

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

December 2009

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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:
December 18

December Birthdays

Kathy Scott	12/06
Danika Odell	12/12
Bill Leonard	12/14
Dana Shibley	12/15
Kevin Kirby	12/22
Madelyn Engler	12/23
Valerie Ballantyne	12/26
Jim Roden	12/28

Happy Anniversary, Rick
and Eileen Parfrey!!!
December 16.



*Birthdays
&
Anniversaries*

CALENDAR DURING ADVENT

December 2: soup/bread supper followed by a story and activity for all ages
 December 3: session budget meeting, 6:00 (bring food to share)
 December 6: Sunday School before worship; greening of the church following worship
 December 9: soup/bread supper followed by a story and activity for all ages
 December 12: Estacada community Festival of Choirs concert, 7:00 p.m. Estacada Junior High School.
 December 13: Sunday School before worship; meet at church at 4:00 to go caroling, followed by a potluck supper at Don and Barbara MacKinnon's.
 December 16: soup/bread supper followed by a story and activity for all ages
 December 20: NO Sunday School; celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship. Children (and interested adults) acting out the Christmas story with Pastor Eileen following worship.
 December 24: Service of Lessons and Carols, 7:30 p.m.
 December 27: NO Sunday School
 January 3: NO Sunday School
 January 10: Sunday School RESUMES

he began worshipping at a strange organization that encouraged people to let faith in God influence their daily lives.

This time of year, it's hard to think of "others" in terms of anything but "what I gotta get them and wrap and put under the tree for them."

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This fall, the Salvation Army sent me a letter. I wasn't the only one to get it. They were recruiting bell-ringers for their red kettles. Those bells and kettles are as much a part of the Christmas season as is the ubiquitous Muzak and cheesy decorations.

Others

My admiration for the Salvation Army goes back to my grandfather, who left Sweden under a cloud 100-plus years ago. His family thought he had joined a cult when he began worshipping at a strange organization that **encouraged people to let faith in God influence their daily lives.**

This was foreign thinking in the state church culture. Taxes paid for the church, the church took care of weddings, funerals, and registering births. What made the Salvation Army so insidious was that it seemed to expect people to care about relationships with *both* God and neighbor.

Where this letter became part of the thread from my own grandfather was when they explained why they run homeless shelters and ring bells at red kettles every year:

"Late in the Christmas season of 1901, General William Booth, Commanding Chief of a very frugal organization, searched for a way to send a Christmas greeting to his various command posts throughout the world. The best way was by telegraph. What could he send that would convey the spirit of the season, while still bearing tribute to the Army's creed? "He chose a one word message that over one hundred years later still best describes the mission of The Salvation Army. The greeting simply read,
Others.

Why Not?

As a writer, I was really tickled by that message because, as you know, telegraph messages were billed on the basis of the number of words. General Booth's frugality was elegant in its succinctness. As a pastor, I was deeply moved.

This time of year, it's hard to think of "others" in terms of anything but "what I gotta get them and wrap and put under the tree for them." Even in our giving to the Christmas families we adopt through the Estacada Area Food Bank, it's hard to withstand the pressures of the season to "just get it done!"

In my family, the "burden" of Christmas and the whole season surrounding it fell to my mother. Baking, freezing, cooking, cleaning, shopping, wrapping, driving, planning, inviting, writing, mailing, phoning. A whole lot of "ing" words, which means they go with verbs, which means she was all about **accomplishing** this time of the year.

What if we listened to General Booth's admonition in a different way this year. What if we added one more verb to our collection of "ing" words, but added "to be." As in "being." That verb is the practice of "holy," which is

Receive the blessing of the season, the gift of the Christ Child, as you “be” in the holy.

an excerpt from PC(USA)'s *just living* website:

Gifts of time and service

Gifts of time and service can be quite memorable. These gifts require thoughtful preparation and help build relational bonds. Sharing the gifts God has given you through service and teaching honors God and blesses others.

* Skills: If you are gifted with crafts, music, dance or other talents, give the gift of knowledge. Gifting a series of lessons empowers the people you love with new skills and abilities, while passing on some tradition and heritage.

* Games: You can give board games or a deck of cards with a promise to play. Teaching a new card game to a child or adult is a lasting gift.

the basis of the word “holiday.”

Why not try it this year? Less “accomplish”-ing and more “be”-ing.

Receive the blessing of the season, the gift of the Christ Child, as you “be” in the holy.

See you in church.



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS IDEAS

In the interest of finding the “holy” in the “holiday,” here are some ideas from *Ideas* magazine, published by the PCUSA. These ideas are aimed at keeping the season simple and in doing so, remembering the sacredness of it:

- *Set a limit on how much money you will spend on gifts
- *If you are part of a large family, consider drawing names
- *Limit the number of gifts you buy for the family
- *Give presents away (to agencies, shelters, the Food Bank)
- *Participate in alternative gift-giving opportunities, in which you give to a charity (Heifer Project, Adopt-A-Family) in the names of others
- *Do an Advent study together as a family (see the library table in fellowship hall for resources)
- *Limit the number of parties you attend
- *Allow yourself time to reflect, instead of packing in activities
- *Come to worship before opening presents on Christmas Eve
- *Give the gift of forgiveness, especially to someone who has doesn't deserve it. Remember that you have received mercy from God.

Remember these websites for your holiday shopping:

- Equal Exchange offers coffee, chocolate and tea and is featured by the Presbyterian Church (USA): <http://shop.equalexchange.com/>.
- www.servv.org Offers a wide variety of fairly traded items. This site is also supported by PC(USA).
- www.pcusa.org This is our denomination's own website and by searching for “fair trade” you can find many links to fair trade websites. Also try www.pcusa.org/globalmarketplace and follow the “marketplace partners” link.
- www.pcusa.org/marketplace The denomination itself offers fair trade items. Search for “Liberian crosses” to find crosses made in Liberia from spent ammunition casings. Search “sweat-free Ts” to find t-shirts made with fair labor practices.
- www.pcusa.org/enough for ideas about just living everyday and during special seasons.

Deacons Can Deliver Communion to shut-ins

The deacons have completed enough training to take communion to members who are shut-ins or unable to attend church services because of chronic illness or physical disability.



Here is how it works: When worship includes Communion, a deacon who attends that service is eligible to take the bread and juice from the worship service and share the elements with those who could not attend. Pastor Eileen has prepared a short worship service to be used for this particular situation, and the deacons have assembled the items needed for the visit. This is meant to be a service that will allow our elderly and disabled members to continue to be in touch with the congregation and participate in the worship life of our church.

If you want to be included in these visits, please call the church and leave a voice message and someone will call you back. Or you can call Kathy Scott at 503.630.4739.

You are invited . . .

. . . to pray with us. Deacons gather at the church at 10:00am on Fridays to pray for the church, it's people and events that are happening in the world. This is a very informal gathering and we would like to have others join us in this ministry. No one is forced to speak or pray out loud if they are uncomfortable doing so, but the group conversation allows us to get well acquainted and comfortable with each other and that makes it easy to join in & be at ease speaking and praying together.

We begin by briefly talking about the week and what is happening in our individual lives. We talk about the prayers and concerns that were spoken in Sunday worship and any prayer requests that have come in during the week or anything new that has happened. We also read through the birthdays and anniversaries so we can pray for each person who has had a milestone event during the week.



We end our time together by praying as a group for the people and events that we have talked about, for the congregation and the community we live in. We try to keep our time together to about an hour, because we want to respect the commitment of each person who attends and the busy lives that we all lead.

You are very welcome to join us.
Kathy Scott, 503.630.4739

“Gods Gift: Springwater Church”

Centered around this theme a four week Stewardship Campaign started October 25 and finished with Consecration Sunday, November 15. Moments for Mission Presentations during this time were based on how our programs in the Church are the heart and soul of Springwater Presbyterian Church mission work. On Consecration Sunday those present had the opportunity to place their pledge cards in the heart shaped basket at the conclusion of the service. A potluck dinner and program followed as we celebrated this special day in the life of our church.



The results were 26 pledges on Sunday for \$57,352, which is a small increase from last year. Fifteen of these pledges from last year were increased. We also received 4 new pledges. Last year we had 32 pledges and some of those were not present on Sunday. Gwen Shearer, our church treasurer, will be sending out pledge cards to those who were not present. If these pledges are close to last years pledges, we should have a total pledge of approximately \$70,000. If somehow we missed you and you wish to pledge, please contact Gwen Shearer.

God has blessed our church with a congregation of committed supports for our church's mission. A big thank you to you for a very successful stewardship campaign.

Financial Update



THANK YOU to all the people who have stepped up and given more than their pledges to overcome our shortfall this year. I can't give you the latest numbers at this time (the newsletter deadline), but all indications are that we are in good shape, assuming people continue to give as they pledged for 2009.

THANK YOU to all the people who pledged for 2010. The latest numbers are a total of \$72,772 pledged for next year. This is a slight increase from 2009, and considering the economic conditions plus the deaths we have had in our congregation this year, IT IS WONDERFUL!

Gwendolyn Shearer
Treasurer

Session is

Renate Jeppeson
Don McKinnon
Peter Sturman
Kevin Kirby
Bob Wilson
Kathy Scott
Cindy Babikoff
Jennifer Souders

TENDING THE FLOCK: SESSION NOTES

At the November session meeting, Session heard about:

- *finding life in gratitude and abundance as part of their training
- *the exterior window film installed on the west sanctuary window
- *formation of the confirmation class, with Jennifer Souders as the guest speaker in November
- *training for deacons and elders to distribute communion to those unable to attend worship regularly

Session also decided:

- *to thank Jean McCloskey for 12 years of service as Financial Secretary of the church by recognizing her during worship on November 29
- *to appoint a new Financial Secretary
- *to advertise our Christmas Eve service in the *Estacada News* Christmas supplement
- *to evaluate the new worship/Sunday School schedule in February
- *to provide a lock for the pastor's office door
- *to develop a policy for memorials in the outdoor landscaping area

Budgeting for 2010 will be completed in December 2009

Budget planning for SPC will begin in November for the coming year, 2010. Session will meet on December 3 to complete the budget for 2010. The Session makes budget decisions at that time that will carry through the entire year and be our guide for spending until the next budget is approved a year later. If you want to see something specific happen in 2010, please write it up in detail and make sure you get it to a session member before the December 3 meeting. Please name the people who will plan and carry out the work, why you think this would be good for this church and evaluate how much money is needed to properly carry this out. Session will evaluate proposals and make decisions based on their understanding of each mission or ministry proposal and how it fits our overall mission.

New proposals that come in after the budget is approved will not be evaluated until the next budgeting cycle. Please be thinking about what you would like to see your church doing in 2010. Go ahead, be creative! Session will be happy to hear from you.

STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES

These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

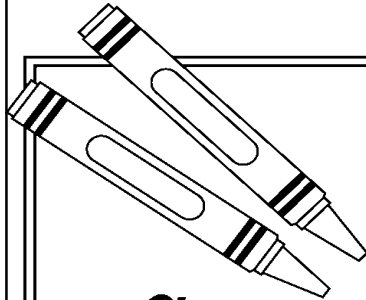
What you need:

- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil



What you do:

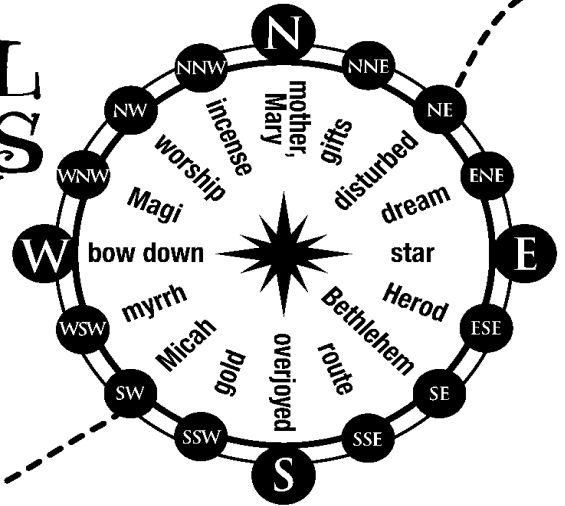
1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)



Just for KIDS

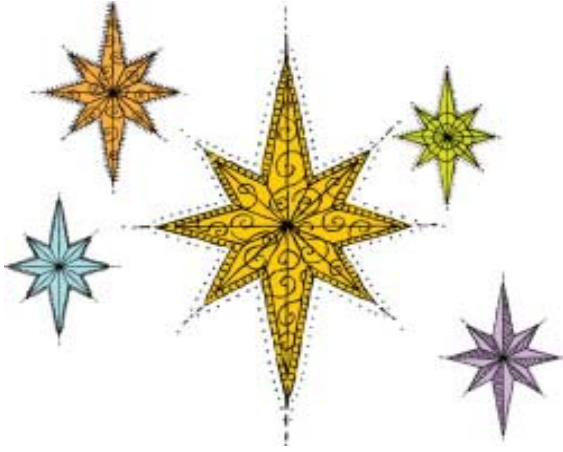
SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW)
 _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route

**LECTIONARY READINGS**

November 29 (The End of the Known World): Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-3; Psalm 25:1-10

December 6 (What's That to Me?): Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6; Luke 1:68-79

December 13 (The Radical Nature of Joy): Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18; Isaiah 12:2-6

December 20 (The World Upside Down) (Communion): Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 27 (Family Planning Success and Failure): 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-52; Psalm 148

January 3 (Light, Action, Word) (Epiphany): Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18; Ephesians 1:3-14; Psalm 147:12-20

January 10 (More Power To You) (Baptism of the Lord): Luke 3:15-17, 21-22; Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Psalm 29

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED