

# East Woods News

AUGUST 2008

Dear Church Family,

In his book, God is Closer than You Think, John Ortberg writes about one of the most dangerous words in the English language. Now while there are probably many words that come to mind, the one he singles out is the word "Tomorrow", as in "I will do it tomorrow," or, "It can wait until tomorrow."

A psalmist once wrote, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24). What if this ancient poet was correct? What if THIS was the day that the Lord has made, and he made it for you? And what if THIS day was made for you for a reason, but somehow you missed it? Busyness, stress, distraction, "I'll just do it tomorrow," all these things can get in the way of our rejoicing and being glad in today.

Let me tell you a little personal story. As Martin gets older, closer to adolescence, I have been noticing that our relationship has changed a bit. I know, I know, this is normal. I am sure many of you have been through this with your kids, but I was really struggling with it this spring. That, in part, was why I was so looking forward to our vacation this summer. Martin and I were going to drive across the country together, just the two of us. Now maybe I was a little naïve... OK, I was probably a lot naïve, but I was really banking on this trip to get us back on track. The spring was busy. I was not always as present as I should have been for him but I just kept thinking to myself, "All that will change on our trip. When we are on the trip we will have a chance to talk. When we are on the trip we will have fun together. When we are on the trip I will be the dad I want to be." In other words, "It will get better tomorrow."

But, as most of you know, tomorrow did not come. Well to be more precise, tomorrow came but the trip didn't. With surgery interrupting my vacation, the plan for getting back on track with Martin as we drove across the country was interrupted as

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well. I think Ortberg is right, tomorrow is a dangerous word.

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” You know this really is more than just a nice thought. It could be that this is meant to be a way of living.

As much as I hate to admit it, I know that I am guilty of missing many of the opportunities “Today” brings. I put off conversations. I procrastinate family obligations. I wrongly prioritize what is important. And I definitely forget to rejoice in each and every day God gives me.

The good news is that once I was healthy again I made it a priority to celebrate each of my today’s with Martin at home. And guess what... no, there was no magical fix, but I did feel good about the time we had together. And who knows, maybe it is a lesson I have learned and can apply to other areas of my life.

So, enjoy today’s blessings, each today God makes,

*Blessings,  
Scott*

**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
ONE SERVICE ONLY  
AT 10:30 AM**

**We’ll return to 2 services, at 8:45 and 10:30 AM on  
Sunday, September 7th**

**East Woods Treasurer’s Report—June 2008**

June Offerings: \$22,887.79  
(includes Wish Book income of \$1610.82 as well as  
all offerings and special funds)

June Expenses: \$24,159.69

**Thank you for your faithfulness in giving!**

## **NOTES FROM RENN**

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS YEAR'S VBS A BEACH PARTY BLAST!!!!**

**Sunday School Fly-Up Takes Place on September 7<sup>th</sup>:** September 7<sup>th</sup> will be our first Sunday back to two services, at 8:45am and 10:30am. For the children in Sunday School during the 10:30am service who are advancing to older classes (rising 1<sup>st</sup> graders, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders), September 7<sup>th</sup> will be the first day that they attend their new classes. Also, rising 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be presented with their own Bibles on September 7<sup>th</sup>, so make sure to attend church that day if you are entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or have a rising 3<sup>rd</sup> grader in your family!

**Those Tempting Back-to-School Sales:** The Children's and Youth Programs are grateful to everyone who donates supplies for our classes and groups! This month, Lynette Nelson and Chris Smith are heading up the effort to organize our supply shelves and cabinets in preparation for the '08-'09 school year. Thank you, Lynette and Chris!! They are the people who will know what supplies we need *and what supplies we DO NOT need*, so please contact them (Lynette: 254-8088, Chris: 666-3636) before you buy, to make sure your donation will be what is most needed! (There are some things we have in over-abundance right now!)

**Background Checks Up for Renewal:** Following the policy of local school districts, our background checks at East Woods are "good" for 18 months. Therefore, if you were very helpful and provided your background check forms to us during 2007, thank you! This is to let you know that you are up for renewal as the '08-'09 school year begins, so it is once again time for you to fill out forms for East Woods. (For all staff and volunteers over the age of 18 working with children or youth, East Woods must perform its own background checks. Schools and employers do not share background check information with us.) classrooms every time.

## **A Prayer Shawl Story: from Tess Castro ...**

Around March I mailed two prayer shawls to a friend of mine (Michelle Shanks) who has been the caregiver for almost a year for her mom. Her mom died June 29. Michelle wrote back and here's what she said:

"I immediately shared the blessing message with my mom and wrapped her up in her shawl as she sat in her chair. She was very comforted by wearing it and soon she wanted it to lay on her pillow when she was in bed.

The morning of her service, as we said our last goodbyes--Scottie (Michelle's 14 year old son) took your prayer shawl and placed it on her lap to comfort her once again. I was so touched by your gift and thoughtfulness. Please share how much it blessed both us with your church. Thank you, Michelle"

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry Report: January 2008 through June 30th, 2008**

Total of items/shawls, quilts, blankets and hats produced by whole group: **182** (add 44 hats)

### **Agencies participating/benefiting:**

Southwest Washington Medical Center  
Legacy/Salmon Creek Hospital  
Adventist Medical Center  
Chaplains Office  
Hospice/Palliative Care Department  
Peace Health Medical Center  
Northwest Parish Nurse Ministry  
Legacy Emmanuel Hospital  
Share House of Vancouver  
Southwest Washington Oncology Department  
Southwest Washington Newborn/NICU Nurseries  
Carenet Pregnancy Network

**Thank you** so much to: Marilyn Bither, Ellen Haynes, LaRae Hess, Jan Hagerty, the Tacoma Bunch (Mary Gunder, Phyllis Gunder, Melissa Wendt), Hilary Heizenrader, Linda Fortney, Esther Ellis, Carol Solvason, Gretchen Collins, Tess Castro, Priscilla Gipson, Grace Reichenberger, Courtney Heizenrader, Kathy Kearney, Sandy Crispin.

**Being a Sunday School Leader:**  
**What kind of commitment are we talking about?**

Leading Sunday School on a regular basis provides the kind of relational ministry that our children and youth need for their spiritual development. The most important part of being a leader is sharing who you are and what God is doing in your life with your students. It is important that you feel particularly called to this ministry, and continue in prayer for yourself and your students. Mentoring the kids in this way is so rewarding, and often leaders will learn as much about God and the Bible as the students do!

Starting in September, for the first time in East Woods' history, we will be offering Sunday School classes by age every Sunday including the First Sunday of the month (communion Sunday).

We have some volunteers already (or still) on board for each of the following categories, but we also have **holes to fill** in each category as well! Past and current leaders of different classes have decided to arrange their time commitments in the following way for the '08-'09 school year:

**Preschool/Kindergarten:**

**Teachers and Helpers: One Sunday a month.**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades:**

**Teachers: One month on, two months off; three months total of teaching**

**Helpers: One Sunday a month.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grades:**

**Teachers: One month on, two months off- three months total of teaching**

**Helpers: (To be determined- nobody in this category yet!)**

**6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grades:**

**Teacher: No class on Communion Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday).**

**Otherwise, "on."**

**Helpers: (To be determined- nobody in this category yet!)**

Obviously, it is possible to have a Sunday School class with a Teacher but no Helper, but not the other way around- so our first priority is to make sure we have Teachers for all our classes. However, if you are feeling called to "check it out" this year, instead of taking responsibility for lesson preparation and presentation, please consider becoming a "Helper." It is important for the safety of our students and our volunteers to have at least two adults in the classrooms every time.

## **Share Inn at Orchards Giving Opportunities**

**TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT.** Living at Share House is like living in a dormitory – crowded rooms, shared laundry facilities, large multi-showerhead bathrooms and communal dining. Under these circumstances you can imagine that good personal hygiene is key. Special giving is August is *full-sized personal hygiene* products: shampoo, body wash, soap, deodorant, lotion, razors, etc.

We continue to gather food to help supply the Share House kitchen. You have been enormously generous over the last few months. Things we do routinely can lose glamour over time but I assure you each month brings a new group of residents. Each month everyone needs to eat. Your faithfulness in donating non-perishable food matters.

## **Mission: Stuffed Animals for Christmas!**

Your gifts of clothing and school supplies have been so warmly received by the Light House Ministry in the Philippines. We want to offer you one more opportunity to give:

The Presbyterian Mission that supports the Light House Ministry provides an annual Christmas outreach program in San Pedro (a slum area where they usually find the children who live in the Light House residential homes). We would like to help by having a once a year (August/September) stuffed animal drive for the children in the Light House and in the slum area. Some of the beautiful stuffed animals will be given as Christmas gifts to the Light House residents and then others will be given out by the Light House children to the kids who still live in the slum.

