

THE VISION

A NEWSLETTER OF WOOD VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR

It has dawned on me during the past few weeks that we are becoming a multi-national church. Another way of saying this is that we are a growing to be a church of many nations, or better yet, a church of many peoples.

The people groups represented in our church are multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-generational. When a group like this gathers, it usually means conflict, misunderstanding and division. But this isn't the way of followers of Christ. For Christ followers:

There is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but

Christ is all, and is in all (Colossians 3:11).

I am making this point because, as we expand our Gospel outreach to the community, there will also be expanded opportunities for conflict. This is Satan's hope. And he would love us to fail. But we won't.

We won't fail because we will focus on the vision Jesus gave to our church. We will sacrifice our comforts and personal preferences for something infinitely greater, the blessing of the nations. Jesus is the promised rescuer of the world. He accomplished this by making the ultimate

sacrifice, for my sake and yours.

We can be sure that each of us will be asked to make sacrifices in the coming

"we will sacrifice for something infinitely greater"

year, whether it be music preference, loving and serving our neighbors, or giving of our finances. The Gospel comes with a cost. Yet the choice is really very simple. Because denying ourselves for His sake and the sake of the Gospel is both our calling and our joy.

With love,
Pastor Tom

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WORSHIPPING WITH THE COMMUNITY

by Pastor Tom Miles

On Sunday, July 18, we worshipped God with our neighbors and sister church, Comunidad de Gracia. With over 200 people present, we sang and listened to the story of Jacob in Spanish and English. The service had one priority, gathering together as a community of God's people and proclaiming the Gospel. I believe it was heard loud and clear.

Thank you to the kitchen crew led by Katie Wardle and Jennifer Miles, the barbecue team led by Mark Wheeler and Joel Navidad, our youth, ushers and Safety Team for the huge effort in making this event happen. We are grateful to Morasch Meats for donating the hamburgers and carne asada. And a very special thanks to the Worship Team for the hours of worship music they shared as we celebrated God and community.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY by Jennifer Miles

Gratitude is my main feeling concerning Women's Ministry. I am grateful for the many women who are helping to serve Wood Village Church and our congregation. We are working to continue serving the needs of our church and gearing up for more teaching and fellowship.

Women's Ministry volunteers have served over the past month in various ways:

- * Providing meals to those who had a need (my daughter was one of them, and we sure appreciated the love and prayers along with the great food).
- * Providing baby gifts and visitation for new moms, along with meals.
- * Father's Day celebration with homemade brownies.
- * July 4 celebration with handmade cards sent to active military and our veterans.
- * Prayers for the women of our congregation.
- * Start of monthly fellowship opportunities, to be held every fourth Sunday of

the month. We just had a Women's Bunco event on July 25. The next meeting is Sunday, August 22. We plan to have lots of fun, so invite a friend!

"we care for the spiritual and physical health of every woman"

We also began a new ministry for women. We have developed a team of women who are making and sending cards to the women of our church. If you get a card from these ladies, know that they are specifically praying for you in the month you get the card. Also expect to get a follow-up phone call to see if you have any specific prayer requests or needs that can be met by our church community. We care about every woman and want to pray specific prayers for each of you. I know that I'm eager for my card to arrive sometime

in the upcoming year. I know it will be sent with love and prayers.

I'm praying for guidance as we gear up for other events this year. Other planned events include the Clothing Exchange; Operation Christmas Child; hospitality for weddings, baby showers and memorials; AND our retreat scheduled for October 15-17.

While I am new at this position, I have confidence in God's guidance and the team of ladies who are serving with me. They all care so much for the spiritual and physical health of every woman at WVBC. We are happy for the opportunity to serve and are so very grateful for each of you.

Love, Jennifer Miles



WOMEN'S RETREAT

by Connie Crandall

Mark your
Calendar!

COME ALIVE
IN THE
RIVER

October 15-17, 2021
Canby Grove
Conference Center

Ladies!! You will NOT want to miss this amazing weekend that we have planned for you!

Guest speaker Kari Patterson, who spoke at our Womens Event last April, will re-join us at our retreat this October!

There will be plenty of time for fun and fellowship, along with a deepening of our faith and our relationships. Watch for more details and signups!

EZEKIEL GOODRICK

Director of Worship Arts

by Pastor Tom Miles

Please join me in welcoming our new Director of Worship Arts, Zeke Goodrick. Zeke has filled the position of Director of Technical Arts since December of last year. In our search for a candidate, Zeke's abilities and depth of experience in music and production, and his leadership through this past year, have shown him to be the right person for this position.

I want to express my gratitude to the Worship Leaders and Worship Team for their enduring faithfulness to our church over the past six years. They have set an example for what it means to love each other and work together as servants of Christ. They played a crucial role in supporting Zeke and responding to his leadership.



We know that we have a vision to flourish in the ways we worship God through the arts. And in doing so, we pray that the Gospel of Jesus will be proclaimed in our community and in our very own hearts. Please pray for Zeke and the team and for God's guidance and provision as we respond to this calling.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

by Elvia Angel-Silva

BTS is doing it again! Running our lunch and sports programs this summer. We have been in front of the church office Monday through Thursday from 12pm to 1pm serving FREE lunch provided by the Reynolds School District to our community, serving around 40 meals per day. Our location is unique, because we do something that no other site does – we serve adults as well as kids, thanks to WVBC, which provides the funding for it! August 5, 2021, will be the last day we serve lunch.

Our Sports Program is almost coming to an end – August 3 will be our last day! This year we didn't focus on just one sport, as we did in past years. We wanted to give the kids an opportunity to choose from various activities and just let them enjoy themselves. We wanted to create a place where it gave them an opportunity to come and

play outside or just simply enjoy the nice weather we been having. All this wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for our seven amazing youth who plan and manage everything:

Nancy Bautista, Jesus Angel, Alexsandra Beltran, Antonio Macias, Elias Luquin, Anna Sinnock, Brian Montes and Deisy Angel.



WE LOVE KIDS! by Pastor Tom Miles

Our children's Sunday ministry has been reignited. Thanks to the leadership of Veronica Muganyizi, Lisa Cervantes and Amber Milmore, and a new group of volunteers, we have been welcoming more children and young families weekly.

Right now our goal is to provide a fun and safe environment for kids on Sunday morning during the second service. We want to be a place for kids to see and have fun with their

friends and learn about Jesus.

We have begun interviewing for a Children's Ministry Director to take the lead in this ministry. We know that we must invest in children and young families to have a healthy and vibrant church. Please pray that we fill this position with God's choice. Also, please pray for more volunteers to serve in this crucial ministry.



NEW FAMILY ROOM COMING

by Connie Crandall

When I was a young mom, I remember many Sunday mornings when one of my kids would be fussy during the service or just plain refused to go in their children's class that day.

I remember wishing there was a place I could take my child where I could still view the service while allowing my child to crawl or walk

around without worrying about them making a little noise.

ministry to young families

In our effort to draw in and accommodate young families, we are planning to convert the old basement conference room (formerly the church

library) into a new Family Room.

We are so excited to offer a space with comfortable furniture, a place for kids to play and color, and a large screen TV with a live feed from the sanctuary. Our newly formed Design Team is tackling this project, along with assessing other updates needed around the campus.

YOUTH CENTER REMODEL

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

Wow! This has been a lot of work. The project has pretty much devoured every spare second I've had in the last three months – but I'm so grateful that we're updating the Youth Center space. There's so much excitement among the students to have the new Youth Center. We've filled four 40-square-yard dumpsters, and now it's time to start putting everything back together. Over the next few weeks, we'll have electrical, plumbing and HVAC finished. From there, it's a few weeks of sheetrock, flooring and a mad rush to have the building usable – Lord willing – by September!

The finished product will be incredible, but the journey to get there has taught me so much. There have been plenty of obstacles and frustrations along the way, but I've learned so much about this church body, its



*Anna Milmore
removes old
cove base*

Elder Board and Pastor Tom. I feel so blessed to be a small part of what's going on at WVBC and am excited to see how this next year turns out. More

than anything, though, I've loved the work days. One of the most beautiful aspects of the Church is intergenerational relationships. I love it when there are opportunities for the young and old to be side-by-side, working, joking and building friendships with one another. Times like these are when our theology becomes truly practical and we learn to value and care for one another. If you haven't had the opportunity to join us, keep an eye out! We'll have more dates listed soon and we'd love to have you!



*LeRoy Stratch and
Todd Dickinson build
new kitchen cabinets*

MEN'S BREAKFAST by Pastor Tom Miles

We are kicking off our first Men's Breakfast of the year on Saturday, August 7, 9:00-10:30 AM on the lawn next to the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker is Jay Messenger, Lead Pastor at Grace Community Church. As usual, we have invited the men from

Comunidad de Gracia and will hear the message in Spanish and English. Jay will be speaking on how



our church can be united in vision amongst diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Please RSVP with the office for this event, as we will be purchasing the meal in advance. Mark Wheeler is your contact if you have any questions. Invite a friend to join us.

YOUTH SERVICE RETREAT

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

We were able to serve at Camp Jonah with the students for their 25th Anniversary and Post-Covid Summer Camp Kick-Off. We set up and facilitated their inflatable obstacle courses and games, helped in the kitchen and with A LOT of clean up! Serving alongside God's people is one of the greatest ways to grow as Jesus followers – and it's a great way to form new friendships!

Wood Village Baptist Church has been a ministry partner and supporter of

Camp Jonah for decades, with connections all the way back to Pastor Don Boldt. I've been involved with Camp Jonah for many years as well, having served five years on their summer staff and attending as a camper for years before.

I always enjoy taking students to Camp Jonah because I have the opportunity to share with them about how my faith became my own while

serving at camp. It's fun to keep the connection between Camp Jonah and WVBC strong. We look forward to the ways that we'll be able to connect with each other in the future, too!



WOOD VILLAGE NITE OUT

by Pastor Tom Miles

Wood Village Nite Out was celebrated on our campus Friday, July 16. It was a drive-through event where families could meet with local government representatives, the Multnomah County Sheriff's office and other community groups. Families received gift bags filled with goodies for the kids and resources for the families. It was a fun evening of catching up with people we have not seen since the pandemic began.

As usual, the Wood Village City Councilors and Mayor Scott Harden served tirelessly the entire evening. Multnomah County Commissioner Laurie Stegman, a big supporter of WVBC's community outreach, was present and at least nine Sheriff's deputies, including Sheriff Dan Reese himself.

Assistant to the City Manager Emeline Nguyen,



our own Councilor Jairo Rios-Campos, and the BTS team led by Nancy Bautista and Elvia Angel Silva organized the effort to serve the community.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



At the women's "Conversations Over Cupcakes" event, several long-time ministry leaders were honored as they move on to other areas of service: Lisa Cervantes (AWANA), Carol Ehmann (pastor's wife), Kelly Gable (worship director), Jewell Joslen (Women's Ministries), and Betty Larsen (Decor).



Our ladies love to play Bunco! On July 25, Women's Ministries hosted a fun afternoon of fellowship and good-hearted competition. Lots of laughter and conversations were shared.

The next Women's Fellowship event is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 22, 3-5pm. We will enjoy "Lazy Afternoon Fun," which was canceled last month due to the heat wave. We hope to see you there!

NEW MEMBERS



CLAUDIA IBARRA RAMOS
Feb. 21, 2021



ELVIA ANGEL-SILVA
July 11, 2021



CHARLOTTE BURTON
July 25, 2021

HOME TO HEAVEN



SHIRLEY HOUSTON
October 16, 1928-
May 9, 2021