

Springtime greetings, Friends and Family,

I love May. In my experience, May has always been a life-giving month... and not just because it's the month of my birth. We celebrate multiple May birthdays in our family, and we celebrate the moms who made those births possible. As days get longer and sunnier in May, I see new life growing all around us in this beautiful place we call home. And, May brings life through anticipation, as we look ahead to the summer months and the joy and activity of that season.

At our April Session meeting, I shared some thoughts about the life-giving nature of God's love and the work we do in Christ-centered leadership. In John 10:10, Jesus says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that [my sheep] may have life, and have it abundantly." When we partner in the life-giving mission of Jesus, we partner with our Lord in that goal of helping God's people experience abundant life. To apply that to our Purpose Statement, we could say that we are a congregation called to life-giving worship, life-giving community, and life-giving discipleship. What might that look like?

My wonderful mother, who gave me life on May 8, 1974, recently suggested I read a book called Being Mortal: Medicine and what matters in the end by Dr. Atul Gawande. I highly recommend it. In essence, it's a book about how we can maximize abundance of life in the days God gives us on this earth. One of Dr. Gawande's concerns about medical science and practice is that they have become too focused on offering quantity of days rather than quality of life. We don't just want people to live longer, he says. We want them to live lives that are better and more abundant.

In the chapter entitled "A Better Life," Dr. Gawande writes, "*As our time winds down, we all seek comfort in simple pleasures – companionship, everyday routines, the taste of good food, the warmth of sunlight on our faces. We become less interested in the rewards of achieving and accumulating, and more interested in the rewards of simply being. Yet while we may feel less ambitious, we also become concerned for our legacy. And we have a deep need to identify purposes outside ourselves that make living feel meaningful and worthwhile.*" Amen.

Part of the value of involvement in a church family is reflected above. We celebrate together, and offer to one another, the simple pleasures of being God's beloved children. We engage purposes outside of ourselves that are meaningful and that leave a unique, holy fingerprint on our world.

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And, we inspire one another toward legacy, by sharing our faith in word and deed with our community and with the generations following us. It's that same sense of legacy and purpose that lead the writer of Psalm 71 to write, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come. Your power and your righteousness, O God, reach the high heavens." Amen and amen! How's that for a life with purpose and abundance?

As our Deacons Ministry gets set to launch in June, and as we continue to spur one another on toward love and good deeds, I pray that the God of abundant life would fill your cup to overflowing and guide us together toward abundance.

In His service ~ Bill

EWPC Quarterly Financial Review (Quarter Ended March 31, 2016)

Our first quarter, which ended March 31, 2016, represents a very nice start to the year. General Fund revenues were slightly ahead of the 2016 budgeted revenues for the first quarter and expenses were slightly less than anticipated.

General Fund	3 Months Ended March 31, 2016		Variance	
	Actual	Budgeted	Amount	Percent
Contributions	\$52,096			
Other Revenue	\$2,945			
Total Revenue	\$55,041	\$54,434	\$607	1.1%
Operating Expense	\$53,568	\$58,012	(\$4,444)	-7.7%
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$1,473	(\$3,578)	\$5,051	

General Fund Other Revenue resulted primarily from rental fees we charge outside organizations for the use of our facility. Additionally our revenue from SCRIP sales was approximately \$700. The Bingo fundraiser, Fred Meyer Rewards, iGive and Amazon Smile generated \$300. The positive impact from your purchase of SCRIP cards is significant. If you have not yet set EWPC to benefit from your Fred Meyer Reward purchases or are not using iGive/Amazon Smile, please see Gwen Wagner, Tom Koecher or Peggy McNees.

Significant growth in Restricted (Special) Fund revenue resulted from dedicated donations to our Audio Visual Fund and special collections for One Great Hour of Sharing (\$633) and the EWPC youth sponsored Souper Bowl of Caring (\$275). These revenues can only be used for the donors' intended purpose and cannot be used to meet our operating expenses. EWPC youth dedicated the funds collected at the Souper Bowl of Caring to the Clark County Food Bank.

APRIL 2016 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session reviewed a proposal for the **installation of both an improved sound system in the Sanctuary and acoustic treatments to limit echo in the Evergreen Hall**. The proposal is from Steve Jellerson, who engineered and installed the audio and visual system for Columbia Presbyterian Church's renovated facilities. Session will continue working with Steve to visit other installation sites and work toward a solution that matches East Woods' budget.

Tom Koecher, Elder to Finance, reported that **year-to-date income at the end of March had exceeded expenses**, offering a positive bottom line. That is particularly encouraging, considering the expanded 2016 budget and the fact that March was a quarter-end month with higher quarterly expenses. Tom also reported the very positive impact being made by alternative income sources, including facility rental, Scrip sales, fundraisers like the car sales and Bingo, Fred Meyer Community Rewards, and online purchases through iGive and Amazon Smile.

Chris Luck, Elder to Worship, encouraged Session to offer programming suggestions to give value to the **Connection Time that will begin between worship services at 9:45 AM on Sunday, September 4, 2016**. On that Sunday, East Woods will transition to our new worship service start times of 8:30 and 10:45 AM.

Session approved a motion to create a **part-time work opportunity of four hours per week** focused on programming the screen presentations and coordinating the music and musicians for East Woods' worship services. That work will relieve Pastor Bill, who has been doing that work since Brian Jones' departure, and will offer a more sustainable solution to that part of East Woods' worship life.

Tess Castro, Elder to Mission, reported that East Woods will partner with other Churches in Partnership congregations in **helping host the Ugandan Children's Choir on Sunday, July 10**.

Gwen Wagner, Elder to Communications, reported that **East Woods will host a Food, Art and Music (F.A.M.) Festival on Sunday, June 5**, featuring local food and drink along with East Woods artists and musicians. Her report included a discussion by Session about whether or not current church policy should be changed to allow the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on church grounds.



THE POWER OF PRAYER should not be underestimated. God listens to prayers, answers prayers and moves in response to prayers. **The Prayer Team** of East Woods is dedicated to praying for the mission and ministries of East Woods, the members of the church, their extended families, the staff of East Woods and their families, the community, the United States and the world. As the Lord promised, prayer will transform individual lives. You can join the Prayer Team, in body or in spirit, on the **4th Thursday of the month at 2:30 PM** at East Woods.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

With all of the unusually warm, Spring weather, I have gotten the chance to experience what a beautiful outdoor space we have here at East Woods Pres. It is full of life in the form of beautiful landscaped flowers, bushes, and trees, which has made way for a lovely population of birds and some squirrels to thrive. Experiencing God's creation is one of my favorite ways of experiencing God's love and peace. (I don't mind getting to play Frisbee with the Youth Group either!)

Another way I have found to connect with God's love is through my mother. A mother is often the first person to teach us what divine love looks like; the first person to introduce us to God, before we have language to articulate that knowledge. (I'm not sure I have the language to articulate it, even now). In honor of Mother's day, I'd like to try to highlight some of the ways that, in my experience, mothers can be the very best evangelists! I hope you can relate to these, and many more that are unique to your own families.

My mother always had a way of experiencing awe in the face of nature, and sharing that wonder with me. My mother taught me to cherish life, in all its beautiful forms. She taught me to listen to my heart and its love for creatures, and to cultivate habits that heal and nurture these gifts all around us.

My mother taught me not to worry about trivial matters in life: money, looks, perfection. She taught me to always look at the people around me, and put them first, above time, above money, and above expectation.

My mother didn't teach me to 'convert' anyone to my religion, but rather chose to love, radically, with no expectation of anyone's response or actions. She taught me that if you want to show people who God is, then love them with all your heart, because God is love, and yes, it is that simple.

My mother taught me to be strong in the face of injustice. She taught me to stand up for the people I believe in, and to never stop questioning the status quo. She taught me use my brain, and to trust my heart.

My mother brought me to church, bringing into my life many other adults who helped me grow, supported my ideas and endeavors, and loved me like family.

She shielded me from what she could; and through great trials, my mother managed to teach me that I have value. She armored me with the knowledge of a love and sense of worth, so that I could walk through the storms of life, knowing that I am loved so perfectly, that nothing I do, or that is done to me, can ever change that. If that isn't what God is, if that isn't knowledge of a divine and loving presence, then I don't know what is.

I am thankful for all of the wonderful mothers in our congregation at EWPC, the love that they share, the community they help sustain for all of our East Woods children and youth! In large part because of these mothers, we have the opportunity to foster the knowledge of divine love within our young people and, to me, that is the best gift we could give this earth.

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If you are appreciative of your mother, and for the love she shared with you, and for the ways she strengthened your faith and knowledge and peace - bring her to East Woods Presbyterian church on Mother's Day, May 8th to experience the joy of hearing the children's choir sing at the 10:30 Service, which will be led this month by our very own Lisa Pickering.

Hailey Vandewiele Hailey@eastwoodspres.org
Family Ministries Director

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT EWPC:

- Children's Choir Performance – Mother's Day – May 8th
- VBS! – June 26th – 30th



COMING SOON:

- Friday Summer Outdoor Movie Nights
- Summer Hikes



ANNOUNCING DEACON TRAINING! As you may have heard, a Deacon Ministry will be coming to East Woods soon. Anyone interested in learning more about this important ministry is invited to attend a training class being offered by Gwen Wagner on **Sunday, May 22** from noon to approximately 3 PM. Lunch will be provided.

The Presbyterian Book of Order says this about the Deacon Ministry: *"The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of Deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith."*

If you love people, particularly the people of East Woods, then please prayerfully consider attending this training.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY



PENTECOST IS SUNDAY, MAY 15 The Pentecost offering helps the church encourage, develop and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. East Woods will be donating 40% of this offering to the local Share Backpack Program. In 2014, the Backpack Program distributed 70,977 total backpacks to children at 90 schools; and 13 high schools received pantry boxes for 20 weeks.

CARD-MAKING on **Monday, May 23** at 1 PM, Brookdale at Fishers Landing, 17171 SE 22nd Drive. We will be helping residents sign cards for those with June birthdays, sign Any Veteran cards, and assemble blank greeting cards.
For more information:
Esther Ellis, 891-0750



CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH JIM FISCHER AND FRIENDS –

A Benefit Concert for Friends of the Carpenter
on **Saturday, May 7th at 3 PM,**
First Presbyterian Church, 4300 Main Street, Vancouver.
Tickets \$20 online or at the door.



The **JOYBELL RINGERS** at Columbia Presbyterian Church
invite you to their
ANNUAL HANDBELL CONCERT on
Saturday, May 14, 10-11:15 AM.
805 Columbia Ridge Drive, Vancouver
Refreshments available.
RSVP by May 9 to
Paula Knapp 834-6690 or piknapp@comcast.net



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP HAPPY HOUR The men's ministry is hosting a monthly gathering of guys at McMenamins, across from the church. This is a regular meeting at 5:30 PM on the fourth Monday of the month. Come join us for a drink, snack or dinner and, most importantly, fellowship. For more information, contact Tim Martinez at tmartinez0408@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS! Are you an artist who paints, makes fine jewelry, glass or other handmade fine art? On **Sunday, June 5**, there is an opportunity to display and sell your art at the upcoming East Woods **F.A.M. Festival (Food/Art/Music)**. For more information or to confirm your interest, please contact **Peggy McNeas** peggymcnees@comcast.net or **Peggy Konzek** at geopegkon@comcast.net. Limited spaces are available and efforts will be made to avoid duplication of similar art.

SAVE THE DATE

May 8	Mother's Day
May 15	Restaurant of the Month Lunch, McMenamins
June 5	F.A.M. Festival (Food, Art, Music)
June 12	Restaurant of the Month Lunch
June 18-25	PCUSA General Assembly, Portland
June 19	Father's Day
June 26-30	Vacation Bible School (VBS)
August 26-27	Annual East Woods Rummage Sale
September 2-5	Family Camp



June Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, May 17

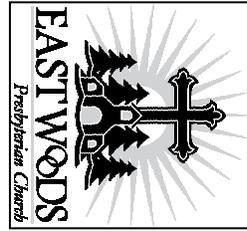
Office hours: Tuesday 1-4 PM, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM

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