



GREAT SPIRIT

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Great Spirit Newsletter August-September 2019

Issue 2

Message to the Community

By Dr. Allen Buck

Greetings Great Spirit Family

7-29-19

I'm writing from the newly remodeled sanctuary at church. It is still somewhat under construction, but WOW! The space is so open and inviting. It looks great! If you haven't seen it yet, you should come check it out. This sacred space is so much more flexible without the pews. We will be able to serve more groups and people, and we were able to give some of the pews to our relatives at NAYA. Please give thanks with me to Creator, yourselves, Eagle's Nest Remodeling, our Conference Innovation Team, Congregational Development Team, and Columbia District's Church Extension Society.

As Wilshire, and now as Great Spirit, we've talked and prayed a lot about our shared core values of Love, Connection, Spirituality, and Tradition. These unify us in purpose and help set a trajectory for a more decolonized, healing, spiritual family. The values also guide

our evaluation of what is happening. We will be living into them for a lifetime. From listening to conversations with our core team and elders, I believe we all agree that so far we're on the right path. We have made a good start at trying to live into the values through our actions and use of resources. Our core values have guided every step we've taken while following the Spirit together. Decisions like changing the name and fixing up the facility are good immediately noticeable examples. But, notice the picture (on page 2). The space itself is being fixed up, but it is empty. A reminder that

what we value together takes longer to notice and much more time to develop. I'm talking about the people. The relationships are the most important thing. More important than a name or building.

Great Spirit is about serving Native people(s). We'd like to live up to and into that more and more. We are not wasting our energy trying to convert people or become an instrument of colonization. We aren't insisting people all believe the same thing. We are creating

WORSHIP WITH US

Worship services are held each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Worship includes smudging and is a mixture of Native American prayer and Christian hymns with a Native theme. A potluck meal follows worship.

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a community. A hub for sharing the journey and serving the people. We are encountering many opportunities to partner and serve groups who share our values, as well as, many individuals looking for a spiritual family. While important changes like the facilities update and naming ceremony are good, and important parts of our emerging identity, I'd like to remind us of our values again and again.

In order to "become" what we are being called toward (Love, Spirituality, Connectedness, Tradition), it will be critically important to commit ourselves deeply to actually sharing the journey with people, more and more, and wherever that takes us. Native people already know how to do this, but churches usually do not. Look at most tribes and you see the value of relationships in the radical hospitality, pride, resiliency, priorities, stories, clans, and visions. The People. Connectedness is celebrated and of the Spirit. The people and all of creation are relatives. Whatever we're becoming as Great Spirit Church, we are obligated to the people AND creation.

I would describe all the incredible experiences we are sharing as a sort of new creation. And yet what we encounter as we follow Spirit are old ways (tradition). Creator is always creating, and Spirit was up to something here long before any of us heard of this community. People here before us made it possible. Some of those seeds are blossoming now. Others will bloom in their season. In terms of development, I'd say, we're in another infancy stage now. We're like a toddler, beginning to walk and explore. We have within us the potential to grow into something. This church family is becoming. And, from here it looks like you are trying to live into the values we discerned. So we celebrate together — There is an alignment with the values and momentum from the alignment. What a privilege to be in it together!

As we try to serve the people and creation, may we always be becoming. Relatives, thank you for what you have done, are doing, and will do as we become Great Spirit Church to serve the people and all creation.



Happy Birthday!

- August 2 Dean Wagner
- August 4 Crystal Merrill
- August 6 Jane Spencer
- August 15 David Allison
- August 19 Leslie Hall
- August 20 Milton Bartlett
- August 21 Mike Merrill
- August 27 Chisao Hata
- September 8 Siale Edmo Cook
- September 9 Eva Johnson
- September 9 Louise Darling
- September 10 Lois Wagner
- September 20 Betty Lou Finch
- September 24 Tami Gallegos
- September 24 Skyler Morrison
- September 27 John Edmo
- September 29 Eddie Rivera
- September 30 Samantha Clark

To add your name to the Birthday list, please let Helen Stewart know the important date. Anniversaries are important too!

Anniversaries

- August 1 Craig and Kathy Lesley
- August 7 Ed and Lee Ann Wermey
- August 15 Joseph Chadborn and Jane Spencer

FINANCE NEWS

The Great Spirit Facility Remodeling Project has been possible because of grants received from the Congregational Development Team and the Columbia District Church Extension Society. A complete financial report will be submitted to both grantors at completion of the project. CDCES also requests a report stipulating benchmarks that have been achieved by the project and how the updates impact our ability to host events like Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Please continue to add your name to the Offering Envelope if you need documentation of your donation.

Financial Secretary, Helen Stewart

MISSION AND OUTREACH

In June, Helen Iles delivered 35 lbs of clothing and 46 lbs of food to Mainspring Portland. Mainspring Portland was formed in the 1960's as the East Central Church Community Action Program. Thirteen eastside churches, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran joined to provide food and clothing for families and seniors in need. Drop off donations in the baskets in the Fellowship Hall corner.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Phase 2 of the Great Spirit Facility Project is underway. Dramatic changes to the Sanctuary. Amazing how much bigger the room looks! New flooring is being installed this week. Comfortable chairs have been ordered and will arrive in early September. The choir area has room for more participants so consider lending your voice. The Altar will continue to be below the Cross and the Drum will have a designated location on the raised platform. Six pews will surround the room for additional seating. The Board of Trustees appreciates the workmanship of Eagles Nest Remodeling.

Nancy Shaughnessy has organized folks to

continue weeding and pruning the church perimeter. Last week MooMoo planted her bean seedling in the garden. The group added garden soil to a plot with sunny southern exposure. It is a "gateway" garden with CORN to come!

Summertime, be sure to check out the picnics and activities on the Opportunities for Connection calendar!

Board of Trustees Chair, Helen Stewart

BOTTLES AND CAN LADY (Helen Iles)

2019 is over half over. Hard to believe! By the third week of July Helen has turned in \$2118 for our Shared Ministry Apportionment requested by the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference.

Helen could use help sorting and lifting on Thursday mornings, let her know if you are available to assist.

WILSHIRE SEWING CIRCLE

The Sewing Circle has again taken the summer off. Sewing Circle will resume after Labor Day, only because the summer has been so busy. When we get back in action we will be sewing projects for the Annual Church Bazaar. Call Helen Stewart (503-282-6431) or Bobbie Edwards (971-373-2099) for more information.

HISTORIAN NEWS

Helen Iles has kept her camera busy taking pictures of all the events happening at Great Spirit! She reports that the Historian albums are complete through June. The historian albums contain photos and weekly church bulletins and newsletters.

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our new newsletter! In an effort to connect with more of you, and to keep you informed, we have redesigned our newsletter and plan to issue updates every two months. If you have suggestions or questions, please let us know.

HUCKLEBERRY FAMILY CAMP

Learn, Play, Connect
At Camp Magruder, North Oregon Coast
ON
LABOR DAY WEEKEND!

Yep, you read that right — the greatest adventure of the summer is now on Labor Day Weekend!! How awesome is that?! Are you ready for some bright sun, warm sand, and cool surf? Want to learn more about native culture, sample some important First Foods, and eat yummy homemade Huckleberry Cobbler? Then it's time to register NOW for Huckleberry Family Camp 2019!

And — I have some exciting news — the fun won't end on Sunday! We get to stay Sunday night and check out on Monday morning, September 2nd! So we get another day this year!

We will gather at Camp Magruder on Friday afternoon, August 30th, for an amazing weekend of storytelling, huckleberry picking, swimming, boating, taking a train ride, singing and storytelling at nightly campfires — and there's also time for quiet walks on the beach, reading, visiting, and enjoying Creation all around you.

More exciting news — I am delighted to let you all know that Duane Medicine Crow is Co-Dean this year! If you have not had a chance to meet Duane, you are in for a rare treat. He is bringing his lodge, so we will all have a chance to see what it's like inside. Maybe some storytelling will happen there, too!

You're invited to join in the fun! And help make the fun! To register, or if you have any questions, call me (Co-Dean Beth Fleisher) at 503-984-4448, or email me at huckleberryfamilycamp@gmail.com. Are finances a challenge right now, but you want to go? Don't let that stop you! Camperships are available, so just let me know when you get in touch.

As a way of helping more people enjoy this amazing experience, we invite anyone who would like to contribute to the Huckleberry Family Camp Campership Fund to let us know! It's a wonderful way to be part of a life-changing experience for a family who could not otherwise go to camp. Use the contact info above to let us know and we'll help you make it happen! ~ Duane Medicine Crow and Beth Fleisher, Co-Deans, Huckleberry Family Camp



Opportunities for Connection

- CrossOver Book Circle Monday @ 2:30pm (Bobbi Edwards) Reading and discussing "We Make the Road by Walking" by Brian McLaren
- August 3rd Fremontfest 10am UMW Bake Sale
- August 4th Combined Church Picnic 1pm Save the date, more info later
- August 6th Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Night Out Picnic 6pm at Wilshire Park
- August 30-September 2 Huckleberry Family Camp at Camp Magruder. Call Beth (503) 984-4448 to register, or email Huckleberryfamilycamp@gmail.com
- September 21st Chili Cook-Off 11am-1pm and Book Sale 10am-2pm. Enter your prize chili recipe into the competition!
- September 28th Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival 11am-dark at Parkrose High School Field

OUR CORE VALUES

LOVE – Love is the way.

CONNECTION – All of creation is connected by Spirit. That spark of the Divine connects with all humanity and the rest of creation.

SPIRITUALITY – Without cultivation of the spiritual life, we become unbalanced. Active participation in the development of one's spirituality is critical for a whole life. We believe this happens best in community.

TRADITION – Those who have gone on before us leave legacies of the old ways and wisdom with those who become elders. We encourage, value, and listen to them, so our tradition(s) may continue to help shape and guide us, informing who we are and what we will become.

We seek to become and embody these values every single day.

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