

February 2005

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Sunday Schedule

Christian Education
for all ages
9:30-10:15am

Worship
All ages are welcome
10:30 - 11:45 am

Nursery & child care
available during worship

February

7	Kathleen LEONARD
8	Alder SHIBLEY
12	Don MacKINNON
12	Houston WEBB
12	Susan NORTON
14	Isobel FISHER
21	Gary GUTTRIDGE
21	Scott CLATT
25	David RIGBY
28	Bill VARITZ
28	Susie KRUGER



No Anniversaries in February!

POPCORN WILL BE PROVIDED

Raise your hand if you grew up with popcorn for supper on Sunday nights. Lent is coming, and what could be better than a Sunday night movie with good friends? You bring your beverage of choice, we'll make the popcorn. Meet at church at 7:00 wearing comfortable clothes and maybe a blanket to cuddle up in. Here's the schedule:

February 13: *My Left Foot* [PG-13]

February 20: *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* [PG-13]

February 27: *The Rain Man* [R]

March 6: *King of Heart*

March 13: *My Other Daughter*



Whatever we
ask for in his
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given us

To abide in Jesus
means to love as
unconditionally,
unremittingly, sac-
rificially, whole-
heartedly as he
loves. To pray "in
his name" means
*that, like him, all
we ever want to
do in the world is
to glorify God.*

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This is a dangerous thing for a pastor to admit: some of the things Jesus says make me nervous.

Lately, everything I read seems to have Jesus making the outrageous promise that, whatever we ask for in his name will be given us. I don't know about you, but there are plenty of things I've asked for that I haven't gotten. I'm still debating whether this is for good or ill. But what is this "ask in my name" stuff all about, anyway?

It's Not Magic

Back when my mother was struggling to instill some civilized behavior in four young urchins, she would ask us, by way of a manners refresher, "What are the magic words?" We'd know "please" and "thank you" were what she was looking for.

But asking for something "in Jesus' name" is not about "magic words," although you wouldn't know it in some church circles. In many churches, it's as if every prayer must end with the words, "In Jesus' name we pray. . ." as if it is the spiritual equivalent of the magic words "please" and "thank you."

It's Gospel

The post-Christmas gospel of John's readings are where it shows up the most, this mysterious statement of Jesus' to "ask in my name." On Jesus' Name Day (what would have been his circumcision, the official naming day for Jewish children), as if to help me make sense of this "name" thing, the gospel lesson was John 16:23b-30. Jesus is saying farewell to his disciples before the crucifixion, getting them ready for his absence. "If you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you."

That's pretty radical.

But put it in the context of the rest of Jesus' farewell to his disciples. In the gospel of John, "to abide" is a big deal. Abiding is about full communion—being of one mind and heart. That is the state in which Jesus does his ministry—*abiding* in God. Earlier in this talk (14:12-14), Jesus told his disciples that *believing* in him, they will do even greater works than he did. "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." The caveat here is that the "whatever" we are asking in his name be for God's glory. But still, Jesus doesn't even take a breath before he says again, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Does He Really Mean That?

Yes, Jesus means it. But I don't think we are fully on board yet with what *he* means by "anything" and "in his name."

I would be willing to stake my grade next quarter that Jesus never intended us to think of "In Jesus' name we pray. . ." as magic words. Tacking those words onto the end of prayers is not "sure-fire success" for whatever you ask. In fact, we are saying something *very serious* when we

Praying "in the name of Jesus" ought to be life-changing, perspective altering, re-aligning, mind- and will-blowing.

"pray in the name of Jesus," and it is NOT necessarily saying, "In Jesus' name we pray . . ." that makes it possible for us to "pray in Jesus' name."

Jesus' intention has to do with abiding. The hope in Jesus' heart is that when we pray we have aligned ourselves with his understanding of the world and its needs. To abide in Jesus means to love as unconditionally, unremittingly, sacrificially, whole-heartedly as he loves. To pray "in his name" means that, like him, *all we ever want to do in the world* is to glorify God.

