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Presbytery of the Cascades

Call for Help due to Catastrophic Flooding Presbyteries in Kentucky, Virginia and Missouri Need Support

By Darla Carter, Presbyterian News Service

(From the editor... these floods overwhelmed our brothers and sisters in the Midwest in July, but as we know very well after experiencing extensive fire damage throughout our presbytery, the need for financial and other support lasts for months. The following story tells a bit about the need. One can offer financial support [here.](#))



*Buckhorn Lake Presbyterian Church
Buckhorn, Kentucky*

LOUISVILLE — The devastating [flooding in eastern Kentucky](#) that took the lives of at least 37 people is part of a series of flooding events that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is offering support and prayers for.

Members of PDA’s National Response Team will travel to eastern Kentucky this weekend and have also responded to last month’s flooding in western Virginia, said the Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA’s Associate for National Disaster Response.

Virginia’s flooding was severe but does not appear to have been deadly; dozens of people initially were reported missing but were [eventually located](#), according to media reports.

In the Midwest, PDA has been in contact with church leaders in St. Louis, which has experienced [back-to-back flooding events](#) in the last few weeks and had at least [two deaths](#).

“The last month or so has been very destructive in terms of flooding,” Kirk said. “Once again, we’re seeing systems that are dumping an unbelievable amount of water in a very short amount of time, and communities are just not equipped to handle that much water in that short of a timeframe,” especially when their infrastructure is inadequate or hasn’t been well-maintained.

Multiple presbyteries have been affected, including the [Presbytery of Transylvania](#) in Kentucky, [the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy](#) in Missouri and [Abingdon Presbytery](#) in Virginia.

“

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Continued from page one — PDA Supports Flood Victims

“We see this as a result of climate change,” Kirk said. “Warmer atmosphere can hold more water vapor; more water vapor leads to more rain.”

In response to flooding that occurred [around July 12](#), “PDA deployed to Abingdon Presbytery, which is in western Virginia, and we’ve received two church damage grant requests and an initial assistance grant request,” Kirk said. (Church damage grants assist with continuing ministry that may otherwise be at risk.)

PDA also has been in contact with church leaders in the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy who are serving churches that were flooded, and those leaders are “working very hard to support community members that have been flooded,” Kirk said.

In Eastern Kentucky, authorities have confirmed nearly 40 people dead. Search and rescue is ongoing for others endangered when torrential rain caused rivers and creeks to overflow, leading to flooding in more than a dozen counties, according to [media reports](#).

In response to the devastation that started July 26, PDA has “been in touch with the (Transylvania) presbytery, anticipating both church damage grant requests and initial assistance requests, and we have a team that’s going in on Friday,” Kirk said. “It will be an initial deployment, so they’ll work with the presbytery leadership and congregational leadership in the impacted communities to help assess the need and connect with the resources and — as always — offer ministry of presence.”

Presbyterians and other concerned individuals can assist communities impacted by flooding by making [donations to PDA](#).

“Resources are needed now but will be needed in the weeks, months and years to come. Making a donation will enable the denomination to be in a position to support the long-term recovery,” Kirk said.

Omnibus

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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.



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NOTES FROM THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

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

I was in a meeting this past month where one of our church pastors was reflecting on what it is like to lead a congregation in this time. She said something like, “It’s like being in a river headed to a waterfall and helping the people on the boat learn how to live with each other in such unnerving circumstances.”

The metaphor worked for me with just a slight change. I don’t know that we are heading toward a waterfall. I just know that we don’t know what we are heading toward. It might be a waterfall. It might be the ocean. It might be a clear and calm lake. All I know is that the current is too strong for us to fight against it. We are going to go where the water takes us.

Over the course of nearly five years in this position, I have heard dozens of times congregational leaders ask me, “What is the presbytery going to do to help our congregations revitalize, grow and buck the 50-year decline in our congregations?”

I want to let you know how I hear those questions. Here is what I hear:

- “What is the presbytery going to do to reverse the course of secularization that is spreading across Western Civilization?”
- “How is Cascades Presbytery going to be the one presbytery in the whole country to hold the floodwaters of change back?”
- “What is the presbytery going to do bring nearly three generations of lost people back to the church?”

My answer to such questions is this:

The presbytery is not going to reverse the momentum of secularization in the Western World. The presbytery does not have the capacity, the wisdom and the leadership to turn the floodwaters of change back.

What the presbytery can do, however, is walk with our congregations in this time of historic change and transformation.

What the presbytery can do is coach and consult with you on the new opportunities that lie before you.

What the presbytery can do and wants to do is recommit all of our congregations, our buildings and assets to the mission of Jesus Christ, even if that mission looks different from years past.

What the presbytery can do is help our congregations collaborate so that no single congregation is left alone frantically paddling on the river by themselves.

What the presbytery can do is help congregations navigate on this river. We can’t change the direction of the water, but we can help you paddle and pray your way downriver.

We are better together in Christ...

Brian



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First, McMinnville Participates in Worldwide Ministry

By Bruce Smith, Central Region Reporter

This is a look at what is happening elsewhere in the world regarding mental health.

First, McMinnville contributed \$5230 to the Reformed Calvinist Church in El Salvador in March of this year. This church is a partner with PC (USA) as there are no Presbyterian churches in that country. These workshops were conducted by two community groups in the municipality of Rosario de Mora. These communities are inhabitants of the rural area, most of them are dedicated to agriculture, housework, embroidery, coloring manufacturing and some are workers in textiles maquilas (factories that take raw materials and assemble, manufacture, or process them and export the finished product.)

The focus of the workshops was the training of individuals who are emotionally needy and in communities who have faced adverse situations by recognizing they have resources and strategies to recover and reestablish themselves.

One of the issues they worked on was the management of emotions. It sought to identify the

importance of emotions as a fundamental element of life and human development, to recognize and express feelings and emotions, and to understand the relationship between emotions and communication. It also clarified or differentiated the concept of feelings versus emotions. In addition, this topic strengthens knowledge about self-assertiveness and its importance.

Another topic they worked on was personal strength, specifically self-esteem. This was aimed to build relationships in a group and identify the elements that strengthen well-being.

In another effort to be a presence in another part of the world, First, McMinnville provided the funds to purchase a water pump for the hospital in the Republic of Congo in July of last year. It required a year to have the pump up and functioning.

The hospital is located in a village of Tshikaji with a population of about 10,000 people. Along with medical care, the hospital has a laboratory technician school, college level nursing program, with a 160-bed resident hospital programs for nutrition, public health, dental health and other specialty programs.

The pump is located on a river about one-half mile from the hospital which has a hydroelectric plant on a small river that also supplies electricity to the hospital. (the only electricity in the area.) The water is pumped to a holding tank at the hospital which provides the facility with continually running water.



The Hydro Maintenance Team



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God's Handiwork Hard at Work!

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Eph. 2:10) This verse greets one at the top of the **Kenilworth, Portland** newsletter, and it surely is a fine introduction to this congregation!

Laura Schaefer, Office Assistant and Elder, makes one's head spin as she tells about the activities that keep the people of Kenilworth busy on a day-to-day basis. Right now, they do not have a pastor. Laura was most complimentary about those who have been supplying their pulpit and helping with other needs. Pastor Tim Winslea is one she mentioned as regularly stepping up for them. The congregation is likely headed for a Stated Supply pastor rather than an installed pastor. Pastors David Dornack and Scott Crane have been working with them, providing good ideas and things to think about -- a help as they discern their future. They are most grateful.

One of the church's main projects is "Groceries for Grout." Grout is the neighborhood elementary school, and there are many hungry families in the neighborhood. Before the pandemic, they would put together seven bags of groceries every month during the school year and take them over to the school. Since the pandemic, their program has gone year-round. At the first of the pandemic, the staff at the school was organizing the food. Then, the church applied for a grant from the presbytery and received \$550, which allowed them to purchase some groceries. That was followed with the \$1,000 grants that the presbytery gave to each church. Kenilworth decided to see if they could raise funds to match that grant, and they raised more than \$6,000!

People from Kenilworth and community volunteers would arrive at the school at 2:15 on Fridays to set up; by the time school let out, they were ready to distribute food. The time was changed to 11:30 for the summer, but soon they will be back to the afternoon. They set up a sidewalk pantry; parents and children could choose the food that they wanted. There is canned food, dairy products, produce and bakery goods. Those who come to their pantry are about 40 percent school children and families, 40 percent seniors and 20 percent other community people. And they hear several different languages!

Last Fall, they became a partner agency of the Oregon Food Bank, which now delivers food to the church for distribution. They have also partnered with Imperfect Food in Milwaukie and get produce from them, and with New Seasons on Woodstock from whom they recently received several boxes of really nice bread. The variety is fun, Laura says, adding that yesterday they were able to distribute fresh figs, broccoli and rainbow carrots. Four members of the church are very invested in this program, and about a dozen community members can be counted on for regular help. All of the food needs to be stored at the church; the volunteers move it to the school each week. One result is that Kenilworth has become a focus place for the community, which is very exciting.

Kenilworth's other big project is their preschool. The church hires the teacher and the school has its own board; all decisions go through the Session. Four-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday, three-year-olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. Parents are obligated to be involved, helping to maintain the school and the common areas.

They host New Journey, a Narcotics Anonymous group that meets at the church every evening. A women's group grew out of New Journey and meets at the church on Saturday mornings.

On second and third Fridays, they deliver a full meal to a Veterans Center in East Portland. With Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, they put out a menu and members sign up to bring food. As Laura says, who knows how it will impact the community?



Groceries for Grout Food Drive
Saturday March 12, 10AM-12PM
Brooklyn Park (by the playground)

Suggested Items

- Breakfast Cereals & Items (no oatmeal please)
- Canned Tuna, Chicken, etc
- Condiments: (Ketchup, Salad Dressings, Mayonnaise, etc)
- Paper Goods: (towels, tp, table napkins, etc)
- Hot Chocolate Mix
- Coffee (ground)

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St. Andrew's Honors a Faithful Shepherd

*By Roberta Schlechter, CCE,
Northwest Region reporter*

It's not known how many people found their way to **St. Andrew's, Portland** between 1973-2001, wanting to get a look at a beloved preacher named Charlie Brown. Charlie died in January 2021, and the St. Andrew's community has installed special places to honor him.

Recently Charlie's family gathered with worshippers and dedicated a garden bench and a white dogwood tree to Charlie's memory. Pastor Sarah Sanderson-Doherty observed, "He was a most beloved pastor and his memory lives large in the memory of this community."

After having served as Associate Pastor at **First, Berkeley** during the Vietnam conflict, Charlie was called in 1973 to St. Andrew's and Cascades Presbytery. Following his honorable retirement in 2001, Charlie and his wife, Edda Brown, affiliated with **Tualatin Presbyterian** where Charlie was called upon to shepherd congregants in many ways. Charlie and Edda also spent two 6-month tours in Paris, at the American Church, where Charlie performed hundreds of marriages, often several each day, and often to couples from Asia. Witnesses say he greeted each couple as they arrived by limousine, walked them up the stairs into the church, and spared no effort to make each marriage ceremony a sacred, special event.

The Brown's last residence together was at Mary's Woods. Following Charlie's death his zoom memorial featured spokespeople from each of his recent places of ministry.

The St. Andrew's dedication Sunday worship featured a sign language video of the song "Here I am Lord," enacted by Charlie's stepdaughter, Susie Redmond, for his memorial service. After worship, Edda Brown and family members were invited to sit on the bench dedicated to Charlie, as the congregation extended a hand of blessing. Then came a flood of spoken memories from those present, many of whom Charlie had married or baptized.

In her dedication prayer, Pastor Sarah said, in part, "O most merciful God revealed in Jesus ... You send servants to be caretakers of souls and Charlie was one such faithful servant. We thank you for the faithful ministry of your servant, Charlie. For all the peace and rest that he visited upon your weary children, we give you thanks and praise..."



In the rose garden, Pastor Sarah offered a prayer blessing for Edda Brown (center), and her children, seated on the bench dedicated to honor Charlie Brown, and joined by their spouses.



The White dogwood and plaque, located near the main entrance to the church

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~ Transitions ~

New Pastors

- The Rev. Bruce Jarvis was installed at Brookings PC on Saturday, August 27.

Ordination

- Annica Gage, member of Tualatin PC was ordained on Sunday, August 7.

Pastoral Changes

- The Rev. Daniel Peters will complete his ministry at Multnomah PC on September 11 and transition to Chaplain Resident at Providence Portland Medical Center.

Memorium

- The Reverend James Lacy passed away on July 26, 2022.
- Dwight Allan Caswell, Jr., Commissioned Ruling Elder, died July 8 in Portland after a four-month hospitalization.
- The Rev. Philip Nasset of Roseburg, Oregon passed away on July 1, 2022.
- The Rev. Stephen R. Maling passed away on July 17, 2022.



Schlechter Resigns as Northwest Region Reporter

By Kathy Waugh, Editor

For the last seven years the *Omnibus* has had the privilege of Roberta Schlechter's contributions as the Northwest Region Reporter. Month after month, she found great stories to share about the churches in that region.

I must regretfully share I have accepted Roberta's request to resign in order for her to pursue some new opportunities that have come her way. They sound like fulfilling and exciting pursuits.

Recently, this Certified Christian Educator, has been working with congregations as they face challenges in doing Christian Education during COVID. The challenges are still with us as churches begin looking at hybrid methods. Roberta, in her retirement, has worked with them to explore options.

