

Springwater Currents

Springwater Presbyterian Church
24553 Springwater Rd
Estacada, OR 97023
503.630.5480
www.springwater-pres.org

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

May 2009

In This Issue

Birthdays	1
Events in May	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	3
Financial Update	3
Deacon's Corner	4
Youth Activities	5
<i>Encountering God</i>	6
Hunger Ministries	7
Kid's Corner	7
Creation Care Corner	8
More Events in May	10

Sunday Schedule

9:45 AM Hymn Sing
10:00 AM Worship
11:15 Fellowship
11:30-12:30 Sunday School for all ages
12:30-1:00 simple soup luncheon

Deadline for next newsletter:
May 22



May Birthdays

Leon Hilgartner 5/03
Tabitha Souders 5/20
Jim Tedrow 5/22
Kenneth Fisher 5/24
Nicole Armstrong 5/27
Bruce Ryan 5/29
Kord Kirby 5/31

Special Days in May

May Friendship Day — May 1, 2009
National Family Week — May 3-9, 2009
National Day of Prayer — May 7, 2009
Mother's Day — May 10, 2009
Memorial Day — May 25, 2009
Pentecost — May 31, 2009



Congregational Activities in May

May 2 Youth car wash and Grange breakfast
May 3 Communion
May 9 Springwater Church work party, see page 10
May 28 Bringing Creativity to Faith workshop with Melanie Wiedner, see article page 10
May 31 Pentecost, Craig Williams preaching



Pastor's Perspective

Ever since our celebration of Earth Day, I've been thinking about Jesus blowing on his disciples (the gospel text, John 20:19-24). There are good, theological explanations for the story, but it still strikes me as funny: blowing on someone, which gives them power to forgive sins or not.

It helps (a little) to know that scholars say this is John's version of Pentecost—the gift of Holy Spirit and formation of the church. And maybe that's why the story continues to haunt me, because we are heading to Pentecost.

Forgive or Not

"... whatever is bound, enchaind, enslaved, or unfree, can be loosened, liberated, and freed through our forgiveness."

Wendy Wright, in her book, *The Rising*, looks at the implications of John's story. She interprets Jesus' action as conveying the life force that sustains him—his breath—to become the life force of his followers. **That sustaining life force becomes the power to forgive.** This is what Jesus says to his disciples when he sends them out, having given them the power to forgive. "This is the miracle of Easter," Wright says, "that whatever is bound, enchaind, enslaved, or unfree, can be loosened, liberated, and freed through our forgiveness. In fact, if we do not exercise this God-given capacity, our lack of action is not neutral. Without forgiveness, we hold each other bound. Without being forgiven, we cannot be free." The gospel is all about being free.

For Christ's Sake

... we must recognize God in the one person we cannot forgive.

If the miracle of Easter is freedom through forgiveness, the miracle of Christmas is **God available to everything**. Even sin. We call that "incarnation," that God became human in Jesus. The implication of this miracle is that, **whatever divides our tangible world from God is gone.**

What this means for us as humans, as Church, is that we must recognize God in the one person we cannot forgive. Even if that is our self. As Richard Rohr says in *The Cosmic Christ*, "The power is taken away from us to judge anyone else as unworthy of love." He adds, "Damn it" (and isn't that the truth!).

The Job of the Church

Easter means that others as well as ourselves are freed through forgiveness. By "forgiveness," Jesus means **our forgiveness**. This means that our forgiveness is part of God's forgiveness, perhaps even a necessary condition. That's the appalling thing Jesus does in the upper room when he blows on the disciples. "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Look it up in John 20.

I can't imagine anything more shocking or offensive—that by our human forgiveness of others, we set both them and ourselves free. But if we are to believe Jesus, that's our job.

See you in church.



Lectionary Readings

May 3 (Communion) FOOD IS LOVE: Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24; Psalm 23

May 10 (Mother's Day) INFORMATION (FROM LOVE) IS POWER: Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:7-21; Psalm 22:25-31

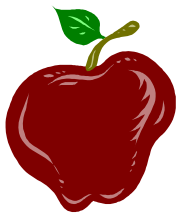
May 17 LOVE ME, DO WHAT I SAY: Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6; Psalm 98

May 24: LOVE DOESN'T LEAVE BLANK SPACES: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; 1 John 5:9-13; Psalm 1

May 31 (Pentecost) (The Reverend Craig Williams, preaching): Acts 2:1-21, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Financial Report

Our special offerings have been doing well.



We are financially doing OK so far this year. Our general fund income has exceeded our operating expenses and mission giving through March by \$312.74. Please continue to keep your pledges up to date so that we can continue to meet our obligations.

Our special offerings have been doing well. You donated \$788.64 to the One Great Hour of Sharing, \$260 for fruit trees in central Asia, and the coin loose offering has contributed \$52.42 to the Estacada Food Bank.

Our special funds have been busy, too. The Library Fund (Dorothy Shearer memorial) has \$600 in it. We received a \$1000 donation to somehow enhance our view of Mt. Hood through the East Sanctuary window some time in the next eight years. The Joe Guttridge memorial has \$280. Sales of the old pews have brought in \$940 that has gone in to the Restoration Fund. And several individual donations have been made to the Mission Trip Fund that will send our Youth group to Alaska.

Gwen Shearer

Deacon News



Prayer Time

The Deacons want to invite you to our weekly prayer time. We meet at church on Fridays at 10:00am. Everyone who comes can join us in praying for our church and for all who are part of it. We pray for those who are mentioned during our Sunday prayers. We also pray the birthday list, which means that even if you never ask for any specific prayers for yourself or your family, you will still be included individually during the year. Please call with any special prayers. All requests will be considered confidential, unless you ask us to pass the request to the whole congregation.

People to call: Mary Johnson-503.630.3657, Mary Shearer-503.631.8759, Carol Sturman-503.631.8258, Kathy Scott-503.630.4739.

The Seder Meal

April was a very busy month for the Deacons. On Maundy Thursday, we hosted a Christian Seder meal. Patrick and Christine Lumbroso conducted the service for us, explaining the traditions and meanings behind the rituals. Patrick and Christine are Messianic Christians. (They follow Jewish tradition, but believe that Jesus Christ was the expected Messiah). They planned the program and provided printed material that we could follow along and participate as they led us through the ceremony.

Barbara & Don MacKinnon, Carol Sturman and Kathy Scott did most of the cooking, Joy Alford jumped right in and helped with just about everything, Jean McCloskey decorated the tables with flowers and the clean-up afterwards was done by many volunteers who came forward to help without being asked.

Several people from the Eagle Creek PC joined us and we fed about 45 people. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we certainly learned a lot about our history & traditions while having a great time. The attendees were very generous and we collected \$85.00 which we used to pay Patrick and Christine an honorarium.

Easter Breakfast

Carol Sturman, hospitality chair, put a committee together to plan Easter breakfast before worship on Easter Sunday. They did a really nice job and the breakfast was excellent. It was a good occasion to get together, relax and enjoy each other's company. Thanks to all who were involved in the planning, cooking and clean-up and all those who came and ate.



Springwater Youth Activities for May

Sunday School and Vacation Bible School

During Sunday School we added time for our own prayers of joy and concern which will be an ongoing part of our Sunday gatherings. We continued to read and discuss the scripture passage(s) heard during the Worship Service and talked about what we had learned from the Sermon. We are also working on memorizing the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed.

Sunday School schedule through May will be on 4/26, 5/3, 5/17 and 5/31, After Sunday School and soup on 5/3 there will be a planning meeting for this year's Springwater Vacation Bible School which will be the same program we will be taking to Hoonah in July. I have asked all the Youth members to attend as I believe they will all be helping with VBS.



Youth Mission Trip to Hoonah

Fund Raising

Thanks to the Babikoff family for their help with clearing and burning fallen tree limbs on Don and Barbara MacKinnon's property. When we were through Barbara fed us a hearty lunch and Don gave us a generous contribution to the Mission Trip fund.

Please help us on
Saturday June 6th

Now for the big one. **If you haven't already done so, please mark down Saturday June 6th on your calendars.** On this day we need your help, your appetites and your dirty vehicles. With the help of parents and other members of the congregation we will be cooking and serving the Grange Breakfast and providing a car wash. We will need help cooking and serving breakfast and cleaning up from 6.30 am until noon. We will organize 2 shifts. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Church fellowship area. We will also need adult help and supervision for the car wash. The proceeds from the breakfast and car wash will go to the Mission Trip fund.



Meeting

Pastor Eileen and I drove to Chehalis WA for a planning meeting with members of the Community of Christ at St. Lukes, Federal Way WA, who we will be joining to provide Vacation Bible School for the children of Hoonah. Our new friends are enthusiastic and well organized, in addition to being experienced with the folks in Hoonah and in what it takes to provide a successful VBS there. I believe we are fortunate to be partnering with them for this event.

*Encountering God
by Lloyd Olson*

*Rejoice in the name of the Lord.
There is joy in the reaping.
Stand in awe of the mighty and minute,
for God is there.*

*See God's deeds and
open your heart to the Savior.
Behold the bounty of the earth,
for creations are God's gifts.*



*Listen to the Lord's glory, heed the
wind rustling through the trees,
the din of a ghetto street,
the rumble in a thunderstorm.*

*God's love is eternal.
It is forgiving, bringing peace.
It is always a pure song,
bearing life, embracing all.*

*God loves each of us as if we were
the only person in the universe,
it's a vibrant, vital blessing.
Pray, for we're with God.*

*When I pray, my very being,
with all its flaws, pours forth.
I long to listen, learn, and serve.
I am with God, and I humbly yield.*

*Days are not all bliss.
When we go through dreary times
we focus on our troubles, wallow in our woes,
not feeling the Lord, but God is here.*

*Our faith has gaps and hollows,
we sometimes trip and fall,
but even in our downward times,
pray, for God is here .*

*God is infinite wisdom,
boundless power, and inexhaustible love.
God is holy.
Place your trust in our Lord.
Thank you, God.*

Hooray!





The Estacada Area Food Bank is located at 200 SW Club House Drive.

It is open on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Volunteers are always needed, welcomed and appreciated.

Hungry Folks

Our church has helped support the Estacada Area Food Bank for several years. The red box in the Narthex is often filled with our donations, which are then taken down to the Food Bank. If you go to town on Tuesdays and Fridays you can see some of the dedicated volunteers who make the Food Bank run and the folks who are receiving this food. One thing you will notice, the folks picking up the food look a lot like us. They are our neighbors. The Food Bank serves the communities of Colton, Eagle Creek and Estacada. Homeless people are also served.

Over 200 families are served each month. The amount of food each family receives depends on the size of the family. Each family receives about 70 to 75 pounds of food a month. There is no charge for the food.

The important thing is that these folks are hungry. With today's high prices for almost everything, they can't afford to buy enough food to feed their family. Hunger hurts.

The need for food from the Food Bank is increasing in these hard times. At the same time, donations to the Food Bank from all sources are down. We can do something about it. You can do something about it. When you're out shopping, pick up some extra items for the red box. If you have a garden, dedicate a row of the garden to the Food Bank. If you have the time, volunteer to help. It is always needed. They can also put cash donations to good use.

The Bible has many references to feeding the hungry. The folks in our area really need the help. Pray about it, and then do what you can to meet this desperate need.

**K
I
D'
S

C
O
R
N
E
R**

Creation Care Corner

Earth Day Findings

On April 19, the Moment for Mission was the “So What?” portion of the sermon, the concrete, act-it-out-during-the-week implication. Pastor Eileen led the whole congregation through a brainstorming session about the Earth Day implications of the gospel lesson. The purpose was to come up with concrete ideas for being earth-keepers *as a congregation*. This brainstorming continued in the Talk Back time, focusing on concrete ways to be earth-keepers *as individuals and families*.

