

MAY 2007

In this issue

Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	5

Sunday Schedule

9:45am
Hymn Sing

10:00am
Worship

11:15am
Fellowship

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

Deadline for June
newsletter: May 25



May Birthdays

- 20 Kara Guttridge
- 20 Tabitha Souders
- 22 Jim Tedrow
- 23 John Leonard
- 24 Kenneth Fisher
- 27 Nikki Armstrong
- 29 Bruce Ryan

May Anniversaries

- 15 Mary & Kevin Kirby
- 17 Mary & Randy Johnson
- 24 Eunike & Tim Guttridge
- 28 Tiffany & Phillip Bittman



Phyllis Eaton has a new address:
17971 SE River Rd. Apt. #105
Milwaukie, OR 97267
503-654-1691

Special Days in May

- Mother's Day — May 13
- Ascension Day — May 17
- Pentecost — May 27
- Memorial Day — May 28

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The gathering listed quite a few things we are really good at, including concrete ways we are addressing our 2006 Mission Statement.

At the forefront of session's thinking is a strong commitment to **involving the whole congregation** in discussion, discernment, deciding, doing.

It is God who addresses our needs—individual as well as congregational. It is God who inspires and guides. It is God who invites us to remember in all of our considerations, we are the Body of Christ

What were you doing the Saturday after Easter? Many Springwater folks gathered for a session-sponsored Ministry and Mission retreat, to consider some of the challenges facing us.

What's "this"?

Some of the challenge stems from cultural shifts and some is specific to Springwater, but the observable data is smaller session size, reduced worship attendance, rising average age of members. Session's purpose in holding the April 14 event was to alert the congregation and to enlist help in addressing them.

The gathering listed quite a few things we are really good at, including concrete ways we are addressing our 2006 Mission Statement. We even listed concrete ways we could improve how we are living into it! We discovered that we are not very good at is growing. Or providing for leadership transition. Or connecting with changes in our culture and community.

What next?

Session will take what they heard at the April 14 event and begin discerning next steps, which might include utilizing the church transformation resources available from presbytery. At the forefront of session's thinking is a strong commitment to **involving the whole congregation** in discussion, discernment, deciding, doing.

Perhaps you were one of the folks who said to me, "Didn't we just do a Mission Study?" Yes. "Isn't this more of the same?" No.

God doesn't waste anything, but neither does God expect us to stand still. The world in which we live doesn't stand still, and neither should the church. The Mission Study was an essential process for arriving at our Mission Statement. But the Mission Statement was intended to articulate whose we are and provide general guides for living out the implications of **whose we are**.

Session is comprised of some very gifted individuals, but even with their considerable talents and experiences, they cannot address these challenges on their own. We even have a fabulous congregation, with lots of gifts evident in each of the members. But even adding together all the synergy of working with all of these gifts, we cannot address the challenges on our own.

Church is different

You know what I'm going to say. I would not be doing my job if I didn't remind you that it is **God who provides**. It is God who addresses our needs—individual as well as congregational. It is God who inspires and guides. It is God who invites us to remember in all of our considerations, we are the Body of Christ. **We belong to God.**

God responds to our deepest need for God by showering us with gifts of talent, relationship, finance, time, and energy. How we use and embrace those gifts says a lot about **whose** we believe we are.

Our April 14 meeting included the participation of two youth. Church is different than the rest of the world, because it is the kind of place that thinks youth have something of value to add to the conversation. Church is different, because it's the kind of place that doesn't exist for itself. Church does not exist for the sake of the congregation or the members or even their needs. Church exists for the sake of the people who not yet members. Church exists to worship and give glory to the One who calls us into being.

God responds to our deepest need for God by showering us with gifts of talent, relationship, finance, time, and energy. How we use and embrace those gifts says a lot about **whose** we believe we are. God has given us everything we need (and then some!) to ensure a vital ministry for Springwater will continue into the future. We say, "In life and in death we belong to God." Whose are you?

See you in church.



Vacation Church School, 2007 Sowing Seeds for Peace

Vacation
Church
School

June 25th - 29th
9:00am to Noon

Join us June 25th through 29th from 9 to noon for Vacation Church School. We will explore how to be peacemakers in our homes, our communities, and the world. We will "sow seeds of peace" both literally and figuratively as we share in stories, games, crafts, music and snacks.

