

Things to Ponder

By Grant Williams

Jesus loved being in people’s homes and sharing His life around a table covered with yummy food and beverages. On one such occasion He was a guest in the home of Levi, the tax collector, better known as Matthew. As usual there were some Pharisees there asking Jesus tough questions. Some of them asked His disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” (Luke 5:30). I would like to point out they didn’t ask them why they associated with people who enjoyed life, they said, why do you “eat and drink” with sinners? The Scripture is very clear that Jesus often hung out with folks the religious people considered unsavory!

Jesus’ answer should not surprise us, He said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:32). Jesus is obviously implying these Pharisees saw themselves as the “holy ones” who think they are righteous (that is right with God). Thinking they were righteous because they attended the synagogue and knew the Law was a poor and dangerous assumption. They brought condemnation on themselves by assuming everyone else was a sinner. Do we ever seriously ask ourselves why “sinners” don’t want anything to do with Christians? Could the answer be that Christians often don’t take the time necessary to become friends with people who don’t know how much God loves them?

Why are we afraid to reach out and minister to people who are different than us? Are we afraid they will contaminate us or drag us into sin? Are we really so weak that we can’t control ourselves and enjoy life without becoming excessive in our behavior? I believe it is time to quit acting like the Pharisees and actually become the Body of Christ we are intended to be. That means we must be willing to step out boldly and offer our lives on behalf of the people Jesus came to save. We must be willing to risk our reputations without compromising our beliefs. Jesus was more concerned about what His Father in heaven thought than the opinions of men. Jesus commanded us to take His message, the “Good News,” out into the world and make a difference.

It is time to quit acting like scaredy-cats that don’t have a genuine message of hope to offer. Paul said in II Timothy 1:7-8, “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord....” We must take God’s message of love outside our churches by speaking His “Gospel” on the streets and in the marketplace. If we are willing to pray for revival in Vernonia it will come if we trust Him and let His message of peace and life flow from our lips with sincere love and concern.

If you don’t have a church family please join us on Wednesday night at the Vernonia Grange, 375 North St., at 7:00 PM . God bless!

Oregon Senior Spelling Bee

Many older adults enjoy activities that keep their minds sharp which is one reason volunteers have organized an Oregon Senior Spelling Bee for many years. This spelling bee, designed for people 50 years of age and up, has proven to be very entertaining with an atmosphere that is relaxed, informal, and non-threatening. It’s a great way for seniors to have fun while challenging themselves..

Oregon’s 17th annual senior spelling bee will be held on Saturday, April 12th. Few states host a comparable event, but Oregon competitors have done very well in the national competition, bringing home four first place trophies, plus several more for placing second or third. A national spelling bee, sponsored by AARP, was held annually in Cheyenne, Wyoming, but it is uncertain whether there will be an event in 2014.

The Oregon Senior

Spelling Bee will be held at Holy Names Heritage Center in Lake Oswego (17425 Holy Names Drive). The bee starts with a written competition of 50 words presented in two sections of 25 words each, followed by a break with refreshments for contestants and guests. The bee resumes with an oral round for those who place in the top 15 of the written competition, and concludes with the presentation of trophies to the top three finishers.

Registration forms may be obtained by calling Tobie Finzel at 503-705-2173, or by email to tobief@aol.com. There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$12.00. Entrants may also register on the day of the event. Spectators are welcome. The OSSB Board of Directors, which is composed of volunteers from several communities, co-hosts the annual event with the Heritage Center.

Bridge Street Bits

QI GONG CLASSES ARE IN FULL SWING here at the Center on Friday mornings at 9:00 AM. Come join in this free preventive health class courtesy of Community Action Team. Seniors 60 and over.

BINGO here from 6:00 to 9:00 PM on the second and fourth Saturday nights. NO ONE UNDER 21.

Once again we appreciate your patronage of our Center. The Thrift Store plays a big part in keeping the Center open. We appreciate your donations as well. MOST of them that is. WE ARE NOT equipped to deal with soiled clothing or other items. We do not have even a sink available to us that is appropriate to

wash household items. If they are dirty or smell we cannot use it. The items have to be disposed of at the expense of the Senior Center. This issue has been addressed numerous times in the past. PLEASE do us seniors a good turn by NOT burdening us with your unusable items. And please notify us if you know of anyone disregarding our sign on the building side. Thanks so much, from Lila, Manager.

LILA has worked hard in upscaling the thrift store. Come in and browse and enjoy the new look!

LOOK OVER OUR MENU and come in for Sheila’s tasty home cookin’...

SENIOR SIGN OFF: People seldom get dizzy spells from doing good turns.

LUNCH MENU:

- 3/20 Sausage Hoagie & Kraut
- 3/21 Turkey Pot Pie
- 3/24 Chicken & Rice
- 3/25 Burger & Baked Beans
- 3/26 Roast Pork
- 3/27 Swedish Meatballs & Noodles
- 3/28 Split Pea Soup & Salad
- 3/31 Chef’s Choice
- 4/1 Deli Sandwich & Potato Salad
- 4/2 Oven Fried Chicken
- 4/3 Ham & Egg Biscuit Benedict

Vernonia Senior Center • 446 Bridge Street • 503-429-3912

Church Directory (in alphabetical order)

Assembly of God
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Prayer: 6:00 PM
Wayne Marr, Pastor
662 Jefferson Avenue
503-429-0373
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Sunday Schedule:
Sacrament Meeting: 10:00 AM
Sunday School & Primary: 11:20 AM
Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women: 12:10 PM
Marc Farmer, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
503-429-7151
Covenant Church Vernonia
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 PM

John D, Murray, Pastor
359 “A” Street
503-860-3860
Grace Family Fellowship
Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 10:30 AM
Thursday Prayer: 6:00 PM
Greg “Mac” McCallum, Pastor
957 State Avenue
503-429-6790
Nehalem Valley Bible Church
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Worship Service: 10:45 AM
Wed. Ladies Bible Study: 10:00 AM
Wednesday Service: 7:00 PM
Sat. Men’s Prayer Meeting: 6:30 AM
Gary Taylor, Pastor
Grant & North Streets
503-429-5378

Open Door Gathering Place
Service: Wednesday 7:00 PM
Grant Williams, Pastor
375 North Street
Pioneer Baptist Fellowship
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM
www.pbfalive.com
John Cahill, Pastor
939 Bridge Street
503-429-1161
St. Mary’s Catholic Church
Wednesday Religious Education: 3:15-4:30 PM
Sunday Mass: 12:00 PM
Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator
960 Missouri Avenue
503-429-8841
Vernonia Christian Church
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Worship Service in Youth &

Family Center: 11:00 AM
www.VernoniaChristianChurch.org
Sam Hough, Pastor
410 North Street
503-429-6522
Vernonia Foursquare Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 AM
Children’s Sunday School
Carl Pense, Pastor
850 Madison Avenue
503-429-1103
Vernonia Seventh-day Adventist Church
Sabbath (Saturday) Services
Sabbath School: 9:30 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM
www.VernoniaSDAC.org
Larry Gibson, Pastor
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.
503-429-8301