So, here's your chance to be involved ... We will be collecting **NEW or GENTLY USED** stuffed animals here at the church during the months of August and September for shipment to the Philippines in October. If you have any questions, please contact Tess Castro at 687-5698.

## **Kitchen Cabinet Fundraising Update**

**WHERE DID I PUT THAT?** Imagine a dream kitchen at East Woods with so many cabinets and drawers that *we can't find the napkins!?! We are pursuing that dream. Phase One of our fundraising is complete – all items were funded and we were able to order everything at the 10% off sale price. THANK YOU!!*

Phase Two is now open for giving. Phase Two includes all remaining countertops and lower cabinets. Many were left behind when Phase One concluded so quickly. If you wish to help build our kitchen pick up your donation envelope today. A schematic of Phase Two is available for viewing in the narthex. Thank you for your enthusiastic support. Contact Hilary Heizenrader at 834-2435 with questions.

**GOT CREDIT? GET DISCOUNT.** When we ordered the cabinets and countertops for the kitchen we not only got a 10% discount we also got an additional \$200 off (that's the approximate cost of a cabinet box). How you ask? A church member applied for a new Home Depot credit card and received that additional discount on our behalf. Interested in donating by discount? Contact Shirlee Bangert (834-2222) for details.

## **Ongoing Summer Ministry Needs**

**Welcome Table Volunteers:** Please contact Janet Luck (666-6526) or Lynne Combs (835-3034) for more information.

**Scripture Readers:** Please sign up on Table in the Narthex or call the church office (944-5841).

**Greeter/Ushers:** Please contact Ray Jones (737-9818) or call the church office (944-5841).

## **East Woods Lending Library**

Books are available for check-out in the library/cry room.  
Questions? Call Gordon Wehner (253-8166)

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **Youth Sunday School during August (10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>)**

Bring any musical instruments you would like to play or share, as well as your suggestions for new songs to try together. Also, an exciting news item: a member of Valley has given us an electric keyboard that does all kinds of stuff, so make sure to sign the "Thank You" card to her that is in the Youth Room! Participate as you feel led, and the class will glorify God together through whatever music is made!

### **All-Youth Lunch Bunch and Explorers, after church on August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>**

Youth entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade through the graduating class of 2008 are encouraged to bring a lunch to eat together in the Youth Room after church on August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>. **If we have at least one** other adult besides Renn, then we will do a fun activity following lunch on both days, so contact me if you're an adult that can help out, and stay tuned for more details. Valley church (in Southwest Portland) has graciously offered us the use of their van again on the weekend of August 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, and there are LOTS of options for what we might do as a group that weekend! But all these options depend on whether we have adult chaperones to help out.

Scholarships available anonymously for anything that requires money- just let Renn know. (Never let lack of money be a reason not to attend a Youth event!)

**Pick-up/meet times:** Will also depend that Sunday's plans.

**Please make sure that Renn has your email by emailing her at [renn.sanderman@gmail.com](mailto:renn.sanderman@gmail.com) so you can receive updates about plans, schedules and items to bring on the four Sundays.**

## **East Woods Annual Family Camp** **August 20th - 24th**

at Devil's Lake in Lincoln City, OR.  
Reserve your space now, brochures are available in the Narthex.

**Do you love to sing?**

**Do you play an instrument?**

*Then here's your chance to use your gifts in  
ministry here at East Woods.*

**The Song leading team is looking for NEW MEMBERS! We trade off leading on Sundays so that no one has more commitment time than they are comfortable giving. We rehearse once every few months to polish up the old songs and add some new songs. Mostly we just enjoy time together singing and making music in Praise to God!**

**If you are interested in this ministry opportunity, please contact Rich Adamson at 260-9475 or via email at raamoman@comcast.net.**

**Rehearsal is set for MONDAY, AUGUST 25th,  
7 PM at the church. We hope to see you there!**

**Visit our website for sermon recordings, updated  
pictures and newsletter information!**

**[www.eastwoodspres.org](http://www.eastwoodspres.org)**

*With thanks to our Webmaster, Darin Nelson!*

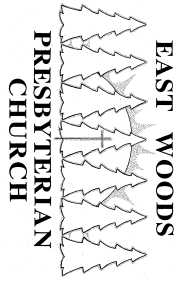
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(503)-802-4255**

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

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



**EAST WOODS**

**PREBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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