



Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

Since the writing of my last newsletter article, I've participated in two services that have reminded me of the brevity and uncertainty of life. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, I served as the Officiating Chaplain for the memorial of Shawn Duran, a 47-year old retired Navy Chief, who died from cancer. And, on February 18, I served as a soloist for the memorial of Michele Gibbs-Fleming, the 57-year old daughter of our own beloved Don and Ruth Gibbs. Michele was tragically struck down by a car while she was on a walk in California. In each case, an older generation was forced to grieve and bury a younger generation. In each case, families and communities have been left with difficult and unanswered questions.

The writers of the Old Testament psalms used poetic language to describe life's brevity. They compared our days to an evening shadow (Psalm 102), to seasonal grass or field flowers (Psalm 103), to a breath or a passing shadow (Psalm 144). The wisdom writings contained within our wisest text remind us to be mindful of our mortality.

Their purpose – like mine – is not to be dour or discouraging. Rather, the psalmists placed their reflections about our frailty in contrast and connection to descriptions of the loving, powerful, and eternal nature of God. This same God, who is above all and through all and in you all (Ephesians 4:6), has breathed in us the breath of life, ordered and numbered our days, removed our sins and transgressions from us in Christ, raised us up with Christ to be heirs of His eternal kingdom, and promised His love from everlasting to everlasting. We have no purpose in being preoccupied or fearful because of what or who awaits us following this life. Our purpose instead, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, is to *"live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time..."* (Ephesians 5:15-16)

We do that by following the Great Commandment to love God and to love others as ourselves. We do that by following the Great Commission in making disciples of the nations, teaching them what Jesus taught us, and baptizing them into the community that bears the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We do that by heeding the words of wise King Solomon, who wrote, *"This is what I have seen to be good: it is fitting to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of the life God gives us; for this is our lot."* (Ecclesiastes 5:18 & 8:15)

Without wanting this to sound too much like another "Carpe Diem" message, I remind you to make the most of the time God gives you. Even our frailty and brevity can be used to glorify and magnify the power and eternity of the God who has offered us everlasting life and overwhelming blessings.

May each of your days be filled with His presence and shaped by His love ~ *Bill*

## CONNECTING TIME

**Christian Education** – the new BELIEVE study will include in March:

- ✦ “Three Wise Women”—March 5--Gathering Sunday
- ✦ Eternity—March 12
- ✦ Love—March 19
- ✦ Joy—March 26

**Children’s Activity** – Children’s Choir practice in the Cedar/Preschool Room, preparing to sing songs for our congregation. Nursery care: ages 0-5.

**Youth Gathering** – Middle school and high school students are invited to the Redwood/Youth Room for relationship-building and discussions on faith-centered and Bible-oriented topics.

**Mission Time** – Helping Those Who Hurt

Have you ever been at a loss for what to say to someone going through a crisis? Would you like to feel more present with those who are hurting? Cynthia Younger will present a short course “**Helping Those Who Hurt.**” March 12 and 26. Topics discussed will include grief, divorce, and reproductive problems. For more information, contact Cynthia Younger at [adult@eastwoodpres.org](mailto:adult@eastwoodpres.org).



### **Believe Part 1 Capstone Experience – Writing a Personal Statement of Faith**

On Sunday, March 12, we’ll complete the first part of our three-part Believe sermon series. Ten topics down... twenty to go! This first part has been focused on the core beliefs of the Christian faith. The next two will emphasize how to act like Jesus (e.g. what to do) and how to be like Jesus (e.g. what the fruit of the Spirit helps us become).

As we complete each part, you’re invited to engage an experience meant to cap off and synthesize that part’s ten topics. Since Part 1 has been about what we believe, **you’re invited to write a personal Statement of Faith** that will form a Faith Legacy Book for East Woods.

If you’ve never written a Statement of Faith before, it can seem intimidating. But, Pastor Bill is available to meet with any of you who would value his guidance, or you are welcome to visit the following websites for further instruction.

1. [http://www.wikihow.com/Declare-Your-Personal-Christian-Statement-of-Faith-\(Protestant\)](http://www.wikihow.com/Declare-Your-Personal-Christian-Statement-of-Faith-(Protestant))
2. <http://www.westminsterpc.org/filerequest/8086>

**The due date for these Statements of Faith is Sunday, April 2**, when we’ll celebrate our faith journeys at our Gathering Sunday brunch. Feel free to ask Pastor Bill, or stay tuned during worship service announcements, for more information.