She also was invited two years ago to write a weekly lesson plan for the website "Hope for CE." The website follows the Narrative Lectionary which has a four-year cycle covering the four Gospels. She loves doing it, but the weekly challenge spoke to the fact that she needed to drop something.

We have been extraordinarily blessed with the ministry Roberta has shared with us these last seven years. May her future projects be just as blessed.

With her leaving, therefore, we have an opening for a reporter for the Northwest region. This person will touch base with some 20 congregations in that region and discover what's new and interesting to share with the larger presbytery. This is a voluntary position which takes approximately three-to-four hours a month to interview and write the story. [Contact me](#) (Kathy Waugh, editor) if you are at all interested.



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ViewPoints

The Tie That Binds

By Gail Black, Vice Moderator, Northeast

We stood in a circle with woven arms and sang *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* closing our Sunday evening youth fellowship. This memory, this ritual is an important image of my formative years at **Mt. Tabor, Portland**. Although I can't remember the names of the many adults who nurtured me, I knew that I belonged to a family of faith. I was one of those kids whose family generally did not attend church but who supported me in doing so. I went to summer camp at Menucha, was confirmed at 15, and as a young adult taught Sunday school and counseled at Camp Sunago.

When our children grew up at **Rose City Park, Portland**, my husband and I participated in the well-established youth ministry working with teams of adults who nurtured all the children. We were fortunate to be guided by our church educator, Barbara Shibley, with the philosophy that an effective youth program was best sustained by caring and committed adult members who built relationships with the children. After all, they are full members of the church and of God's family.

Now in my 70's, I am moved again to lead, recruit and participate in our youth ministries program. The Greek saying "Blessed are those who plant trees under whose shade they will never sit" truly spoke to me this last weekend on our church youth retreat at Camp McGruder. I had a wonderful time being with kids who were warmed by a campfire, swam and kayaked in a lake, played football on the beach, and creamed their pastor at Farkle. There is more: when Pastor Liz Leavitt asked, "Who are you?" one sixth-grader said with a huge smile, "I am a child of God." Another said, "I am the cherisher of dreams." Hearing these declarations in the glow of the campfire, I felt blessed to be in their presence.

It takes work and commitment to ensure our children know that they are a part of the church family. Easy thinking says that without adequate numbers of children, the church cannot support a viable learning ministry. Nationally, the current thinking in Christian education asserts that the lack of numbers of children and youth is not the problem, nor are greater numbers of children and youth the solution. So how do we meet the challenge? There is always that nagging wish that if the church only could hire a young charismatic person with a guitar, it would alleviate the adults of their obligation to nurture our youth. However, building a program around one person does not provide continuity of people nor ensure sustainability.

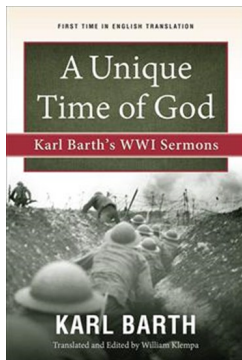
Some Portland churches are working together to establish interdenominational programs like the SE Youth Collective and the recently organized NE Youth Collective. These programs work to provide monthly gatherings where middle and high school youth can participate in fellowship and mission. Both clergy and lay leaders are essential. In a single church, like in any family, adults can ask kids to participate with activities like ushering, reading liturgy, playing music, sewing, painting, bowling, or anything with pizza! I feel confident that when adults take the opportunity to work, play, and talk with the youth in their church, they will receive the joy and blessings of God's family.



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Resources help Ministry and Mission



A Unique Time of God Karl Barth's WWI Sermons *Karl Barth*

"William Klempa's translation of Karl Barth's Safenwil sermons at the outbreak of World War I, accompanied by a very fine introduction that sets the historical and theological context, represents the culmination of a careful, critically appreciative, and lifelong engagement by Klempa with Barth's theology. All readers of Barth are indebted to Klempa, a seasoned interpreter of Barth, for making a new English translation of this important part of the Barth corpus available."

—JOHN A. VISSERS, Professor of Historical Theology, Knox College, University of Toronto

For more information, click [here](#).



Binkle's Time to Fly Written by Sharmila Collins Illustrated by Carolina Rabei

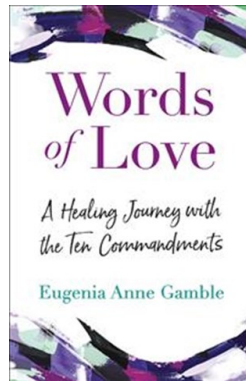
Binkle can't wait until he turns from caterpillar to butterfly. He'll finally have strong, beautiful wings to take him

high into the sky! But when the day comes, something is terribly wrong. Why are Binkle's wings so wispy and weak? How will he ever fly like the other butterflies if his wings are nothing like theirs?

Yet with some help and creativity, maybe there's more than one way to fly . . .

As this charming, gorgeously illustrated story reminds us, life can present us with unwelcome challenges, but inventive alternatives and the support of others can make all the difference.

For more information and access two complimentary activities inspired by the picture book, click [here](#).



Words of Love: A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments

By Eugenia Anne Gamble
The Ten Commandments are more than a list of ancient rules. Beneath the surface, they offer a profound invitation to healing and transformation. In this unique Bible study, readers will discover that the Ten Command-

ments are words from the heart of God, given to reconcile creation to Creator and God's people to one another. In *Words of Love*, Eugenia Anne Gamble dives into each of the Ten Commandments and examines their application for modern-day Christians, going beyond the letter of the law to a spiritual truth pointing us toward wholeness and well-being. Each chapter includes a spiritual practice and questions for reflection and discussion to help readers engage deeply with the message of each commandment, whether individually or in a group.

For more information, click [here](#).



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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Thursday, September 1

Donald Shaw, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2008
William Davis, granted HR status this day, 2013 and now serving at Lakeside.

Friday, September 2

Charles Falconer, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1999

Saturday, September 3

Michael Stuart, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2011
Richard Lang, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2012

Sunday, September 4

Pastor Greg Bolt's first Sunday at Salem, First. Welcome Greg!
Peter Hutton, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1991

Monday, September 5

Richard Clippinger, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 1999

Tuesday, September 6

David & Marta Ukropina, installed as Co-Pastors, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Eugene, this day, 2015

Elizabeth Winslea, ordained this day, 1998, serving as Pastor, Lincoln Street United Methodist Church, Portland

Wednesday, September 7

Lloyd "Buck" Tohill, commissioned this day, 2014, serving as Commissioned Ruling Elder, United Presbyterian Church, Reedsport

Thursday, September 8

Chris Dela Cruz, Assoc. Pastor, Westminster, Portland
James Moiso, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2008

Friday, September 9

Jennifer Ackerman, Director, Lloyd John Ogilvie Institute of Preaching

Saturday, September 10

Matthew Johnson, installed as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville, this day, 2014

Sunday, September 11

Constance Wilkerson, ordained this day, 1994
Hugh Anderson, ordained this day, 1977, now Honorably Retired
Theodore Buck, ordained this day, 1983.

Monday, September 12

Roger Newell, ordained this month, 1984.

Tuesday, September 13

Laurie Jackson, Member at Large, Transferred in 2021

Wednesday, September 14

Patricia and Thomas Campbell-Schmitt, granted Honorably Retired status this month in 2014

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Continued from page 10 — Prayer Calendar

Thursday, September 15

Joshua Rowley, installed as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, this day, 2013
Pastor Sandy Hackett, Mt. Tabor PC Interim Pastor

Friday, September 16

Sun Mook Jhee, retired in 2022 from Vancouver Korean PC

Saturday, September 17

Bill Van Nostran, installed as Pastor, Astoria Presbyterian Church, this day, 2017
Christy Polk, ordained this day, 2016, serving as Stated Supply Associate Pastor, Oak Hills Presbyterian Church, Milwaukie

Sunday, September 18

Dean J. Kokjer, granted Honorably retired this month in 2012

Monday, September 19

David Dornack, Honorably Retired in 2020 and Parish Assoc. at First, Portland
Pioneer Presbyterian Church, Warrenton -- chartered this day, 1846

Tuesday, September 20

Jennifer Butler, ordained this day, 1992

Wednesday, September 21

Aric Clark, ordained this day, 2008, serving as Pastor, United Methodist Church, Sherwood
Audrey Schindler, installed as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Portland, this day, 2014

Thursday, September 22

First Presbyterian Church, Newport -- chartered this day, 1878

Friday, September 23

Brenna Dykman, Assoc. Supply Pastor at First, PDX
The Rev. Kelly Wadsworth, Pastor, Westminster PC, Salem

Saturday, September 24

Diane Bagues, ordained this day, 1989
First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis -- chartered this day, 1853

Sunday, September 25

Michael Foster, ordained, 2003
Sarah Sanderson-Doughty, installed this day, 2017, as Pastor, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Portland

Monday, September 26

Rebecca Hazen, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2005

Tuesday, September 27

Jeremy Sanderson, installed as Pastor, Oak Hills Presbyterian Church, Milwaukie, this day, 2015

Wednesday, September 28

Donald Ludwig, ordained this date, 1997, serving as Supply Pastor, Southminster PC, Beaverton

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