

WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION



JULY—2017

From the Pastor...

How do we know when the Spirit is moving and God is calling us? As people of faith, we're called to be constantly in a mode of discernment...discerning the answers to big questions that take a long time to consider, discerning the short-term next steps within that much longer process.

Just after returning from vacation, I met at the church an asylum-seeker (someone who is seeking refugee status in the United States) from El Salvador who lives along with her family with a host/sponsor family in the Greenwood neighborhood (I'm not going to use names for now, so forgive the pronoun soup that is about to come)!

The woman was seeking help to bring her brother-in-law and his family from New York to Seattle because the family (also asylum-seekers) will soon lose their housing, are isolated where they are, and desperately need to be closer to the only support system they have here in Seattle. One of the complicating factors for this family is that the brothers (the one here and the one in New York) and the brother's spouse in New York are all deaf. They sign (both with a Salvadoran sign language and some American Sign Language) and they read and write in Spanish. Their unique communication needs make them especially vulnerable and increase the importance of getting them closer to their existing support system. The family coming from New York also has two little girls—a six year-old who signs with her parents and speaks Spanish and a one year-old who is beginning to learn language and is struggling to figure out that her parents can't hear her.

In the coming days and weeks, we will likely be hearing more about this family and their needs. Exactly what the church's role might be, we don't know yet. As a church, we have many possible ways that we respond and—as we have talked about—we cannot do everything. There are certainly other people who also need help, and this possibility is before us now. What we can do is listen carefully to the movement of the Spirit and respond with courage, faith, and wisdom as best we can.

In peace and hope,

~Pastor Staci

Immigrant and Refugee Project Update

Thanks to all who donated items for the hygiene kits for asylum seekers. We collected enough for 15 kits for women and 13 kits for men plus a lot of extra items. Gary Ireland is delivering these kits to Lutheran Community Services (LCS) this week.

WPPC also donated 25 Orca cards to be distributed to asylum seekers by LCS. The task force will continue to explore ways to be active in refugee and immigrant issues. We in the task force are becoming aware of many opportunities for action such as marches, training sessions and ways to show support. We will be sharing these opportunities with you as we identify them.



A Member Congregation of the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

**Toward a Church as Generous
and Just as God's Grace**

WPPC's Treasurer's Report



General Fund Pledges:

A reminder that expenses don't get a summer break but continue throughout the year. If you will be away this summer or would like another way to make a donation, there is a new option called e-giving through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange. Go to our website at www.wppcseattle.org if you would like to learn more, to sign up for a one-time donation or to set up a regular payments throughout the year.

Mission in Motion Pledges:

Capital Campaign Funds: In January, 2015 WPPC began a 3 year program to pay down the mortgage debt and make needed repairs to our buildings. In the past 2½ years, we have made substantial progress against all of these goals. We have paid almost \$102,000 toward our mortgage with \$75,829 of that applied to the principal. Our current mortgage balance is about \$174,200. Another \$58,606 was spent mostly repairing roofs and a stairway, replacing ELDC doors and siding on the south side of the Christian Ed Wing. Miscellaneous repairs & costs include the campaign consultant.

Mission Funds:

Recently ORCA cards for immigrants and refugees were purchased (\$700) and have been delivered to Lutheran Community Services.

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Parish Associate	The Reverend Ellen Acton
Minister of Music	Jeffrey Wilsor
Office Manager	DeAnne Hamlin
Church Newsletter Editor	Alan Herbig
Church Librarian	Jeri Lee
Church Custodian	Tom Keim
Nursery Attendant	Jenna VanderMeer Davis

Articles for the **WOODLAND PARK PRESS** are due by the 20th of the month. E-mail them to me at debbiealan@yahoo.com.

Please make sure to note **your name and phone number** with your article so I may contact you if I have any questions. Thanks again to all of the contributors for this month's **PRESS**!

Thanks -
Alan Herbig - Editor
WOODLAND PARK PRESS

July Worship and Scripture Readings

Sunday, July 2: Psalms series
Psalm 23: A psalm of trust

Sunday, July 9: Psalms series ends
Psalm 150: A psalm of praise!

Sunday, July 16:
Guest preacher: Rev. Cristhian Gómez
Rev. Gómez is a Presbyterian pastor in Colombia and serving in Seattle this summer for a two-month fellowship with the Seattle Presbytery. We're excited to welcome him to preach and share with us.

Sunday, July 23: Ephesians series begins
Ephesians 2:11-22

Sunday, July 30: All Church Picnic!
Ephesians 4:1-16

Bits and Pieces

WE CHOOSE WELCOME!

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR STACI meets Tuesdays, **noon**, at the Green Bean Coffee Shop, 8525 Greenwood Ave N. July 4: No scripture conversation; July 11: Ephesians 2:11-22; July 18: Ephesians 4:1-16; July 25: Ephesians 6:10-20

HOLY HOPS BATMAN! Join us for fellowship and pointed discussion in a new group at WPPC we're calling Holy Hops. We'll be meeting monthly and talking about current topics that are important to the group. We will meet Thursday, July 27th, 6:00pm at Queen Anne Beer Hall (203 W Thomas St, Seattle 98119).

JUST A YEAR AGO, the cedar tree on the Palatine corner of WPPC was taken out as it was encroaching on the building and steps. We still have 2 large pieces of cedar that need to be removed. One is 9' tall, 20" in diameter; the other is 4' tall, 17" in diameter. Both are free to the person who is willing to take them away. Interested? Please contact WPPC Custodian, Tom Keim, 782.3776.

THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY is seeking Homework Help volunteers who have a passion for helping elementary, middle and high school students learn and succeed in school. Volunteers will interact with students in small groups and individually at one of 11 branch libraries throughout Seattle. A commitment throughout the school year is requested. Visit www.spl.org/homeworkvolunteer for more information and applications. Applications are requested by July 31.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Recovery: Debbie Blane; Flo Bliss; Ken Doak; Bethany Erickson; Evelyn Merritt; Margaret Russell; and Ken Stover.

Missionaries: Brian and Sandi Thompson-Royer.

Our college students: Arthur Bale, Miki Bale, Colin Bronsdon, Jessica Cruz, Erin Emery, Kai Hirayama, Luke Luttrell, and Ben Peterson.

Presbytery Connections - July, 2017

By Roger Lee

The McCormick PC(USA) Seminary has awarded an innovation in ministry \$1,500 prize to **Steel Lake Presbyterian Church** in Federal Way. For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pcusa-seminary-news-6/>

As part of an ongoing Theological Conversations series, the PC(USA) has published "A Legacy of Faithful Dissent." For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/theological-conversations-releases-legacy-faithful-dissent-fifth-2017-series/>

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has released its Gun Violence Prevention Congregational Toolkit. The "No Guns in God's House" sign, that the WPPC Session approved for display on our front door, is part of the toolkit. For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-peace-fellowship-releases-gun-violence-toolkit/>

A group of faith leaders from across the geographic and theological spectrum in the U.S. has issued a public letter denouncing a spate of recent anti-Muslim rallies. The Rev. Dr. Herbert Nelson, PC (USA) Stated Clerk, was one of the co-signers. For more information see:

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2017/6/19/heads-faith-groups-speak-out-against-anti-muslim-m/>

The Presbyterian congregation that serves the small Kentucky town of Lebanon, found a "way to grieve" the closing of U.S. borders to refugees. For more information see:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/April-8-2017/>

A Book Review from Neola Sandvik.

A Religion of One's Own: A Guide to Creating a Personal Spirituality in a Secular World.

by Thomas Moore (Author of **Care of the Soul**).



In our church there is a long-standing awareness of institutional injustice, danger to the planet, and of the fear, violence, and suffering, the political differences ... and a commitment to participate in doing what we can to help. Yet we also are confronted at times with our own inner conflicts, anger, violence, longings, griefs, and pain, and how these interfere with our relationships and ability to live out love, joy and peace as fully as we truly desire, and also may interfere with our freedom to act effectively in the larger world.

This book is concerned with the “reflection” aspect of these two deep concerns ... I want to recommend it to anyone who is aware of a deep need and desire for inner, personal transformation and a greater freedom to love and to work creatively—for its own sake, but also, to enable a greater freedom to participate more lovingly in life with family and friends, and also in action on behalf of the larger world, near and far.

... [I]t has much to offer in seeing ways to enhance joy and creativity, love and laughter in every day life; to find an increase in self-care, and care of our closest family and friends—the people we live with, day by day.

In short, in my view, it can help to “take away our heart of stone and give us the heart of flesh,” which the Lord promises in the Old Testament, and also help to bring into reality many of the teachings of Jesus we’d like to see in our lives.

I consider it a personal resource for the my own future. I give thanks.

Thanks to Neola for this review.

Happy Reading !

Jeri Lee

WPPC Librarian

Sojourner's Truth

Sojourners magazine: July 2017

<https://sojo.net/about-us>

Church Planting and Gentrification

Are we seeking the "welfare of the city," or just our own?

by D. L. Mayfield.

With Open Arms*

Meet the people who are countering Trump's closed-door approach to refugees by offering a warm welcome and a place to call home.

by Julie Bourbon.

You Are Not Forgotten

The blockade of Gaza has created a humanitarian crisis, but the outside world could offer a lifeline.

by Mae Elise Cannon with Jessica Hill.



Things We Can't Unsee

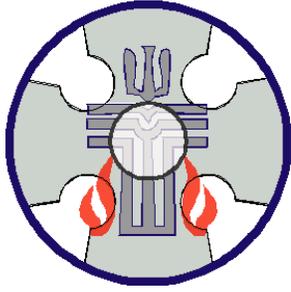
How do journalists - and the rest of us - keep from becoming numb in the face of on-line violence and tragedy?

by Catherine Woodiwiss.

Commentary

- Grief and peace
- North Korea
- Sanctuary Church

*note: this article speaks about the issue of immigration and refugees.

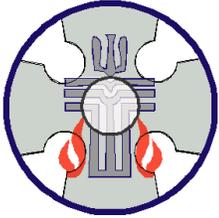


JULY 2017

**WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SEATTLE – WASHINGTON**

**MISSION
IN
MOTION**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>Each Sunday 9:15 Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 Worship Service RAC Coffee Fellowship</p>						<p>Please let us know your (Birthday) so we can note it on the calendar.</p> <p>JBC = Just Before Church RAC = Right After Church</p>	<p>1 8:00 Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)</p>
2	3 Soup Kitchen	4 <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7	8	
9 RAC – Deacons <i>Full Moon</i>	10 Soup Kitchen	11 7:30 - Stewardship Committee	12	13	14 6:15 Open Mic Check In 7:00 Open Mic Night! 	15	
16 Guest preacher: Rev. Cristhian Gómez	17 Soup Kitchen	18	19	20	21 <i>(No Movie Night in July)</i>	22	
23	24 Soup Kitchen	25	26	27	28	29	
30 (Evan Ream) 10:30 Church Picnic and Church Service in the Park	31		7:00 Session	6:00 Holy Hops (Queen Anne Beer Hall)			



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MISSION IN MOTION

CHURCH PICNIC – Sunday, July 30

Place: Shelter 6 at Woodland Park
(see enclosed map)

Time: We will start with Sunday worship at the Park at 10:30
(coffee and donuts will be available)

The Fellowship Committee is organizing a picnic for all on Sunday, July 30. Lunch will be catered by *Smokin' Pete's BBQ*. Please bring a snack or dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering space. Please let us know if you are planning to come so we can order the right amount of food. There is a vegetarian option, but we need a count, so please indicate if you want a veggie burger.

A voluntary donation of \$5 per person and \$10 per family would help defray the cost of the meal. This is optional, but would be much appreciated for those who can donate. A donation is not required and no one should forego the picnic because a donation is burdensome. We want all who can attend to attend!

We know that not everyone has transportation so please indicate if you will need a ride from the church to Woodland Park. We will arrange for rides there and back.

Finally, the planned festivities end with lunch, but we have the shelter all day. Please feel free to bring games, chairs, books and enjoy the afternoon and evening at Woodland Park.

