

East Woods News

FEBRUARY 2008

Dear Church Family,

I am writing this letter in the afterglow of our Dedication Open House and Worship service. What an amazing weekend! The energy, the excitement, the welcome extended to our neighbors was all made possible through the loving labor put forth by a gracious congregation. You all should be proud of the work you did this weekend, and this year for that matter. There are simply too many volunteers for me to even attempt to thank each one, so I thank you **all**.

The church is truly unlike any other organization. Actually we call ourselves a community rather than an organization and that word is intentional. Community, at least in my mind, is more relational than “organizational”. In a community we are more dependent on one another; we are more connected to one another. In a community we are, in fact, joined together. But we are joined together not simply in function or purpose, we are joined together in Christ. This is ultimately the reason we are together – Jesus.

Just as Jesus called the disciples together to form a community, so too we have been called together. And just as Jesus called these disciples to go out into the world and make new disciples, so too we have been called to go out. This is the church, looking inward towards friends, and outward towards strangers, to welcome and embrace the world with God’s grace. I saw that happen this weekend.

So... now what? For nearly my entire call as your pastor we had a huge project before us. First it was chartering, then it was a capital campaign, and then it was building. We are now in the building. Clearly there are still a few projects left to do in and around the building (isn’t that right, Clark?), but for the most part the fruits of our labors have been realized. Now the fun begins. To use the language I have used for eight years now, we

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have built the “Tool for Ministry” now is the time to put that tool to use.

Children’s ministry needs teachers. Youth ministry needs more leaders. Care team needs shepherds. The Mission team, the Discipleship team, the Fellowship team, the Evangelism team, the Building team, the Finance team all need the skills of individuals to help grow their ministries. Basically the church needs each member to find his or her ministry. The vision that was given, by Jesus, to the first disciples and translated into the first church needs to be seen by us and translated into the twenty-first century church.

We can do this. When you look at what we have accomplished I think you will agree, we can do this together. So in the coming weeks, ask yourself, “What am I most passionate about in this church? What would I like to see happen in our church to tap into the needs of our community? Where is Jesus calling me?”

***Blessings,
Scott***

***Ash Wednesday
Service of Renewal
Wednesday evening, February 6th, 2008
at 7PM***

*Please join us as we begin the Season of Lent
with an evening of quiet reflection,
confession and forgiveness. What a wonderful way to
christen the new building ... preparing ourselves for the
coming celebration of the passion, death and
resurrection of Jesus.*

Notes from Renn ...

Sunday School S.O.S.! We need a teaching team for the 3rd-5th grade class (1st room on the left) during the 10:30am worship service for February through April, every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. The curriculum is easy to use, you will have the training and support you need from the Youth & Children's Ministries Committee, and you will learn a lot yourself as you teach and get to know the kids. We encourage people who are teaching during the 10:30am service to attend the 8:45 am service beforehand, so that they may still worship that day. Please prayerfully consider whether you are able to serve East Woods in this way, and don't wait for us to call you if you are willing to join this teaching team: please call Renn at the church at 944-5841, or 503-449-3948 (cell), or email renn@eastwoodspres.org.

Adult Aides Needed in Children/Youth Classrooms: The Youth & Children's Ministries Committee is looking for adults who are willing to simply be present in classrooms to help with trips to the restroom, to be an extra pair of hands and eyes, and to quietly show God's love to the children and youth of East Woods. Having more adults present in the classrooms will help ensure the safety of both our children and our volunteers. The schedule is up to you: help for one month, or help one Sunday a month, or just try it out for one day and see what you think. Since there are two services every Sunday, you are encouraged to attend the other worship service on any day you are helping in a classroom. Please contact Renn at the church at 944-5841, or 503-449-3948 (cell), or email renn@eastwoodspres.org if you are willing to be an Aide.

Tuesday Night Lenten Series: Children's Activities: For five Tuesday nights during Lent (Feb 12, 19, 26 and Mar 4, 11) East Woods will gather for our Lenten Series at 6pm. After sharing a meal together, the children will have a separate activity time from the adults. The children's activities will include a multi-age discussion on a particular topic each night, with related activities. This special time will be co-led by Renn Sanderman and Rachel Unser; other adults and any youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to sign up to help as well. Advance registration of children is encouraged to help in planning, but not required.

We are on a mission to fight poverty and hunger.
You can help.

Souper Bowl of Caring,
Sunday, February 3rd, 2008!

More than 15 years ago on a super bowl Sunday, a single youth group was inspired by a simple prayer. They started the Souper Bowl of Caring; a youth-led movement that is now an international event.

Since 1990, the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised more than \$33 million for individual charities across the country. It is also turning our nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving.

Each year, tens of thousands of our nation's youth put God's love into action through the Souper Bowl of Caring. You can help them feel the significance of caring for others.

Drop a dollar in a soup pot Super Bowl Sunday as you leave worship. Your donation will go to F.I.S.H. of Orchards in our local community. With your help, more dollars will be raised, more lives will be changed, and more young lives will experience the joy of serving Christ by serving others.

“Lord as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat”.

superbowl.org

East Woods Treasurer's Report—December 2007

December Offerings:	\$18,448.06
December Expenses:	\$14,601.21

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving!

Lenten Worship Series

On Tuesday nights during this season of Lent, we will begin our traditional Lenten worship series. This is meant to be a time for the whole family. Worship, dinner, study and fellowship will all be a part of our time together. The first service will be Tuesday, February 12th beginning with dinner at 6:00PM and ending at 8:15PM. As always, we will need folks willing to help provide meals. Watch for sign up sheets in the Narthex for children's program, providing meals and attendance.

Women's Bible Study

Please join us! We would like to invite all East Wood's women to join our friendly group in our new bible study of a book entitled "Acts 1-12, God Moves in the Early Church" by Chuck and Winnie Christensen. It will be interesting to study the history of the beginnings of the first New Testament Church as we transition to worship at our new East Woods Presbyterian church building. Our first lesson is on **Thursday, February 7th at 10:00 am** at the new church building, meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. **For more information please call Peggy Tiffany at 256-1792.**

Prayer Chain

*Do you have a prayer request that you would like shared with our Prayer Chain? Please contact Pat Jones (896-4007) or call the church office (944-5841). Strict confidentiality is **always** observed by our members.*

Please be patient with us.

There are a few glitches that have to be worked through with the building, as well as with our many and various systems. We are working diligently to get everything up and in order ASAP. Thank you.

THANK YOU'S

Dear East Woods Family-

What a huge success the Open House and Dedication Sunday were. We believe we had 400-500 visitors on Saturday and a “packed house” on Sunday. Along with our special guests, there were many new people visiting both events from our surrounding neighborhood. The planning team for these events has and is still trying to document all of the individuals who lent their talents to these efforts. The list is huge & growing! Until we have the listing completed and can thank folks on a more personal basis – we would like to praise God for each and every person who:

- Planned for the move
- Cleaned so that we could move
- Painted walls, murals and trim
- Packed for the move
- Actually moved the “stuff”
- Hung bulletin boards and set-up computers
- Unpacked and set up the Sunday School rooms & nursery
- Walked the neighborhood and invited families
- Got the outdoor signs and others that hung them
- Baked goodies and provided punch or other treats
- Went to our corporate neighbors- Starbucks, Los Pepes and Muchas Gracias to ask for donations
- Donated monies for the event
- Manned classrooms and the Welcome Table
- Floated around filling in the gaps when a need presented itself
- Helped in the nursery and with the toddlers
- Helped clean up and put away

Please accept our humble thanks for all of your efforts. We could not have done this without you. What a family! We believe that we “have what it takes” to do more than just “pass through our neighborhood”. Great start – good job!

The Event Implementation Team,
Noelle Martinez, Diane Taylor, Nancy Dean, Judy England, Peggy Konzek, Shirley Lashley, Ronda Peterson and Lynne Combs

Are you taking part in our Scrip fundraising program?

If you could provide the youth program and/or the Building Fund of East Woods with a free gift of \$400 a year, would you do it? For the past five years we have had a gift certificate program that allows you to provide such a gift to the youth of East Woods or the Building Fund with not one penny in additional cost to you. This program is currently being used by thousands of churches and schools all over the United States. It is called scrip.

You may be wondering what, exactly, is scrip? Scrip is a real and negotiable gift card/certificate from one of over 70 participating local and national merchants. These gift cards/certificates are identical gift cards/certificates issued by participating stores. We work with the Tigard-Tualatin School District Scrip program. They buy these gift cards/certificates in large bulk volume from grocery, department, drug and retail outlets all over the United States. We then purchase the gift cards/certificates in increments as low as two dollars and sell them to you for full face value. You can use those gift cards/certificates to buy normal everyday items..., **which you would purchase anyway**...in those stores. The discount we receive becomes income for our youth program or Building Fund...and it does not cost you one penny more than you spend now.

If you buy, for example, \$100 worth of scrip for Fred Meyer or Safeway, it costs you \$100. You get your gift card/certificate for \$100 to spend at Fred Meyer on whatever you want. Since East Woods bought the gift card/certificate for \$96, Fred Meyer or Safeway has, in essence, donated \$4 or 4% to East Woods. There are no restrictions on scrip. You can buy anything you want, get change back (most times in cash), use coupons, buy things on sale, etc.

Remember, **you are already spending this money**. All you have to do is buy the gift certificates through the church, rather than paying cash at the store. Scrip has been a wonderful fundraiser for our youth program and the Building Fund. It is a gift you can freely give to them by simply using gift cards/certificates rather than cash at the stores that participate.

You will find your Scrip representative in the Narthex after 10:30 AM worship each Sunday. Stop by and see what we have for you. **THANK YOU!**

YOUTH NEWS

Mid-High Youth Group (6th, 7th and 8th Graders)

Details of weekly meetings are communicated by email, so if you are not already on the Mid-High email list, please email Renn at renn.sanderman@gmail.com. If you do not have email, please call Renn at 503-449-3948 and let me know so I can call you with important information.

Mid-High Youth Nooz

- Sunday, February 3: Even though it's Super Bowl Sunday, we are still having Youth Group from 6:30pm - 8:00pm at the church. You're welcome to come late if you're watching the whole Super Bowl and the game isn't over by the time you'd normally leave for Youth Group.
- Wednesday, February 6: Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm at the church. Very cool, don't miss it!
- Sunday, February 10: Youth Group, 6:30pm - 8:00pm at the church.
- Sunday, February 17: Youth Group, 6:30pm - 8:00pm at the church.
- Friday, February 22 to Saturday, February 23: times TBA (watch email), hosted by East Woods in our church building

30-Hour Famine

This year, students 12 years and older are invited to participate in the 30-Hour Famine, which is an overnight event with many activities designed to help us learn about the local and global problem of hunger as we experience hunger ourselves. We will participate in this event, which will include a 30-hour "juice fast" (meaning we will not eat anything but we will be able to drink juice) with the East Woods High School Youth Group as well as the Middle School and High School Youth Groups from First Presbyterian of Vancouver. Each participant will be expected to get sponsors to donate money to support us in our effort. The money will go to World Vision to fight hunger and poverty.

For some people (including some of our leaders), fasting (going without food for a period of time) is not safe. This includes people with some specific medical conditions (past or present) including diabetes, reactive hypoglycemia, other medical conditions that are associated with or could precipitate hypoglycemia, and eating disorders (anorexia, bulimia). If you have any health-related questions about the 30 Hour Famine or are regularly under a doctor's care for any of the above medical conditions, you are strongly advised to consult your family doctor before taking part. If you have a medical reason for eating during the 30 hours, communicate that to the leaders ahead of time, and you will be able to eat what you need to, apart from the main group. Don't let that stop you from participating, because this is an important event and you will still learn a lot!

- Sunday, February 24th: No Youth Group (The 30-Hour Famine is our Youth Group meeting for that week.)

YOUTH NEWS (continued ...)

Senior High Youth Group (9th thru 12th graders)

Please watch your email for updates. Contact Lynette at 254-8088 or dandl10@comcast.net

Just a reminder to youth and parents that most Sr. High communication will be done via email, so check yours at least once a week! :)

February

2/3	Souper Bowl of Caring (collection of \$1/person at both worship services)
2/6	Cookies/Games church
2/13	Friendship/Fellowship
2/20	Friendship/Fellowship
2/22-23	30 Hour Famine
2/27	Nooma

East Woods Lending Library

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

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

www.eastwoodspres.org

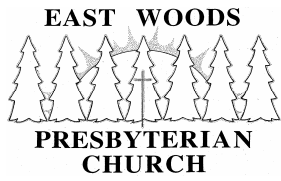
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**Newsletter monthly
Deadline is the
21st of each month.**

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



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