

JULY - AUGUST
2007

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Sunday
Schedule

9:45am
Hymn Sing

10:00am
Worship

11:15am
Fellowship

Bring a sack lunch
Stay & picnic on
the grass

Deadline for
Next Issue:

August 19



JULY

- 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

AUGUST

- 11 Kyle Lalka
- 11 Peter Sturman
- 13 Nancy Tedrow
- 14 Cody Pieschel
- 14 Marge Varitz
- 16 Miranda Kirby
- 16 Barbara Shibley
- 17 Nona Shearer
- 18 Kathleen Souders
- 18 Phillip Bittman Sr
- 20 Bettie Barbee
- 20 Joy Thompson Alford
- 21 Bryce Babikoff
- 21 Marilyn Guttridge
- 25 William Shearer
- 26 Neal Jeppeson

WEDDING
ANNIVERSARIES



JULY

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

AUGUST

- 4 Kathleen & Bill Leonard
- 6 Renate & Greg Jeppeson
- 8 Judy & Tom Coyne
- 10 Lynne & Tom Deshler
- 19 Barbara & Don MacKinnon
- 21 Connie & Bruce Ryan

The coming of a new child to a family is a treasure

God's faithfulness is based in a deep unchanging loyalty toward the People of God,

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Both my mother and my grandmother told me that their lives truly began when they became grandmothers.

The coming of a new child to a family is a treasure, and Rick and I were blessed with such a treasure June 30 when my grandson, Sheldon Matthew, was born.

I have only heard his squeaks over the phone, but I assure you, they had a powerful effect on this grandmother's heart! As I write, Shel is still in the hospital trying to be strong enough to go home, and his parents haven't taken any photos of him yet, but boy, does that child have a hold on my heart!

A Flock of New Families

I'll admit that grandmothing from a distance is hard. Baby Shel lives with his parents in Chicago, but I'll be going to visit him the end of this month, and I've already warned his mother that, once he hits 2, she can plan on extended visits. But even extended visits are nothing like spontaneously dropping-in or going to school events every other month, as many of you grandparents know.

So how does a person live with that loss? I don't know how some of you have dealt with that, but I do it by claiming a biblical promise.

Years ago I discovered Psalm 107:41. After a recitation of life's dangers and challenges from which the People of God were rescued by the faithfulness of God, the psalmist writes, "But now, [God] lifts the needy out of their misery, and gives them a flock of new families" (JB).

A flock of new families. I claimed that promise. As my own kids grew up five hours from their grandparents, as my marriage fell apart, I claimed that promise. When my mother died and my family's business teetered on bankruptcy, I claimed that promise. When I moved to the other side of the continent from my family (Oregon!), I claimed that promise. God has been so faithful and given a whole church full of new family.

Steadfastness

It's not just me. God continues to be faithful to that promise—to take the lonely, the sad, the frightened, the disenfranchised, and surround them with people who love them back to life. It's what churches do.

My lectionary discussion group made a new word to describe God's characteristic that keeps that promise. Steadfastness. The Hebrew word, hesed, means God's steadfast love—a love that cannot be shaken, which keeps on keeping on without needing to be "loved back." God's faithfulness is based in a deep unchanging loyalty toward the People of God, an adherence to the essential Being of Who-God-Is. Steadfastness is our continued connection to God even when life falls apart. Even when stress and trouble are constant

God's
steadfastness
pursues us, holds
us, and will not
let us go.

companions. Even when we aren't very loyal or kind or lovable. Not a could-be-left-behind-if-we-don't-attend-to-it kind of love, God's steadfastness pursues us, holds us, and will not let us go. And gives us the reminder of a flock of new families, just when we need it the most. The promises are there, whether we realize it or not. And God's steadfastness will ensure they are kept. See you in church.

Eileen

Financial Report

With one half of the year gone, 48 percent of the pledged amounts have been donated. Thank you for keeping up to date on your pledges! We are up to date in paying our bills, including our Mission pledge to Presbytery. Because Session has found some ways to save money and because we haven't spent some monies yet that were budgeted, our General Fund is \$3,413.25 in the black. The bad news is that our renter in the manse is moving out in a month, and we need to start looking for a new renter in order to maintain that income. But overall, right now, we are in good financial shape.

Gwen

You Are Invited to help Celebrate Don & Bettie Barbee's 50th Wedding Anniversary

*50th Anniversary
Celebration*



*At Springwater Grange
July 28th
1 to 4 pm*

Please Celebrate With Us

*Please RSVP
503.630.5139*

Gifts?

*Please consider canned food
for the Estacada Food Bank*

Don & Bettie Barbee



This is a composite of the cooperative work we did as a congregation on July 8 during worship. We wanted to list concrete examples of the characteristics of Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23, 25) so we can notice them in ourselves and point them out to others when they exhibit these characteristics. This is called “encouragement.”



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Love: having a Sleep Number bed; just tell someone you love them; making a pie that someone else likes rather than the one you like; sharing candy with someone; working while your partner goes to college.

Joy: taking care of brothers and sisters (and enjoying it!); reading out loud for the family; enjoying charitable giving and even making a game out of it.

Peace: ability to see past war to its goal of peace; a good rest and a good meal at home gets you ready for the worst day you can imagine.

Patience: waiting for others to complete tasks at their own pace; taking a deep breath to relax; waiting on people who are notoriously late; do other tasks while waiting; prayer for a situation to be resolved; giving up control to God.

Kindness (Meekness): tolerate another’s sexuality and religious preference; acceptance of different dress, tattoos, piercings.

Goodness (Generosity): non-competitive driving; acceptance of others’ values regardless of behavior.

Faithfulness: forget yourself, answering with action; being aware of opportunities for action.

Gentleness: music touches hearts; prayer for help in dealing with our fellow humans; help to others who are less fortunate; being kind to others and treating them as we would be treated;

Self-Control: you can be nice to someone even though you don’t always agree with them.

Erin Roden

What is she up to now . . . ?



Erin's cross-country trip has morphed into something entirely new. She is now on a bicycle heading westward, somewhere in middle America.

Erin began her trip as a backpacking adventure from New York City. She walked through New Jersey and parts of Pennsylvania. But, she had to stop there because she developed a stress fracture in her lower leg. She took time to heal & retrain at her Aunt & Uncle's home in Alexandria, VA. After 2 ½ months of gradually increasing exercise, she began again, walking a few hundred miles of the Appalachian Trail in Virginia.



When Erin got to Damascus, VA, she bought a bike and has been making up her lost time by cranking out 40-50 miles every day. As I write this, she is in central Kentucky.

The best way to follow her adventure is to read her travel blog at:

http://realtravel.com/united_states-trips-i3671532.html

She sends photos and text messages to her Dad, who enters the information into her blog. Contacting her is possible, but she has her mobile phone off most of the time to conserve the battery. Leave her a message but don't expect a reply. Text messages are the best way to contact her at 971.678.6721.

There is the potential for dialogue on Erin's blog, but she never actually gets to see it. Messages are seen by her Dad.

The blog has become a journal of sorts and your words of encouragement will eventually be read by Erin and become part of the permanent record of her adventure.

It is also possible to mail Erin a letter or small package. She sets up a general delivery pick up about once a week. Her next pickup will be in Carbondale, Illinois, but by the time you read this she may have gone by never to stop there again. Your best bet is to write the letter or wrap the package and call her Dad (503.630.5493) for the next general delivery drop. Enter Erin's home mailing address into the return location (P O Box 986, Estacada, OR 97023) in case she misses it.

LECTIONARY READINGS



July 15 (COMMUNITY OF PEACE) (The congregation's 118th birthday): Colossians 1:1-14; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Psalm 82

July 22 (A MARY HEART IN A MARTHA WORLD?): Luke 10:38-42; Colossians 1:15-28; Psalm 52

July 29 (Kathy Scott preaching): Hosea 1:2-10; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-29); Luke 11:1-13; Psalm 85

August 5 (Leon Bolen preaching): Hosea 11:1-11; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21; Psalm 107:1-9, 43

August 12 (LIFE OF CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG) Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

August 19 (STAY ALERT): Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 12:49-56; Ps 80:1-2, 8-19

August 26 (CALLED. STOOD UP) Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 13:10-17; Ps 71:1-6

September 2 (HOSPITALITY) Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14; Ps 81:1, 10-16

BRING A SACK LUNCH



Have you noticed the wonderful new children's play area? Our kids sure have! They have been out playing on the stage and in the boat since they went up in June—which was just in time for Vacation Church School. A sharp observer will have noticed that the kids make a beeline for the play area after church.

Kids aren't the only people who like playing outside, and Springwater people love playing together. Summer in Oregon is excuse enough to be together, so bring a sack lunch to church this summer and stick around to enjoy the fun the kids are having.

You might find yourself making some new friends.



Vacation Church School, Sowing Seeds For Peace

Vacation Church School was a great success. Everyone was sowing seeds for peace all week, and we now know ways to continue sowing seeds for peace in our lives every day. Attendance was between 21-25 children and youth each day; members of our congregation, friends and neighbors. We played games, heard stories of peacemaking in the bible, sang lots of songs, and had a great time. All of the children and youth (not to mention the adults!) learned and practiced ways to be peacemakers in our homes, schools, and neighborhoods; ways to make peace with God's creation; ways to make peace by sharing and caring, and ways to be peacemakers in the world.

Our daily offering raised over \$146 for trees from Heifer International!

We made calendars to sell as a fundraiser for the Estacada Food Bank (\$2.50 each, you can find them in the fellowship room).

Our favorite activity was creating skits and acting out stories that we heard. We acted out the Creation story, Stone Soup, The Doorbell Rang, and created skits showing the Fruit of the Spirit. We baked bread for ourselves and for communion on July 2nd to demonstrate sharing. We made calendars to sell as a fundraiser for the Estacada Food Bank (\$2.50 each, in the fellowship hall) to demonstrate peacemaking in our homes. We learned how to play non-competitive and cooperative games just for fun! Our daily offering raised over \$146 for trees from Heifer International! Ask a child to tell you about the seeds for peace they sowed during Vacation Church School.

Special thanks to all our wonderful adult volunteers: Eileen Parfrey, Carol Sturman, Debbie Ingamells, Kathleen Souders, Renate Jeppeson, Wilma Guttridge, Barbara MacKinnon, Lela Harris and Margie. Also thanks to special guests Lynn Deschler and Karin Ryan. And extra special thanks to those who provided snacks: Kathy Scott, Lucy Olson, Jean McKloskey, and Jennie Lou Poore. We also had exceptional help from our youth in leading the games: thanks to Jennifer Souders, Marilyn Guttridge, and Samantha Sturman.

Kord, Joss & Adelia enjoy the new play structure



JUST ONE LITTLE THING . . .

Pull weeds instead of using chemicals

Save water: Turn off the faucet water while you brush your teeth

Go for a walk and pick up trash as you go

Try to make one less trip into town

Re-use your paper bags - take them grocery shopping and use a second time.

No one can save the world. Alone. But as people of faith, we are called to do “what we can”—even if it’s just one little thing. And then to let God do the rest.

In an article in Salem Monthly, Rob Rainey reports on statistics about improved automobile fuel efficiency. Improving 1 mpg would yield fuel savings double the amount of oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Improving 2.7 mpg save the equivalent of 100% of the imports from Kuwait and Iraq. You can see that little savings give big results. If you live in Springwater, saving one gallon of gas a month might mean something as little as not making one trip into town a week for a month.

What you do makes a difference. For the next six weeks, do just one of these things each week. Try a different one each week and see what a difference it makes:

*Don’t go into town one day this week to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*Buy this week’s produce from the farmer’s market instead of the supermarket. Transportation costs are saved and the environmental impact is reduced.

*Take your own bags to the store to reuse. Recycle plastic bags.

*Save some water. Turn the tap off when you brush your teeth, only run full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine, leave a bucket in the shower to collect the water you run while waiting for the hot water.

