

Springwater Currents

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

January 2010

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January Birthdays

Lucy Olson	1/06	
Bob Ballantyne	1/06	Valerie & Bob Ballantyne 1/19
Micah Shibley	1/07	
Wilma Guttridge	1/16	
Tami Guttridge	1/27	
Greg Jeppeson	1/28	
Cindy Woodbury	1/29	



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY



Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
for all ages

10:30 AM Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:
January 22nd

Church Calendar and special events in January

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2010
 - Epiphany, January 6, 2010
 - Baptism of the Lord, January 10, 2010
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18, 2010
 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2010
- January 10: Sunday School resumes at 9:30 a.m.
January 14: Session meeting
January 24: Annual congregational meeting, after worship

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Session is finally on to me. At the end of every year, when it is time to start assembling the annual reports, I tell session, "This was the best session ever." I am sincere and really mean it, even though the next year I am sure to say the same thing.

Perhaps it's the advantage of a long tenure as pastor, that I am finally able to see some patterns. Although my Annual Report at the end of the month will be more detailed, here is something to celebrate in 2009.

Hunger

If there is anything sure to fill a pastor's heart with joy, it is a congregation hungry to grow in its faith.

For us, the term "hunger" is appropriate. Yes, we love to eat together. I blame the elders. Almost every one of them has, in their own way, encouraged, instigated, and made sure we shared meals together as a congregation. Whether it has been the mid-week events, soup lunches after church to support Sunday School, or potlucks for committee and session meetings, eating together seems to energize us for the worship and nurture we set out to do.

I'm pretty sure this is associated with our long-term "food ministry" with the Estacada Area Food Bank. Year after year, our congregation is a major supporter of this essential service. We donate money and food, we send volunteers, and this has literally been going on for decades.

What I have seen in 2009 is a congregation of people hungry to learn more about scripture and spiritual practices, hungry for worship, hungry to grow in their relationship with God, hungry to support each other and to bring visible evidence of God's love to the world.

Looking Forward to 2010

This month we have an opportunity to nurture our hunger for God's Word in an unprecedented way. In the last 18 months, you've heard me mention several times the invitation to participate in a contemporary language Bible translation project.

One of my seminary professors is an editor for the project. My Hebrew professor is one of the translators. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, a tremendous honor, and I'm excited to share it with you. We are scheduled to receive our assignment this month and will need to return it by the end of February.

Along with many of you, I love the Word of God and believe it has something to say to us here and now. Although I treasure being able to go back to the original languages in which scripture was written, that is a different kind of reading than what one is about to do with "heart language," the language in which one dreams and hopes.

I feel so strongly about providing scripture in the heart language of people that, for the last 25 years, I have sent financial support to a Wycliffe

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Bible translator. I'm the fourth generation of my family to support this particular translator, and maybe that explains why I am so grateful for this opportunity to help with the Common Language Bible project.

This project is only one of the reasons I look forward with hope to our tenth year together in 2010.

Blessings to you and yours.
See you in church.



Celebrations for 2009 and Hopes for 2010 by session members

My joy for 2009 is that we have trained 3 wonderful deacons this year; Mary Johnson, Mary Shearer and Carol Sturman have been faithful, enthusiastic and committed.

My hope for 2010 is that the board of deacons will continue to organize, simplify and involve the congregation more in caring for and supporting this community of believers.

Kathy Scott

My joy for 2009 is the incredible, excellent, and enthusiastic group of volunteers that are teaching Sunday School for all ages; together with curriculum from PC(USA), they are providing nurture to the children of God at SPC.

My hope for 2010 is that this leadership continues, that it develops and spreads throughout the membership.

Renate Ryan-Jeppeson

HOW COME THE PASTOR'S DOOR IS LOCKED?

If you have been to the church recently when no one else was around, you may have noticed that the pastor's office door is locked. While the door has always had a lock, the lock hasn't always had a key. Session felt that it was time to address this. Since Pastor Eileen has been doing more spiritual direction and using the office as "sacred space," session felt it would be advantageous to make the room more secure. You can leave any mail for the pastor in the work room mail slot.





Annual Meeting

Springwater's Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held immediately following worship on January 24. At this meeting we will hear annual reports from elders and deacons, approve the pastor's terms of call, and elect officers. Please plan to attend this meeting and thank the elders for their service in 2009.

Financial Update

The final numbers are not yet tallied, but it looks like Springwater Presbyterian Church will be leaving 2009 in the black. Thank you to all the people who gave more than their pledge! We have received 102% of the total amount pledged for 2009.

The Christmas Joy Offering donations this year came to \$355.

Gwendolyn Shearer, treasurer



Mission Yearbooks

The PC(USA) Mission Yearbooks are now available for 2010. This is a book put out annually by the denomination, which lists daily and Sunday lectionary readings, supplemented by stories each day from each of the presbyteries, seminaries, and missions around the world. It is an easy-to-use and disciplined way of deciding what to read in scripture, as well as a comprehensive way to pray for the mission of the church.

You can pick up a copy in fellowship hall. While it is not necessary, it is helpful if you contribute \$7 to defray the cost of the book (please indicate "Mission Yearbook" on your check or envelope).

Children's Mission Yearbooks are also available for each family. These well-written guides follow the Sunday lectionary and provide insight into missions of the church. Fun age-appropriate and family-oriented activities are suggested for each week. These are a gift of the Children's Ministry of the congregation. Please pick up your copy in fellowship hall.

Please contact Eileen if you cannot find a mission yearbook, we can order more. Or, follow the link below to find the mission yearbook online, www.pcusa.org/missionyearbook. You can download a podcast version, read the daily entry online or subscribe to an email service and have it delivered via email every day.





A New Year's
 desire: Grant that I
 may bring no tear
 to any eye,
 when this New Year
 in time shall end.
 Let it be said I've
 played the friend,
 have lived and
 loved and labored
 here,
 And made of it a
 happy year.

—Edgar A. Guest

Incremental Dreams - A Work In Progress

Something exciting happened on December 23rd that was the fulfillment of one small dream for the board of deacons. We are just completing the first year of having ordained deacons in this church after more than 30 years of not having them.

One goal we hoped to achieve was to be trained to take communion to shut-ins. Shut-ins are not those people who can choose whether or not to come and take communion during worship, but those who can't get to church because they have chronic problems with their health, are disabled in some way or are hospitalized or confined to their home.

Pastor Eileen has spent time training us this year and she put together a short worship service that guides us and the person receiving communion through the sacred process. We also put together 2 baskets that contain all the supplies needed to deliver communion. We wanted to be ready to pick up one of the baskets and be ready to go when we received a call that some one requested this service.

And so, on the 23rd of December, we delivered communion to the first recipient. I think it went well because we had both the training and written guidance to rely on. This gave us the chance to make contact and to spend a little time visiting and bringing news of the congregation in addition to bringing the communion.

One small goal achieved. Many more to go. Thank you for your support of our mission.

Kathy Scott
 Moderator, Board of Deacons

Cultivating good habits

Entering a new year is a good time to inventory our habits — the bad ones as well as the good. Greek philosopher Aristotle once opined on this subject: "Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts. We become temperate by doing temperate acts. We become brave by doing brave acts."

Just so, we will become faithful lovers of God by seriously worshiping and faithfully following the Christian way of life. Attending corporate worship, learning more about Christianity, doing good deeds for others and participating in fellowship events are all good habits. They enhance your life and bring joy to people around you.

Lectionary Readings

January 3 (LIGHT, ACTION, WORD!): Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:1-18); Ephesians 1:3-14; Psalm 147:12-20

January 10 (MORE POWER TO YOU!): Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22; Psalm 29

January 17: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11; Psalm 36:5-10

January 24: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21; Psalm 19

January 31: Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30; Psalm 71:1-6



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED