

## Plant, book sale at Banks Library

The Annual Plant and Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Public Library will be held Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Banks Public Library, 111 Market Street.

A preview night for members of Friends of the Library will be Friday, April 26, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Membership will be available at the door.

A nice selection of perennials and shrubs will be available at great prices. Hardback and paperback books and magazines will also be available at low prices.

For more information, call Karen Ballard at 503-324-8733.

The hardest job that people have to do is move religion from their throats to their muscles.

## Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson



I intend to write once a month about what is happening in my garden. By sharing what I have done that works—and doesn't work—hopefully others will be inspired to plant something. The joy of growing things is available to everyone, whether in a few small pots or a large garden plot. In our temperate climate we are blessed with an environment that will allow almost everything to grow. Some things take more effort and special treatment, but persistence pays off.

One of the best things about the yard and garden at this time of year is seeing the results of previous work. The bulbs planted in the fall with such loving care, are poking their heads out. Plant divisions, watered religiously over the summer to keep them alive, are growing vigorously. Shrubs, berries, and fruit trees dormant for the winter are beginning to show signs of life and the promise of bounty.

Every year I plant peas with a lot of faith but probably very little sense. Since my vegetable garden is ten raised beds I go out in late January and cover one or two beds with clear plastic. This keeps the cold drenching winter rains off the beds and even the slightest amount of sun warms the soil. By the middle or end of February I can go out, fork over a bed and plant peas. This year I planted 'New Century' shelling peas and 'Mega' snap peas. A month ago both were coming up nicely. Unfortunately, it looks like the voles really like the taste of very young shelling peas. I can

literally see little rodent tooth marks in the seeds left on the surface of the remaining seeds. Today I am replanting with 'Oregon Trail' shelling peas, though it seems awfully late to plant a pea with a 120-day maturity date, even if it is supposed to be enation resistant.

Last year I spent a lot of time moving, and dividing things in the perennial flowerbeds. The irises are coming up, though I don't expect much bloom for a couple of years. The daffodils are, of course glorious, like they are all over town, and the row of 'King Alfred' bright, tall, yellow trumpets that I moved to the front of the bed, and that I see as I drive in my driveway is coming along nicely. I've inter-planted the daffodils with the hardy bright yellow primrose and some blue grape hyacinths. By next year it should be a solid row of riotous yellow to welcome spring with a little blue to mellow it later in the season.

Also coming along nicely is a long row of daffodils I moved two years ago. As my Uncle Ralph says, "Once you plant daffodils you will always have them." Suffering from overcrowding, I dug them up planted them along the hedge at the front of the yard. Last year, there were very few blooms but this year there are quite a few. Since I have both early and late varieties of daffodils planted in both sun and partial shade, I can pick daffodils into the month of May, most years.

Last fall I chanced upon an inspiring book, *The Art of the Kitchen Garden*, by Jan and Michael Gertley. The Gertleys have studied the famous European "knot" and monastic gardens that were created to be both beautiful and bountiful. They keep their beds small and easily maintained from heavily mulched paths. Annuals such as parsley, marigolds, lobelia, and alyssum, replace the boxwood hedges of Italian renaissance gardens. Included are well laid-out geometric designs, based on a Japanese family crest, an American quilt block, and a Celtic knot, for planting mixed gardens of vegetables and flowers. Of course, these include a HUGE number of border annuals (several flats), far beyond my means. I have, however, used their ideas and planted a bed of cabbages, with garlic creating a diamond pattern around the cabbages. Hopefully, the design will be successful. I have planted garlic or onions with cabbages in the past and noticed significantly less predation by cabbage moths so, at least, I expect that to hold true.

Soon my tomatoes will be in the ground under hot caps. I order plants from Territorial Seed Company and, as usual, I've probably ordered far more than I can use. This year it was way too cold to set them out, so I potted them up. They've progressed from the two-inch pots they arrived in, to four-inch pots, and have been kept under lights. They loved it! This year I'm growing the following varieties: Stupice, Legend, Willamette, First Lady, Fantastic, Seattle's Best of All, Persimmon, Tiger-Like, German Cherry, Sund Gold and Sweet Million. It's so-o-o-o great to taste that first garden tomato and if I can get it by the Fourth of July I feel enormously successful.

The misty weather we've been having is great for transplanting. Though you need rain gear to do it, moving things around when a light mist is falling is extremely successful. Plants set out as transplants, or moved from one spot in the yard to another, hardly even know they've been moved and just keep right on growing. There is a narrow window at this time of year, and again in the fall, between the ground being too wet to work in and too dry for much success. I love working in the yard at this time of year because any effort made has such great dividends. Weeds, slugs and yellow-jackets controlled now will be much less of a problem later. Unhappy perennials can be moved to a better location for more sun or shade, or better drainage, and be beautiful by June. Now all I need is the time to get out in the yard.

Enjoy digging in the ground. Start fertilizing houseplants and thinking bout taking them outside for their summer vacation. Plan your vegetable garden, try new varieties, put a few herbs in pots to grow in a sunny window. Happy gardening!

## Church Directory

### VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Pastor Paul Pastor  
850 Madison Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-1103

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.  
Evening Service  
Youth Ministry  
Children's Ministry  
Nursery Available

Men's Ministry 7:45 a.m.  
3rd Saturday each month

### VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Grant Williams, Pastor  
957 State Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-6790

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Church w/Nursery  
Sunday Youth Group  
Junior High 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Senior High 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.  
Women's Bible Study, Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

### GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

D.J. Dickey, Pastor  
Grant & North Streets  
Vernonia, 503 429-1919

Sunday Services: Adult Prayer & Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.  
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Service:  
All Family Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Darwin Harvey, Pastor  
662 Jefferson  
Vernonia, 503 429-4615

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Men's Study, Tuesday 10:30 a.m.  
Women's Study, Wednesday 1:30 p.m.  
Youth & Kids, Thursday 7:00 p.m.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

John Cahill, Pastor  
359 "A" Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-1161

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

### NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH

500 California Ave  
Vernonia, 503 429-5378

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery available  
Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastoral Associate  
Juanita Dennis  
960 Missouri Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-8841

Mass Schedule  
Sunday 12 Noon  
Religious Education  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Lee Knowlton, Branch President  
1350 E. Knott Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-7151

Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m.  
Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.

Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Kevin Reiner, Pastor, 543-2254  
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.  
Vernonia, 503 429-8301

Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.

### ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Grafe, Pastor  
375 North St. (Vernonia Grange Hall)  
Vernonia, 503 429-3700

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Joel Stith, Pastor  
410 North Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-6522

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Every Wednesday:  
Ladies' Bible Study 9:15 a.m.  
Children's Choir 3:00 p.m.  
Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Women's Fellowship, 2nd & 4th  
Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.