

# Springwater CURRENTS

September 2003  
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## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

### The problem with preaching

The problem with preaching is timing. There is the week after week thing about getting into a text to the point of “producing” something—a something that is understandable to other human beings. By Sunday. The cruelty of it all is that, no sooner does the preacher get into any given text, no sooner is the preacher’s consciousness raised, than—whoosh!—the sermon is delivered, over, and it’s on to the next text.

Not that I’m complaining. I’m just letting you know about the heartbreak of preaching so you can appreciate the discipline. The preacher’s discipline is to just do the best one can (under the circumstances), and then trust that the Holy Spirit will develop in the listeners what needs developing.

Immediately before my week-long study leave to plan preaching for the coming year, I preached on David dancing before the ark of the Lord. Nervousness about dancing goes all the way back to high school for me, when we were admonished by our youth group leader that nice Baptist kids don’t go to dances. But here I was preaching about dancing. Not that kind of dancing, I said. Holy dancing. As I lived with the text all week, I just knew that the people of God were called to dance. But what kind of dance?

### Abandon Yourself

The Psalm of the Week the next week was Psalm 18. I’ve been reading my weekly psalm in a book called Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill. In that translation, Psalm 18 starts out, “I abandon

myself to You, O Living Presence.” Yep. That’s what I meant about dancing. Abandon yourself.

In the Shalom library in Mount Angel, I found a book by Joyce Rupp called, *Cosmic Dance*. In this beautifully illustrated book of poems and prose, Rupp describes the cosmic dance as “bonding with the divine.” Oneness with creation, with God, with other humans. Interwoven-ness. Connected and responsible with others. Part of creation. Compassionate with the beautiful and vulnerable in creation, as well as with the hostile and violent. The very dance to which God calls us.

### I can’t keep a beat

I still get so uptight about dancing. I don’t know the steps, I have no sense of rhythm, and I try to steer my partner. That’s not the kind of dance to which God calls us. Remember the opening words of Psalm 18? Abandon yourself. Even with God, it is so hard for we humans to abandon ourselves.

We feel vulnerable. We’re afraid we aren’t loved. We think we look foolish. Merrill’s paraphrase of Psalm 18 becomes a prayer as the psalmist rehearses God’s salvation. “O Compassionate One . . . You drew me out of many waters. You delivered me from the fears that bound me, and from ignorance that blinded me; for they threatened to overcome me, to separate me from You. . . . You see the intentions of my heart; As I surrender to your love, I grow in peace and gratitude.”

Friends, it is fear that enslaves us, and it is to release us from fear that our Savior invites us to dance. It is not “doubt” which is the opposite of faith. It is fear. Throughout the Bible, the one thing always in tension with faith is fear. People

meet up with angels and messengers of God, and the first words they hear are, "Do not fear." That's because fear is the one thing that can keep us from faith. Don't worry about doubt. A wise spiritual writer said, "doubt is the shadow cast by faith." So don't be afraid of your doubt. Be afraid of your fear.

My prayer for you, as it is for myself, is that you are released from your fear. Abandon yourself to the One who continually invites us to dance. The Savior who loves us, even in our fearful state, whether or not we can "keep a beat." Receive and accept the call to the dance which is Life.

See you in church.



## Fall Happenings – Christian Education

It hardly seems possible that the summer is over! We kicked off our summer with Vacation Church School and were excited to experience one of the best weeks yet! Now, with a whole summer between that event and now, we are really looking forward to getting back to our regular Sunday School classes.

Christian education for the youth will get started on September 7th with the fall round-up. There have been some changes this year in teaching staff but we will again have three different classes divided by age groups.

Our youngest Sunday school class will be taught by Dana Shibley and Renate Ryan-Jeppeson and will consist of preschool-kindergartners. They will continue to learn about the Bible and Jesus through Godly Play. Our youngest Sunday school class will be taught by Dana Shibley and Renate Ryan-Jeppeson and will consist of preschool-kindergartners. They will continue to learn about the Bible and Jesus through Godly Play.

Colleen Roden and Charlotte Rice will teach the 1st-4th graders and will use the We Believe curriculum put out by the Presbytery. We were able to see samples of the curriculum before we ordered it and are very excited about it!

The youth aged class will have a somewhat different format than the other two classes. We are planning on having regular Sunday school lessons two-three Sundays a month with two Sundays dedicated to youth group activities. Gilbert Shibley will teach the lessons while Steve Shibley and Jim Roden will be leading youth group activities which may include music, mission and discussion. Added to that, there will be an opportunity for youth aged 7th grade-high school to take confirmation classes presented by Susie Kruger.

Kathleen Souders will again offer musical expression to our younger two groups of children on the last Sunday of the month-yea Kathleen!

We are again asking for volunteers to help assist in the youth aged Sunday School classes. This is a requirement of our Church's Sexual Misconduct Policy which is in place every time adults are involved in activities with our children. This is not really an issue of trust, it is an issue of safety. So please consider volunteering in our Sunday School classes. Our wonderful teachers would appreciate it, our beautiful children might teach you something and its a perfect place for a God Sighting!

Adult Christian Education will begin on September 14th. Please talk to Cindy Babikoff if you have any questions or ideas about the upcoming year. Also, if you have a burning desire to teach something, this is the place to do it!

As you can see, we have a full and busy year to look forward to and can hardly wait for it to get started! See you in (Sunday) School!

**Fall Round-up  
September 7th**



## Give & Take

### FALL YOUTH GROUP GETS ACTIVE !

Mark your calendars NOW. "Youth Group" related activities will be happening EVERY SUNDAY ! For the fall, every first Sunday of the month the Youth Group is encouraged to take part with their families in a FAMILY SWIM from 2-4pm at the Sandy Pool. Cost is \$5.00 per family. See you all there !!!

The second Sunday of the month YOUTH GROUP happens in the morning from 9:30-10:15am for a time of donuts, study, prayer, laughter, and song.

The third Sunday of the month YOUTH GROUP will either go adventuring or take part in a service project.

**Sept. 21st:** we will go to Vancouver Lake for sailing, canoeing, swimming, and eating.

**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!

### The forth or fifth Sunday of the month the Youth Proposed Work Party Schedule 2003

**Sept. 26th -- 29th** (Fri.--Mon.)

Amphitheatre Irrigation, soil prep, and sod Installation. Labor Needed: 4-8

**Oct. 17th -- 20th** (Fri.--Mon.)

Utilities/Drainage and Gravel Parking, Path, and Labyrinth Construction. Labor Needed: 6-12

You can sign up in the fellowship room or call Steve Shibley for details.

### 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. 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. Group is encouraged to take part in the Church music program with Kathleen Souders. Please contact Steve or Jim with your enthusiasm.

## The Outdoor Worship Space Takes Shape !!

160 volunteer hours have been spent by the following people: Wilma, Joe, and Gary Guttridge, Jim and Colleen Roden, Gilbert, Barbara, and Steve Shibley, Lloyd and Lucy Olson, Sam Fisher, Justin Anderson, and Wiley Howell.

For those of you who didn't get in on this phase, don't worry, there will be more opportunities to help this fall and we need all of you!



### September Birthdays

Tiffany Bittman	1
Travis Babikoff	8
Alexander Harding	10
Mayanne Clatt	16
Bob Poore	19
Eunike Guttridge	19
Erin Roden	24
Joe Guttridge	30

## USHER TRAINING

**Are you an usher? Do you want to be an usher?** If so, we are requesting you participate in an **usher training session**. We have worked up some new protocols to make each Sunday more consistent and we know you will want to help in this endeavor.

We will meet after Worship on **September 21**. It shouldn't take very long, but if you cannot be at that session please call Judy Coyne and schedule another time for personal instruction.

### Attention Gardeners and Those Without Gardens

Fall time is harvest time. Many of us have crops such as tomatoes, potatoes, zucchini, fruit, and other edibles. At the same time, many of our neighbors are going hungry. The food that you are growing can be a big help to a lot of folks.

The rest of us shop for groceries pretty regularly. The super markets, small stores and farmers' markets provide us with a broad array of food.

Summer is coming to an end, and so are many of the jobs in our area. This will mean that hunger among our neighbors will become even more acute.

You can help. The Estacada Family Resource Center welcomes food and personal supplies for its clients. We can share our bounty. Bring your food and supplies to church each time you come to worship. If it is more convenient for you, bring your food and supplies to the church each Tuesday before noon, and they will be put to good use.



## Reflections

My gratitude creates a positive momentum that uplifts me with joy.

### JOY

In the midst of criticizing or judging someone or something, I feel anything but joyful. Conversely, when I am spontaneously appreciative of life, I cannot help but experience joy. Gratitude is a ticket that buys me an experience of joy. The more grateful I am, the more my joy increases.

There is so much to be thankful for and so much that is going well that I do not want to miss a moment of it by feeling judgmental or critical of myself or others. I don't let anything block the flow of joy.

When I focus on what is going right instead of what seems wrong, I stir a reminder in others that they have a choice to do the same. A positive momentum builds that uplifts me and everyone around me in an attitude of pure joy.

“Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy.” Psalm 43:4

shared by *Debbie Tedrow*

## Session Synopsis

Session did not meet in the month of August.

It was decided to try meeting only in the months of Sept, October, January, February (retreat), April & June. This will be evaluated at a later date.

It was agreed to hold confirmation classes for our youth. Classes & activities will last for the school year. See other information on this elsewhere in the newsletter.

Next Session meeting will be held on Monday, September 8th at 5:30 pm.

**Fall Evangelism Retreat:**  
learning Along The Way

**Keynote Speaker Series**  
"Is Jesus the Only Savior?"  
Rev. Dr. James R. Edwards

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
October 9-11, 2003

Hosted by

Community Presbyterian Church  
Waldport, OR - Highway 34 & Bay Street  
(541 ) 563-2168 - presbygpacificonline.net  
sponsored by Presbytery of the Cascades

### A DIFFERENT DEFINITION OF SIN

In *The Sun and Moon Over Assisi*, Gerard Straub writes that "the essence of sin [is] saying no to God's perpetual invitation for us to partake fully in the reality of his love and to reach our full potential as human beings. When I sin, I settle for mediocrity, denying myself the chance to reach my full potential, which can only be realized by living in unity with God."

### Upcoming Presbytery Events

October 9-11  
Fall Evangelism Retreat  
Waldport

October 10-12  
**Middle School Mania**

October 17-18  
Lectionary Retreat  
Macleay Retreat Center

November 7-8  
Presbytery of the Cascades Meeting  
Rose City Park Church

### COMMITMENT

Most of us think we are pretty good at making commitments. It's keeping them that is hard. The kind of magazines you see at the grocery store checkstands always have some teaser headline on the cover with how-tos for getting others to make commitments. Other magazines say that we make so many commitments that we can't keep most of them.

Take a look at your own calendar. Is there more writing than blank paper? Do you feel overwhelmed by what you've said you would do?

In a recent article in *Christian Century*, Gilbert Meilaender writes about living into commitments. "The trick of life is not to figure out who I am and then decide what sorts of commitments such a person should make. The trick is to become the person who can carry out the commitments I've already made. Don't imagine that the point of life is to set goals. Think, instead, that its point is to be faithful to the commitments already built into your life. People who make goals central are people who think the most important things in life are consciously chosen. People who make faithfulness central are people who realize that, quite often, our obligations come to us in ways that are unexpected, unchosen, and even unwanted."

While Meilaender is writing to a foster son, what he says applies to Christian discipleship. He goes on to say that as we realize our obligations and commitments, "the task—and the gift—then, is to recognize the fact and learn to live up to its inner meaning."



## FLOSSING AND CHURCHGOING

This appeared in the August 23, 2003 issue of Christian Century. It seemed important enough to quote it in its entirety.

“When writer Anne Lamott defended her practice of making her 14-year-old son go to church even though he hates it, she was bombarded by critics who accused her of child abuse and brainwashing. Lamott’s response: We live in bewildering times and a little spiritual guidance never hurt anyone. Besides, teenagers left on their own would opt out of many important things that they don’t enjoy, like homework or flossing their teeth. ‘It’s good to do uncomfortable things. It’s weight training for life.’ Lamott knows God also loves teenagers who don’t go to church, but such teens are deprived of seeing people who love God back. ‘Learning to love back is the hardest part of being alive.’ She also makes her son go to the church’s youth group. Youth ‘want guides,’ she says who ‘know how to act like an adult but with a kid’s heart. They want people who will sit with them and talk about the big questions’ (salon.com, July 4).”



### It's Choir Time Again!!

Choir practice begins on September 4th at 7:00 pm.

This year Ruth Newman is starting a chime choir. You don't need to read music, carry a tune or have any background in music. Any one of any age can come and learn to make beautiful music.

Here's the plan:

7:00 - 7:30 pm - Chime ringer practice  
7:30 - 8:30 PM - Singing choir practice time

## LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

### September 7:

◆ Mark 7:31-37, Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23, Psalm 149. **ROUND UP TIME AT SPRINGWATER!**

### September 14:

◆ (communion Sunday): Proverbs 1:20-33, Mark 10:46-52, Psalm 19.

### IT'S NOT ABOUT GETTING IN LINE

### September 21:

◆ (Harvest Sunday): Prov. 31:10-31, Mark 8:1-1, Psalm 1. **RUBY DOESN'T FEED THEM ALL ON HER OWN.**

### September 28: Eileen will be on vacation.

The lectionary texts for this day are: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50, Psalm 124.

**TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.** The weekly Sunday psalm is listed this month. Try reading the next Sunday's psalm every day of the week, living into a deeper understanding as the week progresses.

A note on the lectionary texts this fall: Eileen will be preaching from texts which appear throughout the fall, but are not necessarily on the Sunday in which they appear in the Revised Common Lectionary. If you are following the Sunday readings from The Mission Yearbook, for instance, you may find the readings a little out of sync. Your pastor hopes this isn't confusing to you. One of the gifts from the Summer Conference this year, was to hear scripture texts read outside their predictable lectionary groupings. New understandings of familiar stories emerged as they were read with different texts.

## BACK TO OUR REGULAR HOURS

On Roundup Sunday, September 7, we will return to our regular hours for Church School and Worship.

- ◆ Church School - all ages 9:30 AM
- ◆ Worship 10:30 AM

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>September 2003</b>	<b>1</b> Labor Day	<b>2</b> Eileen's office hrs 4:30-6:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Choir 7 pm Office hours 10-12, 1-2 pm	<b>5</b>	Many Committee meetings have not been announced at this time. All meetings will be announced as soon as possible by each chair.
<b>7</b> Church School 9:30-10:15 Worship 10:30-11:45 Fellowship  Fall Round-up Picnic after worship. Fall programs begin	<b>8</b> Session meeting 5:30 pm	<b>9</b> Office hours 10-12, 1-2 pm Prayer 2 pm Eileen's office hrs 4:30-6:30 pm	<b>10</b> Women's Bible Study - TBA	<b>11</b> Worship meets 5:30 pm  Choir 7 pm	<b>12</b> Taize Service 7:30 pm	
<b>14</b> Sun. School 9:30-10:15 Worship 10:30-11:45 Fellowship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Office hours 10-12, 1-2 pm Prayer 2 pm Eileen's office hrs 4:30-6:30 pm	<b>17</b> Women's Bible Study - TBA	<b>18</b> Choir 7 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Sun. School 9:30-10:15 Worship 10:30-11:45 Fellowship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Office hours 10-12, 1-2 pm Prayer 2 pm Eileen's office hrs 4:30-6:30 pm	<b>24</b> Women's Bible Study - TBA	<b>25</b> Choir 7 pm	<b>26</b>	
<b>28</b> Sun. School 9:30-10:15 Worship 10:30-11:45 Fellowship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Office hours 10-12, 1-2 pm Prayer 2 pm Eileen's office hrs 4:30-6:30 pm	<b>28</b> Women's Bible Study - TBA	<b>29</b> Choir 7 pm	<b>30</b>	

## TEN DON'Ts FROM YOUR CHILD

From the Waunakee Connector, from a poster produced by H&L Enterprises.

**1. Don't spoil me.** I know quite well that I shouldn't get everything I ask for. I'm only testing you.

**2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me.** It makes me feel more secure.

**3. Don't let me form bad habits.** I have to rely on you to help me detect them in the early stages.

**4. Don't correct me in front of other people, if you can help it.** I'll often take more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.

**5. Don't protect me from consequences.** I need to learn the painful way sometimes.

**6. Don't nag.** If you do I'll have to protect myself by sometimes appearing to be deaf.

**7. Don't forget that sometimes I can't explain myself** as well as I would like.

**8. Don't be inconsistent.** That completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.

**9. Don't put me off when I ask questions.** If you do, you will find that I stop asking questions and seek my information elsewhere.

**10. Don't forget that I can't thrive** without a sure and firm understanding that **you love me.** "Love covers a multitude of sins."

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED