

Dec. 2006 - Jan. 2007

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**Week Night
Advent Services**

**December
6 - 13 - 20
7:00pm**

**Join us for a time
of calm and
prepare your
heart for
Christmas**



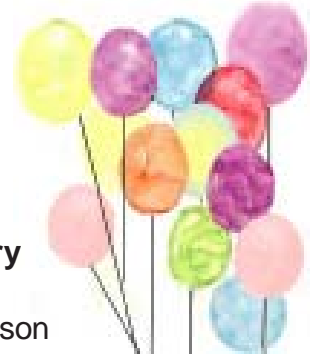
BIRTHDAYS

December

6 Kathy Scott
9 Rebecca Bittman
14 Bill Leonard
15 Dana Shibley
21 Grace Minor
22 Kevin Kirby
26 Valerie Webb
28 Jim Roden

January

6 Lucy Olson
7 Micah Shibley
16 Wilma Guttridge
21 Helen Minor
24 Jennie Lou Poore
27 Tami Guttridge
28 Greg Jeppeson
29 Cindy Woodbury



ANNIVERSARIES

December

16 Eileen & Rick Parfrey

Advent Season Events

Dec. 3 - Worship & Communion-10:00am

Scripture Reading & Potluck at St. Aloysius Catholic Church - 4:00pm

Dec. 10 - We gather after worship to make decorations for the season, green the church & eat lunch together

Dec. 17 - Carolling - 4:00pm

Dec. 23 - Our children gather at church to act out the Christmas story with the pastor

Dec. 24 - Worship & Communion 10:00am

Candle-light Service of Lessons and Carols- 7:30pm

See side panel for special week night services



This year's sermon Advent series is entitled "Fruitful Waiting." It's more than della robia wreaths and walnuts on the Christmas tree.

Gloom, doom, disaster do not have the final word—globally, communally, individually. Our situation is terminal. It will end—thank God!

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Liturgical Year Geek Speaks

The question is, "Why this? Why now?" We end the liturgical year with the Righteous Ruler, Christ the King, and the very next week we begin a new liturgical year with the End of the World. Is the End of the World the logical conclusion to the Reign of Christ? Why *this*? And why *now*?

Things are grim this time of year.

Not just in the lectionary with judgment texts and minor prophets. Famine and HIV, nuclear threat, military expansion, violence to the climate and ecosystem, rising taxes, earthquakes and hurricanes. Pandemics are discussed in terms of "when" and "what to do" rather than "if."

The Situation is Terminal

Things are grim.

My lectionary colleagues reminded me that the theology of the End of the World recognizes our situation is terminal. Gloom, doom, disaster do not have the final word—globally, communally, individually. Our situation *is* terminal. It *will* end—thank God!

And also dagnabit. It's as good news as it is bad. We begin Advent, the season of anticipation of the Incarnation of God, and this year's sermon Advent series is entitled "**Fruitful Waiting.**" It's more than della robia wreaths and walnuts on the Christmas tree.

Fruitful Waiting

Advent itself is ambiguous. Is it a time of **repentance**—recognizing our human need of a Savior? Or is it a time of **rejoicing**—that God loved us enough to give up the Divine form for the Human? **Yes**—to both.

Advent is a "little Lent." The Advent story parallels Christ's passion, from his entry into Jerusalem as God's anointed Messiah (Christ as Judge at the End of Time), through the week of wrangling in the Temple (John the Baptist's call to repentance) to the celebration of the Passover (the journey to Bethlehem) to the crucifixion and death (birth in the stable) to the resurrection (the birth heralded by angels).

Waiting is hard work. You remember what it was like as a kid to **wait** for Christmas. The longing to know what was in those mysterious packages, the anticipation of foods you only get once a year, the bustle of parties and gatherings and feasting.

Being a grownup changes the waiting game. As people who have experienced more of life in waiting **rooms** (and anticipating with dread and hope the news you will receive after waiting), grown ups know **the fear and powerlessness in waiting.**

Advent starts with the cataclysmic events of the End of the World, because **our only hope is in knowing our situation is terminal.** We can leave off trusting what cannot be trusted. Even our do-gooder



Systems and institutions, broken and in need of redemption, will never save us. We will never broker a lasting peace, rejuvenate the earth's water supply, eradicate disease.

works will not bring salvation. Systems and institutions, broken and in need of redemption, will never save us. We will never broker a lasting peace, rejuvenate the earth's water supply, eradicate disease.

Our only hope is radical. Our only hope is that **God did come.** God did become human. **The Incarnation is proof** that there is no point to violence and power and control; **there is only resurrection as hope.**

It is **an irrational hope** in the face of the world falling apart. We're not talking theological resurrection. We are talking *bodily* resurrection. God means *us* in the here-and-now to experience in our own flesh and blood the HOPE that comes only in trusting that our situation is terminal. Thanks be to God. See you in church.

Annual Meeting January 21, 2007

The Annual Meeting of Springwater Presbyterian Church will be January 21, 2007 immediately following the worship service. As well as receiving reports on the life of our church and its mission, we elect Elders to serve on Session.

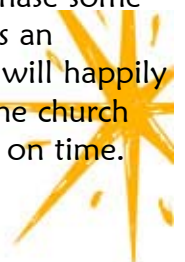
We are seeking to elect three Elders for three year terms, one Elder for a two year term and one Elder for a one year term. At our Baptism we take vows that call us to discipleship. If you are feeling called to this important service in our congregation or know someone who you think should be considered please let Judy Coyne (503-630-6759) know before the end of 2006.

Adopt a Family for Christmas

Christmas is a beautiful season, but it may not be a joyous season for some folks. The Adopt-A-Family program of the Estacada Area Food Bank provides needy families with gifts of clothing, household items and personal hygiene products.

One of our church's giving experiences is furnishing needed items to three area families who truly could use a touch of love from our congregation.

There are lists of these families needs is posted on the walls in Fellowship Hall. Join the Christmas spirit and sign up to purchase some of these gifts. If you really don't care to go shopping, there is an envelope available for your cash donations. The eager elves will happily do the needed shopping. Your contributions are needed at the church by December 10 so that we can take them to the Food Bank on time.



Springwater Furnace Committee

The furnace committee, consisting of Gilbert Shibley, Dick Scott, Kevin Kirby, and Renaté Ryan-Jeppeson, met on October 25th to discuss options and needs for heating the church. Gilbert Shibley filled us in on the history of the current furnace. The heat exchanger requires frequent cleaning because of the long horizontal exhaust vent leading to the chimney. Once this cleaning was done this fall, the furnace began working very well. After piecing together the history, we concluded that with regular maintenance the furnace should be serviceable for another five years.

The committee discussed replacement options. We discussed the merits of oil, propane, and electric heat pump for heating the church. For our specific need, quick heating on Sunday mornings and for occasional evening meetings, a heat pump did not seem to be the most efficient option, because they take longer to bring about a large change in temperature. We are continuing to research the benefits of propane versus oil heating.

Another approach to the heating equation is insulation of the building. Renaté will arrange for a free energy audit by Energy Trust of Oregon to see what insulating measures would yield the best energy savings (for example vinyl windows in Fellowship hall, insulation in floors, ceilings, walls, etc.).

The committee recommended to session annual cleaning of the furnace heat exchanger, developing a plan for replacement of the furnace in five years, and setting aside funds for the next five years to finance a new furnace system. Session agreed to these steps and the committee will continue developing plans for replacement of the heating system.

Be A Life Saver

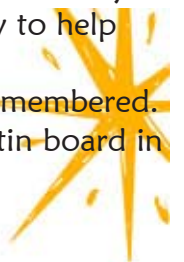
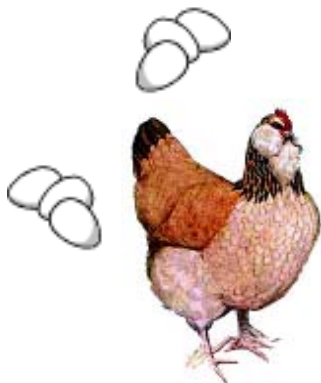
Each egg that a chicken lays is a life-saving gift to a hungry child. Now just imagine what your gift of a flock of Heifer chicks and training in their care will mean to struggling families around the world.

Fully grown, a single hen can lay more than 200 eggs each year, so your starter flock of 10 to 50 chicks will provide plenty of protein-rich eggs to eat, to sell at the market for income, or to pass on the gift to other families in need.

And because chickens need very little space and thrive on readily available food or pests like insects, chicks are the perfect way to help many of the families living in the most extreme poverty.

Your lifesaving gift of Heifer chicks will be a gift long remembered. There are copies of the Heifer Gift Order Form on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We can help.

Want to know more? Talk to Lloyd Olson





DEDICATION OF NEW ORGAN: Concert

Join us at 2:00 p.m. on January 14 to dedicate our new organ, the generous gift of Walter and Alice Freeman. Allan MacKinnon, musician and concert organist from Alaska, will be the guest soloist for the event. A reception in the Grange will follow.

Why an organ in this time and place? In our culture, organs are almost never heard outside churches and ballparks. John Rafoth, organist for Christ Presbyterian Church, Madison, Wisconsin, says it better than anyone, "For centuries, the pipe organ has played a key role whenever congregations are moved by the majesty of music. . . . A large part of the appeal of the organ is due to the almost limitless variety of tones that can be produced."

Springwater's new organ, a Panasonic Technics electronic instrument, combines sophisticated technology with musical options most churches can only dream about. The sounds it produces extend beyond the typical "pipe organ" range into modern percussion, computerized memories, and instrumentation. This organ is the fourth one acquired by Mr. Freeman in his lifetime of pursuing music for his own pleasure and that of his family.

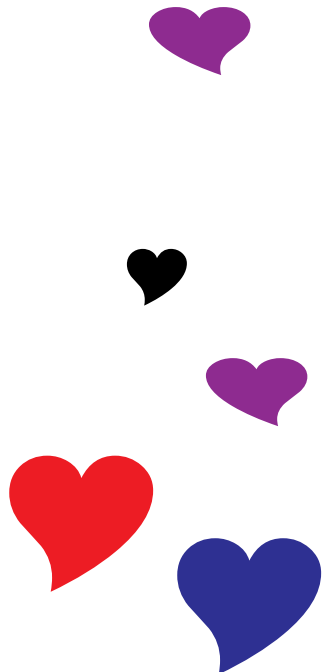
RECOGNIZING RUTH

After ten years as Springwater's organist and a lifetime of dedicating her gift to the glory of God, Ruth Newman is "retiring". That doesn't mean Ruth will disappear from our fellowship (she remains as a member), nor will she stop playing altogether (she continues as a substitute musician).

Recognizing musical talent growing within the congregation, and hopeful that fresh faces will emerge with fresh musical repertoires, Ruth steps down as weekly organist and musical director.

December 3, during the fellowship hour immediately following worship, Ruth will be honored at a reception in our fellowship hall. Please bring memorabilia (photos, programs, bulletins, other items) suitable for inclusion in a scrap book we will make for Ruth. Cards will be available for you to write messages to Ruth to include in the book.

We will miss Ruth's tremendous gift in leading us in praying musically. The drag racing will continue, however, and we are invited to watch her compete.





OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Looking for ways to work for God's glory in the ordinary and mundane? We need someone to:

- Take out the garbage on a regular basis
- Vacuum the church
- Clean the church bathroom
- Be a substitute teacher for Sunday School
- Recruit people for special music during worship

Mission Notes

Peacemaking Offering. We received over \$400 for the Peace Offering, of which 75% has been sent to Presbytery for the use of the national church organization. For our "local portion", we have spent \$ 60 sending our 60 pairs of socks, 25 hats, and 1 pair of mittens to our mission correspondent, Jonna Reeder, in Dushanbe. The remaining money will be sent, through the national church offices, to Jonna to help lease trucks to carry the "free" government coal to remote village schools, so that students may spend their 6- and 7-hour school days in relative warmth. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.



Tajikistan. As our boxes were sent on their way to Dushanbe, we received a Mission Connections newsletter from Jonna. She wrote of a significant earthquake in northern Afghanistan in late July, just over the border from Tajikistan, which displaced over 400 families. She also told of visiting a remote city, to find a thriving youth organization composed of aspiring young adults. Two of the young women she met traveled across the former Soviet Union to be part of a worship conference in Ukraine, to return for university final exams. A third young woman moved to Russia, hoping for better paying work than she can find in Tajikistan, risking loss of support of family and friends. Jonna invites our prayers for the displaced families, and for the young women of the youth organization, struggling to overcome financial and cultural barriers to complete college. By the way, donations of school and craft supplies are always welcome.

Local Mission Opportunities. Please include the EAFB in your Christmas giving, both in your weekly offering of food and hygiene products, and in underwriting a Christmas basket. Details appear else where in this newsletter. Community Care committee members invite you to contrib-



Hunger is Everywhere in Oregon

ute to the Christmas Families boxes. Sign up on the posters in the Fellowship Hall. Families are drawn from the EAFB clients.

Oregon Interfaith Campaign to Overcome Poverty. This is a state-wide, grass-roots campaign to bring poverty back into the public attention, especially among Oregon lawmakers. The organizers caution us that “the safety net is shrinking...” To learn more, contact Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, (503) 221-1054, or at emo@emoregon.org.

Signing Out. This is the last Mission Notes under the current authorship. I have completed my 1-year Session term, and will not return for another term due to a variety of professional and personal concerns. I will be joining my colleagues in psychology to advocate in the Oregon Legislature for enhanced health access for Oregon families, and more integrated health care for children at risk. I am inspired by your incredible capacity for caring, as evidenced in our mission giving to our local hunger ministries, the PDA efforts on the Gulf Coast and southeast Asia Tsunami relief, and Darfur. And, I am further strengthened by our mission workers, and share with you the charge of our mission correspondent:

May the Compassionate One keep our hearts strong enough to love mercy and not get overwhelmed by all the struggles in the world!...Jonna Reeder, September 2006

Susan Horton

Hunger

Did you know these facts about hunger in Oregon?

1-37% of those receiving food aid are children.

2-Two-parent households are the largest group receiving aid.

3-47% of the households receiving aid have at least one member working. 30% of the families receiving help have one or more members working full time.

4-22% of households with children receiving aid report cutting or reducing the size of a child's meal.

We can help. The Estacada Area Food Bank's workload is increasing. Think of your neighbors, and bring more food and personal supplies to the red box at church. This is a real need.



LECTIONARY READINGS

December 3 (Communion) WAIT!: Luke 21:25-36; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Psalm 25:1-10

December 10 SURPRISE!: Luke 3:1-6; Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79

December 17 THIS ISN'T WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!: Luke 3:7-18; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6

December 24 (Communion) OUT OF TOWN GUESTS: Luke 1:39-55; Hebrews 10:5-10

December 24, 7:30 p.m. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 31 FAMILY BUSINESS: Luke 2:41-52; 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148

January 7 (Communion) REVEALING: Matthew 2:1-12; Ephesians 3:1-12; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

January 14: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11; Psalm 36:5-10

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

January 28: Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30; Psalm 71:1-6

Springwater Presbyterian Church

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Estacada, Oregon 97023

Location:

24553 S. Springwater Rd.

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction