

Springwater CURRENTS

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

June 2011

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June Birthdays

Don Barbee	6/5
Mary Kirby	6/8
Kit Johnson	6/16
Deb Odell	6/23
Tom Coyne	6/27
Ruth Newman	6/27
Karen Swift	6/28

This Month's Birthdays



June Anniversaries

Nancy & Jim Tedrow	6/3
Kathy & Richard Scott	6/11

CALENDAR

- June 5: Elder Peter Sturman preaches
- June 12: Pentecost (celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship)
- June 12: new members class after the potluck
- June 18: Healthy Congregations (day retreat for Elders and Deacons jointly with Oakhills Presbyterian, at Springwater)
- June 19: new members class after fellowship
- June 20 to 24: Vacation Church School, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily (lunch will be served)
- June 26: new members class after fellowship
- June 29: session meeting at 6:00

Summer Hours (beginning June 12)

9:45 AM Hymn Sing

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

June 27



Pentecost

We will be celebrating Pentecost after church on June 12th in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a potluck **finger-food** to share. There will not be ovens available, but coolers will be provided if you need to keep something cold for a few hours.

See how creative you can be and try for flame colors - red, orange, yellow. Don't forget to wear your red to church too!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

When the PCUSA adopted Robert's Rules of Order as its operating system for meetings, it provided a structure in which to articulate problems, pose them as questions, allow discussion, and adopt a course of action.

The blessing of this system is that (at least in theory), everyone knows what we're talking about, and if they don't, to get clarification. Everyone has an opportunity to voice an opinion and vote. Roberts Rules of Order makes things clear.

Maybe too clear. When the vote is called, it's either yes or no. The shadow side to Robert's Rules of Order is that there are two sides to an issue. And only two sides. You are either on the bus or off the bus. While there is an option to excuse oneself from the vote, that's not an option that requires the body to develop alternative understandings.

Our political system, as portrayed by the Talking Heads, is one example of the gridlock that can develop around a rigid, exclusionary adherence to Robert's Rules of Order. But increasingly in situations led by Gen Xers and others—in tech and internet organizations, as well as emergent congregations—other ways of deciding are being used.

A Third Way

A recent issue of the weekly Alban Institute online newsletter suggests that if churches want to move past divisiveness, the conversation needs to change. Alban suggests exploring a Third Way that goes beyond "compromise between extremes" or "a muddle in the middle." To get to what they call the "vital center," they suggest ten conversations that need to be deepened and sustained in our life together. Each of these conversations has a different take on the overall effort to change the conversation:

It's not about you. We're not the only organization facing the end of an era.

And yet . . . it is about you. We don't control what life brings to us, but we can control how we respond to it.

A new heart. Theology (the study of God) is the work of *all of God's people*.

Who will lead? Since "ministry" is the work of all believers, the role of clergy must change.

To get to what they call the "vital center," they suggest ten conversations that need to be deepened and sustained in our life together.

The challenge is
to hold together
urgency and
patience.

Why are we here? To know whether we're fulfilling our purpose, we need to know what it is.

Let's get (less) organized. People are working together differently.

Taking on adaptive challenges. There is a difference between problem-solving with technical solutions and the hard work of transformation.

The church and the public square. The Third Way will influence our role in the political arena.

Death and resurrection. Death is not the final outcome for those who trust God for new life.

Where do we start? The challenge is to hold together urgency and patience.

This summer we celebrate one hundred twenty-two years of ministry together in this place. The conversations we have will shape the implications of how we continue as God's people into the future. See you in church.

EASTMINSTER VOLUNTEERING FOLLOW-UP

The Eastminster warming shelter volunteers—monthly Tuesday and Sunday night groups—met after church for a baked potato bar lunch and a time to process the experience. The baked potato bar had been one of the meals we provided for the guests at the shelter this winter, and it had always been a big hit. Also attending the May 22 meeting were two Human Solutions staff, Dennis and Amie.

Here are some of the things Springwater participants had to say about their experience at the family warming shelter in response to the question, "What did I learn?"

" . . . that it's lots of work to be homeless."

" . . . that becoming homeless can happen easily and quickly."

" . . . that it takes a lot of courage to be homeless."

" . . . that being homeless means you don't have a lot of stuff."

" . . . that it's hard to initiate conversation at first . . . but that we could talk because of the kids."

We discovered that we were often the only compassionate face for people who aren't necessarily treated well. *(continued page 4)*

WHAT DOES MONEY HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

Writer and leadership consultant Margaret Marcuson says money has all kinds of things to do with the spiritual life—and during more than just November when we ask people to make financial pledges in support of the church’s ministry.

To help you get in touch with how money connects with your spiritual life, try these easy tips suggested by Marcuson:

Make a list every day (preferably on paper, but at least in your head) of five things for which you are thankful.

Try to notice your reactive responses around money (fear, wanting, envy). Don’t try to change your responses, simply notice what they are.

Pray for fellow members who are struggling financially. One effect of offering their names to God is to help you gain clarity about what you can and can’t do to help. It can also help you let go of any judgmental attitudes you may have.

Pray for fellow members who have ample resources. This can help you let go of any judgmental attitudes you may have toward them.

Take a walk on some ground that is not paved. Connecting with nature from the ground up will help you keep your perspective about the material world.

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EASTMINSTER VOLUNTEERING FOLLOW-UP

We learned that showing respect to individuals made homeless people feel less hopeless. It was sobering to see “kids our age” who were homeless and wonder what they experienced in school, especially when they had to wear the same clothes day after day, and when they didn’t have a place to get cleaned up. We wondered what it was like to try to parent when you are always “in public” and never have a private place.

Amie told us that the Eastminster shelter costs Human Solutions \$25,000 a month. This includes costs for things like case management, staff, rent of the church facilities, utilities, cleaning, laundry. She reported that 278 volunteers provided 1,200 to 1,500 volunteer hours to keep the facility operational this winter for 92 families (333 people). As we wondered about “what next,” we talked about the limitations and challenges of providing these services in our immediate *(cont. page 5)*



I'm Hungry Too!

Please help! I can't always eat grownup food. My baby brother doesn't even have teeth. We need good food now more than ever.

Thank you, WIC Program of Clackamas County. In Cooperation with the Children & Youth Homeless Coalition.

EASTMINSTER
VOLUNTEERING
FOLLOW-UP

Food Bank Needs for Infants and Toddlers

Why My Food Needs Are Different

About development 1-24 months:

- My brain grows most rapidly from birth to two years. Brain growth is completed by age five. Good nutrition is critical during the early years for the best brain growth.
- I will triple my weight in the first year of life! My bones must grow very strong very fast. Good nutrition is important to support this fast growth.
- My permanent teeth are developing below my baby teeth. They need lots of calcium and minerals for teeth that last a lifetime.
- My eating habits are developed in my early years. I need to learn to be a good eater.

Items to Donate

Canned meat (tuna, chicken) and baby food meats; smooth peanut butter.*

Canned or baby food fruits and vegetables. Fruit should be canned in water or its own juice.

Diced foods make good finger foods.*

Whole grain pasta, cereals, brown rice, grits, oatmeal, cream of wheat or rice. Hot cereals are great textures for young children; NO ADDED SUGAR.

Canned beans such as refried, black beans, kidney beans, garbanzo beans.

Infant formula that is fresh, such as Enfamil and Similac.**

DIAPERS! Money spent on diapers is money NOT spent on food.

* Please avoid glass containers as these are difficult to handle safely.

** Breast milk is best. Support and encourage new moms to breastfeed.

area. Some of the families who used the Eastminster facility went to school in Oregon City. By state law, the school district has to transport students enrolled in their district, so some of the families we served at Eastminster are literally our neighbors. We talked about the difficulties of night time transportation to the site and resolved to address this further.

We also gave Amie and Dennis feedback about the need for some training in "how to talk and what to talk about." The volunteers will be in conversation with session about continuing our involvement in ministry with homeless people.

Summer Worship

At the May Worship Committee meeting, we decided that summer worship could take on a different flavor. It has been a long time since we've engaged in "Stump the Pastor," so that will start out the summer's preaching series. Do you have questions you've always wondered about? Why did Jesus have to die? How did the Church spread? What *was* Paul so mad about in the letters to the Corinthians? Where did sin come from? Your questions are probably more interesting than that. This is your chance to ask them! We'll look for answers together, if you will just take a moment to write them down and put them in the envelope on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.

...take a moment to write them down (your questions) and put them in the envelope on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.

If you've ever wondered about why some of the psalms were left in the Bible, maybe the second preaching series will interest you. Starting in July, we'll ask, "What Good are the Psalms?" The answers will come as we examine how the psalms have been used for both personal and corporate prayer, lament, celebration, worship. Then we'll use the psalms ourselves, by singing them, using them as liturgy, and sharing our favorites.

AT OUR LAST SESSION MEETING . . .

Session Members

Cindy Woodbury
Kathleen Souders
Peter Sturman
Wilma Guttridge
Al Conway

Deacons

Kathy Scott
Carol Sturman
Mary Shearer
Mary Johnson

- . . . continued training using the book, *Leaders Who Last*.
- . . . noted that the siding on the west of the manse is complete and minor utility room leaks repaired.
- . . . expressed gratitude that the weekly lawn maintenance is looking so good.
- . . . noted that Sunday School attendance for children has dropped, but adult levels remain high.
- . . . the CE committee is organizing for Vacation Church School, using *ReNew: The Green VBS™* curriculum.
- . . . Worship committee received authorization for special worship services this summer, including the church birthday (July 17) and worship in the canyon (August 28).
- . . . decided not to re-institute the Taizé services, due to lack of leadership and participation.
- . . . authorized the Worship committee to put together a song book with bluegrass/gospel music.
- . . . prayed for the congregation and our ministry together.

Vacation Bible School 2011

Let's work together to care for creation! It's time to register for *ReNew: The Green VBS™!*

Place: Springwater Presbyterian Church

Dates: June 20 to 24

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (lunch is at noon)

ReNew Vacation Bible School invites kids to learn about Jesus, help build our community, and grow as they become stewards of God's creation. At *ReNew: The Green VBS™!* kids will:

- Explore God's Word through Jesus' Parable of the Sower.
- Learn about God's creation and what we can do to care for it.
- Meet members of our community who are stewards of the environment.
- Make new friends and have a great time!

Calling all kids between ages 3 and 18 who want to *ReNew!* Let's grow in faith, have fun, and change the world!

To register, contact the church office at 503/630-5480.

See you at *ReNew: The Green VBS™!*



Vacation Bible School Opportunities for Adults

This year, several adult congregation members who have been key participants in VBS at Springwater in recent years will be absent due to various demands on their lives. So we need your participation in order to make VBS 2011 a success. If you are able to assist in some way during VBS week, please contact Peter Sturman at 503-657-3613 or 503-863-6555.

Spread the word and let's have some fun.





Springwater Presbyterian Church

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NEW MEMBERS CLASS

A new members class is being formed at Springwater. It will meet after the post-worship fellowship time on Sundays during the month of June, starting June 12. If you are interested in finding out more about what it means to be a member, please contact Pastor Eileen.



LECTIONARY READINGS



June 5 (Elder Peter Sturman preaching using the Ascension Day texts):

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

June 12 (Pentecost, celebration of the Lord's Supper, TONGUES OF FIRE):

John 7:37-39; Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

June 19 (Trinity Sunday, STUMP THE PASTOR): Genesis 1:1-2:4a; 2

Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20; Psalm 8

June 26 (Vacation Bible School leads worship): Mark 4:1-9

*Springwater
Currents*

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