

THE VISION

A NEWSLETTER OF WOOD VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR

SUMMER: A GREAT TIME TO REACH OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

This summer there are many opportunities to reach out and serve our community. It began with the City of Wood Village Nite Out, where over 70 in our church family volunteered to serve the city and over 1,000 of our neighbors. If you participated, you saw lots of joy and laughter. It was the first in-person Nite Out in over two years and marked our 20th year hosting it on our church campus. As I write this article, we have just begun Vacation Bible School, where many volunteers are tirelessly serving the children and families in the community.

We have many events

scheduled through the summer and into the fall: BBQs, a campout, a clothing giveaway, a Youth Center celebration, fundraisers, a Men's Retreat, a LifeGroup kick-off, and several youth events. These events and activities are very important. They provide opportunities to invite others and may be the first step in developing a relationship that will lead to sharing the Gospel. These events are intentional. They are a means to foster relationships that can develop and deepen each

other's faith. One can look at these events as a first step in the Great

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Commission: To make disciples of all the nations, teaching others about Jesus.

Let us all pray that God will open doors into people's hearts to hear about Jesus.

Thank you all for serving,

~ **Pastor Tom**

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OFFICE INTERN by Pastor Tom Miles



I would like to introduce our new office intern, Angel Herrera. Angel and his family have been a part of WVBC

for many years. Many of you know him or his mom, Maria, through the many ministry teams they have served on over the years. His two sisters, Elsy and Karla, were also active in our youth group and BTS outreach ministries. Angel graduated from Gresham High School this year and will be interning in the office for two to three months during the summer, helping us through our busy season. Angel will be managing

some of the office administrative responsibilities, as well as filling in where extra help is needed, like Wood Village Nite Out and other large ministry events. At the same time, we pray he will be influenced by a caring and compassionate office staff whose service reflects the image of Jesus. Please take a moment and welcome Angel to the office staff.

LIFEGROUPS KICK OFF IN FALL by Pastor Tom Miles

We are planning our LifeGroup kick-off for the week of September 26. These small groups provide an opportunity for people to meet regularly, seek God together, and develop caring and loving relationships. We currently have eight active groups and plan to add more. Many will stay in their current groups, and some of these groups are open for more members. We will have an all-church LifeGroup Sunday BBQ on September 18 to give you a chance to meet LifeGroup leaders. Our goal is to continue to grow our LifeGroups and offer more

options for people to join. We plan to train additional LifeGroup leaders beginning in August. If you are interested in learning more

about what is expected from a LifeGroup leader, please contact Pastor Tom at tom@woodvillagebaptist.org or 503-661-7686.



Gail Wheeler, Maria Herrera, Susan Davais and Jessica Edholm enjoy a LifeGroup summer BBQ together. Most of the current LifeGroups have summer get-togethers scheduled before returning to weekly meetings in the fall.

SERVING TOGETHER by Jennifer Miles

Getting involved and serving alongside other women sounds so easy, but who do you call to start the process? How can your talents be used? Why should you want to serve in the first place? Perhaps these are questions that you are asking yourself and Women’s Ministry wants to help break down barriers and answer these questions for you. Women’s Ministry will be

meeting in September to develop a plan for 2023. At the first event in January, we will take some time to present a tentative calendar to the women of the church. We will discuss the calendar and have spaces available to sign up and be part of various ministries. It is so much fun working together and serving Christ! In the meantime, we are seeking more assistance

now for ministries that are occurring this year. If you have any interest in any of these, please contact me. I’d love to plug you in. See the box below for areas where we need help. I pray for a church that can enjoy one another and serve one another humbly in love. If you feel led to pursue any of the areas of serving listed below, please call, text, or talk to me.

- Hospitality areas:**
- Weekly upkeep and stocking of coffee bar area in main kitchen
 - Monthly stocking of basement kitchen
 - Helping at Memorial Services
 - Assisting at weddings, showers, receptions
 - Providing meals for those in need
 - Cooking/serving/clean up for churchwide events
 - Decorating for events, both women’s and churchwide
 - Hosting luncheons at restaurants for fellowship once a month; you choose the restaurant

- Prayer and Care areas:**
- Visiting/calling a housebound person at least bi-monthly
 - Set up and praying over communion cups first Sunday of the month
 - Praying on Wednesday nights in Auditorium
 - Assisting in October half-day conference

MEN'S MINISTRIES by Craig Crandall

Now that our summer weather has finally arrived, I hope you are enjoying the sun and all the wondrous blessings that summers in our area offer. I will take a moment to recount some recent highlights in Men's Ministries and offer some additional opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship over the next few months.

In early May, approximately 30 volunteer men, women and youth cleaned up and re-organized a number of rooms on campus, from the Children's Center, to the church basement storage room, and to all our garage areas. No-longer-used items were sold, given away, and in some cases thrown away. More than a thousand dollars were earned in sold items, about the same given away, and 2000 pounds tossed. This reorganization effort makes our classroom space more functional, has helped with storage space, and has improved the use of our garage areas.

There's more to do as will be explained below!

On Mother's Day, we recognized and celebrated the mothers in our church family. Gift-wrapped begonias were a hit for mothers, both young and older!

Though hampered by ominous weather, the men enjoyed a great Barbeque Fellowship on June 18, with Jim Blegen, Luke Davais, and Patrick Vestal preparing special barbeque entrees on the smoker including Yakisoba Chicken, Tri-Tip, Pulled Pork and Beef Brisket with approximately 45 men and teens enjoying a great dinner. Patrick also shared his personal story of the impact and importance of male mentorship in his life and motivated us to seek and seize such opportunities to invest in the life of boys, teens and other young and developing men.

Coming up, on August 5-6 we will continue to work on the Children's Center, removing wallpaper, texturing and painting. Volunteers who like this kind

of inside work are highly welcome! Contact Craig Crandall or Todd Jones to help!

On August 13, we will conduct a Car Wash & Auto Detailing fundraiser on campus from 9a-2p. Men, women and youth are welcome to help. Those wanting their car detailed or washed should schedule a time during signups the first two Sundays in August. Funds will help reduce costs for our October 2022 Men's Retreat and provide scholarships for those who might not otherwise be able to attend. Contact Craig Crandall or Ken Davais for information about the fundraiser. Meanwhile, men and teen boys should put October 21-23 on your calendar to attend the retreat at Arrah Wannah! More details will be coming.

Last and not least, Chris Wright will lead a contingent of men to Men's Roundup at Camp Tadmor September 9-11. Contact Chris as soon as possible for information and to sign-up.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

by Elvia Angel-Silva

The BTS youth are back serving the community with FREE lunch, provided by the Reynolds School District. Our site is a special site because we don't just serve the kids—

we are the only site that serves all ages free lunch, Monday through Friday 12-1pm in our Fellowship Hall. We also offer arts and crafts led by the youth in our

community. The number of lunches served throughout the week ranges from 80-100 lunches per week. The lunch program ends on August 12.

WOOD VILLAGE NITE OUT



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: 1) Charlotte Huston, Virginia Schrenk and Danita Hunter are friendly food servers! 2) Travis Johnston, Benno Milmore and Jennie Johnston handle the long cotton candy line. 3) Josiah Neill and Juan Cervantes enjoy the festivities. 4) Zeke and Laura Goodrick. Zeke was the DJ for the event this year, adding an extra element of fun.



Over 1,000 people came to our campus on July 15 for free food and entertainment.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

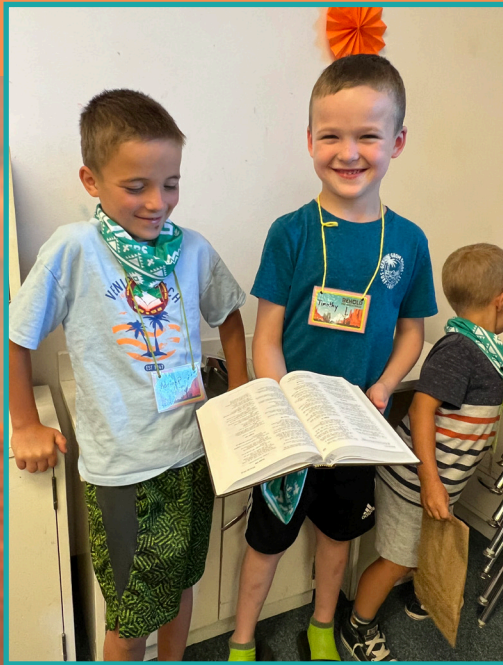
* VBS was an amazing 4 nights!

* Almost 60 kids every night!

* Thankful for all the volunteers that loved on all the kids, 19 of them being 3- and 4-year-olds!

* Praying that these kids felt the love of Jesus through all the meals, games, crafts, songs and stories told!

~Vera Hallman



CAMP JONAH by Pastor Patrick Vestal

In June, we were able to take our annual trip to Camp Jonah to help them kick off their summer camping season. A group of 10 of us set up and manned bounce houses and games, helped in the kitchen and then cleaned it all up.

It's fun to continue the partnership that we have with other ministries and seek ways that we can support each other. It's

also always great to get away and build deeper

relationships between the students and adults.



ADULT CLASSROOM

by Pastor Patrick Vestal

When discussing the greatest commandment, Jesus reminded his followers of Deuteronomy 6 and he called them to "Love the lord your god with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matt 22:37)

The scriptures call us to be active in learning and seeking after deeper wisdom and

understanding. At WVBC, we aim to help equip God's people in becoming better and closer followers of Jesus. One way we are moving toward that goal is by launching an adult classroom, where we will host Bible and Theological courses in the fall and spring.

For the past five years at Multnomah University, I have been co-teaching

and grading for courses on Bible study methods, biblical theology and how we got the Bible. I'm excited to bring that training to WVBC.

The first class we will offer in September will teach how to study biblical narrative, poetry and discourse. Sign-ups will be available soon and space is limited - so be ready!

MOVING WITH VISION by Jennifer Miles

Our church motto, "Teaching the Bible. Caring for People," is the first thing you see when opening our website. These two short sentences are packed with so much love and faith that one could easily miss how vital they are. They define and determine all that we do missionally to serve one another and our community. These last few years, the Elders have worked to unpack these two amazing sentences, defining the vision statements and priorities of our church.

In doing this, our Elders determined that our time, finances, and energy need to be poured into the young families and youth of our church...and boy, have they been busy! Here are a few of the changes they inspired to focus care specifically for these age groups:

1. The hiring of our new Youth Pastor! Soon into his employ, Patrick noticed that the Youth Center badly needed repair. Thanks to his vision and the generous giving of our church, renovation was quickly underway. Now, our beautiful new Youth Center is enjoyed not only by our youth, but many other groups as well!

2. The hiring of our Children's Ministry Leader to grow and support our children. The Elders searched and prayed for the right person, and found that in Vera Hallman. Since her employ, Vera has recruited nursery workers and Sunday School volunteers, designed a new Sunday program which allows us to enjoy our children during worship every Sunday, envisioned and orchestrated an amazing Easter outreach, and invited in more children to our yearly VBS through her continued efforts to reach out to all children in our church and community.

3. The hiring of our Worship Leader, Zeke Goodrick, who valiantly directed us into newer and scarier technology, making livestreaming possible. I know, as I watch him diligently and painstakingly serve our church, it is a ton of work and we are lucky to have him. In the midst of all of this work, he has brought music into the children's and youth's lives by working with them individually at Wednesday Youth Nights, by updating Sunday's worship sound, and by volunteering his skills at our VBS week.

4. The tough decision of going to one Sunday

service and committing to a combined worship music sound, one that was more inviting to the young families and youth. These types of decisions take hours of conversation and prayer by our Elders. The number of children, youth, and younger families attending our church is growing because of the commitment of our wise Elders to their vision casting.

5. Foundational changes to décor and usage of rooms were tirelessly accomplished and continues to steadily improve as we move forward to make our church more inviting and usable for young families. A Family Room was built downstairs to enable parents to be able to still enjoy the service if their children can't stay in their seats but aren't ready for Children's Church that day. I personally enjoyed the room with my daughter Rachel and her family when they visited one Sunday. It was great to attend part of the service and then to move to the Family Room when the grandchildren started squirming and wanting to "help" grandpa during his sermon with their own vocal noises. Diaper changing stations were also placed in the restrooms for moms and dads to use.

6. We established/continued new and ongoing outreach programs such as Chess Club, Lunch Program, and Summer Works. Each program deserves an article of its own because they are all remarkable and help teach, feed, and care for the youth around us.

Well, I think I covered the major changes the Elder Board inspired and directed in order to serve and teach our younger generations. Their guidance has inspired our Women's Ministry Team. We too want to care and love on the younger women of our church and community. We do this through celebrations and gifts for families with newborns, providing meals for new parents, and praying for young families. We are committed to assisting in guiding and discipling these new moms for a lifetime, and pray for the privilege of having infants in our church as they grow into faith-filled next-generation Christians. We thank our Elders for the valiant work they have done to direct and lead WVBC into a joyous future of serving the Lord as we teach the Bible and care for people.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



LADIES GARDEN PARTY

It looked like it was going to be a wet afternoon, but that didn't stop about a dozen ladies from getting together to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the Merhar home. The weather turned out wonderful and the fellowship was a treasured time! Pictured above: Connie Crandall, Mary Ashford, Terri Clement, Maria Herrera, Jessica Edholm.

NEW BABIES



LIAM DEVRY BELL

Born May 11, 2022

7lbs 9oz 21"

Parents: Caleb & Rachel

Grandparents:

Tom & Jennifer Miles



MARTYN HENRY BEJAN

Born May 30, 2022

7lbs 13oz 20"

Parents: Danny & Bethany

Grandparents:

Tom & Jennifer Miles

NEW MEMBERS



GRACE & YIU-TAK CHIU

May 15, 2022

HOME TO HEAVEN



PAM STANLEY

August 17, 1943 -
June 13, 2022



LES LEWIS

June 11, 1952 -
June 26, 2022



SHARON CHAMBERS

August 28, 1939-
July 1, 2022