



Newsletter



March 2020

Dear East Woods Family and Friends~

Wow, it feels like a long time since I last wrote those words for an East Woods Newsletter! I hope each of you is doing well. In the time that I've been on deployment and sabbatical, some wonderful things have happened in the life of our congregation. Those victories made me think of one of the parables Jesus told in Matthew 25. The Parable of the Talents tells the story of a master who went away for a long trip and left some of his servants to steward his resources while he was gone. In verses 19-21, Jesus said:

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Before you jump to any conclusions, I certainly don't see myself as the Master of East Woods! Christ will always be the Head of the Church. The comparison here only goes so far. But, as I shared with our Elders recently, I certainly believe that you all have been very faithful servants and good stewards of God's resources during the time I've been away.

Consider these five "talents" you have stewarded well. 1) Our focus on family, relationships, and community has been nurtured, and membership has grown in a time of transition; 2) Mission and ministry projects, including Family Promise and weekly Sunday services, have grown and thrived; 3) Our facility has been managed well, with great efforts being dedicated to the Land Sale and our partnerships with Epikos Church and Unity Family Church; 4) Staff and leadership transitions have been governed with care, integrating some excellent new staff members and a newly elected Officer Nominating Committee; and 5) Finances have reflected faithful generosity, having finished 2019 in the black following a successful "30 K in 30 Days" campaign. WOW!! And that's just a partial list! Well done, good and trustworthy servants.

As a result of all of this, in the spirit of what Jesus taught in the parable, I have great faith that God has seen your trustworthiness and will delight in blessing us with His joy and with more of His resources.

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What that all will look like in the months and years ahead remains to be seen. I'm just excited to be on the journey with you!

We are now in the Season of Lent, a time set aside during our liturgical year for turning away from sin and turning back to God's ways and God's will. Some big events are happening between now and Easter Sunday. On March 1, Brian will preach his last sermon as Bridge Pastor, and we'll celebrate his ministry with a party that same morning. Also on March 1, we'll commission both Pastor Brian and John Asher as both men prepare to move forward to their next ministry calls. From March 8 through Easter, I'll offer some sermons related to my deployment experiences and Jesus' call to discipleship. I hope you'll join me, and I look forward to worshiping with you again. In the meantime, I wish you God's blessings with a grateful and eager heart! In partnership for His glory ~ *Bill*

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS

Sunday, March 22, 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM in the Redwood Room

Interested in learning more about East Woods membership? Roughly twice a year, Pastor Bill leads this interactive and informative one-day class to discuss these questions:

- How has God shaped our different journeys of faith to bring us here?
- What makes Christianity different from other religions?
- How has the history of the Church shaped Presbyterians?
- Is East Woods the right fit for you?
- What are the benefits and expectations of membership in this congregation?

A light lunch will be provided by our Hospitality team, and child care will be provided upon request. ***Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 17*** so that we can have everything needed for the class.

RSVP to Susie Freeman Susie@eastwoodspres.org or
by calling the church office at (360) 944-5841



2020 HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

- ✦ Palm Sunday Worship Service – April 5 @ 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
- ✦ Good Friday Tenebrae Service – April 10 @ 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
- ✦ Easter Sunrise Service – April 12 @ 6:30 AM outdoors around the East Woods Fire Ring
- ✦ Easter Sunday Service – April 12 @ 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary

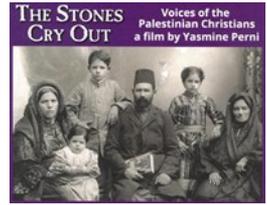
FAMILY MINISTRIES

YOUTH AWAY: MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, March 8th 5:30pm @ St. Luke's

Middle & High School students are invited – along with their parents – to attend a screening of *Let The Stones Cry Out*, a documentary on Palestinian Christians, complete with cultural appetizers, beverages, and a time for questions afterward.

Feel free to meet us there, or be at East Woods by 5:00 PM to carpool together. Questions? Contact Kevin kevin@eastwoodspres.org or 503.866.8904) St. Luke's ~ San Lucas Episcopal Church is at 426 E 4th Plain Blvd.



SNOW TUBING (all-ages)

Saturday, March 28th—9:00 AM



The March all-ages event is on the slopes of Mt. Hood for a couple hours of snow tubing. So grab your snow tube or disc and meet at the church, where we'll head up to a Snow Park together. Don't have a tube? We can rent them there! The snow park will have at least a warming station and restrooms, but possibly no lodge, so dress accordingly.

Contact **Kevin Gates** kevin@eastwoodspres.org or 503.866.8904

SPRING BREAK MOVIE DAY

Wednesday, April 1st—11:00 AM (no fooling!)

3rd – 12th grade students are invited to come to the church for a movie, tacos, and popcorn to celebrate that school is out and watching movies together is fun.



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 11th—11:00 AM



Mark your calendars now for our Annual Egg Hunt the day before Easter.

We'll have candy-filled eggs, face painting, prizes, and more! We hope to see you then. Questions?

Contact **Kevin Gates** kevin@eastwoodspres.org or 503.866.8904

Individually-wrapped Candy Donations will be accepted starting March 15th

VBS 2020: KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE

Mon-Fri, June 22nd - 25th 5:00—8:00 PM

North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The King's valiant Knights are on a quest in search of the King's Armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is.

Help kids take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to "armor up" and be strong by remaining with God.

Be sure to mark your calendars now for this week of learning about taking up the armor of God. Online Registration will be open after Easter Sunday.

VBS Volunteer meeting will be April 26th after church.



Children in Worship Service

I love Sunday School, and know that it is a great thing to have a time for children to learn from a lesson that is meant for their age level, but there has been a movement in many church to have children separated from adults at all times. Tamera Kraft, founder of *Revival Fire Kids Ministry*, gives us these 5 reasons for to consider as we welcome families and their children into our worship services.

1. Children should not be removed from the main body for convenience sake.
This is one reason churches remove children. They want a professional church service where adults can enjoy the worship without being disrupted by noisy children. In Matthew 19:14 *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*
2. Children are a part of the Body of Christ.
They are an important part of the church and shouldn't always be excluded when the church meets. In Paul's letters to the Ephesians, he gave instructions directly to the children to obey their parents. He considered them a part of the church that he was writing to.
3. Children need godly examples of how to worship.
If children never see adults in the main service worshipping, if they aren't encouraged to join that time of worship, they won't know how to worship, what the elements of the service mean, or what is expected of them.
4. Children need to feel like they are a part of the church community.
If children are always separated from the body of Christ, they will never feel like they are a part of the church community. And the members of the church will never get to know the children and be an example to them unless they work in children's ministry.
5. Children who don't feel like a part of the church community will leave church when they're older.
Imagine the culture shock of a child who has been in church all of their lives but have never been in the main service. Suddenly the child turns 10 or 12, or 18 years old. They graduate to "big church". The music is strange. There are no games, skits or illustrations, only some guy he's never met preaching for a half hour or longer. He doesn't know any of the people. And there's no candy (usually).

That's what happens to a child who is never in the main service. Within a few months, maybe even a few weeks, they may decide they don't want to be there. We've indirectly taught them to look for a church that entertains them and isn't boring. If they don't find one, they often choose to drop out of church. This may be why so many young people are no longer attending church: They never were a part of the church.

Let us pray and consider how we can come alongside younger believers and invite them into the full worship of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Kevin Gates, Children & Youth Director

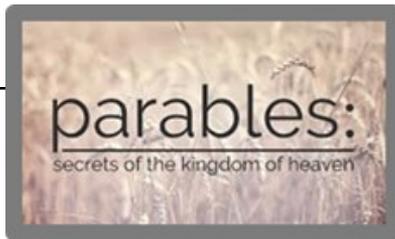
SHARED HOUSING PROGRAM UPDATE by Lynne Helmke

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey last month. Based on the returns from the other participating churches in Clark County, there is both sufficient interest and need to pursue this program. Here are some interesting facts: **Vancouver is the second most expensive housing market in our state after Seattle.** Clark County saw a notable increase in the number of seniors (age 62 or older) seeking housing and calling for assistance through the Housing Solutions Center. In 2018, there were 588 homeless seniors in Clark County, 2019 numbers are projected to be higher. A renter paying 30% of the average Social Security income of \$1503/month in 2020 can only afford rent of \$451 per month. At 50% of their income, rent above \$752 per month would be unaffordable. This information is from the Council for the Homeless.



From Treasurer Shirley Lashley:

Please note that your **Giving Statements for 2019** are available in Evergreen Hall (Narthex) on the Welcome Table.



Please join us for the **Women's Retreat**. Our topic this year will be **"Parables: Secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven."** During our program, we will create and share parables to communicate the Gospel message to both believers and nonbelievers in our lives.

The retreat will be held at the **Heathen Estate**, Vancouver - **March 6-8**. The cost is \$125 for overnight, meals, and program or \$100 for meals and program but you go home in the evening. Sign up in the Narthex.

For more information:

Peggy Konzek, 360-903-2168 or geopegkon@comcast.net
Gwen Wagner, 209-329-2751 or gwendolynwagner@gmail.com

ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES, SUNDAYS AT 9 AM

BIBLE IN HISTORY

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, 9 AM
Discussion with **Pastor Bill**

THEOLOGY BOOK CLUB

2nd and 4th Sundays, 9 AM—Willow Room
Will not meet on March 8 (Women's Retreat)
March 22: *When St. Francis Saved the Church*, by Jon Sweeney
For more information, contact **Carol Domench** at 360-687-6911

TACO FEED!

Please join your church family for food and fellowship
on **Sunday, April 5** following Worship.



Please sign up at the Opportunity Counter
to bring a taco food item to share.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Save The Date – April 4! YARD CLEANUP PARTY

Join us **Saturday, April 4 from 9:00 AM – Noon.**
Come rain or come shine -We guarantee a fun time.

We'll be sprucing up the church grounds in time for Easter.
Bring gloves, rakes & weed tools.

Drinks and snacks provided.

Our Buildings & Grounds Team will be very grateful!



East Woods Activities - Save the Date

- March 1 **Celebration Sunday—Appetizers, Special Program**
Mar. 6-8 **Women's Retreat**, Heathen Estate, Vancouver
March 8 **Youth Away** at St. Luke's, 5:30-7:30 PM
March 10 **Women's Bible Study**, 10 AM, Maple Room
March 12 **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 1 PM, Redwood Room
March 14 **Men's Breakfast**, 7:30-9 AM
March 17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
March 19 **Session Meeting**, 6 PM
March 22 **New Members' Class**, 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM
March 24 **Women's Bible Study**, 10 AM, Maple Room
March 26 **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 1 PM, Redwood Room
March 28 **Family Snow-Tubing**, 9 AM
March 30 **Men's Fellowship Happy Hour**, 5:30 PM, McMenamins

Also see: "Events" web page at <http://eastwoodspres.org/events>



*Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, March 8*

For any Deacon needs and Prayer Requests:

*Please call **Lynne Helmke** at 360-241-9737 or email:*

lynne_helmke@yahoo.com

*or **Ronda Peterson** at 360-713-3276 or email:*

d.peterson01@comcast.net

April Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, March 17

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

Church Phone: 944-5841

16210 NE 20th Street, Vancouver, WA 98684

Rev. Bill Sperry,	Pastor	<u>bill@eastwoodspres.org</u>
Susie Freeman	Church Admin	<u>susie@eastwoodspres.org</u>
Lisa Pickering	Worship Music Leader	<u>lisa@eastwoodspres.org</u>
Chris Lashley	Worship Coordinator	<u>chris_lashley10@yahoo.com</u>
Kevin Gates	Children & Youth Director	<u>kevin@eastwoodspres.org</u>
Cait Ridley	Nursery Attendant	

Please visit our website at www.eastwoodspres.org
and on facebook at www.facebook.com/eastwoodspres



EAST WOODS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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