It's a Tall Order

Well, who could be *that* perfect? No one but Jesus, and he has sent another, the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, because we can't be. When we "pray in the name of Jesus," we aren't tacking magic words onto the end of the prayer. It is as if we are saying, "please make me like Jesus." Whether those literal words are spoken aloud or not, whenever we pray "in the name of Jesus" we are asking to have the heart and mind of Jesus, to glorify God in all that we do and say.

Far from being "magic" words, they are a huge commitment. Praying "in the name of Jesus" ought to be life-changing, perspective altering, re-aligning, mind- and will-blowing. Amen.

See you in church.

HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS, AND LOVE

Perhaps you read this Meditation Before Worship:

It seems to me that our three most basic needs, for food, security, and love, are so mixed and mingled and entwined that we cannot straightly think of one without the others. So it happens that when I write of hunger, I am really writing about love.

It was written by MFK Fisher and quoted on an Oregon Food Bank card. Recently, the *Estacada News* printed some facts about homeless people. The most shocking piece of information is that 44% of homeless people *are children*.

Homelessness has a terrible impact on children, affecting their development, their education, and their health. One of the most important things homeless people need in order to find adequate **housing is food**.

Springwater's annual budget pledges 11% of the operating *budget* to mission. Whether or not we *spend* the operating budget, we *give* our pledge to "our" mission commitments. Some of our mission commitments are to Presbytery and General Assembly ministries, but a significant part of our mission pledge is to the Estacada Family Resource Center. Last year, Springwater worshipers brought over **four tons** of food to the Resource Center, but we also "gave" to the board the **leadership** of Bettie Barbee, ministering in our name. There are lots of opportunities to join Bettie in local mission work.

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LECTIONARY READINGS



February 6, (Transfiguration Sunday): Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9.

February 13 (First Sunday in Lent): Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11.

February 20 (Second Sunday in Lent): Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

February 27 (Third Sunday in Lent): Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Moving on . . .



It's sad to see her go, but Julie Spencer has moved to Eastern Oregon. She's already feeling better and is busy making it her home.

Julie would like to hear from YOU! Here's her information:

Julie D. Spencer
906 Elm Ave., Sp. 69
Nyssa, OR 97913
(541) 372-2004
spencerjd@fmtc.com

Mission Study

Our church is going to be doing a mission study this year. The committee that is going to lead the process is Gwen Shearer, Peter Sturman, Colleen Roden, Renata Ryan, Don MacKinnon, and Dana Shibley. The committee will begin meeting in February with the goal of defining what our new mission study should contain, how to obtain information about the church's mission from the congregation, and, in general, the process we are going to go through this year. If you want more information, please talk to one of these people. We will be keeping you informed about our progress and when we want you, the congregation, to participate and help define who we are as a church and what we should be doing.



Youth Group meets

2nd Friday at 6:00
pm (Includes Taize
service)
and
4th Sunday after
church

Be There!!



The Church Beyond Springwater: Why Pay Per Capita?

Were you aware that we are part of a larger church, beyond our doors? As part of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we support the mission and ministries of churches in our state, nation, and world. We do that through an annual "per capita" (each head) payment of \$21 per member in our church, per year.

This payment is not, strictly speaking, part of our church's operating budget. When individual members make this payment to Springwater, and we send it on to the presbytery, we are freeing up pledges to be used directly in the mission of our particular church. Paying our per capita funds supports the general operating expenses of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. That's

a lot of connections!

Springwater is blessed to have several active members who are actively involved in the governing bodies of the wider church: Nona Shearer (Committee on Ministry), Kathy Scott (Media Committee and Webmaster), Rick Parfrey (Congregational Support Committee). In the past, Gilbert Shibley, Barbara Shibley, and Bill Shearer have been active in the Presbytery.

Please show your support and your membership in the "wider" church of Jesus Christ by making your 2005 per capita payment of \$21 soon.

Youth: Spirit and Music

Whose idea was it to have the monthly Taize service a regular part of youth group? Kids sit still in school all week, why would they want to sit still on a Friday night?

The decision was one of genius. The youth of our church are leading us in what our pastor calls "the three-legged stool model of church." In case you weren't paying attention at the annual meeting, the "three legs" are education, service, fellowship. Those pieces come together on the second Friday of the month, when the kids gather for pizza, music practice, worship, and then bowling. Or shopping for Christmas families.

Where is the "genius" in this? Music forges spiritual paths that "head trips" can't take. Music invites spiritual centering and provides hospitality to God's Spirit in ways that just reading or praying cannot do. Why do you think the "Super Baby" CDs now available are about music-before-you're-born?

Music is also a fabulous community-builder. Many parents say they put their kids in sports because they think it teaches the ability to work together. This may be true, but music does the same thing, without the additional burden of competition. No one "needs" to win with music. Everyone contributes. Working together is essential for something to emerge.

Come to Taize on the second Friday and see what the "buzz" is all about.





The Leadership Fair occurs every year, it is open to everyone & is a major resource for training in the Presbytery



Leadership Fair

The Leadership Fair is coming Saturday, February 26th. It will be in Lake Oswego at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church and runs from 8:30a.m.-3:00p.m. This is given only once a year and there are a wide variety of workshops available both in the morning and afternoon. The cost is only \$10.00 and it includes lunch so this is a great deal! The church will pay the registration fees.

MORNING WORKSHOPS

1. Becoming Inclusive

Sid Birt, Westminster, Portland
Developing a vision that includes everyone.

2. Contemporary Song Resources

Jeff Haagenon, Columbia, Vancouver
A survey of music for congregations.

3. Korean churches in our presbytery

Sung Man Kim, Calvary, Korean
Korean church culture and specific issues.

4. Mobilizing Church Volunteers

Nancy Gaston, First, Vancouver
Mobilizing Church Volunteers

5. Parish Nurse: An Introduction

Annette Stixruda, RN. Come and learn about wholistic health.

6. Prayer

GuiGui Roberts, HR, Portland
Practical focus on different forms of prayer.

7. Presbyterian Basics

John Mahon, Co-Executive, Eugene.
What's unique about being Presbyterian?

8. Resources in the new presbytery structure - Jack Hodges, Co-Executive, Portland

9. So, you're the treasurer. John Huenink, Stated Clerk, Portland

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

A. Family Friendly Ministry

Sharon Franklin, Columbia, Vancouver
The role of parents as primary faith educators and the church as their partner and supporter.

B. Listening Skills

Sandy Larsen, West., Eugene
A practical "how to" for everyone.

C. It's a Media World

Eileen Parfrey & Becky Tallman -
OPENING DOORS. Review new resources for helping challenged people

D. Parish Nurse-Support

Annette Stixruda, RN
A workshop for churches with existing

Parish Nurse programs

E. The big deal about small Groups

Len Tang, Sherwood NCD
Using small groups in a relevant and powerful way to create community and outreach.

F. Stewardship

Jack Hodges, Co-Executive

G. So, you're the clerk of Session

John Huenink, Stated Clerk

H. Transforming Churches

George Furness, Eugene
How to revitalize your church.

I. Your Worship Voice

Kelly Ballard, Sherwood
retain the wonder of your heritage while increasing its relevance in this world.

Please pray for the new Session as they work to reorganize and re-prioritize and listen for God's Word at the annual Session retreat on February 12th



What Is Session Doing?

Session held it's annual report to the congregation on January 23rd. Pastor Eileen and each elder on Session gave their reports for what they accomplished in 2004. Those documents will be available very soon for you to take home if you haven't already taken one. If you would like a copy, please let Kathy Scott know.

At the annual meeting, we made the following decisions:

1. The congregation elected Renate Ryan Jeppeson to be ordained as an elder. Three elders, Don Barbee, Bob Maat and Valerie Webb have completed their terms and are going off Session. *Note that 3 people left, but only one person was willing to go on Session. We will be short-handed this year.
2. We elected 3 people from the congregation to serve on the Nominating committee for 2006. They are: Barbara Shibley, Peter Sturman and Charlotte Rice.
3. Wilma Guttridge will serve on the Endowment Committee.
4. We acknowledged our debt to General Assembly for \$544.30.
5. Congregation got the chance to ask questions about the budget.

Other things Session is doing:

Completing updating the Operations Manual that defines the duties of committees and their chairs, general responsibility of being an elder and setting down procedures for getting things done.

Set in motion a Mission Study to help the congregation determine where we want to be now and in the next 5 years.

Correction to the Clerks report:

We have grown this year from a congregation of 58 members to one of 68 members. We baptized Samantha Sturman, John Leonard and Kathleen Leonard as believers as well as baby Adelia Jeppeson. We confirmed 3 youth: Rachael Webb, Houston Webb and Jennifer Souders. We accepted the following adults by reaffirmation of faith: Peter Sturman, Carol Sturman, Sheila Laschober, Bill Leonard and Kathleen Leonard.

Additions to the Library



We have added 5 new novels, the Fair Acres series from Presbyterian author Effie Leland Wilder. In a recent review in Presbyterians today, her work was praised for her humor, wit, spirit and the poignancy of her stories. Effie is currently a resident of Presbyterian Home in Summerville, South Carolina

Give and Take

Do you have something that you want to get rid of? Can't stand it another minute? Or, maybe you want something or need something? Either way, you can send your give-aways and wants to Kathy Scott at 503.630.4739. Here's what we have this month:

The Barbees would like to give away a very nice crib. Call them if you would like to have it.

The Barbees are looking for someone to install an "old" bat house.

Please feel free to put your own ad in the next issue of *Springwater Currents*

Lent is Coming!

February 9th, is Ash Wednesday. We will mark that event with a mid-week worship service at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Two other dates that you will want to put on your calendar are:

Palm Sunday - March 20th

Easter Sunday - March 27th

More information will be available in the next newsletter and announced in church.

Feast of Fools

If Lent is coming, then the Feast of Fools must be coming even sooner. Bring your silliest talents to church on February 6th. After worship, we will gather for a potluck and silly talent show. Surprise us with your ingenuity and silly talents!

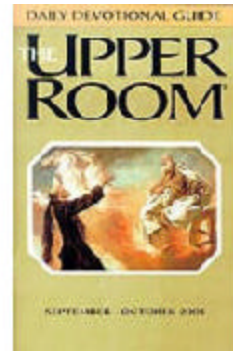
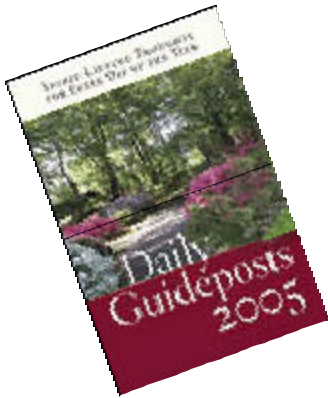


DAILY DEVOTIONS

Copies of the *Mission Yearbook* are available on the usher's table. The daily format allows you to focus your scripture reading as it "leads up" to Sunday's lectionary texts. Daily entries cover the mission activities of presbyteries and Presbyterian mission partners throughout the world.

Another scripture-reading approach might be *A Year With the Bible*. This does not include a mission-oriented reading each day, but will give you focus shorter scripture readings each day.

If you love stories that are to the point and help unpack what a short scripture passage might have to say to you, pick up a copy of *These Days*.



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Forward & Address Correction