



December, 2022

Volume XLVIII, No. 12

Presbytery of the Cascades

What happened at the November 2022 Presbytery Meeting?

Actions Affecting Congregations

- 2023 Per Capita set at \$45.60 per member (congregational membership is based on the number of members reported at year-end 2021 in the statistical report)
- Presbytery Budgets Approved ([view them here](#))

Celebrations

- Susan Coghil, Administrative Manager at First Presbyterian Church, Ashland attained both Level 1 and 2 certification from the [Administrative Professional Association \(APA\)](#) of the PCUSA. If you are involved in church administration or have a church administrator, I encourage you to look into resources from the APA.
- The Reverend Linda Stewart-Kalen honorably retired.
- The Reverend Sun Mook Jhee honorably retired.

Content referenced in the Meeting

- Synod of the Pacific Commissioners Report
 - [Synod Grants](#): Worth a look, great opportunities to spark your imagination
 - [Synod Loans](#): Lower rates than you can find on commercial market
 - [Synod Investment opportunities](#): Demand (Savings) Acct. and Certificates with competitive rates
- General Assembly Commissioners Report
 - [2022 General Assembly Actions \(summary\)](#)
 - [Read the proposed amendments to the PCUSA constitution that we vote on at Presbytery in 2023](#)

Inside This Issue

Ask the Clerk	2
Notes from the Road to Emmaus	3
Voices- - A Christmas Poem	4
Springwater, Estacada	5
Viewpoints	6
Resource Page	7
Prayer Calendar	8

Doctrines of Discovery

- [PCUSA Statement on Doctrine of Discovery from 2016](#)
- [Mark Charles Video on Doctrine of Discovery \(shown at meeting\)](#)

People in the PCUSA Ministry Process

- Preparation for Ministry Candidate Don Choi: [Some of his music](#)
- Ordinand Tyler McQuilken [Webpage for Bend, First Youth Group](#)
- Newly Transferred Reverend Kirk Seyfert's Ministry, [The Northwest Hub](#)

Ask the Clerk

By Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk



Dear Stated Clerk,

Q: Presbytery asks our congregation to pay a Per Capita Apportionment and Pledge to Presbytery Partnership Giving. What is the difference between Per Capita and Partnership Giving and what does each do?

Yours Truly,

Confused in Canby Oregon

Dear Confused,

A: It certainly “can be” (get it “Canby”?) confusing to understand what Per Capita funds versus what Partnership Giving accomplishes. This month I will try to diffuse the confusion. Even as these two funding streams can be thought of as supporting the two hands of the presbytery, sometimes one or the other is at work but in the end, both hands are required to accomplish the mission.

Money from the Per Capita apportionment goes into the presbytery’s “Administrative” budget. Per Capita is used by the Presbytery, [Synod of the Pacific](#) and [General Assembly](#) to fund essential services. So first, the presbytery sends 1/3 of the per capita received to the Synod and General Assembly. The remaining money goes to pay for presbytery meetings, the work of the Board of Trustees and other committees as well as things like office equipment and supplies and legal fees. The largest line item is for staff since Per Capita pays for the Stated Clerk (me) and ½ of the Administrative Manager’s (Cherie Elliott) salary. When the Communications and Technology Team meets to award Technology Grants or the Trustees meet to award Barnabas Grants their work is made possible by paying your Per Capita.

Money from Partnership Giving goes into the presbytery’s “Program” budget. Presbytery sends 30% of received Partnership Giving to Synod and the General Assembly. The remaining funds are used to provide funding for [Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon](#) and our congregation on the Warm Springs Reservation. The largest line item is for Personnel since the salaries of the Presbyter or Vision and Mission (Brian Heron), Advocate for Congregations and Clergy (Clark Scalera), Communications Manager (Kelly Dickson), Bookkeeper (Allen Brady), Commission on Ministry Specialists/Team Leaders (Sarah Sanderson-Doughty, Susan Graham and Brian Craker) and ½ of the Administrative Manager’s (Cherie again) salary. When committees and teams meet, their work is supported by the staff whose salaries are paid through your Partnership Giving.

[Here are the two Presbytery budgets](#) which provide a “line item” view of the work done by Per Capita and Partnership Giving.

Most Sincerely,
Stated Clerk

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.

[Return to Index](#)



NOTES FROM THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

By Rev. Brian Heron,
Presbyter for Vision and Mission

A blessed Advent and Christmas season to you all!

Thirty years ago, in my second pastorate, I wrote an article published the week before Christmas for a column in the religion section of the local paper. That article changed the trajectory of my ministry. In the article, I re-contextualized the Christmas story through the lens of Joseph Campbell's anthropological work in mythology. The article touched a deep nerve in the community. Dozens of new people flowed into the church over the next few months and eventually resulted in a New Church Development in Northern California—a church that still thrives today.

I said that article changed the trajectory of my ministry. It did. From the outside looking in one might not recognize the change, but in my mind and my heart I knew that I was operating in a new landscape.

In this time of mainline Protestant membership decline, there are concerns that we might be forced to give up our traditions in order to be relevant or maintain our traditions at the risk of our tradition dying. I personally don't believe that to be true.

What I do believe to be true (and what I discovered thirty years ago) is that we need to make a shift from thinking we still live in Christendom to adapting to the reality that we are now in the mission field. The difference is this: In Christendom we assume that we only have to tell our gospel story better in order to connect with people who are already Jesus-hungry. In the mis-

sion field, we have to learn to share our gospel story in the language, through the values and according to the customs of that culture.

We are in a mission field. It may feel like we are exiles in our own land. The emerging culture of America is a multicultural, multiethnic, interfaith, inter-spiritual and secular humanist society.



Mission Orientation

The Christmas story is one of the most powerful and transforming stories in the history of the world. The reality that the human and the divine dance together as revealed in the story of God becoming incarnate in Jesus changes everything. It shifts our psychological understanding of ourselves and others. It transforms our worldviews from a mechanistic reality to a spiritual reality. It empowers humans to act as if our lives actually matter in the divine drama that is playing out.

This Advent and Christmas I want to encourage each of your churches not to do anything different. We are the stewards of one of the greatest spiritual narratives in

the history of the world. Let us do what we do best. Tell the story of Jesus' birth and God's abiding presence in the world. Remind the world that despite appearances, a divine unfolding of Creation continues. Don't water the story down for the purposes of being relevant.

All I ask you to do is this: Remember, we don't live in Christendom anymore. We are now missionaries.

Adjust accordingly.

Wishing you a Blessed Advent and a Very Merry Missionary Christmas...

[Return to Index](#)



A Christmas Poem

By Kathleen Waugh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:1-5

God-With-Us, we're told, is the miracle of Christmas
And I ask, how are we to know, how are we to see
 deep within us
 amidst the chaos
 deep within us
 the miracle,
this Babe, this Being, this God-With-Us

God-With-Us, shouts in silence
in the deep, deep silence
of our very souls
 through the tears of the homeless
 the hands of the lonely
 the pleas of the hungry
and the wounds of the war-torn victim

God-With-Us, taps our shoulders
in the everyday world
of the ordinary moment
 through the smile of our neighbor
 the eyes of our child
 the touch of our lover
and the laugh of our friend

God-With-Us, the miracle, you see
encircles us, envelopes us, reaches us
 through all the creator's
 surrounding creation
is the hope and the promise
 and the redeeming gift
which can't help but glow from
 deep within us
 amidst the chaos
 deep within us
overflowing with love.

Incarnate God, You have gifted us with this Christmas miracle. May we recognize the mystery of it, the wonder of it throughout the coming year. May it flow through all our days, bringing blessing upon blessing to us as we claim its unconditional offering!! Amen.

[Return to Index](#)

Springwater Dreams of Ways to be involved with their Community

By Pat Berger, Northeast Region Reporter

Springwater, Estacada (southeast of Portland), is one of the older churches in our presbytery. It was established in 1889. It's manse was built at the same time. The church building burned in 1902. The current building was constructed after that fire. This year, both the church building and the manse received new coats of paint, using funds saved during the early part of the year when they were without a pastor. Behind the church building, they have an outdoor amphitheater and a labyrinth. When weather allows it, they worship in the amphitheater. Stephen Shibley designed the labyrinth.

During COVID Springwater went online, but there is only one place where a camera can be placed in the sanctuary! The result is pews that formerly faced beautiful stained-glass windows now face an interior wall. This has allowed them to do video presentations of their worship services; check out their YouTube site! Sunday morning also includes Lectio Divina study, before worship, of the scriptures of the day. During Advent they are discussing a daily Advent devotional. Music for the service is an electronic piano, an organ and occasionally a guitar.



Advent at Springwater includes Greening the Church (decorating it) and a Progressive Dinner. The members, after worship, head to one member's home for an appetizer, a second for the main dish, and a last home for dessert. On Christmas Eve, they have a "Lessons and Carols" service at 7 p.m.

Another special event they are planning is Souper Bowl Saturday, to be held at the Springwater Grange Hall, next door to the church, on February 11 at 1p.m. To benefit the Estacada Food Bank, people will be asked to bring donations of either food or money. The Highway Home Band, a gospel blue grass band, will be playing and lunch will be provided. The church donates regularly to the Estacada Food Bank and had "Socktober" -- church members brought socks all during the month of October to go with the boots the Food Bank hands out.

Since July, Pastor Andrew Wall has served as their Bridge Pastor. New to our Presbytery, Pastor Andrew and his family (he, his wife and two children) moved from the East Coast. He and his wife started a business, helping aspiring novelists and connecting them with agents. Since July, though, Springwater has kept him occupied for 15 hours a week.

Pastor Andrew is originally from California. He is a graduate of Princeton Seminary. His first church, Clover Hill, was in New Jersey, and was a church similar in size and location to Springwater. After that, he had a church in Indiana, and then they moved out here. He had done pulpit supply in our Presbytery until his name was given to Springwater.

There have been only three Session meetings since Pastor Andrew came, so they are still making connections and figuring out how to work together. One of their practices at Session meetings is that after each of the committee reports, the other Session members pray for that committee and its work.

The people at Springwater had completed their Mission Study before Pastor Andrew came. The Pastor Nominating Committee meets almost every week, and the first draft of their MIF (Ministry Information Form) is almost done. Now, Pastor Andrew says, they are "starting to dream" and to think about how they can be more involved in their community. Of the \$1000 they gathered for the Peace and Global Witness offering, they got to keep \$250. They contacted the appropriate person in the local school district and found that a gift of underwear would be appreciated for the school Clothes Closet; they made that happen! Blessings, Springwater, for your ministry and for your pastoral search!

[Return to Index](#)

ViewPoints

By Marilyn Howe, President of Board of Trustees



The Apostle Peter told us: The *church is not a building* made with stone. It is a *building* made with living flesh. We believers are living stones in God's temple (1 Pet. 2:5 ESV). I hope Peter got to see how his metaphor played out during the pandemic, and, I hope, he gets to see how the struggles of the past two years opened our minds to new possibilities for being the church in the future.

Looking back on the early weeks of lockdown, it was impressive how quickly our congregations adapted to using Zoom, YouTube, Vimeo and creatively employing telephones to keep worshipping together.

Even our elaborate echelons of presbyterian polity shifted over to modern modes of communication. Despite forced physical separation, the church marched forward and it stayed strong. As we transition back to meeting together as we used to, a new question hangs in the air: Do we still need our buildings? Yes? Maybe? Probably? Most of us would say yes, without hesitation, but we would also likely agree our attitudes toward the buildings that we worship in have changed.

Our church buildings are still important parts of our community, both spiritual and temporal. They bring us together in worship and provide platforms for our missions and outreach. We celebrate the milestones of our lives within their walls. We stand beside our brothers and sisters in Christ in their major life transitions in these spaces, and together we sustain the traditions that have helped hold Christian communities together for centuries. But it has always been the people there that brought us closer to God, not the pews or the pretty windows.

We need our special spaces to gather in, but now we can look at them from a new perspective. The COVID era showed us that our congregations are much more resilient and adaptive than we thought. We have deep emotional ties to our buildings, but our relationship to them is different now. We own them. They do not own us.

Our stewardship of these properties puts us in a unique position. Whether we like it or not, we are authors of a chapter of history recorded in brick and mortar for everyone around us to see. Across the presbytery, we hold tens of millions of dollars of real estate. Many of our buildings are prominently placed, architectural landmarks in our communities.

We are responsible for responding to God's call to love our neighbors with this, our biggest and most visible resource at hand – our property.

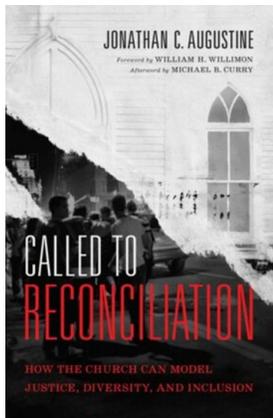
Over the coming months, the Trustees and the New Mission Team will provide some opportunities for our congregations to explore options for how they could use their property differently in the future. Some may be inspired to launch into new projects to share their spaces with mission partners. Others may opt for a long-term commitment to developing affordable housing. Others may decide it is time to give up a deteriorating building and move to a modern, leased space, so that their monetary resources can go to something other than maintenance.

Winston Churchill is credited with being the first leader to urge his people forward in uncertain times by saying "Never let a good crisis go to waste." It is time to leave our old ideas about what our buildings should be behind and turn our attention and our prayers to how we can use our assets wisely when considering how we can serve God best in this changing world.

[Return to Index](#)



Resources help Ministry and Mission



Called to Reconciliation

By Jonathan C. Augustine
From a review by Becca Messman

As a pastor, I love a fresh metaphor. Jay Augustine serves up *good gumbo* as a savory image for how our culture might imagine unity with diversity. In good gumbo, vegetables, seafood and

chicken all hang together while never ceasing to be what they are. Though it is challenging to achieve the right roux and seasoning at its base, good gumbo is healthy, hearty and equally beloved by New Orleanians of different races and backgrounds. I liked the visual of gumbo as more cohesive than the eminent “mixing bowl” metaphor, where elements never truly integrate; more interesting than the “melting pot” where distinctions are lost to each other; and far more flavorful than the “bland broth” that Augustine equates with White supremacy.

I commend this book to predominantly White congregations who have done some work in examining race and privilege and seek a trustworthy text to study with non-White Christians. I commend this book to pastors who have a hard time bridging the high call of scripture to *be reconciled* with our current bridge-burning cultural moment. And this book is near and dear to my heart because a Black pastor who is a close friend recommended it. We used it as a text for our congregations to study together; it nourished our conversations and brought us closer. For more information click [here](#).



Looking for just the right Christmas gift for the children in your life. Just a quick recommendation to check out this publishing house located as one of several under PC

(USA) publishers.

Flyaway Books embraces diversity, inclusivity, compassion, care for each other, and care for our world. Many of our books explore social justice and

other contemporary issues. Some retell familiar religious stories in new ways, while others carry universal themes appealing to those with any, or no, religious background.

In just our first few years, Flyaway’s picture books have been praised by *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Horn Book*, *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Foreword Reviews*, *Essence*, and *Kirkus Reviews*, including starred reviews for books of exceptional merit. Several were named Junior Library Guild selections and/or received esteemed recognition, including the inaugural 2020 Goddard Riverside CBC Youth Book Prize for Social Justice.

Click [here](#) to explore their website.



The Night of His Birth by Katherine Paterson

Mary's baby has arrived, and she can't contain her joy! As Joseph sleeps, she examines her newborn's tiny mouth, his wild hair, his little hands. Yet what's most wondrous is

that this child is not just Mary's own but a gift that God has shared with everyone.

Poetic text by Newbery Medalist Katherine Paterson and striking images by Lisa Aisato reveal the intimacy of that unforgettable night long ago, when the mother of Jesus was the first to welcome him into a world he would change forever. *The Night of His Birth* is a Junior Library Guild Selection. 2020 Moonbeam Children's Book Award Winner - Gold Medalist.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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

[Return to Index](#)



Thursday, December 1

CRE Chris Macfarlane, PA at Tualatin Plains & COM-NW

Philip Meddaugh, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2010

Friday, December 2

Brookings Presbyterian Church, Brookings -- chartered this month, 1953

Saturday, December 3

Stasia Van Buskirk, ordained this day, 2011, now Honorably Retired

Sunday, December 4

Robert Griffen, ordained this day, 1977.

Monday, December 5

CRE Karen Keady commissioned this day at McKenzie Valley, Walterville

Peter Funch, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2005

Tuesday, December 6

Rebecca Strader HR, ordained this day, 1981

Tri-City United Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Creek -- chartered this day, 1954

Wednesday, December 7

Kathleen Brinegar, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2015

Thursday, December 8

Steven Parker, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2014

Friday, December 9

Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this month, 1946

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Camas -- chartered this day, 1883

Saturday, December 10

Andrew Wall, a gift to many churches through pulpit supply

Sunday, December 11

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Grants Pass -- chartered this day, 1887

Mt. Scott Park Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1946

Monday, December 12

Timothy Cayton, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2012

Tuesday, December 13

Douglas McClure, ordained this day, 1981, in private practice as counselor

Wednesday, December 14

William Van Nostran, ordained this day, 2003, serving as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Astoria

Thursday, December 15

Richard Rohrbaugh, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2003

Friday, December 16

Lori Hedlund, ordained this day, 1990

Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairview -- chartered this day, 1890

[Return to Index](#)

Prayer Calendar continued

Saturday, December 17

Mary Wright Gillespie, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1998

Sunday, December 18

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Gresham -- chartered this month, 1959

Monday, December 19

Wesley Yoon, Pastor at Hope Korean, Portland

Tuesday, December 20

Wesley Lachman, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1991

Wednesday, December 21

William Syrios, ordained this day, 1980

Thursday, December 22

John Hasenjaeger, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2009

Friday, December 23

First Presbyterian Church, Woodburn -- chartered this day, 1898

Moreland Presbyterian Church, Portland -- chartered this day, 1885

Saturday, December 24

First United Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Point -- chartered this day, 1890

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day -- give thanks for God's inexpressible gift

Monday, December 26

Michelle Todd, Chaplain PeaceHealth Vancouver

Tuesday, December 27

Dean Rowley, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 1994

Wednesday, December 28

Christopher Murphy, ordained this day, 2008, serving as Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Newberg

Thursday, December 29

John Braund, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 1999

Friday, December 30

Alan Jackson, granted Honorably Retired status this month, 2009

Saturday, December 31

Daniel Myers, granted Honorably Retired status this day, 2013

[Return to Index](#)