



Dear East Woods Family and Friends,

Fall is in full swing here in Clark County. And, though leaves are turning and dropping, there is great life thriving and rising within East Woods. In conjunction with our new Sunday morning worship service times at 8:30 and 10:45, we've started hosting our Connecting Time in between the services from 9:45-10:30.

As you'll likely recall, Connecting Time was created because of the comments Session received from you, our congregation, telling us you wanted more Christian discipleship, more chances to connect with one another in community and relationships, and more experiences of bringing the congregations from the two morning worship services around all-church events like baptisms, ordinations, and congregational meetings.

The response so far has been outstanding, and there is great energy throughout the campus, as well as at Starbucks across the street. Among the activities offered, we have a book study, a fellowship/discipleship group, a young adults Bible study, a choir and activity for children, mission projects that are both educational and interactive, and a youth-oriented video series welcoming multiple generations for growth and discussion. And, of course, on the first Sunday of each month, we're all coming together between services for a fellowship brunch. Wow! That's a lot of great stuff.

Of course, now that we have Connecting Time in place, now that we have our new sound system installed, and as we continue to bring our best before God in worship on Sunday mornings, we have the opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, coworkers and family members to be a part of the church experience we all value so much. And, research continues to show that an invitation from a friend or family member is the most effective way to bring guests to and through our doors. An recent article from Christian Century magazine confirmed that 51% of the 2,000 people polled in a study – people who say they have not attended a religious service in the past six months – could be drawn to church if a friend or family member personally invited them.

That's nothing new. Personal invitations have been powerful since the days of Jesus' ministry. My favorite example of that is found in John 1:43-49, which tells the story of some personal invitations that led to a confession of faith in Christ. It reads like this, with the invitations in bold print:

Continued on next page

Continued from page 1

“The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, **‘Follow me.’** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, **‘Come and see.’** When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you get to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘**Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel.**’”

That’s the power of invitation! So, who are those friends or family members whom you’d like to see joining us at East Woods and someday worshiping alongside you, as we declare together that Jesus is the King and the Son of God? Let’s lift them to God in prayer, do the faithful work of inviting, and then leave the results in the hands of the One who is faithful to deliver.

May God’s blessings be with you in this wonderful, beautiful season of life ~

Bill



Christian Education – Open to anyone. Through October 30, **Gwen Wagner** and **Pastor Bill** offer a seven-week book study and discussion focused on Walter Brueggemann’s book *Chosen? Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. It’s never too late to join the discussion. Meets in the Sanctuary. Talk to Gwen Wagner or Pastor Bill for more info.

Fellowship Gathering – Open to anyone. This is a time to connect with our community and building relationships with each other. The atmosphere is casual and allows you to learn more about each other through an informal devotional time with a lesson for the week. *Meets at Starbucks, across the street from East Woods.* Talk to **Keith Bloss** for more info.

Children’s Choir and Activity– Option for **children age 4-grade 5**. Preparing for the Lessons and Carols service in December, the children will practice music for the “Children’s Choir.” For children not interested in music we offer various activities that encourage their journey to knowing Jesus better. Children don’t have to attend this if parents would like them in other offerings. Meets in the Cedar (Preschool) Room. Talk to **Cathy Roeper** for more info.

Youth Gathering – Middle school and high school students are invited to gather in the Redwood/Youth Room for relationship-building and discussions on a variety of faith-centered and Bible-oriented topics. Meets in the Redwood (Youth) Room. Talk to **Chuck Dunn or Jeff Kennedy** for more info.

Mission Time – Open to anyone who has a heart for mission projects. For the month of October, the focus is card and blanket making. Participate by donating fleece (1 and ¼ yards each) and assembling the blankets. All blankets will be donated to the **“Blanket Coverage Ministry”** to offer to the homeless this winter. Meets either in the Maple (3-5 Grade) Room or in Evergreen Hall. Talk to **Tess Castro** for more info.

SEPTEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session discussed East Woods' year-to-date finances and the report submitted by **Tom Koecher, Elder of Finance**. As of the end of August, the congregation's actual expenses are approximately \$2,500 greater than budgeted expenses. Session has seen a valuable response from the year-to-date giving statements and per capita reminders offered to membership households. The annual per capita amount for each member is \$30, which is sent directly to support the work of our presbytery. Per capita payments not covered by congregation members will need to be paid from East Woods' financial reserves at year's end.

Pastor Bill will host a **Fall New Member Class on Sunday, October 23**, from Noon – 4:00 PM in the Redwood Room. Session brainstormed the names of prospective new members from among our visitors and regularly attending non-members.

Pastor Bill will also be working with Session to promote **“Worship Night in America,”** a nationwide simulcast hosted in Vancouver by East Woods. The pre-recorded simulcast will be held at the Kiggins Theater in Vancouver on **Tuesday, October 25**, at 6:00 PM and will be open to the community and other church congregations.

Session approved two job description drafts presented by the Personnel Committee. The two jobs are intended to cover the work Hailey Vandewiele has been doing in her role as Family Ministries Director. Based on the job descriptions, Personnel will begin the search process for a new Family Ministries Director (20 hours per week) and a new Student Ministries Teacher (10 hours per week), with the hope of having the positions filled by January 1, 2017.



EAST WOODS ACTIVITIES -- SAVE THE DATE:

October 2	Annual Animal Blessing Service
October 9	Lunch at McGrath's Fish House
October 25	Worship Night in America
October 27-30	Men's Walk to Emmaus
October 30	Trunk-or-Treat at East Woods
November 4-6	Men's Retreat
November 10-13	Women's Walk to Emmaus
November 13	Lunch at Applebees'
February 24-26	Women's Retreat 2017

THE DEACONS' CORNER
Deacons Moderator Lynne Helmke

Each month, we will highlight one of our Deacons. This month **Conni Pfeifer** is our featured Deacon. Conni and her husband Robert joined East Woods in spring of 2015. After visiting many churches, East Woods felt like home to them from their first visit.

They have been active in the life of East Woods from day one. Conni is involved with the fundraising committee, VBS and the Rummage Sale and Robert is involved with Buildings & Grounds, the Rummage Sale and starting the Car Donation program.

Conni & Rob share their home with their cat, Mickey. They enjoy RV'ing, traveling, golf and they used to be boaters and snowmobilers.



Conni Pfeifer

Conni is Deacon to the following members: Roger & Tess Castro, Nancy Dean, Linda Fortney, Susan Gustafson, Susan Howell, Peggy & George Konzek, Alta McLaughlin, Marilyn Minner, Pam Nesland, John & Dianna Nichols, Pat Norby, Arla Olsen, Carol Solvason and Cynthia Younger.

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS

Do you have questions about East Woods Church? Have you been considering becoming a member here? Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 23** for a luncheon and class from **Noon – 4:00 PM** in the Redwood Room at the church. This is a friendly and informative class. Being ready to join the church is not a requirement of those who attend. If you are interested, please **contact the church office at 944-5841**.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

TRUNK-OR-TREAT on **Sunday, October 30** at East Woods, 3-6 PM. Adult Ministries and Children & Family Ministries is having a Trunk-Or-Treat event in the parking lot of East Woods. Please bring your families and share with your neighbors and friends. We are in need of the trunks of your cars. It's easy and fun! You can sit next to or in your trunk and hand out candy to the children as they walk by; decorating and costumes are up to you!

Can't provide your trunk? How about a bag of candy?

If you are able and willing to provide your trunk and/or candy or have any questions, please contact **Cathy Roeper** at cathyroeper@gmail.com, or look for me on Sundays (in the nursery). There will also be a sign up in the Narthex and a bin set up for donations of candy!



YOUTH GROUP

Our Middle and High School youth have started the Fall off with lots of energy! On Sunday mornings at 9:45 (during Connecting Time) we are having great discussions around Nooma videos, exploring our world through the perspective of Jesus. Fall Youth Group had a great kickoff. We are singing lots of songs, playing lots of games (freeze tag, anyone?), and having some great discussion about who Jesus is. Later in the Fall we will be looking at the Advent Conspiracy, a new way of looking at Christmas giving.

We sure could use more volunteers to help out on Wednesday evenings. Whether you want to help organize, participate in the discussions, or just play some games – please contact **Pastor Bill Sperry** or **Jeff Kennedy** if you are interested.

On **Friday, October 7**, the youth will meet at the church at 7 PM and carpool to the **corn maze** at Bi-Zi Farms. After being thoroughly scared and lost at the maze, we will come back to the church to warm up with some pizza and a movie. Anyone in 6th – 12th grade is welcome, along with parents.

Contact **Jeff Kennedy** with any questions.



Hailey Vandewiele Hailey@eastwoodspres.org
Family Ministries Director

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

Rebecca Bentley, of The Family and Community Resource Center at **Mill Plain Elementary**, has provided the following list of food donations that families can use over the **Thanksgiving holiday**:

- packets of instant oatmeal
- packets of dried fruit/gummy snacks/nuts
- fruit cups
- canned tuna with easy-open lids
- kids cereal like Chex, Cheerios, Life, Kix
- microwave-ready kid food like mac & cheese, cup 'o noodles
- packages of crackers with cheese and/or peanut butter
- snack bars
- American cheese slices
- oranges, onions, garlic, potatoes (they have a long shelf-life on the counter top)
- masa
- pasta sauce

She also said her **immediate need** is for feminine hygiene products (ultra pads), toilet paper, paper towels, zip-lock bags (regular and gallon size.)

CARD MAKING MEETINGS

Card Making at Brookdale at Fisher's Landing on **Monday, October 24th at 1 PM**, helping residents sign birthday cards for those with November birthdays and assembling AnyVeteran and Supporting cards for Soldiers' Angels.



RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH

Join us for Lunch October 9!

After the 10:45 Worship service, East Woods Family & Friends are meeting at **McGrath's Fish House**. Their food offerings go beyond fish! Join us for our popular Restaurant of the Month gathering and meet some new friends.

Purchase your October restaurant scrip gift cards for McGrath's by October 2, for delivery October 9.



Our pets are a blessing to us...



...join us in blessing them!

SEVENTH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
AT EAST WOODS
Sunday, October 2 at 5 PM

AN INVITATION FROM COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN:

Jesuit **Father Gregory J. Boyle**, the founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, CA, will be speaking at CPC on **Saturday, October 15**, from **4-5:30 PM**. Father Boyle served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church, the poorest Catholic parish in the city, located between two large public housing projects and the territories of numerous gangs. He and parish and community members started what would eventually become Homeboy Industries, which is now the largest, most successful gang intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. Father Boyle is the author of the 2010 New York Times-bestselling book *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. For more information, or to register: <http://www.columbiapresbyterian.org/announcements/columbia-lecture-series-father-boyle>



East Woods Women's Breakfast
on Saturday, October 15th at 9:00 AM

MEN'S RETREAT:

2016 Men's Retreat, Nov. 4-6 in Lincoln City
at The Dawn Treader Retreat. For more information, contact
Rich Adamson rich@anthonyandassociates.com
or **Tim Martinez** tmartinez0408@gmail.com.



November Newsletter deadline—Tuesday, October 20



Office hours: Tuesday 1-3PM, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM
Church Phone: 944-5841
16210 NE 20th Street, Vancouver, WA 98684

Rev. Bill Sperry pastor@eastwoodspres.org
Hailey Vandewiele Director of Family Ministries, hailey@eastwoodspres.com
Susie Freeman Church Admin, secretary@eastwoodspres.org

Please visit our website at www.eastwoodspres.org



EAST WOODS

Presbyterian Church

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