us in the lodge. See **Jeff Kennedy**, Youth Elder, for details.



**OUR ANNUAL EAST WOODS EASTER EGG HUNT** is **Saturday, April 15th at 11 AM**. We need donations of plastic eggs and small individually-wrapped candies that will fit into the plastic eggs.

You may leave donations in the marked bin in Evergreen Hall.

*Please invite family, friends and neighbors!*

## THE DEACONS' CORNER

Deacons Moderator Lynne Helmke

**Pat Norby** joined East Woods in the fall of 2010, after attending East Woods for about a year and feeling that it was a place she belonged. Pat served as a deacon and elder at Columbia Presbyterian, but was not actively involved in a church for about the next twenty years. Retiring from Evergreen Schools in 2010 brought opportunities for reprioritizing her time, and renewing her relationship with God and church. Quilting, gardening, reading, walking and kayaking seem to make the days too short!



*Pat Norby*

Pat's Mom, Jerry Sanford, joins her in worship each Sunday and thoroughly enjoys the fellowship with our church family. Pat has a very supportive partner, Emmett, a son and daughter-in-law Jay and Stacey, and daughter and son-in-law Lisa and Dan. She especially enjoys spending time with and watching the sports activities of grandchildren Kate and Jacob.

Pat is deacon to: Wayne and Kelli Denman, Tawnya Mahurin, Kathy & Tom Mulder, Tammy O'Neil, Shawn and Tami Perov, Kirk and Lisa Pickering, Bill Reeburgh, Anne and Dave Sauerbrey, and Richard and Sherrie Scoville



## MEET OUR NEW FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

**Charles Bivens** spent his early ministry years in Asia in the areas of mission, church planting and church growth. While in Asia he received his Master in theology degree from the University of Wales, Mattersey Hall, England. He moved with his family to the Portland, OR area in 2008 and served on staff with several local churches in the areas of Pastoral Ministry, Christian education and Discipleship.

His wife Patricia, a native of Taipei, Taiwan, works as a Peer Mentor in the Transitional Studies Program at Clark College while she upgrades her administrative skills. Charles and Patricia have three children, all born in Taiwan and all speaking Mandarin fluently—Joshua 17, Elizabeth 11, and Elijah 9.



Charles is very excited to be joining the staff and family at East Woods Presbyterian! His passions include seeing every person walk in the freedom and fullness that God offers them.

## MISSION

The Mission Commission meets on the third Sunday of each month at noon.

### Connection Time information for April:

April 9	Easter Card Making
April 16	Easter Sunday—No Connection time activity
April 23	Mission Commission Meeting
April 30	Prayer Shawl Making

Prayer Shawls are donated to hospitals in Portland and Vancouver, and to people in the community.



### Please Note:

**The Women's Breakfast** will **not** meet during April due to the number of events on the East Woods calendar. We will resume again on the on **May 20**, the third Saturday, at the usual time 9:00-10:30 AM.



New small groups will be forming following Easter.

Groups can be focused on study, fellowship or mission activities.

If you are interested in starting or helping to moderate a small group, please contact **Cynthia Younger** at 360-837-2381.

### INTRODUCING JJ, THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE SPERRY FAMILY

JJ is a Bichon Frise and was born on January 18.



## NOTES FROM THE BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMISSION

**ROOF CLEANING** East Woods has engaged a service to remove the moss, which has become thick and potentially damaging, from the North side of our roof. Many thanks to Rob Pfiefer who pushed for this to happen and then found this service! “Bos Window Cleaning” is making an offer to East Woods members if you use their service: cleaning windows, removing moss from roofs and clearing gutters. They will kick back 10% of their fees to the church if you hire them.

They can be found at <http://boswindowcleaning.com> or call them at 360-487-9052 for a quote. Mention you are with East Woods and would like a portion of their fees to go to the church. If you have further questions about this contact **Keith Bloss** at 209-329-2751.

**VANDALISM** East Woods continues to experience vandalism and littering throughout our campus. Several different small utility covers have been destroyed now and most recently, last Friday, the window to our shed was broken again but nothing was stolen this time from the inside. B&G continues to explore extra lighting and camera options. The County Sheriff’s department is well aware of our problems. If you are ever driving around the church at night and see something that doesn’t look right, please contact **Keith Bloss** at 209-329-2751 or **Ron Prestwood** at 503-341-5881

**PAPER PRODUCT USAGE** With the addition of Epikos to our campus, paper product usage has gone up considerably in our restrooms. Please help the cleaning crews maintain availability of paper towels in the dispensers and toilet tissue in the stalls. Both of those products are in the men’s restroom in a cupboard right inside the door. Regular paper towels for usage are also located there along with various other supplies (seat covers, liquid hand soap etc). There’s a key to the dispenser in a small jar (obvious) next to the paper towels. If there is no man to ask in the building, knock first and then head on in.



### *SESSION HIGHLIGHTS continued from page 2*

**Keith Bloss**, Elder of Buildings and Grounds, reported that the facility use partnership with Epikos Church is going very well and that Epikos is an excellent caretaker of the church campus and resources. East Woods banners have been placed at the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> St. and 162<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to balance the Epikos banner and sign boards placed in that location and in the nearby community. East Woods members are encouraged to attend an Epikos worship service on Saturday evenings and to offer support and appreciation for the partnership.

## EAST WOODS ACTIVITIES -- SAVE THE DATE:

April 8	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM
April 9	Palm Sunday
April 14	Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service, 6 PM
April 15	Annual East Woods Easter Egg Hunt, 11 AM
April 16	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
April 21-22	Youth Group Retreat
May 4-7	Men's Walk to Emmaus
May 13	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM
May 18-21	Women's Walk to Emmaus
May 20	Women's Breakfast, 9-10:30 AM
May 21	Lunch at Olive Garden
August 25-26	Annual Rummage Sale
October 5-8	Men's Walk to Emmaus
October 19-22	Women's Walk to Emmaus
October 29	Trunk-or-Treat

*For more information on these events, please visit our  
"Happenings" web page at [www.eastwoodspres.org/happenings](http://www.eastwoodspres.org/happenings)*

### HOLY WEEK AT EAST WOODS

#### **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES— Sunday, April 9, 8:30 & 10:45AM**

On Palm Sunday, we sing "Hosanna!" to declare that, in Jesus Christ, God's salvation has come. Join the celebration as we wave palm branches and worship Christ, our humble and triumphant King.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY / GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – Friday, April 14, 6:00 PM** This combined dinner and worship gathering will offer a powerful experience of Jesus' last hours with his disciples, from the Last Supper to his final breath on the cross.

#### **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – Sunday, April 16, 6:30 AM**

Celebrate the rising of the Son with the rising of the sun! This is a relaxed and joyful chance to gather with friends and worship together around the East Woods Fire Ring. Warm clothes and warm hearts recommended.

#### **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES – Sunday, April 16, 8:30 & 10:45 AM**

Easter is truly THE celebration of the Christian year. We'll fire up the bluegrass band, cover the cross in flowers, and praise the Savior who has defeated death, made us children of the living God, and offered us everlasting life. Christ is risen!



*May Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, April 18*

**Office hours: Tuesday 1-3 PM, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM**

**Church Phone: 944-5841**

**16210 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA 98684**

**Rev. Bill Sperry**

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**Susie Freeman**

Church Admin, [secretary@eastwoodspres.org](mailto:secretary@eastwoodspres.org)

**Charles Bivens**

Family Ministries Director, [charles@eastwoodspres.org](mailto:charles@eastwoodspres.org)

Please visit our website at [www.eastwoodspres.org](http://www.eastwoodspres.org)



**EAST WOODS**

*Presbyterian Church*

**16210 NE 20th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98684**