

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

December 2011

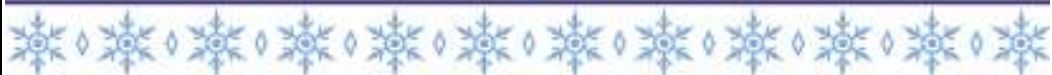
Table of Contents	
Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Church Events	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	3
Food Bank Report	4
Heifer International	4
Tip Jar	5
Going to Cuba	6
Gift Giving	7
Sunday Helpers	8
Directory Changes	8
Celebrating	9
East Window	10



Happy Anniversary
Eileen & Rick Parfrey 12/16

December Birthdays

Kathy Scott	12/6
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



Church Events in December

Sunday Schedule	
9:30 AM Sunday School	
10:15 AM Hymn Sing	
10:30 Worship	
11:15 Fellowship	
Deadline for next newsletter:	
December 30	

December 3, 2:00 p.m.: Ordination of Stasia Van Buskirk at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church
December 4: Guest from Central Asia in Sunday School and worship, greening the church after worship (light lunch)
December 10, 7:00 p.m.: Festival of Choirs, Estacada Junior High School auditorium
December 11: Caroling followed by potluck at Debbie Ingamells' house (meet at the church at 4:00)
December 18: Children re-enact the Christmas story following worship (light lunch)
December 23: Eastminster volunteers meet there at 7:00 p.m.
December 24: Service of Lessons and Carols, 7:30 p.m.
December 25: Worship at 10:30 a.m., celebration of the Lord's Supper; Eastminster volunteers meet there at 7:00 p.m.
January 1: Worship at 10:30 a.m.
January 8: Service of Reaffirmation of Baptismal Promises; un-greening the church after worship

Pastor's Perspective

Why do we get ready for Christmas with such dreadful lectionary texts? All around us, Christmas seems like it's bursting out all over. Helicopters have been flying trees out of the fields, carols have been playing in the stores, decorations have been twinkling—for a month now, it seems. In the Church, however, Advent begins with judgment and the end of the world. If I didn't know better, I might be inclined to agree with the media talking heads who say that Christmas is under attack.

How Did We Get Here?

Christmas as we know it is a fairly recent innovation. Celebrating the Feast of the Incarnation (the official title of Christmas) wasn't very significant until St Francis appeared in the 13th century, inventing Christmas Eve observances and the crèche scene. The card-sending and gift-giving orgy is even more recent—since the Victorian era. In Puritan America, meanwhile, celebrating Christmas wasn't just frowned upon, it was downright illegal.

Advent, on the other hand, has been around nearly as long as the Church. Advent was a time of penitence, originally a time to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ. Which explains the end-of-the-world lectionary readings that begin this season.

If a preacher follows the lectionary texts, Week One is always about judgment. In the midst of his teaching and healing ministry, Jesus assures his disciples that no one knows where or when, but judgment will come. The end is at hand, so be watchful, stay alert, and don't expect the expected, he tells them.

Week Two backs up historically and features John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. His calls for repentance assure his audience that justice will be done, God will come, and the messenger of the Lord will purify. He's not that messenger, by the way.

Week Three still stars John the Baptist. Where is our darling Baby Jesus? This week John points more distinctly to the One who is to come. Repentance is still the name of the game, but there is an underlying joy to his message. It's a joy that denies that repentance is a chore and that righteousness means we can never have fun.

By Week Four the waiting game shifts, taking a step closer to the Reign of God by making more concrete that reign in the birth of a Child. This year we hear the angel tell Mary something impossible is about to happen.

In the midst of his teaching and healing ministry, Jesus assures his disciples that no one knows where or when, but judgment will come.

This is a time of joy because our God is a God who keeps promises, yet loves surprises.

Got Joy?

This is a time of joy, friends. Not because of a sentimental (and often unrealistic) anticipation of family celebrations and gift-giving. Not because we're "ready for Christmas" (read: the presents are wrapped, the food purchased, recipes selected, cards sent, invitations offered and accepted, etc etc).

This is a time of joy because our God is a God who keeps promises, yet loves surprises. It takes some time to get to the joy of Christmas morning. We need a running start on it in fact. Four weeks of it! You will experience that joy most deeply if you take the whole journey, from judgment to repentance to anticipation to birth.

See you in church.

Eileen



Lectionary Readings

December 4 (Second Sunday in Advent, THE ULTIMACY OF GOD'S FUTURE): Mark 1:1-8; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Isaiah 40:1-11

December 11 (Third Sunday in Advent, WAITING IN THE WILDERNESS): John 1:6-8, 19-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; Isa 61:1-4, 8-11

December 18 (Fourth Sunday in Advent, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD): Luke 1:26-38; Romans 16:25-27; 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16

December 25 (Christmas Day, celebration of the Lord's Supper, THE IMPRINT OF GOD'S BEING): Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14; Psalm 98

January 1 (THE HOLY FAMILY TAKES A ROAD TRIP): Luke 2:22-40; Galatians 4:4-7; Isaiah 61:10-62:3

January 8 (Baptism of the Lord, Reaffirmation of Baptismal Promises): Mark 1:4-11. Acts 19:1-7; Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29

January 15 (annual congregational meeting): 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Estacada Area Food Bank Report

To Members and Friends of Springwater Church:



Thank you so much for your continuous, generous support of the Estacada Area Food Bank. You are making such a difference to the hungry in our community and to the food bank's ability to serve them. We are experiencing a 50% decline in available food from U.S.D.A. through the Oregon Food Bank. Food drive donations are also declining. At the same time, we are experiencing a rise in the number of clients that walk through our doors. We have been averaging 15 new families a month. However, to date in November we have already had 24 new families.

Your regular mission support and moneys from special offerings and gifts from individual members and friends are helping us purchase more food and nonfood items. The food and nonfood donations Lloyd and Lucy bring in each week go out as soon as they are added to our shelves. The spice packets the H.E.A.L. group put together to go with dry beans really were a hit with our clients, some of whom had never cooked with dry beans.

As Lloyd reminds us every week in the bulletin, "We can help!" Yes, indeed, you do help. Thank you so much.

Barbara Shibley
Executive Director of E.A.F.B.

Holiday Hope

Make this a meaningful holiday. Take part in a growing holiday tradition by giving gifts that help those in need.

Here's how:

Instead of material gifts, choose gifts from the Heifer Project to give to your friends. These gifts will help struggling families lift themselves out of poverty. These gifts can help transform people's lives as they leave poverty behind to find a renewed sense of purpose and responsibility for their own success.

There is a gift list from the most important gift catalog in the world, Heifer Project International, posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. There is also a toll-free telephone number that you can use to serve.

You can change people's lives this holiday season.

Remember why we celebrate.





The Tip Jar

We go to a nice restaurant and we know there's going to be a tip in addition to the cost of the meal we order. Tips are sort of "optional" – usually 10 to 20% is considered appropriate. But most of us recognize that the restaurant staff is not really paid a living wage and we tip, and usually feel OK about it; like we did the right thing. When we decide what type of restaurant to go to or what to order off the menu – we're aware of our budget and we're aware of the tip that comes at the end. And if we can't afford all that we choose a fast food place instead or make something nice at home.

So what does this ramble about tips have to do with church?

Tippling is an expression of social consciousness – doing our part to ensure that folks make a living wage. In the case of the restaurant, we're face to face with those folks and tipping is what we do. So here's what I really want to talk about – Why do I never tip the laborer that picked the fruits and vegetables I buy at the grocery store, or the woman in China that made my shirt? What about the kids in Africa whose air and water and safety is jeopardized by the mine that digs the metals that go into my cell phone? What about the unemployed guy whose factory shut down because I buy stuff made cheaper in Asia? Aren't these all social justice issues that deserve my attention every bit as much as the plight of the folks at a restaurant?

So here's my plan and if it makes sense you can join me.

I'm going to have a metaphorical tip jar. I'm going to think about the purchases I make and work into the budget – a "tip." I'm going to save up for a vacation, but before I go I'm going to make sure I can afford – "the tip." When I think about buying a toy or a TV or a computer or new shoes, I'm going to contemplate the social justice and environmental ramifications of my choices. After thinking it through, I may end up changing my mind, but when I do buy something, I'll put it on an itemized list, and after I give thanks for the abundance in my life, I'm going to put 10 or 20% in the tip jar.

Then comes the fun part when the jar starts to get full, of deciding where to send it: perhaps Heifer International, or the food bank or one of the Church's special offerings. What do you think?

Jim Roden



Going to Cuba

The Presbytery of the Cascades is sponsoring a trip to Cuba in January of 2012 and I have been invited to go with them. This will be the 11th time that our Presbytery has sent a group of elders and pastors to work with churches in the Central Presbytery of Cuba.

My group consists of people from Covenant PC in Gresham, Eagle Creek Presbyterian and now from Springwater PC. We will board a Canadian Airlines flight in Vancouver, BC on January 13th for a direct flight to Havana. The group will spend 10 days visiting churches and meeting with people who are involved in a project to provide both housing and food for poor seniors. The situation for poor elderly people in Cuba is bleak. Very few places can take in destitute seniors and their families are already scrambling to feed their children. At this time, the group we will visit is collecting furnishings for bedrooms that are being built in the small town of Camijuani. They hope to collect sheets and blankets for twin beds and used clothing for adults. If you are willing to donate items that I can take with me, please contact me for more information before you buy or gather up any used items. Shipping can be tricky and extra baggage weight is very expensive and I'm not sure how we will do it.

I am excited about this chance to go to Cuba and be able to take part in this project. A young woman who has gone before (this is her 3rd time to participate) tells me that her first trip literally changed her life and her way of thinking about the world we live in. I can only hope for that to happen to all of us.

Please pray for all the participants and recipients involved in this project.

Thank you,

Kathy Scott

kathys@cascadeaccess.com

503.630.4739

I am excited about this chance to go to Cuba and be able to take part in this project.



One of the main reasons we have the custom of giving and receiving presents at Christmas is to remind us of the presents given to Jesus by the Wise Men: Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh.

Frankincense was a perfume used in Jewish worship and, as a gift, it showed that people would worship Jesus.

Gold was associated with Kings and Christians believe that Jesus is the King of Kings.

Myrrh was a perfume that was put on dead bodies to make them smell nice and, as a gift, it showed that Jesus would suffer and die.

If you are inclined to give Christmas gifts to family or friends and use **amazon.com** for some of your shopping needs please access their website through Springwater's website . For each purchase you make our church receives a donation from Amazon equal to **4-15%** of your purchase price which we will use to support our many ministries

It's simple to do. Just log on to www.springwater-pres.org and click on the **amazon.com** logo located in the upper left hand corner of our homepage. It will take you directly to Amazon's website. It costs nothing other than an extra click!



SUNDAY HELPERS (are you on the list?)

Please note Snacks and Flowers are open for volunteers this month

	Worship Leader	Usher/greeter	Snacks	Flowers	Child Care
Dec 4	Carol S	Randy & Mary J	open	open	Renate
Dec 11	Deb I	Kirby's	open	open	Deb I
Dec 18	Mary S	Renate & Neal	open	open	Nike G
Dec 25	Peter S	Deb I	open	open	Barbara M

Page Insert for your Church Directory

Changes For The 2011 Phone Directory

Bob Wilson: 503.630.7116 | rtw1035@gmail.com

Connie & Bruce Ryan: new

email: crbr64@centurylink.net

Carol & Peter Sturman: No longer have a land line.

Ruth Cromer:

Maria's Adult Care Home

30211 SE Heiple Rd.

Eagle Creek, Oregon 97022

503-630-2865: Phone at care home.



Celebrating What God is Doing at Springwater PC

VBS

Knit Nite

Potlucks!

Worship every Sunday

Sharing our faith stories

FOUR Sunday School classes

Loose coin for the Food Bank

The deacons are praying for me

Wednesday morning Bible study

Window discernment committee

Volunteers at Compassion Estacada

Singing before church sets a great tone

When I come back, I'm greeted warmly

Ralph asks the questions we need asked

Telling our faith stories for Moment for Mission

Two groups volunteering at Eastminster shelter

Celebrating each other's birthdays and anniversaries

Prayers and concerns as a congregation for each other

Asking all to participate and represent our church body

Eileen's open spirit and committed attention to our growth

Lectio divina—deeper understanding of scripture each Sunday

Food Bank is still part of our ministry after so many years and generations

Children encouraged to be participants wherever possible, wonderfully unique

We can join together by laughing and crying together—and these

extremes of emotions join us together as a church body

One youthful worship leader

Support of mission worker

Monthly youth group

Young adult leadership

The joy and love at SPC is contagious and inspirational

for all seeking a closer connection with God.

Heifer project support

During our recent stewardship campaign, we were asked to share where we have seen God at work in our congregation. Here our some of our replies.



Springwater Presbyterian Church 10

East Window upgrade project moves into the next phase and is looking for volunteers!

At their November meeting Session authorized the East Window Discernment Team to proceed with interviewing artists and coming back to them with a recommendation. The process will involve the screening of artist's portfolios, interviewing three finalists, and making a selection to be forwarded to Session for their final action.

This phase will not require the expenditure of any funds nor will it commit Springwater to a longer-term arrangement with the artist until funds are raised and Session has given its approval to proceed with the actual work.

Our Team has deeply appreciated the thoughtful input the congregation has given us during the initial discernment process and as we move forward into this next phase of the project your comments will guide our decision-making. We would love to have others join us during this selection process so if you're interested please let one of us know.

Deb Odell, Margo Maris, Cindy Woodbury, Mary Shearer, Rick Parfrey



Springwater Presbyterian Church
24553 Springwater Rd
Estacada, OR 97023
503.630.5480
www.springwater-pres.org