This is a listing of those ideas, which focused on ways to “Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle.” The Talk Back assigned levels of difficulty for accomplishing each action (1=fairly easy, 2=might involve more effort, finances, or changes, 3=more extensive lifestyle changes or finances required).



Food, Clothing, Shelter

- Share out-grown clothes (1)
- Compost or feed to animals food scraps (1 at home, 2 at church)
- Eating simple meals together (1)
- Use more non-disposables (2)
- Share garden surplus (1)
- Gleaning (3)
- Share food preservation skills (3)
- Eat more locally (3)
- Reusable shopping bags (1)
- Wash and re-use plastic bags (1)
- Use biodegradable soaps (2)
- Share/re-gift half-used tubes of lotions, etc (1)
- Develop worm farms (share the red wigglers) (2)



Transportation

- Walk (3—lifestyle change)
- Carpool, share rides for errands and shopping (2)
- Bicycle (3)
- Little vehicle choice (1 or 3, depending)
- Ride horse (1 or 3, depending)
- Buy/shop locally (3)
- Shop in catalogues (2)
- Consolidate errands as a congregation (3)
- Do bulk shopping or buying coop as a congregation (would require organization)





Earth and Water
 Reclaim gardens (2)
 Plant native species (2)
 Clean up roadside, community, church gardens (3, requires organization)
 Watering techniques (3)
 Appropriate disposal of chemicals (2)
 Limit chemical use (2)
 Outside worship (1)
 Don't always flush (1)
 Take short showers (1)
 Basin bathing (2)
 Collect water while waiting for the hot to come; use to water plants (1)
 Ground cover, especially slopes (3)
 Attach downspouts to rain barrels (2)

Power
 Turn off lights (1)
 Turn down heat (1)
 Insulate church building (3)
 Use laundry lines (2)
 Use non-electric musical instruments (3)
 Storm windows (3)
 Solar panels (3)
 Limit use of air conditioning (2)
 Use non-electric floor sweeper (1)
 Put outside light on functional timer/motion sensor (2)

Springwater Freecycle



Have you heard of the online organization "Freecycle"? It's an group of local people who share their unwanted "stuff". The idea is to save people money and to conserve the earth's resources by keeping "stuff" out of landfills. Well, SPC's green team would like to start our own freecycle group. We will accept listings for "items wanted" and "items available". Contact the editor at enviomom@peoplepc.com to place a listing or to reply to one. Here's a few items to get us started:

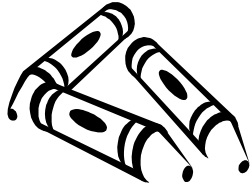
Items Wanted

2-drawer legal size file cabinet
 small (6 oz) plastic cups

Items available

Queen sized flat sheets, used
 greencone food composter
 small and medium wire animal cages

RETURN TO "BRINGING CREATIVITY TO FAITH"



Melanie Weidner, artist-in-residence during our summer sabbatical "Bringing Creativity to Faith" returns Thursday, May 28 for two hours, beginning at 7 p.m. For those of you who were not able to participate in Melanie's events, this is your opportunity to be guided in allowing art to explore your spiritual life and deepen your faith.

"Being" an artist or "doing art" is not a prerequisite. Please let Pastor Eileen know if you will be attending, so Melanie can be sure to have materials for everyone.

Work Party, Saturday May 9th, 9 AM - Noon

The Building and Grounds committee is sponsoring a spring work party on Saturday May 9th, 9 AM -Noon. Come help with outdoor activities, especially weeding and preparing our sacred gardens for spring. This is a fantastic opportunity for fellowship and fun. Bring a potluck dish and we'll share lunch when the weeding is done!



SPRINGWATER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P O BOX 1017, ESTACADA, OR 97023
LOCATED AT: 24553 S. SPRINGWATER RD.
Corner of Springwater Rd & Wallens Rd.

[Return to Home Page](#)