

East Woods News

JUNE 2010

A Word from Laurel...

This last week of May marks the beginning of a long stretch of Ordinary Time on the Christian calendar.

That sounds nice, doesn't it? Ordinary Time. At least it sounds nice to me.

I arrived at East Woods in mid-October. Since then, our days together have been anything but ordinary. Not long after I got here, we entered the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Almost immediately after Christmas we entered the season of Lent; then Holy Week, Easter, and Eastertide. Finally, just last Sunday, we observed Pentecost. So for several months, in terms of the *Christian* calendar, we've been busy celebrating the Big Events in God's redemptive work.

We've also been busy getting to know each other. Many of you have been busy, rightfully so, missing Scott and Melanie Phillips, praying for them, feeling off-balance or a bit out of sorts in the midst of change. You've stepped up to take on new responsibilities...elected a PNC...welcomed new members...manicured the church grounds...prepared for VBS.

Personally, too, our lives have been full of Big Events. Here's my list: a new job as your interim pastor; company for Thanksgiving; a flood at my condo; house-hunting and house-buying; a family wedding; my husband's graduation from his Doctor of Ministry program; moving into our new home. Whew! After all that, I can't help but like the sound of Ordinary Time.

The Christian calendar reminds us that life contains both Big Events and Ordinary Time—that both are good and both are necessary. The Christian calendar reminds us that *rhythms* of time are important—that the *seasons* of the Christian year bring a rightful and beautiful *order* to our lives and to our life together.

I'm looking forward to the ordinariness of Ordinary Time. For me personally, that means getting all the way unpacked, with everything stowed in its proper place, and the pictures hung on the walls. It means living somewhere again, settling in, cooking real meals, sitting on our deck reading a novel. Meeting God in the everyday.

What will be going on at East Woods during this Ordinary Time?

- The PNC will be meeting, week-in and week-out: praying, planning, writing a CIF, reading Personal Information Forms, ranking candidates for your next pastor.

- Worship will be happening every Sunday, and the sermons will explore those strands of East Woods' DNA "code" that you'll be hearing about very soon from the Transition Team.
- The Session will be meeting every month, overseeing the budget and monitoring progress on the interim tasks.
- Lynne Swartzlander and Nancy Dean will be reorganizing office cabinets and files.

You all will be praying, mowing the lawn, knitting prayer shawls, reading your Bibles, welcoming newcomers, supporting mission efforts, caring for one another—and in various ways, many of them rather mundane, getting everything ready for your next permanent pastor to arrive.

I once heard someone say, "God's blessing is on our ordinariness." I think he meant that underneath, and behind, and above, and around, and even *in* our ordinariness, God is present and at work. Which means that by the time we come to the end of Ordinary Time in late November, you'll be on the brink—or at least *near* the brink—of seeing what God's been up to...seeing what God has planned for you. And a lot of it will be taking shape, coming together, when? During Ordinary Time.

Warmly in Christ,
Laurel

Interim Update

by Pastor Laurel

A big thanks to the Transition Team: Rich Adamson, Jim Bangert, Lori Drummond, Chris Luck, Darin Nelson, Dale Peterson, and Ronda Peterson. These people have worked very hard since late February to discern 3 or 4 strands of East Woods' *code*—those characteristics that are deeply embedded in your identity and history as a congregation, that constitute the core of who you are as a church.

This has been interesting and important work. The Transition Team has taken what *you* had to say at the *Blast from the Past* event in February and worked with those insights, memories, and convictions in a deeper way. Now they're preparing to share their work with you.

Here's how this will happen. On Sunday, June 6 you'll receive a document prepared by the Transition Team. (This will be available to pick up at church, but you'll also receive a copy via email.) It won't be lengthy—the Transition Team hopes to summarize their reflections in just one or two pages. Then on June 13 and June 27 you'll be invited to attend a 30-minute presentation before or after worship. Hopefully doing this on two different Sundays will give everyone a chance to participate—and members of the Transition Team are also willing to meet with other groups of you at other times. (Men's Breakfast? Prayer Shawl ministry? Mariners? Shepherds?)

These Sunday meetings will include a brief presentation from the Transition Team, but the real point of the meetings is to hear from *you*. The Transition Team has been working on *your* behalf. They've been trying to identify and articulate some salient features of East Woods' identity and purpose, and now they want to *check in* and *check through* with *you*, the congregation. How do their reflections line up with *your* experience of East Woods? With what *you* think stands out about East Woods? With where *you* think East Woods needs to be heading in the next decade?

