

Springwater CURRENTS

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

What Do We Call This Season?

In Oregon, seasons are always worth questioning. When I first moved here, people used to say to me regularly and frequently regarding the weather: "It's not usually like this." Coming from the Midwest, I knew about changeable weather! But "seasons" don't always refer to the angle of the sun in comparison to the earth's orbit, nor are they simply about what is or isn't blooming or is it too early to put in the tomatoes. In the church, "seasons" refer to scriptural emphasis.

Why do we have such things? What is the purpose of a church "season"? For one thing, the story of God and creation is so big, so unfathomably huge, so mind-bogglingly powerful, "seasons" are one way of making sense of the whole thing. Not that we ever could. But by establishing a sort rhythm—something that happens year in and year out—maybe we can get our minds around what God is up to. Just a bit.

I remember the first autumn a friend of mine from the Deep South lived in Wisconsin. One morning she got up and found that the oak tree in her yard was covered in brown leaves that were falling off! She had to be reassured by someone who had experienced a few rounds of Midwestern seasons before she believed that her tree wasn't dying.

Christians need that, too. If the rigors and brutality of Lent suddenly came upon us, without the reassurance that Easter would follow, it might be too discouraging to be a Christian.



Or wasn't your Lent that bad?

It always seems to me that Lent is hard. It's not just giving up chocolate or "fasting" or whatever

"mortification of the flesh" we happen to do. All the daily lectionary readings keep pointing out human sinfulness and our need for God's help.

And then there is the crucifixion. If this were a movie, the ominous music would be playing the entire 40 days. You want to shout to the hero, "Don't go in there!" Jerusalem—it's ever the place that people go to die. Forty days of seeing the inevitability of crucifixion. Lent is a hard, hard season.

Thank goodness for the resurrection! We need Easter to make it through all the Lenten seasons of our lives. If it weren't for the resurrection, we'd never survive the little deaths. You know, the disappointments, the dead dreams, the plans that go sour.

No wonder Eastertide takes so long. "Eastertide" is the season between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost. You remember Pentecost: that powerful wind of encouragement, binding us together as community. We'll spend this season exploring the implications of the resurrection. What does this unbelievably joyous plot development in salvation history ask of the Church? What does it ask of us? What holds us together as a body? What forms us as a body?

How do we make sense of this?

Big questions. How could anyone make sense of this? Keep showing up. As Christians, we were designed to "be in faith" by being in church. The best place to figure out what it is that you believe is in the presence of other believers. Asking these questions with your fellows. Participate, prepare, anticipate for each service. Then—expect the unexpected. Assume that God is always doing a new thing, even with you. See you in church.



Eileen

What Are You Doing This Summer?

We hope that at least part of your summer plans will include time for you and/or members of your family at any one of the Presbytery of the Cascades camp opportunities. Session is so anxious to get our kids into presbytery camp experiences that they have made available campership monies. It's yours for the asking—but be sure to ask for it! Speak to a session member (Cindy Babikoff or Kathy Scott come to mind) or one of the youth leaders (Steve Shibley or Jim Roden, for instance) or even the pastor (Eileen Parfrey) if you would like to take advantage of this offer.

So, what's available for camping? Check out the poster on the bulletin board in fellowship hall—camps for kids with parents, camps for kids, family camps. Check out the video of camp last summer and catch Jim Roden and Lexie Fisher in their world premier movie roles.

Then, there is the ever-popular Summer Conference, with fun opportunities—structured and unstructured, educational, worshipful, and just plain silly—for all ages. Speak to Eileen Parfrey if you'd like a registration form. Summer Conference is held in McMinnville, which is conceivably a commuting distance from Estacada, but why not spend the whole week and get in on the early-morning fellowship and the late-night gab fests and recreational activities?

Invite a Friend to Church

Did you know that only 2% of the people who come to church are there because they saw an ad in the paper? Or that only 2% come because of the preacher? A full 86% of the people who come to church are there because a relative or friend has invited them. If you see a fabulous movie, don't you tell your friends about it? If read a book that looks like it might change your life and answer your troubling questions, wouldn't you tell people about it? If you are trying to lose weight and get control of your life, and something comes your way that helps you take control, don't you tell everyone you meet about it?

Then why is it "being pushy" to invite someone to church? Every Sunday is "Invite a Friend to Church"

Sunday, but Session has set aside May 4 in particular. They are urging everyone to bring someone with them to church. The Springwater Ramblers will lead us in up-tempo bluegrass music and we'll hear the news which is so good, it's really the Best News. Isn't there someone in your life who would enjoy coming to church with you?

Healing Hands

Session has authorized a Service for Wholeness, to be held on Thursday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m. Presbyterians tend to get a little nervous when people talk about "faith healing." We like the idea that Jesus performed miracles, and even that the apostles in the book of Acts helped the lame man walk again. But we get a little edgy when televangelists urge people to come down front to be "slain in the Spirit."

Yet, in James 5:13-15, we read, "Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up."

How do we reconcile what scripture says with our unease about "faith healers"? As we look at a Service for Wholeness, it is a good idea to be reminded that our faith tells us God's intention for all of us is wholeness. That's the point of God's redeeming work. In the church, we speak in terms of "healing" rather than "curing." The underlying theology of a Service for Wholeness, as set forth in the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship, is about restoring people to right relationship with God and one another, inviting God to bring shalom into that person's life.

A Service for Wholeness is supported by the prayer of all the faithful. Persons who desire peace regarding illness, grief, relationships, life's challenges, the world situation, come to a worship service. In the context of that service, they are invited to step aside with the pastor and another prayer partner for an individual prayer of blessing, comfort, petition.

In preparation for this service, we will be spending some time in the Sunday worship services discussing the theology. Session invites the whole congregation to be in preparatory prayer for this time.



IT TAKES A WHOLE VILLAGE

Or, at least it takes the whole church to celebrate Easter. From the folks who set up, cleaned up, dished up our traditional breakfast, to the myriad of folks who put together the worship service, it looks like the whole church was involved in Easter celebrations. Which is as it should be!

Have you ever wondered why it's called "worship SERVICE"? It's because it is "the work of the people." The best thing about this particular Sunday is that people got to use their gifts, do the things they are best at doing. Children made butterflies to hang with the paper-crane-prayers-for-peace. Grown ups brought flowers and made and hung a giant "Alleluia!" Both Ruth Newman and Kathleen Souders led musical groups in bringing joyful music to us. Many hands made sure there were refreshments after worship. Friendly faces and welcoming hands met the many visitors.

Yes, it takes a whole church. And if it was "the work of the people," it was joyful work.

** The Grange expressed pleasure over the lovely and clean facility we left them when we were done.

Have you ever been hungry?

Not just for some chocolate, or perhaps because supper will be an hour late, but *really hungry*?

Hunger is defined as a compelling need or desire for food, or the painful sensation or state of weakness caused by need of food.

There are lots of people in our neighborhood who don't have to look up the definition of hunger, they live it. We can help.

More and more families are using the services of the Estacada Family Resource Center. There is more need than there is food. Please think of this when you do your grocery shopping. Pick up some extra food so that others can eat. If you can make this additional shopping a habit, you can help feed God's people.



Submit, Writers!

Touchpoints, the presbytery's small annual publication published by the Theology, Spirituality, and Worship Committee is looking for submissions. The purpose of this publication is "in order that Presbyterians might share their reflections and creative responses to the Word of God."

The editors are looking for essays, midrash (commentary), sermons (2,500 words and less) or poetry (50 line limit). Submittals may be sent to Touchpoints c/o Shirley Tormey, 8313 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland, OR 97219.

This year's theme is "Mary, Mother of Jesus." Editor Shirley Tormey asks, "What can Protestants learn from studying Jesus' mother? Does her way of 'pondering' have something to offer us? What role did she play in Jesus' ministry?" Both clergy and laity are invited to respond to this. This means, in fact you.

The editorial board asks that submissions be identified with name, home church, address, and phone number. If you wish your manuscript returned, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Do not send previously published works. Deadline is October 1, 2003. Copies of the 2001 or 2002 Touchpoints are available in Springwater's library or may be purchased through Circuit Rider Books.

GIVE & TAKE

Do you have something laying around you would like to GIVE to someone who really needs it or who could use it? Perhaps there is something you WANT but haven't yet found it.

In June, the newsletter will carry the first column of GIVES AND WANTS. Please contact Bettie Barbee and let her know what item/items you would like to GIVE or WANT. Then watch for the column in June.

Please Update Your Directory Listings

Julie Spencer has a *new address*:
228 NW Cary Street
Estacada, OR 97023
503.630.5766

Lectionary

- May 4:** Acts 3:12-19, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48.
What Are You Gonna Say?
Bluegrass Service
INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH
- May 11:** Acts 4:5-12, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18.
How Loyal Do You Have to Be?
- May 18:** Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8.
Eileen will be away this week.
The Reverend Drew Caesar will be preaching.
- May 25:** Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17.
Can You Ever Cut Back a Blackberry Cane Enough?
- June 1:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19.
There Is a Point to All This.

HOSPITALITY IS A GIFT

Special thanks go to Wilma Guttridge and the Fellowship Committee (Joy Alford, Don and Barbara MacKinnon, Dorothy Shearer, Gary and Joe Guttridge among others) for all they did to bring the ecumenical Maundy Thursday service to Springwater this year. We celebrated a Christian understanding of the Jewish Passover with our friends from Colton Lutheran, Estacada Methodist, and Eagle Creek Presbyterian. Judy Coyne and Nona Shearer brought the symbolic seder elements, and Barbara Shibley stepped in at the last minute to lead in the readings. Kathleen Souders accompanied our singing. The Springwater Ramblers wowed the crowd with pre-dinner gospel tunes. Lynne Deshler, home helping birth her flock's baby sheep, contributed some of her sheep and lamb figures to decorate the tables.

A WALK THROUGH WORSHIP

It is our custom to present fourth-graders with their own Bible. This year we have three young people who will be preparing for that gift by participating in a class led by Eileen Parfrey during the month of May. The Sunday School time class, called A Walk Through Worship, will explore "what" goes on in our worship services (and maybe even "why"). Parents are invited to attend any and all of the classes.



REFLECTIONS

As I let go and let God, I release all burdens into God's care.

Let Go, Let God - There may be times when a situation seems beyond my realm of understanding. Then I know to release the outcome to divine wisdom. When I let go and let God, I discover that I have the courage to deal with the situation, the wisdom to learn from it, and the faith to recognize that, all along, God was and continues to be with me. When I let go I am not giving up. I am turning challenges over to God for divine results. I stop trying to be in control, and instead I affirm that God can bring about better results than I had even hoped for or expected. I feel the blessed relief of a burden being lifted from me as I let go and let divine wisdom work through me and the situation.

“The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. *Philippians 4:5-6*

shared by Debbie Tedrow

Easter People



The Adult class in May and June will be studying Acts 16 and what it means to be the disciples of the resurrected Christ. We will learn that belief in his resurrection gives us the courage necessary to bear witness to Jesus Christ and to confront evil in our world. Once we have encountered the risen Christ, we know that nothing in heaven or earth can harm us. Fortified with this belief, Christians are empowered to pray, witness, unmask, and listen without fear. Join us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

Water Policies in Oregon



Gilbert Shibley is interested in local waters and in the Watershed Council. He will discuss with church friends the tough water policy issues in the Klamath Basin and the Damascus urban growth areas. He will be a Consultant on water needs of fish & farmers to be hosted by the PC(USA) Committee on Social Witness Policy in southern Oregon on June 13-14. This 2 week discussion will help him feel more in tune with his friends & his faith on this matter. Come help him and yourselves to build a better foundation for decisions of this sort.

Adult Sunday Class Schedule

“What it Means to be the Disciples of the Resurrected Christ”
A study of Acts Chapter 16

April 27 – COME OVER AND HELP US - Acts 16:6-10: “A Vision of the Man from Macedonia” (Our teacher is Nona Shearer)

May 4 – A CERTAIN WOMAN - Acts 16:11-15: “The Conversion of Lydia” (Nona)

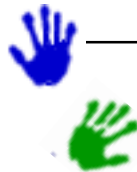
May 11 – A SLAVE GIRL - Acts 16:16-24: “The Freeing of a Slave Girl” (Nona)

May 18-25 – WATER, LIFE, AND FAITH - sorting out our responsibilities - A 2-part discussion. (Gilbert Shibley will lead these 2 weeks)

June 1 – WE ARE ALL HERE - Acts 16:25-34: “The Philippian Jailer” (Nona)

June 8 – A PUBLIC APOLOGY - Acts 16:35-40: “Paul Confronts the Magistrates” (Nona)

Helping Hands Project



Our sincere thank you to those who have volunteered to make the Helping Hands program available to those in our church and community. If by chance someone would yet like to become available to provide a meal, run an errand, write a note, or make a “How are You” phone call (or e-mail) there are still cards available to let your desires be known.

Perhaps this could be an opportunity for our children to color or draw a picture for someone who needs a boost.

We each have God’s love to spare, let’s share it.

Community Care Committee



C E News

Fourth graders will be presented their Bibles during church on June 8th. In preparation for this, Eileen will be teaching a class called “A Walk Through Worship” during Sunday School time for the month of May, except for the 18th. All fourth graders are encouraged to attend.

June 8th will be the last day of Sunday School for the summer. Vacation Church school will be the last week of June, the 23-27th. Please keep your eyes peeled for pre-registration forms!



May Birthdays

Jim Tomlin	9
Kara Guttridge	20
Tabitha Souders	20
Jim Tedrow	22
Kenneth Steele Fisher	24
Michael Scott	26
Bruce Ryan	29



teers will be starting to come in June to work.

♥We read the easement proposal to the Grange. Session will make some minor changes before it is sent to the Grange for their consideration.

♥Agreed that confirmation classes for our youth will start this fall & run for 1 year.

♥Agreed to correct and update the birthday list. Will add wedding anniversaries to the information.

Session Report

♥Agreed to look into helping sponsor the Summer Lunch program in our community. Mission chair (Valerie Webb) will start now to plan this so it is ready for summer 2004. If you can help, please call Valerie.

At the May Session meeting, we

♥Agreed to accept Don MacKinnon’s resignation as chair of the Building Our Mission committee.

♥Session received a letter from an 11 yr. old girl from Cuba. She hopes to find a penpal among our youth.

♥Agreed to hold a service of wholeness on May 29th. (see “helping Hands” pg.2)

♥MSC to accept the 2002 audit report. Thank you Nona Shearer & Jean McCloskey for their work to keep such precise records. Thanks also to the Audit Committee: Lloyd Olson (chair), Don MacKinnon and Joe Guttridge for their hard work & report.

♥Agreed to pay Steve Shibley for extra work to get the outdoor long range plans completed. Volun-

**SPRINGWATER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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LOCATED AT: 24553 S. SPRINGWATER RD.**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED