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Presbytery of the Cascades

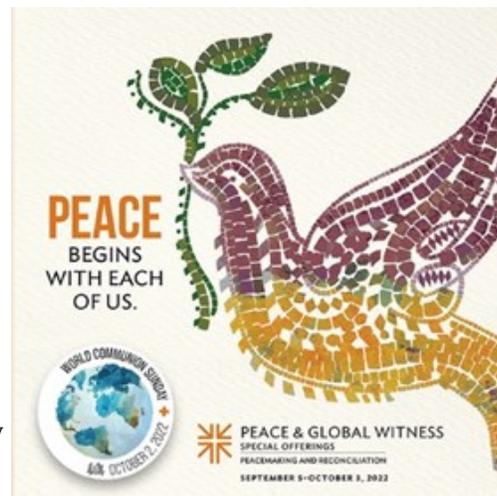
Confronting Hopelessness, Thwarting Division

The prophet Isaiah invites us to imagine God’s peace in unlikely places. God’s peace, empowered by God’s joy, reminds us that we are connected to each other. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us. Help us extend the peace of Christ by receiving the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Empowering congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves is one of the goals of the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday. However, your congregation is welcome to celebrate this Offering at any point in the year.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. For more information and access to resources to support the offering click [here](#).



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Call to Prayer!

As we go to press, we are witnessing our brothers and sisters in Florida dealing with catastrophic storms throughout the state. There’s some indication that Hurricane Ian will continue it’s devastation on up the east coast. Let’s keep all victims and first responders in prayer.





Omnibus

Omnibus is published twelve times a year by the Presbytery of the Cascades for distribution to churches and individuals.

Omnibus welcomes news and views of all the churches of Presbytery and all its readers. Send all communications to Kathleen Waugh, *Omnibus* editor, Presbytery of the Cascades, 245 S. Bancroft St., Suite D, Portland, Oregon. Email: kwaugh8@outlook.com

Omnibus retains permission to modify submissions for clarity and space limitations. The Presbytery "Communications and Technology Team" (CATT) is the editorial board.

(From the Editor: Unable to get a "Viewpoint's" column this month, I thought to share a lesson I learned a few years ago. It seems timely in that we Presbyterians call this time of year "the season of peace." It begins in September and closes on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of October. It is often the time that the Peacemaking Offering is received. I learned this lesson about peacemaking from two four-year-olds. Enjoy!)

Four-year-old Emily* and her friend Sarah* rushed into the lady's bathroom, quite intent on their goal — to wash their hands after obviously being involved in a rather exciting, but messy craft project during their preschool class. Emily pulled out the step stool located under the sink and Sarah proceeded to jump up on it before Emily could do so herself. Undaunted, she proceeded to jump up on the stool and attempt to push off her now arch-enemy. Sarah would have none of that! She pushed back. Yelling and tears quickly became part of the struggle — all this within moments of their arrival in the bathroom.

"OK," I said, as I peeked out the door to see if any other authority figure would come in and deal with this moment of discord. "All right, folks, off the stool, both of you," I said in my most formidable voice. Apparently, it worked. Quiet reigned once again. Now I had two young faces looking at me with suspicion, wondering if they really had to obey me. "Since neither one of you is willing to take turns here, you will wait until I'm finished and then you can both use the two sinks at the same time."

They were now friends again, pouting in unison, darting angry looks at this upstart woman trying to tell them what to do. I finished washing my hands, and turned to the two youngsters, trying mightily to think of some wise thing to say about sharing and helping and taking turns. They looked seriously at me. I looked seriously at them. No one spoke.

Suddenly Emily turned to Sarah and said, "I'm sorry for pushing you." Sarah's face lit up with a big grin, put her arm around Emily, and said, "That's all right. I should've waited for you to go first." Nonplussed that two four-year-olds could reach out to one another with such peace-making actions, I pulled out the stool under the second sink and gestured to them to go ahead and wash their hands. Both quickly jumped up and began the intricate process of soaping up, rinsing off and drying with the towels I handed them. The great conflict was forgotten, the mean lady was forgiven and all of us returned to the classroom where I quietly let the teacher know what happened.

Conflict is a part of life. We face it every day. I wonder if it is at all possible that we adults could remember the simple lessons of being able to say a quiet "I'm sorry," taking responsibility for our own role in conflicted situations and extending forgiveness. It's there in our scriptures—the formula for peace. As Jesus also noted, two little children witnessed how God's kingdom could be built.



Yours in Christ, Kathy

*names changed to protect the innocent

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NOTES FROM THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

*By Rev. Brian Heron,
Presbyter for Vision and Mission*

“The property of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), of its councils and entities, and of its congregations, is a tool for the accomplishment of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.” G-4.0201 Book of Order

Dear Cascades Faithful,

As I have been serving you over the last five years, I have noticed how much of our focus has shifted to the issue of property. I remember when I first took this position in November 2017. I said to myself, “Sometime in the next year or so I will need to help the presbytery adopt a strategy around property.” I didn’t have to wait long.

At that same meeting, the presbytery passed a motion to form a Vacant Property Task Force to develop strategies and policies for churches that were vacant or nearing closure. During my initial report to you less than one week into the job, I said something like, “Guess the honeymoon is over. Here we go!”

The presbytery is dealing with an increase in property issues. We currently have four vacant properties we are working with and two others where Administrative Commissions are in place to discuss future viability and options.

On top of that, one of the top concerns of many of our congregations seems focused on the up-keep and maintenance of property and how to take advantage of unused space. Some congregations are trying to balance their budget with lease and rental arrangements so that the ministry of the congregation can continue.

I write this article today just as a reminder that property issues often get framed as issues of up-keep, maintenance, and income-producing potential. **But in the church, property is not a maintenance issue; it is a mission issue!**

In the coming months and years, the presbytery will be talking a lot about property. And the only reason the presbytery will be talking about property is because our local congregations are also talking about it.

But let’s not get lost on property concerns. Let us remember that every property issue is actually a mission issue. As you address property issues remember to ask yourself these questions:

- Is our property being used to promote the mission of Jesus Christ?
- If we are leasing our buildings and property, are our lessees aligned with the mission of the church?
- If we are receiving funds from the leasing of property, do those funds go to support the mission of Jesus Christ?
- Would the repurposing of our property make more of an impact on the mission of Jesus Christ than keeping up its current function?
- Would the sale of our property or portions of it make a deeper impact on the mission of Jesus Christ than maintaining its current function?

Remember, Paul writes, “We look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.”

There’s going to be lots of talk about property in coming years. Let’s just remember that property is just the fancy word for mission.

Faithfully,
Brian

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“Cottage Village Tiny Home Project in Cottage Grove”

Savage Installs Susan Grewe as Pastor Emerita

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter.

Session may contact the Committee on Ministry and the Presbytery and ask that this be done. The Session at Savage did all of that -- and SusanExcitement was in the air Sunday, September 18, at **Savage Memorial, Portland**. Their retired pastor, the Rev. Susan Grewe, was installed as Pastor Emerita! Susan and husband Chris served together at Savage for many years. About eight years ago, Susan retired while Chris continued. In May of this year, the Session began the process to name Susan as their Pastor Emerita.



*The Reverend Susan Grewe,
Pastor Emerita
Savage Memorial, Portland*

The Book of Order states that "When any pastor or associate pastor retires, and the congregation is moved with affection and gratitude to continue an association" with that pastor, the session may contact the Committee on Ministry and the presbytery and ask that this be done. The session at Savage did all of that -- and Susan was named! What a wonderful thing to be celebrating in this time in the life of the church.

Some of what is happening at Savage is quite like what is happening in most of our churches. For their situation, they have removed most of the COVID restrictions. They are back to meeting in person, masks are optional and they are singing again as a congregation (although the choir wears masks as they sing). They had their first adult class last week. Worship attendance, according to Pastor Grewe, is down about 10%. Children are in the sanctuary during worship, and are provided with activity boxes to use if they wish.

