



Grace and peace to you! I hope you're enjoying the start of the fall season.

During September, I preached a couple of sermons focused on our speech and the importance of using our words wisely. Many of you have said the practicality of those messages has been challenging and helpful for you. Both sermons were based on the New Testament writing of James, the brother of Jesus. In the first sermon, we were reminded that the way we use our words is an indication of the health of our faith and our discipleship. In the follow-up sermon, we were reminded of James' warnings to us about the dangers of an unbridled tongue and his concerns about followers of Jesus who use our words both for blessing and for cursing. Through the clever acrostic T.H.I.N.K., we were encouraged to think before we speak so that our words are **true, helpful, inspiring, necessary, and kind.**

These days, words aren't just limited to the sounds our tongues produce. We also write, print, text, email, blog, comment, and tweet our words; and for better or worse, once they're out there, it's nearly impossible to get them back. Perhaps more than ever, it's critical that followers of Jesus T.H.I.N.K. before we put our words out there to speak on our behalf.

Politically, this is a difficult and divided time in the United States. I think we have a heightened awareness of the impact of words, and we've seen people at all points of the political spectrum engage words for maximum damage. It's my sense that many people feel powerless to participate in constructive ways. I confess that I've been very hesitant to add my voice to the mix for fear of the potential backlash. But, God's word through James has reminded me of the ways we can use our words for building up and for blessing, even when circumstances seem to suggest against it.

- **Pray.** Prayer is powerful, and the Bible directs us to pray without ceasing. Before using words to criticize politicians or people in positions of power, we are directed by God's word to pray for them. The Apostle Paul's letter to Timothy urges that *"supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desire everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* 1 Timothy 2:1-3
- **Write.** Rather than using words to grumble or complain to those with no authority to solve problems, devote your energy to contacting those who do have authority. Our citizenship in this country allows us the remarkable privilege of voting for representatives and then communicating with them so that they can continue to represent us. I realize it is not a perfect system, and I am certainly immature in understanding all of its workings. But I am mature enough to know that complaining about problems to people who can't fix them is a waste of energy and a waste of words. (continued)

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- **Dialog.** We all know people who have different points of view and different levels of knowledge and experience in relation to the political topics of our day. Why not use your words to respectfully engage those people in dialog? At the very least, we can learn something from one another and strengthen our relationship, even if we simply agree to disagree by the end of the conversation.
- **Localize.** If the big picture seems overwhelming and your sources of words are demoralizing, turn around. Change your sources and your view. Gandhi is often credited for saying, *“Be the change you want to see in the world.”* Even the recent op-ed that appeared in the New York Times claiming to be from a senior official in the Trump administration voiced a similar sentiment – *“... the real difference will be made by everyday citizens rising above politics, reaching across the aisle and resolving to shed the labels in favor of a single one: Americans.”* I encourage you to use your words wisely with those closest to you, those within your spheres of influence. Bless and build them up so that they may be inspired to do likewise in their spheres of influence.

Even more than embracing our shared label as Americans, we need to embrace the priority label God has given us as followers of Jesus. And, Jesus’ followers will do as Jesus did, using our words wisely and for blessing.

In partnership for His glory ~ *Bill*

THE NINTH ANNUAL BLESSING OF OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS

Sunday, October 7, 2018 at 5 PM at East Woods

At East Woods Presbyterian Church, we once again want to acknowledge God’s beloved creatures and celebrate the emotional connection between us and the animals in our lives. We encourage everyone in the family to attend along with their critters!



Our service consists of music, a reading, and a brief message. Then, each family comes forward to introduce their pets and share a short history of them. All our animal friends will receive a blessing by our pastor, Bill Sperry.

We welcome all socialized and reasonably well-behaved pets. Dogs need to be on short leads and cats and other animal friends must be in carriers, bowls or cages. If you think your pet may be uncomfortable participating in the service, we suggest you bring a picture of him/her instead.

You do not have to bring a pet in order to attend—
come meet our “extended” families!

FAMILY MINISTRIES

CHILDREN

BIBLE PRESENTATION COMING UP! In the fall of each year, East Woods continues its tradition of presenting Bibles to those in Kindergarten and 3rd grade. God has given us His story so that we can understand and know Him. If we want to know God, we will plunge into His story. If we want our children to know God fully and intimately, we will lead and walk with them as they engage in His Word. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with our families at East Woods. It is our desire to support you in your role as parents, equipping you with the tools you need to for a nurturing and Christ-centered environment. If you have a kindergartner or 3rd grader, please connect with Family Ministries (CarrieAnn) to be sure we have your child's information.

Blessings!

"BRUNCH & PAINT" FAMILY ART EVENT! Join Family Ministries for a fun-filled morning painting your own masterpiece. **Saturday, October 27th** from 9AM-Noon our own **Sarah Graham** will be guiding participants in step-by-step instruction to create your own one-of-a-kind creation. Designed for participants 8 years old and up; grab your young friend and sign up with Family Ministries, CarrieAnn at carrieann@eastwoodspsres.org. Cost: \$10 per participant (art supplies); brunch snacks provided. Space limited to 15, so sign up soon!

YOUTH

CORN MAZE FUN! **Friday, October 19th** the Youth are invited to meet up for some corn maze fun. We will be meeting at Bi-Zi Farms (9504 NE 119th St, Vancouver, WA 98662) at 6:30 PM. Admission is \$7. Parents are encouraged to stay and enjoy the maze or sit by the fire and enjoy the evening. If parents cannot stay, then we need a permission slip filled out and given to a leader *before* the parent leaves.



HALLOWEEN TRUNK-OR-TREAT AT EAST WOODS **October 28—3-5 PM**

Please invite family and friends of all ages to come Trick-or-Treat from our trunks in the parking lot. We need car trunks, decorated or not. Sign up at the Information Counter in Evergreen Hall (narthex). You may donate individually-wrapped candy in the marked bin. Questions? Please see **Peggy Konzek** or **Cathy Roeper**.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE

We have shoeboxes to fill and will be collecting donations by **October 7**. It's easy: First pick a child's gender and age group, then shop for thoughtful and useful items to fill the box. Pack your shoebox by **November 11**. Please consider filling a box for a child in need. Any questions? See **Cathy Roeper**.

PCUSA INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER VISIT

Saturday, October 6

11:00 AM Gathering at East Woods



Carl Horton, coordinator of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program said, “Last year, Presbyterians went to Madagascar and this year we are bringing one of the leaders of the church there to speak.” The speaker, **Rev. Perline Cooper** will be at three events hosted by the Presbytery of the Cascades. She has been an ordained pastor for 38 years in the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM, the acronym in Malagasy) which has multifaceted and holistic ministries that respond to the challenges of poverty, human exploitation, social and political conflict and environmental degradation. Perline currently oversees the ministry of three FJKM congregations in North America in Montreal, Ottawa, and New York City.

We’d like to see all the Portland/Vancouver Metro Area and beyond come and join us:

All Are Welcome!

Saturday, October 6

11:00 am Gathering at East Woods Presbyterian Church

16210 NE 20th St, Vancouver, WA 98684 Phone: (360) 944-5841

Jackie Tyler, Mission chairperson

Sunday, October 7

Worship at 10:00 am followed by Lunch at

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church

172 N.E. 32nd Avenue Hillsboro, OR 97124 Phone: 503-648-5660

Bob Stebe, Pastor

Sunday, October 7

4:00-6:00 pm Potluck Dinner hosted by the Presbyterian Urban Network

Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church

2828 SE Stephens St, Portland, OR 97214 Phone: (503) 236-2430

Debra Pulse, Moderator of the Board of Deacons, CHPC



**THE KIDS ARE BACK IN SCHOOL AND MILL
PLAIN ELEMENTARY NEEDS OUR HELP.**

They have an ongoing need for shoes and snacks. The shoes can be new or gently used. The snacks can be individually packaged or bulk (i.e. large bag of pretzels). The teachers cannot ask

students or parents to provide snacks. A complete list of needs is above the Mill Plain box in Evergreen Hall. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please put them in the Mill Plain box or contact **Conni Pfeifer**.

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Bill Reeburgh

Like many of us here at East Woods, Bill is not a native Pacific Northwesterner; he was born and raised in Port Arthur, Texas. While in graduate school, Bill met Carelyn during a summer course held at the Bermuda Biological Station. After this 10-week course, they both knew they had met “the one” and were married the following summer. Both Bill and Carelyn enjoyed active and meaningful lives in academia and together had three children: Scott, Nancy and Peter; the children blessed them with six grandchildren.



Also, like many of us, Bill moved to Vancouver to be closer to his children. Sadly, his move here was the result of Carelyn’s diagnosis of early-stage Alzheimer’s in 2008. After a family meeting, the decision was made for bill to retire from the University of California, Irvine, and to move for support to a location nearer to the children. Bill moved to Vancouver in 2009, and visited East Woods when Rev. Laurel Neal was the interim Pastor. Laurel shared with him that her father had been an Alzheimer’s patient, and based on the understanding Laurel offered and the welcome he received from members of the congregation, he decided East Woods was the church for him and became a member himself.

Bill is currently active with HOPE, a local dementia support group. Many members of the group who have “made the journey” return to offer experience-based advice to newcomers. Bill hopes that his experience in this area will benefit the Deacons’ Ministry.

Bill is Deacon to: Jack and Marge Mace, Shelton and Jackie Tyler, Rich Adamson, Ron Prestwood, Carol Domench, Gordon Wehner, and Chuck Gehle.

A Note from Lynne Helmke:

SCRIP (GIFT CARD) UPDATE: **Thank you** to everyone who purchased gift cards in September! Your purchases resulted in a \$218.70 profit for East Woods. Our year-to-date total is \$1,219.51. With three months to go, I’m hoping we can break our goal of \$2,000. Consider starting your Christmas shopping next month and don’t forget, you can now designate a gift card to Congregational Care to be used within our church family. Thanks again and if you have any questions about this program, please see either me or

Linda Fortney.



Funny Name. Easy Fundraising.



**NO-SEW FLEECE BLANKET PROJECT, SPONSORED BY
OUR MISSION COMMISSION**

As we look forward to the launch of the Family Promise program, it seems a good fit to focus our annual blanket-making collection project on providing no-sew fleece blankets for the participants in the program. How welcoming it would be to be able to provide each family member with his/her own fleece blanket to keep. A lightweight, quick drying fleece blanket can make a difference for the homeless, either to those in Family Promise or to someone sleeping in a car or outside this winter. We will dedicate the first 14 blankets to Family Promise, then distribute any others to Safe Park, a program that supports a safe place for people living in their cars to park overnight. There are several ways our East Woods members and attendees can help:

- Join us during Connecting Time (9:00-10:00 AM) **each Sunday in October** while we work on cutting and **tying** the blankets. It's a great time in which everyone can participate; if you can tie a balloon closed, you can tie a blanket! It's surprising how much can be done while you are getting to know your fellow East Woods members, and contributing a little of your time and talent to our Mission project. No experience necessary!
- If you are not able to join us, you are welcome to pick up a one-page instruction sheet, or a "raw" or "ready to tie" fabric set so that you can work at home. We will be happy to help you get started.

Please contact **Pat Norby** if you have any questions.
(360) 604-0042 home, or (360) 600-6391 cell.

A NEW WAY TO HELP – CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

Sometimes we are greatly blessed. Sometimes we need a little extra help. East Woods has a new way to ensure that we can share a little of our blessings with those of us who have needs. We are making it easy to designate resources for helping each other in time of need. Beginning **today**, just buy a Scrip gift card. On the back of the order form, you will be able to order cards designated for the Congregational Care Fund. Order forms can be found on the opportunity counter. Those Scrip cards will be made available for the pastor to provide to help our friends and neighbors. What a wonderful way to love each other.

East Woods Activities - Save the Date

Sept. 30	Scrip Gift Card Orders due next Sunday
Oct. 2	Senior Season Seminar, 12-1 PM, Maple Room
Oct. 6	Mission Speaker from FJKM, Madagascar, 11 AM, East Woods
Oct. 4-7	Men's Walk to Emmaus
Oct. 7	Gathering Sunday meal after Worship—All welcome!
Oct. 7	Scrip Gift Card Orders due today .
Oct. 7	Ninth Annual Animal Blessing, 5 PM
Oct. 11	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 PM, Redwood Room
Oct. 13	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM Evergreen Hall
Oct. 18-21	Women's Walk to Emmaus
Oct. 19	Youth Group Corn Maze Event
Oct. 22	Men's Fellowship Happy Hour at McMenamins, 5:30 PM
Oct. 25	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1 PM, Redwood Room
Oct. 26-28	Men's Retreat, Lincoln City, OR
Oct. 27	Brunch & Paint Family Event, 9 AM - Noon
Oct. 28	Annual EW "Trunk-or-Treat" Event, 3-5 PM
Oct. 28	Scrip Gift Card Orders due next Sunday
Nov. 4	Scrip Gift Card Orders due today .
Nov. 28	Scrip Gift Card Orders due next Sunday
Dec. 4	Scrip Gift Card Orders due today .

For more information on these events, please visit our "Happenings" web page at www.eastwoodspress.org/happenings.

LADIES OF EAST WOODS, SAVE THE DATE!

Our **2019 Women's Retreat** will be **March 8, 9 and 10**
at a lovely home in a beautiful 20 acre vineyard
in nearby Brush Prairie.
Come for the weekend or just for the days!

For any Deacon needs:

*Please call **Lynne Helmke** at 360-883-5661*

For Prayer Requests:

*Please contact **Judy England**, 360-601-7567 Email: englandj44@comcast.net*



November Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, October 16

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

Church Phone: 944-5841

16210 NE 20th Street, Vancouver, WA 98684

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EAST WOODS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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