



Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

What a summer it has been! Between the 222nd General Assembly, an outstanding Vacation Bible School at the end of June, and the six weeks that passed while I was training as a Chaplain, a lot has happened. God has been faithful in all of it, and so have you! I am grateful for your continued support of my call to chaplaincy in the Navy Reserves and for all you did to maintain the quality of our worship and congregational life during my absence. And, I'm grateful to be back with you!

As many of you are aware, one of the things that happened in my life during my training left me with nine stitches and a wound on my forehead that is continuing to heal. As part of our expeditionary training during chaplaincy school, we put on gas masks and spent some time in a gas chamber learning to trust our equipment and to follow the lead of our fellow chaplains. As our time in the gas chamber was coming to a close, we were instructed to close our eyes, hold our breath, take off our masks, place a hand on the shoulder of the chaplain in front of us, and follow an instructor who would lead us in a line out the exit door. As the fifth chaplain in that line, I just happened to be in the wrong place as our line slowly drifted too far to the left, and I was led at a rather urgent pace right into the corner of the door jamb of the exit door. Pow! And... ouch! Who would have guessed that the most painful part of the gas chamber experience would have been the exit!



The whole experience brought a lot of Biblical references to mind, such as Jesus' words in Matthew 7:14, where he says, "***Small is the door and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.***" But, the ones I've reflected on the most come from the Apostle Paul as he wrote to the 1st Century churches about following. To the Christians in Corinth, Paul wrote, "***Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.***" 1 Corinthians 11:1 And, to those in Philippi, he wrote, "***Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.***" Philippians 3:17.

Had I been following more closely behind the instructor who knew where we were going at the front of our line, I doubt I would have ended up broken and bloody on our way to safety. But, as far back in the line as I was, we might as well have been the proverbial blind leading the blind.

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There are risks that come with being too far removed from our leader, even when those we're following are doing their best to follow and lead faithfully. Christ has invited us to follow him and to stay connected to him, just as branches stay connected to the vine. Paul was able to encourage others to follow his example because of how closely and directly he was following Christ's example. How about you? Who are you following? How far removed are you from directly following Christ's lead? Can you be confident that those who follow you are being led in the direction of God's will?

One of my prayers for our congregation as we wrap up this summer and head into the fall is that we will stay on the road to life because of our dedication to following and staying directly connected to our Savior – through His Spirit, by His word, and with His people. May your journey be richly blessed. ~ *Bill*



CONNECTING TIME – SUNDAYS FROM 9:45-10:30 AM

- Christian Education – Open to anyone. Starting Sunday, September 11, Gwen Wagner and Pastor Bill will offer a seven-week book study and discussion focused on Walter Brueggemann's book *Chosen? Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Book cost is \$12.
- Fellowship Gathering – Open to anyone. This is a time to connect with our community and building relationships with each other. The atmosphere is casual and allows you to learn more about each other through an informal devotional time with a lesson for the week.
- Children's Choir and Activity – Option for children age 4-grade 5. In preparation for the Lessons and Carols service in December, the children will practice music for the "Children's Choir." For children not interested in music we offer various activities that encourage their journey to knowing Jesus better. (Children don't have to attend this if parents would like them in other offerings.)
- Youth Gathering – Middle school and high school students are invited to gather in the Redwood/Youth Room for relationship-building and discussions on a variety of faith-centered and Bible-oriented topics.
- Mission Time – Open to anyone who has a heart for mission projects. For the month of September the focus will be for the "Blanket Coverage Family Ministry." Participate by donating fleece (1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ yards each) and assembling the blankets. All blankets created will be donated to the "Blanket Coverage Ministry" to offer to the homeless this winter. October mission TBD.

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session discussed East Woods' year-to-date finances and the report submitted by Tom Koecher, Elder of Finance. As of the end of July, the congregation's general fund expenses are approximately \$7,300 greater than general fund income. Session will recommend that the Finance Committee send year-to-date giving statements to congregational households with the hope of seeing a catch-up in pledge support and an increase in fall quarter income. Session is also suggesting that members of the congregation be reminded of the expectation to pay the annual household per capita amount of \$30, which is sent directly to support the work of our presbytery. Per capita payments not covered by congregation members may otherwise need to come from East Woods' financial reserves at year's end.

Session discussed the Connecting Time opportunities that will be offered to the congregation beginning Sunday, September 4. The current offerings for September-October include an Adult Education study, Children's Choir and Activity, Youth Gathering, Fellowship and Devotional Gathering, and a hands-on Mission-related Activity. September 4 will be the first Sunday of East Woods' new worship service schedule and will feature a Gathering Sunday brunch from 9:45-10:30 AM in between the morning services.



EWPC QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REVIEW - Seven Months Ended July 31, 2016

General Operating Fund

While our first quarter, ended March 31, 2016 represented a very nice start to the financial year, the following four months have proven quite challenging. At the end of March 2016, General Fund revenues were slightly ahead of the 2016 budgeted revenues for the first quarter and expenses slightly less than anticipated. As seen in the table below, General Fund revenues are now down approximately 5% from where budgeted. Operating expense continues to be lower than budgeted which is a very good thing. In fact, it appears we were able to host a very successful Vacation Bible School in June without spending any of the \$1,000 budgeted for expense. This was largely due to the generosity of the volunteers who not only gave their precious time but also personally covered much of the expenses.

Our Sunday collection has fallen approximately \$2,500 from the same period last year. Fortunately other fundraising events such as Food, Art and Music (FAM), expanded SCRIP sales and increased revenue from building rental fees have made up some of the Sunday collection shortfall.

Looking forward to the rest of the financial year, increasing the Sunday collection and management of expenses will continue to be a challenge. We expect a significant reduction in building rental fees as the Epikos congregation has ended their use of the building.

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An additional expense we must meet this year is our **“Per Capita”** assessment. EWPC is part of the Presbytery of the Cascades, a regional administrator of The Presbyterian Church (USA). Each church member is assessed an annual fee (per capita) to fund the operations of the Presbytery. In 2016, the assessment is \$30 per member. For EWPC, the total assessment is \$5,400 based on 180 registered members. We have requested during the 2016 “pledge Drive”, that each member remit the \$30/member fee in addition to their regular or pledged giving. To date, we have collected only \$900 of the \$5,400. This will hit our finances hard unless we can achieve more response to our request. Please review your giving if you are an EWPC member and kindly make your remittance as soon as possible if not already completed.

| General Fund | Seven Months Ended July 31, 2016 | | Variance | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| | Actual | Budgeted | Amount | Percent |
| Contributions | \$110,796 | | | |
| Other Revenue | \$7,886 | | | |
| Total Revenue | \$118,682 | \$124,917 | (\$6,235) | -4.99% |
| Operating Expense | \$126,046 | \$135,284 | (\$9,238) | -6.82% |
| Net Surplus (Deficit) | (\$7,364) | (\$10,367) | \$3,003 | |

Other Noteworthy Financial Events

You may have seen some recent work being done on the Building and Grounds maintenance shed. The shed is being expanded to accommodate a new lawnmower as the current mower is becoming too expensive to maintain. The expansion is being done with additional donated labor by the B&G team. Even more significant is that the cost of the shed expansion and new mower will be substantially covered by the B&G team. Indeed how blessed we are to have such generous stewards overseeing our church campus.

Another project in the midst of being complete is an upgrade to the sanctuary sound and audio system and noise suppression improvements for Evergreen Hall. Both projects should be completed by the end of August. Funds for this project are from two sources as follows:

- Dedicated savings from earlier surpluses that were reserved for building construction and improvements.
- Restricted donations dedicated to Buildings and Grounds as well as audio visual improvements.

Neither of these funding sources can be used to meet our general operating expenses. As with the expansion of the B&G maintenance shed, much of the labor required for installation of the audio/visual upgrade is being done by the B&G team.

Giving Statements

Your personal giving statement is now available for pickup in Evergreen Hall. Please review it and be sure you are on schedule with your personal giving.

Tom Koecher, Finance Elder

FAMILY MINISTRIES

A NOTE FROM CATHY ROEPER, ELDER-ELECT OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Hello Everyone!

My name is **Cathy Roeper** and I am the new Elder-Elect of Children & Family Ministry. Many of you may know me as the Nursery Attendant for the last 6 years on Sunday mornings. Occasionally I make it out of the nursery to join my family. My husband Jim and I will be celebrating our 15th Wedding Anniversary in October and we have two sons, Joey who is 10 and Noah who is 8.

I am looking forward to working in this ministry and helping to guide it in the best way for all of us at East Woods!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES FROM HAILEY VANDEWIELE

Welcome to Fall Term, East Woods Families!

As we begin this new school year, here are some things you'll want to be aware of:

Change in Class Structure

The Family Ministry Commission has decided to dissolve Pre-K for the time being. We will instead allow 4 year olds to join the K-5 class, and 3 year olds to remain in the Nursery.

On your way out of Worship, feel free to check out our newly re-decorated Cedar Room - it's now the K-2 classroom!

Important Dates!

September 4 - there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. Nursery will be open.

September 11 – **First Day of Fall Sunday School!**

September 11 – 3rd Grade and Kindergarten Bible Presentations – 10:45AM
*3rd Grade families, please look ahead to attending our annual "Learning to Use My Bible Class" later on this fall.

September 18 - New Teacher Orientation and Training after church!

If you are interested in becoming a new teacher or helper in Sunday School, talk to Hailey or Cathy about this Orientation day!



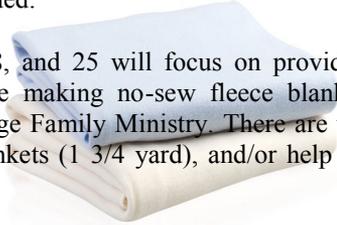
YOUTH GROUP

September 14 - **Youth Group Fall Kickoff!** 6th-12th Graders, *come on down to the church at 6:30PM to start the year off right at EWPC Youth Group!*

Hailey Vandewiele Hailey@eastwoodspres.org
Family Ministries Director

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

- Annual Day of Service in Clark County on Saturday, September 10. Starting at 9 AM, projects include clean-up and landscaping at Mill Plain Elementary.
- Harvesting is going on at Heritage Farm Garden for the Clark County Food Bank. Volunteers are always needed. Saturdays and Wednesdays 9 - 12.
- Connecting Time for September 11, 18, and 25 will focus on providing warmth for the homeless. We will be making no-sew fleece blankets which will be given to Blanket Coverage Family Ministry. There are two ways to participate: donate fleece blankets (1 3/4 yard), and/or help put the fleece blanket together.



A note from Roberta Schlechter:

Over the past several years I have sought your donations of blankets and other warm covers, on behalf of the **Blanket Coverage Family Ministry**. Your response has been overwhelming!! The Mission Commission has given me permission to make this request once again for the month of September.

Since 1986 the Dan Griffith family has spent each night on the streets of Portland. When they find someone asleep in a doorway, under a bridge or on a park bench, their first act is to cover the person with a warm blanket. Hence the ministry name.

But that's only the first step. Dan and his family keep returning to those people and places and make every effort to build relationships by learning and remembering names and bios. When trust is built, the homeless are invited and welcomed into low income housing. The Griffiths have represented the needy with owners/managers for decades. They are a known, trusted liaison. Dan has an MSW and the ministry partners are consummate professionals.

Blanket Coverage relies on donations of warm blankets and comforters to replenish their supply. (They also appreciate calls from people with furniture and bed linens to donate). Please see the website link above if you would like to know more or make other kinds of donations.

On the Griffith Family's behalf, THANK YOU and God bless!!

CARD MAKING MEETINGS

Card Making on Monday, September 26, 1 PM at Brookdale /Fisher's Landing, 17171 SE 22nd Dr. We will be helping residents sign birthday cards for residents with October birthdays. Card kits will be available for assembling for our veterans and their caregivers. There will also be kits for U R Special books for children of homeless/hospitalized veterans. Information contact: **Esther Ellis**, 891-0750





*East Woods
Women's Breakfast
9:00 AM on Saturday,
September 17th*

MEN'S RETREAT: Registration has started for the **East Woods 2016 Men's Retreat, Nov. 4-6** in Lincoln City. The Dawn Treader Retreat includes a pool table, 40-seat theater, short walk to the beach, room to sleep 29. We need 23 participants to cover its cost; per person it's \$95 and includes all meals. For more information, contact **Rich Adamson** rich@anthonyandassociates.com or **Tim Martinez** tmartinez0408@gmail.com.

EAST WOODS ACTIVITIES -- SAVE THE DATE:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| September 2-5 | Family Camp |
| September 10 | Men's Breakfast, 7:30 AM |
| September 11 | Brunch at Sweet Tomatoes |
| September 17 | Women's Breakfast, 9 AM |
| September 26 | Men's Fellowship Happy Hour at McMenamins |
| October 2 | Annual Animal Blessing Service |
| October 27-30 | Men's Walk to Emmaus |
| November 4-6 | Men's Retreat |
| November 10-13 | Women's Walk to Emmaus |



NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Starting Sunday, September 4
8:30—First Worship Service
9:45—Connecting Time
10:45—Second Worship Service



October Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, September 20



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

Church Phone: 944-5841

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Rev. Bill Sperry
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Please visit our website at www.eastwoodspres.org



EAST WOODS

Presbyterian Church

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