A class called "Christians in Conversation" meets weekly. They open with prayer and a scripture reading and a discussion starter. There isn't a teacher; all participate in the discussion. This past week, the scripture was from Jeremiah and the discussion centered on lamenting (somehow, there was no lack of conversation).

Recently, the congregation had to do major repairs on their heating system. They raised funds for the project -- and then found that the project was more extensive than they had anticipated. They are most grateful for the Barnabas Fund grant which they received so they could finish the project. They await the time when they will appreciate the heat!

Mission involvements abound at Savage, although some have undergone change as a result of COVID. For a long time, they have participated in the Backpack Buddies program with a local school. They would hand out backpacks to children as they left school on Friday afternoons. That had to change in the past couple of years.

Now, they are reaching out to the schools to find out what they might do instead that would see to it that young children do not go hungry. They received a grant from Foresters and are working to see how they can best use it to benefit children in the area. It is a transition time -- they just don't know transition to what yet. Another long-time local mission involvement has been SnowCap, the East Multnomah County food and clothing agency which Savage helped to start years ago. SnowCap is now serving more people than ever, and Savage continues to be very helpful with that.

The people who are Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church are busy for Christ in our area -- blessings for your ministries!



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Celebrating in Brookings

By Mike Hubbard, South Region Reporter

In northern climes where winters last half the year, there is a season that knows no fixed date or time. People know it when they feel it; when, though it is still dark and cold, they sense that something has changed. Locals call it “Breakup.” Rivers, long frozen solid, begin to groan and tremble; lacy cracks glaze the ice, then with a mighty shudder, the waters begin to flow. White powdery snow turns to gray mush and puddles form. It is not a pretty sight, but Breakup is a sure and certain herald of warm sun and green leaves to come.

Although it is late summer here in the South Region, there is a “Breakup” feeling, a sense that we are nearing the end of our long COVID-19 winter. Pandemic ice is about to yield to the warm, clear waters of grace. Tom Berry, pastor at **Bethany, Grants Pass** recently remarked that attendance was up. **First, Medford’s** stewardship dinner was the best attended social event since 2020. In a conversation last month, Buck Tohill, **United, Reedsport’s** pastor, said that Sunday worship attendance was slowly increasing, and on Sunday the September 18, **Basin Community, Malin** hosted over 60 folks at their Fall Kickoff potluck. In the closing months of winter, **First, Bandon** called a pastor, as did **Tri City, Myrtle Creek**. Nothing statistical, no poll taken, just a feeling that the Wind of the Spirit is blowing.

That sense that ice had finally surrendered and waters of hope were once again flowing surrounded the congregation at **First, Brookings** on August 27 as Rev. Bruce Jarvis was installed as their new pastor. It had been nearly two years since former pastor, David Hunter, preached his final sermon, and the search for an interim pastor seemed frozen in place. With no response to their interim search, COM-South agreed with the Brookings Session’s request to move directly to posting their Ministry Information Form seeking a Designated Called and Installed pastor. With the world still in the pandemic’s grip, the congregation’s hope rested in God alone.



*Pastor and Wife Caption:
Bruce and Leah Jarvis*



Administrative Commission for Rev Bruce Jarvis installation at Brookings. Clockwise from top left: John Mathison: Elder, Brookings ; Eric Lindsey: Pastor, First, North Bend; Mike Hubbard: Pastor, First, Medford; Carole Eckerd: Regional Vice Moderator, Cascades Presbytery; Evonne Hubbard: Elder, Ruth Van-

“Hope,” as the Apostle Paul wrote, “does not disappoint.” And, it turned out, the answer to the church’s prayer was near at hand. Bruce and Leah Jarvis, had recently retired in Brookings. Bruce and Leah were attending services at Brookings. And, Bruce was an ordained Minister in the “Reformed Church in America,” a full communion partner with the PCUSA. Brookings, it seemed had found their pastor.

