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# The Messenger

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Valley Community Presbyterian Church May 2017

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## Sundays at Valley

Adult Education Class, 9:00 a.m.  
Early Coffee in Library, 9:30 a.m.  
Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Funday, 10:20 a.m.  
Nursery Care, 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

## May

**7** Communion  
Congregational Meeting,  
11:00 a.m.  
Town Hall Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

**14**

**21** Graduate Sunday  
Church Officer Ordination  
and Installation, 10:00 a.m.  
Dining for Women Meeting,  
12:00 p.m.

**28**

## June

**4** Communion



## Rev. Greg Tatman, New 'Bridge' Valley Pastor, begins May 1



*(Rev. Tatman will serve Valley until a new Designated Pastor arrives. See article below)*

down to is that God chooses different people for different phases of God's purpose. My role at Valley Community Presbyterian church is to be a temporary 'bridge' pastor until your new pastor arrives. *Continued on p. 5*

By Greg Tatman

When I think of transitions, I often envision Moses standing on the bank of the Jordan, watching Joshua guide the people of God across it on their way to the promised land. Looking back in time, Moses must have remembered that he had led the people of God out of Egypt. He might have thought, "God, I did a difficult job rescuing your people from the Egyptians and put up with their antics for forty years in the desert, so why can't I lead them into their ultimate destination?" There are several reasons, yet what it comes

## Candidate Rev. Jeff Binder Preaches for Valley June 4

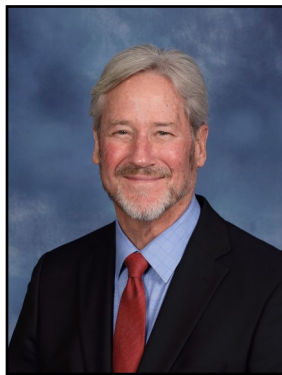


*Jeff and Julie*

Dear Members and Friends of Valley,

After more than six months of regular meetings, analyzing resumes and interviewing candidates, your **Designated Pastor Nominating Committee (DPNC)** is excited to announce the calling of a new pastor to serve our congregation. On June 4, our candidate will preach to the congregation and then will answer questions prior to the congregational vote on that day. *Continued on p. 5*

## Words of Parting



*Pastor Ben Paroulek*

Dearlly Beloved,

What a wonderful celebration we had to celebrate my retirement. It was a day filled with surprises and kind words. I am so grateful for all who made that day so meaningful and memorable. Blessings on you all!

Throughout my 15 years at Valley, I have cherished the pastoral relationship we have had. I also cherish for you the opportunity to form a new pastoral relationship with those who will fill this position in the future.

For this reason, it is important to respect the professional boundaries of ministry. This would include not asking me to officiate for weddings, funerals, baptisms, to make pastoral calls, or to provide counsel regarding personal situations or the life of the congregation. I'm glad to say that personal relations of friendship are to be affirmed and may continue, but are not to be confused with the pastoral relationship which has ended. If you run into me at the grocery store or pub it's still OK to greet me!

I hope you know that I want only the best for this congregation and will do all that I can to ensure the future health of your ministry and not weaken the ministry of your pastor. Please continue to honor our respect and affection for one another by honoring these guidelines.

May God continue to bless the faithful congregation at Valley!

In God's Grace,

*Ben Paroulek*



### THE MESSENGER

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

8060 SW BRENTWOOD ST.  
PORTLAND, OR 97225-2355  
503.292.3537

FAX 503.292.4272

[www.valleycommunity.org](http://www.valleycommunity.org)

Email: [mail@valleycommunity.org](mailto:mail@valleycommunity.org)

### PASTOR

BEN PAROULEK

### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

SHIRLEY HERCHER AND ANGELA GRAHAM

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES VIA E-MAIL BY  
MAY 15 FOR THE JUNE ISSUE:

[messenger@valleycommunity.org](mailto:messenger@valleycommunity.org)

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF RETAINS  
PERMISSION TO MODIFY SUBMISSIONS  
FOR CLARITY, SPACE, CONTENT AND  
STYLE.

## A Letter from the Rev. Laurel Cluthe



Valley Family,

For the last four years, I have been welcomed into your lives as your minister and friend, and I am so very grateful. You have given me grace and support to try new things (and mess up sometimes), patience and love to work together as a faith community, and you've shared your hearts and hectic schedules with me. We have faithfully followed God's lead together as a church, and it has been happy/surprising/exciting/difficult/fun/eye-opening/amazing. Valley is such an amazing group of God's people!

As faithful followers, sometimes God calls us to surprising places and spaces. Sometimes it's so obvious, we never even saw it coming. This is what has happened to my husband, Matt, and myself this month. In the midst of digging deeper roots here in Portland, God uprooted our plans and has called us to live and serve in Kansas City. Matt was offered an ideal job and, as a bonus, we will be near all of his family.

We are nervous, surprised and excited, and we are trying to be obedient to this wild change and wild timing. This means that I will be leaving Valley and Portland this week to move, with the plan to come back for a weekend later in the month.

*Continued on p. 4*

## Congregational Meeting May 7

A Congregational Meeting is scheduled during the 10:00 a.m. worship service May 7 to elect Elders, Deacons, members of the Church Officer Nominating Committee and members of the Board of Directors of the Valley Foundation. The following people have been nominated by the 2017 Church Officer Nominating Committee.

### Elder, Class of 2020 (3 year term)

Eben Jenkins  
Glenys Craig  
Kay Hope Gold  
Greg Russell

### Elder, Class of 2018 (1 year term)

Birgitta Carlson

### Deacon, Class of 2020 (3 year term)

Cathy Bernhard  
Christine Danner  
Richard Gold  
Amy Henning-Blair  
Bev Hubbard  
Jean Sowers

### Deacon, Class of 2019 (to fill unexpired terms)

Karen Miller  
Jim Sandberg

### Deacon, Class of 2018 (to fill an unexpired term)

Janet Adkins

### CONC Members at Large, Class of 2018 (1 year term)

Lyle Chadwick  
Marilyn Farrier  
Karen Sandberg  
Marilyn Tuffs

### Valley Foundation Board of Directors, Class of 2020

Pat Bryant  
Bob Peterson  
Wally Phillips

### Valley Foundation Board, Class of 2019 (to fill an unexpired term)

Eben Jenkins

### Valley Foundation Board, Class of 2018 (to fill an unexpired term)

Joy McNeal

### Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC) 2016-17

Chery Rees, Moderator/Session Representative  
Stephen Rees, Deacon Representative  
Lyle Chadwick, Member at Large  
Kay Phillips, Member at Large  
Donna Rueff, Member at Large  
Karen Sandberg, Member at Large

## Gamble Library News

### Library



A huge thank-you to all who made the annual book sale a success - those who donated books, those who bought books, and those who just gave a dollar donation because they (like me) already have too many books at home. About \$350 was raised and will be used to buy new materials for the church library.

### Book Group



The book discussion group will meet Friday, May 25, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside room. The book for discussion this month is *Bittersweet*, by Colleen McCullough. This is a romantic novel set in Australia, about four unforgettable sisters taking their places in life during the tumultuous years after World War I. Each sister has her own dream to be followed as she steps into womanhood.

All are invited to join the lively discussion as we share our thoughts about this "Book of the Month."

## Session Minutes

April 11, 2017

### Session Meeting

- **Finance Report for March 2017:** Results are close to target and on track for the year.
- **Youth:** The pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday raised about \$750 for youth mission. Sarah Blair has been selected as one of two PCUSA delegates to the Hungarian Reformed Church's Starpoint Youth Festival, which will be held this summer near Budapest, Hungary. Youth will assist with Alpenrose's Easter egg hunt with proceeds to benefit youth mission. Graduation Sunday will be May 21.
- **Personnel:** The Rev. Gregory Tatman was selected as interim pastor, starting May 1, 2017, after Ben's retirement. This will be a 50% appointment, including preaching, leading worship, limited pastoral visitation and moderating session and running the weekly staff meeting. (See page one.)
- **Designated Pastor Nominating Committee:** A congregational meeting is called for Sunday, June 4, 2017, for the purpose of voting on the pastoral candidate presented by the DPNC. (See page one.)



## Learn about Mali Health Savings Program at DFW



*DFW April meeting celebrating five years as a chapter at Valley.*

Dining for Women learns about health in Mali at the monthly meeting on Sunday, May 21. The featured grantee this month is Mali Health, and their mission is to reduce maternal and child mortality in resource-poor communities in West Africa.

The purpose is to support women in joining groups where they meet weekly to deposit savings, share experiences, build financial skills and access loans to pay for high out-of-pocket health care expenses for their families.

Dining for Women loves this innovative Health Savings Program, which will increase the timeliness of care, increase preventative care and support income-generating activities for women in slums around the capital and largest city of Bamako, Mali.

Come join us on Sunday May 21 at 12:00 noon for an amazing potluck lunch, an educational and moving program, and the opportunity to let your dining out dollars support their grant request.

Please note that the starting time for the May meeting is one half hour later (at noon) as High School Graduate Sunday is the same day, and coffee hour might be extended. See you in the Fireside Room!

### A Letter from Laurel (cont. from page 2)

Oh, how I'll miss each of you, and I am so sorry that this is such a quick change. Please know that God is caring for each of you and has wonderful plans for the beautiful people of Valley Community Presbyterian Church. Great things are happening! While I won't be here in person in this neighborhood church as your minister, we will always be a part of the same universal Church, serving our same God both here and across the country, together.

We will see each other for a short time, so let's make the most of it! Let's live boldly and love God fully today and every day. You have taught me that, along with so many other things. Thank you, thank you.

We have a strong Transition Team in place, which includes Allison Carlson (Youth Ministries Elder), Karen Yakymi, Jenny Pratt, Michelle Blair, and Kay Hope Gold. This group is working towards a plan for the upcoming months with our Children and Youth Ministries, until our new Pastor has input in the selection of my replacement. Please contact them if you have any questions or input as to how to best support our families. All prayer is appreciated as we seek God's guidance during this time.

Much love to you,  
*Laurel*

### Offerings Help Hunger Programs

Thanks from our Mission Committee to all who have brought change to church on the third Sunday of each month for the Cents-Ability Offering. Our collection on April 16 brought in \$199.27, which we added to our first quarter contributions of \$439.27, bringing us to a Year To Date donation of \$638.54.

Mission has committed to sharing this money with Share to Care, a local group helping our working poor and with the Presbyterian Hunger Program assisting those around the world. Our next date is May 21, so please mark your calendars and share in the fun of this ministry.

Please also remember we accept food donations everyday, and unexpired (no barrel, used, or glass container) items may be placed in the bins by the Fireside Room. The Mission Committee thanks you for your on-going support.



Thank you for sending your check for **\$32.00** for the  
**2017 Per Capita (for wider church expenses)** for each Valley member.

For more information about what per capita is, and how it helps, go to:

[oga.pcusa.org/percapita](http://oga.pcusa.org/percapita)



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## **Rev. Greg Tatman (cont. from page 1)**

A little about me; I made the transition to ministry later in life, entering Austin Presbyterian Seminary in 2004. Our seminary class was one of the largest classes that seminary had ever seen, and contained many others like me, who had chosen to alter their life's path. We called ourselves the 'class of 9/11,' inasmuch as our spiritual paths were so profoundly affected by that event.

My transition TO ministry was FROM nearly 25 years as a wooden boat builder in the Eugene area. It was a lot of fun, and I met many wonderful people. Since my boats were mainly for fly-fishing on white water rivers, I was able to fly fish on my own schedule, which in reality held little time for it. My avocation eventually turned into just an occupation.

Through participating and then leading an adult Bible study class, the Holy Spirit crept into my life through my engagement of scripture. Formally inanimate texts gained new meaning for me. In a slow but clear process, God began to call me away from my occupation and into ministry.

Twenty years ago, if someone would have told me I would be wearing a 'Harry Potter' robe, preaching to you on a Sunday morning in 2017, or leading an Oregon Department of Corrections prison inmate grief group, I would have called that person crazy. The life transition has been interesting, including the diagnosis of Parkinson's seven years ago. Yet it is a joy to serve you, even for such a short time.

So thank you in advance for letting Judy and me be a part of your 'Body of Christ' for two months or so when, like I envision Moses, I will join Ben and all the pastors gone before us on the bank of the Jordan, watching you cross the river, making all the future transitions God calls you to make.

Blessings and Peace,  
*Greg*

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## **Rev. Jeff Binder (cont. from page 1)**

Guidelines established by the Presbytery for selecting a Designated Pastor, who will serve our congregation for a trial period of up to two years, allow us to then extend an official call to become Head of Staff. Following those guidelines, we carefully reviewed five applications selected by Presbytery from about 25 submissions. We eliminated two applicants early in the process. The committee then followed up by contacting the references for the remaining three candidates. During this part of the process, one pastor accepted another position and we continued our work with Skype interviews with the two remaining contenders. Although our chosen candidate clearly emerged as a preference from the start, we decided to bring both to Oregon for additional interviews and to preach at neutral pulpits. At the last minute, the second prospect pulled his application from consideration. After our committee interviewed our candidate in person, spent a weekend with him and heard a sermon at a neutral pulpit, we feel blessed to stand together in agreement that The Reverend Jeff Binder will serve us faithfully in the coming years.

We are pleased to introduce the candidate who emerged as the pastor we highly recommend the congregation call to lead us into the future! The Reverend Jeff Binder is a dynamic, thoughtful and creative 36 year-old individual who shares our vision for the growth of Valley. A Midwesterner, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from The College of Wooster in Ohio and a Master of Divinity degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He has traveled extensively and studied at the University of Melbourne in Australia. He currently is the Associate Presbyterian for Discipleship and Ministry in the Presbytery of the Peaks, located in Lynchburg, Virginia, and has served churches in Florida, where he was an Associate Pastor for Families and Mission and in New Jersey, where he was a Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. He and his fiancée, Julie, are both outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy biking and hiking and who are very eager to explore the joys of living in the Pacific Northwest.

In a recent email to the DPNC, Jeff said he is "... excited to begin to 'get to work' after all of our conversations about what 'might be' concerning the next chapters of ministry with Valley. I wholeheartedly believe that we can continue to build upon a wonderful foundation that will lead to years of blessings for the community and congregation...". We agree with him completely and hope you will come to be part of an exciting new chapter in the life of Valley on Sunday, June 4!

The Saturday before Jeff preaches for us, there will be a "meet and greet" from 1:00 to 3:00 in Armitage Hall. Please plan to come and welcome Jeff and Julie on June 3rd.

In Christ,

Your DPNC

Cathy Bernhard, Birgitta Carlson, Amy Dee, Wendy Jenkins,  
David Jimerson, Shannon Pratt, Jim Sandberg

## Adult Education Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

*Discussions by Dr. C.R. Koester - May 2017*

**May 7 – Chapter 29 - Reading Biblical Literature.** Professor Koester's discussion of the church in Acts focuses on the early church formation conflicts and expansion to include additional ethnic groups. He cites the Old Testament prophesy that a time would come when God would pour out His spirit on all flesh. However, as demonstrated then and even today, the practical issues of equitable resource distribution for widows and minority groups is associated with difficulty and potential conflicts. His resolution of those conflicts was insightful.

**May 14 - Chapter 30** – This chapter deals with the complexity and dramatic events associated with Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, and of his subsequent participation in the expansion of Christianity to multiple societal groups. It describes Paul's interaction with contentious Jewish critics and befuddled but aggressive Roman officials. The hostility and inflexibility that Paul was presented with was striking.

**May 21 – Chapter 31** – This presentation discusses Paul's adverse interaction with Roman authorities that was instigated by the orthodox Jewish establishment's allegations that Paul was a threat to social order and Roman rule. Paul was accused of violating the sanctity of the Jewish temple. He responded by citing his adherence to the Jewish scriptures and his belief in the resurrection of the dead. Paul made a public display of adherence to Jewish law and denied his attempt to revolt against Roman rule. He advised his followers to wear faith and love as their body armor, with the helmet of hope.

**May 28 – Chapter 32** – This chapter deals with letters of the Apostle Paul which are contained in Corinthians I and II, and describes the challenges in maintaining a cohesive community. He cites community fragmentation as representing misplaced loyalties. He insisted that it was through the message of Christ that God calls them to faith. Therefore, Christ must be their main focus. He describes the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as demonstrating the greatest gift it's possible too give as demonstration of Divine Love.

## Summer Activities for Children

### Music & Drama Camp

**June 26-30, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

This awesome experience is for rising 2nd-8th graders. Campers learn a musical during the week and perform it at a retirement home at the end of the week and in worship on Sunday, July 2, at 10:00 a.m.. Find more information and register for camps at [valleycommunity.org](http://valleycommunity.org) or contact Amy Rheingans at [amyrheingans@comcast.net](mailto:amyrheingans@comcast.net).

### Vacation Bible School

**July 17-21, 8:45 a.m.-Noon**

Galactic Starveyors is the theme for this year's VBS camp. Kids ages 4-11 (as of July 17, 2017) will enjoy a week of new experiences - exploring, learning, and making tons of memories. Let's discover God's AWE-some Creation! Lead and Assistant Teachers are needed for VBS. If you would like to shepherd or simply help with snack, please register as a volunteer through the website, [valleycommunity.org](http://valleycommunity.org), or contact Lizz Brown directly.

### Arts Exploration Camp

**July 17-21, 12:00-3:00 p.m.**

This camp, for rising 1st-5th graders, is during the same week as our VBS program, making it possible for kids to have a full day of camp at Valley. Campers are grouped by age and take classes in music, art, and drama each day. Find more information and register for camps at [valleycommunity.org](http://valleycommunity.org) or contact Amy Rheingans at [amyrheingans@comcast.net](mailto:amyrheingans@comcast.net).





## Pastor Ben Paroulek's Retirement



*Ben preaching during 10:00 a.m. worship.*



*The family of Ben helped celebrate him at a reception in his honor.*



*Ben with Karen Yakymi and Jenny Pratt.*



*Frank and Carol Powers wish Ben a fond farewell!*



*Ben and his wife, Suzanne, are recognized for the many years of dedication and service to Valley.*



*A handmade quilt was presented to Ben at the reception held in his honor.*





*The Rev. Laurel Cluthe speaks to the children during the Time with the Young Church.*



*Valley youth held a pancake breakfast to raise funds for upcoming mission trips.*



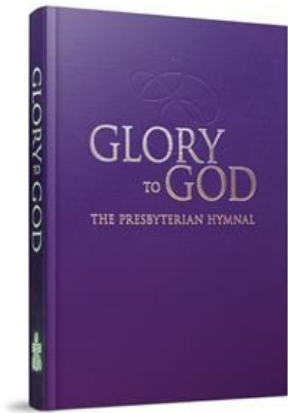
*The Royal Ringers played during a recent worship service.*



*Combined choirs proclaimed the Word of God on Easter morning.*



## The New Presbyterian Hymnal: *Glory to God*



On April 9, we dedicated our church's new hymnal, *Glory To God*. Special thanks to the Valley Foundation for granting the funds for this purchase.

"Why did we need a new hymnal?" you might ask. The previous blue Presbyterian hymnal was published in 1990, the first hymnal of the newly recombined Presbyterian Church (USA). The additional *Sing the Faith* hymnal was added in 2003. *Glory to God* combines both hymnals, retires some unused hymns, adds newer music, and returns some older hymns from the 1955 hymnal.

Times were very different 27 years ago, and many things have changed in our world, our community, and even in our own church. Over the past 27 years, the PC(USA) in general, and our community and neighborhood in particular, have become more multicultural and inclusive. This new hymnal tries to reflect all these changes.

*Glory To God* isn't just a songbook for use in congregational worship. It is also a complete resource for personal prayer and devotions. Take a few moments before or after worship to look through the hymnal. At the front is a collection of services of worship, and common texts such as the Apostles Creed and Lord's Prayer, among others.

The hymns are organized differently than the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal. That hymnal started with the season of Advent. *Glory To God* takes a long view, starting with the Triune God, who existed before anything. It moves through creation and God's relationship with Israel before coming to Jesus and His birth, life, death, and resurrection. The gift of the Holy Spirit and the life of the Church form the next major portion. The last portion contains the life of the nations, Jesus' second coming, and the end times' New Heaven and New Earth. This long-view of Biblical history in hymn form, from Genesis to Revelation, takes nearly half of *Glory To God's* 853 hymns.

So, where are the Psalms and music from the global church? Is there a section just for them? No, there are no categories specifically for these songs. Why? The answer is one of the reasons I like this hymnal, there's no reason for them to be segregated from the other hymns. Each Psalm and global song has a story to tell. These songs are placed with other hymns of similar themes. You'll find hymns such as 176, *If You Only Had Faith*, a Caribbean Pentecostal Chorus, between 175, *Seek Ye First*, a folk chorus from the 1970s, and 177, *I Will Come To You*, a more recent song from the Roman Catholic tradition. This inclusive blend, I believe, is unique to this hymnal.

The rest, you can explore on your own, consists of hymns on various topics. Of special interest are footnotes for each hymn explaining their origins and relevance to scripture. You can appreciate the extraordinary work that the selection and research team put into creating this hymnal.

A last hidden gem is in the back of the hymnal. Hiding among the indexes, on page 979, is the Scriptural Index. This is an index of all the scriptural references made in all the hymns. If you're studying scripture and want a hymn to go along with it, you can find it here.

## Mark Your Calendars!



On May 7, following the Congregational Meeting, the Property Improvements Committee (PIC) will be holding a town hall meeting in Armitage Hall. Grab a cup of coffee and come to learn about the improvements that have been made to our facility. We will also look at future interior improvement projects and your input. Your Capital Improvements pledges are making this possible. Thank you!



Valley Christian Preschool is now enrolling for the 2017-2018 school year. VCP is a nurturing learning environment for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. For more information contact Anne Searce, Director, 503.292.3537 x146, [anne@valleycommunity.org](mailto:anne@valleycommunity.org), [www.valleychristianpreschool.com](http://www.valleychristianpreschool.com).

## Valley Notes

### Opportunities

**Build a Home • Frame a Future.** May 12 at Embassy Suites at Washington Square will be a free fundraising breakfast or lunch benefiting Willamette West Habitat for Humanity. There are two events to choose from: breakfast, 7:30-8:30 a.m. or lunch, 12:00-1:00 p.m. RSVP or more information at [HopeHoward@HabitatWest.org](mailto:HopeHoward@HabitatWest.org).

**The next Valley Habitat build** will be Saturday, June 3. If you would like to take part in the build, please contact Chuck Falconer. Thank you!

**Looking for a way to help others?** Valley's Meals on Wheels team needs a couple substitute drivers to fill in once in a while. We are responsible for the third Monday of the month, driving from the Elsie Stuhr Center in Beaverton. Call Marilyn Tuffs for details.

### Prayers

**We pray for those with health concerns:** John Judy, Hudson Wells (Gary and Lisa Rawlings' grandson)

**We pray for those who mourn:** Ed Brauner and family on the death of his wife, Ellen Brauner, on April 12, 2017.

Family and friends of Lenore Hout who died recently.

Wendy Archibald and family on the death of her father, Clarence Houghton.

Anita Cobb and family on the death of her son, Eliot Cobb.



## Valley's Confirmation Class



Confirmation Sunday was April 30. Valley's nine high school confirmands and their mentors have been all over the city, experiencing various faith communities in worship and cultural events. They have discussed faith in all aspects of life, and have studied the Bible. During 10:00 a.m. worship, we honored those who have decided to be confirmed and join Valley as church members, honoring their baptismal vows. A reception in the confirmands' honor was held afterward.

*Above: The Rev. Chuck Falconer with the confirmands.*

*Below: The Rev. Laurel Cluthe with the confirmands.*







## THE MESSENGER



VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
8060 SW BRENTWOOD ST.  
PORTLAND, OR 97225-2355

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



## **Town Hall Meeting**

Armitage Hall, Sunday, May 7  
after 10:00 a.m. worship

Learn about the improvements  
that have been made to our facility.

We will also look at future interior improvement  
projects and your input.

Grab a coffee and join the conversation with the  
Property Improvement Committee!

See p. 9