

March 2006

In this issue

Birthdays 1
Anniversaries 1
Pastor's Perspective 2
Lectionary 3
Mission Notes 6
Lenten Practices 4
Mission Statement 8

Debbie Ingamells 1
Victoria & Natalie Bashaw 7
Phillip Bittman 8
Bob Maat 11
Tom Deschler 14
Colleen Roden 17
Gwen Shearer 17
Barbara MacKinnon 18
Vernon Souders 24
Matthew Webb 26
Taylor Webb 26
Margaret Shearer 27
Lydia Bashaw 31



Phillip & Janice Armstrong 18
Cindy & Chris Babbikoff 24

Worship Schedule

Sundays
Hymn Sing - 10:15am
Worship - 10:30pm

Every month
2nd Friday 7-8pm
Worship with the
Ramblers



- Ash Wednesday** — March 1
- World Day of Prayer** — March 3
- Girl Scout Sunday** — March 12
- Eileen's Installation Anniversary** — March 15
- St. Patrick's Day** — March 17
- First Day of Spring** — March 20



People have different expectations of the role of church than they did when everyone knew where everyone else was on Sunday morning, because they were all sitting in church together.

In response to a more focused sense of call, session has re-organized into “ministry clusters” rather than into a series of discrete committees.

Pastor’s Perspective:

In mid-February, Diana Butler Bass spoke at Trinity Cathedral on her favorite subject—healthy, vital churches. Bass was not willing to take the media’s word for it that mainline congregations are dying—churches like ours—so she spent three years studying 50 small-to-middling congregations. What she found was that churches that the healthy, vital churches were the ones renewing their sense of who they were and what God was calling them to do in the world. And they did this by embracing their traditions, adapting them to their own contexts.

SOUND FAMILIAR?

For the last year, our Mission Study Committee has been engaging in what Bass defines as practices of healthy, vital congregations. Under this committee’s direction, Springwater has been asking, “Who are we and what is God calling us to?”

Last month, the committee presented session with the draft of our new Mission Statement. You will find it printed on page 8 in this issue of Currents. You might look at it and wonder how it’s different from who we’ve always thought we were. Which is this Statement’s beauty. It is focused, it is intentional, it is authentic. And that’s the point.

ONLY THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED

Which is not to say that it doesn’t have built-in challenges. As session recognized that we have a growing membership and a shrinking leadership base, we also find that the world we live in is different from the 1950s heyday of mainline denominations. People have different expectations of the role of church than they did when everyone knew where everyone else was on Sunday morning, because they were all sitting in church together.

In response to a more focused sense of call, session has re-organized into “ministry clusters” rather than into a series of discrete committees. Seeing this as an opportunity to integrate ministries and to provide for leadership transition, session has formed three clusters: Stewardship, Spiritual Formation, and Diaconate.

The names of the clusters may change over time, but the clusters attempt to reflect logical ministry divisions. “Stewardship” embraces the two offices required by the Book of Order—the Clerk of Session and Treasurer—and recognizes the stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. Spiritual Formation embraces worship, music, lifetime Christian education, new member assimilation.

The term, “Diaconate” reflects the ancient office of Deacons. Since the time of the book of Acts, a Deacon’s call has been to the ministry of sympathy, witness, and service. At Springwater we have sometimes called these ministries the committees of Community Care, Evangelism, Mission Outreach, and Fellowship.

It’s an exciting time to be at Springwater.
See you in church.



Why Job? Why Lent? Lenten Lectionary: Suffering and Hunger Ministry

Preaching in Lent will be from the Book of Job, one of the most well-known books of the Hebrew Bible. The universality of Job's suffering is part of what makes his story familiar, but his suffering seems all the more painful for the "right" answers his friends give him.

That Job dares to question God's intentions makes this book both reassuring and frightening. Using the lens developed by liberation theologian Gustavo Gutierrez in *On Job: God-Talk and the Suffering of the Innocent*, Eileen will unpack Job with reference to Springwater's hunger ministries.

What does this have to do with Lent? Lent is the context in which we prepare for Good Friday. Some scholars say Job looks ahead to Jesus. Perhaps. The integrity of Job's relationship with God, his refusal to give up his conviction that God is, and that is sufficient, is a fitting context for facing our own sinfulness, our own repentance, our own contrition.

MARCH 5 THE WAGER (Job chapters 1-3; Psalm 14:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:12)

MARCH 12 COMFORT AND THE SUFFERING OF OTHERS (Job chapters 4, 20, 21, 24, 27, 29-34; Psalm 42:1-5)

MARCH 19 THE STRUGGLE WITH GOD (Job 1, 23, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 31; Psalm 73, Lamentations 3:1-9)

MARCH 26 THE TWO FREEDOMS (Job 38-41; Psalm 62)

APRIL 2 SURRENDER TO LOVE, BEYOND JUSTICE (Job 41:1-6, Psalm 17)

APRIL 9 (Palm/Passion Sunday) TELLING THE STORY (March 11:1-11, 15-19; 14:3-15:47; Psalm 118:19-29; Philippians 2:1-11)

Save the Date: Saturday April 29th, Building Stewardship Day (Formerly known as a work day)

Be a good steward of your church building! Join your friends and fellow worshippers for a day of cleaning and fellowship. Are you handy with a duster? A vacuum? A mop? Do you know how to polish a hardwood floor (if you do, please see Renate!)? Start thinking now of how you can help clean, polish, and repair our building. Please contact Renate Jeppeson if you have suggestions or questions: 503-637-6855, or by email enviromom@peoplepc.com. Stay tuned for more details next month.



A discipline is a way of putting an intention into practice.

This year, why not think of “What are you taking on for Lent?”

New Addresses

Erin Roden
39474 Hwy 218
Fossil, OR 97830
nroden@hotmail.com

Colleen Roden
2226 E. Mulberry
Phoenix, AZ 85016
colleenmarieroden@hotmail.com

Lenten Practices

As relative new-comers to the practice of Lenten disciplines, Presbyterians are sometimes too embarrassed to ask “why?” let alone “what?” Lenten “disciplines” aren’t about feeling miserable—although, that may explain “why Job during Lent?”

In faith practice, a “discipline” isn’t punishment for doing something “wrong.” A discipline is a way of putting an intention into practice. For instance, the discipline of praying before eating to express gratitude. The discipline of reading scripture using a plan rather than “what the book falls open to today.” The discipline of praying for everyone in the church directory. The discipline of memorizing Bible verses or doing a good deed every day.

Lent has gotten a bad rap. Many people think of Lent in terms of “What are you giving up for Lent?” This year, why not think of “What are you taking on for Lent?” Take on the practice of silent prayer for 10 minutes every day. Take on the practice of reading a chapter from the gospel of Mark aloud to your children before bed. Take on the practice of setting aside a nickel for every meal you eat at home (and giving the proceeds to One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter). Take on the practice of volunteering. Take on the practice of sending a note to someone every day to let them know you are praying for them.

Children can learn valuable money management lessons during Lent if they divide their allowance into one-third portions: one third for helping others (give to church, give to One Great Hour of Sharing, purchase food or toothbrushes for the Resource Center), one third for themselves (to spend as they wish), one third for savings (for a special treat, for schooling, for a trip). Money managers tell us that this discipline teaches children about planning their use of money. Pastors tell us that this discipline teaches children to think of more than themselves in the right now.

Parents may also wish to refer to the Children’s Mission Yearbook for more ideas on learning together during Lent. If you have not yet received a copy for your family, please contact Renate Ryan Jeppeson.

Thank you for your care and support

Jim, Colleen and Erin Roden would like to thank all of you for your prayers and words of support and your understanding during this difficult process of divorce. Colleen has moved to Arizona and continues to care for her mother. She misses all of you and your caring smiles and comforting hugs. Her address is posted in the fellowship hall and she would love to hear from you. Erin is currently working in eastern Oregon and Jim remains here in our community. Thank you again.

Jim, Erin and Colleen



Gifts

There are many occasions throughout the year that we wish to celebrate by giving gifts to family and friends. However, this can pose a problem. We want to give a gift that reflects our feelings and is meaningful to the recipient, but we may not be sure how to best express our sentiments to people with their varied interests.

Many of our friends and family would be honored to have a bag of groceries donated for them to the Estacada Family Resource Center. Making such a gift is easy. There is a box in Fellowship Hall with certificates that let the recipient know of your gift. There are certificates for several occasions including Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, and for thanks and friendship.

All you have to do is pick up the certificate that you want, fill a bag with groceries or other supplies needed by the Estacada Family Resource Center, bring the filled bag to the red box in church or take it to the Resource Center, and give the certificate to the one you are honoring.

Your friends and family, and the hungry folks in our area will know that you really care.

Lloyd

Holy Food Series Begins March 19

Everyone is invited to break bread together during the Lenten Season. A four week fellowship and study series for all ages begins at 12 Noon in the Grange

Come for a simple meal followed by a variety of learning activities and concluding at 1:30. Following the meal, childcare will be provided for young children. Sometimes we will gather in age groupings and sometimes all together. But everyone will explore the same topics as we seek to grow in our relationship with God and each other.

