

Springwater CURRENTS

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Help!

I've been reading Francis of Assisi lately. It has come as a surprise to me, growing up a simple Baptist girl, to be reading one of the great saints of the Roman Catholic Church.

Most of us, when life begins to feel *out of control*, look to see how other people manage. With any luck, we stumble across someone who is handling things more successfully (or gracefully) than we are, and we get some useful strategies for *coping with our lives*. Francis has been giving me some helpful coping strategies lately.

Making Room for Silence

We live in a noisy world. I'm not just speaking of sound—although there is that! Elevator music is the running joke, as the sound we use *to mask our discomfort* in crowded quarters where we are crammed together with total strangers. But elevators aren't the only places where we use music to cover our discomfort. The gym where I work out plays the radio over a loudspeaker—because we don't want to hear each other sweat or because we need the beat to keep us moving? Many families walk in the door at the end of a school/work day and immediately turn on the television as background noise. No one is watching, but the quiet is creepy, and the kids fight unless there's some distraction.

Francis warns that with all the noise, *God can't get a word in edgewise*. Listen to what Francis' biographer, Gerard Thomas Straub, a former TV scriptwriter says about why he is turning off his television:

"Day in and day out we are drenched by a torrent of words. Words, words, words . . . but

little silence in which the Word may reside.

"We must be still in order to move into a greater union with Christ. We must give Christ our time regularly, day in and day out, coming before him just as we are, wounded and weak.

"Without silence there is a deep level of our being which is not contributing to our wholeness. We are incomplete without the fruit of silence and solitude.

"But withdrawal from the endless possibilities for stimulation modern life offers is painful. It takes faith and hope to give God time."

Your Pastor Isn't the Only One!

Even Francis, living in the 1200s, urged his followers to make room for God in their lives, because he saw people surrounding themselves with "noise" (sound, activities, distractions) to avoid hearing God.

Francis took very seriously the need for *all Christians* to follow Jesus' example. One of the ways in which he followed Jesus' example was in the rhythm of his life, which had a profound influence on his relationship with God. The rhythm of his life, as it was for Jesus, was alternating *contemplation* and *preaching*.

Now, I can hear you thinking, "That lets *me* off the hook, because I don't preach, and I don't intend to!" Not so fast, buckaroos. Francis is also the guy who told us, "Preach the gospel at all times; if necessary use words." Whether you want to preach the **gospel** or not, your whole **life** preaches. *What you do says more about your priorities and values and loves than what you say.*

If you want to preach the *gospel*—and I hope that is your aim, since that is Jesus' intention for all of us—then you must make use of that other rhythm

of Francis' life. Religious professionals call it "contemplation." Other folks call it "quiet time" or "devotions." Whatever you call it, it is *giving God a chance to get a word in edgewise* with you.

How Serious Is She?

She's pretty serious. When you spend even 10 minutes a day without "noise" in God's presence, you will find that the stresses and distractions and tensions of life are significantly reduced. A wise person said, "When the mind is wild, the spirit is distracted." If all you are surrounded by is noise—distractions, worry, activities, things to accomplish—and you don't leave room for God's peace and quiet, you don't have a chance to grow spiritually.

And if you aren't growing, you are dying. See you in church.

Eileen

UP-COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST IN THE AREA

☞ **Couple Communication Skills**, presented through the Franciscan Spiritual Center-West, teaches "eleven skills that will change the way you talk and listen." This four-session event is scheduled for October 25 and November 1, 8, 15 at Providence Milwaukie Hospital Annex. The Franciscan Renewal Center is where Pastor Eileen receives her spiritual direction. See the poster on the fellowship hall bulletin board for more information about this marriage-enrichment retreat.

☞ A Women's Ministry Retreat entitled **Redeeming the Season**, is being sponsored by the Estacada Christian Church, on October 18 from 10 – 4. Cost is \$10. Using *Focus on the Family* materials, the day-long retreat's aim is to present women with "ideas, tools and resources to make your Christmas about the Savior, instead of stress." Further information is available from Glenda Everett at 503/824-4441

or at the church at 503/630-6707. See the poster on the fellowship hall bulletin board for more information.

☞ **What Do We Believe, Anyway?** is the name of a day long event at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church in Seattle, October 11 from 9:00 to 3:30. The event, sponsored by the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, features the Reverend Jack Rogers, moderator of the 213th General Assembly of the PC(USA). Registration is \$40. See Eileen for more details.

☞ Also on October 11, but at First Presbyterian Church in Bend, Oregon, is the **Oregon Money and Faith Retreat**. Subtitled, "A time apart to examine the impact of money on our lives," it is organized by the Ministry of Money. This event is NOT about investments, making money, or asking you to give away your money. Instead, it offers tools for getting in touch with your feelings about money, understanding the role of money in your life, appreciating the Biblical perspective on money (and why Jesus talked about it so much), and making "decisions about thoughtful living and giving that will help you gain a measure of inner peace about your own financial decisions." For more information, see Dick Scott.

WANTS FOR THE ESTACADA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER.

TOMATO SAUCE
CANNED FRUIT
MACARONI & CHEESE
TOP ROMIN
CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP
CANNED VEGETABLES
SOAP - BAR AND LAUNDRY



THANKS
BJ

Youth

Sunday school classes for our youth have gotten off to a great start!

Renate and Dana have been busily reacquainting our youngest ones to Godly Play.

While Charlotte and Colleen are introducing our middle age group to the new curriculum.

Our oldest kids have been able to experience Sunday mornings alternating Sundays with Teacher Gilbert and Youth Leaders Steve and Jim.

Susie Kruger will be teaching a confirmation class that will begin with a beach trip for confirmation candidates the weekend of September 27th and will continue throughout the school year.

We had a great September and are on course for a busy, fulfilling year!

Adult



We began the year discussing possible topics to study. Some things that people expressed interest in were: Bible study, Mission/community Service, Spirituality in Your life, Christian Ethics, Islam and Learning the Presbyterian belief.

to name a few...

The class voted to begin the year by learning about Islam. We will spend three Sundays on this topic, starting September 21st and concluding on October 5th.

The final three weeks of October will be devoted to a study on who wrote the Bible. In November, Margaret Shearer has agreed to lead a class on Spirituality which is tentatively scheduled for the first two weeks of the month. Then Cindy Babikoff will teach a unit on the Presbyterian faith.

Please join us for any or all of these classes. It is not only enlightening, but we also have great fun!

See you there!

FALL YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

Oct. 19th: we will build pre-ordered Bat Houses as a fund raiser to deliver by Halloween.

Nov. 16th: we will help assemble food basket materials for Thanksgiving.

Dec. 21st we will head up the mountain seeking snow play !

Cross your fingers!



October Birthdays

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

Do We Have A Conflict?

There's no conflict, just good planning, and high hopes for a record turn-out. Building Our Mission also has a Work Party planned on October 18th. We've scheduled Oct. 17 through Oct. 20th to continue work on the outdoor worship area. Contact Steve Shibley for more information.

****Morgan Driskells email address****

Morgan is stationed in Japan & word appreciate hearing from you!

driskell@harpers-ferry.navy.mil



A Popular Annual Volunteer Event Fall Work Party

Come one, come all, come as you are. Bring your friends and family for some good clean(ing) fun at Springwater Presbyterian's most popular annual volunteer event. October 18th is our Fall Work Day. Don't delay, mark your calendar for this opportunity to share time, talents and fellowship.

Snacks and lunch will be provided so watch for flyers and posters with more information or contact Bob Maat if you have questions.

God provides me with treasured friends who support me in my life's journey.

FRIENDS

Everyone has a family of origin, but God adds to this blessing of love through the gift of a second "family": my circle of friends. My friendships are strong relationships based on mutual love and respect.

With God's guidance, I have consciously chosen the members of my second family. God leads me to the highest quality friends - those special people with whom I feel so comfortable giving and receiving support and sharing triumphs and disappointments.

What a joy to have friendships where respect, admiration, and love are shared. I send a blessing now to each friend, because each one in his or her own way has supported me in my life's journey. I thank God for my friends - treasures of the heart from God to me.

"I thank my God...constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you."

Philippians 1:3-4. shared by

Debbie Tedrow

Give & Take To Give:

* The **Barbee's** have a turtle shaped sand box to **GIVE**. It Has a top and bottom and is about five feet across. The **Barbee's** **WANT** a dog house for one of their many dogs.
503-630-5139

To Take or Needed:

* The Anderson Boys are in need of anyone's old computers 266 mhz or higher for school this year.
503-668-0514

* The **Barbee's** **WANT** a **dog house** for one of their many dogs. 503-630-5139

Please call if you are interested.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?

If you never felt pain,
then how would you know that Christ is a healer?

If you never felt sadness,
then how would you know that Christ is a comforter?

If you never had to pray,
then how would you know that Christ is always ready to listen?

If you never made a mistake,
then how would you know that Christ is forgiving?

If you never were in trouble,
then how would you know that Christ will come to your rescue?

If you never had any problems,
then how would you know that Christ can solve them?

If you never had any suffering,
then how would you know what Christ went through?

If your life was perfect,
then what would you need Christ for?



LECTIONARY READINGS

October 5, World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking Offering dedicated:

BETTER THAN STICKS AND STONES (*Job 1:1; 2:1-10; James 3:1-12; Hebrews 4:12-13; Psalm 26*)

October 12: ISN'T THAT ENOUGH? (*Ruth 1:1-18; Mark 10:17-31; Psalm 22:1-15*)

October 19: WHO'D A THUNK? (*Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; James 2:1-17 Ps 104:1-9, 24, 35c*)

October 26: Eileen will be on vacation. Joseph LeRoy will be preaching.

Session Notes

You might be interested to know that the whole Session, along with Eileen, has spent time talking about how we can be productive, and fulfill our roles as effective leaders for the congregation.

Time is hard to find, and we continue to fill our lives with too much to do. We don't take enough time for fun, rest and/or listening for God in our lives. I think that this is a universal & human trait that we all share.

Session decided to try meeting about 6 or 7 times a year instead of every month. We have been doing this for a few months now, and it seems to be going well. Fewer meetings gives us more time to do our jobs. So, if you notice that the church calendar seems to be marking fewer Session meetings than before, you are right. Hopefully, you will also be able to tell that we are getting more done.

Your clerk of session, *Kathy Scott*

CONFIRMANDS CONSIDERING THE PROCESS

At the publication deadline for this issue of *Currents*, our potential confirmands were on a retreat at the beach with their teacher, Susie Kruger and companion Erin Roden. This is the first "official" step in what Session has proposed as a 9 month-long process for our youth to consider confirming their baptismal vows. In the course of the weekend, these young people will be deciding whether they will commit to a journey of faith, as they discover what it means to be a Christian and to be a member of the Presbyterian Church.

For those young people who have been baptized, the culmination of this process will be during a worship service this spring, in which they **confirm** the vows made on their behalf at their baptism. For those young people who have *not* been baptized, the culmination of this process will be **baptism**, making those same vows on their own behalf. Whether the end result is baptism or confirmation, the vows and results are the same: they are claiming their faith for themselves, promising to try to be like Jesus, taking on the responsibilities and privileges of church membership.

Once confirmed (or baptized), these young people are full members of the church. They have voice and vote during congregational meetings, they are eligible to be elected as officers of the church. But what they are moving towards is *much more important* than these polity issues about "how" we are the church together. Session wants these kids to understand that it is one of *the most important decisions they will make in their life*. Because of the importance of this decision, Session wanted the kids to *commit to participate fully* in a process for making this decision.

What these young people were deciding at the beach was whether they felt ready to make the commitment to the *process* of understanding and owning their faith for themselves. Mentors, who will be in addition to the able teaching leadership of Susie Kruger, will be chosen to accompany each young person on this year's journey of faith.

Throughout the course of this year, please keep these young people, their parents, teachers, and mentors in your prayers. When the young folks have returned from the beach and made their decision to commit to this year-long process, we will let you know who they are.