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

### CHILDREN

**Children's Activity** – Calling all adults, youth and children! Please join the choir during Connecting Time in the K-2 Cedar Room. Performance is March 19<sup>th</sup>. **ALL ages are welcome!**

### **Connecting Time for Children**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>**-Children's Choir

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**-Children's Choir (last rehearsal)

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**-2<sup>nd</sup> service Children's Choir

Performs

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**-Lenten Cross and Lord's Prayer

Activities

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**-Lenten Activity and Lord's Prayer Activities

**April 16<sup>th</sup>**-Easter Activity

**NOTE:** On **March 5<sup>th</sup>** during Gathering Time, Roberta will have a table set up with different **Bibles and Bible Story Books**. There will be information for ordering the books on your own or talking to Roberta about purchasing the books on the table. She will also set up the table on April 9<sup>th</sup>. These are all great gift ideas for Easter for your children, Grandchildren. Nieces & Nephews or neighbor children. Be sure to check the table out!

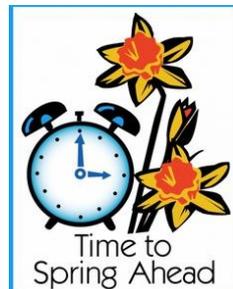


### YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group welcomes students from middle school and high school to our regular meetings on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM in the Redwood Room, and at 9:45 AM on Sundays during Connecting Time.



**Daylight Saving Time begins on  
Sunday, March 12.**



## THE DEACONS' CORNER

Deacons Moderator Lynne Helmke

Ronda and Dale Peterson have been part of East Woods since the early 1990's, when the congregation met at Harmony School. Dale, representing First Presbyterian, served on the founding-planning committee. "It has been exciting and challenging to be part of a church community from the first worship service. God has kept His promises to East Woods but not without stretching us to trust Him."



*Ronda Peterson*

Ronda and Dale are retired teachers. After 40 years in early intervention and early childhood special education, Ronda joined Dale in retirement last August, to travel and volunteer. They have two adult sons and daughters-in law, Todd & Rebekah and Marcus & Tabitha.

Ronda is Deacon to: Kurt & Nancy Anderson, Shanna Armstrong, Larry & Susan Asher, Brittney Baird, Judy Berry, Marcia Christian, Mike Davis, Esther Ellis, Ellen Haynes, Maria Henry, Bob & Conni Pfeifer, Colin & Mary Riley, Kathleen Shelton and Roy Stephens.

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—FEBRUARY 2017

**Tom Koecher**, Elder of Finance, reported that, thanks to below-budget expenses, January revenue exceeded expenses by \$468. Tom also opened a discussion on giving as it relates to the offertory on Sunday and then highlighted the need to remind the congregation of the different electronic ways to donate money to East Woods or through various fundraising efforts.

**Keith Bloss**, Elder of Buildings and Grounds, updated Session regarding the facility use partnership with Epikos Church. Epikos will be using the East Woods campus from 3-7 PM every Saturday, with a few exceptions throughout the year. The revenue from the partnership will be a great help in offsetting our annual expenses. Session discussed and approved a request from Epikos to add church-specific signage at various places around the campus.

Session brainstormed names for prospective members of the **Officer Nominating Committee**, which will serve under Keith Bloss' leadership in the June nomination of one Deacon, one Elder to serve as Clerk of Session, and one Elder to form and lead a Fellowship Commission.

**Lynne Helmke**, Moderator of the Deacons, provided a slide show presentation on Family Promise, a non-profit organization that provides shelter and assistance to families in need. Children are the common denominator for what is considered a family unit. Bill Sperry, Peggy Konzek, and Lynne and Rich Helmke are part of a team that is helping to establish Family Promise of Clark County. As such, Lynne introduced the need to identify 13 churches who would be willing to participate and host 14 people for one full week, four times a year. The host church would provide space for specified family units, not to exceed 14 people. She asked East Woods to consider being a host church. She advised that the program would probably not officially start until 2018.

**Pastor Bill** provided an update regarding the Personnel Committee's current projects. The committee will be interviewing five applicants during March with the hope of hiring a Family Ministries Director and a Student Ministries Teacher to begin April 1. The committee is also working with other congregations and with our insurance provider to establish a Child Protection Policy for East Woods.

## MISSION

The Mission Commission meets on the third Sunday of each month at noon. We are requesting donations of personal hygiene and non-perishable foods for homeless and street people in the Philippines: items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soaps, women's sanitary hygiene products and underwear.

Nonperishable food items may include: peanut butter, granola bars, nuts, dried fruits etc. The donated items will be packaged at the end of May and shipped in June.

### Connection Time information for March and April:

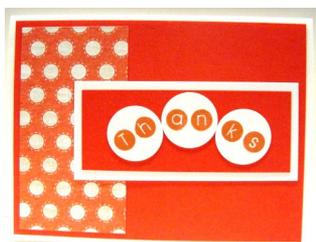
March 12 & 26	Divorce and Grief Series
March 19	Mission Commission Meeting
April 16	Mission Commission Meeting
April 23	Prayer Shawl Making
April 30	Prayer Shawl Making

Anyone interested in learning about the Prayer Shawl Ministry and/or learning to make the shawls is invited to attend the upcoming Connection Times. We also welcome donations of JoAnn Fabric's gift cards to buy the yarn for the knitted and crocheted shawls.



### CARING CARD MAKING

Caring Card Making is one week earlier than the usual 4th Monday of the month. Mark your calendar for **Monday, March 20th**, at 1 PM., at Brookdale Fisher's Landing, 17171 SE 22nd Dr., to meet for card making from kits for Soldiers' Angels and birthday card signing for April birthdays.



Please Note:

**The Women's Breakfast** will **not** meet during March and April due to the number of events on the East Woods calendar. We will resume again on the on May 20, the third Saturday, at the usual time 9:00-10:30 AM.



### A NEW 2017 EAST WOODS DIRECTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE!

- ✦ In print form on the Ushers' Table in Evergreen Hall (narthex)
- ✦ Online by requesting a digital copy from: [susie@eastwoodspress.org](mailto:susie@eastwoodspress.org)

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

**LIFE LINE SCREENING, Thursday, March 9**

**What You Don't Know Can Hurt You!**

- **If you are age 21-80 learn your risk for developing 6 different chronic diseases**
- **\$3 out of every \$4 spent on healthcare is for treatment of chronic disease**
- **Better lifestyle habits can help prevent 80% of heart disease and 90% of type 2 diabetes**

The **6 for Life Health Assessment** measures your risk of developing 6 chronic diseases, including heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, diabetes, COPD and lung cancer. A customized report will determine which risk factors contribute most to your disease risk and are within your control to change. Finger-stick blood tests along with biometric measurements are included with this assessment.

Protect your health by registering today for the 6 for Life Health Assessment for \$79. Call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) to schedule your appointment.

Take control of your health; knowledge is empowering



**SCRIP UPDATE:** **Thank you** to everyone who purchased gift cards last month. We're off to a good start! Our profit last month was **\$221.00** Please continue to think of this program for your grocery shopping, restaurant and gift needs. Remember, every little bit helps East Woods. Thanks again.



***Didn't Sign Up For BINGO?***

It's not too late if you didn't sign up. We'll make a spot at the table for you. We're looking forward to a fun family time and getting to know one another! Join us at noon for BINGO! Open to everyone; invite your friends, neighbors and family to join us. See you there!

**EAST WOODS ACTIVITIES -- SAVE THE DATE:**

March 5	BINGO Fundraiser, Noon
March 11	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM
March 18	Women's Breakfast, 9-10:30 AM
March 19	Lunch at Elmer's Pancake House
April 8	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM
April 15	Women's Breakfast, 9-10:30 AM
April 16	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
May 4-7	Men's Walk to Emmaus
May 13	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM
May 18-21	Women's Walk to Emmaus
May 20	Women's Breakfast, 9-10:30 AM
May 21	Lunch at Olive Garden
August 25-26	Annual Rummage Sale

*For more information on these events, please visit our  
"Happenings" web page at [www.eastwoodspres.org/happenings](http://www.eastwoodspres.org/happenings)*



**RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH**

March 19  
Lunch at Elmer's Pancake House  
after the 10:45 service

*April Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, March 21*

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

**Church Phone: 944-5841**

**16210 NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA 98684**

**Rev. Bill Sperry**

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

**Susie Freeman**

Church Admin, [secretary@eastwoodspres.org](mailto:secretary@eastwoodspres.org)

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



**EAST WOODS**

*Presbyterian Church*

**16210 NE 20th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98684**