Now, with the necessary background checks completed, an interview with COM-S accomplished, and a unanimous vote of the congregation, Bruce was ready to choose a date for his installation. South Region Vice Moderator, Carole Eckerd brought together an Administrative Commission, and on a hot, smoky afternoon, the church celebrated God’s goodness.

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Central Region News

By Bruce Smith, Central Region Reporter

With the onset of fall, we will see many churches initiating a stewardship campaign. Along with the stewardship campaign, two churches have added other incentives to raise funds. **Westminster, Eugene** has had some wood donated to the church. John O'Brien and Lee Kiersten have split up the firewood which was seasoned during the onslaught of our normal (read hot) summer weather. They are offering to deliver a trailer load of wood to your home for the sum of \$200. One-half of a trailer can be purchased for \$100. The trailer is 0.78 of a cord and John can offer a combination of fir, birch, maple and oak.

John Knox, Keizer has initiated selling gift cards as a fundraiser. These cards will cost \$20 with \$13 used to support the health clinic at the former Jason Lee United Methodist Church. Seven dollars will be added to the budget which will be used to cover the cost of getting internet for the church office.



Supporting the Mental Health of Our Pastors

By Bruce Smith

In a continuation of the mental health theme which began in the spring, the September 15 issue of Cascade Connections had an interesting article. From the *New York Times*, "Why Pastors Are Burning out," the author, Tish Harrison emphasized the importance of sabbaticals and vacation time to prevent burnout of current staff. A study shows 44% of pastors under the age of 45 are considering quitting full-time ministry compared to 34% of pastors 45 and older.

Let me suggest that an occasional visitor in the pulpit outside of the normal pastoral (vacation or study leave) would be of benefit to the church as well as the pastor. Might it be called "Mental Health Sunday?" This is a serious problem and worth a discussion at the local session meetings. Perhaps the current graduate from a seminary would offer a chance for this person to hone his or her skills in the pulpit as well as offer a fresh voice for the congregation. A possible source of names would be the chairperson of a pastor seeking committee who undoubtedly has a sizable list of potential candidates. Just a thought.



There's a Place for You!

The nominating committee encourages your participation on presbytery committees. Please take this opportunity to suggest yourself or someone you would recommend for service on a committee or taskforce in the presbytery. We will use this information to update our committee and nomination database. Interested? Click [here](#) to nominate yourself or someone you know.

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~ *Transitions* ~

New Pastors

- The Rev. Heidi Bolt has transferred her membership from Twin Cities Area Presbytery to Cascades.

Installations:

- The Rev. James Vickery will be installed at First PC, Bandon on October 16, 2022.
- The Rev. Chris Dela Cruz will be installed at Westminster PC, Portland, on October 30.

Pastoral Changes

- The Rev. Kathryn Keener has started as Interim at First PC, Newport.
- The Rev. Brian Craker is the new Interim Pastor at Hillsboro PC.
- The Rev. Matt Gough has completed his ministry at First PC, Corvallis.
- The Rev. Ainsley Herrick has completed her ministry at First PC, Phoenix.

Memorium

- Pastor John Chatalas passed away on July 27, 2022
- The Rev James A. Lacy passed away on July 26 at his home in Lake Oswego.



Next Presbytery Meeting:

This will be online...

November 4 (5-8:30 pm)
& November 5 (9-2 pm)

Background Papers will be available
2 weeks before meeting

[Register Here](#)

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Cascades Presbyterian Women Hybrid Fall Gathering Saturday, October 8 10 am – 12 pm

Caring for God's Creation

Columbia Presbyterian Church
805 Columbia Ridge Drive, Vancouver

- Speaker: Ruthann Marquis, Coordinator for Earth Care, Valley Community Presbyterian Church
- Other Earth Care Congregations share what they are doing
- Others share what recycling options are available where they live



Photo by David Jewel, 2021

Gathering Time : 9:30 am

Program will begin at 10 am

The Zoom Link will be shared prior to the Gathering.

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

1 Corinthians 4:1

For those attending in person, there will be time for fellowship following the program. Please bring a bag lunch.

Cascades PW Fall Gathering Registration



There is no registration fee for this event, however, we need to know how many are coming in person. Please send your name, church affiliation and email address for all attendees to Mary Lou Williams at mlwms41@comcast.net

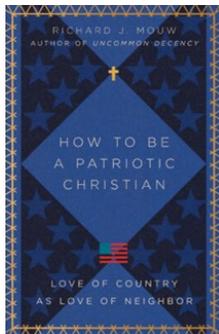
The Zoom link will be sent out to everyone on our email list several days before the event. If you would like to be added to this list, please send your name, church affiliation and email address to Rebecca Jewel at rojewel@gmail.com

An offering will be taken during the event. The proceeds will be donated to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Creation Justice program. If you would like to participate in this offering, please send check(s) made out to Cascades Presbyterian Women to Mary Lou Williams, 14601 NW 26th Ave, Vancouver WA 98685 (360-576-5364)

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Resources help Ministry and Mission



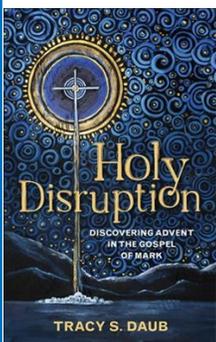
How to be a Patriotic Christian
by Richard J. Mouw

When I see American Christians equate Christianity with loyalty to a single political party or to deeply flawed and law-breaking leaders, I will confess to feeling cynical: is it even meaningful to love God and country as an act of faith when Christian nationalism and right-wing extremism seem to dominate the news?

Theologian Richard J. Mouw responds to this question and speaks to our current climate with *How to Be a Patriotic Christian: Love of Country as Love of Neighbor*. Mouw, a political moderate and distinguished scholar, is well-equipped to wrestle with practical issues many pastors face (American flag in the sanctuary? Patriotic hymns at the holidays? Be willing to pray and speak in political and secular assemblies?)

Mouw's reputation precedes him, so I did expect a deeper, richer conversation. This book feels like one of his slighter works. After completing it, I struggled to identify meaningful take-aways. Regardless, I realized that I enjoyed the practical examples as well as his willingness to engage all sides of an issue. Mouw cites conversations with colleagues ranging from Mennonite to evangelical, and I could learn from this openness.

For more information click [here](#).



Holy Disruption
Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark by Tracy S. Daub

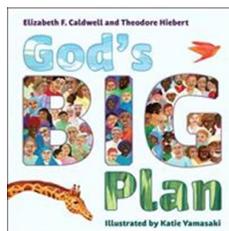
Where's the baby? The Gospel of Mark doesn't have a nativity story—so where's the Advent message? It's in every aspect of Jesus' life, to his death and beyond.

The Incarnation—God come to earth in human form to be baptized, teach, heal, eat, and die—is what we cele-

brate at Christmas, and Mark shows us just how radical and celebration-worthy it is!

Holy Disruption presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world.

You can access free digital resources, which include a group study guide, sermon series guide, and images for use during worship or study and to promote your outreach, at www.wjkbooks.com/HolyDisruption.



God's Big Plan
By Elizabeth F. Caldwell
Theodore Hiebert

The world is full of so many different things: animals, plants, foods, languages, people. But it might not have been that way if it weren't for God's big plan . . .

This vibrant picture book illuminates a new understanding of the story of Babel in Genesis, revealing God's plan for wonderful diversity throughout the world. *God's Big Plan* includes a note for parents and educators.

God's Big Plan is a Junior Library Guild Selection.



Do you have a book, a Bible Study, a resource that has helped you in your ministry? Please share. Send to editor, Kathleen Waugh at omnibus@cascadespresbytery.org

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