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Pastor's Reflection

*"To celebrate an anniversary is to do three overlapping things.
It is to own our past, to rejoice in our present, and to take heart for our future."*

That's what then-Senior-Pastor Rev. Phillip S. Washburn wrote on the occasion of our congregation's 50th Anniversary. Own our past. Rejoice in our present. Take heart for our future.

This coming program year marks the 90th anniversary of our founding. In October 2019, community members held multiple meetings for all interested in forming a Protestant church in the developing Spring Glen Neighborhood. On November 3, 1929 we held our first Sunday School classes. On December 26, 1930 we officially incorporated as the Church of Christ in Spring Glen. On January 5, 1930 we held our first worship service, appropriately on Epiphany Sunday. I think most noteworthy in that list of dates is that the first thing we did -- before we incorporated, before we worshipped together -- the very first ministry we offered was Sunday School.

In the same 50th Anniversary booklet, SGC's second (although some might argue the first) longterm preacher Rev. Victor Brown described the community this way:

*"With the image of Christ as the central unifying figure,
the new fellowship drew members from a wide spectrum of denominations,
religious experiences and perspectives.
Our members were convinced they were creating a new pattern for the future."*

It's amazing how much our character has remained consistent. Through all the cultural shifts, the institutional evolutions, the building changes, the membership growths, declines and rebounds, our details may look different, but our commitment to bring together many religious backgrounds around the central unifying figure of Christ has remained the same. And we are still striving to think boldly to set new patterns for the future.

One other thing has remained the same, encapsulated in this quote from Rev. Llewellyn "Lelly" Smith, our then-Moderator who had recently been ordained at a time when very few women were getting ordained and who would go onto a lengthy ministry in Massachusetts:

*"Seriously, this place is so alive because the people around here are working -- and worshipping --
with a vital spirit. Our Fiftieth Anniversary is no accident!"*

Spring Glen Church at 90 is still just as alive as it was at our 50th and at our founding. In our working and in our worshipping, our 90th Anniversary is no accident.

So join us on Rally Sunday September 8 for worship & Sunday School at 10am, with a picnic on the church lawn to follow. We'll kick off our 90th Anniversary of SGC's founding and celebrate the First Anniversary of Redeemer's transplant.



Introducing The Narrative Lectionary

Sometimes I joke that we are a congregation of "spiritual mutts." Rev. Clare often retorts that we're actually a congregation of "spiritual refugees."

However you look at it, we come from a lot of different backgrounds, denominations, religions, as designed at the founding of our congregation. Each of us has a radically different experience of faith and a wide range of comfort with the Bible. So we've decided to try out a little experiment to help give our diverse congregation a single unifying experience to anchor our many diversities.

Starting Rally Sunday September 8, Spring Glen Church's worship will be following the Narrative Lectionary, which covers the entirety of the Bible from September through May.

In the fall we will cover some of the highlights of the Hebrew Scriptures. Once we arrive at Advent and Christmas we will follow along with a single gospel all the way through Easter, over the course of four years becoming intimately more knowledgeable about the life of Jesus as recorded in all four gospels. After Easter we will cover some of the lesser known stories about what happened to the Christian movement after Jesus rose from the dead and later ascended into Heaven.

Every SGC member and friend is invited to follow along and read the same passage together whether you're in worship or not, giving us a common biblical foundation to anchor our beautifully diverse and unique spiritual journeys. The scripture lessons will be posted each month in the SpringBoard and every week in the weekly email to make it super easy to follow along. If you want to listen to any sermon you may have missed, you can find recordings on our website or subscribe to the Spring Glen Church podcast wherever you listen to your favorite podcasts.

