

February 2007

In this issue

Birthdays	1
Anniversaries -	None
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	8

Sunday Schedule

9:45am
Hymn Sing

10:00am
Worship

11:15am
Fellowship

11:30-12:30
pm
Sunday School
for all ages



February

7	Kathleen Leonard
8	Alder Shibley
12	Don MacKinnon
12	Houston Webb
12	Susan Horton
21	Gary Guttridge
21	Scott Clatt
25	David Rigby
28	Bill Varitz

Church Directory:

Add:
Ruth Cromer
300 SE Main Street
Estacada, OR 97023
503 630-4428
Birthday: January 24

Change:
Kathleen & Vernon Souders
New Phone #
503-637-3659

Days of Note in February

Valentine's Day — February 14, 2007



Presidents' Day — February 19, 2007

Transfiguration of the Lord — February 18, 2007



ASH WEDNESDAY February 21, 2007



Lent is when we do some of our hardest work as people of faith

If you think forgiving others is hard work, try forgiving yourself!

The bottom line has to do with the hope of redemption, our willingness to acknowledge we are stuck, and the faith that God can free even us.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Is it here already? Any minute now, we'll be warned by the filtering in of reports on the New Orleans Mardi Gras. Presbyterians aren't into the beads and parade thing, so we'll have to rely on the Feast of Fools as a warning. Because we'll need some warning; Lent is when we do some of our hardest work as people of faith.

Participation

And it's no wonder. In the Church, Easter is a participation in Christ's death and resurrection. If you've paid attention during Epiphany season (the time between the end of Christmas and beginning of Lent), you'll know we participate in the *life* of Jesus. Epiphany's question is always, "Who is Jesus?" and the answer is, "Follow him."

Technically speaking, the life of discipleship—of being a Christian—is one of participation in the *life*, death, and resurrection of Jesus. So no wonder Lent takes work. It's about being intentional in your faith.

Being a Christian is no bed of roses. No one has enough time to do everything we're told we "ought" to do, so guilt trips only come with one-way tickets. If you think forgiving others is hard work, try forgiving yourself! Not to mention this tithing thing God expects. And reading the Bible everyday and praying for peace and attending every worship service. And helping the down and out. And volunteering at church. And visiting the sick. And feeding the hungry.

If we're not dead already from the exhaustion and disappointments of not being all we hope to be, Lenten fasts may as well kill us.

No One Would Blame You

There is a strange logic to session's decision to conduct a campaign for the stewardship of time and talent at the very end of Epiphany, as Lent begins. [*Pastor's Note: See elsewhere in this issue for the rationale for the timing of this call to commitment.*] So, if Epiphany's question really is, "Who is Jesus?" and the answer truly is, "Follow him," no one would blame you for asking the logical question "How?"

How, indeed. One of America's great preachers says that the proper subject of all sermons is "How to be a Christian." But it seems to me that the questions of this year's Lenten preaching series need to be answered first.

As in previous years, we will concentrate on one scripture passage, placing it in conversation with another, different scripture passage each week. This year's focus is the story of Jesus healing a woman who had been sick for 12 years, sandwiched between the request for help and the tale of Jairus' 12-year-old daughter (Luke 8:40-56).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Our partner in Tajikistan, Jonna Reeder (serving as a community development trainer through the PCUSA), sends us her prayer requests for February. Jonna will be joining us for several days at the beginning of October.

For herself

Retreat time: restoring her soul. A good person to replace her as personnel manager, to arrive in 2007. Wisdom in housing plans for 2008

For programs

Event honoring those who worked in a program being closed (relief work)
Team building & planning in a restructured Community Development program

For the country and people

Ethics in government and business. Mild weather and improved utilities, including in rural areas

The story appears in all three synoptic gospels, so it must have been important to the early church. The questions it continues to raise are some of the biggest questions anyone can ask. Who is God, where is God in suffering, where does "evil" come from and why does it have power over us, what is the potential for healing, where can we find hope and keep it, what is the difference between "resignation" and "acceptance."

As if any one of these questions could be answered in six weeks. The bottom line has to do with the hope of redemption, our willingness to acknowledge we are stuck, and the faith that God can free even us.

See you in church.



The Choir needs you!

Easter will be here sooner than you think. Here is a great opportunity to give from your heart by using your voice. Choir practice will begin Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 and then every Tuesday through Easter. Kathleen Souders is the choir director and the choir will sing during Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services as well as possibly during the Maundy Thursday service. Please join Kathleen and have some fun singing and rejoicing in our Lord.

Remember, everyone of any age is welcome to join.

THE BLESSING INSIDE SORROW

St Francis Episcopal Church, 8813 SW Miley Road, Wilsonville, will present internationally acclaimed author & speaker, Paula D'Arcy on Feb. 10 (10:30 to noon) on the subject on The Blessing Inside Sorrow.

Navigating change, transitions and loss are difficult passages. Yet, within the experience of loss are powerful, transformative opportunities. How can we open our eyes to the potential blessings and live with hope? This event is an invitation to experience new possibilities for life this season of Epiphany.

Paula D'Arcy's time is spent writing, leading church retreats and speaking at conferences and seminars in the US, Canada and abroad. She is also President of the Red Bird Foundation. Paula frequently teams with Richard Rohr in presenting seminars and workshops. Her books include *Song for Sarah*, *When People Grieve*, *Gift of the Red Bird*, *Red Fire*, *A New Set of Eyes*, *Seeking with All My Heart*, and *Sacred Threshold*.

A free will offering will be accepted. For more information, contact Charlene at 503/678-5422 or stfran@centurytel.net. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

If everyone did one little thing then everything would get done and no one would have to work too hard, no one would burn out.

Be praying about where you feel called to serve God by participating in the Body Life of Springwater Presbyterian Church.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENT

In the spirit of avoiding procedural ruts, session felt that 2007 was the year to ask for time and talent commitments differently than we have in the past. The older method, of volunteering by making checks next to a list of job opportunities, worked pretty well, but that system assumes we will continue to do things “the way we’ve always done them.” Given the new Mission Statement adopted last spring, given that session is organized around clusters rather than committees, we knew we needed to do something different.

This year, we are taking four weeks to get ready to make our time and talent pledges, making use of the Moment for Mission in worship to make our case. By the time you read this, you will have already experienced the first week (January 28), in which we explain the implications of the **ministry cluster** organization as regards the old committee structure.

The second week (February 4) we’ll talk about “**call,**” and then we’ll experience in a sacramental way the outcome of “call” as we ordain and install new elders.

The third week (February 11) we’ll get personal and talk about **discerning your call.**

The fourth week (February 18) we will **pledge our commitments** of time and talent. One new member to the worship committee was amazed by the impressively long list of everything it takes to worship together each week. But this new member also put things in perspective by saying, “If everyone did *one little thing*, then everything would get done and no one would have to work too hard, no one would burn out.”

Why are we taking time during worship to ask for time and talent commitments? In a word: discipleship. As God’s people, we believe that worship is what shapes us as a people, worship is what calls us individually and collectively to serve God, and worship is where we are equipped for living into those commitments.

Please take some time to read the descriptions of ministry clusters and the ways they accomplish their work. The bulletin inserts each week will describe specific jobs in each ministry cluster. **Be praying about where you feel called to serve God by participating in the Body Life of Springwater Presbyterian Church.**

Stewardship Cluster cares for God’s gift of our resources, including our buildings, outdoor areas and finances. Currently, Don MacKinnon and Renate Ryan-Jeppeson are the elders in this cluster. Volunteer opportunities range from participating in a work day (both inside and outside) to serving on a planning committee, administering the day-to-day details of the church, and everything in between. The subcommittees associated with this ministry cluster include Buildings and Grounds,

The 2007 Session consists of the following elders.

Don MacKinnon
Peter Sturman
Kevin Kirby
Bob Wilson
Renate Jeppeson

Eileen Parfrey is Moderator of Session

What is Per Capita?

per capita is a fee that each church pays for each active member. It is dispersed in the following ways:

As Partnership Giving, it funds programming at the Presbytery level - \$10.30.

\$5.17 goes to Synod. Synod is a middle level governing body. It oversees multiple Presbyteries.

\$5.79 goes to General Assembly which deals with national denominational concerns & programs

Building our Vision, Finance (income, paying bills, insurance, taxes), Communications, Personnel, Endowments and Memorials, Stewardship, and Audit.

Faith Nurture Cluster: growing in our relationship with God through corporate worship, learning in small groups, education activities, and discussion groups, in-home fellowship with each other. Currently, Peter Sturman, Judy Coyne, and Cindy Babikoff (joined by Renate Jeppeson) are the elders in this ministry cluster. There is a saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" and to go one step further it takes a whole congregation to put on a worship service—more than 40 volunteers in 2006 helping to plan worship services, usher, greet, serve communion, lead worship, provide flowers, provide music and liturgical art, bring snacks for fellowship, and provide child care. More volunteers provided Sunday School for all ages, youth group, Vacation Church School, intergenerational all-church teachings, pre-Sunday School lunch for children.

Deaconate Cluster in exercising the ministries typically associated with the office of Deacon, this ministry cluster covers the ministries of compassion, witness, hospitality and service. There is currently no active elder in this ministry cluster, but the ministries continue. Compassion is tangibly extended both within the congregation and to those outside it. Witness and service are provided by special offerings (Heifer Project, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace Offering, Christmas Joy Offering), in-kind donations through the Estacada Area Food Bank and Estacada Schools. Hospitality is provided for church events, while members and friends of the congregation are kept in touch with congregational concerns and events through a telephone tree.

Per Capita? - Think "Dues"

The Presbytery levies a "head tax" each year on our church and this year it is \$21.26 per member. It is called Per Capita Apportionment and we include it as an item in the 2007 budget expenses. Some members feel they should pay this amount as "dues". As a result, Session included an income item for 2007 of \$500, which assumes that about 24 members will pay their "dues". Please reflect on the amount you have pledged to the church and whether you should pay an additional \$21.26 to cover your per capita apportionment. If you decide to pay it, please write a check, specify that it is for per capita, and include it in the offering plate. Thank you.

Gwendolyn Shearer, Treasurer

What Springwater PC accomplished last year

The entire congregation worked together and:

- * Elected four new elders and ordained a new elder
- * Reorganized session into ministry clusters: Faith Nurture, Stewardship, and Deaconate
- * Erin Roden produced and directed a play starring Springwater members
- * Sent volunteer groups to the Oregon Food Bank on three Saturdays
- * Barbara Shibley and the pastor developed an inter-generational class called Holy Food” to learn about the sacrament of communion, while Gwen Shearer cooked lunch
- * Installed a parking lot light on a timer
- * Held intergenerational retreat at Silver Falls
- * Dedicated the new Mission Statement
- * Presented Bibles to 4th graders Bryce Babikoff and Samantha Sturman
- * Recognized volunteers Wilma Guttridge, Jim Roden, Steve Shibley
- * Enrolled 35 adults, youth, and children in Vacation Church School
- * Commissioned Kathy Scott to represent Cascades presbytery at General Assembly
- * Prayed for discernment and developed Christian Education opportunities for all ages
- * Celebrated the church birthday with outdoor worship, a potluck in the Shibley canyon, and the 100th birthday of Dorothy Shearer
- * Sent craft supplies, socks, and caps to mission co-worker, Jonna Reeder, in Tajikistan
- * Painted the church and established a furnace replacement fund
- * Collected school supplies and Christmas in July contributions
- * Built a bridge over the washed out section of pathway in outdoor area
- * Reorganized the lower level for best use by children’s Sunday School
- * Kicked off the year with the Round Up outdoor worship and barbeque
- * Began the talk-back with the pastor after worship for adults
- * Recruited Sunday School teachers Renate Jeppeson, Mary Kirby, and Erin Roden
- * Had to divide the children’s Sunday School classes due to heavy attendance
- * Gathered youth with Peter Sturman and Steve Shibley to learn about their faith
- * Two work days cleaned the church inside and out
- * Monday Morning Weeding and planting events finished the outdoor areas
- * Held first-ever Blessing of the Animals service
- * Peacemaking Month mid-week activities included non-violent dispute resolution (Karin Ryan), cultural bias (Cindy Babikoff), Armenia (David Tufenkian), compassionate communication (Gwen Shearer)
- * Utilized the Consecration Sunday stewardship program, increasing pledges by 17%
- * Received the gift of a new organ from Walter and Alice Freeman
- * Gave a chili feed for Christmas tree workers
- * Observed Advent with greening of the church (designed by Debbie Ingamells & Cindy Woodbury), caroling, mid-week vesper services, children telling the Christmas story, service of Lessons and Carols
- * Ended the financial year in the black
- * Celebrated the music ministry of Ruth Newman and welcomed Kathleen Souders as church musician
- * Donated 3-1/2 tons of food during the year to the Estacada Area Food Bank
- * Helped 3 Christmas families with gifts of clothing and household goods. The youth took responsibility for 1 of the families.

Caring For and About Our Resources

The stewardship cluster at Springwater Presbyterian Church is charged with caring for God's gift of our resources. These resources include our buildings, outdoor areas and finances. Currently, Don MacKinnon and Renate Ryan-Jeppeson are the elders in this cluster.

Oregon: The State of Hunger

This isn't a good year to be hungry in Clackamas County. There are more hungry people than ever, and our donations to the Estacada Area Food Bank are down.

Ask yourself these questions:

When did we see you hungry Lord?

When did we see you thirsty Lord?

When were you still a stranger Lord?

When you have answered these questions, remember the children, the men and the women that we can serve.

We can help!

Volunteer opportunities range from participating in a work day to serving on a planning committee and everything in between. The church needs regular cleaning; volunteers can plan ahead and write on their calendar a week or a month that they can commit to keeping the church clean. Scheduled work parties complete most of the routine building maintenance, but unscheduled repair needs often arise. An "on-call" handyman (or two) is really helpful when emergency maintenance is needed.

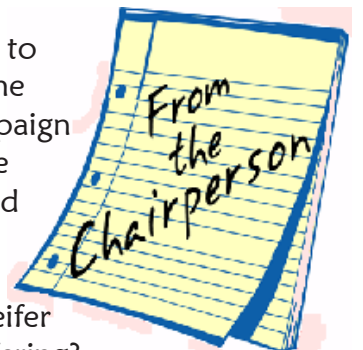
The stewardship committee also has to plan for things such as replacing the furnace and painting: long-term repairs that require more time, expertise, and finances than are available during a work party. Accordingly, there is an opportunity for volunteers on a committee to help determine long-range facility needs and how to achieve them.



Volunteer opportunities abound outdoors as well. The church grounds need to be weeded and mowed weekly during the spring and summer. The more volunteers there are for these tasks, the better. Once again, volunteers can determine when they'll be available and how often, and include maintenance of the church grounds in their weekly or monthly calendar. Regular work parties focus on activities such as planting, building outdoor structures (coming this spring: a children's play area), and maintaining the labyrinth. Then, for those with the desire to plan for the future, there are opportunities to join the Building our Vision (BOV) committee.



Other opportunities to serve can be found on the stewardship pledge Campaign or the annual audit Committee. Once a year we have budget workshops where your input would be most welcomed. How would you like to chair one of the special offerings the church takes each year, One Great Hour of Sharing, Heifer project, Peace Offering or the Christmas Joy offering?



LECTIONARY

February 4 (CALL AND RESPONSE): Isaiah 6:1-13, Luke 5:1-11, Psalm 138

February 11 (WOES AND BLESSINGS): Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 6:17-26, Psalm 1

February 18 (TRANSFIGURATION): Luke 9:28-43, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Psalm 99

February 25 (RESIGNATION OR ACCTPTANCE?): Luke 8:40-56; Lamentations 3:1-6, 17-24;
Psalm 91

SILLY TALENT SHOW

With February approaching can the Silly Talent Show be far behind? We will be celebrating Transfiguration Sunday, February 18, with a FEAST OF FOOLS (potluck) after our regular Worship Service, followed by our annual SILLY TALENT SHOW. Begin preparing your wonderful (silly) talents now and let Judy Coyne know that you want to be included in this hilarious show. We accept any and all talents.

Last year some of you said you wanted to do something, but didn't have enough time to work something up. You have plenty of time now so get working. The more the merrier. You can follow in the footsteps of the Gargle Sisters who have become a delightful tradition. Children, we want something from as many of you as are willing to perform. You have up to the morning of February 18 to let Judy know what you are doing.

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1017

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Location:

24553 S. Springwater Rd.

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction