



# The Circuit Rider

## Salmon Creek Church



blessed

IS THE NATION WHOSE  
GOD IS THE

Word

PSALM 33:12



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**Reminder Email addresses have  
changed**

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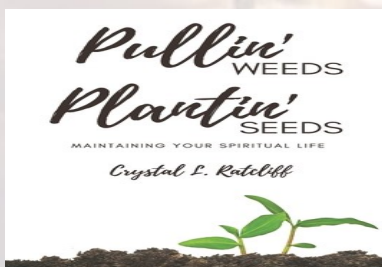
# a note from Pastor John

## Spiritual Weeds

And just like that, a wet and dreary spring has turned into a bright and sunny summer. I'm not a native Northwesterner – no webs between my toes – and I find it hard to get out and do yardwork when it's rainy. Consequentially, now that it's not raining, I have plenty of yardwork to do! In my absence, the weeds really enjoyed themselves, soaking up the water and concentrating on growing. Some in the backyard were a couple of feet high! I could have plucked them out weeks ago when they were first sprouting but, well, I thought it was going to stop raining and I could get to them – tomorrow. A lot of tomorrows went by, and now I must bend to the task of uprooting these gigantic annoyances.

Another metaphor for life? We certainly have cliches for this sort of thing: “The task that takes the longest is the one that's never started.” As a professional procrastinator, that cliché describes most of my life. And while it may be funny and a little annoying when it comes to pulling weeds, it actually has some spiritual relevance as well. If I may stretch the metaphor a little, we all have spiritual weeds – those habits or practices that get in the way of our contact with God.

Spiritual procrastination, or maybe it's just laziness, is another God inhibitor. A reluctance to go out into the spiritual rain – when times are tough, for example – just lets those spiritual weeds grow taller and stronger, making them harder and harder to excise. John Wesley kept a diary of his spiritual weeds, though he didn't call them that. He would review his diary on a daily basis in a rigorous self-examination, with the goal of clearing out those weeds – his sins, his weaknesses, his bad habits – in order to live more in line with God's ordinances. This sounds like hard work. In fact, it sounds a lot like actually pulling weeds. But, just like pulling actual weeds brings the reward of a beautiful garden, pulling spiritual weeds helps us live in our inner garden with peace, closer to God.



***Blessings, Pastor John***



## Family Ministries

Circuit Rider – July 2022



J.O.Y. Academy has had a fruitful year. When we began in mid-September we did not have a curriculum so our Coordinator of Children & Family Ministries, Vivian Hiestand, created a new children's worship video and Bible based lesson every week. In the months before the Advent season an average of two or three children attended faithfully. Pastor John updated the Children's Ministry section of the web site for us, and the children helped lead worship on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

Advent was a wonderful experience! We had about 85 people attend the Family Worship service on Christmas Eve, and 12 children participated in the special Sunday service for Children in December. We are now averaging 5 children a week, which makes our mornings a lot of fun.

Families have cycled in and out of Children's Ministries as they emerged from COVID restrictions and children were once again able to attend school in person. **Four new families** have discovered us since we held our one-day Vacation Bible School last August. Most of them continue to join us on Sunday mornings, and their presence makes the experience more engaging.

**We adopted a new curriculum** that nests the traditional Sunday School learning experience within a worship service designed to engage children. We begin by putting leaves on our "God Sightings" tree (showing where the children noticed God during the week), give our offering, then move into our opening songs. The morning includes a Bible memory verse, a story from the Bible, and an activity. It's all topped off with prayer, an invisible Holy Spirit blessing, and (of course) a cookie!

Perhaps best of all is the support we have received from all of you! People have donated materials and cookies. And better yet – we have a "Sunday Shepherd" signed up for every single Sunday! WOW! Our children are getting to know the adults in our church, and the adults are having a blast when they volunteer. THANK YOU!

Now that we are in the summer season we'll be turning our attention to preparing for a full week of **Vacation Bible School – Rocky Railway 2022**



Vacation Bible School will be offered August 8-12 (Mon-Fri)

VBS will take place in the afternoon, from 1:00 – 4:30 pm

We will host a BBQ on Friday at 5:00 pm for the families that attend VBS.

Vivian is now recruiting team leads for the following areas:

Assistant Leader (to Pastor John) for the opening and closing activity

Imagination Station (making our own toys using science)

Bible Adventures (picture acting out a story from the Bible)

Snacks

Assistant Director – as a back up for Vivian

Leading is a lot of fun – mostly because the program we are using provides all the information you need in order to do a great job without stress! It provides a time line, detailed instructions, lots of information, a list of materials required, even scripts for you to use each day.

So please contact Vivian (360) 844-0440, [vivian.hiestand@salmoncreek.church](mailto:vivian.hiestand@salmoncreek.church) to let her know you are willing to lead one of the areas listed above.



**Be on the lookout for our next adventure – Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School!**

This year's event will take place **August 8-12**. How can you help make that event even more wonderful than last year? Look in our weekly *Currents* newsletter for requests for team leaders. And **SAVE THE DATES!**





## **Evergreen Habitat for Humanity update:**

Our Mission Team has some exciting news to report regarding a future Habitat home build. Larry Siewert attended a Habitat Faith Partners luncheon a few weeks ago and learned that there are nine home sites being developed near the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 16001 NE 34th Street in East Vancouver.

Chief Operating Officer Lindsy Smith related that the overall building plan has been submitted and they are now waiting for building permits. Habitat hopes to start building two homes as soon as possible. Each home is estimated to cost about \$150,000 dollars and eight of the nine future homes have already found sponsors who have pledged \$75,000 each. A sponsor will have their name on the home and be able to be a partner with the new family owners.

Larry said he and the rest of the luncheon crowd were viewing the building site and he met and had a conversation with another couple as they viewed the site. They talked about the wonderful Habitat program which gives these families a hand up and not a handout, and that the volunteers and the families work as a team.

There is a saying in the Habitat community, "It's the volunteers who build the home, but it's our lord and savior who makes it all possible." The couple I was talking to then related to me that they were one of the many sponsors who has put up the \$75,000. They then said they were looking for a group who would want to take over the actual build because they wished to be anonymous. After reviewing this with the Mission Team, we voted to accept the offer. When the time comes for our Habitat home to be started we will be able to work with the family who will live there. All money raised from our church will be set aside for this home.

When Habitat actually starts building the homes they will let us know when we can volunteer. How can we as a congregation help? Consider donating funds, volunteer when we have a date to work, and pray for a successful home build and for the family who will live there.

# Salmon Creek Christian Preschool and Daycare

Salmon Creek Christian Preschool & Daycare currently serves around 45 families and we have been busy enrolling new families for the Summer and Fall. We have eleven staff with seven working full time. Two of our staff have been working at Salmon creek for over twenty-five years! Our 2022 graduating class has 16 graduates that will be celebrating the culmination of their accomplishments on Friday, June 24.

Our biggest mission is serving a population that has been hit hard by COVID-19 and the current challenge in our economy. We have been working on several strategies to help continue to provide affordable childcare in an ever-changing landscape of rising costs and expectations in the field of Early Childhood Education. I am proud of our dedicated staff and appreciate those in the church community that continue to advocate for our preschool. Blessings,  
Gayle Horwitz, Director



# Salmon Creek Christian Preschool and Daycare

"Investing in children is investing in our future. Providing affordable childcare means so much more... it means peace of mind for parents who want and need affordable, reliable, quality childcare. It means jobs for trained Early Childhood Education professionals. It means our youngest of citizens have learning opportunities in an ever-changing world, so they can be successful. For a faith-based preschool, the best curriculum is modeling genuine positive regard, acceptance, and inclusion, providing loving care- education with a conscience." GGHorwitz

# Music and Bells





# Youth Group



Youth Group outing to Red Robin YUM!

# CELEBRATING JULY BIRTHDAYS!

**Bob Ives July 3**

**Hugh Van Male July 4**

**Angela Williams July 9**

**Ed Grubel July 10**

**Larry Scherer July 11**

**Braden Brink July 13**

**Ashley Skelton July 14**

**Rob Russell July 18**

**Sandie Hollister July 23**

**Samantha Nieda July 23**

**Vivian Peterson July 24**

**Peggy Brindle July 25**

**Craig Johnson July 26**

**Marleen Johnson July 27**

**Joan W. Stuart July 28**

**Darcy Davis July 30**



Thank you for reading the Circuit Rider! If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

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Submissions for the Circuit Rider can be sent to [Ashley.skelton@salmoncreek.church](mailto:Ashley.skelton@salmoncreek.church) Deadline for each month for submission will be the 15th of every month!

Editor: Ashley Skelton