

Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

*"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."* The Apostle Paul, Philippians 3:10-12

As September arrives and the summer season closes, I have several great memories from the past few months that I'll carry with me. One of my favorites comes from a day at Wakonda Beach near Waldport, Oregon. Ben, our four-year-old, loves animals. And, for better or worse, he is fearless around most wildlife. So, when I spotted a big, beautiful dungeness crab in the shallow surf nearby, I excitedly pointed it out and carefully picked it up for Ben to see. With my iPhone camera in hand, we snapped the selfie you see here. A great moment! I had taken hold of an opportunity and taken hold of a creature that brought joy to both me and my son.



Joy came for the crab moments later when our new friend Clawber seized the opportunity to take hold of one of my fingers. 'Pinchers' is the wrong word for crab claws. 'Bone-crushers' is closer. God has gifted them with a great defense. As the pressure on my finger increased, I lost my hold of my iPhone. As I reached for it, Clawber found one of Ben's fingers and took hold, and Ben's reaction made it clear that he was not enjoying the experience anymore. In what felt like a fluid and choreographed series of movements, I rescued my iPhone from the surf, shook Clawber back into the water, scooped up my wailing son, and sought sanctuary on the beach, where Ben and I cried, laughed and regrouped for a few minutes. Ah, father-son bonding.

I'm grateful to Clawber the Crab for the lesson he gave me. I don't blame him for taking hold of our fingers or almost destroying my cell phone. We were on his turf, and he didn't volunteer to be a photo prop. He just did what crabs are made to do – take hold of something as a matter of life or death.

Isn't that what the Apostle Paul was striving for in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century following Christ's death and resurrection? Paul was so intent on knowing Jesus and becoming like him that he was striving to take hold of that goal as a matter of life or death, just as Christ had taken hold of him.

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Paul's example challenges me to ask myself, "Do I hold to the goal of knowing and following Jesus with a Clawber-like grip, or do I hold to it loosely, like I did my iPhone, with the risk of dropping it when the pressure is on?" Christ gave his life to take hold of me. Am I giving my all to take hold of him? How about you? Are you giving your all to know and follow Christ? Are we remembering that knowing and following Christ is a matter of life or death?

Don't worry. My finger healed. So did Ben's. I have an iPhone that still works, and we've got a great memory and a story to share. But, Clawber emerges as the real victor. He's got a story to share of how he taught a meddling man a lesson or two, and I'm sure he'll take hold of every opportunity to share it. May God bless Clawber... and each of you, too!

~ *Bill*



**A NOTE FROM PASTOR BILL ABOUT EMERGENCY CARE DURING RESERVE TRAINING** During my upcoming absence of **September 19-20, Lynne Combs** has offered to serve as our congregation's primary contact person. Thank you, Lynne! Lynne will then assess the need and connect with whomever else should be involved. In cases where an ordained pastor is needed, we're planning to look to **Mickie Drummond** and **Al Johnston** (retired minister and bereavement counselor who worships with the Columbia Pres. congregation). Since Al preached here at East Woods recently, he is now a more familiar face to all of us.

In other cases, Lynne may suggest a connection with the appropriate Shepherd for flock-related care. Of course, if you would like to connect directly with your Shepherd first, that's a fine place to start.

The best phone numbers for reaching Lynne, Mickie, and Al are:

**Lynne:** [\(360\) 907-4748](tel:3609074748) **Mickie:** [\(360\) 601-5308](tel:3606015308)

**Al:** [\(509\) 823-3808](tel:5098233808)

And, if you'd like to connect directly with me and are comfortable to wait until I'm able to respond, the best numbers for reaching me continue to be (818) 321-6157 and (360) 335-4682.

Both numbers ring through to the same cell phone.

### **HERITAGE FARM HARVEST TIME !!!**

**Join East Woods on Saturday, September 5th.**

The crops are ready to be picked.

Lots of volunteers are needed to harvest summer squash, cucumbers & **corn** at the 78th Street Garden.

Harvest total to date is: 8.431 tons (16,862 lbs.)  
for Clark County Food Bank.

**Location:** Heritage Farm/78th Street Garden - 1919 NE 78th St.,  
Vancouver Heritage Farm, across from Grovers.

**Time:** 9 AM to noon or until it gets too hot!

**Bring:** gloves, water, hat, jacket, knee cushion, sunscreen,  
and wear closed-toed shoes.



**Thank You, LORD!**

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY



For our elementary students (Grades K-5), Fall Sunday School begins **Sunday, September 13.**

This year's central focus is to connect children with **corporate Sunday worship**. We want to help children develop a sense of deeper involvement and ownership around our worship liturgy and practices. Worship happens when we praise God together. Praise includes our petitions.

Worship is our gift to God. More than this, worship involves giving God the honor God is due. HONOR involves respect, gratitude and admiration; recognizing and embracing God as Creator, God's goodness, kindness and mercy, and God's most gracious gift of all, God's own Son, Jesus Christ.

Here is a brief overview of our September Sunday school lessons.

**Week #1 God Meets Us In Creation: Song of Praise.** Psalm 148 proclaims that all creation is to join in joyful praise to God. There are 150 psalms in the book of Psalms. But we can create our own messages of praise and petition.

**Week #2: God Meets Us In the Law: The Ark of the Covenant.** Students build a model of the Ark and are introduced to the Law/Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were housed in the Ark of the Covenant. But God has imprinted God's commands upon our hearts.

**Week #3: David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem** and the people worship in new ways/Psalm 19. King David threw off his clothes and danced before God, not caring what others thought of him. We need to worship God with grateful abandon, also.

Come join the fellowship!

**Tim Martinez**, Elder, Children and Family Ministry  
**Roberta Schlechter**, Volunteer



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*October Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, September 22*



**EAST WOODS YOUTH GROUP FALL KICK-OFF ON WEDNESDAY,**  
**SEPTEMBER 16**

with a party from 6:30-8 PM. This event is for all youth in grades 6-12 and their parents.

**A “GOD AND LIFE” 11-WEEK SERIES**

for **youth in grades 9-12** will be offered at East Woods on Thursday evenings, beginning **September 24**, 6:30-8 PM.

We will be looking at the life of the apostle Paul and exploring what his life can teach us about how to respond to God’s call in our own lives.

Parents are welcome, and are also encouraged to participate as mentors.

**ADULT ED BIBLE STUDY** - John Ortberg’s DVD  
*When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box*  
Six Week Session, led by **Pastor Bill**  
Thursday Evenings, **September 17–October 22**,  
6-8 PM with dinner included.  
Sign-up sheet on the Opportunity Table. Books are \$8.50.

**EAST WOODS’ WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** starts the fall season on **Thursday, September 3**, 10 AM – Noon, with an in-depth study of the **Book of Psalms**. The group meets the first and third Thursdays each month in the Maple Room. A sign-up list is on the Opportunity Table, or contact **Arla Olsen**, 896-1736 or

[mrswh000@q.com](mailto:mrswh000@q.com)

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?**

*Take this Quiz and see!*

1. How many books are there in the Bible?
2. How many books are there in the Old Testament?
3. How many books are there in the New Testament?
4. Which is the shortest verse in the Bible?
5. Which is the longest verse in the Bible?
6. What are the first three words of the book of Genesis?
7. Which other book begins with the same three words?
8. In what language was most of the Old Testament originally written?
9. In what language was most of the New Testament written?
10. Which is the last book in the Old Testament?

*Answers on page 7.*



**BENEFIT CONCERT BY VANCOUVER USA SINGERS**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 3 PM**

First Presbyterian Church, 4300 Main Street, Vancouver  
This concert is to benefit members of the Singers, Bart and Valerie Moore, who suffered loss of home and belongings in a brush fire started by fireworks on July 4.

Featured Musicians are: Misty Mamas; Tony Rocci of GTM String; Joe Lapidus of Fadin by 9; Laurie Chinn, piano; Brita Horlings, cello; Annika Horlings, clarinet; Darcy Schmitt, jazz vocalist;  
Vancouver USA Singers

Donations will be gratefully accepted at the door.

## MISSION

**THANK YOU!** Our **2015 Rummage Sale and Vendors' Faire** was a huge success—we made over **\$3,245**. That is fabulous! Many thanks to everyone who worked at the sale, contributed tasty items for the Bake Sale, and for all the rummage donations. We couldn't have a sale without you. A special thank you to the Building & Grounds gentlemen—you guys are amazing! **Peggy Konzek**.

**EVERGREEN HABITAT “RAISING THE ROOF” BREAKFAST** As one of our Mission projects, EWPC supports Evergreen Habitat for Humanity. You can help support this mission by joining **Rich Helmke** and **Katey Sandy** at the **“Raising the Roof” fundraising breakfast**, on **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 AM at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver. The breakfast is complimentary, however, donations are asked for. Come learn more about Habitat, what they will be working on in the coming year, and ways to volunteer. Please sign up on the information table. Carpooling will be arranged.



**OPPORTUNITY FOR MISSION: THE PEACE & JUSTICE FAIR** on **Saturday, September 12, 9 AM – 4 PM** at Esther Short Park-Propstra Square in downtown Vancouver. This annual gathering of vendors, nonprofit groups, and other exhibitors comes together to promote a harmonious, healthy, peaceful, and sustainable community. It is one event that helps our congregation fulfill the Vision Discernment Team's Vision Priority of engagement with justice-related events and learning opportunities. In past years, we've had representatives from East Woods helping at the Churches in Partnership booth at the fair. The sign-up sheet for a two-hour shift for this event is available in Evergreen Hall (narthex). Questions? Please see **Tess Castro**, Mission Elder.

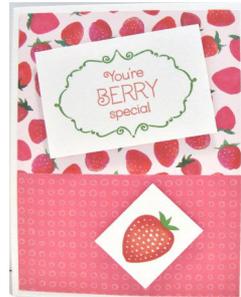
### **CARD MAKING IN SEPTEMBER**

- Tuesday, **September 8**, 6 PM at Brookdale, Vancouver Village
- Monday, **September 21**, 1 PM at East Woods
- Monday, **September 28**, 1 PM at Brookdale, Fishers Landing

Bring your card kits for assembly for Soldiers' Angels.

Questions? Email at

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



**MEN OF EAST WOODS**—plan ahead!

The **2015 Men's Retreat is November 6-8** in  
Lincoln City, OR.

Look for the sign-up clipboard on the  
Opportunity Table in Evergreen Hall.

Get details or register online at:  
the church website: [www.eastwoodspres.org](http://www.eastwoodspres.org)  
Cost, including meals and lodging, is \$95.



**EAST WOODS WOMEN'S BREAKFAST**

Third Saturdays  
**8:30 to 10:00 AM**

*Join us on Saturday, September 19.*

**LIFE LINE PREVENTATIVE HEALTH SCREENINGS AT EAST WOODS**

East Woods is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings all day on **Wednesday, September 30.**

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).** We hope to see you there!

Answers to Quiz on page 5

1. 66; 2. 39; 3. 27; 4. John 11:35; 5. Esther 8:9; 6. "In the Beginning";  
7. Gospel of John; 8. Hebrew; 9. Greek; 10. Malachi

**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 [bill@eastwoodspres.org](mailto:bill@eastwoodspres.org)

Roberta Schlechter Children & Family Volunteer, [rrschlechter@gmail.com](mailto:rrschlechter@gmail.com)

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



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*Presbyterian Church*

**16210 NE 20th Street  
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