March 19 Holy Food: Eating Together at Home and at Church

March 26 Holy Food: Eating Together at the Lord's Table

April 2 Holy Food: Eating Together with Jesus

April 9 Holy Food: Eating Together with Others

Jesus said to them. "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35



SNOWPLAY!
March 5TH

CAMPING OUT
April 1-2

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will be going to the mountain for “SNOW-PLAY” on March 5th. They didn’t get to go the last time it was planned due to bad weather.

In April, the group will be going to Silver Falls State Park for a camping trip April 1-2. Anyone of youth group age - please come!

Editor’s note: Jennifer Souders and Alder Shibley have agreed to be reporters for Springwater Currents. They will be reporting on youth group activities. Be sure to say thanks.

MISSION NOTES

As we approach the observance of Lent at Springwater, we have the opportunity to reflect upon the shared meal of discipleship. Our mission theme will be hunger ministries, addressing the needs of body and spirit.

Estacada Family Resource Center. You have been very faithful in remembering contributions of food, and personal and home care items. With the Youth Group’s Souper Bowl of Sharing drive, SPC was responsible for the contribution of nearly one-quarter ton of food in one week to EFRC. Please continue to follow Lloyd’s List for items needed week-to-week.

One Great Hour of Sharing. Throughout the denomination, the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is observed during Lent. You’ll soon be seeing the familiar fish coin boxes (they’re blue this year) and colorful bulletin inserts which tell the stories of salvation and self-sufficiency through shared giving. This year, you may feel a bit more familiar with the three agencies supported by OGHS. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance programs met the test of the hurricane devastation, and PDA continued to serve on the Gulf Coast. We contributed our share of the Peacemaking offering last fall to the PDA team from Salem-First, who spent two months on the Mississippi. Now, a team from Corvallis-First is on its way to New Orleans.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program provides grants to hunger programs in the US and around the world. Here in the States, grant monies have been given to projects supporting food pantries, food distribution programs for migrant workers, hot meals for the homeless, and gleaning/reclamation efforts that provide food for food pantries.





SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE



PRESBYTERIAN PEACEMAKING

Throughout the world, PHP has funded soil and water conservation programs, greenhouses for vegetable production, and reforestation programs...as well as promoting Souper Sunday.

Self-Development of People supplies funds for the self-direction of those living with poverty, oppression, and the loss of control over natural resources. Small projects in the US allow formerly disenfranchised people to enter the economic mainstream (remember the teen-aged worm farmers in Chicago from last year?). Countries around the world face the challenging prospect of rebuilding governments, infrastructure, and trust following years of war or natural disasters. Any wrong combination of factors can send these nations into a downward spiral, so the whole process has to begin again.

And, joining us at table from half a world away... We may know people from the Willamette Valley who went to the Gulf Coast, and we know something about food pantries, but to help us understand community building in an emerging nation, we will have help from Jonna Reeder, a 21st century minister of God's justice, working for the Central Asia Development Association (CADA) in Tajikistan. Jonna has spent the last year and a half working with Tajikis, who consider themselves Persians, build schools, learn computer skills, and develop human service networks. Jonna has sent us a prayer guide, and from time to time, we will commend her prayer requests to you, as well as pass on her observations. When she returns to Oregon (she grew up in Medford) in summer 2007, she plans to come to Springwater to tell her story in person.

Meanwhile, as we respond to Christian Education's invitation to join in sacred meals after church during Lent, we will have the image of Jonna sharing a sacred meal with some of her co-workers in the photograph posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

Peacemaking. As the sectarian violence in Iraq, and at other points in the Middle East, increases, many of you may wish to join in prayer and purpose with others. Here are some resources: pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/index.html#1; www.ir-amim.org.il (supporting a 2-state solution in the Holy Land); pcusa.org/peacemaking/iraq/index.htm#2, creativecommunications.com (supporting US troops in Iraq and their families.)

Later this spring, our mission theme for Eastertide will be eco-justice. Please let me know if you would like to be an interpreter.

Susan Horton



After a year of prayer & Discernment, Here is the

Proposed Springwater Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

The mission study committee presented the following mission statement to the Session on February 18, 2006. The Session will deliberate at their next meeting whether to adopt it as our mission statement. If you would like to comment on this statement, please do so to one of the Session members.

Springwater Presbyterian Church is a fellowship of believers in God: Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit. Our mission is:

- To gather in loving community to worship and celebrate God's grace
- To grow in relationship with God and each other
- To nurture each of us as disciples of Jesus Christ in our daily lives
- To nurture a thriving community, presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ with creativity, imagination, and love for present and future generations.
- To serve others through hunger ministries
- To reach out and offer a sacred place for health, growth, comfort and renewal

Springwater Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 1017
(24553 S. Springwater Rd.)
Estacada, Oregon 97023
Forward & Address Correction