Children ages 3 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-Jeppeson or Carol Sturman for more information.

JOIN US



Presbytery Summer Camp



Looking for a fun, faith filled adventure? Sign up for Presbytery Summer Camp now! Camps are filling up fast; only a few spaces are left for Mom and Me camp in June. Sign up online at www.campcascades.org, or call the Camp Office at either of these phone numbers: 503-460-3024/ 1-866-200-5559. There are brochures available at the church.

Wanted! Counselors in Training

Youth in grades 10-12 may sign up for the CIT Camp July 1-6 and learn leadership skills. Call the Camp Office 503-460-3024/ 1-866-200-5559.

SUMMER CONFERENCE

Proclaiming Christ's Gospel in the 21st Century

This year the Cascades Summer Conference is (unfortunately) the same week as our congregation's Vacation Church School, June 24-29. However, if you are not involved in VCS this year, you may want to consider attending the Summer Conference, to be held at Reed College in Portland. It's an easy commute.

You might also consider just taking an afternoon class, if you are occupied in the mornings at VCS. Sample adult offerings in the afternoon include Biblical Stewardship (eco-justice and creation care), Visually Enhancing our Worship (liturgical arts), The Gospels in Our Image (a fresh look at Christ's teachings, using poetry from the 20th century), Technology in Today's Church (administrative uses as well as worship and study). And this is just a sampling of the afternoon classes! It's a great opportunity and so close that it's almost a shame to miss out on the fun.



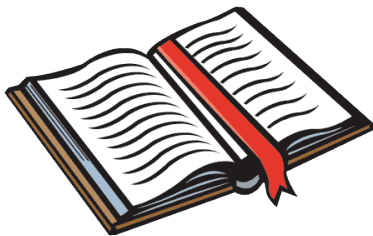
Estacada Food Bank still needs our help
Estacada Food Bank ALWAYS needs our help
People in need of food also need personal
hygiene items & household cleaning supplies



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Find Your Creativity



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

PDA sent a team to Blacksburg, VA, after the horrific shooting incident on Monday, April 16. Team members are working with the Presbyterian minister on campus, the local General Presbyter, and the minister of the local Presbyterian Church. The local pastor also serves as chaplain to the local fire department who were first responders.

Prayers are asked for the families of the victims, The Virginia Tech community, the broader community, and those who serve them.

A New Opportunity to be Community

Beginning June 5th there will be an opportunity to begin a 12 month journey called “ the Artist’s Way - A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity” based on the book by Julia Cameron. This marvelous book explores ways to unlock various types of creativity that we ALL possess. Pastor Parfrey will guide us through this process which holds an excellent opportunity for growth. We will meet once per month with times and dates to be determined by attendees. Please talk to Carol Sturman with any questions and watch this space for more info.!

LECTIONARY READINGS

May 6 (Fifth Sunday of Easter, communion): Acts 11:1- 18; Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6 (“Evangelism”)

May 13 (Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother’s Day, the Rev. Ann Richards preaching): Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5; John 14:23-29

May 20 (Seventh Sunday of Easter, Bible presentation to 4th grader, Bring a Friend to Church Sunday): Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 (“Action”)

May 27 (Pentecost, communion): Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34; John 14:8-17 (25-27); (“Lights, Action, POWER!”)

Oregon Hunger Conference, May 31

The 2007 Oregon Hunger Conference, "Challenging Clergy, Congregations and Community" is set for May 31 by the Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger (OFRAH).

Know Someone Who's Draft Age?

If you know someone turning 18, you know that means a great milestone in their lives has been reached. If that someone is a young man, it also means they are required by law to register for the draft. For many young men, this is an automatic response. For some, however, it could be a big decision. Recognizing this, the PCUSA has developed papers and resources to help these young people make their decision. Please contact Pastor Eileen if you would like copies.

Bring A Friend To Church

Back by popular demand! Yes, May 20 is Bring a Friend to Church Sunday. Yes, every Sunday has that potential for bringing friends to church. But this is a *special* Sunday. Special music, special recognition, special Bible presentation to this year's 4th grader. Let's see if we can fill the church to over-flowing.

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1017

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Location:

24553 S. Springwater Rd.

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction