

## Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson



Listen...can you hear the rain? Can you smell the snow? Can you see the wind?

As we approach the solstice, and the mind-numbing pace of the holiday season, our yards and gardens, and the forests surrounding us offer respite. We are blessed with wonderful clean air to fill our lungs and our lives. Even in town the air is clean under the fragrant smell of woodsmoke.

Take the time to step outside, close your eyes and see if you can tell what kind of rain is falling. What is the rain falling on? In one of those rare sunny moments, feel the warmth of the winter sun. Here in the maritime northwest, we enter the darkest time of the year, the sun hidden and the clouds pressing close to the earth, filling the aquifer.

I could give you a list of stuff to do, but that's less important than using our environment to bring ourselves peace and wholeness. The shortest day of the year approaches. Light will be returning after 2:05 a.m. EST (5:05 a.m.) on the twenty-second day of December. Now is the time to consider the successes and failures of long summer days past and envision the promise of next summer's bounty.

BREATHE...pray for peace for yourself, your family, your community and the world.

## Mist "Share the Spirit of the Season"

It is the beginning of December, a nip is in the air, and Christmas is around the corner. Many of us are busy with traditional holiday tasks, and getting into the "spirit of the season." With our country just coming out of a recession, and unemployment still higher than normal, there are families in our community that may not be busy with the shopping and decorating that accompany this season. After taking care of the day-to-day expenses, many families just may not be able to afford gifts for the children or a big turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Volunteer Association and the Mist-Birkenfeld Helping Circle are working together to promote the "Share the Spirit of the Season" Holiday Food and Gift Basket Project to see that everyone in the community has

a happy holiday. The goal is to provide a complete holiday dinner for all the needy families in the area, as well as toys and gifts for the children. The entire Mist-Birkenfeld community is invited to help "Share the Spirit of the Season." Donations of food, toys, and cash will help to achieve this goal.

Donation boxes have been placed at the Birkenfeld Country Store and the Main Fire Station. Needed items include canned fruits and veggies, olives, pickles, cranberries, salad dressing, stuffing mix, candy canes, etc. Also included in each food basket will be fresh baked bread and pumpkin pie. Call Gerald Kenyon at 503-755-0929 to sign up to donate baked goods.

Toys and gift items are needed for all age groups from toddlers to teenagers. NEW, unwrapped items may be dropped off at either the Birkenfeld Store or the Main Fire Station.

The Mist-Birkenfeld Helping Circle and friends will be gathering at the Main Fire Station on Friday, December 19, from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a gift-wrapping party. This will be a good time for visiting, making new friends, munching on goodies and, most importantly

of all, getting many gifts wrapped. Participants should bring scissors, tape and favorite finger food or munchies to share. Lots of wrap supplies will be available, but those who would like to may bring more. Call Louise Green at 503-755-2328 for more details.

Volunteers are needed to deliver the food and gift baskets on Monday, December 22. Contact Gerald if you would like to help.

If you are aware of a family in the Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District that could use some help this holiday season, please submit their name, in a sealed envelope marked "Share the Spirit nomination," to Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Volunteer Association, P.O. Box 1499, Mist, OR 97016. Sealed, marked envelopes may also be left at the Main Fire Station. The gift and food giving will be accomplished in the spirit of the season and with respect to human dignity so confidentiality will be assured.

Cash donations in an envelope marked "Share the Spirit" may be mailed to the Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Volunteer Association, P.O. Box 1499, Mist, OR 97016, or dropped off at the Main Fire Station.

## Church Directory

### VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Sunday  
Breakfast 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
\*B.L.A.S.T. w/Nursery 11:00 a.m.  
\*Bible Learning and Scripture Training  
Youth Group 6 -8:00 p.m.  
(Jr. & Sr. High)  
Wednesday  
Prayer Meeting 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.  
Evening Service will change to 3:00 p.m. on Sept. 7,2003  
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.

Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 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

Gary Taylor, Pastor  
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 12:00 Noon  
Religious Education  
Sunday 10:30 a.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.

### VERNONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Jim Kirby, Evangelist  
410 North Street  
Vernonia, 503 429-6522

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

Every Wednesday:  
Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Ladies' Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Children's Choir 3:00 p.m.  
Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

### VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

850 Madison Avenue  
Vernonia, 503 429-1103

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

### CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Jeff Cheney, 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.

## FARMWOMAN'S NURSERY

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