



## NEWSLETTER



Dear East Woods Family and Friends~

As I write this cover letter, I'm flying across the country to begin six weeks of Chaplain School in Columbia, South Carolina. I will miss you during this time, and you will be in my prayers. I also know that our congregation will thrive while I'm away. I know this, first and foremost, because we worship and serve a wonderful God who remains at the head of the church and who keeps us connected by His Spirit, regardless of the distance between us. Also, I've spent the past couple of months working with some very faithful leaders to ensure that the worship, community, and discipleship of our congregation will continue with quality and care. East Woods is in good hands. I'm grateful to each of you for your support of my ministry as a Navy Chaplain and for this opportunity to grow in my service of God and country.

As I've considered what to write for this cover letter, I've thought about another meaningful experience I had with the Navy during June. On June 9, I had the privilege of riding in to Portland for Fleet Week and Rose Fest aboard the USS Russell. Along with the cover of my summer whites uniform, I got to wear two hats that day. First, I was a guest of the ship's crew and was treated with exceptional hospitality and the respect garnered by my rank. Second, as a uniformed officer, I was a host to the civilian guests who were also invited to share the ride. In many ways, the experience reminded me of pastoring. As a Presbyterian minister, I'm not a member of East Woods but rather of the Presbytery. In that way, East Woods isn't my ship. It's God's ship, and you're the crew. But, for a time, I have been given the privileged invitation of joining you on the ride for a season and experiencing your outstanding service and hospitality. Because of my position, I've also been given the privilege of welcoming guests, serving in partnership with you, and supporting and representing our name and our shared mission. Could there be a cooler deal for me?

That balance is what I see reflected in this photo (next page) from my ship ride. I get to wear the uniform of leadership. Because of my role as pastor, I'm often seen as the face of our ship and offered the respect and recognition of that role. Yet, the real credit is due to the Captain on the Bridge, who is unseen in the photo, and to the humble and faithful crew surrounding me on all sides. That humble and faithful crew is you, and I'm grateful for all you have done and will continue to do while I'm away.

*Continued on Page 2*

Continued from Page 1



In his first letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote a statement about life together in Christian community that has provided me with something of a worship-related purpose statement during the past five years of my ministry. *“What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”* 1 Corinthians 14:26

Paul recognized that worship and ministry are not a pastor show. It’s never about one person. Life in ministry together is a community effort. It’s a family affair. And, each one of us has a valid, relevant walk with Christ that should be valued and can be used to build one another up, to enrich our life together and our worship of God.

I trust that, as I’m gone, you will continue to come together and to bring your best to the mission of the USS East Woods. Continue to build one another up as you build God’s kingdom for God’s glory. Lord willing, I’ll see you in August and enjoy the privilege of continuing to sail with you in partnership and in Christ. Until then, may the grace, peace, blessings and presence of the Captain of the Church be with you.

For His glory~ *Bill*

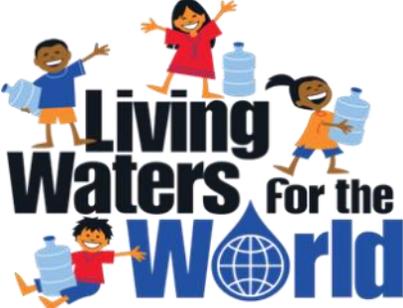


### JUNE 2016 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ Session welcomed our newly elected Ruling Elders, **Cathy Roeper** and **Cynthia Younger**, and voted to extend voice and vote to them at the Session table. In prayer, **Pastor Bill** also recognized the outgoing Ruling Elders, **Arla Olsen**, **Lynne Helmke** and **Tim Martinez**, and offered thanks and praise for their years of service.
- ✦ Session reviewed and discussed the Purpose Statement, Vision Priorities and Strategies provided in December 2013 by the **Vision Discernment Team (VDT)**, with special consideration given to the concept of Worship + 2. This discussion will be continued at the August Session meeting with the hope of progressing in our application of the VDT's work.
- ✦ **Larry Asher**, Clerk of Session, reported on changes to the congregation's active membership, including the removal of nine members due to extended absence or member request and the addition of Wayne and Kelli Denman as new members.
- ✦ Pastor Bill reported that the installation of the improved **Sanctuary sound system** and the acoustic treatments for Evergreen Hall has been postponed to August due to delivery delays and technical complications. The August installation will also include a second projector in the Sanctuary.
- ✦ Session discussed the congregation's existing policies regarding alcohol. Session voted to apply the following policy for all facility use scenarios on the East Woods campus: ***"No alcoholic beverages may be served or consumed on East Woods church property, including all parking areas."***
- ✦ Session discussed the congregation's existing policies regarding **background checks** for church staff and for all volunteers working with minors or church-related finances. Session voted to defer to the Personnel Committee the task of updating our policy and process for background checks. Session also voted to remind all staff and volunteers involved with Vacation Bible School that two or more adults should be present with children at all times for mutual protection and accountability.
- ✦ **Keith Bloss**, Elder of Buildings and Grounds, discussed B&G's need to purchase a larger riding mower and to expand East Woods' storage facilities. The estimated cost of these projects is \$6,000-\$7,000.

**Note: *Session will not meet in August.***

FAMILY MINISTRIES—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016 !



### WHERE HAVE ALL THE SHEPHERDS GONE?

At our recent Congregational Meeting, Pastor Bill had the opportunity to introduce our two new Elder-elects, **Cathy Roeper** and **Cynthia Younger** as well as something new to East Woods, namely **Deacon-elects: Nancy Dean, Wayne Denman, Lynne Helmke, Pat Norby, Conni Pfeifer, Ronda Peterson, Sheldon Tyler and Gordon Wehner.**

Our denomination has a long history of valuing the importance both Elders and Deacons serve within their congregations. The Book of Order puts it this way: *“The ministry of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness and service, sharing the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.”* (Book of Order G2:0201). Many of our soon-to-be Deacons have served as Shepherds and we are grateful to all the Shepherds who have faithfully served East Woods in this capacity.

You may be wondering why we made this change. The answer is two-fold: As ordained members of the congregation, Deacons will be able to serve Communion at church as well as offer home communion to members who are ill, in the hospital or homebound. Secondly, like Elders, they serve for a specified period of time, typically three years.

We are eager to serve all of you and we welcome your feedback. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions or needs. You can also contact **Lynne Helmke**, 883-5661, who will be serving as Deacon Moderator for the next year.



### GATHERING SUNDAY(S)

The Hospitality Committee will be taking July and August off. We'll be back in **September** at our **new Gathering Sunday time of 9:45** to begin serving breakfast to both the **8:30 AM** and **10:45 AM** Worship-goers!

We're excited about this change—  
watch for more announcements in the weeks ahead.

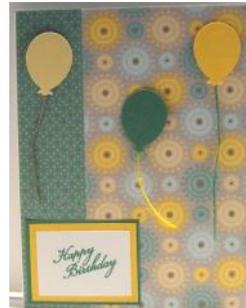
MISSION AND COMMUNITY



OUR ANNUAL EAST WOODS RUMMAGE SALE IS AUGUST 26-27

Please start saving items to be donated.  
Volunteers will be needed—sign-up sheets will be available in  
Evergreen Hall (Narthex) beginning July 17.  
For more information, contact **Peggy Konzek**, 256-4675

CARD-MAKING will be **Monday, July 25th**,  
at Brookdale Fisher's Landing, 17171 SE  
22nd Dr, at 1 PM. We will help residents sign  
birthday cards for those with birthdays in  
August; assemble birthday cards for residents  
and staff birthdays; and AnyVeteran cards  
from card kits.



The UGANDAN KIDS CHOIR will be providing an exuberant performance  
at **6:30 PM, Sunday, July 10, 2016** at First Presbyterian Church,  
4300 Main Street, in Vancouver. This talented Choir is a ministry of  
Childcare Worldwide, which has been dedicated to empowering children  
in the developing world since 1981. Childcare Worldwide brings hope to  
children in need by providing them with an education that will set them  
up for future employment and break the cycle of poverty in their lives.



***Save the Date – JOIN US FOR LUNCH!***

Join us, **Sunday, July 17** at **Applebee's** for lunch after the service. This is our 5th Restaurant of the Month gathering. We had 34 folks in June, so don't hesitate to come join us.

***Purchase your restaurant scrip gift cards by July 10.***

***Just-in-time delivery - July 17!***

**Each month a new restaurant is announced. Watch for this logo.**

***Hope to see you there!***



The movie begins at dusk, about 9 PM, on the East Woods lawn.

Bring a chair or a blanket and join the fun.

Coming movie nights are

**July 15,** "Star Wars: The Force Awakens;"

**July 29,** "The Emperor's New Groove;"

**August 5,** "Zootopia;" **August. 19,** "Frozen"

***East Woods Women's Breakfast***



*We will **not** meet in June, July or August*

*Women's Breakfast will resume on September 17.*



*There will not be a Newsletter in August—watch for it in September!*

**Office hours: Tuesday 1-4 PM, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM**

**Church Phone: 944-5841**

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

**Rev. Bill Sperry**

[pastor@eastwoodspres.org](mailto:pastor@eastwoodspres.org)

**Hailey Vandewiele**

Director of Family Ministries, [hailey@eastwoodspres.com](mailto:hailey@eastwoodspres.com)

**Susie Freeman**

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

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



16210 NE 20th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98684