

# WOODLAND PARK PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF  
WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A COVENANT NETWORK OF FAITH  
AND A GREENING CONGREGATION



AUGUST – 2017

## *Not “ From the Pastor...”*

A note from the “not a pastor”....

Well it's been about 3 weeks since we welcomed Eever, Olga, Fiorella and Eva into our lives. What a frantic, fearsome, loving ride it's been. We first heard of the need on a Monday and they were here a week later. Personally, I've not been involved with this kind of thing before. My normal work life involves planning for a future construction project, developing solutions to complicated construction issues and activities and normally having plenty of time to analyze and determine the best way forward.

In this case, there simply wasn't time to plan this out. To paraphrase Gene Oliver's words in the first discussions the task force had “they're coming to Seattle, we just need to decide if we want to help”. We said yes. Then we needed to figure out how.

The needs became apparent rather quickly and were almost scary when you think of them all at once: housing, food, diapers, bottles and toothbrushes, pajamas, shampoo, stroller, car seat, Salvadorian sign language lessons(!). We needed access to legal advice and healthcare. Is this even a safe thing to do in the first place? The list of unknowns was immense and we really didn't know how extensive it would become.

Those unknowns could have stopped us. We tend to want to investigate and plan. Sometimes God forces us to go rogue and asks us to trust Her. There is always faith involved in what we are doing. To paraphrase Mike Bronsdon's words “do some thinking more with the heart than with the head”.

We have resources that many people in the world can only dream of. When we put those together along with hearts full of love it is amazing what we can do for each other. We heard the impact of that when we listened to Eever and Olga's stories this past Sunday. (I picked a bad day to not bring the tissues with me.)

OK so it's been 3 weeks. Lots of texting with Staci, lots of phone calls and conversations with friends, some incredible soccer moments with Eever and Nate, I even got Eva to smile at me Sunday. Amen.

*~Todd Peterson*



A Member Congregation of the  
Covenant Network of Presbyterians

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



## Our Donation from the Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, our congregation participates in the promise of the Holy Spirit—which is “for you, for your children, and for all . . .” —Acts 2:39.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians collectively have raised more than \$11 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God’s family. Congregations keep 40% of raised funds to support programs for young people in our community.

During the Pentecost offering in June, WPPC collected \$844.92. Of that total, WPPC sent \$338 to [YouthCare](#).

Each night in Seattle, 700 – 1,000 young people are homeless. That’s thousands of homeless youth every year — stuck in survival mode. Most were traumatized before they reached our streets. At YouthCare, children as young as 12 and young adults up to age of 24 are served. [YouthCare](#) stands out in this community for the scope of services they offer; from specialized counseling to formal and informal coaching in life skills, from GED and high school classes to employment training, the continuum of care is the surest way to get homeless youth off the streets and prepared for life.

Thank you for your generosity and investment in our young people.

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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](mailto: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**

## August Worship and Scripture Readings

Sunday, August 6:

Last Sunday of Ephesians Series  
Preacher: Dustin Wilsor  
Ephesians 6:10-20

Sunday, August 13:

Rev. Dr. Ellen Acton preaching

Sunday, August 20:

Sacraments Series begins: Baptism  
Psalm 84; Romans 6:1-11

Sunday, August 27:

Sacraments Series continues: Communion  
Psalm 65; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

# Bits and Pieces

**WE CHOOSE WELCOME!**

**SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR STACI** meets Tuesdays, noon, at the Green Bean Coffee Shop, 8525 Greenwood Ave N. Scripture reading for this Tuesday is Ephesians 6:10-20. Please note there will be NO Scripture Conversation on August 1 and August 8 as Pastor Staci will be on vacation.

**MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY GATHERING:** If you've thought about becoming a member of Woodland Park or would like to know more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), here's your chance! Pastor Staci will lead a fun and informal gathering at the Bronsdons' home this summer. You don't have to be sure that you want to join nor do you have to commit to joining if you attend. Gathering date(s) will likely be a weeknight evening over a light meal. Actual date TBD based upon availability of those interested. If you'd like to participate or if you have questions, please reach out to Michael Bronsdon [michael@bronsdon.com](mailto:michael@bronsdon.com) or (206) 799-7614.

**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. The August meeting will be towards the end of August - Watch for updates in the weekly bulletin.

## 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 - August, 2017

By Roger Lee

At the July Stated Meeting, the Rev. Denise Anderson praised the August "WPPC reads" selection "Growing Up White". We also heard her suggestion for another book, "Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor" by the Rev. Liz Theoharis. For more information, see <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/ministry-intersection-racism-poverty/>

The Seattle First PC Administrative Commission gave its update. For more information, see: <http://seattlepresbytery.org/reports>

Presbyterians attending Big Tent in St. Louis had an opportunity to hear the pros and cons of divesting from fossil fuel companies. For more information, see <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/big-tent-workshop-takes-issue-climate-change/>

The PC(USA) Research Services office rolled out a new website that promises to make access to church statistical information more user-friendly than in the past. For more information, see: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/new-website-serves-user-friendly-church-statistics/>

Five members of an interfaith delegation, including Rick Ufford-Chase, former GA Moderator, were prevented from boarding their flight to Israel because of their public criticism of the Israeli government's policies towards Palestinians. For more information, see: <http://presbypeacefellowship.org/bdsban>

The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board has just published the agency's 2016 Annual Report. For more information, see: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-mission-agency-publishes-2016-annual-report/> 3

## **SORIANO RAMIREZ FAMILY UPDATE:**

Last week, the family got to meet with an advocate from the Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center (HSDC)—thanks again to Nancy Horman for that connection! Todd Peterson’s neighbor also connected us with the NeighborCare Clinic and other services and, putting the two together, the HSDC advocate accompanied Olga and Eever to an intake appointment at the NeighborCare Clinic to begin the process of applying for social services and health insurance for the girls.

We continue to appreciate help from the congregation with grocery store runs, diapers, and other needs that pop up here and there. Thank you to everyone who contributed financially this past week to help us continue to accompany Olga, Eever, Fiorella, and Eva.

We were able to register Fiorella for two more weeks of day camp and purchase more grocery cards this week. For those who would still like to contribute, write a check to WPPC and on the memo line put “Deacons fund—Ramirez family”. Gift cards should be given to DeAnne or Todd Peterson and will be given directly to the family (they cannot be recorded as donations to the church). The Task Force will also be making a request to Session to free up some of the 10% of the Mission in Motion funds that were designated for mission use.

### **Fiorella’s Birthday Party**

On Friday, July 21, we celebrated Fiorella’s sixth birthday. Roger and Abby Brockway graciously opened their home. The girls spent time jumping on the trampoline and running through the backyard. After a picnic of hot dogs, sausages and sides, we feasted on a Moana birthday cake and Fiorella opened her gifts of clothes toys and books. A good time was had by all



# Seattle's Neighborhood Action Coalition

Neighborhood Action Coalition - District 6 will meet at WPPC the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday monthly at 6:00 p.m.. The meetings are open to all. In keeping with our mission of welcome, WPPC is hosting District 6 meetings.

Their mission is: Commit to protecting what you love.

Seattle's Neighborhood Action Coalition is a practical, people-powered solution to the many known and imminent threats of a dangerous administration.

Neighborhood Action Councils are autonomous communities of resistance, formed to provide immediate services and protection for marginalized communities. That might mean anything from creating a community patrol to respond to hate crimes, to organizing support for a local Black Lives Matter demonstration.

These are ideas, not directives. The whole point of building the power of the people is to give everyone a say together. What do you think a NAC should be for? As a faith community, we are called to be in community and they are meeting in our building! Join in this work!

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## Listening Circles at WPPC

Listening circles are forming now. We are asking for everyone to sign up for a group so that we can listen to each other. This is an opportunity to connect more deeply with one another about what matters to us. Witness and the Mission Task Force want to hear feedback about our mission work both currently and for a longer-term vision. It is also a chance for fellowship.

If you have not signed up for a small group, we encourage you to. Look for sign-up sheets that will be available in the coming weeks.

We also need people to host the small groups and to facilitate the listening circles. Pastor Staci will be training the facilitators and providing the questions that the groups will discuss. If you are able to host or be a facilitator please contact Abby Brockway (206) 484-9857 or email [herpaint@gmail.com](mailto:herpaint@gmail.com).

### **Tuesday Scripture Conversation Texts**

(Scripture Conversation meets Tuesdays at noon at the Green Bean, 8525 Greenwood Ave N)

Aug 1 & 8: No scripture conversation

Aug 15: Psalm 65; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Aug 22: 1 Sam 21:1-9; Matthew 12:1-8 or Mark 14:12-25

Aug 29: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

### **A Wishful Prayer**

A fellow went into his church and he was praying to God.

While he was praying, he asked God, "How long is 10 million years to you?"

God replied, "One second."

The next day the fellow asked God, "God, how much is 10 million dollars to you?"

And God replied, "A penny."

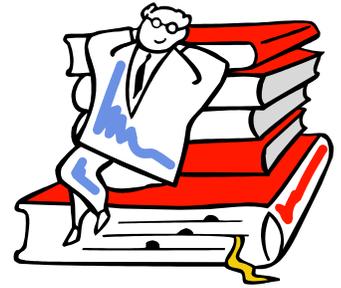
Then finally the next day the fellow asked God, "God, can I have one of your pennies?"

And God replied, "Just wait a sec."

A Book Review from the WPPC Librarian.

## Grounded: Finding God in the World - A Spiritual Revolution.

by Diane Butler Bass.



*Grounded* explores this cultural turn as Bass unpacks how people are finding new spiritual ground by discovering and embracing God everywhere in the world around us—in the soil, the water, the sky, in our homes and neighborhoods, and in the global commons. Faith is no longer a matter of mountaintop experience or institutional practice; instead, people are connecting with God through the environment in which we live. *Grounded* guides readers through our contemporary spiritual habitat as it points out and pays attention to the ways in which people experience a God who animates creation and community.

Bass brings her understanding of the latest research and studies and her deep knowledge of history and theology to *Grounded*. She cites news, trends, data, and pop culture, weaves in spiritual texts and ancient traditions, and pulls it all together through stories of her own and others' spiritual journeys. *Grounded* observes and reports a radical change in the way many people understand God and how they practice faith. In doing so, Bass invites readers to join this emerging spiritual revolution, find a revitalized expression of faith, and change the world. (from Amazon.com website).

Happy Reading!  
Jeri Lee (WPPC Librarian)

## Sojourner's Truth

Sojourners magazine: August 2017  
<https://sojo.net/about-us>

### Confessions of a Former White Supremacist.

A conversation with a former neo-Nazi who's learned that there's life after hate.  
Jason Byassee.

### The Radical Prison Ministry of Early Christians.

Early Christians didn't just advocate for prison reform - they questioned the entire logic of retributive violence.  
Ryan Schellenberg.

### Even in Case of Rape?

How could I remain in a church that made no space for my brutalized past?  
Ruth Everhart.



### After ISIS: Can Iraqi Christians Go Home Again?

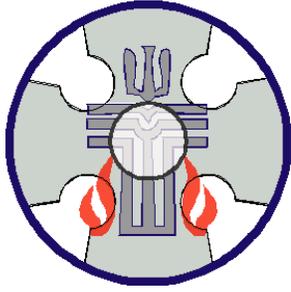
"We are a homesick people."  
Anna Lekas Miller.

### Better Than a Wall.

In Mexico, rural farmers resist emigration by building local economies.  
Annelise Jolley.

### Commentary.

Becoming a 'Seamless garment.'  
Addicted to imprisonment.  
A Moral Response to Cyberwar.

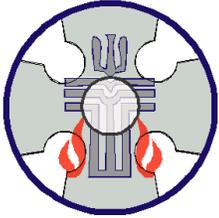


# AUGUST 2017

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
SEATTLE – WASHINGTON

**MISSION**  
**IN**  
**MOTION**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Each Sunday</b> 9:15 Sunday School for All Ages</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service</p> <p>RAC Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>Please let us know your <b>(Birthday)</b> so we can note it on the calendar.</p> <p><b>JBC</b> = Just Before Church <b>RAC</b> = Right After Church</p>	<p><b>1</b> (Rayna Higher)</p>	<p><b>2</b> (Gordon Merritt)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:15 Worship Committee</p>	<p><b>4</b> (Peggy Johnson) (Betty Wight)</p>	<p><b>5</b> (Kyle Oliver) 8:00 Men's Breakfast Group (Bay Café)</p>
<p><b>6</b> (Margaret Russell)</p> <p>RAC -Fellowship &amp; Outreach Committee</p>	<p><b>7</b> (Joseph Lee)</p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p> <p>7:00 Witness Committee</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> (Marylouise Peacock)</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:15 Open Mic Check In 7:00 Open Mic Night!</p> 	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>RAC – Deacons</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p>	<p><b>15</b> (Mary Lou Knox)</p> <p>7:30 - Stewardship Committee</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:30—Movie Night</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p>	<p><b>22</b> (Mary Fournier) (Joel Highet)</p>	<p><b>23</b> (Len Andrews)</p> <p>7:00 Session</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> (Debbie Blane) (Tom Howard)</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>RAC WPPC Readers</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Soup Kitchen</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> (Evelyn Merritt)</p>	<p><b>31</b> (Akemi Shinjo Bale)</p>		



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# MISSION IN MOTION



**CROSSROADS ANTIRACISM ORGANIZING & TRAINING**

DISMANTLING RACISM, BUILDING RACIAL JUSTICE IN INSTITUTIONS

Seattle Presbytery is hosting a  
workshop  
**CROSSROADS:  
ANTI-RACISM  
TRAINING**

*Racism dehumanizes us all —*

*Dismantling racism heals us all.*

*Recognizing that racism goes beyond personal prejudice, Crossroads offers a distinctive power analysis of how racism functions in institutions, and offers tools to create antiracist transformation.*

We are encouraged to have at least five members from each church to attend. Please come!

This workshop will be the one-day anti-racism training with the focus on our particular institution - the church

The workshop is subsidized by Seattle Presbytery and they are charging \$10 per person to cover lunch. Registration is required by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

For Further Information, see: <http://seattlepresbytery.org/events/2017/923-crossroads-anti-racism-training>