

The Westside Connection

June 2009



Ministry Team Update

Special thanks to Dave Sullivan, and the rest of PRAY (Pastoral Transition Around Yaweh), our pastoral transition team. The team is in full swing, planning special ways to celebrate Dan and Jennie's ministry with us and hatching plans to welcome our new pastor Brian Shimer and his family. I am awed by their creativity, excited by their commitment to Westside, and grateful for their service. I think you will be, too.

In the meantime, the Ministry Team is working hard to ensure that our music and youth ministries stay strong, despite changes in leaders. We have placed advertisements for both leader positions. If you know of someone who might be interested, please direct them to email a resume and letter to WUMCjobs@cosgroves.us.

Most importantly, the team is spending time in prayer about who God will send to us to lead our music and youth ministries. I trust in God's plan and know that it is more perfect than anything we can come up with ourselves. I invite all of you to pray with us, too.

-- Laura Cosgrove

New Consecration Sunday Big Success on May 17th

I'll leave the detailed reporting to the Finance Team, but wanted to let everyone know the overall preliminary results, and put out a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the day a big success!

On New Consecration Day last year, 47 Estimate of Giving Cards were submitted; this year 58 cards were left on the altar -- a 24% increase. PLUS, 50% of the cards represented an increase over 2007's pledges. Westside is GROWING!

Guest speaker Bill Mulette-Bauer delivered the morning's message and was an inspiration to many. He is an excellent speaker and we are thankful for his service. Thank you to Dorothy Hollingsworth for leading the Brunch efforts and to everyone who provided breakfast casseroles, juice, fruit and all the other foodstuffs we so much enjoyed that morning! Thank you to Charlotte Reese, our Financial Secretary, and the rest of the Finance Team for all of their efforts: Francie Stacy, Wendy Fedderly, Tom Reese, Bonnie Becker, Dan Pitney. AND, Sherrell Davis for her office assistance.

-- Lynette Podkranic

Church Communications Workshop at Annual Conference

On June 11th, Lynette Podkranic and Susan Brehmer are presenting a workshop to laity members at Annual Conference in Salem. The topic is Excellence in Church Communications. We're going to have a big crowd - turns out this is the most

popular workshop being offered this year. Please pray for us doing a good job and not being too nervous!

-- Lynette and Susan

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - July 20-24th



Now registering kids, age 3 through 6th grade; plus volunteers still needed. Registration forms available at church or at westsideumc.org. Sign up your kids, invite friends!! - Let's make this an awesome outreach event for Westside! For more info, contact Lynette Podkranic, 503-524-4203, lynettepod@hotmail.com

OCCV Presentation

Those of us who stayed after church on Sunday, May 31, enjoyed a wonderful potluck meal, followed by a presentation given by a member of the Oregon Center for Christian Values. The presentation was from a Christian standpoint and covered the health care needs in our state. Our guest speaker covered the needs of those Oregonians who are without health insurance, and what we, as Christians, could do to help alleviate the problem. Through video and a Powerpoint presentation, relevant statistics were presented. The solution, in part, can be accomplished by writing our elected officials in Salem, and giving our voice on current legislature coming up for a vote by our state government. It seems they do listen! Go on line and see what is being discussed and voted upon. Send a letter or e-mail, and make your voice be heard!

-- Sherrell Davis

Shimer Sisters Visit Westside

We were blessed to have three of our new Pastor's (Brian Shimer) daughters worship with us on Sunday, May 24th: Grace, Susanna and Gabriela Shimer. Grace played piano for the band. There is a fourth and eldest daughter, Anna, who is serving as a missionary in Peru. The three sisters will also be involved with Westside's Vacation Bible School in July, using their musical talents and other abilities. We are excited to have them becoming a part of our church family soon!

-- Lynette Podkranic

Summer Sunday School – Fun In the Sun

This summer we will focus on fun in the sun, enjoying God's creation, caring for our garden and watching things grow. This is the time to give our regular teachers a break and offer others an opportunity to experience the blessings of being with our Westside Club kids, ages 3 through 10, for an hour or so on a Sunday morning. We're looking for folks who would enjoy getting crafty, playing games, singing, blowing bubbles, reading stories or acting them out. You pick the activity and the date; we provide the ideas, the supplies, the guidance, and the kids! Talk to Kathy Anderson for more information or to volunteer.



Planning for Fall

This summer a Sunday School planning team will be looking at a new, theme-based curriculum, to begin in September. We will be making decisions about grouping, facilities, lesson planning, and staffing. Anyone with an interest is invited to be a part of this team. Let Kathy Anderson know by June 15th.

Westside Club Garden

We've planted beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, strawberries, beets, garlic, herbs, onions, sunflowers, and pumpkins, and the weather has given everything a real boost! If you have half an hour to spare for watering our raised beds and containers, either once a week or just occasionally, please let Kathy Anderson know.



The Lord's Harvest House



Needs for June: Peaches and paper towels!!
-- Fran Ashley

Retirees' Lunch

Westside retirees will be going to lunch at Stanford's at Tanasbourne on June 8 at 11:30. Dan and Jennie will be our guests of honor. This will be the last Retiree's lunch until September.
– Fran Ashley

Thanks From Westside

to Fran Ashley for Bulletin Boards around the church; *to* the organizers of special worship services this month; *to* people who volunteered at the work party; *to* people who volunteer in the garden and water plants; *to* people who volunteer to bring in flowers on Sunday mornings; to Dorothy and Wayne Schmedel and Bob and Nancy McDonald for the Mothers' Day flowers.

Migrant Camp Ministry

We will be going to Heikes Camp again this summer. Beginning Sat. June 6, we will be taking out a hot meal every Saturday. Please contact Bonnie Becker at 503-642-4311 to help with this ministry. Pick up a list of items needed for the camp in the front entry way and bring them to church on Sundays. – Bonnie Becker

Westside Auction and Dessert

June 20, 2009. Theme: Back to the Future; come dressed favorite decade, 50's, 60's, 80, etc. It will be a fun-filled adventure. Pick up your auction donation form at church.



Auction Needs: Items to auction. Also:

As many of you know, last year at the Auction we had prayer walkers in the crowd. We constantly prayed for the auction, that God would put this on people's hearts and they would be generous so we could raise the money needed to keep Westside going. It was an amazing evening and while we thought we would be doing well to raise

\$20,000, we surpassed that and raised \$37,000...God is good, All the time!

This year we are asking for help again. This is just a simple task. Come to the auction, and as you are walking around the silent bid items and while the oral auction is going on, just be praying that God will touch lives and open hearts and minds. If you would like to help, let me know. Thanks for your support.

– Bonnie Becker

Youth Calendar for June 2009



Sunday, June 7 - 5:30p/SoulFeast & Senior Send Off - 5:30-8:00p @ WUMC.

Saturday, June 13 - Sunday, June 14 – Rejuvenate: The Young People’s Event @ Annual Conference. We will meet Saturday, June 13 @ 10:45a @ WUMC and be back at WUMC, Sunday at 2:00p. Come to Annual Conference to worship, celebrate, reach out to the community and have fun with other UMC young people. Rejuvenate is about connecting, serving and celebrating. It’s a time to recognize that young people aren’t the future of the church; they are the church now! Participates in rejuvenation will gather at various times as equals with Annual Conference members to celebrate all of our ministries, to worship God, and to just plain have fun.

Sunday June 21 - Sunday, June 28 - Mission Trip for Jr. & Sr. High to Seattle.

Tuesday, June 30, 7-9p - Celebration of ICYM – Bon fire at the Kessinger’s

