

Things to Ponder: Where Are You Headed?

By Grant Williams

How much thought do you put into your vacation destinations? Most people talk with family, friends or maybe even consult a travel guide. No matter how you come to your choice of places to visit it is important to plan appropriately to ensure you end up where you wanted to spend your holidays.

Can you imagine someone planning their vacation trip to a chosen destination and going to the airport and jumping on the first airplane they see? What if that airplane is heading to the wrong destination? All the time and money you spent in the planning process could end up being wasted, if you're not careful.

Let's change from vacation

destinations to eternal destinations. Have you spent as much time thinking about eternity as you have on what you will do tomorrow or next summer? In some ways choosing a religion is a lot like choosing a vacation. The biggest difference is obviously the bad vacation experience can be replaced with a better choice next time. Your choice of religions has much greater consequences because death will be the final determiner of whether you made a wise choice.

Some people assume that heaven means the same thing in all religions, but nothing could be further from the truth. Some religions do not even believe in a heaven. Some people believe the next step after this life is another plane of existence, maybe evolving up or downward. Christianity holds to a belief

that heaven is a place where forgiven people will spend eternity without war or famine or hatred and never the threat of death or punishment. The best part will be seeing the author of love and peace, Jesus, face to face.

In John 14:1-3 Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am you may be also." These promises bring me great comfort.

Have you looked deeply into what your religion/faith claims to be the final destination of your soul? I spent many years chasing a false dream filled

with empty expectations. In the end I came back to the roots my parents taught me about faith in Christ. The last thirty-three years have convinced me I should never have turned my back on Jesus.

John 14:6 says, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but through Me."

Everyone believes in something. What I have shared is my personal opinion. What have you put your faith in? I'm just a thirsty pilgrim sharing where I found a satisfying drink and peace for my searching soul!

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Our next issue will be out February 4th.

Bridge Street Bits

VERNONIA SENIOR CITIZENS – it's time to pay your 2016 dues, still a bargain at \$15 per year. Donations above the amount of your dues are always welcome, of course. You may leave your dues check with Pam on Mondays at the 939 Bridge Street office or mail them there.

THE COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM SENIOR CASE MANAGER staffs the office in the 939 Bridge building from 10 to 1 on the first and third Monday of each month. If you need assistance during other times, please contact Heather Johnson at 503-366-6542.

SENIOR MEAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM CONTINUES. In cooperation with three Vernonia restaurants - Black Iron Grill, Mariolino's and Vernonia Subway - the Senior Center is providing daily home-delivered meals and issues donation-based certificates for in-house dining from specially designed senior menus for residents 60 and older. You may obtain the certificates Mondays from 10 am to 3 pm from Wendy at 939 Bridge Street. Questions? Call Wendy on the special telephone number for this program, 503-405-0187. See below for home delivered meal information.

FOOT CARE appointments may be made with the Vernonia Health Center receptionist during clinic hours, 8 am through 4:30 pm, at 503-429-0622, Monday through Friday. The next

foot care dates are Wednesday, January 27 and Wednesday, February 24. Our provider, Joyce Jossi, RN, is certified in diabetic and elder foot care. In case of unexpected snowy or icy road conditions, please verify with the Health Center whether Joyce is able to drive to Vernonia on that day. Due to the popularity of this program, additional days may be added. Check with the scheduler when you call to make an appointment.

BARGAINS ON BRIDGE STREET at 939 Bridge accepts donations during its regular business hours: Monday – Friday 9-3 and Saturday 10-3. Please bring donations inside. The thrift store welcomes you as a shopper, too. All donations and purchases support senior services in Vernonia. Watch for special SALE signs in front of the store. **VOLUNTEERS** are always needed to keep this vital program going; please let Pam, Thrift Store Manager, know if you are willing to help out occasionally – or regularly!

THE VERNONIA SENIOR CENTER OPERATES IN TWO LOCATIONS. The Senior Center Office and the Thrift Store, "Bargains on Bridge Street," reside in the former VCLC building at 939 Bridge Street. Certificates for senior meals at participating restaurants are available there on Mondays from 10 am to 3 pm. Daily home-delivered meals are still available to qualifying persons; contact Community Action Team

office on Mondays at 503-366-6584 for more information or to register. Board meetings and social activities such as the Friday afternoon card games are held in the American Legion Hall at 627 Adams.

WALKING WEDNESDAY is an opportunity for gentle exercise for seniors and anyone in the community who'd like to join us. Walking Wednesdays continue at Vernonia Lake at 9:00 am each Wednesday, rain or shine. Walk at your own pace with a friend or solo. No fee and no pre-registration – just come and walk one or more circuits around the lake.

RUSS CLARK, COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER, IS AVAILABLE to meet with clients in Vernonia. Russ will be at the Senior Center (former VCLC) in the office at the end of the hallway on the first Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 7:00 pm.

NEXT SENIOR CENTER BOARD MEETING is Friday, February 12, 10 am at the American Legion Hall/Cares. All members are invited to attend.

VERNONIA SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.
939 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064
Phone: 503-429-3912
Non-Profit Tax ID #23-7422295

Vernonia Senior Center • 939 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
Roger Cook, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
503-429-7151
The Crossing
Southern Baptist Church of Vernonia

Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Troy Pound, Pastor
Cabin in Vernonia
901 Park Drive
503-819-892
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
Tues. Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 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: Sunday 6:00 pm
Grant Williams, Pastor
375 North Street
503-702-3553
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