Sermon Soundbite

"I believe all of us have something that is calling us to grow, to serve, or to represent God in some way. Once you get over the fear of trying something new, it can be liberating -- or even fun." - Rev. Luz Maiuri

Sermon Soundbite

"This is highly symbolic language. The waters represent the chaos out of which God creates...The story tells us how God makes a space between the waters above and the waters below. And it is in that space -- that in-between space -- that God creates all things and pronounces them all Good." - Rev. Jen Campbell

SAVE THE DATE: "God is Still Speaking" Women's Retreat

Saturday, November 2

We invite you to set aside a morning for yourself to be in community with other women from SGC. We will have intentional time to connect with one another through prayer and conversation, engage in spiritual reflection, and share our wisdom over a meal. During this retreat we will be exploring the ways we find God still speaking in our daily lives. Our retreat will be co-led by Laura Kisthardt, former Spring Glen Church Ministerial Intern, and Karis Slattery, current Member in Discernment with Spring Glen Church. Fee: \$35 per person, scholarship support available. Sign-up sheet is in the Entry.



Wanted: Prayer Shawl knitters

A few knitters knitting just one shawl a year will provide our Pastors with shawls to share with Spring Glen members and friends. Recipients feel the love of our Church community and experience ongoing comfort. Shawls are given at times of adversity and at times of joy. Participants at the last spring Women's Retreat will recall that leader Rev. Donna Mannocho was gifted with a shawl in appreciation for her leadership. Pastor Clare has yarn kits with directions. It takes about a one month to knit a shawl and lessons can be arranged for first time knitters. Questions? Contact Doby Hall (dobyhall@comcast.net)

Contemplative Prayer Orientation and Group Meeting

In the fall, we often have a renewed energy to make some changes in our lives, take on new perspectives or ideas, or try something different. If you have been looking for a practice which can support your desires for a deeper spiritual experience, you are welcome to join the Contemplative Prayer group. Contemplative practices help us to appreciate the beauty of the everyday, to notice the simple things, and to connect with God through silent prayer, meditation and other contemplative activities.

An Orientation to Contemplative Prayer will be held at 6:15- 7:00 pm on Monday, September 23 .

The regular meeting will be held immediately after at 7:15- 8:15 and will meet going forward on the 4th Monday of the month.

Since 2015, a small group of SGC folk have been gathering for with these hopes in mind for a monthly group meeting called Contemplative Prayer. We have ranged over many topics and have learned a lot from each other. The purpose of our time together is to help us connect with ourselves, with each other and with God, extending beyond the group practices we have shared. But don't worry—as always, no pressure, no right or wrong way to practice, no homework, no guilt!

So often we pass by the grace moments in our haste to get on with life, achieve our goals, or just get through to the next thing. When we live at warp speed—and we all do it, because sometimes we have demanding responsibilities which engross us or stress us or because sometimes we don't know how to do otherwise, life can seem to just rush by. We arrive at the end of the day, sometimes fulfilled, but sometimes wishing for more—stillness, patience, awareness. We hit the pillow and give God a “little peck on the cheek” (in the words of Barbara Brown Taylor) and then take off the next morning to repeat the process. The group is not only for those who have “extra” or “free” time, but for anyone at any stage of life who would like to learn how to hit the “pause” button, even in the midst of daily busyness.

Our format is simple. We will sit in silence, learn a meditative skill or two, and reconnect with the Spirit moving among us. Periods of quiet are alternated with times of sharing. Our practices help us extend our appreciation of the graceful connections, which are right before our eyes and hidden at the same time. Contemplative connections can occur at any point that we pay attention to what we are experiencing, are mindful and alert, and express a word or two of gratitude.

As in the past, the group is open to new members at this first orientation and meeting, but then will go forward together.

RSVPs are requested, and for questions or comments, please contact: clare@springglenchurch.org.

Sermon Soundbite

"If we want to talk about Jesus as the Child of Humanity (Son of Man"), we have to start with the idea that he is embracing and we should embrace all that is human." - Rev. Jess van Denend

Sermon Soundbite

"Sometimes we are called upon to stand against the forces of evil that threaten this world and inflict pain upon God's people everywhere." - Chuck Paul

Continuing the Conversation: Aging as a Spiritual Journey

Tuesday October 1st, 4 pm - Fellowship Room

In a recent exchange with a member of our church, the person declared, "I am happy to be old!"

That feels right on some days, and on others, it's quite a challenge, isn't it?

If you are interested in exploring the various challenges of Aging, come join the conversation, Tuesday October 1 at 4 pm in the Fellowship Room.

We will focus on how we can grow spiritually as we grow older.

Using a text by Episcopal Bishop Marian Budde, we will look at four tasks of eldership: finding a way to hold grief and accumulated losses, finding a path of joy, making a place for rising generations, and tending to friendships.

Our supplemental reading is from the New Yorker article by Adam Gopnick on the quality of life in old age.

Both readings are available through the church office or by emailing clare@springglenchurch.org. But the readings are only a jumping off point: the most important text is your life experience and story.

This promises to be an interesting and stimulating discussion. Please join in!

Sermon Soundbite

If the day is a hard one, this phrase "give us this day" can be an anchor. You can ask, God give me this day, and only on this day, get me through this day, because I can't handle thinking about what tomorrow will bring. It is the original "one day at a time."

And on the joyous days, "give us this day" is a beautiful prayer because it helps to extend and deepen the joy felt and love shared. On vacation, the holidays, a wedding day or the day of birth of a beloved new little one, "give us this day" reminds us to savor the day, before it slips away.

-Pastor Clare

Happy (Almost) Fall, Y'all!

I am thrilled to be starting my time at Spring Glen as your Children's Ministry Coordinator! It has been such a pleasure to meet many of you, your students, and the friendly faces of this community. You all have made this transition fun, warm, and truly an experience of God's radical welcome. Thank you!

As I am transitioning into this position, many of us are beginning a new season in school! I am praying for all of you to receive blessings of peace and joy as we settle into new routines. Here is an affirmation you can practice with your young students repeating after you, or hang it up somewhere in your home for your middle or high schooler to practice on their own:

I am called by God - to succeed this school year.

I am anointed.

I am appointed.

I am chosen by God.

God gives me wisdom to handle anything.

God gives me strength every day.

I never face any struggle alone.

The joy of Jesus lives in me.

Peace lives in me at home and at school.

I am destined for success.

I am destined for victory.

God is on my team, cheering me on.

I declare that this year will be awesome!

Remaining in the Back to School spirit, remember to join us on Rally Day - Sunday, September 8 - as we kick off our new Sunday School year!

Celebrate our new year, the end of summer, the start of school, and reconnect with friends new and old!



Our picnic will be held after worship, outside on the church lawn. Drinks, snacks, sandwiches, and desserts will be provided. The Christian Education committee welcomes donations of any kind of salad to share with the group.

Stay to enjoy the company and food, as well as music, face painting, games, and more!

Partnering with You,

Jessica Tingley

Children's Ministry Coordinator

SAY YES

Say yes to shaping faith of all of God's children.

Say yes to having fun every week.

Say yes to imagination.

Say yes to curiosity.

Say yes to selfies.

Say yes to affirming personal journeys.

Say yes to engaging interests.

Say yes to coloring.

Say yes to growth spurts.

Say yes to music.

Say yes to teaching Sunday School!

How Do I Get Involved?

Choose one or all three of our trimesters: Fall, Winter, or Spring

Each trimester is roughly eleven weeks, with the first week of each month off for Noah's Chapel.

Choose a grade level:

Pre-K & K

1 & 2

3 & 4

5, 6 & 7

Email Jess@springglenchurch.org with any questions, or to confirm your choice!

Advent Craft Fair

Sunday December 8, 2019

Our Spring Glen Church Craft Fair is coming soon! What is the fair, you ask? Our community gathers together with a few people from the wider community to share our creations, fun and joy with you. Vendors set up in the Great Hall that morning either before or during worship. After worship we share the space with Fellowship Hour and it really is a lot of fun for vendors, for appreciators and for buyers. Almost all goods are handmade and make great gifts. And - a percentage of the proceeds go to a scholarship fund for the annual Womens' Retreat. Last year, our hall was full to almost bursting. So... If you would like to reserve a table, or if you have questions, please let me know soon. Ruth LeBar rlebar@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Morning Bible Discussion Resumes September 15

All are invited to join the bible discussion (aka "study") that occurs every Sunday morning at 9am, starting September 15. The group looks at the scripture that will be used in the worship service later that same morning. Each gathering is, in effect, standalone with no expectation of any prior knowledge so everyone is invited to attend whenever they are able. We have intentionally changed the name from "bible study" to "bible discussion" to convey more accurately what takes place: while the facilitator usually provides some background for the text, the conversation primarily focuses on what the passage means/says to us today in the lives we live. And very important—coffee is provided! Please come wake up to the scripture and prepare for the worship service. For more information, please contact Doug Hawthorne, Ellen Schowalter, or Doby Hall.

Fellowship Hour Hosting Schedule

Below is the Fellowship Hour hosting schedule for September. If you are not able to host on your assigned date, we ask that you try to help find a replacement, perhaps swapping with an individual/family scheduled later in the months ahead. Please notify [Courtney K Mason](#) of any changes. She will update the master calendar and the church office. To find the phone numbers or email addresses of other members, be sure to log in as a member on this website, and then you may access a downloadable church directory from the righthand navigation menu. Alternatively, email Melissa in the office to request a PDF of the directory be emailed to you.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ambassador</u>	<u>Host(s)</u>	<u>Host(s)</u>
9/1/19	Alex Smolnik	Heather Jessen	Dave & Karen Giblin
9/8/19	Emily Smith	Courtney Mason	Cynthia Licata
9/15/19	Emily Smith	Mary Cameron	Brian Geddes & Andri Smith
9/22/19	Courtney Mason	Dick & Carol Shank	Landis Diggs & Sarah White-Diggs
9/29/19	Alex Smolnik	Michele, Ryan, Evan & Matt O'Connell	Tom & Anne Dembinski

SGC Office Announcements

The SGC office will be closed EVERY Monday. Emails will be periodically monitored on Mondays and you can always leave a message on the church's answering machine.

SGC Office Emails: When corresponding via email with the office, please direct your messages as follows:

Communications@SpringGlenChurch.org

This email is for any items you wish to appear in any of our publications. (Weekly Email, Bulletin Website and Springboard.) Please put the appropriate publication in the subject line along with which committee or community event the announcement is attached to. (Bulletin- CE, Springboard-Habitat)

Melissa@SpringGlenChurch.org

This email is for all other correspondence that will NOT appear in publications. For example, scheduling meetings, meeting minutes, general inquires and setting up a time to take Melissa out to coffee!

PLEASE! DO NOT USE these email addresses when you are placing an order for the church or as a default email. Please use your personal email or the email that is associated with your committee.

Also, the church office is always interested in what the membership is doing. CC'ing the office on group emails is often confusing. The office doesn't need to know the process by which committee meetings are scheduled, the office just needs to know the final date and time. It is very easy to miss important information when it is in a long thread of conversation. Thank you so much for your cooperation!!

Open Door/Aging at Home

Welcome back to another year with Aging at Home/Open Door! The program meets the first Thursday of every month at the church, and features a delicious luncheon and an interesting speaker. [Click here](#) for all the details and instructions on how to sign up. The program is open to all, so invite your friends!



Ministerial Intern 2019-2020

Greetings! I am JaQuan Beachem, a second-year M.Div candidate at Yale Divinity School. Though born in New Jersey, I identify as a Georgia peach, as I was raised in the suburbs of Atlanta. I attended Bard College in the Hudson Valley where I studied Theater & Performance. Prior to moving to New Haven, I balanced working in Admission with creating new theatrical works across the nation. At YDS, I am interested in exploring the question of how theology and the arts can change hearts and minds, cultivate community, and be utilized for social change + political reform. Recently, I have been investigating what it takes to see the humanity in all, to see ourselves and each other how God sees us: in love. I am thrilled to continue getting to know and serving this congregation over the course of this year as your ministerial intern! Blessings, JaQuan

The Narrative Lectionary starts September 8!

Whether you're in worship or not, you're invited to follow the story.

September 1- Communion Sunday

Luke 14:1, 7-14, A Wedding Parable

September 8 - Rally Day, 90th Kick Off, Transplant Anniversary

Genesis 2:4-25, The Garden of Eden

September 15 - Laughing Matters Sunday

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7, Sarah & Isaac

September 22 - Pride Sunday

Genesis 32:22-30, Jacob Wrestles God

September 29 - 1619 Sunday

Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15, The Burning Bush

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