

JUNE 2007

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Sunday Schedule

9:45am
Hymn Sing

10:00am
Worship

11:15am
Fellowship

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

Deadline for
Next Issue:
July 7, 2007



June

5 Don Barbee
8 Mary Kirby
16 Kit Johnson
27 Ruth Newman
27 Tom Coyne
29 Rachael Webb

Birthdays

July

5 Dick Scott
5 Jessie Jo Guttridge
10 Mel Kramer
15 Don Guttridge
16 Cody Johnson
17 Dorothy Shearer
17 Stephen Shibley
26 Carol Sturman
26 Jennifer Souders
28 Thom Coyne
30 Charlotte Rice
31 Juliette Lalka

Special Days Ahead

June

Trinity Sunday - June 3
Father's Day - June 17
Summer Begins - June 21

July

Independence Day - July 4



Wedding Anniversaries

June

3 Nancy & Jim Tedrow
11 Kathy & Dick Scott

July

18 Robin & Sam Fisher
22 Tami & Don Guttridge
27 Bettie & Don Barbee

Pastor's Perspective

Lilly's purpose in funding sabbaticals is to provide pastors an opportunity to "remain in touch with the source of their life and strength," giving them a chance to step away from "persistent obligations." It is not a vacation but a time for intentional exploration and reflection, to regain enthusiasm and creativity.

The congregation will also be doing "sabbatical." Of course that involves rest and no particular compulsion to "accomplish" anything.

Had you stopped by the church one May afternoon, you might have seen me and the Sabbatical Support Committee reading page numbers to each other and flipping over sheets of paper. Page-turning is not normally such an intense experience.

What Were We Doing?

And intense it was! The explanation goes back to a policy approved by the Cascades Presbytery in 2005 to include sabbatical after seven years into all new pastoral terms of call. As this was adopted, the presbytery recommended sabbatical be incorporated into existing pastoral terms of call for the purpose of pastoral renewal and retention.

Which is what our congregation did. Sabbatical provisions were included in my terms of call at the annual meeting in 2006 and reaffirmed in 2007. In spring 2006, the personnel committee invited Carol Sturman to lead the Sabbatical Support Committee (SSC). What we were doing that May afternoon was putting the final touches on a grant proposal to the Lilly Foundation to fund a sabbatical in May – August 2008.

What Makes Our Hearts Sing?

Lilly Foundation annually invites grant requests from pastors for sabbatical, asking the question, "What makes your heart sing?"

Lilly's purpose in funding sabbaticals is to provide pastors an opportunity to "remain in touch with the source of their life and strength," giving them a chance to step away from "persistent obligations." It is not a vacation but a time for intentional exploration and reflection, to regain enthusiasm and creativity. While designed to strengthen relationships and renew the pastor's sense of call, its purpose is to find joy in simplified life.

Pastoral sabbaticals also create opportunities for members of the congregation to exercise their ministry gifts.

Our sabbatical proposal to Lilly is that I take three months to pursue faith expression in art. I'll start by taking two weeks at Grunewald Guild in Leavenworth, Washington, where I will study with one of my seminary professors (Church History Through Art and Architecture). Another month will be spent in Mendocino, California, with liturgical artist Nancy Chin learning how to (as she says), "Make the leap from text to visuals." Finally, I will spend time in the Midwest with my family.

Meanwhile, the congregation will also be doing "sabbatical." Of course that involves rest and no particular compulsion to "accomplish" anything. But, assuming the Lilly grant is given Springwater, the congregation will benefit from three separate artists in residence: one to engage in personal and group spiritual direction through art, one to help develop our liturgical arts group, one to explore the creation of sacred space. In addition, the grant would fund a Sabbatical Interim Pastor, to guide and train lay leaders during my absence. Our proposal includes an invitation to neighboring congregations to participate in our artist-in-

Sabbatical will require some preparation for all of us.

Participating in the covenant group will not only benefit you personally, it will benefit the congregation.

You Are Invited!

Join the pastor and the Sabbatical Support Committee for a journey with Julia Cameron and discover your inner creativity

residence programs, thus reflecting our Mission Statement goal to “reach out and offer sacred space.”

Getting Ready

Anticipating that, whether or not we receive the Lilly grant, sabbatical will require some preparation, the SSC seeks individuals from the congregation to join them in working through the exercises in Julia Cameron’s book, *The Artist’s Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*. [see elsewhere in this newsletter] This activity is not just for people who think they are artists—who think they can draw or paint. In fact, Cameron’s exercises are not geared toward “visual arts expression.” Her activities aim at developing creativity as a means of deepening our relationship with God.

Participating in this covenant group will not only benefit you personally, it will benefit the congregation. Working with session and the SSC, this group will be one of primary means of providing leadership continuity during my absence.

A Personal Note

I am blessed by Springwater’s gift of a three month sabbatical. Unlike an academic situation, where some work product is the expected outcome of sabbatical, the expectation of pastoral sabbatical is refreshment, renewed commitment and purpose. I am excited to see where God is leading us in this great adventure.

See you in church.



A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity

We’ve been talking about a new opportunity to be in community with each other. If you read through this newsletter from page 1 through page 8, then you have already read Eileen’s thoughts about her sabbatical and our time for congregational sabbatical.

As part of getting ready, Eileen and the Sabbatical Support Committee will begin to explore “*The Artist’s Way - A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*” by Julia Cameron. This is a study that will be taken in 12 segments and will last through the year.

This is YOUR invitation to take this journey too. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the whole congregation could all be part of the process? The start date hasn’t been determined yet, but it will most likely be June. Please contact Carol Sturman for further details and watch for an announcement.



Vacation Church School, 2007 Sowing Seeds for Peace

Invite your friends! June 25th through June 29th from 9 to noon, we will be celebrating God's love through stories, games, music and crafts. We will "sow seeds of peace" both literally and figuratively as we explore how to be peacemakers in our homes, our communities, and the world. Children ages 3rd through 5th grade are welcome as participants; youth 5th or 6th grade and older are welcome as youth assistants. Invite your friends! Adults are also welcome to join us any or all days. A registration form will be available soon. See Renate Ryan-Jepesson or Carol Sturman for more information.

Sunday School

Recent Sunday Schools included a Share your Music class and a class where we discussed choices we make when we spend our money.

For Share your Music we each brought in CD's containing songs that touched us spiritually in some way along with copies of the lyrics for each of the songs so that we could all follow along while the song was being played. Each song was preceded by some words of introduction by the person who brought it, with group discussion after it was played. Each of us had a decidedly different genre of music that we were drawn to and we all learned that God's spirit can move us through music in many different ways. This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all and one that we will revisit in the future Sunday Schools.

During another Sunday School we talked about the importance of conscious spending. Do we really need that? Where and under what conditions was it made? How is it packaged? Is it recyclable? Do we freely give to others in need some of the money that through God's grace has come to us?

Springwater Youth Activities

Bring Your Friends!

Offer to pick someone
up on the way

Tell Your friends
what fun you have
had at the Food Bank

Upcoming Youth Activities

June 9th SPC youth will participate in the Oregon Food Bank work morning. This is a fun way to give something back.
Come join us.



Hire the SPC youth by placing your bid at the upcoming Silent Auction fund raiser.

William Blake wrote, "I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me."

Up for Auction

Need some yard work done? Hire the SPC youth by placing your bid at the upcoming Silent Auction fund raiser. See the Auction article in this newsletter for more information.

Car Wash. SPC Youth will hold a car wash during this year's Church Birthday celebration in July to help fund youth Activities

Zoo trip. SPC will be making a trip to the Oregon Zoo. No date set yet, watch your Sunday announcements

Youth Group Camp Out. After missing last year, back by popular demand is the camp out. The date has been set for August 24th and 25th.

What does SPC Youth Group want? **More members.**
We have a fun and spiritually uplifting time. **Come join us.**

Kindling the Creative Flame by Peg Edera

The act of getting up in the morning is a creative act. It requires vision, it begs for originality and authenticity, it responds well to color and sound and texture, smell and tasty breakfast treats. Think about it. It is this way with all our routines and all of our break-away triumphs of stolen time. Every part of every day is creative. We are creative beings and our lives are works of art.

Some of us also practice a particular art form and in that practice find times of previously unimagined riches and times of soul-searing poverty. I think this can also be true about getting up in the morning. Some mornings are so full of promise we float out of bed into the sweet dream of the perfect day. Some mornings are so dank and hard edged, we twist our selves deeper into the sheets and blankets we have tossed in through all the dark hours of the night.

I am a poet and have spent a LOT of time poking at the dull and the routine, the dank and the dreary times. The creative deserts and wastelands, swamps and scorched earth. In my poking I have been blessed by many good guides including the book *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron. This book is full of wonderful adventures for unblocking your creative well. It also makes a strong case for creativity being a Holy gift. William Blake wrote, "I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me." Pete Modrian wrote, "The position of the artist is humble. He is essentially a channel." Julia Cameron writes this prayer, "Ok, Creative Force, you take care of the quality and I'll take care of the quantity." I really get this idea that my poems are being written through me. I also live in the reality that I am not always a ready channel for this flow. That is when I turn to some practices I think of as kindling the creative flame. Here are a few of them.

Call the circle; ask for help- Call in the Wise Ones, the Saints

Bring your dilemma
to one of your
heroes and imagine
what they might say
to you

and Angels. They may be your lovely neighbor; they may be historical personal heroes, icons, or archetypes. Bring them your dilemma or subject and imagine what they have to say to you today.

Do something physical-Walk, dance, garden, move your body into the abundant world. Go on what Julia Cameron calls an Artist Date. This is when you take your artist self out for some stimulation. You may go to a gallery, a museum, a vintage clothing store, Home Depot, a garden nursery, a fabric store. You don't need to spend money; you just need to go where some part of you gets excited.

- * Pray- Ask for that poem or painting or song. Just ask and keep asking.
- * Silence- Cultivate that still small voice. Be still and wait.
- * Exercise your metaphoric self. If you can't find a metaphor for what your stuck-ness is like, keep poking. Call a friend for one. When you find one, space will open up for you and things will change.
- * Adore paradox- If nothing is happening, hurry up and do nothing. The creative self needs time to hang out. You could also hurry up and play. * The creative self thrives on delight.
- * Acknowledge your creative self- Believe, know and hold up for yourself that you are in creative action even if there is no poem or painting or song forthcoming. Ask yourself at the end of everyday How was I creative today? And give thanks.
- * Recognize the seasons- The creative life needs the fallow ground of winter. It is not so fun as the other seasons but we can have faith that the seeds are working their early magic in the subterranean places we cannot see.
- * Believe in yourself- We are all unique beings. We are all artists. We are all invited into the co-creative river just by being given breath.
- * Forgive yourself- Believe Miles Davis when he wrote, "Do not fear mistakes. There are none."
- * Live into the mystery- The journey is the destination. Let it be a divine adventure. Let mastery flow from the source as you pursue the dream.

One Great Hour Of Sharing

Treasurer Gwen Shearer reports that we gave \$1,044.80 to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year. While we dedicated this offering on Easter Sunday, we continued to receive gifts through the month of May. The money has been sent to support urgently needed disaster relief, to alleviate the needs of chronic poverty around the world, and to witness to the healing love of God.

**One
great hour
of sharing**

Peace Making Mission Weekend

Mission Weekend

As part of our Peacemaking observance, we will be hosting our favorite mission correspondent on the last weekend of September, the 29th through October 1st.

Please mark this weekend to participate in worship, Bible Study, youth activities and an all-church dinner on Saturday evening, with the remarkable person who has invited us to send craft supplies, money for trucking coal to rural schools and socks for orphans in a distant land. She will be with us for a couple of days, as she would say, by grace alone.

Watch for announcements in church, and flyers arriving with your children from VCS and, of course, articles in this newsletter,

Coordinator Wanted

To organize
Minute for Mission
Presenters For
Sunday Worship

Help Wanted

COORDINATOR for Moments for Mission during Sunday Worship. The Worship Committee is looking for someone willing to work with them and Pastor Eileen to recruit persons to make Sunday morning presentations. The Coordinator will not necessarily make the presentations. As an integral part of the worship planning team, the Coordinator may be called upon to attend Worship Committee meetings, and will be responsible for recruiting Moment for Mission presenters and communicating with the pastor.

Supplemental Money
to be used for the
Sabbatical leave, a
future mission trip
for the youth, and
support for the
Theological Education
Fund

Supplemental Budget

At the January Congregational meeting in approving the budget we also proposed to do a supplemental budget by some kind of additional money raising project. The purpose of the extra money would be money for the pastors sabbatical leave, a future mission trip for the youth, and support for the Theological Education Fund.

Session authorized at the May meeting two silent auctions to be held in conjunction with the July Church Birthday and the Fall Round Up. We would like around 12 items for the congregation to bid on at each auction. Currently we have pledges for the auction, several pies, a copy of the Message Bible, and a work party from the Youth. If you would like to donate an item or some service for the auction please contact Peter Sturman or Don MacKinnon.

Lets have some fun as we raise money for the Supplemental Budget. We will have bid sheets available for three Sunday's so you will have plenty of opportunity to increase your bid. Listen for future announcements about the auction. *Don MacKinnon*

LECTIONARY READINGS

June 3 (Trinity Sunday): Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15; Psalm 8

June 10 (Bible Babes, Part 1): 1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24); Luke 7:11-17; Psalm 146

June 17 (Father's Day, Communion, Kris Voss-Rothmeier preaching): 1 Kings 21:1-10 (11-14), 15-21a; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3; Psalm 5:1-8

June 24 (Learning Peace, preparation for Vacation Church School week, Sowing Seeds for Peace): 1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a; Luke 8:26-39; Ps 42 and 43

July 1 (Making Peace; report from Vacation Church School, Sowing Seeds for Peace): Luke 9:51-62; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

July 8 (Living Peace): 2 Kings 5:1-14; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20; Psalm 30

July 15 (Church birthday, Communion; Community of Peace): Colossians 1:1-14; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Psalm 82



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Forward & Address Correction