



Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

Welcome to May! This past Easter Sunday, my sister reminded me of an experience I had years back that confirmed for me the importance of communicating in a way that gets everyone on the same page. While serving as an Intern Hospital Chaplain in Pasadena, CA, on a particular afternoon, I was called to the room of an older gentleman who was a patient due to heart problems. Tests had been run to diagnose the severity of his condition, and he and his family were in his room together anxiously awaiting the results. By some strange set of circumstances, as I was headed to visit with the patient and his family, I was made aware that his results were remarkably positive and that he would be discharged that afternoon shortly after my visit. Unbeknownst to me, that news had not yet been given to the patient or his family.

Imagine my confusion, then, when I walked into the room with a smile on my face, looked at the patient, and said, "Good afternoon. I'm Chaplain Sperry, and I hear you're not going to be with us much longer." I soon realized why that was not my best choice of words. I thought I was joining a celebration. They thought I was delivering a death sentence. After gasps, some awkward silence, a little backpedaling on my part, and the eventual arrival of the good news via some docs and nurses, we all breathed a collective sigh of relief and shared a good laugh. And, I learned a great lesson about effective communication.

East Woods has a couple of events in the works that require effective and clear communication. Before rumors, concern or confusion get the better of us, I want to make sure we're on the same page. First, our Session recently voted to send a proposal to Presbytery of the Cascades regarding a portion of our east yard property. The proposal asks the Presbytery for permission for us to sell up to 2.5 acres of that undeveloped yard space. If that proposal goes to Presbytery at their June meeting and receives approval, we will have the freedom to sell that portion of the property. We may choose not to sell it. We may choose to sell only a portion of it. Whatever the outcome, we will continue to have full use of our developed church campus and the yard space that is not included in a sale. The primary reason for considering the sale is to pay off most, if not all, of our existing mortgage debt, potentially saving us between \$65K-\$70K in mortgage payments each year. Many of us feel we have been in financial survival mode for so long that it would be a wonderful relief to instead thrive and to be able to focus a larger portion of our annual budget toward the mission and ministries to which God has called us.

The other major benefit of the sale of that undeveloped property is a massive reduction in the maintenance work carried by our very faithful and often overworked Buildings and Grounds team. The mowing of that yard space alone takes about four hours each time the grass is cut, and that bumpy ride takes a toll on the bodies of the riders.

Continued on page 2

Continued from Page 1

As the proposal and process move forward, the Finance Committee and the Session welcome your questions and comments. Specific questions should be taken to Tom Koecher, our faithful Finance Elder. We will also do our part to keep the congregation up to date, with the hope that no one will be caught by surprise by any major decisions that are made. In the meantime, we welcome and value your prayers as the process and proposal move forward.

The second event requiring effective and clear communication is our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS). June is fast approaching, and planning for VBS has historically been in full swing by this time of year. This year, however, leadership transitions are making it impossible for us to host the kind of VBS we've hosted in the past. And, as the makeup of our congregation changes, both Session and the Children and Family Ministries Commission have seen value in redefining the summer program, even for one summer. The bottom line is this: expect an alternative program for children and families this year. What that program will look like is still being defined. But, we know we won't host the traditional VBS, and we know that the alternative program that is offered will focus on building disciples in a family context and building relationships among the East Woods families with younger kids.

If you've loved or participated in our traditional VBS during past years, we recognize there may be some disappointment or some concern about whether or not VBS will ever return again. We ask that you'd be open to the new direction God is leading us in for both the short-term and the long-term. If you're open to participating and sharing your gifts in the alternative program, stay in touch with Charles Bivens, our Family Ministries Director, and Cathy Roeper, our Children and Family Ministries Elder. Let them know how you've helped in the past or how you'd like to continue helping. They may be able to shape a portion of the new program around your interest. Lord willing, the alternative summer program will prove to be even more powerful and effective than what we've previously done, and it may help to shape what we offer to our community as a gospel outreach for years to come.

There you have it. You now know what I know. Change is challenging. But, to connect it back to my lesson as an Intern Hospital Chaplain, I hope my words will feel more like joining in a celebration than receiving a death sentence. I have no doubt that God still has great things in store for East Woods, and I look forward to sharing in that journey with you.

In Christ ~ Bill



VBS UPDATE

Due to leadership change this year and lack of time to provide the expected spectacular VBS event at EWPC, the decision was made to cancel VBS for this year. Consider the VBS programs offered at:

First Presbyterian

360-694-3363

June 26—June 30, 2017

9-11:30 am

Preschool-5th Grade

“Hello Central—Discover
Your Strength in God.”

Registration info soon.

Columbia Presbyterian

360-694-7549

July 24—July 28 2017

9 am-12pm

Age 4 to 5th Grade

“Maker Fun Factory, Created by God,
Built for a Purpose”

Registration starts May 1st.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

CHILDREN

Connecting Time for Children

Nursery (Twigs room) is available for 0-5 yrs.

Team Builders Class for K-5th Grade (Maple room). Over the next few weeks we are going to tackle some challenges requiring us to work together as a team. As we do, we will work on memorizing God's Word with a focus on Ephesians 4:1-7. The "challenges" will vary from week to week and may involve games, building things, or putting your trust in each other; but whatever the challenge, we need to work as one.



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.



FAMILY DINNER NIGHT – Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00 PM

The Children, Youth, and Family Ministries of East Woods want to invite all EWPC families to a free summer kick-off dinner.

This will be a time of food and fellowship and introduction to some summer family activities. If you have kids in Sunday School or Youth Group, or are a teacher or volunteer, we want to invite you to come have dinner with us.

See you there!



MANY THANKS

to **Tim Martinez and his family**—and to
all the volunteers who assisted them,
for our spectacular Annual East Woods Easter Egg Hunt on April 15!

CONNECTING TIME

Christian Education – the new BELIEVE study will include in April:

- ✦ Offering My Time—May 7—Gathering Sunday
- ✦ Giving My Resources—May 14
- ✦ Sharing My Faith—May 21
- ✦ Love—May 28

Children’s Activity – Nursery (Twigs room) is available for 0-5 yrs.

Team Builders Class for K-5th Grade (Maple room).

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 –

- ✦ May 14—The Lighthouse, the Philippines
- ✦ May 21—Mission Meeting
- ✦ May 28—The Lighthouse, the Philippines

We are requesting donations of personal hygiene and non-perishable foods for the Lighthouse (Ang Bahay Parola)--home for homeless and street children in the Philippines. Personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soaps, sanitary napkins, and new underwear. Non-perishable food items such as peanut butter, granola bars, nuts, dried fruits etc. The donated items will be packaged at the end of May and shipped in June.



EAST WOODS BOOK CLUB begins in May! **Carol Domench** will lead this new small group, meeting every third Sunday starting **May 21**, at 9:45 AM in the Willow Room. Books will be selected by the group. If you enjoy reading, exploring a little more deeply into questions we face as Christians and having lively discussions, come join in! For more information: contact Carol Domench at 360-687-6911 or at kazooie@pacifier.com.



New small groups are forming. Groups can be focused on study, fellowship or mission activities. If you are interested in starting or helping to moderate a small group, please contact **Cynthia Younger** at 360-837-2381.

APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session discussed a proposal from the **Finance Committee** to request that Cascades Presbytery allow us to sell up to 2.5 acres of our undeveloped property. After discussing the positive and negative factors involved in the potential sale of a portion of our undeveloped east yard property, it was agreed that we would seek approval from the Presbytery; but this action does not imply final Session approval for the sale of this property. A motion was made and seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.

Pastor Bill led the Session in a continued discussion about a possible mission partnership with Family Promise of Clark County, a care and shelter program for situationally-homeless families with children. Bill read the covenant that host churches agree to if they become part of this program. After discussion Session agreed to confer with the leaders of Epikos and to inform the congregation during a Sunday morning service regarding all aspects of our potential commitment to this program before moving forward.

Cathy Roeper reported that the Children and Family Commission and the new Family Ministries Director, **Charles Bivens**, have decided that there will be no traditional Vacation Bible School this year. Some family activity alternatives are under consideration that will build family discipleship and strengthen the relationships among East Woods families.

Gwen Wagner represented the Fundraising Committee in presenting a handout that she and Peggy McNeas composed to reconfigure the Food-Art-Music (FAM) event for this year to include other congregations working to support the establishment of Family Promise of Clark County. Family Promise will be the primary mission beneficiary of the event. A decision will be made at the May Session meeting in regards to moving forward with these new ideas for FAM. The proposed date for FAM is Sunday, July 30.

Keith Bloss represented the Officer Nominating Committee in updating Session about the nominee search for the two Elder positions and one Deacon position that will change this June. Officers completing terms are Larry Asher and Nancy Dean. An additional Session position is being created for a Fellowship Elder. Nominees will be presented at the Congregational Meeting in June.



MADE TO CRAVE BIBLE STUDY – Satisfying Your Deepest Desires with God, Not Food. Has food become more about frustration than fulfillment? *Made to Crave* is the missing link between a woman’s desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment necessary to make that happen. Author **Lisa Terkeurst** personally understands the battle that women face. In *Made to Crave* she will help you:

- Break the cycle of “I’ll start again on Monday,” and feel good about yourself today.
- Stop agonizing over numbers on the scale and make peace with your body.
- Replace rationalization that leads to failure with wisdom that leads to victory.
- Reach your healthy goals and grow closer to God through the process.

Peggy Konzek, Molly Sperry and Gwen Wagner are offering this Bible Study to the women of East Woods. We have been through it and want to share what we have gained. This is not a how-to manual or the latest, greatest dieting plan. *Made to Crave* is a helpful companion to use alongside whatever healthy eating approach you choose; a book and Bible study to help you find the “want to” in making healthy lifestyle changes. The class starts **May 1 at 1 PM** at East Woods. We will determine the best time to meet from week to week. Sign up in Evergreen Hall (narthex); please purchase the book *Made to Crave* by Lisa Terkeurst, before we meet on May 1.

Looking forward to sharing this terrific study with you!

MONTHLY SCRIP / GIFT CARD BENEFITS Consider ordering gift cards for



your everyday shopping needs! Purchase gift cards and use them to pay instead of your credit card. *If just 40 families* used scrip gift cards every month for groceries, restaurants, coffee, clothing, entertainment, or more, **over \$1,300** could be realized by East Woods **each month!**

Check out the hundreds of merchants on the order form in the narthex.

Order the first Sunday of every month - Pick up the following Sunday.

SAVE A BUCK, EARN MONEY FOR EAST WOODS and get your car washed! Buy **Kaady Car Wash scrip gift cards** get your car washed for \$7, and 22% (\$1.54) of that is donated back to East Woods. A wash is \$8 at the location – if you don’t have a gift card.

Order by May 7—Pick up May 14



Join us for lunch!

East Woods Family & Friends are meeting at the Olive Garden for lunch after the late service on **Sunday, May 21.**

Purchase your restaurant scrip gift cards by May 7, for delivery May 14.



East Woods Activities -- SAVE THE DATE:

May 13	Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 AM
May 17	Family Dinner Night, at East Woods
May 18-21	Women's Walk to Emmaus
May 20	Women's Breakfast, 9-10:30 AM
May 21	EW Book Club in Willow Room
May 21	Lunch at Olive Garden
May 22	Men's Fellowship Happy Hour at McMenamins, 5:30 PM
June 29	Fundraiser at Panera's
August 25-26	Annual Rummage Sale
October 5-8	Men's Walk to Emmaus
October 19-22	Women's Walk to Emmaus
October 29	Trunk-or-Treat

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

Please note: The Men's Walk to Emmaus scheduled for May has been cancelled. Still on our calendar is the one on October 5-8.

MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY MAY 14TH Mom deserves to be pampered. **Scrip Gift Cards** are always a great choice – it's the perfect size and Mom can choose something special. Pick up a scrip form in the narthex. Over 200 choices from: Macy's to Nordstrom, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Bath and Body Works, Ulta Beauty, and more!



Order by May 7 - Pick up May 14



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

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Please visit our website at www.eastwoodspres.org



EAST WOODS

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