



NEWSLETTER

February 2012

Brothers and Sisters~

February has arrived, which means that 2012 is officially here to stay. I hope the year is off to a great start for each of you.

This year, the arrival of February means the **beginning of Lent**. The term 'Lent' comes from a Germanic word referring to the Spring season and the lengthening of days. In the Christian tradition, we've adopted Lent as a season of prayer and repentance that begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with our celebration of Easter. The period is essentially forty days long to help us recall the forty days Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying before beginning his public ministry.

As we worship in February, we'll continue through our **sermon series on Jonah**, and we'll reflect on God's great, loving, and merciful heart. Then, on **Ash Wednesday** (February 22), we'll gather for worship to begin **our Lenten sermon series, "Mere Discipleship,"** and we'll receive the ashes that are part of the Ash Wednesday tradition.

Your Adult Ed Elders are doing a great job helping to organize a **Lenten book study** class that will meet for dinner and class time at East Woods on **Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. from February 28 – April 3**. Our book, as the name of the Lenten sermon series suggests, will be Lee Camp's **Mere Discipleship**, and it will be our guide through discussions on worship, baptism, prayer, communion, and evangelism. I hope you'll set that time aside during Lent to join us for the class.

February is also a busy month for **Youth Ministry**. On Sunday, February 5, Youth Ministry will coordinate a special collection during worship as part of the **Annual Souper Bowl of Caring**, a nation-wide fundraiser started in 1990 to support local charity organizations fighting hunger and poverty. During the weekend of February 24-26, our youth group will also participate in **World Vision's Annual 30-Hour Famine**, which raises awareness and financial support to help World Vision care for needy people around the world. Please support and pray for our students and adult volunteers as they represent us and lead our participation in these good causes.

As we enter into Lent, I pray that God's kindness would stir in our hearts and lead us to repentance, both as individuals and as a worshipping body, so that all we say and do will reflect our Lord's love and show forth God's call to live as disciples of Jesus.

Your partner in the Gospel~

Bill

HE IS ALWAYS NEAR US

by Arla Olsen

God meets us in our brokenness
And walks with us each day.
He's there to catch us when we stumble
Along life's rocky way...

His Grace surrounds us with His love
And brings us comfort and strength too.
He's there to hear our heartfelt prayers
Though our words may seem so few...

When we are troubled or confused,
He guides and helps us understand
That we are not facing things alone;
We have hold of His Mighty helping hand...
of love and Grace and Favor
that He gives to us each day...
So we need to thank and praise him,
When in our hearts we pray.

When we need forgiveness and healing,
We can always rest assured;
We know he will be near us
If we just embrace and trust His Word...

We know our Faith will sustain us
When the road seems all uphill.
"Faith is not believing that God can...
It is knowing that He Will..."
be there for us no matter what
when life tears our world apart;
We can rely on God's amazing Grace
And His forever loving heart.

CHILDREN & FAMILY

Dear Parents and Friends,

It's the New Year and I'm finding *so much* to celebrate! For starters, I LOVE that Pastor Bill connects directly with our children during worship. Faith is about *relationships* and the children need to know that Bill is *their pastor*, too. When he (literally) "gets down" to share time and space with the children, it's another way to convey to each boy and girl that God loves them and we do, too.

This March and April I'll be teaching the students in Grades 3-5 a series of lessons I'm developing around The Lord's Supper. This fulfills one portion of a six-month final exam project I am undertaking for Educator Certification in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each hands-on Sunday school lesson will explore the deeper meaning of the Lord's Supper by linking it to different stories of Jesus' miracles. I'm confident this will be a time of rich discovery for everyone... including me.

We're getting close to selecting the Vacation Bible School program for 2012. As always, VBS at East Woods is a "grass roots" ministry. I've invited over 40 former VBS volunteers to help make the selection from three different published programs. We'll gather on February 12 for lunch and I'll announce the final choice. *If you would like to help with Vacation Bible School, please let me know; there's always room for more!*

Lessons for February...LENT is just around the corner; time to start getting ready for Holy Week. February's elementary Sunday school lessons are about relationships and some of the ways that Jesus broke the rules that kept people from knowing God's love. Jesus is the *living water* of God's Kingdom.

FEBRUARY 12- John 4:4-30, 39-42: *Jesus and the Samaritan woman*—as a woman she was marginalized to begin with, but more so because of her infidelity. But Jesus restores her to the fullness of life.

FEBRUARY 19- Mark 10:13-16: *Jesus and the children*—who are socially more invisible even than their mothers. Jesus elevates them to their proper place in God's eyes.

FEBRUARY 26- Luke 10:38-42: *Jesus, Martha & Mary*—little sister REALLY breaks the rules and yet receives Jesus' blessing. Big sister is encouraged to join in the fellowship.

As we enter these lessons my most fervent prayer is that you and your family will take part in all that East Woods offers your children; from fellowship with Pastor Bill to fellowship with one another and the Bible.

Give East Woods a couple of hours and let it fortify your week.

Blessings, Roberta Schlechter
Director-Children & Family Ministry

*To celebrate Epiphany
and the arrival of the
Wise Men to visit
the baby Jesus, Joey
Roeper and his class
painted stars.*



EWPC YOUTH NEWS

Dates to Remember:

- **February 5th** - Souper Bowl of Caring.
- **February 22nd** - Ash Wednesday, Youth are invited to participate in the service at 7pm.
- **February 24th/25th** - World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.
- **March 2nd** - Rock & Worship Roadshow.
- **March 16th-18th** - Youth Retreat at Menucha.

February is full of mission opportunities for our youth. To kick things off, on **February 5th** (Super Bowl Sunday), the youth will be asking for donations for the *Souper Bowl of Caring* fundraiser, which collects money for local area food banks. At the end of both services, youth will be stationed by the doors with soup pots - please help us reach our goal of a \$1 donation per person for this mission opportunity.

Then, on **February 24th/25th**, we'll have the chance to participate in a global mission against hunger through *World Vision's 30 Hour Famine*. The youth will go without food for 30 hours and have the chance to learn about the challenges hunger causes for so many people in our world. The money they raise will be used to help feed, care for, and equip people who are without enough food to eat. (Watch for further details). Through World Vision's program, \$30 is all it takes to feed *and* care for a hungry child for a month. As the youth fundraise this month, both in our church and in our community, please prayerfully consider how you could be involved, whether through donations, volunteering to help with events, or keeping our youth in your prayers. Thank you in advance for a great month of youth mission opportunities!

On **March 2nd** at 7:30pm (doors open at 5:30pm) at the Rose Garden in Portland, Oregon, the *Rock & Worship Roadshow* is back! For only \$10 at the door, you can hear several Christian music bands and artists, as well as some great messages. Bands include headliner MercyMe, Lecrae, Disciple, Hawk Nelson, and more.

On **March 16th - 18th** we have a great *Youth Retreat* planned at The Barn at Menucha. Cost will be \$45, which will cover transportation, lodging, and meals on Saturday/Sunday. It's going to be a great time of extended fellowship, worship, sharing, learning, and of course awesome game playing! Volunteer opportunities are still open!!! Contact Brian Jones for more details.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

On **Wednesday, February 22, at 7 p.m.**, we'll host our annual Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, which concludes with our celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter. The Ash Wednesday worship service is an occasion for meditating on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; renewing our commitment to daily repentance; and remembering with confidence and gratitude that Christ's death on the cross has broken the power of sin. We hope you'll join us for this special service as we pray, hear God's word proclaimed, receive the imposition of ashes, and gather around the Lord's Table for Holy Communion.

EWPC MUSIC NEWS

As we continue to expand our repertoire of musical worship here at East Woods, Brian Jones is looking into ways to make getting familiar with new songs less jarring. One example currently being pursued is putting links to examples of songs we'll be singing as a congregation up on the East Woods website - stay tuned for more developments, and in the meantime keep an eye out for these helpful links on the East Woods facebook page.

Dates to Remember:

- **February 5th** - NO Praise Team rehearsal.
- **February 19th** - Praise Team rehearsal.
- **March 2nd** - Rock & Worship Roadshow.

On **March 2nd** at 7:30pm (doors open at 5:30pm) at the Rose Garden in Portland, the ***Rock & Worship Roadshow*** is back! See details on Page 4 in Youth News.

LENTEN DINNER AND BOOK STUDY SERIES

Your Adult Education Commission invites you to join Pastor Bill and East Woods friends for our Lenten Dinner and Book Study Series. It will take place on **Tuesday nights from February 28 - April 3**. We'll meet at **6 p.m.** for a casual dinner followed by study and discussion of **Lee Camp's book, Mere Discipleship**. This book will also provide the framework for the Sunday sermons during Lent, so the class time will be an excellent chance to dig deeper into topics like repentance, worship, baptism, prayer, communion, and evangelism. **Childcare will be provided** for each evening of the study series.

If you plan to attend, **please RSVP** no later than **Wednesday, February 22**, by signing up on the clipboard in the church narthex or by calling the church office at (360) 944-5841, so we'll know how many books to order and how many people to expect for dinner. Thanks!

WOMEN'S RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2012

Our first retreat will be held Saturday, March 31st – Monday April 2nd at an amazing Lincoln City rental home that can hold 25 – 30 people, with a home theater area that can seat 42 and be used for our Sunday worship. It's a great opportunity for those who like the shopping and beach atmosphere as well as all of us being in one house with plenty of time for fellowship activities. The cost for two nights stay (we will provide our own food) will be approximately \$60.00 per person.

The second women's retreat is scheduled for Friday, September 21st – Sunday, September 23rd at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in the Columbia Gorge area. We have reserved the Creevey Complex which can sleep around 30, and this retreat will include all meals. This peaceful location is high up on the side of a mountain with an amazing view of the Gorge area. The price of this retreat (includes all food - no cooking) is \$150.00 for two nights. Look for more information and sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

OPERATION WRITE HOME

Imagine what the mother of a deployed service person will feel when she gets a card in the mail in May. To insure our heroes can find just the right card, we are assembling handmade Mom cards and shipping them to Sandy, the West Coast shipper, in time for arrival by Mother's Day. On February 7th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, Operation Write Home Card Making Meeting is at Teresa Kieser's house. On February 20th, President's Day holiday, from 1 to 3 PM the OWH Card Making Meeting is at East Woods. Since February has an extra day, on Wed., Feb. 29, there will be an OWH Card Making Meeting from 1 to 3 PM at East Woods to make extra-special cards. Everyone is welcome. The card kits are complete with all the pieces to make lovely cards. Experienced card makers can answer questions. Bring tape runner or double-sided tape for adhering, and scissors for trimming. Door prize drawings are part of the fun.

Photo: Esther Ellis



THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY completed and gave as gifts **365 shawls** in 2011, and our total for the six years since the Ministry began is well over **2000 shawls**. We meet monthly on the second and fourth Thursdays, with 6-8 attending on a regular basis. Thousands of hours are spent making Prayer Shawls every year, with an expenditure of thousands of dollars for materials as well.



Photo: Esther Ellis

At every meeting or gathering, we say a Prayer of Blessing over the shawls before they are taken to recipients. Most of the Prayer Shawls are given to three area Hospitals: Portland Adventist, Portland Children's Legacy, and Salmon Creek Legacy as well as the Parish Nurse Ministry. The Shawls also celebrate milestones and joyous occasions in the lives of the Congregation...graduations, anniversaries, special birthdays; going off to a new home or to a college experience.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOME OF KATEY SANDY'S ART WORK WHILE ENJOYING LUNCH OR DINNER: Katey will have over 30 pieces of art work on display and for sale at **Duck Tales Kitchen**, 612 N. Devine Rd., Vancouver (corner of Devine and MacArthur.) from **Jan. 23rd to March 23rd**. A reception is planned for Monday, February 13th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Duck Tales is a small Vancouver Heights neighborhood restaurant that supports the arts. It was formerly Ballews and has a traditional American food menu with a family/hometown feel.

Friends of the Carpenter is looking for volunteers!

The faithful leaders at Friends of the Carpenter (F.O.C.) are looking for new volunteers to help support their ministries to Vancouver's homeless population and their partnership with some other local support organizations, such as the FISH food bank.

If you're interested in helping support F.O.C. as a volunteer, please contact Pastor Bill in the church office or Duane Sich at F.O.C. at (360) 750-4752.

Have you noticed something new? East Woods now has an onsite mailbox, thanks to the Building & Grounds Commission. We will be receiving mail here instead of in our box at the Post Office on Hearthwood. Please change your mailing address records to our street address: **16210 NE 20th Street, Vancouver, WA 98684.**

If you missed the **Annual Congregational Meeting**, you may still pick up a copy of the **Annual Report for 2011**, which was presented at the meeting on January 29. Check the Information Table in the Narthex for extra copies.

March Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, February 21

EAST WOODS ELDERS ON SESSION

Lynne Combs	Hospitality	Bill Hooper	Building & Grnds.
Carol Domench	Worship	Jack Mace	Finance
Ronda Peterson	Youth	Kris Carlson	Chld. & Families
Janet Luck	Adult Ministry	Tim Martinez	Adult Ministry
	Peggy Konzek	Elder Elect	
	Nancy Dean	Clerk of Session	

Office hours are **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.**
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Please visit our web site at www.eastwoodspres.org



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