*Reduce introduction of chemicals into groundwater by cleaning the toilet with vinegar and baking soda.

*Go for a walk and take along a bag to pick up the trash you see.

*Instead of herbicides or weedkiller, pull some weeds for 15 minutes—at home, at church, at the park. Better yet, pull weeds with a friend.

*Tell someone a joke and laugh with them.



Tax Laws Have Changed regarding charitable donations. We always welcome your abundant gifts, but now you should update your knowledge about tax records and documenting what you give.



YOUR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS: 7 Things Every Church Member Needs to Know

1. If I make a contribution in early January 2007, can I claim it on my 2006 taxes? No. Charitable contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered. Example: Mary writes a check to her church on December 31, 2006, and deposits it in the church offering on Sunday, January 7, 2007. Her check is not deductible on her 2006 taxes. She can claim it on her 2007 tax return.
2. If I mail my contribution in December 2006, but it doesn't reach my church until January 2007, for which year should I claim it? On your 2006 tax return. A check that is mailed to a charity is deductible in the year the check is mailed (and postmarked), even if it is received early in the next year. Example: Mary mails (and postmarks) her check in December 2006. Her church doesn't receive the check until January 2007. The check is deductible on Mary's 2006 tax return.
3. Can I deduct the value of volunteer work I did for my church? No. The value of personal services is never deductible as a charitable contribution. However, unreimbursed expenses you incurred in performing services on behalf of a church or other charity may be. For 2007, you can use a "standard mileage rate" of 14 cents to compute a deduction for any miles you drive in performing services for your church. Be sure to maintain accurate records. Example: John is an electrician. He donates 10 hours of time to his church's construction project. He cannot deduct the value of his donated labor, but he can deduct the value of materials he purchased in performing the donated labor. Example: Several church members go on a short-term missions project to another country. The value of their labor is not deductible, but they can deduct their unreimbursed travel expenses (transportation, meals, lodging) incurred in performing their project.
4. I gave \$135 to my church when I registered for a spring retreat. Can I deduct that? No, assuming you received benefits (e.g., lodging, instruction, materials) worth \$135 or more. Charitable contributions generally are deductible only to the extent they exceed the value of any premium or benefit received by the donor in return for the contribution.
5. Is there any limit to the amount of my contributions I can deduct on my taxes? Yes. A contribution deduction ordinarily cannot exceed 50 percent of a donor's adjusted gross income (a 30 percent rule applies in some cases). Donors who exceed these limits may be able to "carry over" their excess contribution and deduct it in future years.

6. I designated my contribution to the church benevolence fund. Is it deductible? That depends. "Designated contributions" are those made to a church for a specified purpose. If the purpose is an approved project or program of the church, you can deduct the contribution. Example: Your \$100 gift designating the church benevolence fund is deductible. However, if you specify that your contribution be applied to a named individual, then no deduction is allowed—unless the church exercises full administrative and accounting control over the donated funds. Example: You donate \$200 to the church and instruct the church treasurer to give the \$200 to a specified needy family in the church. This contribution is not tax-deductible. Contributions to a church or mission agency that designate a particular missionary may be tax-deductible if the church or mission agency exercises full administrative control over the contributions and ensures that they are spent in furtherance of the church's tax-exempt purposes. Example: You donate \$75 to a denominational mission agency and specify a particular missionary as the recipient. This contribution is tax-deductible, even though it names a missionary, so long as the mission agency has full administrative and accounting control over the funds.

7. What kind of records do I need in order to prove I made a contribution? For individual cash contributions of under \$250: You must have a cancelled check or a statement from the church containing the church's name, and the date and amount of each cash contribution. In the past, donors could use other "reliable written records" to substantiate cash contributions. This is no longer allowed after 2006. For individual contributions (cash or property) of \$250 or more: You must receive a written receipt from your church that indicates whether you received goods or services for your contributions (and if so, the value of the goods or services received). If you received no goods or services for

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1017

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Location:

24553 S. Springwater Rd.

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction