

Springwater Currents



Springwater Presbyterian Church
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www.springwater-pres.org

A Place of worship, service and nurture for God's people of all ages

April 2009

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Sunday Schedule

9:45am
Hymn Sing

10:00am
Worship

11:15am
Fellowship

11:30-12:30pm
Sunday School

12:30-1:00
Soup Luncheon

Deadline for next
newsletter:
April 20



April Birthdays

Mary Johnson 4/01
Kendra Guttridge 4/02
Brittany Ingamels 4/02
Lynne Deshler 4/04
Kayla Hauck 4/05
Gilbert Shibley 4/05
Robin Fisher 4/05
Ellen Ingamels 4/06
Judy Coyne 4/07
Rick Parfrey 4/17
Eileen Parfrey 4/18

April Anniversaries

Mary & Randy Johnson 4/17
Peter & Carol Sturman 4/24



April 22nd is Earth Day



Special Holy Days in April

Palm Sunday — April 5, 2009 Service at 10:00, dedication of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, no Sunday School

Maundy Thursday — April 9, 2009 See article page 4

Good Friday — April 10, 2009

Easter — April 12, 2009 Breakfast at 8:30, service at 10:00, no Sunday School, see article page 4

Lectionary Readings

April 5 (Palm/Passion Sunday): Mark 11:1-11; 12-14, 20-26; 12:1-12, 28-34, 41-44; 14:3-9, 26-31; 14:32-15:47; Psalm 31:9-16

April 12 (Resurrection Sunday): Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Isaiah 25:6-9; Mark 16:1-8

April 19 (Earth Day and Consecration of Earth's Stewards): Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31; Ps 133

April 26 (Presbytery-sponsored Pulpit Exchange): Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48; Psalm 4

Why does Lent
always seem so
hard?

I wonder if
“simplicity” means
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In all the rough
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and as a nation,
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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

As I write this, we've just passed the midpoint of Lent. When you read this, we'll be on the verge of Palm/Passion Sunday, with Holy Week in plain sight. Not a moment too soon! Why does Lent always seem so hard?

A Long Haul, An Uncertain Future

It's probably not just Lent that has been hard on us. Our nation is experiencing economic threats we haven't seen in at least a generation. These uncertain times require great courage and immense trust. This rocky season in our country is mirrored by grief and uncertainty in our own congregation. Since I came back from sabbatical six months ago, we've had five funerals. Winter is always a time of sickness, but much of it this year is life-altering. Several families face job losses. I weep during my prayer time, and my practical response has been to write and accomplish “to do” lists, to see ministry as a series of tasks. My to do list stretches into August.

Lenten Experience

During this time of anxiety my Lenten reading has been Wendy Wright's book, *The Rising*. Early in Lent, she talked about the Ignatian practice of **poverty, contempt, humility**. Wright restates these practices for our times as simplicity and inner spaciousness (poverty), self-validation that moves from *outer* “who-do-others-say-I-am” to inner “who-am-I-before-God” (contempt), and simultaneous blessedness and brokenness (humility).

For myself, I wonder if “simplicity” means less accomplishing tasks and more just being present. I wonder if “contempt” is about accepting the full responsibility meant by God's call to spiritual maturity, as if this kind of “growing up” means defining myself and not letting others project onto me “what you oughta do.” I wonder if “humility” tells the truth, not just about my brokenness, but about my giftedness, my abilities as well as my inabilities.

Hope in the Midst of Darkness

Wendy Wright's book isn't one of those “For Pastors Only” books, which means that what she writes about is as appropriate for you as it is for me. As I have meditated on Wright's book through Lent, it has occurred to me that it is seductive to accept the status quo, to fall into a blind and unquestioning acceptance of *the way things are*.

In all the rough patches in our life together, all the challenges we face as a congregation and as a nation, **there is hope**. Last month, we re-dedicated our sanctuary. There was a time when we would have been tempted to think we didn't deserve such a nice, new place to worship. Status quo would have us believe we had no business spending all that money on something so nice.

I want to tell you it's about hope. It's about a God who provides—abundantly.

The Leadership Fair is held every February and has classes to interest nearly everyone. Other upcoming events sponsored by the Presbytery of the Cascades include the Cascades Lay Institute on May 15-16 and Cascades Summer Conference July 16-19 in Bend, Oregon.

But it was all gift. It's always gift. As Dick Scott can tell you in very convincing detail about the gifts and their "just in time-ness." But I'm your pastor, and I want to tell you it's about hope. It's about a God who provides—abundantly.

This summer, we're sending our youth on a mission trip to Alaska. No one can afford to pay for the trip out of pocket. The money has not been allocated out of pledges. The kids will have to earn the money. There are some who might say, "We've got no business spending the money," especially in this economic climate. And they might be right.

But I think God honors our desire to act in gratitude for the wonderful gift of the new sanctuary. The kids can go, and it will be for the glory of God. See you in church.



Leadership Fair

It was a cold and overcast day when three members of Springwater Presbyterian Church went into Portland's First Presbyterian Church for the Leadership Fair, sponsored by Presbytery of the Cascades. I for one really didn't have any idea what was going to happen, but I went anyway.

They had two very good keynote speakers. Then it was off to classes. After the first class we had a very nice lunch. After lunch, as it is well known, it is time for a potty break; but right in the middle of all this lights flash, bells ring and we were told to please go outside (this was in February, it was cold), you got that right- we were outside and our coats were inside. There we were standing and watching the fire truck pull up. Well, I looked at Kathy Scott, she has only a short sleeve blouse on (and pants) and the icicles were starting to hang off of her. But a lady in the group said "here, take my coat, I have two", so Kathy endured it all. About 20 minutes later we were able to go back inside and on to class- a really good class on Presbyterian mission in Russia. Well, that was what happened on that cold and overcast Saturday in February.

Oh yes, and we all had a good time, and even learned something. So look out next year- I'll go fire or no fire.

Bob Wilson



Maunday Thursday Seder Dinner

On April 9, Springwater will come together to celebrate this Christian version of the Passover Seder dinner. We will meet at the Grange at 6:00pm to begin the ceremonial meal. Christine and Patrick Lumbroso will be leading us through this time, explaining the symbolism of this traditional re-enactment of the last supper.

To be part of this event, you need to make reservations by calling Kathy Scott (503-630-4739) or leave a message on the church telephone (503-630-5480). The cost of the meal is \$5.00/person or \$12.00/family. There will be a free-will offering to reimburse the Lumbroso's for their time, energy and talent. There is also a sign-up sheet available at the church. We have invited the Eagle Creek Presbyterian Church to share this event with us.

Please come! Bring your children, this is a family meal. Questions? Call Kathy Scott.



Easter Sunday Events

Easter Sunday, April 16: Come for Breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The hospitality committee needs people to sign up to bring rolls, muffins, fruit, juice or milk. See Carol Sturman if you can help.

Flowers for Easter: We would like to fill the sanctuary with spring flowers on Easter. If you have daffodils, tulips, etc. in your garden please share them. We ask that the flowers not be heavily scented so people with allergies can stay in worship. Bouquets should be in clear glass vases. Or talk to Carol Sturman or Nona Shearer if you wish to donate money towards Easter flowers. You can donate flowers (or money for flowers) in memory of someone. Those names will be listed in the Easter bulletin.



Financial Update April 2009, per capita

Every year, the Presbytery of the Cascades assesses a per capita, or "per person", fee to each church in the presbytery to cover administrative, legislative and judicial functions of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. This is done so that all Presbyterians share in the necessary costs of administration. This year, Springwater Presbyterian Church was assessed and paid \$22.55 for each member, a total of \$1488.30. You have the option to reimburse SPC for the per capita paid on your behalf. Simply indicate "per capita" on your payment, and place it with the offering.

Sunday School Schedule

April 19 11:30

April 26 11:30

**Sunday School is
for adults, youth,
and children**

**Soup Luncheon
follows at
12:30**

**The Lord's Prayer,
written by our children
and youth.**

*God you're da Bomb!
You're awesome!
Amazing! We hope
things get to be the
way you want them to
be. We trust you to
provide us with what
we need (thanks!)
We're sorry (please
forgive us, we'll try to
forgive too.) Help us
to do what's right,
guide us from peer
pressure. God, you
are in charge! Wow.
I really mean it.*

Adult Lenten Activities

During Lent there have been opportunities for additional faith nurture activities both after worship on Sundays and on Wednesday evenings. On Sundays Pastor Eileen has been leading classes on what it means to be a Presbyterian.

On Wednesday evenings a group of us has gathered in the Grange to enjoy meals prepared and served by Don and Barbara MacKinnon This has been followed by time together in the sanctuary to explore ways of enriching our faith practice and life experience through diet, spiritual reading (*Lectio Divina*) and contemplative prayer. While the adults have been enjoying this sacred time together, Pastor Eileen has been holding "playtime with the pastor" with the children in the basement. If you haven't seen their version of the Lord's Prayer, see sidebar on the left.

A group of about 12 adults have been participating in the Wednesday activities and it is my hope that we can continue to meet beyond the Lent and Easter seasons.

Sunday School Kids

In March, the preschool through 4th grade set have been hearing stories about things that grow. We experienced the parables of the Sower and the Mustard Seed. We planted grass to watch growing things and to prepare for a Persian New Year celebration on March 22nd. The Persian New Year, or *Navruz*, is celebrated on the first day of spring and is a celebration of new life. A tray of grass is a traditional centerpiece of the New Year table. Our celebration culminated in a Persian feast with the adults, thanks to Susan Horton and Renate Ryan-Jeppeson.

SPC Youth

Youth Sunday school has been able to meet most Sundays following worship. We have a time for praying for our particular joys and concerns; we re-read the scripture passage(s) read during worship and discuss what we heard God saying to us through the scripture and the sermon. We have also been working slowly through the Lord's Prayer and what we are saying to God when we say these words.

Peter Sturman and Renate Ryan-Jeppeson





We hope you will begin to feel the support and care as we begin our new journey as Deacons.

**Our Deacons are:
Carol Sturman
Mary Johnson
Mary Shearer
Moderator:
Kathy Scott**

Youth Group Activities

Marilyn, Jessie Jo and Samantha helped move fire wood for Jean McCloskey for which she made a generous donation to the Youth Mission Trip fund.

On Saturday June 6th the Youth group will be preparing and serving the Grange breakfast and providing a car wash as a Mission Trip fund raising activity. We will need you to help us in this endeavor so please mark your calendars. There will also be a meeting of the youth going on the Mission Trip, and their parents, to discuss plans for the trip and additional fundraisers.

I hear you asking "How can I help with the Mission trip?"

- 1) You can start saving your deposit containers and bringing them to church on Sunday. We will collect them from you and periodically turn them in for the refund money and add that to the trip fund.
- 2) Our return from Juneau at the end of the trip will be via Alaska Air. If any of you have frequent flyer miles you would like to donate to purchase a ticket that would be wonderful.

Deacon Update

The Board of Deacons consists of Carol Sturman, chair of the Hospitality committee, Mary Johnson, chair of the Care committee and Mary Shearer, chair of the Mission committee. Kathy Scott is the moderator.

The deacons held a meeting on March 8th, and invited the congregation to participate in strategic planning. A few people from the congregation came and took part in the process of discerning how the deacons can best serve our congregation and community.

At this meeting, we divided into the three committees. Each committee chair and at least 1 volunteer spent time together talking about the needs they might be able to address and how that could happen. There is still much planning to be done, but we do know that deacons will be visiting shut-ins, keeping in contact with people who are ill and they will participate in delivering communion to those who can not come to church.

You might not notice much going on immediately, but we hope you will begin to feel the support and care as we begin our new journey as Deacons. We invite you to join us in this ministry and hope that you will contact us when you or your family needs prayer and support, when someone is hospitalized or you have a great idea for deacons to serve.

If you have prayer requests or information for the board, please call Kathy Scott at 503.630.4739. Or, feel free to call any of the three current deacons if you prefer.

News from Session

Session:

Session met Sunday, March 15 2009. Items of note from this meeting include the following:

Renate Jeppeson

Don McKinnon

Peter Sturman

Kevin Kirby

Bob Wilson

Kathy Scott

Cindy Babikoff

Jennifer Souders

*Approved the dedication of the loose coin offering to the Estacada Food Bank for the 2nd quarter of 2009. This includes only the coins in the offering, not the paper money. Session would like to hear suggestions from the congregation on where to dedicate the loose coin offering for the 3rd and 4th quarter of the year. Suggestions may be made to any Session member or put in Cindy Babikoff's church mailbox.

*Approved a motion to decommission the Sanctuary Restoration Committee and offer sincere thanks and appreciation for the hard work and the dedication they maintained throughout the process.

*Approved recognizing the work done by the Building Our Vision committee during the outdoor beautification process with gratitude for seeing to the completion of this phase of the vision.

*Approved the curriculum and dates for Vacation Church School. Dates approved are June 22-25. Mark your calendars now and be thinking about kids you know ages pre-school through 4th grade that would enjoy the opportunity for faith enrichment led by the congregation's Youth.

*Discussed the impending mission trip to Hoonah, Alaska. The mission planners are accepting donations of frequent flyer miles to help defray costs. If you have miles to donate, contact Pastor Eileen or Peter Sturman.

Respectfully Submitted: Cindy Babikoff, Clerk of Session

Added Light Helps Prevent Falls

As people age, less light reaches the back of their eyes where they sense color and motion. Using 100-watt bulbs or higher makes things easier to see. (Don't use bulbs that exceed the wattage rating on lamps and lighting fixtures, since this can present a fire hazard.) Put nightlights in the bathroom, bedroom, and hallways.

Ask your doctor for a referral to an occupational therapist who can help you devise other ways to prevent falls. Some solutions are easily installed and relatively cheap. Others may require professional help and more of an investment. If the plan is to stay in the home for many more years, an investment in safety and fall prevention may make that possible.

Source: National Institute of Health
Mary Johnson



God's treasure is in His people "You are my treasured possession!"
Deuteronomy 14: 1-2

So, where is your treasure? May you find it by sharing resources
and changing lives with a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Growth Industry

We've heard quite a bit lately about how organizations are cutting back during this period of economic problems. However, there is one organization where business is booming.

In the last seven months of 2008, 154 new families who had never been there before came for help to the Estacada Area Food Bank. That was a 62% increase in new families compared to 2007.

We, as a church, have helped meet the needs of the past. We have donated food and supplies, and we have volunteered our time. While things may be tight now for us, there are still many ways we can help our friends and neighbors. Please contact the Estacada Area Food Bank to see how you can serve in meeting these vital needs.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED