

Port Orchard Church of Christ

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof
the world and those who dwell therein, for He
has founded it upon the seas and established it
upon the rivers." Psalm 24:1-2



"The Next Life is a New Life"

Why former refugees from Vietnam put a lien on their house to buy land for a church building.

Houston

For many American churches, a Sunday potluck might feature case-roles, buckets of chicken and salads with crushed chips on top.

At the Vietnamese Church of Christ in this ethnically diverse metropolis, fellowship meals happen differently. The meal is a gateway of sorts, introducing visitors to the culture of a church community that doesn't seem in a hurry to eat and get on with the day.

The main dish is prepared on site, and the menu rarely varies because it's so anticipated by those who attend: seasoned spare ribs, rice, noodles with fish sauce, salad and homemade desserts.

Outside the Northwest Church of Christ's youth room, where the Vietnamese congregation meets while raising money for its own building, men set up canopies emblazoned with Houston Texans logos to provide shade from the searing sun. They huddle underneath and prepare beef in stages, thinly slicing ribs and marinating them with a blend of traditional Vietnamese seasonings.

These ribs are laid upon a sizzling grill, hot flames hissing at the contact. A breeze carries the tantalizing smells inside the crowded room where Hung Nguyen preaches, causing children to whisper excitedly to each other.

The youngest children babble in a blend of Vietnamese and broken English, while school-aged youngsters have a mastery of the language that comes from immersion in Houston-area schools. Some of the adults speak both English and Vietnamese. A translator -- sometimes one of the children -- helps bridge any language barriers.

The tantalizing meal does the same. Food is a universal language, as the saying goes. Showing hospitality is Scriptural.

God's Word in their Native Language

The Vietnamese congregation of roughly 30 souls assembles in a small white structure. It's across the parking lot from the beige brick facility where the Northwest church -- a bilingual body of about 200 English and Spanish speakers -- welcomed the Vietnamese group to use its facility a few years ago.

"We take the Lord's Supper in both languages -- English and Spanish -- and then we go to separate services for preaching," said Northwest elder Julio Cedeño, a Venezuelan immigrant who frequently strides across the parking lot to fellowship with his Vietnamese family. "So we really do believe a lot about letting people get God's message in their own language."

The relationship with the Vietnamese congregation began when Hao Vu, a Northwest member who fled the communists when Saigon fell in 1975, brought three leaders of a Protestant church to see the elders and minister Jim Middleton. *(Continued on back)*

Church Staff:

Kelli Keagle..... 757.389.1382

Deacons:

Gary Chasteen 360.895.4143
Gene Gerard 360.876.4612
Troy Hill 360.674.7181
Brad Orser.....360.874.8184

Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first century church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear

of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs, we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for

names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

Port Orchard Church of Christ

Save the Dates!

Friday 10/13 Kids' Movie Night

Sunday 10/15 Take Chair Rows Apart

Saturday 10/28 Kids' Harvest Party

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview

James Greer will be preaching this upcoming Sunday. Worship Service begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

Happy Birthday!

It's October. If you see any of these brothers and sisters wish them a good one: Ari Esquivel-01, Andrea Hanson-02, Darren Hanson-02, Tim Duffy-04, Kristi Hall-04, Bob McDaniel-08, Lisa Bratcher-13, Len Lewis-13, Cindy Snead-17, Brittany Pringle-19, Paula Hill-20, Gene Cartwright-24, Laura Fry-24, Sandi Warner-25, Ron Nystrom-26, Amanda O'Dell-28.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Greer

James Greer shared a sermon with us last Sunday. If you missed his message and would like to hear it, please visit the church website at pococ.weebly.com

Sunday Morning Bible Class

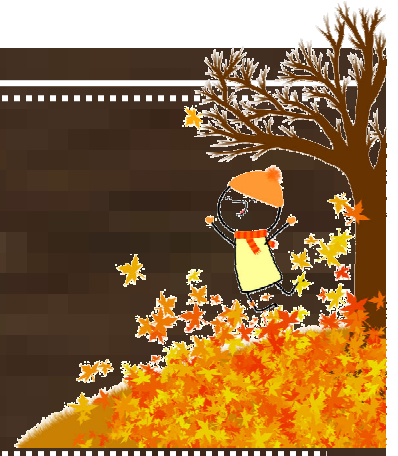
We need a teacher for this class. Contact a deacon if you would like to fill this position.

Take Chair Rows Apart

The chairs will be cleaned this week! As a congregation, please separate the chairs in the auditorium and overflow after services.

Serving October 15, 2017 :

Prayer Leader:	Gene Gerard	Communion Prep:	Kelli Keagle
Scripture Reader:	James Greer	Communion Cleanup:	Wilson Family
Offering Thoughts:	Dave Snypp	Song Leader:	Gene Gerard
Communion Meditation:	Ken Reinke		
Servers:	Tim Duffy & Greg Warner		
Ushers:	Wayne H. & Brandon Zepf	Children's 9:30 Helper:	Karen Taylor
Greeters:	Karen Taylor & Sandi W.	Children's Church:	Kelli Keagle
Prayer Partners:	TBD & Carla Duffy	Preaching:	James Greer
Sound:	Brittany Pringle		
Slides/Lighting:	Lisa Bratcher		



Isaac Benjamin and Family

We celebrate with Isaac and his family in the conclusion of his chemotherapy treatments September 22nd! The family went on a trip to Hawaii with the Make-a-Wish Foundation where Isaac could swim with the dolphins and stingrays.



Children's Movie Night

There will be a movie (and popcorn) on display at the building this Friday evening, October 13th. Doors open at 5 pm, movie starts at 5:30pm. Bring your kids. Contact Sarah Benjamin or Shauna Soete for more information.

Children's Fall Festival

A Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 28th, around 6ish pm. We need bags of candy and things to use as prizes: clean stuffed animals, whiz-kabobs you have lying around, etc. We also need at least four Game Wardens. There will be no hunting involved; you will be overseeing the big wooden games like bean bag toss, etc. Contact DJ Magneson or Kelli Keagle if you can volunteer. You will be compensated with candy.

Directory Edit

Bobbie Blair has a new phone number: (360) 876-5391.

Email Typos

Craig Kenady's email: rckenady@msn.com

Jennifer Delay's email: JConnelly@Windermere.com

Our Prayer List

Healing:

Delores Brun

DJ Magneson

Delores Lawler's daughter Elaine

Delores Lawler's friend Linda

Runell Mason

David Latham

Connie Greer

Wayne Hammock's friends Lewis & Rick

Kelli Keagle's mom Deena

Melvin Byrd

Encouragement:

Our loved ones' caregivers.

John & Rachelle Gardner & family travelling to Honduras

Sneads and Sanders-travelling

Other:

All those who are dealing with loss and recovery due to the fires, floods, and hurricanes.

Our children, church, nation, President Trump and ministries. That God will bless our deacons with wisdom in reaching the many decisions they are entrusted with.

October 8, 2017

Worship: 72

Class: 33

Offering: \$3,955.70

(Continued from front page)

"They were looking for a place to hold services, but brother Vu taught them that they had a greater need," Middleton said.

As a result of Bible studies, the three men - including minister Hung Nguyen [pronounced *wi:n*] -- were baptized. Later, more members of the Protestant church decided to be immersed for the remission of sins.

"He love Jesus," Vu said of Nguyen's ministry prior to studying with the Northwest leaders. "He preach almost correct except for baptism."

"I have a big change in my mind about the salvation," Nguyen said.

A Haven for Vietnamese Refugees

Houston became a haven for Vietnamese refugees when it welcomed tens of thousands of "boat people" in the 1970s.

About 73,000 residents of Harris County, where Houston is located, speak Vietnamese in their homes, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

Vu, a retired engineer, said he is unaware of any other Vietnamese church of Christ in the U.S.

Vu grew up Catholic but was baptized as an adult in Vietnam after he began studying the Bible and met a U.S. military chaplain. That

chaplain told him about a church that seemed closest to the one he read about in Scriptures, Vu said.

For nearly four decades, Vu has dreamed about building a church in the U.S. for people to worship in his native language.

"Brother Vu is one of the most evangelistic men I've known," Cedeño said. "He's awesome."

Vu and his wife, Tanya Nguyen, put a \$160,000 lien on their house in Hockley, a 45-minute drive from Northwest, to buy property on which to build a Vietnamese church.

"I know that this life is temporary," Vu said of his willingness to put the couple's own financial security at risk. "The next life is a new life."

Tanya Nguyen said her husband supported her longtime dream to build an orphanage in Vietnam. Likewise, she wanted to support his dream to secure a permanent worship site for Vietnamese Christians. (Tanya Nguyen is not related to the minister, Hung Nguyen. Nguyen is a common name in Vietnam, where wives do not take their husband's surname.)

"One night I sleep, and I hear God reminding me, 'Why don't you buy it?'" Tanya Nguyen said of the land. "So in the morning, I say, 'Honey, we need to buy the land.' So he was very happy. He couldn't believe it."

Behind the wheel of her small truck, she navigates easily between stories of family in Vietnam and the U.S. while negotiating traffic.

Under a bright blue sky on a corner spot across from a large housing development, a handful of church members step out of vehicles and tread uneven terrain to a large white sign.

"Future Vietnamese Church of Christ Houston" it proclaims in red and blue.

The men and women clasp hands, and Vu prays for a day when those gathered can reach out to the surrounding area from a place where they can teach Christ, serve the community and worship together.

To Help: Send checks earmarked for "Vietnamese building fund" to the Northwest church at 6720 West Tidwell Road, Houston, TX 77092

-Bobby Ross, Jr.
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