



Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

It happened again a couple of weeks ago. We had a less-than-perfect Sunday morning worship service. There are always subtle jokes floating around about how our 8:45 AM service is sort of a dress rehearsal for the 10:30 service. But, two weeks ago, I found myself particularly thankful to have a second shot at presenting our Pentecost service.

Some who were there at 8:45 will remember exactly what I'm talking about. Some probably won't realize much was amiss. But, to a detail-oriented guy like me who really cares about the quality of what we offer God and one another on Sunday mornings, it was a huge mess. Readings were botched, cues were missed, screen slides had typos, there were inconsistencies between our bulletin and our actual flow of worship, microphones weren't all turned on, and then everyone had to listen to me preach! Lord, have mercy on us all.

In the middle of it all, God offered a reminder. We sang the song, "Your Grace is Enough," which includes the lyric, "*Great is your love and justice, God. You use the weak to lead the strong.*" And, in an instant, I was reminded that God has always worked with our imperfections to bring His perfection into glorious light. As the Lord said to the Apostle Paul, "***My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.***" In the light of that grace, Paul responded, "***So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.***"
2 Corinthians 12:9

The whole thing was a great setup for our May Session meeting. At the start of the meeting, Session talked about what makes East Woods unique. To put it in corporate terms, we asked ourselves, "What's the product we offer that identifies us and makes us unique as a congregation of disciples?" After a lot of good-natured discussion, the only real identifier that every one of us could agree on was our imperfection. We agreed that we're not particularly flashy, and we're not expecting anyone else to be. We're not hiding anything, and we don't expect anyone else to. We are an imperfect people genuinely growing in perfection together as we worship, serve, and follow THE perfect God.

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Our core identity doesn't come from what we produce. Our core identity comes from the Lord who sacrificed His own Son so that we could be known by His name and His perfection. As the writer of Hebrews wrote, ***"For by a single offering [the Lord] has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."*** Hebrews 10:14 Apart from God, the products of our lives will always be imperfect. But the good news is, in Christ, we are perfected, and we are the product that God cares about most.

May the one who began a good work among us will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ! ~ *Bill*

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 10:00 AM
for the purpose of electing three new Elders and new Deacons.

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS
Do you have questions about East Woods Church? Have you been considering becoming a member here? Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 12** for a luncheon and class from **Noon – 4:00 PM** at the church. This is a friendly and informative lunch class. Being ready to join the church is not a requirement of those who attend. If you are interested and would like to attend, please contact the church office at 944-5841.

EAST WOODS ACTIVITIES -- SAVE THE DATE:

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| June 5 | Food/Art/Music Festival |
| June 12 | Restaurant of the Month Lunch at Olive Garden |
| June 18-25 | PCUSA General Assembly, Portland |
| June 19 | Father's Day and Graduation Sunday |
| June 26-30 | Vacation Bible School (VBS) |
| August 26-27 | Annual Rummage Sale |
| September 2-5 | Family Camp |
| October 27-30 | Men's Walk to Emmaus |
| November 10-13 | Women's Walk to Emmaus |

**Coming to East Woods
on Sunday, June 5 - 5-8 PM**
Our first
Food / Art / Music Festival
Families welcome!
See details at www.eastwoods.org/happenings

MAY 2016 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session approved a proposal supported by the Finance Committee to hire Platinum AVL, the company responsible for the sound system and acoustics installation at Columbia Presbyterian Church, to install upgrades to our facility. Sound control acoustic treatments will be installed in Evergreen Hall, making conversation easier to hear and understand during gatherings there. A high-quality sound system and second projector will also be installed in the Sanctuary for better audio quality and coverage during worship services, meetings and concerts. Session approved the use of up to \$16,500 for the upgrades, which will come from both restricted and unrestricted accounts established for facility enhancements and audio/visual upgrades. The upgrades are scheduled to be completed during June.

The East Woods Finance Committee reported that year-to-date expenses have exceeded income by roughly \$2,700.

Session continued its discussion about a possible change to East Woods' policy prohibiting the serving and consumption of alcohol on church property. Because of the sensitive nature of the topic, Elders agreed to discuss the idea at the commission and committee level to gain a better sense of the congregation's feelings and convictions. Session hopes to be ready to vote to approve or reject the policy change at the June 20th Session meeting. Until the vote is taken, the current policy prohibiting alcohol on church property remains in force.

Tim Martinez, Elder to Children and Family Ministries, proposed a new worship service to be held during the evening once a month this coming summer. The service is intended to provide a worship opportunity for families who are unable to attend worship on Sunday mornings but express interest in worshipping as part of the East Woods congregation. While the details around the service are still in process, it is likely that the services would be held on Sunday evenings outdoors on the church yard with a casual format that is discussion oriented and based on the themes introduced at this year's Vacation Bible School. If the service is successful this summer, it will likely be recommended as a weekly opportunity beginning in the summer of 2017.



FAMILY MINISTRIES

From **Tim Martinez**, Children & Family Ministries Elder.

Let's play a game. In a moment, I want you to close your eyes, and when you do, I want you to imagine what a Sunday School teacher looks like. OK, close your eyes. Did you see that teacher? What did that teacher look like? A woman? An older woman perhaps? If you had the Catholic upbringing I did, you may have seen an older woman with glasses that sat forward on her nose so she could look sternly at you over the top of them. But in my years as member at East Woods, I have found my vision of what that Sunday School teacher might look like has changed dramatically.

It's June, which means it's a month for Grads and Dads. It's a month when we celebrate milestones of accomplishment and the men who helped those milestones become realities. For this father, this June brings a milestone of sorts. After five years of service as an elder on East Woods' Session, I am rotating off our church's leadership team. Normally, an elder serves a three-year term. I served my first two years as an elder of Adult Ministry. When a vacancy on Session opened up that I felt better called for, I decided to serve my third year on Session as the elder of Children & Family Ministry. In time, the third year became a fourth year, and the fourth year became a fifth year. But now I believe is time for new leadership in this pivotal ministry area and a new voice on Session.

As such, I'd like to briefly share my faith journey. My family became members at East Woods in 2002. At the time, my swing-shift work schedule led me to become a sort of stay-at-home dad during the daytime hours for my daughter, age 4 at the time. When word came of East Woods' Vacation Bible School, which was held in the morning at that time, I was excited at the opportunity to send my daughter to VBS, allowing me three hours of freedom for five days during the summer. But then came the call: "If you are available to help out with VBS, we are in desperate need of volunteers to make our program a success." Reluctantly, I answered the call. So much for three hours of freedom.

When asked where I wanted to help, I answered "Wherever you need me." They needed someone to lead Bible Story Time. What did I know about Bible Story Time? How was I supposed to teach these kids about the Bible? But with some guidance, I was able to do that, with one piece of clever advice: If you can make the lesson make sense to you, you can have it make sense to the kids. And that's what I did. I shaped and tweaked the lessons to my strengths. If I could have fun in teaching these lessons to kids, they would have fun. And if they had fun, they learned. That VBS experience led me into the Sunday School class, where I've spent the past 14 years working to bring God's Word alive to our children in a fun and engaging way.

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Now, let's go back to that vision of a Sunday School teacher. Would you believe that vision can be of anyone? Female, male, old, young, long-time church attendee or a relative newcomer. Is it possible that teacher might look like you? You don't need to be a Biblical scholar. You just need a heart for children and a desire to answer God's calling. I can tell you from personal experience that I have learned as much about God's Word from teaching it to children than I have from any class, any Bible Study, any retreat or even any sermon (Sorry, Bill). As I have taught the children, they have taught me.

The Bible is littered with stories of reluctant prophets, people who answered God's call with a "Why me?" Often, the answer is "because you are needed."

And there is a need. We are constantly searching for help for VBS, which runs 5-8 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, June 26-30. We need group leaders, activity leaders, musicians, help with set-up and decorations, help with registration. If VBS doesn't fit your schedule, consider helping in Sunday School. If becoming a teacher is a leap too big, we also need second adults in every class. These adults assist the teacher in whatever way he or she may need. It's a much less intimidating introduction into this crucial ministry area.

One last game. Close your eyes again. But this time I don't want you to envision anything. This time, listen. Listen to what God is calling you to do.

Vacation Bible School

- June 26th – 30th 5–8 PM in the evening.
- Ages 5 through Grade 5, \$10 per student, \$25 per family!
- Online Registration opens June 1st at our website, www.eastwoodspres.org
- Paper Registration available at the church through June 26th 2016, or until filled.
- Volunteer opportunities available for teens and adults – if you're interested, please contact Hailey Vandewiele at Hailey@eastwoodspres.org, or call at 503.310.7607
- FINAL VBS VOLUNTEER Meeting – Sunday June, 12th at 11:50.

Family Camp Registration is now available! The camp is a joint group of EWPC, and First Presbyterian families from Vancouver WA. It will be held at Fort Stevens State Park from September 2-5, 2016. You can find Family Camp registration forms on the opportunity table at the church. Please contact **Tim Martinez** TMartinez0408@gmail.com for more information.

Children's choir will be having their final Season Performance on June 12th. At that point we will take a break through the summer, starting again in the Fall, with weekly practices during the education hour between Sunday Services.

Hailey Vandewiele Hailey@eastwoodspres.org
Family Ministries Director

MISSION

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, WE ARE CELEBRATING SHARE.

Some of the household items they need are:

Napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, sponges, dishwashing soap, laundry soap, window cleaner, bathroom cleaner, and kitchen cleaner.

There will be a bin designated for Share in Evergreen Hall (Narthex).

OUR ANNUAL EAST WOODS RUMMAGE SALE IS AUGUST 26 & 27

Please start saving your items to be donated. Volunteers will be needed—sign-up sheets will be available starting in mid-July.

For more information: Peggy Konzek, 256-4675



CARD MAKING is on Monday, June 27th, 1 PM at Brookdale at Fisher's Landing, 17171 SE 22nd Dr., Vancouver. We will be helping residents sign birthday cards for those with July birthdays; and also signing AnyVeteran cards and making other cards from kits. Questions? Contact **Esther Ellis**, mission@eastwoodspres.org.



U R SPECIAL BOOKS ARE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN

of homeless veterans in Southwest Washington by **Soldiers' Angels** at Stand Down dinners. Each book is made with five pages of 6 x 6 cardstock/paper and includes encouraging messages or uplifting quotes. Recently a Fisher House™ for Oregon and SW Washington opened on Mill Plain. Fisher House™ is "a home away from home" for families and caregivers of veterans and active duty Service members receiving medical care at major military and VA Medical Centers. These "comfort homes" are normally located within walking distance of the treatment facility or have transportation available. Family members and Caregivers may stay in VA Fisher Houses at no cost so they can be at the bedside of their hospitalized loved one during treatment for an illness or injury. There has been a request for U R Special books for the young children who stay during a family member's treatment.

Book kits containing a sample and all the materials needed to assemble a book are available. They are available at Card-Making meetings or from **Esther Ellis** at missions@eastwoodspres.org



East Woods Women's Breakfast



*We will not meet in June, July
or August
Women's Breakfast will resume on
September 17.*

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP HAPPY HOUR The men's ministry is hosting a monthly gathering of guys at McMenamins, across from the church. This is a regular meeting at 5:30 PM on the fourth Monday of the month. Come join us for a drink, snack or dinner and, most importantly, fellowship. For more information, contact Tim Martinez at tmartinez0408@gmail.com.



JOIN US FOR LUNCH! East Woods Family & Friends are next meeting on **Sunday, June 12** at Olive Garden for lunch after the late service. Join us for our 3rd Restaurant of the Month gathering!

FAMILY CAMP SIGN-UPS

This year East Woods is partnering with First Presbyterian of Vancouver for our annual Family Camp, **September 2-5** (Labor Day Weekend), at Fort Stevens State Park near Astoria, OR. Cost is \$75/site for three nights. Registration forms are on the Opportunity Table. For more information, contact **Tim Martinez**, tmartinez0408@gmail.com or **Lynne Helmke**, lynne_helmke@yahoo.com

DO YOU HAVE A FEW EXTRA HOURS TO SPARE EACH MONTH? We could sure use a bit of extra help! Sign up as a substitute or join a cleaning team to help keep our church sparkling! Sign-up sheets are at the Opportunity Table in the Narthex or contact **Keith Bloss**, 209-329-2761.



July Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, June 21

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

Church Phone: 944-5841

16210 NE 20th Street, Vancouver, WA 98684

Rev. Bill Sperry pastor@eastwoodspres.org
Hailey Vandewiele Director of Family Ministries, hailey@eastwoodspres.com
Susie Freeman Church Admin, secretary@eastwoodspres.org

Please visit our website at www.eastwoodspres.org



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