

Springwater CURRENTS

Springwater Presbyterian Church
24553 Springwater Rd
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A Place of worship, service and nurture for God's people of all ages

June 2010

Table of Contents

Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Calendar	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary Readings	3
Vacation Bible School	4
Mission Report	5
Session Highlights	6
Wise Words	6
Library Books	6
More Wise Words	7
Breakfast, Car Wash	8



Happy Birthday!

June birthdays

Don Barbee	6/05
Mary Kirby	6/08
Kit Johnson	6/16
Tom Coyne	6/27
Ruth Newman	6/27
Karen Swift Engler	6/28

June Anniversaries

Nancy & Jim Tedrow 6/03
Kathy & Richard Scott 6/11

Happy Anniversary!



Summer Sunday Schedule

9:45 AM Hymn sing
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 Fellowship

Deadline for next newsletter:
June 25

June Calendar and special days

June 5, 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.: Springwater serves breakfast at the Grange; youth provide a car wash, story page 8
June 6: **begin summer worship hours** (hymn sing at 9:45, worship at 10:00 a.m.)
June 9: Pastor Eileen's lectionary discussion group will have a day retreat at our church
June 17, 6:30 p.m.: session meeting
June 20: Fathers Day; communion during morning worship; vespers with mission partner evening
June 21 to 25, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Vacation Bible School
June 25-26: presbytery meeting, Bend

“How does what I believe impact how I behave in the world?”

In this lifelong process, I believe it is necessary to regularly examine what we mean when we declare, “I promise to try to be like Jesus.”

Pastor’s Perspective

Common wisdom says that when someone new joins a family (birth, marriage, adoption, fostering), the whole family changes. So it is by extension that **when someone joins the church, the church changes.**

How so?

This year’s **confirmation process** has impacted our congregation. It was more than the logistics of session’s decision to divert some of the pastor’s time to teaching the class. Because we’ve had confirmands to nurture, the other mentors and I (and maybe you as well!) have been self-conscious about asking ourselves, “**How does what I believe impact how I behave in the world?**”

There was a time when confirmation was a cultural expectation. For kids of my generation, confirmation was how you went through junior high, an essential rite of passage. Once a person completed the class, took the examination, wore the carnation, and stood in front of the congregation on a Sunday morning, they usually figured they were “graduated from church.”

That isn’t what we at Springwater believe.

Is that heresy?

Any observer of child development knows that how a child learns and organizes the world changes over time. To a very young child, magic is a perfectly acceptable explanation for why (for instance) airplanes stay up in the sky. Older children are capable of understanding the relationship between human pilots and fuel and flight. Still older children can understand the mechanical principles involved, while people that are still more educated are capable of designing and building those airplanes.

My point is that as we change and develop, **how we understand our relationship with God and the faith community needs to grow as well.** Part of what makes that change “growth” is the intentional examination of what we believe. Books have been written about the maturing of faith from magical thinking to rules-based belief to questioning to integration and relational understandings of God. In this lifelong process, I believe it is necessary to regularly examine what we mean when we declare, “**I promise to try to be like Jesus.**”

This is our baptismal promise. We can all stand to undergo a “confirmation process” as we move through life’s events and milestones. It isn’t just adolescence that causes humans to think about who they are and what they’re doing in the world. Graduations, entering or leaving

military service, changing careers, getting married or divorced, having babies, watching your kids leave home, reaching retirement—all of these are invitations to engage in a process that reaffirms our baptismal faith in a way that reflects how we've changed and grown.

Springwater has plenty of opportunities to support that process for you.

See you in church.

Eileen



Lectionary Readings

The king called him Troubler of Israel, but not until late in the story. By this time, anyone with half a brain could have figured out that the biggest Troubler of Israel wasn't Elijah, but King Ahab himself. His wife was no peach, either, that Jezebel.

Into a miserable series of failed-king stories, out of nowhere, comes the man called "Elijah the Tishbite," the troubler himself. The first words out of his mouth show he's willing to take the blame for the weather: no rain until he says so. The upshot is famine, stories so formative that when Jesus asked who people thought he was, many thought he might be Elijah returned.

For the month of June, we will use Elijah's story to echo the creation themes developed in Vacation Bible School. Join us as we wonder what this Troubler of Israel has to say to us today. Does he trouble us, as well?

June 6: 1 Kings 17:8-17, Psalm 1 (Creation suffers on behalf of humans)

June 13: 1 Kings 21:1-21a, Psalm 5:1-8 (Using creation for our own ends)

June 20 [communion]: 1 Kings 19:1-15a, Psalm 42 (Creation reveals God)

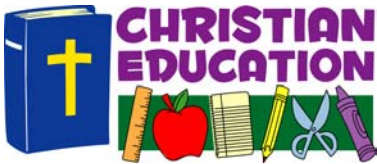
June 27 (Creation Stories, led by VBS children): Genesis 1, Psalm 8, Proverbs 8:22-31

July 4: 2 Kings 18:41-46, Galatians 6:1-5, Psalm 30 (Good news at last from the Troubler of Israel)

July 11: Amos 8:1-12, Colossians 1:15-28 (Judgment by and salvation of creation)

July 18: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 82 (orderly transition of power)

July 25: Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19), Psalm 85 (Soil and water: rooted and grounded)



Vacation Bible School: Creation Station

Creation Station will be the Vacation Bible School theme this year at Springwater, June 21 to 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Using stories, music, games, snacks, art and fun we will celebrate God's good gift of creation.

The focus each day will be the Genesis creation story, supplemented by picture books. In addition, we will have two guests to help us explore how creation reveals God's love for us and celebrate God's good gift.

Our mission partner in Central Asia will share how her country cares for and understands creation. Our own **Gilbert Shibley** will talk about how scientists organize and understand creation, using the closest laboratory—our own beautiful grounds. Children gain an appreciation for creation and respond by receiving their call to be good stewards of creation.

A lunch will be provided at the close of each day. Children ages 3 through 4th grade are invited. Youth 5th grade and older are invited to participate as junior counselors.



"God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good.
And there was evening, & there
was morning — the sixth day."

Genesis 1:31

Vacation Bible School: And Another Thing . . .

The Springwater congregation is proud of our kids. We go out of our way to live into the promises we make at their baptisms. We support programs for nurturing their faith by providing for Sunday School, youth group, Vacation Bible School (VBS), children's time in worship, Bibles for the 4th graders, the mission trip.

This year, session has asked the Faith Nurture group to do VBS as our community outreach. That means a little shift in our understanding. We love our kids, we love to be with them, we know their likes and dislikes. But they are *our* kids, and we know them. For VBS to be an outreach, we will need to open our hearts and arms a little wider. We will have to **pro-actively** go out to look for kids who have never been here before. **That means YOU** asking neighbors and friends to join us, asking **if we can help transport their kids to our VBS.**

For many, that feels risky. What if they say no?

Continued bottom of page 5...





Mission Partner to Visit

Our mission partner in Central Asia will visit Springwater June 20 and 21, staying with one of our members, worshiping with another congregation in the morning of the 20th, participating in a vespers service and fellowship time with us in the late afternoon and early evening.

Vacation Bible School starts the next day! Since the VBS theme this year is “Creation Station,” our mission partner will spend the morning with us, teaching about creation care in her country, sharing games and food choices.

On May 16, when Susan Horton shared the history and culture of her country, we also learned about our role in supporting her work there. The VBS offering this year will go to support her work.

Mark your calendars for both Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. VBS isn’t just for kids. It’s a great opportunity to learn more about this part of our extended connectional mission in the world.

Vacation Bible School: Creation Station

Continued from page 4:

How can you help?

Summer time is a vulnerable time for many kids. Estacada has a high percentage of kids for whom school lunch is the most reliable meal of the day. To make our VBS more attractive, the Faith Nurture group would like to provide lunch every day at the end of our session. We didn’t foresee this at the beginning of the year. We hadn’t even thought of it yet. But it’s a terrific idea!

There are four ways **you can help** with VBS this year:

- Invite your neighbors, friends, relatives, kids you know
- Help with transportation to and from VBS
- Pack lunches the night before
- Since this wasn’t in the budget, you can help with any sized financial gift

These are ways **you make it possible** for Springwater to provide hospitality, nutrition, and the good news of God’s love to children.

How you can help:

- *invite your neighbors, friends, relatives, kids you know*
- *Help with transportation to and from VBS*
- *Pack lunches the night before*
- *any sized financial gift*



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



At Our Last Session Meeting . . .

We received into membership Tabitha Souders, reaffirming her baptismal faith. Tabitha shared with her faith statement (*printed on page 6*). Session also approved Samantha Sturman's reaffirmation of her believer baptism.

Wilma Guttridge reported that Buildings and Grounds has been continuing work at the manse. Our no pet policy was examined and reaffirmed.

Rick Parfrey will lead a group in discerning next steps to take regarding the seed money for a stained glass window on the east side of the sanctuary.

The following actions were taken: summer worship will start at 10:00 a.m. (hymn sing at 9:45) June 6 to September 5; VBS offering will be dedicated to our mission partner in Central Asia; this will not impact the congregation's offering to Heifer Project.

Wise words From Our Members...continues on page 7.

What I Gain from Volunteering, by Cindy Woodbury

When I volunteer, it's for selfish reasons. And while I like to think I'm noble and generous, the truth is I'm pretty self-centered.

For instance, I signed up awhile ago to maintain one of the plots in the church's flower beds and I occasionally pull weeds from that plot. Some might think this is an act of selfless generosity, but it's not. Pulling weeds satisfies this need I have to make things orderly. It give me the same sense of satisfaction as pulling chin hairs--a sense of ridding the world of evil. Also, I get to spend time in the sun, breathe fresh air and check on that wild iris I consider to be a personal friend.

Or take the example of being clerk of Session--not a job I volunteered for exactly, but one I don't get paid for, so I guess it counts. Sure, It's helpful to the church, but the real benefit is that I get to spend time in Session meetings with 6 or 7 really interesting people, listen to their stories and thoughts, and eat the food they bring. It's fun to get in on what's happening at church--things I wouldn't normally be aware of--
Continued on page 7...

Library Books

Did you borrow some library books from the church? Pastor Eileen is still missing several personal books which she would like to see again. Please check at home for books with her name or that of the church inside them. Check your bedside table, your desk, your bookshelves, closets, counters. You get the drift. She is missing a couple of children's books, as well as a set of photographic books by Martin Marty and a liturgical art book by Nancy Chinn.



...More Wise Words

Tabitha wrote this statement of faith as the capstone of her time in the confirmation class. She was generous enough to share it with us.

My Personal Statement of Faith By Tabitha Souders, Confirmation Class 2010

Who is God? God is the creator of the Earth, he is my Lord and will be there for us even when it is tough out in the world.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is my savior. He died on the cross for us so we could live and go to heaven. He is Lord God's son.

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is sort of like with you all the time. For me it's God saying it's o.k., don't worry, and it's a guide. It's people you love who have passed on, who have always been there for you.

What is the church? The church is a sanctuary of peace for me. It is where I can actually relax and forget about my troubles for awhile. It's a place of prayer for me also. It's not just a building it's everywhere I think.

What is the church called to do? It is called to be a place for us to escape and communicate with God. It's a place for us to learn and love God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit more.

What am I called to do? What I'm called to do is just be friendly and loving towards everything and everyone. I'm called here because God has something planned for me. I might need help, but he will be there. I'm called to do what I love and to help others in the world with their problems.

What I Gain from Volunteering *continued from page 6...*

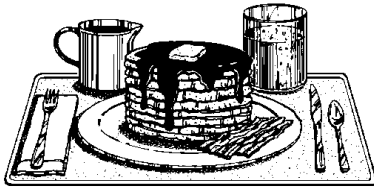
the broken pipes in the manse, who the confirmands are, what the deacons are up to, etc. It spices up what could otherwise have been a boring evening.

I even volunteered at the Estacada Food Bank once. I'm not sure I was even that helpful, but it was a small adventure for me, seeing the surprising foods that are donated, learning how the shelves are organized, meeting the regular volunteers and greeting the customers.

So, even though volunteering can be helpful to others, it's even more beneficial to me...plus, I've read that people who volunteer live longer.

Youth Group Car Wash and Church Breakfast fundraiser

The Church will be serving BREAKFAST at the Grange on JUNE



5 from 7-11 a.m.. Just think of the Great Food and Fellowship you can enjoy. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, and biscuits and gravy, all for \$5 ALL YOU CAN

EAT. **Help is needed**, so be sure to check out the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall.



The youth group will be holding a car wash in the church parking lot, so you can have your car washed while you eat!

[Return to home page](#)

Springwater
Currents

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