

Springwater Currents



Springwater Presbyterian Church
 24553 Springwater Rd
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www.springwater-pres.org

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

February 2010

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Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
for all ages

10:30 AM Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

February 22

February Birthdays

<i>Kathleen Leonard</i>	2/07
<i>Alder Shibley</i>	2/08
<i>Joe Engler</i>	2/09
<i>Susan Horton</i>	2/12
<i>Don MacKinnon</i>	2/12
<i>Gary Guttridge</i>	2/21
<i>Scott Clatt</i>	2/21
<i>David Rigby</i>	2/25
<i>Bill Varitz</i>	2/28



February Anniversaries

Deb & Jim Odell 2/22
Karen & Joe Engler 2/22

Church Events in February

- 2/3, 6:30: informational meeting for consulting readers of the Common English Bible.
- 2/6: Oak Hills Presbyterian retreat at Springwater Presbyterian Church
- 2/10, 6:30: feedback session for consulting readers of the Common English Bible.
- 2/17, 7:00: Ash Wednesday, joint worship service with Eagle Creek Presbyterian.
- 2/20, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: joint session/deacon planning retreat, Whispering Pines, Estacada.
- 2/21: Transfiguration Sunday, communion, *Feast of Fools* and potluck
- 2/27: presbytery *Leadership Fair*, Lake Grove Presbyterian

Special Days in February

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 7, 2010
- Transfiguration of the Lord, February 14, 2010
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2010
- Presidents' Day, February 15, 2010
- Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010
- First Sunday in Lent, February 21, 2010
- Second Sunday in Lent, February 28, 2010

Pastor's Perspective

When the Western calendar was settled on and the "beginning of the year" was set for the month after December, it was named "January," after the Roman god with two faces. One face looked forward, the other looked backward.

Long ago, Springwater chose January for its annual meeting. Reflecting the civil calendar's notion of looking back and looking forward, we celebrate the events of the previous year while anticipating the year yet to come.

Start Over

But now it's February. Enough with the backward looks. For me, February seems like the slog-through month. It's a month for finish-up, catch-up, get-ready-for-spring. Seed catalogues may be promising springtime, but what happened to those resolutions you began so optimistically last month? It happens every year.

If you are like everyone else, this was the year you were going to be skinnier, smarter, and better organized. Maybe because I'm your pastor, many of you also claimed this was the year you were going to get serious about your relationship with God.

One church in the presbytery took on a 21-day challenge for January. The whole congregation committed to daily scripture study and prayer. They would read from the same gospel every day and check in with each other's progress regularly. The wisdom of a 21-day challenge is that it takes that long to establish a new habit.

Speaking Theologically . . .

We worship the God of new beginnings and fresh starts. Thank God, because most of us need a fresh start about every day or so. Our intentions are so good . . . but the distractions come so easily. When scripture says God's mercy is new every morning, that's fabulous news. God not only "lets" us start over, God actively participates in it.

So the good news is that even if the daily-ness of living means you've lost track of your resolution to read the Bible and pray on a regular basis, you get to start fresh right now. Really. It's a free "do-over."

Many of you took home a *Mission Yearbook of Prayer*. Jean McCloskey gave such an eloquent, heart-felt endorsement of what a blessing it had been to her in 2009, that she inspired many of us to want the same for ourselves. But here it is February, and you've been so busy, etc. etc.

Why not accept God's offer of a fresh start? Forgive your momentary lapses and resolve to start again. Where did you run into trouble or give up the last time? This time you can anticipate it, perhaps formulate a more manageable goal or strategize other ways to accomplish that daily prayer and Bible time. Still wondering where to begin? Are the four readings offered in the *Yearbook* too many for you each day? Decide to just follow the

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gospel lesson for 3 weeks, or the Old Testament lesson. Read the morning and evening psalms every day for 3 weeks, praying as you read.

The important thing is to begin. We worship the God of new beginnings.

See you in church.

Eileen

Lectionary Readings for February and Lent

February 7 (Called to Failure): Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Psalm 138

February 14 (Transfiguration Sunday) (A Little Too Bright): Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43); Psalm 99

February 21 (Sacrifice, Sacrifice, Sacrifice): Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Romans 10:8b-13, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

February 28 (Sacrificing Ego): Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35; Psalm 27

March 7 (guest preacher, third Sunday in Lent): 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8

March 14 (The Meaning of Sacrifice): Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Psalm 32

March 21 (Yet Another Sacrifice): Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8; Psalm 126

March 26 (The Final Sacrifice): Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40; Luke 22:14-23:56; Psalm 31:9-16

Common English Bible Translation

Pastor Eileen and Springwater Presbyterian Church have been given the singular honor of serving as consulting readers for the new translation of scripture, the Common English Bible. Our assignment has arrived: the first twelve chapters of Deuteronomy.

We are looking for volunteers. An informational meeting will be at 6:30 on February 3. At this time you will receive a packet of information and the text. On February 10, we will meet to put together our feedback.



Give to Springwater Presbyterian Church While You Shop!

Good news for those who wish they could afford to give more to church, but just can't. You want to do more to support our mission, but your donation dollars are tapped out. You aren't a big consumer, but there are some things you just have to get. Even so, when you do shop, you are in the market for the best price.

Have you been on our website lately? You may have noticed a new addition, and it means it's now possible to add to your donation to the church while you shop online.

At its January meeting, session approved linking our website to what is called a "charity mall." There is no cost to the church for registering. Merchants who participate in this type of program send a percentage of what you purchase to the "charity," Springwater Presbyterian Church, in our case.

More people are making online purchases part of their regular way of shopping. For instance, Amazon.com is one of the largest "bookstores" in America, and it now sells much more than books, which includes 29 different product categories from "Automotive" to "Watches." Amazon.com is just one of the participating merchants in this donation program.

Online shopping donations have been around for several years. This program has potential for bringing in money for both our operating and missions budgets. There are already churches in the Presbytery that make use of this type of program to supplement their missions budgets. In addition to online shopping donation programs, several local merchants offer similar programs. Area schools, for instance, benefit from grocery stores funneling a percentage of your purchase when you designate it.

Springwater's advantage in belonging to a charity mall is only as good as the degree to which it is used. We hope to provide reminders from time to time and would also ask you to encourage your family and friends, past members, and anyone else you might think of to use the mall. Another reason for using the mall, particularly Amazon.com, is that its prices are very close to Walmart's pricing, which means great deals for you! As this program develops further, we will keep you informed as to how to best utilize, enhance, and promote our participation

Yoke



The yoke is a burden of hardship and toil, as well as of subservience. But Jesus said the "yoke" of serving him is "easy" and that he provides rest for the weary (Matthew 11:28-30). The yoke also symbolizes human allegiance, as in marriage (2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV).



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

We pray for Haiti

God of compassion
please watch over the people of Haiti,
and weave out of these terrible happenings
wonders of goodness and grace.
Surround those who have been affected by tragedy
with a sense of your present love,
and hold them in faith.

Though they are lost in grief,
may they find you and be comforted.

Guide us as a church
to find ways of providing assistance
that heal wounds and provide hope.
Help us to remember that when one of your children suffers
we all suffer;
through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives
and rules this world with you. Amen.

— Bruce Reyes-Chow, Gradye Parsons and Linda Valentine

**Lord, when was it that we
saw you?** Matthew 25:37

**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterians respond to the earthquake
GIVE, ACT, PRAY www.pcusa.org/pda

2010 Session is

*Kathy Scott
Don MacKinnon
Cindy Babikoff
Peter Sturman
Cindy Woodbury
Wilma Guttridge*

**2010 Deacons
Board**

*Mary Shearer
Mary Johnson
Carol Sturman
moderator Kathy
Scott*

Springwater Presbyterian Church Gift Policy

At our annual meeting on January 24th, there were some questions about Springwater Presbyterian Church's policy on accepting gifts of designated money or items. Session is responsible for accepting or rejecting gifts and considers the best interests of the church in making its decisions. Here is Springwater Presbyterian Church's gift and memorials policy.

GIFT POLICY FOR MATERIAL ITEMS

Gifts that are other than money are greatly appreciated by the Springwater Presbyterian Church. This policy was created to assure that the gifts contribute to the overall objectives and program of the church and will be useful to the church. The procedure for accepting material gifts is as follows:

The proposed gift will be assigned to the appropriate Session subcommittee by the pastor or the Clerk of Session. The subcommittee will review the usefulness of the gift to the church. If it finds that the gift does not fit into the overall program of the church, the treasurer of the church should tell the donor that the gift would not be useful to the church at this time. A suggestion as to what would be useful may be made.

- If the subcommittee finds that the gift would enhance the church's overall program, then either two things can happen: If the gift would not be highly visible in or around the church, and the gift has a fair market value under \$100, the subcommittee should accept the gift on behalf of the church.
- If the gift would be highly visible in or around the church, or the gift has a fair market value over \$100, the subcommittee should make a recommendation to the Session to accept the gift. The Session would then vote on whether to accept or reject the offer of the gift.

POLICY ON "IN MEMORIAL" MONETARY GIFTS

Gifts to Springwater Presbyterian Church in memory of loved ones have been very important to the church and its programs. The intent of this policy is to clearly define the process for determining what the funds will go towards. This is to ensure that the families of the deceased understand the process.

- Each year the Session will determine for which projects the church is actively soliciting funds. When a memorial fund is going to be set up, the pastor will suggest that it would be appropriate for the funds to go towards one of these projects, assuming the funds for the project haven't already been raised through other sources. The family can then pick one of these active projects.

- If the family wants to specify a use of the funds other than one of the active projects, they must bring their proposal before Session and have Session approve it as the best use of the funds. If Session does not approve of their proposal, Session will decide how the funds will best be used.
- If the family does not specify any specific use of the funds, Session will decide how the funds will best be used.
- If a decision about the use of the funds is not made within two years of the inception of the memorial fund, the funds will automatically be placed in the Springwater Church Endowment Fund.

Session Welcomes New Elders

At our annual congregational meeting on January 24th, the congregation elected two new elders to session; Wilma Guttridge and Cindy Woodbury each accepted nomination to a three-year term on session. We also said “thank you” to the elders leaving session: Kevin Kirby, Renate Jeppeson, Bob Wilson, and Jennifer Souders.

Manse for Rent

In February the Manse will be available for rent. It is a three bedroom, two bath home. The rent is \$1000/month; a \$25/month discount will be given if tenants sign a one year lease agreement. If you know anyone interested in renting the manse, have them call the church (503-630-5480) and leave a message- someone will be in touch with them soon.

Help Wanted

The newsletter editor, Renate Jeppeson, is looking for a reporter interested in interviewing members for a monthly column. This is a volunteer position with great benefits- getting to know our members. If interested, please contact Renate Jeppeson by email enviomom@peoplepc.com or by phone 503-637-6855.



The Meaning of a Ton

We learned in school that a ton is equal to 2000 pounds, but most of us just figure that it's a large amount, for example a ton of bricks or a ton of work. A ton can represent a lot of things, particularly when measuring the magnitude of something, or its impact .

A good example is the power of gifts of food and supplies to needy people. Last year our church donated 2 1/2 tons of food and personal supplies to the Estacada Area Food Bank. Perhaps you know some of the Food Bank's clients, but you might not be aware of it. These folks are our friends and neighbors. They look like us.

The needs of the Food Bank are increasing in these hard times. We have received heart-felt thanks for our work, but we can't rest on last year's effort. There is a growing need for more food and supplies, and an urgent need for people to help at the Food Bank to help distribute the donations.

Pray about it, and see how you may serve.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED