

Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

September is upon us. For many of us, the return of the fall season represents a return to school-year routines and community experiences that are familiar during most of the calendar year. For our family, it has recently represented a return home after a couple of great getaways with beloved family members and friends – one getaway to Spokane and Coeur d’Alene and one to Palm Springs.

While we were in Palm Springs, we stayed at a great resort that offered a wonderful water park, complete with an endless river, a huge sandpit, a splash pad, and two waterslides. For our family, the park provided three days of fun and refreshment and at least one experience of mild anxiety. For about 15 minutes on our second day, we somehow managed to lose track of both of our sons at the same time. Please don’t call DSHS on us; though you’re welcome to revoke our 2017 nomination for parents of the year.

While our sons were lost, every other priority and activity was set aside for us. We had one mission as a couple – to find our lost sons – and we enlisted our other friends in that mission, too. The good news is that both boys were eventually found, with big smiles on their playful and wet faces, and the experience offered us some teachable moments in good family conversation.

Losing our sons also offered us a personal connection to Jesus’ parables about lost valuables in Luke 15. For those of you who were in worship at East Woods during August, you know that Roberta blessed us with two outstanding sermons on those parables while we were on vacation. Thank you, Roberta! Her sermons provided some great teaching about Judaism and Islam as well as some reminders about the heart of our Heavenly Father for His lost children. God loves His children, and His heart aches for those who have wandered off or gone astray. God also celebrates mightily when His lost children repent and come back home to be restored in His love and grace.

In his commission to his disciples, Jesus charged us – his followers – to share God’s heart for those who are distant from God and from God’s church. We are to go into the world and make disciples through teaching and baptizing. We are to engage that mission with urgency and priority, as if it were our own family members who were lost. And, we are to celebrate mightily when any lost child of God hears the truth of the gospel and is restored to the loving arms of our Heavenly Father.

I look forward to engaging that mission with you in this upcoming season. May the Spirit of the Lord who came to seek and to save the lost be with you as you frolic in the living water park of God’s amazing grace.

In partnership ~ Bill

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IF:PRAY GATHERING ON SEPTEMBER 28

Dear Ladies of the church:

IF:Pray Gatherings are meant to help women connect back to the Source of what matters most: God. This once-a-year simulcast allows women from all around the world to find themselves humbly on their knees, laying down their burdens and lifting up their praise in collective prayer.

The vision of IF is to gather, equip and enable women to live out their calling by creating tools and resources for the local church and the women they serve. We put these tool in hands of women who desire to change their local context for the glory of God and the good of others. The name 'IF' was inspired by the verse in 2 Chronicles 7:14, where God says, "... *if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*"

Join us on September 28th at 6:30 PM as we gather with other women from around the world to pray! We're going to spend the evening thanking God for what He's done in our community and asking Him to continue to lead us so our faith may not rest in our own wisdom, but in the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:2-5). This event is open to women across denominations, generations, and cultures.

For more information, please visit www.ifgathering.com/ifpray.

We hope you'll join us!

Molly Sperry and Susan Carlson



ARE YOU A WOMAN LOOKING FOR WISDOM?

Then come and join the East Woods Women's Bible Study, as we explore and discuss God's wisdom at our Fall Study on "Growing Older and Wiser." We meet at the church on the first and third Thursdays, from 10 AM to Noon, and our first meeting will be Thursday, September 7th.

For more information contact **Arla Olsen** at 360-896-1736 or mrswhoo@q.com.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

OUR OFFICIAL 2017/2018 SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR begins on September 10, with Sunday School Connecting Time at 9:00 AM in an All In One classroom for ages 4 to 5th Graders. Join us each Sunday for a fun, active time of connecting to each other and God! Games and activities will help us grow together as we explore some Big Ideas about God from His Word.

Sunday, September 17 at 9 AM, representatives from **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** will give a presentation about OCC—it's more than filling a shoebox!
I encourage everyone to come and listen.

Cathy Roeper

Children & Family Ministries Elder



SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Your job is to show up and assist our teacher. Jobs may include helping with: kids looking up Bible verses; younger kids doing crafts; talking and fidgety kids trying to stay focused while teacher is teaching; checking on church service status; supervising bathroom breaks.

Please see Cathy OR

the sign-up sheet on our Bulletin Board by the classrooms!

The Fall Sunday School schedule begins on Sunday, September 10.



Youth Group meets on Wednesday evenings, 6:30—8 PM.

Our **Fall Kick-Off** event is **September 6**.

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

In Tom Koecher's absence, Session welcomed Jim Bangert as a representative of the Finance Committee to provide a report on the potential sale of some East Woods property. Jim also provided an explanation of the motion approved by Finance and sent for vote to Session. After respectful conversation and careful consideration, Session unanimously voted to:

- ✦ Recommend the congregation approve the sale of up to 2.0 acres of East Woods' undeveloped East Yard, and
- ✦ Require a super-majority vote (67% in favor) by the current, active members of the congregation in order to proceed with a property sale.

At the September Session meeting, Session will determine:

- ✦ A sale price to propose to the congregation as part of the congregational vote;
- ✦ A presentation for how the revenue earned from a property sale would be used to:
 - eliminate East Woods' existing mortgages,
 - reimburse a portion of the \$200K grant East Woods received from Presbytery for our original campus construction, and
 - focus our financial gifts to better implement plans to live as – and to make – disciples of Christ; and
 - A process for engaging the congregation in both education and conversation about the possible property sale as well as an eventual vote.

Session unanimously voted to approve the motion, presented by the Worship Commission, to maintain the following Sunday morning schedule:

Connecting Time – 9:00 – 9:45 AM

Worship Service – 10:00 AM

Gathering Sundays meals – 11:30 AM on the first Sunday of each month.

Exceptions can take place on holiday Sundays, such as Easter and when Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, when additional services may be added.



MEN'S RETREAT: Registration is filling up for the **East Woods 2017 Men's Retreat, Oct. 27-29** 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 \$100 and includes all meals.

For more information, contact

Rich Adamson rich@anthonyandassociates.com
or **Tim Martinez** tmartinez0408@gmail.com.

SMALL GROUPS

Fall is back! Want to share a little of life with other disciples? The following small groups will meet this Fall:

Connecting Time—Sundays from 9—10:45 AM

- ✦ **Sunday Morning Group/BOLD study***
- ✦ **Theology Book Club**, Willow Room, 2nd and 4th Sundays

During the Week

- ✦ **Men's Fellowship Happy Hour** at McMennamins, 4th Monday, 5:30 PM
- ✦ **Tuesday Night Small Group** will play Pinochle on **October 24**, 7 PM, at the Konzek home, 16016 NE 16th Circle, Vancouver 360-903-2168
- ✦ **Women's Bible Study**, 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings, 10-Noon
- ✦ **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons at 1 PM

For more information about small groups, please contact **Cynthia Younger**, 360-837-2381 or cyounger6166@outlook.com

* **Are you BOLD?** Are you worried about the divisions and hate being expressed in our country and around the world? Join me for BOLD – a study that focuses on overcoming barriers to sharing God's message. Connect with God and other disciples, as we learn how to share the Good News, and how to share the best Gift ever given, the love of God. Sessions begin September 10 at 9 AM.

Cynthia Younger, Adult Ministries Elder



MISSION

Connecting Time:

September 10: **Mission Meeting**
September 17: **Operation Christmas Child** Presentation

Current Event:

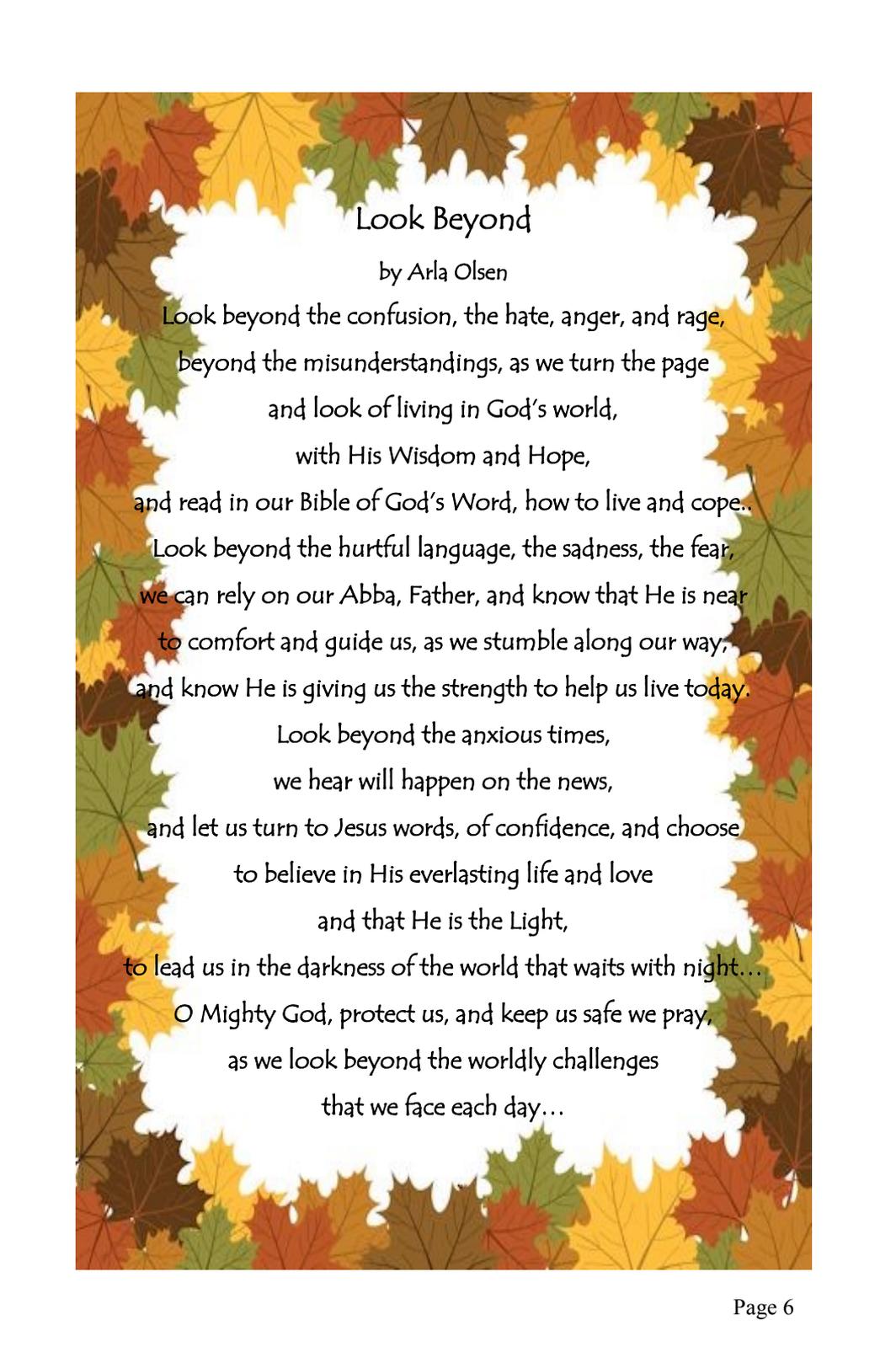
Habitat For Humanity
Raising the Roof Benefit Breakfast
Tuesday, **September 19** at the Vancouver Hilton

Request:

Mission Project Blanket Coverage

For the month of September, we have an opportunity for members to donate fleece blankets, made of 2 yards apiece. There will be a bin available in Evergreen Hall (narthex) to drop off donated materials. During Connecting Time in October, we will assemble the blankets.

Tess Castro, Mission Elder



Look Beyond

by Arla Olsen

Look beyond the confusion, the hate, anger, and rage,
beyond the misunderstandings, as we turn the page
and look of living in God's world,
with His Wisdom and Hope,
and read in our Bible of God's Word, how to live and cope..

Look beyond the hurtful language, the sadness, the fear,
we can rely on our Abba, Father, and know that He is near
to comfort and guide us, as we stumble along our way,
and know He is giving us the strength to help us live today.

Look beyond the anxious times,
we hear will happen on the news,
and let us turn to Jesus words, of confidence, and choose
to believe in His everlasting life and love
and that He is the Light,
to lead us in the darkness of the world that waits with night...

O Mighty God, protect us, and keep us safe we pray,
as we look beyond the worldly challenges
that we face each day...

EAST WOODS ACTIVITIES -- SAVE THE DATE:

Sept. 1-4	Family Camp at Ft. Stevens, with First Presbyterian
September 7	Women's Bible Study begins, 10-Noon
September 9	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM
September 10	Emmaus Reunion Group
September 10	Theology Book Club, 9 AM
September 10	BOLD Study begins, 9 AM
September 14	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1PM
September 21	Women's Bible Study, 10-Noon
September 24	Theology Book Club, 9 AM
September 25	Men's Fellowship Happy Hour, McMenamins, 5:30 PM
September 28	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1PM
September 28	IF Prayer Gathering, 6:30 PM
October 1	Emmaus Reunion Group
October 1	EW Annual Animal Blessing, 5 PM
Oct. 5-8	Men's Walk to Emmaus
Oct. 15	Homecoming Sunday Potluck Lunch
Oct. 19-22	Women's Walk to Emmaus
Oct. 24	Tuesday Night Small Group at Konzeks', 7 PM
Oct. 27-29	Men's Retreat, Lincoln City, OR
Oct. 29	Trunk-or-Treat

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



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE HOLIDAYS:

CHRISTMAS CONCERT OPPORTUNITY

Christmas with Michael W. Smith & Amy Grant

Sunday, November 19 at 7:00 PM

Theater of the Clouds at Moda Center, Portland

Tickets: \$50.00 – less if we get 10 or more and receive the group discount

Please sign up on the form in the Evergreen Hall. Pay no money until early September, we need to see if we get enough to qualify for the group discount.

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
Susie Freeman

pastor@eastwoodspres.org
Church Admin, secretary@eastwoodspres.org

Please visit our website at www.eastwoodspres.org



EAST WOODS
Presbyterian Church

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