

September 2006

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Fall Roundup
September 10th



September

1	Tiffany BITTMAN
5	Phil ARMSTRONG
8	Travis BABIKOFF
14	Janice ARMSTRONG
16	Mayanne CLATT
19	Eunike GUTTRIDGE
19	Robert POORE
19	Samantha STURMAN
24	Erin RODEN
24	Morgan DRISKELL
26	Philip RIGBY
30	Joe GUTTRIDGE



September

8	Kathleen & Vernon SOUDERS
16	Jennie Lou & Bob POORE
24	Wilma & Joe GUTTRIDGE

Fall Outdoor Work Parties: Sept. 9th and 23rd

Mark your calendars now! The Building and Grounds committee is sponsoring **two** outdoor work parties in September. Come to one or both, but please come! We will be revitalizing the appearance of our beautiful outdoor worship areas. Stewardship of our sacred space is an important part of our mission. Many, many weeds will be removed, paths will be repaired, and the labyrinth will be cleaned up. We'll begin around 8:30 and end with a potluck lunch around noon. See you there!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Join in the fun
during worship
outdoors
and a chuck
wagon feast

There is nothing like the energy around getting things accomplished. Session has been knocking my socks off lately with their "roll up the sleeves" attitude toward providing activities to nurture the faith of the congregation, to reach out in ministry to the community, to explore ways to be peace-makers. The work of the Mission Study Committee last year has really been bearing fruit in helping Session focus on what kind of activities. This newsletter will unveil our fall plans.

And then there's the Round Up. . .

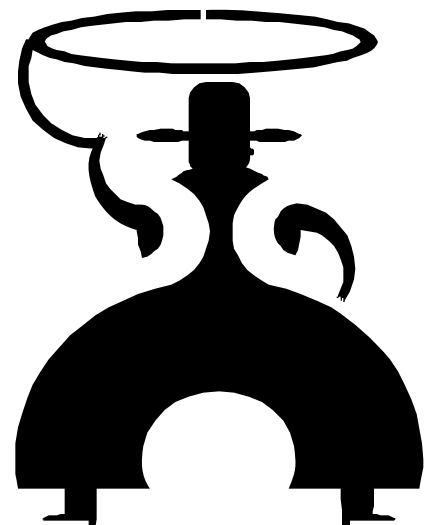
Round Up What?

My childhood passions have carried over to my adult life. You may have heard that, as a 4-year-old, I wanted to be a Snow White/ Cowgirl/ Nurse when I grew up—all of those things combined. At one point, I was willing to give all my baby teeth for red cowgirl boots, and now—here I am, living out that dream.

Maybe that explains the Round Up. When we started the Round Up tradition our first year in Springwater, I had a suspicion people thought I was a sentimental Midwesterner. Round Ups? We're not *cattle ranchers* in Springwater, we grow trees and fruit and keep our cattle in fenced pastures.

But what I notice about summers at Springwater is that people go away. Trips. Vacations. The fair. Reunions. In the summer, a Sunday-morning decision about whether or not to go to church easily slides into "let's do something *fun*." Why not make Round Up Sunday the day you give up that "decision" and just resolve to go to church. Week after week.

SPRINGWATER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FALL ROUNDUP!

Besides, the bottom line is, the Round up at Springwater isn't about cattle. It's about getting back in the groove, finding out what's going on. There's a lot of Biblical imagery about the People of God as a flock (remember Jesus as the Good Shepherd?), so there is good theology about getting all of us back together again. Think of the Round Up as a church "family reunion." Besides—it's a tradition.

But let's not leave the Round Up as being about "all of us." Every Sunday morning Ralph puts on his cowboy hat (I'm asking him to stop the yodeling, but I can't make any promises) and urges people to "invite your friends" to the Round Up. I've had people tell me that "all my friends have their own churches." Well then, invite your *acquaintances*. Invite your neighbors. Invite people you "know" but aren't aware of



Bring in the
doagies
from the
summer range!

Look enthusiastic, hospitable, and like you are convinced that you know a good thing when you see it.

whether or not they have church affiliation.

You won't look foolish. You will look enthusiastic, hospitable, and like you are convinced that you know a good thing when you see it.

The food will be good. The worship service will unpack all those "secret words" we keep using. The children's Sunday School time will give them a taste of what's to come. And we'll be entertained by a clown. What could be more fun? More people. Do your part to spread the invitation.

See you in church.

TABLE BLESSING

Here is a table blessing you may consider using at your house. It is from the Abbey of New Clairvaux, Vina, California.

Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven, and grant that we who are filled with good things from your open hand may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor.

BLESSING THE ANIMALS

From your pastor: Because we will be combining a Blessing of the Animals this year with our annual Harvest Sunday, which we piggy-back with the annual Springwater Grange Fair, I wanted to give a theological rationale, so you could understand why the Worship Committee asks Session to approve such a service. And then I got the newsletter from my mentor's church. The article written by Pastor Kirk Morledge says it better than I could.

This is for you if you'd like to try something new. (And something old, as well!) A "Blessing of the Animals" is an historic, time-honored service in Christian faith and tradition. It acknowledges something the great hymn reminds us of: "All things bright and beautiful, all things great and small, all things wise and wonderful—the Lord God loves them all."

A "Blessing of the Animals" is a Christian service of worship that acknowledges our belief that a loving Creator has fashioned not just human beings, but also the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and the creatures of the forests and fields. It recognizes the scriptural affirmation that animals have a place in God's created order, that they are part of His perfect plan, and that WE are called to be stewards and caretakers of living creatures besides ourselves. It affirms a belief that animals will have a place in God's Kingdom. Indeed, we read in Isaiah 11, "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."



A "Blessing of the Animals" is an historic, time-honored service in Christian faith and tradition.

The scripture tells us that if something matters to us then it matters to our Heavenly Father, who holds the whole world and all the creatures of the earth in His loving hands

When there is peace in the home there will be peace in the community, when there is peace in the community there will be peace in the state, when there is peace in the state there will be peace in the world

A "Blessing of the Animals" is a service still conducted today in various Christian traditions. It gives the Church an opportunity to honor what children and adults have been doing in their own spiritual lives from time immemorial: praying for their animals, for their pets, for their farm animals—for the animals that have helped them harvest their crops and put food on their tables. People of faith have named their animals, loved them, cared for them, tended to them when they are ill. A "Blessing of the Animals" allows the Church to recognize that the kind of unconditional love some people have received from their animals has rivaled the treatment they have received in some cases from their fellow humans.

C.S. Lewis once said that just as God's love for us lifts us into the Godhead, so our love for animals and our care for them lifts these other creatures heavenward also. . . . Every pastor has been asked, often by an embarrassed parishioner, if it is okay to pray for a dog or a cat, or some other beloved animal that may be sick. Not only is it okay, the scripture tells us that if something matters to us then it matters to our Heavenly Father, who holds the whole world and all the creatures of the earth in His loving hands.

Our thanks to First Presbyterian Church of Waunakee, Wisconsin for permission to reprint this.

OCTOBER IS PEACEMAKING MONTH

As the Faith Nurture discernment group met over the summer months, praying and dreaming together, last year's peacemaking Sunday events stood out. What we loved was that it was inter-generational, that it involved fun and differing kinds of learning, and it wasn't all just "head learning." The month-long Holy Learning series continued that integrated style of learning. We wanted to do more of the same, but the volunteer commitment to develop that kind of program is pretty intense.

When the Christian Education and Worship components of the Faith Nurture cluster put their heads together, Peacemaking needed to be more than one Sunday. It needed to be a whole month. Making use of a Scottish proverb, the peacemaking emphasis will start with the smaller and move to the larger. The proverb is, "When there is peace in the home there will be peace in the community, when there is peace in the community there will be peace in the state, when there is peace in the state there will be peace in the world."

We begin with a return engagement on September 30 at the Oregon Food Bank. This is an inter-generational event and has been gaining in popularity. Jim Roden is putting the crew together, so put in your reservations early to make sure



Meet Paul Petasny from Mendoza, Argentina. He will be part of our family this year while he studies in Estacada and lives with Randy & Mary Johnson

there is a slot for you and the grandkids.

The Reverend Ann Richards will preach on World Communion Sunday, October 1, getting our month off on the right foot by discussing some of her peacemaking activities around the country. This will be followed by in-home potluck lunches. To alleviate any initial shyness about unaccustomed host and guest relationships, guided conversation starters will be provided.

Pastor Eileen will be back October 8 to begin the small-to-large movement of peacemaking. Besides Sunday morning activities, there will be mid-week peacemaking activities.

The week of October 8, we'll have Karin Ryan present the non-violent disputes resolution strategies she teaches in the Estacada Schools. The week of October 22 Cindy Babikoff will present the tools/exercises she has been learning about cultural bias during her graduate studies program at George Fox University. The week of October 29 we will focus on: making peace with the earth"—eco-justice issues.

WELCOME!

If it seems as if Randy and Mary Johnson have added an extra son to their family, they have! But only temporarily. Welcome Paul Petasny, native of Mendoza, Argentina, attending school as a senior at Estacada High School through the American Field Service (AFS).

Randy says that, after qualifying as a host family, they chose the student who would live with them for a year. They chose Paul, he said, because of his reasons for wanting to study in America: a life-long ambition to play ice hockey, and a desire to learn English. Paul's English is very good, but he knows it will need to be significantly better if he is to attend medical school in the States.

How good is Paul at hockey? He is on the Argentinean *national* roller hockey team and has traveled around the world playing, and Randy says Paul is making the transition from roller hockey to ice hockey with no problem.

At home in Argentina, Paul has an older brother, Gabe. His parents are Sergio and Gladys.

LECTIONARY READINGS

September 3 (Ending Pilgrimage): Song of Solomon 2:8-13; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9



September 10 (Round Up!): Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37; Psalm 125

September 17 (Harvest Sunday and Blessing the Animals): Colossians 1:15-23; Genesis 2:4b-9, 18-23; Psalm 8

September 24 (Eileen will be gone): Proverbs 31:10-31; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37; Psalm 1

October 1 (World Communion Sunday, Rev. Ann Richards preaching): Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50; Ps 124

News from Tajikistan

Our mission correspondent in Tajikistan reports that our box of craft supplies arrived intact and unopened last week. She was quick to distribute the contents to several teams, observing Here a small box can bless multiple people. We have asked Jonna to let us know when she needs specific items. She has given us a list of craft items she needs for the school year, plus apparel needed for winter.



Topping the list: *warm* winter socks in childrens sizes, plus some adult sizes for teen-ages. Also, needed is light weight warm winter clothing in all sizes that can be layered. (Sounds like that could include, but not be limited to, thermal underwear.) As the daytime temperatures drop from the 90s to the 80s, and we start to think of what we and our kids will need for cooler weather, please keep the children of Tajikistan in mind.

Work Days Coming!

September 9th and 23th

See page 9 for details



Presbyterian
Disaster
Assistance helps
around the
Globe:
Lebanon
Pakistan
Darfur, Sudan
Gulf Coast
Northeast
Upper Midwest

We are seeking
families who will
be hosts on
October 1st for
in-home potlucks

and

someone to put
together the
guest list

Mission Notes

Disaster Responses. For the past year, we have heard of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance providing aid all over the world. Here are some brief reports on current efforts:

Lebanon. In partnership with the Middle East Council of Church, PDA is distributing food and nonfood parcels to Lebanese civilians. A PC(USA) mission worker is being sent to the region to help with the planning process for setting up psychosocial support for affected civilians.

Pakistan. Now heavy seasonal rains are coming on in the earthquake-affected regions of Pakistan. PDA funds are being used to expand services to earthquake survivors to assist families now displaced by flooding.

Darfur, Sudan. While our attention has been directed to the Middle East, some commentators are warning that the situation in Darfur is worse than ever. Relief efforts, including food, medicine, and water, continue to be directed to internally-displaced people. One estimate is that one-quarter of a million civilians have died in the past 3 years because of the conflict and disruption in western Sudan.

Gulf Coast. Remember preparing the Hope-in-a-Box kits last fall? Nearly 20,000 health kits and back-to-school backpacks have been sent from the PDA warehouse in Arkansas to help kids in Louisiana and Mississippi get back to classes this fall.

Northeast. Volunteers are helping the people of upstate New York re-build their lives after this spring's devastating floods. Volunteers continue to work on the Gulf Coast, including Gautier, MS.

Upper Midwest. The effects of drought, and wind storms, upon farm and ranch families in the Dakotas are being addressed by One Great Hour of Sharing money.

Estacada Area Food Bank. There continues to be the need for food and hygiene items at the Food Bank. Remember, Harvest Sunday is the Sunday after the Springwater Fair, September 24th. Exhibitors at the fair often donate their prize-winning veggies and fruit to the Food Bank, and donations of your garden produce, even if you did not enter it in the fair, are particularly welcome that day.

Peacemaking. October is mission month, with special offerings by the Faith Nurture folks (formerly Christian Education and Worship). We are still seeking families who will volunteer their homes for Sunday afternoon, October 1st, for the in-home potlucks to inaugurate our observance, and someone to put together the guest lists of long-time and newer members. Please talk to *Susan*.

Before the General Assembly started, I received the following:

3 hard-cover books

more than 20 pamphlets from issue-driven groups within the church.

More than 100 letters from different congregations about specific issues

8 letters from individual people telling that they were praying for me.

1 postcard from Virginia telling me that I was being prayed for by a particular person and his name.

9 publications that came directly from the office of the General Assembly

4 letters touting the virtues of individuals running for moderator.

& much more!



General Assembly

Thanks to the Springwater session and Presbytery of the Cascades, I had the opportunity to become a G A Commissioner for the 217th General Assembly. GA was held in Birmingham, Alabama from June 15-22, 2006. Birmingham isn't exactly what I would think of as a vacation destination in the summer, but it turned out that it didn't matter anyway. Between daily assembly work and committee duties, we almost never had time to go outside.

A day in the life of a commissioner went something like this:
7:00AM - Breakfast - Go to a forum to hear a speaker, go to a café or stand in line at the latte bar.

8:00AM - Pack laptop & essential paperwork for the day. Also, study, read and meet for discussions if at all possible

8:30AM - Assembly Hall – Arrive for the first plenary session. Be early to get your computer set up, online and logged into the intranet that we used to conduct business. (Sometimes, that took all day!)

9:00AM – Begin work in Assembly Hall. A brief prayer and hymn got the meeting going. Every item or resolution needed to be addressed, discussed and voted on.

12 noon - Lunch and personal business - a quick bite in the buffet, a pre-made sandwich from a vending machine or find a quiet place to sit or maybe grab a quick nap.

1:00PM – Begin afternoon session. During the day we got 1 or 2 very quick breaks, sometimes just time to stand up and wiggle. Bathroom visits were on your own time.

5:30PM – Dinner time

7:00PM - Worship service – 3 denominations worshipped together – PC(USA), Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America held separate Assemblies concurrently but met and shared in worship.

8:00PM - Return to Assembly Hall for work session. In general, we worked about 2 hours in the evening although on the last couple of nights we worked later and on the final night, we worked until 12:30AM.

The only change from what I've described was that for 2 days we attended committee meetings. Each commissioner was assigned to a committee. We didn't get any choice and we weren't assigned according to any skills or knowledge we might have had. My committee addressed ecumenical and Interfaith relations. We discussed & made recommendations to the Assembly about how Presbyterians publicly address the

Read up on the issues that were discussed at the 217th General Assembly at

www.pcusa.org/ga217

You might find that there is some issue that grabs you and gets you involved in the larger issues of being Presbyterian.



beliefs and actions of others. (Jews, Muslims & other denominations) I had never understood before how important it is to Presbyterians around the world to have the support of PCUSA. Many groups of Presbyterians from around the world asked us for both faith and financial support. (We said yes) We also affirmed our common heritage with the Jewish faith and that we can work together for peace and the good of all people.

Why should you care about General Assembly? Because for 300 years in our country, Presbyterians have met regularly to consider their faith and to respond to the current and future concerns of society and of the world. General Assembly commissioners consider our stance on war, they make decisions about all sorts of moral and ethical issues, they decide how money is spent and after each GA, their decisions are studied, processed and prayed over because whatever General Assembly decides becomes the voice of Presbyterians in the USA to the whole world.

There were some issues that were very tense. I can't address them here, but I would encourage you to go to the PC(USA) website (<http://www.pcusa.org/ga217>) and read the reports, look at the resources and study the issues that concern Presbyterians in this fast paced and unruly world. You may be surprised by the depth and breadth of the issues and it will help you become more familiar with what it is Presbyterians are up to.

If you have questions about GA or my experience there, give me a call and I'd be glad to discuss it with you.

Thank you again for the opportunity to attend this astounding event. Kathy Scott

Sacred Garden Update

The two Saturday work days scheduled in September (explained elsewhere in the newsletter) are going to get the gardens in shape and looking good, but to steadily progress on the development of the gardens and keep up on the weeding, Steve Shibley and Gwen Shearer have committed to meeting each Monday morning at 7:30 am through December at the church for at least an hour of work. If you have the time, please join us. The more hands, the merrier!

Christian Education Offerings

For the Fall we have been talking about doing several exciting new things both on Sunday and during the week.

Sunday school would be held after worship and snack time. The children would be taught by Renaté and Mary Kirby, the youth would be lead by Peter Sturman, and the adults would have a Sermon Talk Back time lead by Eileen.

Adults will have additional group opportunities during the week that will vary through the year. Current ideas are for an emphasis on Peacemaking during October, including classes in Dispute Resolution, Cultural Bias, and Eco-Justice.

In November Gwen Shearer will be offering a four week class on Compassionate Communication.

In December Eileen will be leading a weekly Spiritual Direction group.

After Christmas and before Lent, Nona Shearer will be teaching a weekly Bible Study class.

During Lent, Eileen will be leading another weekly Spiritual Direction group.

After Easter we are thinking about offering classes on Hospitality and Parenting.

Mostly, the people offering these classes will determine when during the week and where the classes will meet and will ask you to sign up for the class a few weeks before the class starts. We are also thinking about a monthly meeting of a Book Club where people will all read one book during the month and then get together to discuss it. Talk to Carol Sturman, if you are interested.

Springwater Presbyterian Church

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Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction