

Springwater CURRENTS

Springwater Presbyterian Church
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A Place of worship, nurture and service for God's people of all ages

October 2015

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October Birthdays

Lynda Conway	10/1
Bob Wilson	10/10
Jim Odell	10/16
Connie Ryan	10/27
Cortlan Souders	10/27
Jean McCloskey	10/28



Church Events in October

- October 4:** World Communion Sunday (celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship, dedicate the Peace and Global Witness offering)
- October 8:** joint session/deacons book discussion, 7:00 p.m.
- October 15:** session meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- October 18:** estate planning workshop, immediately following worship
- October 25:** celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship
- November 1:** celebrate and give thanks for our joint ministry with Pastor Eileen

Sunday Hours

No Sunday School

10:15 Hymn Sing

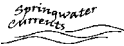
10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

October 26

Springwater Currents is published monthly by Springwater Presbyterian Church.
Send submissions, corrections and comments to enviromom@rconnects.com.



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The point of an orchard is not to make fruit to hide away and save. The point is to harvest and preserve and use the fruit.

Pastor's Perspective

When I first began working, I developed an inexplicable habit of keeping a file of aphorisms in my desk drawer. I don't know why, but when some pithy "words to live by" maxim or short quotation grabbed my attention, my impulse would be to keep it in a safe place. Maybe I wanted to refer back to it in the future, maybe I just didn't want to lose the insight.

Collecting words

Throughout my career, even when I worked on construction job sites, I conscientiously moved that pile of aphorisms from desk to desk. My workplace shifted between office and field, from private business to the State, but I always knew what would be in the right hand drawer of the desk. When I heard something that struck me, I'd jot it down and tuck it in the folder.

The resulting blizzard of paper scraps, edges of newsprint, and photocopy bits was only marginally corralled by the folder I diligently kept with me. Over the years that folder has bulged and frayed, the papers have yellowed.

My sources were varied—inspirational books, something a co-worker said, the Bible, trade journals, recreational reading, billboards, poetry. The things that appealed to me were just as varied—humorous, inspiring, comforting, encouraging, practical, proverbial. Sometimes the aphorisms read like Momilies (the sort of advice one's mother or grandmother dished out). Sometimes they read like Poor Richard's Almanac.

"Never promise more than you can deliver, but always deliver what you promise."

"Better a friend who is near than a brother far away."

"Anything worth doing is worth doing well."

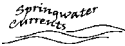
"God is not afraid of new things."

"We're not called to be successful; we're called to be faithful."

Harvesting words

The collection went to seminary and came with me to Oregon. But as a pastor, I didn't add much to the folder. I'm still drawn to aphorisms. I still collect them, but I'm not saving them.

The point of an orchard is not to make fruit to hide away and save. The point is to harvest and preserve and use the fruit. It's the same for me with aphorisms. As a pastor, I no longer "collect" them; I harvest them. I gather



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Maybe you'll begin your own folder of aphorisms. Maybe you will find that they inspire or comfort or encourage you.

Learn more about issues of conflict:

Bullying:

www.stopbullying.gov

Violence against women:

www.endviolence.un.org

World conflict:

www.visionofhumanity.org

Structural racism:

www.boysandmenofcolor.org

Human trafficking:

www.unodc.org

and use them up. Sometimes they become the Meditation Before Worship printed in the bulletin. Sometimes they get posted on the reader board in front of the church. Many times they are incorporated into sermons. But I find I can't afford to save them by hiding them away.

Using words

As I was coming to grips with the implication of retirement—that I have to stop being Springwater's pastor!—my spiritual director urged me to spend time in Jesus' Final Discourse in the gospel of John. That conversation with his disciples is filled with delicious aphorisms, just waiting to be harvested and used! In my last weeks as your preacher, I'll pick some of them to be in conversation with the Revised Common Lectionary texts. Maybe you'll begin your own folder of aphorisms. Maybe you will find that they inspire or comfort or encourage you. Maybe you will find them to be words for you to live by.

See you in church.

Eileen



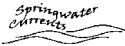
SPECIAL OFFERINGS PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

The Lasting Value in a Gift of Peace

During this Season of Peace, our thoughts turn to the meaning of peace and how, through Christ, we can nurture it inside ourselves and out in the world. Yet, to understand the value of peace, we must also understand the cost of conflict, and the many forms it can take.

- Conflict can be individual: 1 in 4 U.S. students reports being bullied at school.
- Conflict can be collective: Up to 70% of women experience violence in their lifetimes.
- Conflict can be domestic: 1 in 3 women has been the victim of violence at the hands of an intimate partner. 1 in 4 children has been physically abused.
- Conflict can be international: Conflict and political violence are on the rise in 48 countries.
- Conflict can be historical: Structural racism creates long-term deficits of opportunity.
- Conflict can be contemporary: Human trafficking and forced labor affect 3 of every 1,000 people in the world today.

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What Happens Next?

On September 27, a congregational meeting to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Pastor Eileen took place. In the letter to members announcing this meeting, we mentioned that in Presbyterian polity, the employment relationship between a pastor and a congregation is a three-way covenant which also includes the presbytery. Accordingly, the meeting was attended by Springwater's representative on the Committee on Ministry, the Reverend Katie Pate, of Milwaukie Presbyterian.

With Pastor Eileen's intention of retiring November 1, many people are wondering "What happens next?"

Not much happens until November 1. Pastor Eileen will remain as our pastor until that date, so things will pretty much look the way they've always looked until then. On November 1 itself, we plan to have a party to celebrate our nearly 16 years of ministry together. The presbytery has appointed the Rev. Beverly Crow as moderator of session. Session can't meet, make plans, and be the responsible leaders of the congregation without a moderator under our system of polity, so this is a fairly critical role.

Session will make sure that we have worship every Sunday. The current plan is to have someone preaching on a consistent basis at least until after Advent. At that point, session will have decided whether to hire an Interim Pastor or engage a Designated Pastor. While these titles reflect a different employment consideration under our polity, the end result for the congregation is the same: worship every Sunday, pastoral care for the congregation, continuity of pastoral leadership.

To help address these diverse challenges, the Peace & Global Witness Offering supports a range of ministries devoted to peacemaking and reconciliation. This includes bearing witness in communities of conflict around the world, hosting education programs to raise awareness, driving local peacemaking efforts, offering catalyst support to our mission co-workers, and much more.

Imagine what a gift it is to those who have been hurt, in both their spirit and their community, to find a lasting peace and resolve conflict in its many forms.

When you give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering your true gift is the peace of Christ, for all of God's children. With each gift, we can begin to create a world of peace—together.

Please give generously:
 Through your congregation
 Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10
presbyterianmission.org/give/peace-global

Session:

Kathleen Souders
 Tim Guttridge
 Tom Watson
 Al Conway
 Nona Shearer

The Peace and
 Global Witness
 special offering will
 be dedicated on
 October 4th, World
 Communion Sunday

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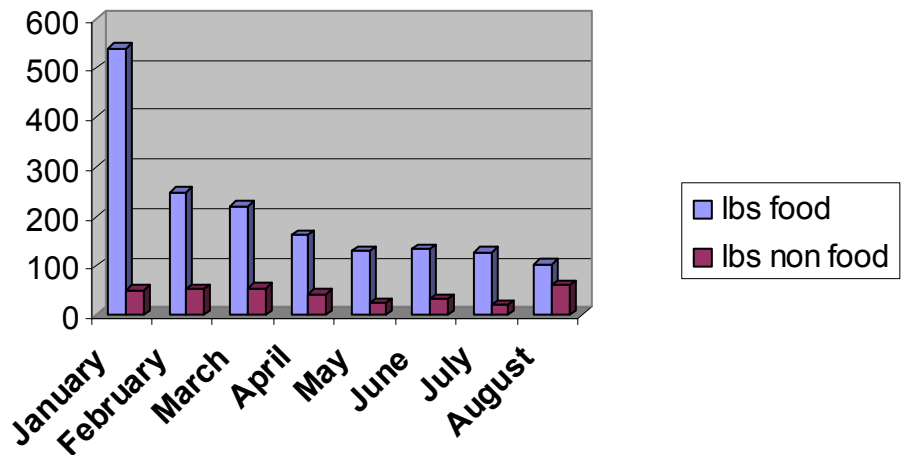
Support
the

Food Bank

Below is a graphical representation of Springwater's monthly donations of food and non food items to the Estacada Area Food Bank in 2015. As fall and cooler weather approach, please remember the food bank when you do your weekly shopping.

Lloyd Olson used to post a chart like this in the fellowship hall to remind us each week to bring our donations to the red tub. Try posting this page on your refrigerator, next to your shopping list, as a reminder.

Food Bank Donations

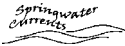


What's on your Schedule?

