

OCTOBER 2005

In this issue

Birthdays	1
Session Notes	3
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	8



Birthdays This Month!

Addy Bashaw	5
Daphne Fisher	5
Brenley Babikoff	12
Cody Anderson	17
Kurrin Bashaw	19
Lloyd Olson	24
Connie Ryan	27
Jean McCloskey	28



Daylight Savings Time ends
October 30

Special Days in October

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School for
all ages 9:30 am

Worship:
10:30 am

Fellowship Time:
11:45 am



World Communion
Sunday — October 2

National Children's Day
October 8



Columbus Day
observed
October 10



*Columbus
Day*



United Nations

Reformation
Sunday



October 30

The seven last words
of a church are,
“We’ve never done it
that way before.”

We believe in a
Resurrection God,
a God who invites us
all—even church bod-
ies—to new life.

Pastor’s Perspective

Presbyterians live (and die!) by process. Lately this love affair with “decently and in order,” with its obsession with doing all things the way they “ought” to be done, has struck me as dysfunctional. Sometimes it just seems we invest more in “process” than we do on working for results.

In my more disheartened moments I wonder if our emphasis on process is the sign of death throes. When our love of process keeps us from taking risks, “results” are sure to be the casualty. As a theologian (it’s always “about God” in my book), I wonder if we cling to process out of fear that we might be held responsible if something doesn’t work.

The last words

The seven last words of a church are, “We’ve never done it that way before.” At Springwater, Session is smaller, and maybe it’s about time we were that small. Pastoral care is all about “re-framing” an issue, so let’s try that here.

Rather than thinking “fewer people to do more work,” this is a chance to think in terms of horizontal organization. Our congregation is big enough that Session should not micro-manage the mission of the church. Yes, Session is the body held accountable for just about everything, but we have a running joke on Session, “What color should we paint the bathroom?”

This goes back to a story told by a friend of mine who interned in a church that stored office supplies and junk in a badly-needed restroom. When he asked why they didn’t just clean out the room, since the plumbing appeared to be functional and it was a room they needed, he was told that it had been that way 7 years. Their Session couldn’t agree on what color to paint the room.

Resurrection

Session is the way we Presbyterians govern our churches. It’s the body that makes decisions, ensures that details of everyday life and mission get done, pays the bills, and looks out for the spiritual life of the members of the church. Session exists to serve the life and mission of the congregation. Not the other way around.

We believe in a Resurrection God, a God who invites us all—even church bodies—to new life. Lately, the lectionary texts have been about forgiveness and transformation—God’s holy change in us, always for redemption, always for life. The Mission Study committee is engaging us in a prayerful discernment process to see where God is calling us in this congregation, in this time and place.

One of the things that I hope comes out of this process is a renewed ability to trust each other. I hope the congregation will see that Session members aren’t the only people who get things done around

What if we trusted that God will still provide all that's necessary to do the work of the church?

the church, and I hope that Session members will see that they aren't the only people who accept responsibility for the mission of the church.

When we agree that we're all working for the same goal, we might find that we accompany each other on a faith pilgrimage, rather than being a group of people who serve on committees together.

Harvest and Trust

The New Testament uses a lot of harvest imagery. One of the things Jesus says about harvest is that if we plant with the expectation of a small harvest, that's pretty much what we'll get. If we think we have to be in control of everything, God's gonna let us. And then we lose sight of "being in mission together," concentrating on "getting things done" before we get too overwhelmed because we think we ought to be in charge of everything.

What if we believed that, even if we fail or make mistakes or things don't go the way they've always gone—what if we trusted that God will still provide all that's necessary to do the work of the church?

It's just crazy enough it might work.

See you in church.

Spiritual Retreat Day

Spiritual minister Stasia Van Buskirk and the Oak Hills Presbyterian congregation will be using our buildings and grounds on October 8 for a spiritual retreat day, and they have invited us to participate with them. It's from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and includes two lectio divina sessions in the morning, followed by lunch. The afternoon will include activity opportunities (art, labyrinth, massage, and prayer) followed by a Taize service.

We're Invited to Attend too!

What is Session doing?

At the meeting on Sept. 18th, Session made the following decisions:

- To use up to \$2,500 to be spent to paint areas of the outside of the building as needed where the paint is peeling or damaged. The full cost would be closer to \$5,000-\$8,000.
- To propose Kathy Scott to run as a representative to General Assembly in 2006. Representatives will be voted on at Presbytery in November 2005.
- Agreed to be praying about finding a chairperson for the Stewardship Committee ASAP.
- Cindy Babikoff & Renaté Jeppeson will serve as representatives from Session on the Nominating Committee for 2006.



SESSION MEETING

Mission Notes

Peacemaking.

Our Peacemaking campaign ends on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd. We will receive the Peacemaking Offering, including the children's coin boxes, on that day. Most of the offering goes to the national church for its Peacemaking activities, & this congregation keeps 25 percent for local efforts. Our committee is recommending to Session that our portion this year go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for hurricane relief.

From time to time in the next few months, we will return to the Peacemaking curriculum, Whoever Welcomes a Child, for intergenerational events that lead us to ministries of justice.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

Hurricane Rita hasn't yet made landfall as this is being written, yet we still search for ways to help the millions of Americans displaced by Hurricane Katrina. As you may be aware, Katrina struck a glancing blow at South Florida before moving across the Gulf of Mexico. PDA teams were positioned in Florida before landfall, and immediately moved to help affected congregations. Six church structures were damaged, and one church was completely destroyed.

PDA teams, prevented from getting into New Orleans immediately, set up a communications center in Baton Rouge, getting technical support from PDA personnel as far away as California. PDA arranged to provide de-briefing and psychological support to pastors attempting to care for dispersed and dispirited congregations. Community teams were unable to get into coastal Mississippi immediately, but were receiving reports of churches being leveled in Ocean Springs. PDA volunteers are working directly with evacuees in Houston and Arkansas.

What can you do? Financial donations may be made through the **PDA website** <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/response/usa/hurricanekatrina-index.htm>. Three giving options are available: US Hurricane response [Account number DR000169], which includes open accounts for Hurricane Ivan, from last summer; Pastoral care [DR000161], which gives money directly to the pastors of affected congregations to disperse at their discretion; and Church Damage [DR000163], dedicated to the repair and rebuilding of church structures. You may also write a check to Springwater Presbyterian Church, with a notation on the memo line listing the fund you want to support. If you are not on-line, there is an information line through PresbyTel, 1-800-872-3283.

You may donate goods, but please check with the links at the website above to see what materials PDA can process. You can also volunteer in the Southeast through a link at the website. A copy of the volunteer form is posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Finally, take part in our Hope-in-a-Box efforts, hygiene and activity kits for kids in the shelters. We want to assemble 2 kits as a congregation. The list of contents appears on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. if you would



There are three funds you can donate to at Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Your check can be made out to Springwater Church Please note the fund # on your check

Hope in a Box is a very real way you can help a child still living in a shelter because of the disasters

Our neighbors are still hungry and the Resource Center can always use your donations of either food or money

like to assemble a box on your own. The boxes will be sent to the PDA warehouse in Houston.

Meanwhile, life and special needs continue...

Many of you continue to keep the people in Iraq in thought & prayer. Please continue your prayers for members of the military, their families, the people of Iraq, and all impacted by the situation & events in Iraq. Opportunities to provide support for service members and their families may be found at pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/index.htm#2.

The 2004 General Assembly statement on Iraq may be found at pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/index.htm. Next month, we will offer resources for peacemaking in the Holy Land and Africa.

The Tuesday afternoon after Katrina's landfall, when the media still thought that New-Orleans had dodged the bullet, I took a big box of fresh produce and tomato sauce to the Estacada Resource Center. As I left the building, happily empty-handed, three handsome little boys bounced by—about the age of Colleen's and Sam's students—carrying big brown bags, filled with groceries. They carefully waited as their mother drove up in a 20-year old van, lifters clattering. They proudly loaded the bags in the van, and jumped aboard. I thought, "No matter what is happening in New Orleans, these guys still need to eat."

Susan Horton

Before I Die . . .

Death and dying—we don't get out of here without it, but it's hard to talk about. Even for Christians, who claim to know "what happens next." October 23 through the beginning of Advent, the adult Sunday School class will explore topics around the subject of death and dying.

October 23: "I don't want to talk about it!" What about our end of life do we find difficult to talk about? What do we want our kids (and the community!) to remember about us? What kind of "to do" lists would help? The Christian tradition has a long history of encouraging "praying for a good death." Should we be doing that?

October 30: "What should I expect from the mortuary?" Rob Gaskill, director of the Estacada Funeral Home, himself a man of faith, will talk to us about burial concerns and arrangements from the standpoint of the funeral home.

November 6: "Do the right people know what I want? Letting me pick who gets what." Estate planning, trusts, gifts, bequests, living wills, advance directives. What memories are you leaving?

November 13: "How do I let her go?" The Reverend Dennis Alger (Eagle Creek Presbyterian and Mt Hood Hospice Chaplain) will talk about talking to our terminally ill friends and loved ones.

November 20: "My faith makes it OK." Why do Presbyterians call a funeral/memorial service "A Witness to the Resurrection?" Planning your funeral service or a loved one's funeral service. What to have on file at the church.



A New Tradition

After prayerful consideration, the worship committee has decided to offer a different monthly evening worship service. Since May of 1994, Springwater has had a tradition of Taizé. That's something like 135 services of prayer and song on the second Friday of every month.

But on the second Friday of October, we hope to kick off a new tradition. The idea is to offer an informal, family-oriented worship service that uses Bluegrass Gospel music as its foundation. So if you've been craving more of the Springwater Ramblers – or you think you might want to bring your instrument or voice to join in – please come (October 14th @ 7:00).

For those of you who found spiritual renewal from Taizé, we will be offering special Taizé services at least 4 times each year. Look for an announcement about an Advent Taizé service.

Walkers Available

The church has received a donation of three walking aids: a four-legged cane, a folding walker, and a sturdy walker that may be useful for walking down to the outdoor worship area. These will be located at the back of the sanctuary for use during services (the sturdy walker is upstairs), and are also available to loan out as needed. See Renate Jeppeson or Gilbert Shibley for more information.

Inter-generational Sunday School

We will continue on with the inter-generational Sunday School experience after the peacemaking emphasis which ends October 2. On October 9, in preparation for an art project presbytery has asked us to do, we will be looking at disabilities ministries. Two of the books we'll use are *Why is Timmy Different?* by California First Lady, Maria Shriver, and *Special Friends* by Fred Rogers.

The class on October 16 will be part of our observance of Children's Sabbath (explained elsewhere in this newsletter).



Youth Group

meets the first Sunday
of each month.

Come Join Us!

Buildings & Grounds needs the following Items

A safe and sturdy changing table and crib for our downstairs nursery.

A small, portable Dustbuster for quick and easy cleanups downstairs.

See Renate Jeppeson if you can donate any of these items.

Who should you call?

Pastor
Moderator of Session
Eileen Parfrey

Clerk of Session
Communications
Kathryn Scott

Treasurer/Stewardship
Nona Shearer

Buildings & Grounds
Renate Jeppeson

Christian Education
Cindy Babikoff

Community Care
currently vacant

Mission Discernment
Susan Horton
(not currently on Session)

Mission Study
Gwen Shearer
(not currently on Session)

Personnel
Nona Shearer

Worship
Judy Coyne

Wedding/Funeral
Coordinator
Bettie Barbee
(not currently on Session)

Mission Study Committee Still Needs Your Help

The Mission Study Committee has been asking questions. They have focused in on four areas to look at:

1. Our "family feel"/community building
2. What we do well versus what we should let go of
3. Shifting from changing our physical space to more effort on internal, spiritual work
4. How the outdoor worship area and labyrinth should be used

We have already met for the last 2 Sundays and will meet again on October 2nd and 9th to spend an hour quietly after church with others and be led in a prayerful discernment process that will look at the last 2 of these areas. Please come for the next 2 Sundays and help complete this process.

We think that God is speaking to all of us - we just need the time to stop and listen. These remaining Sundays will be part of that listening process. Everyone is needed. Please come and share this time as we listen to our collective hearts and search for God's intent as God's church in our community.

Fall Work Day October 15th 9 AM

Wanted: Some "well-balanced" individuals to remove moss from the church roof.

Also needed are people to clean gutters, remove and clean storm windows, weed, and dust and clean indoors.



Chili will be provided for lunch, bring other **snacks to share**. A good time *will* be had by all. This is an excellent way to engage in some stewardship of our church and fellowship with our church family. Hope to see you there!

Writers, Submit!

The Presbytery of the Cascades annual literary journal is seeking submissions for its 2005 issue. This year's theme is "Encounters With God." What they are looking for is Biblical or personal experience material which addresses "Where do we 'find' God? How are people changed (or not) by such encounters?"

Essays, sermons, stories (limit for prose is 2500 words) and poems (limit to 50 lines) may be submitted to Shirley Tormey, editor, 8313 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland, OR 97219.

Lectionary Readings

October 2 (World Communion Sunday and dedication of Peacemaking Offering):
Pushy Mothers as Peacemakers Matthew 15:21-28; Philippians 3:4b-14; Psalm 19

October 9: Finishing Up When It Gets Ugly Matthew 22:1-14; Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 29-23

October 16: Children's Sabbath (Matthew 18:1-5; Matthew 19:13-15; Psalm 99)

October 23: Guest Preacher, Al Contreras, seeking certification as a Commissioned Lay Pastor
(Deuteronomy 34:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17)

October 30: (Reformation Sunday, communion):
Leadership Memorial (Joshua 3:7-17; Hebrews 12:1-2, 12; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37)



Springwater Presbyterian Church
24553 S. Springwater Rd.
Estacada, Oregon 97023
Forward & Address Correction