

THE VISION

A NEWSLETTER OF WOOD VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR

Let's talk vision. But not only vision, also inspiration.

What I mean by inspiration is the far-reaching dreams that come to us in the rare times when our thoughts roam free from the barriers of time, effort and resources.

Inspiration is a gift from God, and it is meant to free us from the constraints of the mundane.

Inspiration allows us to see what is possible when God participates in our dreams. Take for example our fundraising campaign. A rational mind (like mine) would reasonably hope a small church like ours

might raise \$50,000 in four months. Well, God participated (in your hearts) and we did this in three weeks.

I love this church.

So now, as we renew our youth program with a renewed Youth Center, we turn our eyes and hearts toward our young families and their children. Our goal is to fill our Children's Center with laughing, screaming, messy, lovely, precious kids. Just writing this brings tears to my eyes.

Young families are desperate for love and care. The culture has put so much pressure on moms and dads to conform to its expectations that it is impossible to keep up. Children are struggling in a broken educational system and are forced



to accept immoral social values.

However, we can make a difference. As a matter of fact, Jesus tells us that we are the only ones who will really make a difference. Our prayer, therefore, is to recruit a Children's Director and raise up a new and renewed army of volunteers who will fill our Children's Center and immerse our young families and children with the life-changing truth of the Gospel.

I look forward to seeing God work through this church.

With much love and a growing faith,

Pastor Tom

Wood Village Baptist Church
23601 NE Arata Rd
Wood Village, OR 97060
503.661.7686
woodvillagebaptist.org
office@woodvillagebaptist.org

SENIOR PASTOR COMMISSIONING

by Craig Crandall

In early February, WVBC members welcomed and voted in Associate and Administrative Lead Pastor Tom Miles as the new Senior Pastor of Wood Village Baptist Church! He was commissioned at the Sunday service on March 14, 2021.

Having met Pastor Bill Ehmann while attending Western Seminary, the two developed a close mentoring relationship that eventually drew the aspiring student and minister to serve and worship at WVBC with his wife, Jennifer, and two daughters, Rachel and Bethany. Over the past 10 years, Pastor Tom has served our church family faithfully, with the first 2-plus years in lay leadership building up our Men' Ministries and Young Families Ministries. After that, he served for a year in the role of Pastor-in-Training, during which time he took on the added responsibility of establishing a more formalized and intentional ministry to our local Latino community. Over the past 6 ½ years, he has served faithfully as our Associate Pastor, demonstrating persistent compassion, administration, energy and a passion for growing disciples of Christ.



During 2019 and 2020, Pastor Tom admirably handled increasing levels of responsibility and leadership, working closely with the Elder Board to develop teaching, administer care, and manage our ministries through the trials of staff departures and the Covid-19 pandemic. Of course, God has been in control throughout, and none of this was without His direction and purpose, which, in part, was to refine and burnish a new chief shepherd to lead His church at Wood Village.

Pastor Tom earned his Masters of Arts in Ministry and Leadership at Western Seminary in 2010, and was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel by WVBC in 2017. Prior to his professional ministry, Pastor Tom was a Mechanical Engineer, working in that field for nearly 27 years.

In addition to her active service to our church family

through the years, Jennifer was a professional dental hygienist for 34 years. But as Pastor Tom's responsibilities grew over the past couple years, Jennifer determined to retire from the profession in 2020 and dedicate even more of her time, gifts and energies to serving the WVBC family, for which we are so grateful!

We look ahead with great expectation to God's work amongst and within our church family and local community, building the light of Christ within us, reaching children, youth and adults with His good news of salvation and the calling to an eternal walk with Him. Pastor Tom is highly enthused, equipped and motivated to help shepherd us in this journey.

Pastor Tom becomes the eighth Senior Pastor of God's 70-year-old church body at Wood Village, following our longest-tenured and greatly loved Pastor Bill Ehmann, who served for 35 years, 25 of them as Senior Pastor.

The full list of WVBC Senior Pastors is as follows:

- Rev. Melvin Erickson (1951-1960)
- Rev. James Stanfield (1961-1963)
- Rev. Kenneth Bekkedahl (1963-72)
- Rev. John Atherton (1973-1979)
- Rev. Donald Boldt (1980-1994)
- Rev. William Ehmann (1995-2020)
- Rev. Thomas Miles (2021-present)

YOUTH WORSHIP by Pastor Patrick Vestal

We believe that corporate worship among the body of believers is essential. So when Zeke Goodrick mentioned being willing to come on Youth Group nights to help lead worship, I jumped on the opportunity. We started having regular worship together in February and the time has been so rich! We already have students who are wanting to learn new instruments, or wanting to learn to serve in the tech and production side. Zeke has done such a great job of engaging the students and connecting the worship with the

message. I'm incredibly grateful for all the work he's doing.

It's an exciting time to start getting our feet wet in having youth worship. We're able to learn about what kind of worship we

"corporate worship among the body is essential"

want, what kind of things we need to prepare for and how we can see this grow in our new Youth Center. Growing up, my family didn't have the ability to buy any instruments to learn in order to play

on the worship teams. My goal here is to collect extra guitars, bass guitars, portable keyboards and even drums so that students can borrow them to take home, practice and learn. I want to make joining the worship team approachable for every student who has a desire. If you have any extra instruments lying around, and you want to donate them to see students use them to learn, let me know!



WOOD VILLAGE NITE OUT

by Pastor Tom Miles

The City of Wood Village is planning to move ahead with its 23rd Wood Village Nite Out celebration, scheduled for July 16, from 4:00-6:00pm. This year, it will again take place on our campus, but with some required changes. First, it will be a drive-through event where celebrants will stay in their cars and drive through an assigned course on the campus, picking up goodies and various Nite Out information.

Due to Covid restrictions, we will not offer prepared foods and treats such as hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy. However, we will hand out pre-prepared foods and beverages.

We are still in the early planning stages, but one thing we know is that we will need volunteers. We will let you know what is needed as soon as we know the plan.



Thank you, Lisa Cervantes, for 19 years of service to kids!

A TRIBUTE TO A FAITHFUL SERVANT

by Pastor Tom Miles

For over 11 years, Lisa Cervantes has been the driving force behind our AWANA ministry. I can say “force,” because if you know Lisa, her commitment to kids is like a force of nature. If we were to name this powerful force, it would be obvious — Love.

Lisa loves children, and anyone who knows the true meaning of love knows it is a choice. A choice to care and to sacrifice time, money, personal plans, evenings, weekends and heart. Love takes compassion, ears to listen, a shoulder to cry on, a commitment to meet the needs of others, and in Lisa’s case, it is the

children and their families.

In addition to Lisa, her family has been brought along in this wave of love and care for kids. Her husband, Juan, daughter and husband Veronica and Christian Muganyizi, and daughter Rachel and Colin Kackert.

Now, after 19 years of loving our kids, eight years as a volunteer and eleven as AWANA Commander, Lisa has stepped down in order to take a Sabbath with her husband and family. Serving with your whole heart is at the very core of Christian faith and care. Yet, as much as we will miss Lisa, a Sabbath rest is essential.

Thank you, Lisa, for loving our kids.

GOOD FRIDAY by Zeke Goodrick

Expression of worship comes in many forms. For this year's Good Friday service, our goal was to demonstrate this through "The Inspiration of the Cross." Without the cross, we are lost -- so it is fitting to show the hope of our salvation in various worshipful expressions with not only music, but with art and performance as well.

Our Scripture readings were done by Ellie Wright, Kristal Bossen and Ephrem Mamo, under the coordination of Jen Miles. Elvia Angel-Silva did the readings in Spanish. They did a wonderful job.

I was excited to get Bill Dirks involved. I called him and said, "Bill, I want to do a men's quartet. Could you pick a song for us and we'll do it for Good Friday?" He brought us The Cathedrals classic, "Oh What a Savior." With Chris Wright, Dave Cone, Bill, myself and Tim Collins on piano, it came together very nicely.

I was honored to perform "Lead Me to the Cross" with Kyle Lockwood from Oregon Community Church on cello. Kristal Bossen gave us a

moving ASL (American Sign Language) performance that brought a deeper meaning to the heart of the song, and she sang, too!

Jewell Joslen, Gail Wheeler and Traci Drapela brought us an inspiring rendition of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," with Amber and Anna Milmore singing the verses in both Spanish and English.

"How Deep The Father's Love For Us" was performed by Danita Hunter and Tim Collins. During the song, we were mesmerized by Heather Henley creating a painting depicting the cross conquering sin and death.

Over the final reading, we saw clips from the shadow drama that our youth group did a few years ago.



Kristal Bossen expresses the love of Jesus through sign language

We ended the Good Friday service with a lyric video of "I Will Rise," with vocals by Tim Collins and the youth group. This was a perfect finish with the resurrection on the horizon.

Thank you to all who helped with this year's recorded production.



Heather Henley with her finished tribute to the cross

PAINT PROJECT *by Terri Clement*



What comes to mind when you think of kids? Perhaps words like playful, adventurous, genuine, joyful, welcoming or imaginative? These are some of the things we thought of four years ago when some WVBC moms and I were dreaming of a Children's Center revamp. We wanted a place that looked cheerful and inviting, sparking the vivid imaginations of the kids who would walk the hallway on their way to see friends and learn about Jesus.

That dream has become a reality. The biggest and boldest part of a multi-phase project has been completed, and it is nearly impossible to enter the children's wing without smiling (at least a little bit). It is bright. It is bold. It is playful. And I'm pretty sure the kids are gonna love it!

As our church grows and changes, we will be inviting strangers into the spaces of our campus and it's wonderful that we are making those spaces more welcoming. Take a walk up the stairs and in the Children's Center and take a moment to imagine the classrooms brimming with children. Imagine

the chaos. Imagine the love of the adults who are giving their time and using their gift of teaching. Imagine children who are excited and ready to learn about Jesus. It is a beautiful dream, isn't it? A dream that can and will become a reality as we pray, trust and follow God's guidance — I can't wait to see it happen!

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped make this project happen: Todd Jones, Lisa Cervantes, Heather Henley, Jessica Edholm, Todd Clement, Christian Muganyizi, Colin Kackert, Kenny Woods, Katie Wardle, Nathan Clement and Molly Vorhees. And for Jennifer Miles, who fed us all on our biggest work day.



Jessica Edholm helps with the paint project



BUILDING TOWARD SUCCESS (BTS)

by Elvia Angel-Silva

Our youth outreach program has been active this winter and spring. BTS, in partnership with Wood Village Baptist Church, offers employment opportunities through Multnomah County's Work Source Program, Summer Works. The program is designed to help reduce crime. The main funding for the program is provided by Multnomah County, but WVBC also contributes financially.

BTS is a community-level violence prevention program that empowers youth to work with adults to make positive changes in their communities.

Some of the projects run by BTS in past summers are the lunch program, sports program, and outdoor movie nights. The program has also provided many youth



The BTS Team: Elvia Angel-Silva, Nancy Bautista, Ofelia Garcia, Jesus Angel, Elizabeth Bautista, Brenda Bautista, Alexandra Beltran.

volunteers to help run the Wood Village Nite Out. The aim of the program is to help our community

"creating a sense of community"

and our youth by providing activities and interaction. We have a team of seven youth who assist in creating and planning arts and crafts as well as organizing all the

supplies and distributing them to the community.

As COVID forces us to change so many aspects of our day-to-day responsibilities, we see a need to ensure that our community can keep up with these changes. By providing these activities and resources, we will help our neighbors feel more comfortable and safe by engaging with them, supporting them, and creating a sense of community.

YOUTH CENTER by Pastor Patrick Vestal

We've broken ground! The Youth Center is being remodeled and is already starting to look refreshed and renewed. Of course, there's still a lot of work to get done and we're looking forward to the upcoming work project days. It's so encouraging to see the work get started. The Lord has blessed us abundantly through this process. Your incredible generosity has been astounding! We've been blessed with great weather and especially blessed with a building that has very little rot. We were concerned about the condition of the material under the siding, around



the windows and under the roofing. In a 70-year-old building, there were certainly some areas to repair — but it was far less

than we had feared or anticipated.

In the coming weeks, I'm going to be posting a schedule of work evenings and Saturdays where you'll be invited to join in on the project! I've learned so much about this church through this process, and I look forward to seeing the ways that you'll amaze and impress me in the future. I'm so glad to be a part of this body and look forward to serving alongside all of you through this project and into the future.



WOMEN'S WORKSHOP by Connie Crandall

The Women's Retreat was originally planned for April 17-19, 2020. One year later, still not enough time had passed to safely gather together in tight quarters for the weekend.

Jennifer Miles did not want that weekend to pass by without offering a socially distanced event for our ladies. She invited our retreat speaker, Kari Patterson, to come and share with us for an hour. We weren't sure how women would respond, but were pleasantly surprised when 73 ladies showed up! Screening each attendee, wearing masks and foregoing close socializing was worth it to have a morning where we could see each other's eyes and know we were smiling behind our masks.

Director of Women's Ministries, Jewell Joslen, shared her life's ministry journey with us and then shared a beautiful piano solo of "I'd Rather Have Jesus," which she says sums up her life focus and goal. She also let the women know that she feels it is time for her to step down as Director. She will still be involved in women's

ministry, however. We were able to honor her with a slideshow depicting photos of Jewell at various women's events, and videos of gratitude from the Women's Ministry Team for all of Jewell's service and wisdom.

Kari Patterson proved to be a very interesting and enthusiastic speaker. She spoke on "The Second Mile: How the Gospel Frees Us to Love Without Limit." She encouraged us to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:41 — "Whoever

compels you to go one mile, go with him two." When we go beyond what is required, we feel freedom to love and serve joyfully. When we are faced with an adverse situation, the power of God's Word helps us move beyond our circumstances. Kari's knowledge of Scripture and her delightful delivery helped make our morning together extra special. We look forward to hearing more from her at our Women's Retreat in the fall, scheduled for October 15-17, 2021.

Mark your
Calendar!

COME ALIVE
IN THE
RIVER

Women's Retreat
October 15-17, 2021
Canby Grove
Conference Center



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Conversations
over
CUPCAKES
(provided by Megan Crandall)

SUNDAY, MAY 16
3:00-4:30 PM

Enjoy some laughter and visiting!
Meet the new Women's Ministry Team

YOUTH SEDER DINNER



In celebration of Maundy Thursday, our youth had a Messianic Seder Dinner. They had a great time diving into the tradition and learning more about the advent of communion.

NEW BABY



EMMETT RAY VESTAL

Born February 1, 2021
7 lbs, 5 oz 20.5"
Parents: Patrick & Katelyn

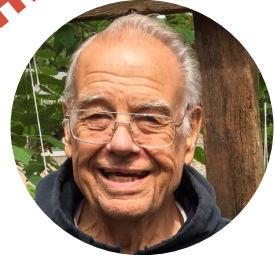
HOME TO HEAVEN



LORI HUGHES

April 15, 1960 -
February 15, 2021

HOME TO HEAVEN



RALPH PETERSON

June 17, 1933 -
February 23, 2021