

Poet

from A1

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rected life.”

Poetry found a home in Stafford’s life as he learned to explore this creative outlet.

“Poetry is our native voice. It’s what we learn as children – to be playful and inventive and curious with language,” he said. “To be a poet is just to continue that process and not get constricted by so-called efficiency, which is excluding of the evocative dimensions of language.”

While a lack of constrictions makes for a literary playground of creativity, Stafford does have his own loose boundaries for that playground.

“My definition of poetry is saying as much as you can in the shortest possible space,” he said. “And that doesn’t mean it has to be short, it just means it has to be compact and dense and rich.”

Stafford would go on to get his Ph.D. in medieval literature from the University of Oregon, and has found work as a printer, photographer, oral historian, editor and visiting writer at a host of colleges and schools.

His career as an educator and author has delivered him as far as Scotland, Italy and Bhutan and has seen the production of a dozen books of poetry and prose. For his efforts, he has received creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Governor’s Arts Award, and the Steward Holbrook Award from Literary Arts for his contributions to Oregon’s literary culture.

He is also the founding director of the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis & Clark College, a body of the college which offers a broad range of studies for both teachers and adult writers.

“For seven years, at Lewis &

Clark, I was the person who would teach anything to anyone anytime,” Stafford said. His classes spanned the topics of photography, oral history, folklore, journalism, linguistics, literature and composition.

To bring the studies into a collective orbit, the Northwest Writing Institute was founded. The goal was not just to provide an eclectic mix of courses, but to establish a home and community for writers to be reflective in their writing experiences.

“It’s a zone of exploration and place-based storytelling,” Stafford said. “It’s very inductive.”

Since its inception, the institute has launched numerous classes, workshops and programs around the state which have offered writing opportunities to fields as diverse as law, folk arts and ecology.

“Miraculously, 35 years later, I’m still doing it,” said Stafford.

In 2018, Governor Kate Brown named Stafford Poet Laureate of Oregon, a two-year appointment. Stafford is Oregon’s ninth poet laureate since 1921, succeeding Elizabeth Woody, the first Native American to be named the state’s poet laureate.

Stafford cited a sentiment Woody had left with him: “The more I do poetry, the less it’s about what the poem is and the more it’s about who the poem serves,” he recalled.

In his poet laureate capacity, Stafford says he is “a servant of the people spreading words about words.” It’s in this spirit Stafford is meeting with young people in Cottage Grove to discuss the importance of literary expression.

He hopes to engender in students the idea that meaning and a role in one’s community can be cultivated through the reflective process of writing.

“Writing is the friend that never leaves you,” he said. “A place to explore your loneliness, your thoughts, your aspirations. A place to honor your community. I talk about writing a poem for someone – not so much about a subject as for a reader.”

Though the meeting may entail some writing, Stafford is mostly interested in having a conversation with young potential writers.

“I want to interview them about writing. When writing is easy, what makes it easy? When it’s hard what makes it hard?” He added, “And how

could we share our techniques, approaches and attitudes so that writing could be an arrow in our quiver – a skill we could carry with confidence – and something that will help us negotiate the mysteries of the world.”

Stafford wants to encourage “a generation of thinkers and inventors with an active mind and heart in service to community. And writing is one way to do that,” he said.

Writing, too, can serve as a developmental accessory to other passions, Stafford noted.

“I actually advocate writing as a companion to some other obsession in one’s life,” he said. “Let’s face it, you’re not going to make money as a poet, but you can bring lyrics and speech to anything you choose to do. ... You’re basically telling a story about yourself and to the extent the words are evocative and generous and playful and engaging, you will succeed.”

For a generation inundated by media, Stafford feels a silver lining rests in its ability “to take charge of that and turn it around and say, ‘I’m going to make something. I’m not just going to be a receiver and a consumer. I’m going to be a creator.’”

Creation, to Stafford, is a remedy to the often-destructive tones delivered by unceasing streams of news and social media sites. “You need to talk back to all that darkness,” he said. “And you talk back by creating.”

After visiting with students, Stafford will move on to Stacey’s Covered Bridge Restaurant and from noon to 2 p.m. to “talk shop” with local writers who are interested in discussing the craft.

Regarding his own methodology, Stafford credited his ability to create to a routine.

“For me, it’s less a matter of inspiration and more a matter of process,” he said. “I carry a little notebook in my pocket and throughout the day I overhear things, remember things or think of things and jot down notes and then every morning before it gets light, I have an appointment with myself and take out my notebook and pick something that caught my attention and find out what it wants to be.”

To wrap up the day, Stafford will be at the Shepherd Room in the Community Center at 7 p.m. to present some of his work, discuss writing and hold a Q & A.

# Carousel Board welcomes newest, youngest member

The Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel Board recently welcomed its newest and youngest voting member of the governing board, Destiny Duerst, who is a 2017 Cottage Grove High School

graduate.

In 2017, Duerst and her best friend, Ryani, organized a spaghetti feed that raised more than \$2,000 to purchase clothing for the homeless. Duerst said she is enthused

about bringing a carousel to South Lane County and will work in fundraising and communications to further the efforts of the restoration and final home for the carousel.



COURTESY PHOTO

Carousel board president Don Williams (right) and fellow board member Alice Nowicki (left) with newest and youngest board member Destiny Duerst.

## Worship Directory

### DRAIN:

**HOPE U.M.C.**  
131 W “A” St. Drain, OR  
541-315-1617  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am  
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm  
Worship: 12:30pm

**COTTAGE GROVE:**  
**6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
10:00am  
Christian Education:  
Pre-K through 5th  
www.6thandgibbs.com

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

**Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am

**Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
www.cgbbible.org

**Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd.  
541-942-4851  
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett  
www.cg4.tv  
Full Children’s Ministry available  
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

**Delight Valley**  
Church of Christ  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium  
**First Baptist Church**  
301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242  
Interim Pastor: Reed Webster  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Worship Service 11:00am  
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm  
cgfirstbaptist.com

**First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St  
541-942-4479  
Rev.: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
fpcgrove.com

**Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd.  
541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
www.hopefellowshippupc.com  
“FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE”

**Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a  
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)  
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

**Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Pennoyer Ave  
541-942-8928  
Preacher: Tony Martin  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
www.pennoyeravecoc.com

**Old Time Gospel Fellowship**  
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999  
Pastor: Jim Edwards  
Sunday Service: 10:00am  
Join in Traditional Christian Worship

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches**  
1025. N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420  
Father John J. Boyle  
Holy Mass:  
Saturday Vigil – 5:30 PM  
Sunday – 10:30 PM  
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net  
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM  
Saturdays or by appointment  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell  
552 Holbrook Lane  
Sunday 8:30 AM  
**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
“Church with the flags.”  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
All Welcome

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups  
tlccg.com

**United Methodist Church**  
334 Washington • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
umcgrove.org

**“VICTORY” Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: “WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”

**CRESWELL:**  
Creswell Presbyterian Church  
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419  
Rev. Seth Wheeler  
Adult Sunday School 9:15am  
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am  
website www.creswellpres.org

## Worship With Us!

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!

Cottage Grove  
**Sentinel**

541-942-3325  
116 N. 6th Street  
Cottage Grove, OR

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
420 Monroe St  
Cottage Grove, Oregon

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A

## GOSPEL MEETING

WITH

**BOB LOUDERMILK**  
OF EDMOND OKLAHOMA

**MARCH 14 – 17, 2019**

|          |            |                    |
|----------|------------|--------------------|
| Thursday | (March 14) | 7:00 PM            |
| Friday   | (March 15) | 7:00 PM            |
| Saturday | (March 16) | 5:00 PM            |
| Sunday   | (March 17) | 10:30 AM & 3:00 PM |

COME HEAR A MESSAGE  
FROM GOD'S WORD

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

For more information call:

Ron 541-942-2506    Caleb 541-315-6453    Clarence: 541-660-9012