

# Springwater Currents

Springwater Presbyterian Church  
24553 Springwater Rd  
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www.springwater-pres.org

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

July/August 2009

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## July and August Birthdays

Jessie Jo Guttridge	7/05
Richard Scott	7/05
Mel Kramer	7/10
Don Guttridge	7/15
Cody Johnson	7/16
Stephen Shibley	7/17
Carol Sturman	7/26
Jennifer Souders	7/26
Peter Sturman	8/11
Nancy Tedrow	8/13
Marge Varitz	8/14
Barbara Shibley	8/16
Miranda Kirby	8/16
Nona Shearer	8/17
Joe Hauck	8/17
Kathleen Souders	8/18
Joy Thompson Alford	8/20
Bettie Barbee	8/20
Bryce Babikoff	8/21
Marilyn Guttridge	8/21
Neal Jeppeson	8/26



## July and August Anniverseries

Robin & Sam Fisher	7/18
Tami & Don Guttridge	7/22
Don & Bettie Barbee	7/27
Bill & Kathleen Leonard	8/4
Greg & Renate Jeppeson	8/6
Judy & Tom Coyne	8/8
Lynne & Tom Deshler	8/10
Barbara & Don MacKinnon	8/19
Connie & Bruce Ryan	8/21
Bill & Marge Varitz	8/27

## Sunday Schedule

9:45 AM Hymn Sing

10:00 AM Worship

11:15 Fellowship

Deadline for next  
newsletter:  
August 24

## Church events for July and August

- July 19:** Church birthday and commissioning of youth mission trip, potluck
- July 24:** Youth mission group departs Springwater, headed for Alaska!
- August 2:** Youth mission group returns to Portland-see article page 4
- August 16:** Youth lead worship, reporting on trip to Alaska
- August 30:** Worship in the canyon, baptism of Danika Odell, potluck picnic

Looking ahead:

- September 3:** Session meeting, 5:30 PM
- September 13:** Roundup

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Vises, Vacuums, or Vases

Some very clever person characterized congregations as either vises, vacuums, or vases. It's a catchy way of remembering church models, but the technicality is that I do not remember who said it. And since it was only a comment I overheard in passing, I can't tell you what the originator meant by the categories.

Google didn't help, by the way. All I got from Google was inventory lists from church rummage sales. I guess that means I get to fluff these out in the way they make sense to me.

**Vises**

I don't mean "vice," as in things we do that are bad. I mean "vise" with an "s." A vise can be a good and useful tool. Through the intentional application of pressure, a vise will hold things stable and in one place. A vise is just the thing for aligning edges or holding two surfaces together while waiting for the glue to dry or keeping the wood steady while you're sawing.

Like all good metaphors, congregation as vise shows both blessing and shadow. If you are building community, the blessing of church as vise holds people together while they form strong bonds. But if that vise won't allow people to grow or change, it can be more of a shadow than a blessing.

**Vacuums**

Truly, the metaphor originator could not have meant "vacuum" as in "nothing is there, not even a molecule." No one likes to think of "church" as a place bereft of meaning or purpose or people. On the other hand, for cleaning carpets, there are few things better than that other thing we call a "vacuum." What dog isn't terrified by a vacuum cleaner? Does the noise resemble monstrous growling to the canine ear? Or does the dog's keen sight bemoan everything being sucked up to disappear forever?

As the means of making the world a neater, cleaner place, a person could view this "church as vacuum" metaphor as blessing. But all too often, people think of church as "that thing that sucks the energy and time out of me." That is definitely "shadow." I won't try to defend that.

**Vases**

As a fan of cut flowers, I usually have nothing but positive things to say about vases. But what *Antiques Roadshow* reveals is that some vases are hideous to behold. Some are more about dust-collecting than actually holding water and therefore flowers. I'm reluctant to admit it, but there might be a shadow side to viewing congregations as vases: more show than usefulness or function, more work to maintain than benefit derived, too precious for ordinary living.

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What do you think  
God is calling us to  
be?

But a simple, functional vase offers life-giving water to something of beauty. In that case, the object isn't the vase but what the vase holds. In the case of church, I'd say "blessing." A baptism metaphor might be developed here someday.

### What About Us?

What metaphor do you think best fits Springwater? Are we a vase or a vacuum or a vase? Do we have shadow and blessing characteristics of all three? What do you wish we were? More to the point, what do you think God is calling us to be?

See you in church.



## LECTIONARY READINGS

**July 12** (Healing, Holy Food): 1 Samuel 21:1-6; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56; Psalm 24

**July 19** (Holy on the Move; Church Birthday; communion; commissioning youth mission trip): 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Mark 4:30-32; Palm 89:20-37

**July 26** (Life of Christ in Worship and Song)

**August 2** (Scott Crane preaching): 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

**August 9** (Beverly Crow preaching): 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

**August 16** (youth mission trip participants leading in worship): 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

**August 23** (Holy as a Last Resort): 1 Kings 8L1, 6, 10-11) 23-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; John 6:56-69

**August 30** (Passionate Holy): Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**September 6** (God Bless the Working Poor): Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; Mark 7:24-37

**Mission Trip Schedule****Fri. July 24**

8:00 AM leave  
Springwater

6:00 PM depart  
Bellingham, via ferry

**Mon. July 26**

4:45 AM arrive Juneau

7:00 AM Depart Juneau,  
by ferry

10:15 AM arrive Hoonah  
Sun. Aug 2

9:00 AM Depart Hoonah,  
by air

9:20 AM arrive Juneau

2:50 PM depart Juneau  
by air

6:15 PM arrive Seattle

8:00 PM depart Seattle

8:50 PM arrive Portland

**SPRINGWATER YOUTH ACTIVITIES****Springwater Presbyterian Church Youth Mission Trip 2009**

*A whale of a good time! Can't bear to miss it!*

The time has finally come!!! It's July 2009 and thanks to the incredible generosity of members of the Congregation, the Springwater Grange and the community at large, we are off to Hoonah, Alaska!!!

We will leave Springwater on the morning of Friday July 24<sup>th</sup> and drive to Bellingham WA in time to board the Alaska marine Highway ferry M/V Columbia, 2 hours before our scheduled 6:00 pm departure to Juneau.

We arrive in Juneau at 4:45 am (yes am) on Monday July 27<sup>th</sup> then board the ferry M/V LeConte for the 3 hour and 15 minute ride to Hoonah. Our friends and mission partners from the Community of Christ at St. Luke's will pick us up at the Hoonah ferry dock and take us to the Church where we will be living and teaching Vacation Bible School for the week. We will also be participating in youth basketball camp and some special evening activities.

Speaking of VBS, we had 100% participation of our Youth in this year's Springwater VBS. The program, *Crocodile Dock*, is the one we will be using at Hoonah so everyone is well rehearsed.

We return on Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> leaving Hoonah at 9:00 am for a short flight to Juneau where we will check our bags for the 2:50 pm flight to Seattle and then another flight to Portland arriving 8:50 pm. We hope to have sufficient time to drive out to see the Mendenhall glacier before we have to board the flight in Juneau.

Wow!!! That's quite a schedule.

This is an incredible opportunity for spiritual enrichment for all of us and the chance to live in community outside of what is familiar and comfortable.

Springwater's youth are talented, gifted and a joy to be around so I know this will be a great trip.

I would ask you all to hold the village of Hoonah and all those on the combined Springwater and St. Luke's Mission Team in your prayers. Please pray for us as we travel by using the schedule in the sidebar.

## June Youth Activities

On Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> we held a combined Breakfast and Car Wash fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip fund. Thanks to the Grange and all who participated this was a fantastic event where we raised over \$ 1,000.00 and broke the all time Springwater Grange record for breakfasts served on a Saturday morning.

On Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> – we did fundraiser yard work at the Parfrey residence followed by pizza and a movie – a mountain of bark dust was moved and spread – thanks to the Parfreys for their generous donation and for feeding and entertaining us

On Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> – the Springwater Mission trip group traveled to Federal Way WA to meet the folks from St. Luke's to prepare and rehearse for VBS at Hoonah.

## Future events

We are planning to have a Youth Group Activities fundraiser rummage sale on Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup> so please be thinking of things you would like to donate.

## Vacation Bible School, Crocodile Dock

Thanks to our fabulous volunteers, especially our talented youth, Vacation Bible School was a great success and lots of fun, too! Attendance averaged about 14 children and 12 youth leaders; children and youth brought friends along, a testament to their enthusiasm and spirit of sharing.

Speaking of sharing, VBS participants shared enough money (\$270) during our daily offering to donate a water buffalo (\$250) through Heifer International!

I especially want to thank our sensational set designer, Debbie Ingamells for her work on our stunning bayou dock and fishing shack. Way to go, Debbie! Thanks as well to the other adults behind the scenes: Carol Sturman, Wilma Guttridge, Barbara MacKinnon, Leala Harris (from Eagle Creek Presbyterian), Cindy Babikoff, Mary Kirby, and our talent at center stage, pastor Eileen Parfrey.

I just have to repeat what we've all been saying and hearing these past few months, we have **awesome** youth. They are really growing into extraordinary leaders, and I know they will be successful in all they do.

VBS Director  
Renate Jeppeson





For more information, visit their website at [www.cwsor.org](http://www.cwsor.org). They accept volunteers and donations of cell phones.



## Clackamas Women's Services in Estacada

No one likes to talk about it, but domestic violence impacts everyone. Most of us don't realize it impacts us—because no one likes to talk about it. Statistics say one person in four is affected by domestic violence.

We are a small church, so it is obvious that we can't provide every kind of help to every person who needs help. But we *can* know what services are available. Clackamas Women's Services (CWS), in addition to providing the only shelter for women and children escaping family violence, operates a 24-hour crisis line. If you know of someone who might need help, their confidential number is 503/654-2288.

CWS has other services as well. They provide school-based "healthy relationship" groups and training for girls, free and confidential counseling for survivors, family violence advocacy, and legal advocacy.

## Author Jane Kirkpatrick to Keynote Creation Care Event

On September 19, Jane Kirkpatrick will speak at "Holy Ground: Landscape of the Sacred," the fifth annual Creation Care Fellowship of the Eco-Justice Team of the Presbytery of the Cascades. The event will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Trout Lake School, 2310 Highway 141, Trout Lake, WA and is co-sponsored by Trout Lake Presbyterian Church. Kirkpatrick's award-winning essays, articles, and humor have appeared in over fifty publications. Since moving to Oregon in 1974, she worked in the disabilities field, became the director of the mental health program in Deschutes County and eventually "retired" to homestead on the John Day River and begin a new adventure in writing, working on the Warm Springs reservation, growing watermelons, and attempting to grow grapes, alfalfa and cattle. Jane believes that our lives are the stories that others read first and she encourages groups to discover the power of their own stories to divinely heal and transform. Workshops include "Organic Backyard Gardening", "Common Ground Community Gardening", and "Telling/Writing a Story—or Your Story", a hands-on writing and storytelling workshop with Jane Kirkpatrick. Registration includes a locally-grown lunch and is \$20 for adults or \$15 for seniors and students. Scholarships are available. To register, call Dawn at 1-800-926-3223, register online with your credit card, or download a registration brochure from [www.cascadespresbytery.org](http://www.cascadespresbytery.org) and mail it in along with your check.

Please take a blue brochure from the Fellowship Hall if you are interested in this event.

Session is:  
 Renate Jeppeson  
 Don MacKinnon  
 Peter Sturman  
 Kevin Kirby  
 Bob Wilson  
 Kathy Scott  
 Cindy Babikoff  
 Jennifer Souders

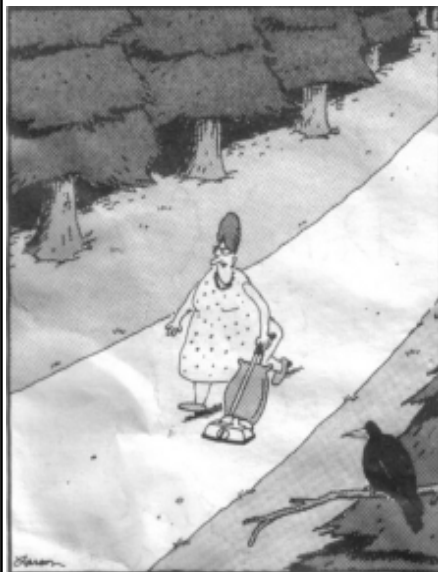
### Session Notes "of note"

-discussions and actions of June and July meetings

- Dick Scott reports there are holes in the heat ducting under the church. Session authorized the Building and Grounds committee to collect bids to replace and repair all the ducting.
- Session authorized the Building and Grounds committee to apply for an Opening Doors grant to replace the front entrance steps and ramp.
- Session had training on being effective leaders. In addition, we considered the phrase "expectation is premeditated resentment".
- The personnel committee reported on its meeting with Eileen. It reminds us that Eileen is contracted at 80% of full-time. Session discussed ways we can lead so that she can reduce her workload to 40 hours per week, and remain effective as our pastor.
- Danika Odell presented herself for baptism. Session approved with joy and authorized worship in the canyon on August 30<sup>th</sup> (pending approval by the Shibleys) so that Danika may be baptized by immersion.

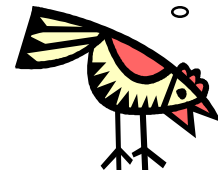
### Humor

The woods were dark and foreboding, and Alice sensed that sinister eyes were watching her every step. Worst of all, she knew that nature abhorred a vacuum.



*Harriet the Zen Hen,*  
 (written by Debbie Keller) says

"Joy follows purity of thought  
 Like a Shadow that never leaves.  
 It also follows the feed bucket."



## BENEFITS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING CHURCH

In a recent report summarizing findings of a national survey of children's health, quoted in Leadership Network (online 6/9/09), young people aged 6-17 who attend religious services weekly were found to have "positive outcomes."

In plain English, kids who go to church were found to have the fewest behavior problems, and got along better with their parents and others. The measures used to show "getting along" were showing respect (for teachers and neighbors), getting along with other kids, understanding others' feelings, and trying to resolve conflicts with classmates, family, friends.

Not surprisingly, the parents of these kids showed the lowest parenting stress levels.

Show these results to your friends and neighbors when you invite them and their families to attend church with you. Even if the whole world isn't a better place, at least your part of the world will be!



It's that time of year again. The weeds are growing like, well, weeds. The church could use one hour of your time pulling up the offending dandelions. When you plan your schedule for next week, pencil in one hour of early morning meditation in the church flower bed. You'll feel better and our grounds will look better.

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