

OCTOBER 2006

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Remember those Summer hours that used to change at Round-up? That is not going to happen this year. Because church school will now be *after* Worship (and fellowship time) it has been decided that it will best suit us if we continue our Summer schedule into the Fall and beyond.

9:45-10:00	Hymn Sing
10:00-11:15	Worship
11:15-11:30	Fellowship
11:30	Church School

Church Directory

A new church directory is in the works and will be published soon. A preview listing of names, addresses, e-mail and phone numbers will be placed on the bulletin board in the fellowship room so that you can look at your listing and make any corrections necessary. If you have an e-mail address in the directory, you will also get the listing by e-mail. Please be sure that your information is correct before the directory is printed. Call Kathy Scott if you have questions or concerns about your listing. Thank You!



As followers of Christ, ordinary rank and file members of the church have as much responsibility as the pastor to study scripture, pray for each other, and engage in works of compassion.

Like the ushers at a concert, we can imagine Jesus saying, “Walk this way, please.” And then we’re supposed to try.

PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

There are few things that excite me more than the prospect of working myself out of a job. Now hold on! You may be thinking. Doesn’t the pastor like us? Doesn’t she like her job?

This has nothing to do with *me*. My excitement is theological. As Presbyterians, we hold with the notion of “the priesthood of all believers.” It only makes sense that, as a congregation matures in its faith, the pastor becomes less and less “necessary” to the function of the congregation’s ministry. Literally, my goal is to work myself out of a job—insofar as my job is to be “the professional Christian” in your midst.

The Pastor Was Never Intended as a Substitute

There are no stand-in Christians. A pastor can never substitute for your faith, no matter how pious that pastor. As **followers of Christ**, ordinary rank and file members of the church have as much responsibility as the pastor to study scripture, pray for each other, and engage in works of compassion.

The mere fact that I’ve spent lo-these-many-years as a Bible geek only means I’ve got a head start on you. The old Scots Presbyterians used to call my job “teaching elder,” reflecting the essential geek-ness of the role of pastor. But a “teaching” elder implies **the rest of the congregation is actively engaged in learning**. Christians are supposed to be **disciples of Christ**—“followers” not “believers.” Being a Christian is not a head trip. To be “faithful” as a follower of Christ is not to “think” about him. “Faithful” is more like a whole-body experience. Like the ushers at a concert, we can imagine Jesus saying, “Walk this way, please.” And then we’re supposed to try.

All Hands and Feet

Maybe Christians individually, and the Church as a whole, can be thought of as the Capable Wife found in Proverbs 31:10-31. Maybe Christians are like the woman—the hands and manual labor of the household, the one who puts “practical” and “concrete” into family life.

At Round Up this year, as we explored the “what” and “how” of worship together, we learned that there is a movement to our worship. That movement is based on two scripture passages: “come unto me” and “go out into the world.” When Springwater called me, you told me you wanted me to do two things: preach and visit. I love doing those things, and no one intends that I work myself out of those parts of the job.

It's time your excitement about this congregation began to infect others.



September 30
Volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank

October 14 - 10-12 am
Non-violent disputes resolution, Presented by Karin Ryan

October 21 at 3 pm
"Tears at Delphi" by David Tufenkian. Come watch a video of the play & take part in the discussion with the author

October 24 - 7-8 pm
How is peacemaking in the nation affected by cultural bias? Presented by Cindy Babikoff

More to being the church than what the pastor does

I celebrate the ways we're growing in our ministry together. I celebrate that we are keeping the promises we make to each other. That new teachers are coming forward to teach Christian Education classes. That a book group is forming. That many folks are committed to the stewardship of our beautiful grounds and making them available to people in the community. The ways elders incorporate worship into all work activities.

It's time to check out what all the buzz is about. It's time your excitement about this congregation began to infect others. See you in church.

Peacemaking month activities

On September 30, Springwater worked at the **Oregon Food Bank**, providing support services to help feed hungry people. This quarterly activity is a multi-generation effort, a good work, and loads of fun. Not to mention—*tons of beans!*

Our own Karin Ryan, an elementary school counselor in the Estacada School District, has developed a program on **non-violent disputes resolution** which she has taught young people. It isn't only little kids who could benefit from learning a few new techniques for resolving conflicts without fighting about it. **Come on Oct 14 from 10-12 am.** Light refreshments will be provided.

David Tufenkian (the erstwhile David Francis, former pastor at Springwater) will show a video of the play he wrote for his doctoral work, *Tears at Delphi*. This powerful play explores David's faith journey in the context of the genocide that occurred in Armenia at the turn of the last century. An ethnic Armenian, David will have just returned from a **peacemaking trip to Armenia**. Join us at the church at 3:00 on **October 21** for a viewing, followed by discussion led by David.

Our own Cindy Babikoff has been taking graduate courses in education at George Fox University in Tigard, as she works toward teacher certification. As part of our "peacemaking in the nation" emphasis, Cindy will share with us some of what she has been learning about **cultural bias**. We all see things from our own point of view, she has learned, and the tools she has gained through her graduate studies will help us gain more respect for people outside our sphere of familiarity.

Cindy will talk with us on Oct 24 from 7 - 8 pm *There will be dessert afterward.*

September Session Meeting Highlights



Session Meeting

Session Training – Session Members were asked to reflect on and share their thoughts on the “Three-Legged Stool” understanding that the life of the church is one, and that it’s worship, witness and service are inseparable.

Brochures for an upcoming Leadership Training Workshop for Congregational Care Team Ministry were distributed. The workshop is on October 20th 2006. Please contact Rick Parfrey or Lucy Olson for information and brochures. There is information online at: <http://www.cascadespresbytery.org/WhoCares.html>

We celebrated the success of Fall Roundup with special thanks going to Joy Alford. A successful Roundup requires a significant amount of organization and preparation. It was decided to form a committee to organize next year’s event along the lines of the one formed for Vacation Church School.

It was decided to *cancel the October 1st in-house potlucks* as we have no one to organize this event. Anyone interested in organizing such an event in the future please contact a session member.

Sunday September 17th saw the re-starting of Sunday School at SPC with classes for children, youth and adults following Sunday Worship. This is an exciting offering and we hope that you and your family will join us.

Session has decided to keep the start time for Sunday Worship at 10:00am with a hymn sing 15 minutes before, starting at 9:45am.

The once per month Friday evening worship has been suspended pending deliberation by the Worship Committee

SPC is sending a contingent to help out at the Oregon Food Bank on Saturday September 30th. Anyone interested in joining us please contact Jim Roden.

Sacred Garden/Labyrinth Update

Thank you to all the people who weeded, weed whacked, and planted September 23rd in the gardens. They are looking good!

Now that the weeds are gone, we are going to have barkdust blown onto the beds where it is needed. Then in October or November we plan to have another work day where we will finish planting the beds and the labyrinth. We will set the date soon and we hope you can come!





Taizé Events

Tuesday, Oct. 10th

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Room 228

Smith Center, PSU

Taizé workshop

3-4:30 pm

Taizé Worship

7:30 pm

Taizé Worship

Reedwood Friends

Church

2901 SE Steele St.

Portland

Talk Back or Back Talk?

The sermon time during the Round Up worship service was just a taste of good things to come following worship each week. Spend a little time in fellowship, then join us in the sanctuary for an informal time together talking over what happened during worship. The pastor will provide a few starter questions and some modest steering. Meanwhile, you may find yourself tantalized by these thoughts during the sermon:

What did you mean by —? But I always thought that really meant something else. What gets in my way of believing that is —. Maybe there's another way of looking at that.

Use the back of your announcements sheet each week to jot your questions, concerns, insights, and then join us with your cup of coffee or tea to dig deeper.

Taizé Event

On Tuesday, October 10th, Brother John from the Taizé Community in France will be in Portland for two very special events. From 1:00 – 2:30 pm he will give a Taizé workshop, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm he will lead a Taizé prayer service. The location is Room 228 at the Smith Center Room at Portland State University. At 7:30 pm that same day, Brother John will lead in a Taizé worship service at Reedwood Friends Church, 2901 SE Steele St, Portland.

If you have questions about either event, contact Carol Joy; brendca@yahoo.com or call the Reedwood Friends at 503/234-5017.

Stewardship Cluster Creates Furnace Fund

Thanks to the generous members of our congregation, the church painting project was fully funded with left over money . We are truly blessed with caring folks who know how to get things done. Our church looks beautiful, and will be safe from the weather. Thank you all.

With the completion of the painting project, Session has authorized the stewardship cluster to create a new fund for the eventual replacement of the oil furnace. As many of you know, the furnace has continued to work long past its expected lifetime. The stewardship cluster is carefully considering all options so we will have a plan in place before the inevitable happens and the furnace is no longer viable.

Some things under consideration include weatherization of the building, fuel costs, and environmental impacts of different types of fuel. Meanwhile, we are requesting donations for a “furnace fund” to be used towards a new furnace and weatherizing activities that will improve the overall heating efficiency of the building. Questions or comments?

Contact Renaté Jeppeson 503-637-6855.

Walter Brueggemann

October 13 at
7:30pm
Trinity Episcopal
Cathedral

October 14
9:00 am to 3:00pm

He will continue the
conversation in three
talks:

“A Palpable Violence,”
“Beauty Grieved and
Hope,”
“The Recovery of
Imagination.”

Starting
November 5th

Nonviolent Communication

The class will be lead
by Gwen Shearer and
will meet
Sunday evenings at
7pm for 1 1/2 hour

A Remembered Beauty: The Center for Spiritual Development Presents Walter Brueggemann

Walter Brueggemann, well-known dynamic speaker and author of numerous books on the prophetic tradition in the Old Testament, will give a **Friday lecture October 13 at 7:30pm at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral** on Biblical traditions that ponder God’s gift of beauty, and how violence arises when beauty is not seen as a dimension of God’s presence in the world. After the lecture, Dr Brueggemann will meet from 9:00 to 10:00 with attendees to continue the conversation and for coffee, tea, desserts, and book signing.

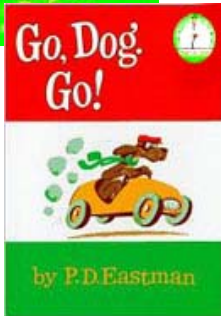
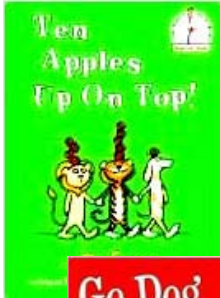
On **Saturday, October 14, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, he will continue the conversation in three talks: “A Palpable Violence,” “Beauty Grieved and Hope,” and “The Recovery of Imagination.”** This event takes place in Kempton Hall at the Cathedral and includes lunch.

Trinity Cathedral is located at 147 NW 19th Avenue, Portland. Cost for the lecture \$15 general, \$5 students; workshop is \$50 general, \$15 students. Tickets: 503/478-1218. For more information, visit 222.center-for-spiritual-development.org.

Compassionate Communication Class

In November we will be offering an adult class on Compassionate Communication, also known as Nonviolent Communication, developed by Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D. The class will be lead by Gwen Shearer and will meet on Sunday evenings at 7pm for an hour and a half, starting November 5th. Marshall Rosenberg developed this method of communicating because he was interested in two questions. One is what happens to disconnect us from our compassionate nature, leading us to behave violently and exploitatively? And the other being the flip side; what allows some people to stay connected to their compassionate nature under even the most trying circumstances? In studying these questions he found that the role of language and our use of words as crucial. He identified a specific approach to speaking and listening that leads us to give from the heart and allows our natural compassion to flourish. There are four components to the process: 1. Observation, 2. Feeling, 3. Needs, and 4. Request. We will discuss and practice each of these four components in the class. If you are interested in the class and in developing your compassionate nature, please sign up for the class on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall to help determine how much space we will need and where we will meet. Child care will be provided.

Mission Notes



Peacemaking: Our peacemaking focus this year is resolution of conflict—making peace in the home, community and with the world. If you are developing your own study program, or have on-going concerns, you may wish to visit the following websites:

Treatment of detainees, Geneva Convention: no2torture.org

Caring for Creation: nccecojustice.org/bdatabase/

Global Water Challenge: pcusa.org/preacemaking/un/index

Holy Land Peacemaking: pcusa.org/peacemaking/tripreport.htm

Tajikistan: As we learned in last month's newsletter, our summer shipment of craft supplies was well-received in Dushanbe, and Jonna Reeder was able to distribute what we sent to several program sites.

Jonna's "wish list" for the fall box of supplies:

- ***Top priority:** 2-prong brass fasteners for cards with movable parts
- *Colored chalk
- *English language curriculum, including flash cards for letters & words
- *Children's books like Dr. Seuss' Ten Apples Up on Top; Go, Dog, Go
- *Large markers, Elmer's glue, construction paper are welcome

Jonna's program is changing focus, and working more through the schools, than in direct services to the public at large. She is now looking for small articles of clothing that can be distributed through the school system.

***Top priority:** Warm winter socks and caps, for ages 3 to 17 years (We have already received a donation of 12 beautiful caps, but we'll need more.)

*Also, warm, light-weight winter clothing, especially acrylic sweaters, is needed. "Very gently worn" clothing is okay, but stained or misshapen articles cannot be used. The clothing distribution program to the general public will end in December, as there is no longer need. However, Jonna's program maintains connections with 2 large orphanages, and distributes clothing in those facilities.

During Peacemaking month, our younger children will be studying about the children of Tajikistan, and joining in our interpretation efforts. Donations for the "Fall Box" will be received throughout October.

Jonna sends her thanks and best wishes to all the people of Springwater.

When peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice.
(James 3:18)

Susan Horton

Lectionary readings

October 1

(World Communion Sunday), the Reverend Ann Richards, HR, guest preacher: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 1; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

October 8

(When there is **peace in the home**. . .): Mark 10:2-16, Psalm 24; Romans 14:13-23

October 15

(. . .there will be **peace in the community**. . .): Mark 10:17-31; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16

October 22

(When there is peace in the community, there will be **peace in the nation**. . .): Mark 10:35-45; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10)

October 29

(When there is peace in the nation, there will be **peace on earth**): Genesis 1:26-31; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22; Mark 10:46-52

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Forward & Address Correction