

Time for Vacation Bible School

Alarms are sounding and the banner outside Vernonia Christian Church, 410 North Street, declares "Jesus to the Rescue!!!" as another fun-packed Vacation Bible School/Summer Ministries program takes place daily 9:00 a.m. to noon, June 17-21.

"We've packed the command center full of fun, excitement, great games, creative crafts and yummy treats," said Pastor Joel Stith. So grab your gear and get on board. To sign up, call Alethea Graham at 503-429-6551, or the church office at 503-429-6522.

Church Bulletin Bloopers

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."

Can you dig it?

By Schann Nelson



I don't know about you, but I am really tired of seeing FROST on the ground in the morning. The first cold snap on April 23rd was a surprise and I did not go out and put an extra blanket over my hot caps. If I had it might have saved more of my tomatoes. So far, of the varieties I put in the ground, two have succumbed to slugs, two died in the frost and nine were heavily damaged.

The notable undamaged, strong survivor is one (still) unaffected Persimmon. Go figure, guess that's why it's an heirloom variety.

Of course, since so many tomatoes died I had to get more so, I just had to go to the Columbia County Master Gardener's Plant Sale. What great fun! I did come home with tomatoes...also three big, beautiful hostas, a gorgeous weeping cedar, a bunch of herbs and assorted flowers. I highly recommend you watch for their sale next year. The prices were very good, the plants were well rooted but not pot bound, and I didn't even look at any of the assorted books or garden art also available. The new tomatoes, by the way, are still inside and I'm replanting parts of other beds.

One of the few times I can actually advocate the use of rototillers is to break new ground for a garden. Once you have

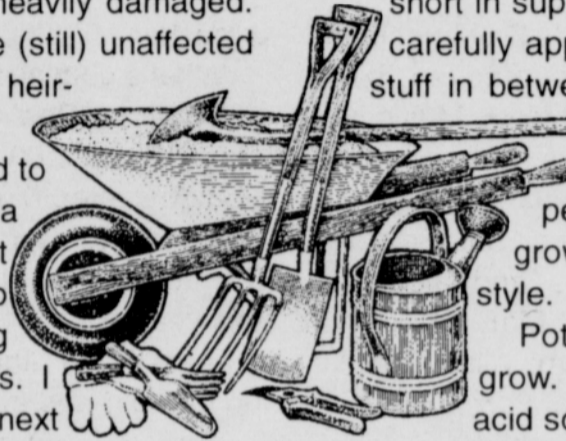
tilled whatever area you want to turn into a garden, you can fairly easily make raised beds by shoveling the dirt from the "paths" up onto the "beds." It takes a little time, but it's worth it to develop beds that never get walked on again. If you make your beds about 4 feet wide, you can reach into the center of the bed from either side. The beds then get more and more workable as you add organic material, compost, and other amendments. One of the biggest advantages in our wet springs is that raised beds drain and are workable long before the ground can be tilled in most places. When the weather (finally) does get hot, and water grows

short in supply, a well-developed raised bed allows you to carefully apply water where you want it and not on all the stuff in between. Generally, you can grow more stuff in a smaller space than you can if you till up everything. Tilling every year works great for some people with lots of space, especially if you only grow vegetables in the summer, but it's just not my style.

Potatoes are one of the easiest vegetables to grow. Since they actually like relatively unimproved acid soil (the basic soil found in this area), as long as it's not really heavy clay, potatoes are a richly rewarding crop to grow. If you till up a piece of dirt, stick in some seed potatoes about every two - three feet and keep the bed watered, you should be able to harvest a good crop of potatoes in the fall. You can even get early, or "new" potatoes soon after the plants bloom, by pulling and digging early. Of course they won't be full size, but they will have that great taste.

A word or two on gardening books. Most books are NOT written for the Pacific Northwest maritime climate. They assume a short spring and a long, hot growing season. Apparently, many of the pests and diseases that our gardens are subject to, are simply not problems in most of the country and are not addressed in most garden books. Books can be a very helpful source of information. Just don't expect the kind of quick germination and fast growth written about in most, though certainly not all, garden books.

I usually take all of my houseplants outside for summer vacation on May Day. Fortunately, I have not had time to do that this year, so I haven't lost any of those, yet. I'm getting tired of watering in the house though, so it's time for stuff to go out. This cold weather can't last much longer. Can it?



Church Directory

<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	

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