

# THE VISION

A NEWSLETTER OF WOOD VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH



## FROM THE PASTOR

by Pastor Tom Miles

As you open this newsletter, I suspect you are anticipating seeing something new and encouraging on the inside. Maybe a picture of someone you know or a coming event you would enjoy, or just something of interest.

This is what it means to be human: Expecting, anticipating, hopeful.

This should also be the perspective for us here at WVBC and for the Christian Church worldwide. If we believe that Christ is Lord of all and we are praying, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done,” we should be expecting, anticipating and very hopeful.

Our current circumstances do not change the security

and love that we find in Christ. But they do open up an opportunity to lay aside our fears and self-centered pursuits to reach out to others with the gospel.

This is our mission as a church family and this is what we will preach, teach and encourage each other to do in 2021 and in the years to come. As a matter of fact, you will see some of this vision in the newsletter.

This year, we will need more faith than ever. This mission needs all of us, and everyone has a role and a job to do. It will take lots of work. So let’s roll up our sleeves, get off of the couch and go to work.

With much love,  
Pastor Tom

### NEW NAME

*You many notice that this newsletter has a new look and a new name! We hope to convey the vision of WVBC as we continue onward with our mission!*

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## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

Some of the most successful ministries start as grass-roots initiatives. Our young adults ministry is germinating now, feeding on the passion of the church's young people to gather together and study God's word. A simple message, "Do you guys want to study the Bible together?" was all it took for our young adults to jump on board. After our first meeting it was clear that they were excited for the starting of a new ministry and the opportunity to study in the Old Testament.

Right now, we meet every other Saturday from 7:00-8:30pm. We're studying in the book of Isaiah (which I like to say is my favorite Gospel). We spend time together, encourage each other, eat snacks and study the Scriptures. It's an exciting time to be a part of this ministry — and I'd highly encourage any young adults to join us. Our next meeting will be February 6. See you there!!



*Youth leader Katie Wardle enjoying a break at the Retreat.*

## LEADER RETREAT

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

In late October, our youth ministry volunteers were able to take a weekend retreat to the beach together. We spent time getting to know each other and dreaming about the future. Through the weekend, we set a plan for the next few months and prayed for guidance for the next few years. Let me tell you — your youth ministry volunteers are faithful servants who are excited about loving and caring for students. They have a strong desire to know the truths of the gospel and share them with the students. It's hard to even put into words how much of a blessing these volunteers have been and continue to be.

Our plan for the future is to play to our strengths. We're

developing relationships among students and leaders in small groups. In those groups, we discuss the lesson and work on defining how we can apply what we're learning. We look forward to the time when we can focus on putting together bigger events and see more than half of everyone's faces!

In the meantime, though, we're taking advantage of the time we have. We're growing in relationship with one another, learning about the Scriptures and looking at what updates (like the Youth Center Project) we can make happen while the coronavirus has us operating in limited capacity. Above all, we're excited to see where the Spirit is leading and how we can be faithful to follow.

## TECH STUFF by Zeke Goodrick

The year 2020 started off with our worship and tech teams ready to tackle a new year. In March, the teams met with the Elder Board to discuss the future of our ministry. As we started to look at the options, "Boom" — COVID-19 Lockdown. We quickly scrambled and figured out how to create online services. We learned new ways to create worship music, using our phones to create videos and record voices. We learned how to lip-sync (that's another story)!

The Elder Board approved tech upgrades such as cameras, livestream tools, etc.

Outdoor Services and Live Streaming began in August. WVBC 104.7 Square Mile Radio had a glorious six-week run.

### The Live Stream

What an undertaking! In the worship and tech side of WVBC, this has been the biggest change.

From when we started up to now, we have added countdowns to service start times, sermon notes and lyrics on the LS, and here in the new year a second camera and new presentation tools to allow English and Spanish on separate screens. To top it off, we added a new sound board to simplify and perfect our sound mix in the church and online!

It has been an exciting challenge to get this up and running. Thanks for the great feedback to allow us to fine-tune our



*Elder Jim Whitehead records a Mid-Week Message. All recordings are available on our website and YouTube.*

presentation online.

Thank you, Church Family, for your continued prayer, support, and encouragement of our Worship and Tech teams.



# MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS by Pastor Tom Miles



**Zeke Goodrick**  
Director of Technical Arts

Zeke joined the staff at WVBC on January 1st of this year after serving as a “technical” contractor for most of 2020. When Covid-19 shut down our in-person services, Zeke went to work immediately providing recorded services, which led to live-stream services later in the year. He was the means by which we were able to have Sunday worship for much of last year. We are grateful God provided this talented person when we needed him.

Zeke is a business professional and owns his own business, Ultimate Entertainment, which provides music and entertainment productions for businesses, schools, wedding venues, etc. All of these were shut down because of the pandemic.

Zeke was introduced to music and production when he was 13 years old as an assistant and apprentice for CB Northwest events. He served on the worship team at Troutdale

Community Church until he was 18 years old when he was, in his own words, “teased by the world” and left the church. He and Laura began attending WVBC in 2010 after having children and sensing the need to bring their kids to a Bible-based church with good theological grounding.

Soon after this, Zeke joined the WVBC worship team and has been serving on the team ever since. He remembers that at that time the music drew him deeper into worship and touched his heart deeply. He believes music has the ability to draw people toward the truth of the gospel.

Zeke is especially sensitive to young people and their spiritual condition. He has a vision to pursue further education and take on the vocation of a Worship Pastor. He feels called to be an influencer and, in his own words, “to dilute the garbage going into kids’ heads” and feed them instead with hope.

Elvia will join our office staff on February 9. She has been recruited to meet several ministry needs at WVBC. She will be the first smile you will see at the front desk and possibly the first welcoming voice you will hear when you call the office. She will support the office staff and the pastors with any administrative needs. She will also be a very important connection to our community. Elvia is fluent in English and Spanish and knows the Wood Village community personally. Her family is well known in the community and are active members in Comunidad de Gracia, our sister church Grace Community in Gresham. In this aspect, she will provide a critical link between the church and the Spanish-speaking community.

Elvia is very well known by WVBC. I have served with her as part of the STRYVE and



**Elvia Angel Silva**  
Administrative Assistant/Neighborhood Liaison

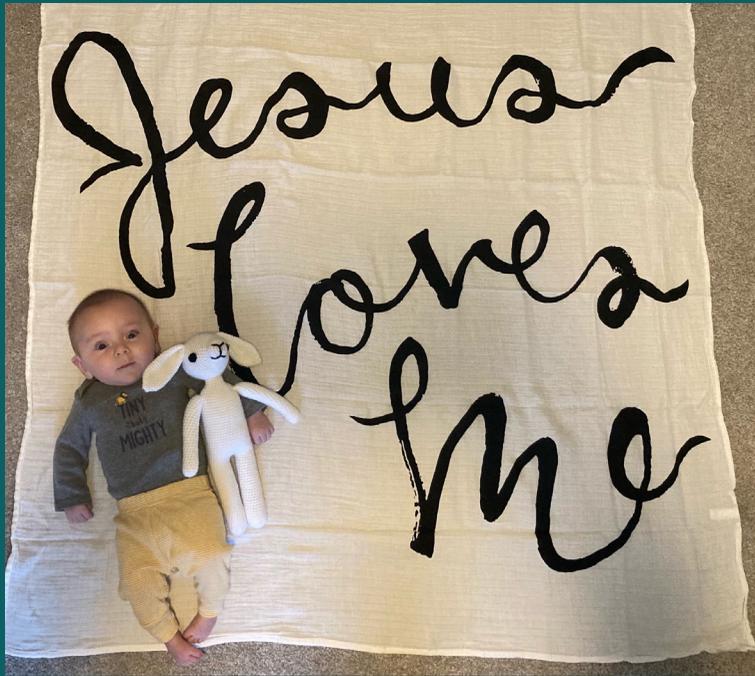
Building Toward Success teams for over five years. She is currently serving in a leadership role and manag-

*“Elvia will provide a crucial link with the community”*

es the planning, budget and supervision for the program as well as communication with Multnomah County and the cities of Wood Village and Fairview.

Elvia is very capable, having worked for both cities as administrative support and liaison with the community. She has an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice Applied Science. She is trained in violence prevention, public speaking, conflict resolution and leadership. But, most important of all, she has a love for the community and a heart to improve lives through the gospel. Please join me in welcoming Elvia.

# ANSWERED PRAYERS



**PICTURED LEFT:** Emmett Funk, son of Melina (Flynn) & Cody Funk, and grandson of former youth pastor Raymond Flynn and wife, Lisa. Emmett was born prematurely and weighed only 1 lb, 8 oz at birth. Here he is at six months old, next to a stuffed bunny that a relative made. The bunny is how big he was when he was born. Emmett is now getting all the nutrition he needs through a bottle (no more feeding tube!). Praise the Lord for this little miracle.

## NEW BABY



**GRIFFIN RUSSELL WOODS**

Born December 23, 2020  
7 lbs, 10 oz      19.5"  
Parents: Kristoffer & Aubrey Woods  
Grandparents: Ken & Kerry Woods

## HOME TO HEAVEN



**PASTOR DON BOLDT**  
(FORMER WVBC PASTOR)

September 19, 1932 -  
December 2, 2020

## HOME TO HEAVEN



**GERI SEMLER**

May 27, 1924 -  
December 18, 2020

# YOUTH CENTER by Youth Pastor Patrick Vestal

It's no secret that WVBC is blessed with an incredible campus. We have facilities and space here that many churches can only dream of. We have three buildings, a beautiful (and flat!) field, and we're expertly planted right in the middle of a neighborhood. We're uniquely positioned to reach our community.

Our Youth Center, which was the original church building, was constructed in the early 1950's. Through the years, it has had many different hands making changes and small updates to the space. Now it's time to make a more

complete update of this building. We're going to be updating this building inside and out — bringing it up to modern standards of energy efficiency and aesthetics.

The building is a tool. The focus isn't on the physical changes as much as the opportunity for ministry. The purpose behind these changes is to help students grow and develop their skills in an environment that is focused on helping them use those skills to serve others. Ideally, a youth ministry is training and equipping students

to become fully active members of the church body — serving in various ministries. With those in place, there will be opportunity for students

*"helping students grow and develop their skills"*

to practice being active members of a ministry alongside their peers. They can learn how to be on a worship team and how to lead people into worship. They can learn how to run and manage sound and production for live worship and speaking.

It doesn't stop there. The updated space will be an attractive meeting place for other ministries in the church and various groups from the community. Our hope and prayer is that we'll have the building in near constant use — creating a welcoming environment where the gospel is shared and the Kingdom of God is celebrated.

