

# THE VISION

A NEWSLETTER OF WOOD VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

## FROM THE PASTOR

This will be our last newsletter of the year. It is a good time to pause and reflect as the sun sets on 2021. Winter is coming and leaves are falling. Many living things slow down, and some even go dormant, looking forward to the spring and another new beginning.

There is no dormancy in the church; yet, as the rains come and the temperatures bring a chill, we can slow down for a moment and remember. Looking back, one thing is clear: there is a need for healing in our church and in our community. The personal and relational losses of the past two years still weigh heavily on our hearts.

There is a movement within our church that has

been energized by this loss. It has energized us to pray. Our suffering has shown us our limitations. We need God to raise us above the difficulties and the loss in order to know how to live well. He still promises abundance, regardless of circumstances.

There is also a movement to reach out to others who suffer. This is one of the greatest truths of life in the Kingdom. God's people will always suffer and, because of this, are uniquely equipped to serve others in a world full of suffering. We have responded by reaching out to the young, to families, to our neighborhood, to the

aging and isolated, and to the nations.

As we reflect and approach the celebration of Christmas, the Advent of

*As for us and our house ... "We will serve the Lord"*

the Messiah, we will look forward to expanding this unique commission we have been given. 2022 will be a year when our faith will be tested, this is for certain. But I am confident in the faithfulness and resolve of the WVBC family.

As for us and our house, "We will serve the Lord."

With love,

*Pastor Tom*

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# WOMEN'S RETREAT by Jennifer Miles

It's the day after the Women's Retreat as I sit here and write this article. Exhausted, exhilarated and excited about future gatherings with the astoundingly lovely women who attended the retreat, and changed by the Spirit who spoke clearly and distinctly to me this past weekend through our amazing speaker, Kari Patterson, and the discussions with my small group after each session. I am listening to the music that was played at the retreat, remembering the wonder and praise of God. All I can think is that there really was "Joy in the House of the Lord" during the entire weekend.

The theme of the retreat, "Come Alive in the River," was apparent throughout the entire weekend. Our eyes were able to drink in the lovely Molalla River as we learned how the Spirit can be present in our everyday mundane tasks in life. Our ears were able to celebrate as we listened to beautiful worship music flow through our bodies and out through our voices in both English and Spanish to Him who is with

us as we pass through the waters of life. Tears of joy and of sorrow were shed as we shared ourselves with sisters who loved and accepted us throughout the weekend. Knowledge of Jesus was taught through "Science with Katie" sessions, using the precious resource of water to show us the wonder of God and His creation. We celebrated His forgiveness and gift of salvation through communion led by Jane Merhar.

Well, you get the idea. We had an amazing time learning about God and unifying as women. Fellowshiping as a body of women cannot be overlooked. It is worth the effort required to make the retreat happen. The memories and the valuable redirection of each of the ladies' lives because they had the time to LET God work in their hearts and minds can never be underestimated.

I want to thank everyone

who made this retreat possible. So many people contributed, including our planning committee, worship team, skit performers, service team and translators. Thank you to those who gave monetarily to scholarship women, including the volunteers for the Silent Auction, which helps to scholarship every woman a portion of the cost of the retreat. Thank you to those who prayed for the retreat and for the hearts of each of us who attended the retreat to be changed and challenged. Your prayers worked! I ask that you continue to pray for the 57 women who attended to

continue to carry the lessons they learned into their daily faith walk with God.



# ONE FAMILY, ONE SERVICE

**by Pastor Tom Miles**

Isolation is one of the common experiences we have all shared over the past two years. For a time, we canceled all church services and other gatherings in order to keep the vulnerable safe. Even today, many in our church family are choosing to stay separate, watching services from home. Through this, we have realized the need

to gather together as one church family, to reconnect across age and cultural barriers that have occurred naturally over the years. To do this, we are choosing to move to a single Sunday worship service.

Not surprisingly, there is overwhelming support for a single service across the ages and cultures in our church. We are all feeling the need to get to know

each other. I believe this is a movement of the Spirit. This is a good thing: One church, one family, one service.

We will move to a single 11:00AM service on Sunday, November 14. The Sunday School classes will meet before the service at a time determined by the classes themselves.



## WOMEN'S RETREAT Oct 2021

**FAR LEFT:** Adriana Ek-Canche, Katie Wardle, Rachel Bell and Kaelynn Wardle lead a song in Spanish and English.

**LEFT:** Angel Neill, Traci Dickinson, Jane Merhar and Laura Sakaguchi enjoy fellowship.

**ABOVE:** Monica Aispuro, Natalia Gonzalez, Maria Herrera and Ana Maira Graciano find a peaceful moment near the beautiful Molalla River.



## WORSHIP by Zeke Goodrick

Worship is making a comeback! From our Hymn Socials to our new Worship Night, Wood Village worship is bringing our church and community

together in praise. Alternating on the first Sunday of each month, we are able to care for our church family with familiar songs and to seek the lost

and new believer in ways they can relate to in today's world.

At our Hymn Social, in the Fellowship Hall, we put the piano in the middle of the room and sing right out of the hymnal – favorites like #617, “Onward Christian Soldiers,” or #543, “The Family of God.” With Traci Drapela, Tim Collins and Jewell Joslen as our pianists, we can't go wrong!

For our Worship Night, we gather in the Chapel. We turn the house lights down, the stage lights up, and boost the volume for an immersive worship experience featuring a contemporary mix of worship, praise and testimony – like “Old Church Choir” by Zac Williams or “Oceans” by Hillsong.

Our next Hymn Social is on November 7, 4:00-5:00pm, followed by dinner! Worship Night is scheduled for December 5, 6:00-7:15pm. Hope to see you there . . . and invite a friend!



**ABOVE:** Don & Angel Neill bring the whole family for the Hymn and Ice Cream Social night.

**BELOW:** Tim Collins, Danny & Beth Bejan, Katie Wardle, Zeke Goodrick, Tim Watt, Amber Milmore and Anna Milmore lead a spirit-filled worship night.



## YOUTH CENTER UPDATE by Pastor Patrick Vestal

I've been overwhelmed by the generosity of the laborers in our church and community. The building was painted by Claudio Cruz and his family. Asher, his son, attends our youth group. They did the whole thing in two days of donated labor and it looks incredible! The floors are being put in with donated time from Natalia's son-in-law, Ubaldo. If you see a white van parked outside the Youth Center on nights and weekends, clean your shoes and stop in to say a huge “Thank you!” to

him. His generosity in time (and materials!) has been incredible.

The list of gratitude for faithful laborers continues into our church body. We've had a number of successful work parties and I've been so glad for the help. On Fridays, I've had an open invitation to come and work with me in the Youth Center. Bert Welton, Evan Harding, Evan Schrenk, Todd Jones, and Yiu-Tak Chiu have been out to help many, many times – please be sure to thank them for their work.



As we continue chipping away at the project, we look forward to being able to use the space. Please join us in covering the building in prayer – that God would prepare us to minister well from our renewed Youth Center.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Vera Hallman

Thank you for making me and my family feel welcome as I jump into the role of Children's Ministry Director. I am so excited for the opportunity to serve the children and families of this church! I know Jesus is going to meet each and every child as we gather on Sunday mornings.

Starting at the beginning of October, I kicked off a new children's curriculum called

*The Gospel Project*. In it, we are starting with the Creation and going through the whole Bible over the next few years.



If a child starts as a baby, they will go through the entire Bible approximately three times before entering middle school, developing a firm foundation in the Bible in their lives.

My prayer as we move forward is to build strong teams of volunteers so we can meet as different age

groups and have all the rooms upstairs open and filled with children hearing the Gospel of Jesus! I am looking for at least 10 to 15 more volunteers to commit to a once-a-month rotation to help in Children's Church. Kids learn from anyone and everyone. If you don't think you are qualified, we can talk and find the perfect fit for you! Kids just crave people who are kind and loving to be a part of their lives. Thank you for all you do to invest in our children's future.



## WELCOME, VERA! by Pastor Tom Miles

If you haven't met Vera Hallman, our new Children's Ministry Director, please take the time to introduce yourself. When you do, I am certain you will notice her enthusiastic love for kids and families. You will also notice that her love for Jesus is the source of her passion and energy to introduce kids to Him.

Vera and her husband, Alec, have five children: David (11), Aaron (9), Andrew (7), Gabriel (5) and Aurora (2). Vera and Alec have many years of experience volunteering and leading in children's ministries, beginning at Central Bible and, most recently, at Manna House-Rocky Butte. Vera is also well known by our children's ministry volunteers, as she has served in our AWANA program for the last six years. Vera has a Master's Degree in Education and, most notably, a deep

desire and passion to introduce children to Jesus.

Vera and the Children's

*introducing  
kids to Jesus*

Ministry Team have begun revitalizing our children's ministry. Their focus is on building relationships with kids, families and volunteers. If you visit the ministry on Sunday mornings, which I hope you will take the time

to do, you will see the positive changes – more kids, a warm meeting place for volunteers and families, and new volunteers.

Vera and the Children's Ministry Team have a challenging task before them: introducing kids and families to Jesus and building supportive relationships. To do this, they will need our prayers, encouragement and more volunteer support. Please consider responding to any or all of these needs.



## FAITH & BLUE COMMUNITY EVENT

*by Elvia Angel-Silva*

On Saturday, October 9, in partnership with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, we celebrated National Faith & Blue Weekend on our campus. Faith & Blue is an organization that believes law enforcement and communities can share values, hopes and dreams and create stronger and safer communities.

We had a full ice cream truck on site handing out FREE ice cream to everyone! And we also had a shredding truck. MCSO members were present for a meet and greet, as well as a River Patrol boat and Search and Rescue. There were around 13 Sheriff's deputies, including Sheriff Dan Reese and Undersheriff Nicole Morrissey. The community had a great time engaging with the MCSO, and kids from the community even played a soccer game with the deputies!





# YOUTH LEADER RETREAT

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

Each year we take a break in August from youth group to give me a month to make plans and prepare for the coming school year. During that time, we take a retreat with the youth volunteers. We talk about our youth program, our goals for the coming year, and how we can be a/effective ministers of the gospel of Jesus. This year, we went

down to Depoe Bay and were socked in with rain for the whole weekend. The rain provided a great opportunity to get to know each other a bit better, reflect on the past year and prayerfully consider the future. We have an incredibly caring and faithful ministry team to minister to the students. I feel so blessed by them every time we're together.

This retreat was fun because we were able to talk about the use of the renewed Youth Center – something that we were just dreaming about and considering at the last retreat. We anticipate the end of COVID regulations and apprehensions in the next year. There's a lot of excitement around the youth ministry right now.

## CHRISTMAS PLANS

The Christmas Advent is a season of joy for the church. Christmas Day is on Saturday this year, so we are planning an in-person Christmas Eve service on Friday at 5:00PM. The evening will be full of traditional Christmas music, where you will have the opportunity to praise God and sing the songs you all remember. We plan to sing several

familiar songs in Spanish as well. Following, we plan to serve treats in the

*a season of Joy*

Fellowship Hall. We hope to celebrate this occasion with all of you. It will be a joy-filled evening! There is no service planned for Saturday, Christmas Day. Sunday's

service will focus on, appropriately, the Second Advent. We are also planning a time of caroling through the neighborhood. On December 19, please plan to stay after the service. We will feed you lunch and then head out as a group to sing familiar, traditional Christmas carols in the local neighborhood. Come help spread joy!

## WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

by Connie Crandall

All women and girls are invited to a Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 18, 10:00am-1:00pm. This will be a fun fellowship time to enjoy some good food, fun fellowship, and a short devotional. One of the highlights

will be a "white elephant" gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift to participate. The gift can be something great, not so great, or anything in between! Humor is encouraged! We will sell tickets in advance to offset the cost

and to help us plan. The cost is just \$2. Tickets will be available in the church lobby on December 5 and 12, and also in the church office anytime before December 13. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Connie Crandall.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST by Pastor Tom Miles

We had our first men's breakfast gathering in well over a year on Saturday, August 7. Mark Wheeler organized the abundant breakfast of burritos, juice and coffee with the help of several volunteers: Kenny Davais, Ken Woods, Craig Crandall and Angel Herrera.

Jay Messenger, Lead Pastor at Grace Community Church, shared a message with us focused on Matthew 22:15-22. He left us to wrestle with the question: to whom do we give our affections, the world or Jesus? We were asked to consider: What is our identity, our mission,

and how we are we to live as men in the Kingdom? It was a challenging message for men in the church today, a call to reunify us under the Kingship of Jesus.



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY**

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

**BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY**

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

**BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY**

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY**

**SILENT AUCTION**

Women’s Ministries is planning to have the annual Silent Auction on Saturday, December 4 at 10am. Donations are needed! New purchased items, handcrafted goods, gift certificates, dinners, and items to go in baskets are appreciated. We can always use more gifts for men.

Details will be announced as to how the auction will be run this year, depending on the pandemic situation nearer to the date.

Thank you for your support, both with donations and shopping! Proceeds will go toward the next Women’s Retreat. This year, 57 ladies benefited with reduced cost. The auction helps make the retreat affordable.

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

**BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY**

REMINDER:  
Operation Christmas Child boxes are due no later than Sunday, November 14. Please be sure they are filled with the required items.

**HONORING VETERANS**

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served our country. We celebrate and honor the veterans in our church for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

To show our gratitude, WVBC will serve celebratory cake to the entire congregation on Sunday, November 7th after each service. Please join us!

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



"Lazy Afternoon Fun" was originally scheduled in July, but was canceled due to extreme heat. The rescheduled event saw a downpour, which forced the event inside! A kiddie pool was set up in the Fellowship Hall for a skit. Pictured above are Connie Crandall and Katie Wardle, playing an overprotective lifeguard and innocent swimmer. The afternoon also featured Italian sodas and board games.



October's women's fellowship event was called "Dive In," where attendees shared stories and testimonies about the Women's Retreat, the teaching was recapped and the women were able to share some victories and struggles about their current faith journeys. Above, Ashley Bright shares a Retreat experience while Ana Maira Graciano, Sara Bright, Annie Bright, Jessica Flatt and Natalie Fast listen attentively.

## NEW MEMBERS



**ALEC & VERA  
HALLMAN**  
Sept. 26, 2021



**DAN & DEBBIE  
HOLMSTEDT**  
Oct. 17, 2021

## HOME TO HEAVEN



**BOB KUEPPER**  
Sept. 14, 1928-  
August 10, 2021



**MARY KEISER**  
March 7, 1938-  
September 22, 2021