

February 2006

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Sunday Schedule

9:30-10:15am
Sunday School for
all ages

Hymn Sing
15 mins. before
worship
(starts Feb. 5th)

10:30-11:45am
Worship Service

11:45am
Fellowship Time

Worship with
the Ramblers

2nd Friday of
each month



February Birthdays

Kathleen Leonard	7
Houston Webb	12
Don MacKinnon	12
B. Anne Beecroft	14
Scott Clatt	21
Gary Guttridge	21
David Rigby	25
Bill Varitz	28

February Special Days

Black History Month — February 1-28

Groundhog Day — February 2

Valentine's Day — February 14

Presidents' Day — February 20

Transfiguration of the Lord — February 26



Feb. 5, 2006

Youth Group
Snow Play!

Feb. 5, 2006

After Worship

The youth group will leave after church to go play in the snow on Mt. Hood. Bring your snow clothes!
Jennifer Souders & Alder Shibley say: "It's going to be a blast! Don't miss it!"



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

“Discern” is one of those fancy Biblical words. It’s a holy way of saying, “trying to figure out what we’re supposed to be doing.”

What makes this “figuring out” holy is that we do it together, we do it in the presence of God, and we are intentional about asking God’s opinion about which way to go.

A Christian who is only contemplative leaves out the faith practice of actively loving one’s neighbors. A Christian who only serves will quickly become a burnt-out Christian.

Holy Work

When I first came to Springwater, the PNC told me my call was to lead worship, visit people, and love the kids. Church is a little more complicated than that, and the PNC acknowledged that the idea was to “grow” the call as the congregation itself grew.

We’ve been doing that. Literally, I’ve gone from a 60% call (30 hours/week) in 2000, to an 80% call (40 hours/week) by 2004. But “growing the call” is about more than increasing the number of hours worked each week, just as a “growing congregation” is about more than bigger membership numbers.

There’s More Going On

Springwater’s growth has been in shifting from being a “Sunday morning only” church. Worship, is what we do, literally it is our “service.” Sunday morning worship is the only time we’re all together. It is what shapes and nourishes and sustains us, individually and as a corporate body. It’s what many of our activities during the week build toward—worship committee meetings, choir practice, Tuesday prayer time.

There is, however, more going on than Sunday morning and what leads up to it.

Session formed a Mission Study Committee to help articulate and steer that “something going on.” “Discern” is one of those fancy Biblical words. It’s a holy way of saying, “trying to figure out what we’re supposed to be doing.” What makes this “figuring out” holy is that we do it together, we do it in the presence of God, and we are intentional about asking God’s opinion about which way to go.

Springwater has been discovering that “more” is not necessarily better—more activities, more mission, more busy-ness, more programs, more volunteers. The genius of how this Mission Study Committee has been going about its work has been its embrace of the traditional Christian inward and outward rhythms. A Christian who is only contemplative leaves out the faith practice of actively loving one’s neighbors. A Christian who only serves will quickly become a burnt-out Christian.

The Rhythm of Finding Out

Christians—both congregations and individuals—need to recognize the inward practices of their faith life (prayer, meditation, study) along with the outward practices of their faith life (service, compassion, justice work, witness), as well as the many practices which are both inward and outward (worship, stewardship, reconciliation). We need both rhythms as Christians.

In my annual report to the congregation, I noted positive signs of growth in faith practice at Springwater—increased worship atten-

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dance, energy in worship and music, expanded mission outreach interpretation. But I also noted challenges.

Challenges Ahead

Are they “dreams” or are they “challenges”?

It’s hard to say. That’s where discernment comes in. That’s where being people of faith together comes in. The Mission Study Committee is helping the congregation articulate dreams for ministry together for the next five years. Session will be solidifying those challenges, forging potential pathways for ministry.

As Springwater explores more deeply the implications of being a “more than Sunday” church, we will have to learn an important Christian virtue. In medieval times it was called “perseverance.”

Today, we call it commitment.

These are exciting times. Join us in journeying and discerning together.

Eileen

Souper Bowl Sunday

February 5th
Dedication

The youth group is continuing to collect cans of soup & packages of dried soup to feed the hungry.

Bring your soup to church anytime before February 5th and help the youth group in their generous service to others.

Estacada Family Resource Center

What do the following have in common? Jams, Jellies, Cold Cereal, Canned fruit, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, cake mix and personal hygiene supplies. They are all very much needed by the Estacada Family Resource Center.



Mission Study Committee News

The Mission Study Committee has been studying who we are as a congregation and what our mission is in our community for about nine months, and they are getting close to a proposed mission statement! It’s exciting. Watch for further developments in our next newsletter.

Complete list of classes at Leadership Fair:

Morning

1. So, You're an Elder
2. Listening Skills
3. Connecting With Your Neighborhood
4. So, You're the Treasurer
5. Sanctuary Art
6. Praying Aloud for Others - Receive a free copy of the "Little Prayer Book"
7. The Emergent Church
8. Essentials Tenets of the Faith

Afternoon

- A. Leadership and Servanthood: G. A. Task Force - Gary Demerest - keynote speaker
- B. So, You're the Clerk of Session
- C. Islam: The Basics
- D. Going Beyond the Banner: Methods and Materials for Liturgical Arts
- E. Creating a Church Web Site
- F. Leading Worship
- G. Church Photography
- H. Applause for Puppets



SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT CHURCH

“Well, duh” you may be wondering. “Isn’t that Springwater?” Actually, this title regarding the search for the perfect church reflects the theme of the 2006 Cascades Leadership Fair, February 25 at Lake Grove Presbyterian, 8:30 to 3:00. Keynote speaker, the Rev Dr Gary Demarest will be speaking on that topic, as morning and afternoon workshops help equip the members and leaders to work toward that hoped-for ideal.

Even if you’re not a member of session or other committee chair, there are workshops you will find informative and helpful. Here is just a sampling:

- ◆ Listening Skills (how to listen in a way that will make a difference, taught by a licensed professional counselor)
- ◆ Connecting With Your Neighborhood (outreach and mission possibilities right in our neighborhood)
- ◆ Sanctuary Art and Liturgical Art (two classes, two approaches, two artists)
- ◆ Praying Aloud (for people who are anxious about praying out loud in front of others; each attendee will receive a free book of prayers)
- ◆ Essential Tenets (what do Presbyterians believe? Do you agree with that?)
- ◆ Leading Worship (guidelines to help worship leaders prepare)
- ◆ Basic Islam (understanding what Muslims believe and how their faith came into being)

If you are interested in attending all or part of the day, you will need to register so the planners know how much lunch to prepare. The church gets a break if we all register at once, so please let Eileen know by February 19 if you’d like to attend.

Additional Information at Presbytery of the Cascades website:
<http://www.cascadespresbytery.org/>

Scholarship Pie Auction February 17th - 7:15pm

Come and bid for a slice of pie, a whole pie or lots of pies at the annual Grange scholarship pie auction. Its a fund-raiser for their scholarship program and a fun way to spend a Friday evening. Talk to Wilma Guttridge for more information.



Lectionary Readings

The season between the end of Christmas and the beginning of Lent is sometimes called “Epiphany Season,” named after the first Sunday of the season, in which the Church celebrates the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Although the movement of Epiphany season is revelation, it often comes across as a call to discipleship. Perhaps discipleship is the point of revelation. When we look at the meaning of the call to discipleship this season, we’ll look at the implications for our daily living of saying we believe in “the priesthood of all believers.”

February 5: Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c. “Back To Work”

February 12: 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45; Psalm 30. “EWW...!”

February 19: Isaiah 43:18-25; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Mark 2:1-12; Psalm 41. “More Misfits”

February 26 (Transfiguration Sunday celebrated with communion, followed by the traditional pre-Lenten Feast of Fools): 2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9; Psalm 50:1-6.

Looking Ahead To The Lenten Lectionary

During Lent, the preaching will focus on the book of Job. No, not vocational planning. The book of Job, located in the Old Testament, is one of the most well-known books of the Bible. It takes its name from the main character, a man whose suffering most people can identify with.

But Job’s story isn’t just about being miserable. Were you to read Job’s story using one of the modern paraphrases or translations (The Message is particularly good), you might be astonished to hear Job’s so-called “hard-hearted” friends mouthing words of comfort you might have heard from your friends. Or you might even have used some of these words to comfort them.

What makes Job’s story so enduring is that it asks one of the most faithful questions anyone can ask: Where is God in human suffering?

We will be asking that question together this Lent. Even scarier, we will be inclined to ask what difference Job’s questions (and answers) make for me and for how I relate to other human beings?

To get ready for Lent, you may consider reading through the book of Job. If you need an easier-to-understand version to read, let Eileen know.

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JOB



Springwater PC gave over 8100 pounds of food, personal and household supplies to the Estacada Family Resource Center (EFRC) during 2005



Mission Notes

Happy New Year. Although we celebrated the church's new year last fall, we now begin a new program year with our annual meeting, and the election and installation, of elders. In Christ, all things are new.

We recently rejoiced in the donation of over 8100 pounds of food, personal and household supplies to the Estacada Family Resource Center [EFRC] during 2005. Now, we are exercising our opportunities for even greater giving. Check out the chart that Lloyd keeps in the Fellowship Hall.

Hunger Ministries. Our mission theme for the ordinary time until Ash Wednesday (March 1st), and then through Lent, will be hunger ministries. We will be talking not only about our own remarkable relationship with EFRC, but also outreach by Presbytery/Mission Partnership. Our Presbytery Hunger Action Enabler (a quaint title dating from the 1970's), Don Shaw, recently wrote in an e-mail to me:

On the state level, one of the bills before the recent Oregon legislature was to limit pay day loans. Oregon is one of only a handful of states lacking boundaries for such loaning institutions. Presently, there are more payday loan stores than there are McDonald's in Oregon. Their interest rates regularly are over 400%, and they can roll the loan over to keep it going week after week. Legislation to regulate this industry is again in the news, for consideration the next time the legislature meets. However, it will take churches and others to advocate in order to overcome the lobbying influence of the banks. There are many similar legislative issues =that simply need folks to say "This is OK but that is not."

Clearly, the position of the Presbytery is that those economic and social pressures that stand in the way of people receiving the nutrition they need to work, study, and support their loved ones need to be addressed. More later....

Presbyterian Hunger Program. The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) is a sister national ministry to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), with which we have become well- acquainted in the past few months. PHP provides grants to programs addressing hunger and its causes in the US and around the world. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, PHP gives direct food relief in the US and abroad; provides development assistance to encourage people to grow their own food; influencing public policy, as in the Rev. Mr. Shaw's statement above; life-style integrity, as in preventing people from giving up food and medicines to pay heating bills; and education and interpretation.

Souper Bowl of Giving. "Souper Sunday", a special offering originating with Presbyterian youth in the early 1990's, and promoted by PHP, will be observed on February 5th. Our ever-energetic Youth Group will be leading us in donations of canned and dehydrated soup,



and cash. (These are the same young people who have donated cases of peanut butter and canned chili to EFRC in the past.)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The Salem-First Team divides their time between D'Iberville and Ocean Springs, MS. Their current focus is making sure that people get winter-weight clothing, as well as doing restoration of folks' home. They note that their 12- and 14-hour days are exceeded only by the work hours of local volunteers doing everything they can to restore their communities. PDA nationally is mounting a new campaign for volunteers to go to the Gulf Coast.

As Lloyd often reminds us, we can serve.

Susan Horton

Results of the Annual Congregational Meeting

The January 15th meeting was opened with prayer. The congregation elected Don MacKinnon, Peter Sturman and Lucy Olson for 3 year positions as Session members. Susan Horton was nominated from the floor to serve for 1 year.

Peter Sturman will be ordained and all 4 elders will be installed on January 29th. The 2006 Session will consist of Cindy Babikoff, Judy Coyne, Renaté Jeppeson, Don MacKinnon, Lucy Olson, Susan Horton and Peter Sturman.

The congregation also elected the members of the Nominating Committee to serve for this coming year. Those members are Barbara Shibley, Lloyd Olson and Jean McCloskey. Barbara MacKinnon was elected to serve on the Endowment Committee.

The congregation unanimously approved the Terms of Call for Pastor Eileen for 2006.

The 2006 budget was presented to the congregation and they had a few minutes to ask about any concerns they might have had. All questions were answered. It should be noted that the Session had already adopted and approved the budget. This is the second deficit budget that has been adopted in 2 years and all members & friends are invited to pray for the life of this church. We believe that somehow God will provide.

Outgoing elders, Nona Shearer & Kathy Scott, were thanked for their service to the Session and to the congregation.

We Acknowledged our debt to General Assembly of \$544.30 as secured by Grant Mortgage #3/50/314905.

Each Session member and Committee Chair gave a brief report of their committee activities and accomplishments. The Pastor reported her accomplishments for 2005 and her dreams for the future. All reports were accepted and approved.

We had a good turn-out at this meeting and it was good to join together and review the past year and dream together for the mission of Springwater Presbyterian Church. Kathy Scott, Clerk of Session

2006 Session

Moderator
Eileen Parfrey

Cindy Babikoff
Judy Coyne
Renaté Jeppeson
Don MacKinnon
Lucy Olson
Susan Horton
Peter Sturman

Assignments
Pending

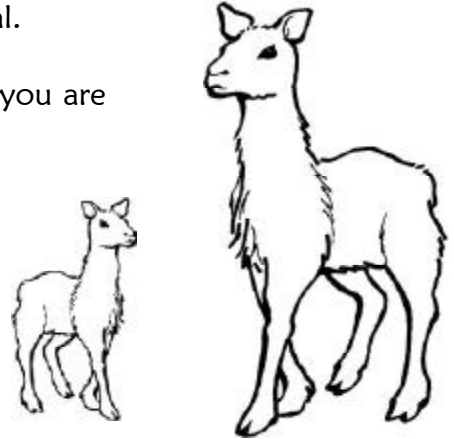
Llamas

Most people are aware that llamas are long-necked relatives of camels, and that they're from the Andes. Some of us know that llamas are used locally as pets, or to protect herds of sheep from coyotes. We're also aware that they spit when they are mad.

However, there is another side to llamas. In Peru and Bolivia they can be invaluable. Women weave their llamas' fleece into warm clothing to wear or sell. They load llamas up with goods for market and trek with them across rugged slopes at high altitudes. As they travel, the llama's padded feet don't damage the fragile terrain. Their selective grazing doesn't destroy sparse vegetation. Llamas are vital.

When you give to the Heifer Project with a gift like a llama, you are changing people's lives. You give hope.

Lloyd Olson



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