Taking the Transition Team report seriously—reading it, thinking about it, talking it over with others, responding to it—is one of the best ways you can help East Woods during this time of transition. There are times in all our lives, and in the lives of groups and institutions, when it's quite proper and good to focus on ourselves: on who we are and why we're here; on what special talents, gifts, and longings we possess; on what God is saying to us and what we should do next. This is one of those times in East Woods' life.

Taking the report seriously is also one of the best ways you can support and encourage the PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee). Those 7 people will soon have to write a CIF (Church Information Form) for East Woods, which is a kind of résumé for this church. After that they're going to be interacting with pastoral candidates, telling them about what sort of congregation you are. Their ability to write about and represent East Woods accurately and well depends on *you*—on your presence on June 13 or 27 and your responses to the Transition Team report. So I hope you'll get in there and share your impressions and thoughts.

Don't forget to pray for the PNC: Rich Adamson, Susan Carlson, Pat Costello, Janet Luck, Richard Martinez, Dale Peterson, and Christine Whitney—along with presbytery liaison Mickie Drummond. Every day isn't too often.

This is God's Word on the subject... "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen." (Jeremiah 29:11-12, The Message)

CONGRATULATIONS, EAST WOODS!

June 10th marks the 10th anniversary of the chartering of East Woods Presbyterian Church. We will celebrate during and after

MISSION UPDATE

IS GOD CALLING YOU? We have learned of a community need from one of our members. A local Narcotics Anonymous group needs three pounds of coffee each month to serve at meetings. If God is calling you to provide for this group, please contact Hilary Heizenrader at 834-2435 or email her at mission@eastwoodspres.org.

FIRST ANNUAL? In the first of what we hope will be many blood drives at East Woods, 22 blood donations were received from members and walk-ins. A special thank you to Julie Burrell for organizing the event. A hearty thank you to donors, cookie bakers and servers. And the SW Washington Blood Program found a couple a new volunteers!

NOW WE TURN TO INTERNATIONAL NEWS. Habitat for Humanity works to provide safe, decent, affordable housing throughout the world. On June 6 you will have the opportunity to hear more about Habitat and donate to this cause. For just \$10 you could provide a box of nails; \$50 buys a low flow toilet; and \$100 provides a kitchen sink. How is God leading you to respond?

LOVE A GOOD DEAL AND A GOOD CAUSE? Friends of the Carpenter is holding its annual rummage sale June 3, 4 and 5 at the Friendship Center. All proceeds benefit this homeless ministry. Maps are available in the Narthex. Just be warned: the bread machine is mine.

ROUTINE BUT NEVER BORING. The continued abundance of food donations to Share House says this congregation understands the call to care for the poor. All nonperishable food items are joyously received, including, but not limited to canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, coffee, sauces, salad dressings, juice and breakfast cereals.

BACK UP PLAN. *Special giving* in June coordinates with VBS' mission focus: *Share's Backpack Program*. Children from families with uncertain food supplies at home are given a backpack on Friday filled with enough food to last the weekend. Specific needs: Hamburger or Tuna Helper, granola bars, soup, tuna, peanut butter, individual juice boxes, boxed macaroni and cheese, pasta and crackers.

AHAS SUMMER PROGRAM COMING SOON!!!

The AHAS (At home at school) summer program will begin July 5th and will run daily from about 8:30-1:00 p.m. through the end of the month at Silver Star Elementary. The AHAS summer program is an educational support program that helps children who face systemic road blocks to education. Many of these children who need this program are currently in the Share House program, Share Aspire or deal with extreme poverty daily. For these children school is where they feel out of place

Washington State University, Share House, Evergreen School District and Vancouver School district have joined hands to address these issues. The AHAS summer program addresses these issues and helps kids feel at home at

school. During the summer school AHAS program the children will be exposed to a wide array of activities, such as: Video Storytelling, Theater Dance, Music, Art Projects, Environmental projects, Bridge Building, Computers and other projects. The projects are fun and address academics at the same time. Each child will feel valued and respected, plus they will learn how to make friends.

I am excited about the AHAS program because it is a proactive program to address poverty in our community and change the lives of children for the better. The AHAS program and Share House are calling all volunteers for this year's summer program. If this is something you would like to help with there are many ways to help: Share House needs help with meals, AHAS can use tutors, assistance with art projects, behind the scenes help, and donations of supplies.

If this is something you would like to be involved with, or have any questions about, please contact Dayleen Harkin by phone at 891-9795 or email dayharkin@comcast.net. Or you may contact Morgan Parker, Volunteer Coordinator for AHAS, by email at morgan_ashley90@yahoo.com. In addition, please feel free to look at the AHAS website <http://AtHomeAtSchool.org/>

Supply List

(for a complete list, look at the AHAS website under "donations")

Ribbons for awards	Finger paint	Markers	Sharpies
Acrylic paints	Paint brushes	Craft sticks	Small tools
Scrap booking supplies	Disposable cameras	First aid supplies	

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

Would you like to help see your kids connect with other kids in the congregation? Do you have one hour free? (monthly attendance is not required) We would love to see you at a Children and Youth meeting. We would love to hear what you have to say! Come to a Children and Youth Committee meeting the second Tuesday of the month from 6pm-7pm. **Our next meeting is June 8th.** We begin and end promptly, respecting everyone's need to be with their family. If childcare is needed, please email Roberta Schlechter at Roberta@eastwoodspress.org.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

COOL(ing) CASH: When our building was constructed, we had to delete the air conditioning system to save money. The plan called for four cooling units, and all the wiring and plumbing was installed to minimize later costs. Now the Building Committee wants to start collecting funds to buy ONE unit, to cool the wing housing the church offices. Total cost should not exceed \$5,000. That may be an impossible target for this year, so we will collect donations until the goal is reached, hopefully in time for the next pastor. At this time, we don't think the sanctuary needs cooling, but the one wing includes the offices, computers and phone system, and gets very hot on summer afternoons. When writing checks, mark them COOL on the memo line.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

To keep up with what's happening with Family Ministry, just click on "Roberta's Reflections" on the "Staff" page of the church website.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be here SOON, on **JUNE 27-JULY 1**. As usual, VBS will be Sunday through Thursday evening from 5:00 to 8:00PM. *Parents, youth and friends* can come after work to share the fun with the children (ages 3-Grade 5). And since VBS ends on Thursday, you can plan a long Fourth of July weekend out of town without missing a moment of excitement.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL is just around the corner, too! In June and July we will offer workshop rotation classes, complete with cooking lessons like we offered last summer. If you're not able to teach during the school year, here's your chance. You can volunteer for as few as two Sundays during the summer and you'll always have a partner. Please give it some thought and let me know if you have questions. Youth are welcome, too. Thanks.

To the ENTIRE East Woods faith community:

Here it is, right to the point.

PLEASE ADD THESE TASKS TO YOUR "TO DO" LIST FOR ***THIS WEEK***:

Prayerfully consider helping with a Sunday school class (or two) this summer.

- After Shirley Lashley concludes teaching in June, It's absolutely essential that we staff the *Pre-K class EVERY SUNDAY during July and August.*
- We also must have teachers for the ELEMENTARY GRADES during June-July-August. *Our dedicated school-year teachers deserve a summer break...please help us to continue serving our elementary - age children. On weeks that we do not have teachers, we will provide additional materials in the worship bags and the children will remain in worship.*

You'll find teacher volunteer forms on the *Information table in the Narthex*. OR...email me at roberta@eastwoodspres.org and I'll send you an electronic copy of the form.

Pre-Register your children and their friends-neighbors-cousins, etc. (ages 3 – Grade 5) for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL...AND prayerfully consider joining our team of VBS volunteers (adults and youth). You'll find VBS registration forms AND volunteer sign-up forms on the *Information table in the Narthex*. OR...email me at roberta@eastwoodspres.org and I'll send you an electronic copy of either form.

*Roberta Schlechter
Director Children and Family Ministry*

YOUTH NEWS

The start of summer means a couple of things for me. First of all, it means I have been here a year. So it's now time for me to look back and reevaluate what I think is working and what isn't. It's also time to look at the strengths of our youth program, which are significant. What we have here at East Woods is not the largest youth group, but it is a group filled with excellent kids--kids who are hungry to learn about God, eager to serve, and smart as a whip. I am continually surprised at how much they are willing to do, and how much they remember, even when they don't seem to be listening.

The reality of growing a program is that there are two types of approaches. One approach is to grow a program immediately, which looks great at first, because there are more people in it, but if the foundation isn't strong the program implodes. It is the same as gaining weight. A human body can grow quickly, but if it grows too quickly the results are devastating. The other approach is to allow a program to grow slowly, while working on its foundation and strengths. To use the body analogy again, in this scenario the body grows and gains strength and size without hurting itself. In case, you haven't guessed, my approach is the second one. What has shown itself in the last year is a core group of kids who are busy trying to balance school, extra-curricular activities, youth group, and the rest of their social lives. This appears at first to be a lack of commitment to youth group, but in reality it is them doing what we all have to do, trying to figure out how to work their faith into their lives. But, what I have discovered is that when a service opportunity opens up, the kids are all over it. Obviously, they are excited about doing fun things, but they are willing to work hard as well. That is our foundation—great kids with great hearts willing to help however and whenever they can. It is my goal to help them to learn how to minister and reflect Christ in the busy lives they have away from youth group.

The second part of this discovery is what to do now that I know this. This summer everything changes. Kids are here and then on vacation. Kids who once were busy are now relatively open. Kids who were 'bored' now have a bunch to do. So this summer we are going to do several things. First, we are going to do one 'fun' thing per month. Some sort of activity that has no purpose other than letting our hair down (or not, in my case) and just enjoying each other. Secondly, we are going to find ways to serve in the church and community. I am currently looking for volunteer opportunities in the community and within the church. Finally, we are going to move the youth groups together and have them on one single night. Starting on June 23rd, youth group will meet on Wednesday nights at 7:00. This will keep their Sunday afternoons free for family events, and will still give them time to meet during the week. This will give us time to learn, to practice, and to grow together. I am very excited. God is at work here among our teens, and I look forward to seeing the inevitable which will stem from that.

Jim McLaughlin—Jim@eastwoodspres.org



CALLING ALL GRADUATES.....

Graduation Sunday is coming June 6th, 2010. Do you have a graduate that you would like to recognize? High school, trade school or college degree, we want to celebrate with you. Please call the office and leave your name and graduating statistics and you will be recognized on June 6th.

EAST WOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Office hours: **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.**

The church phone # is 360 944-5841.

Our postal mailing address is PO Box 871091, Vancouver, WA 98687-1091.

Rev. Laurel Neal, Interim Pastor, can be reached at (360) 608-4264 cell or (360) 210-4843 home phone or Laurel@eastwoodspres.org

Roberta Schlechter, our Children & Family Director, can be reached at Roberta@eastwoodspres.org

Jim McLaughlin, our Youth Director, can be reached at Jim@eastwoodspres.org

Lynne Swartzlander, church secretary, can be reached at secretary@eastwoodspres.org

Please visit our web site at www.eastwoodspres.org

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

This is held on the first Saturday of every month. The June Breakfast is Saturday, June 5, from 7:30 to 9:00 am at the church.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—SUMMER CHANGE

During June, July and August, the Women's Bible Study will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 for lunch. Lunch locations will vary. Please contact Arla Olsen at 896-1736 for information

FAMILY CAMP DATES FOR 2010

Aug. 5-8th, Fort Stevens State Park

We have reserved 12 full hookup sites at this park near Astoria. Sharing of sites is possible and may be encouraged, depending on demand. The Oregon State Parks increased fees this year: rates are \$22 for 1 night, \$60 for 2 nights, and \$84 for 3 nights. Why not join us? It's always a lot of fun! Contact Wagonmaster Tim Martinez (360) 944-7299 for information. Make your reservations soon.

EAST WOODS SUMMER WORSHIP

May 30—September 5, we will have ONE service at 10:30 am on Sundays.

Prayer requests? You may email the prayer chain at prayer@eastwoodspres.org or call the church office at 944-5841.

All information is strictly confidential.

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION SUNDAYS

Thank you for the response to the request to provide flowers on first Sundays in celebration of Communion. We have people signed up through August at present.

We are not looking for professional arrangements. Flowers and greenery from your own garden, a bunch from Farmer's Market or your local grocery store would be perfect. We have containers at the church or you can bring something from home. Sign up in the Narthex if you are interested in contributing flowers in coming months.

Tuesday Morning *Fresh Air and Fellowship* Walking Group

We will be meeting at 9:30 am at the Camas Heritage Park. It is located on Lake Road in Camas. If you have questions or need more information, call Susan Carlson at 487-9171. Enjoy springtime in the outdoors with us!

“GALACTIC BLAST: A COSMIC ADVENTURE PRAISING GOD”

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at East Woods

Sunday, June 27 through Thursday, July 1

5:00 – 8:00 PM \$5 per child

Children ages 3 through Grade 5 are welcome as participants.

We welcome youth and adults to this ministry.

If you have questions or need more information, contact

Roberta@eastwoodspres.org.

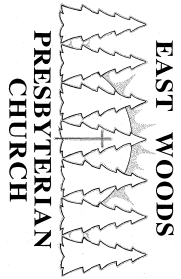
HELP EAST WOODS RECRUIT A NURSERY ATTENDANT

Copies of the job description are on the Mission table in the narthex. Perhaps you know someone with the interest and qualifications we seek. Feel free to take a copy of the job description and send it to any potential candidates..

**East Woods Presbyterian Church
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Vancouver WA
Mailing Address:
PO Box 871091
Vancouver, WA 98687-1091
Church Phone:
(360) 944-5841
(503)-802-4255**

**Newsletter Deadline is the
21st of each month.**

Please submit all information and articles either via email to secretary@eastwoodspres.org, via phone to the church office 944-5841, or leave a hard copy on the office desk. THANKS!!



EAST WOODS

**PREBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**PO Box 871091
Vancouver, WA 98687-1091**