

A publication of the Strengthening our Congregations Committee

What's in a Name?

Someone I respect mentioned to me that no one under the age of 65 would “get” the name of our newsletter. The median age of the SOCC committee is over 60 and may be higher, so most members of that committee remember a show called “Laugh In.” An earlier meaning of “sock it to me” was a term in softball to get a ball to a player in a way that his glove would “sock” it, or catch it with a snap of noise. It would be a satisfying delivery. The connotation on the Rowan and Martin show is defined by the **Urban Dictionary** as: “Let me have it! Rock my world!” That is what we are trying to do. The truth is, though this gives meaning to the title, a lot of people do not relate to it. We are wide open to suggestions!



SOCC Happenings

The forum on **Stewardship** held in May was well attended and very informative, providing concrete ideas and a solid understanding of how we could convey the idea of a discipleship of generosity in a world that is vastly different than a generation ago. Our keynote, Rev. Tom Moore, indicated he would be open to leading this discussion again.

At December's Presbytery meeting, SOCC plans on providing an exhibition hall for information regarding “**Wellness.**” We are still fleshing out the details but we hope churches can share ideas about their exercise programs, support groups, parish nurses, therapy programs, senior health, accommodations for persons with disabilities, and other general wellness initiatives. We will also invite in community health organizations and provide an emphasis on pastor health. If your church has provided such a service and would be willing to share some of the details with others, please let us know.

SOCC is also exploring an informational meeting about constructing and maintaining websites, using social media, how to conduct webinars, on line registration for events, online survey tools, alternatives in Presentation tools

and more. This will be for seasoned users and neophytes. Stay tuned for more.

General Assembly Special Edition



Accompanying this newsletter is a special publication that features our Presbytery's commissioners to General Assembly this summer in Portland, Oregon.

Silver Spring Presbyterian Church is Certified as a PCUSA Earth Care Congregation

Submitted by Emily Krebs

Silver Spring Presbyterian Church was recently certified as an Earth Care Congregation by PC(USA)'s Environmental Ministries. This honor speaks to the great commitment that Silver Spring has to caring for God's earth. With this certification, Silver Spring joins Pine Street Presbyterian Church as the only Earth Care Congregation in the Presbytery.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, Silver Spring affirmed the Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into all facets of its church life and completed

projects and activities in the fields of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.



The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden. The Earth Care Congregations program was started in 2010 by PC(USA) Environmental Ministries. The goal of the program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

Silver Spring has a history of upgrading its buildings to be energy efficient and maintaining its natural resources, so the foundation for the Earth Care certification had been well established. Prior to achieving certification, the congregation switched to using ceramic mugs for their coffee on Sundays in lieu of Styrofoam cups, and the office staff began purchasing 100% recycled paper. Earth care information is being published in the church's weekly and monthly newsletters.

April was designated as Earth Care Month. The Earth Care Team had the opportunity to give Minutes for Mission each week and we celebrated Creation Sunday with special Sunday school classes and worship centered around the topic of earth keeping.

Grateful for the guidance which Pine Street provided to us, the Silver Spring Earth Care Team stands ready to assist any other congregation wishing to consider certification as an Earth Care Congregation.

Meet the Pastor

Recently a tech expert hired by the Pentagon to upgrade their systems said the Pentagon dislikes two things: 1) change and 2) the way things currently are. Sometimes this describes the church. A while back readers were introduced to an innovative and exciting approach to ministry. Three churches that could not support full time ministry tackled change in a big way. They became **Juniata Valley Shared Ministry. Rev. Nancy McClure** serves the churches of **Westminster, Highland, and Perry Valley.**

Nancy is a lifelong Presbyterian who attended Grove City, a Presbyterian college, and became a teacher. After college while teaching in Newark, NJ, she first felt the call to ministry. While visiting friends at Princeton Seminary, she was interviewed by the director of admissions and not only was accepted by given a full academic scholarship. Her first call was as Assistant Pastor at New Providence Presbyterian Church and she went on to serve churches in Wilmington, NC and Lancaster, PA.



After marriage and the birth of her two daughters, she accepted a part time call to Perry Valley to allow her more time with her young family. When her girls started school, she returned gradually to teaching, working with students with intellectual disabilities and autism. She earned her Masters in Special Education at Shippensburg.

In the summer of 2015, as Perry Valley faced financial challenges and declining membership, discussion emerged about a shared ministry with 3 churches, remaining separate yet joining together. Nancy left teaching to start officially as the pastor for Juanita Valley Shared Ministry on March 8. Together they "glorify God and enjoy Him forever."