Ushers

Worship Leader:

October 4:	Neal & Renate Jeppeson	Mary Shearer
October 11:	Nike & Tim Guttridge	Neal Jeppeson
October 18:	Judy Coyne Gilbert Shibley	Carol Sturman
October 25:	Debbie Ingamells Mary Neigel	Mary Neigel



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Separation Ethics

Hoping to help the congregation understand why it is that Pastor Eileen will “disappear” when she retires on November 1, we are including the Separation Ethics policy of the Cascades Presbytery, which she has to sign as part of becoming “Honorably Retired.” This policy was adopted by the Presbytery in 1998 and revised in both 2011 and 2015.

What it boils down to is what Eileen said in her letter “If you run into me anyplace, we can greet and chat, but I cannot discuss the church or its ministries with you. I may no longer be your pastor, but I will always be your friend. Rick and I will continue to hold you in our prayers, as we have for these last 16 years.”

Ending a pastoral relationship can be a trying and traumatic experience for both the pastor and the members of the congregation and community which the pastor has served. In all cases it is imperative to provide space for the graceful work of the Holy Spirit during the interim times and new times. In this endeavor the departing pastor is responsible for observing appropriate ethical standards. A congregation must be free, in all respects, to develop new pastoral leadership, both during an interim period and then in a new permanent pastoral relationship.

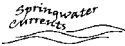
The Responsibility of the Departing Pastor

When a pastor accepts a call to a ministry at some distance from the congregation served, opportunities for contact with members of the former congregation are likely to be limited or nonexistent. Experience suggests that a teaching elder who ends a pastoral relationship with a congregation ought to move from the community in which he or she has served, but this is not always possible. When a pastor remains nearby, it is especially important that the wisdom of separation ethics be observed so that the new pastor and congregation will be able to form new pastoral relationships.

During the time between the announcement of the request for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship and the pastor’s departure from the particular church, the pastor is to make it clear (both by written communication and in personal conversations) that the pastoral relationship is to end on a particular date and that it is the responsibility of the presbytery and the officers of the particular church to guide that congregation’s life and work after the pastor leaves. The departing pastor is to make clear the following ethical standards required of departing and former pastors:

Broadly speaking, it is ethically inappropriate for the departing pastor to have any role or function or influence upon the life of the church after the date of the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Specifically,

- a. All pastoral and professional relationships and responsibilities with the congregation are to end as of the effective date of the dissolution.



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- b. The pastor, whether in a temporary or permanent called position, will not be involved in any way in the selection process of the subsequent pastor or pastors.
- c. The pastor, whether in a temporary or permanent called position, will not become engaged in conversations which may in any way offer opinions or criticisms about the life of the congregation or the performance of subsequent pastor or pastors.
- d. Any participation in the life or services of the congregation is ordinarily inappropriate. Any involvement may be only with the guidance and consent of the appropriate COM and at the request of the new pastor.

A pastor who has departed from a formal relationship with a particular congregation, whether that relationship was temporary or permanent, is to understand, affirm, and inform members that:

- a. Personal relations of friendship are to be affirmed and may continue, but are not to be confused with the pastoral relationship which has ended.
- b. Requests for pastoral ministries, such as calling, counseling, officiating at weddings or funerals or baptisms are inappropriate and will be refused as a matter of professional ethics, and
- c. Discussion of, or offering of, opinions about the particular church, its pastoral leadership, its officers, or its current health and ministries is unethical except as described in “d” below.
- d. A former pastor may discuss with his/her former congregation possible candidates for a pastoral ministry at that church, but is not to take the initiative in suggesting candidates for the position which s/he has vacated.
- e. It is wise for a pastor to encourage his/her family to practice the same separation ethics.

The Responsibility of the Newly called Pastor

Experience has shown that a newly called pastor may find that developing a relationship with a former pastor who is still in the area may enhance the ministry to the congregation. Having a conversation about the congregation may assist in the beginning of a new chapter of ministry. In time, the former pastor might be asked to assist in some pastoral duties; usually this would be after the new pastor’s first year of ministry to the congregation, in order for the new pastoral relationships to be formed.

Specifically, this works best when the former pastor and his or her family follow the guidelines of separation ethics until the new pastor feels it is time to contact the former pastor. The former pastor should relate to his or her former congregation only at the invitation and supervision of the new pastor, and with approval from the COMC.

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Lectionary Readings

October 4 (DOING LOVE, World Communion Sunday): Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; John 14:15-24; Psalm 26

October 11 (HOW TO ABIDE): Hebrews 4:12-16; John 15:1-11; Psalm 22:1-15

October 18 (WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?): Mark 10:35-45; John 15:12-17; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c)

October 25 (FOLLOWING AS A CONSEQUENCE): Mark 10:46-52; John 21:15-19; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22

November 1 (All Saints Day): Revelation 21:1-6a; John 16:4b-15; Psalm 24



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED