

August 2006

AUGUST

In this issue

Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	7



Iola Layne	5
Kyle Lalka	11
Peter Sturman	11
Nancy Tedrow	13
Cody Pieschel	14
Marge Varitz	14
Miranda Kirby	16
Barbara Shibley	16
Nona Shearer	17
Kathleen Souders	18
Phillip Bittman (Sr)	18
Bettie Barbee	20
Joy Thompson Alford	20
Bryce Babikoff	21
Marilyn Guttridge	21
William Shearer	25
Neal Jeppeson	26
Julie Spencer	28



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Through
Sept 3rd

Hymn Sing
9:45am

Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

Worship with
the Ramblers
2nd Friday of
each month

Kathleen & Bill Leonard	4
Renate & Greg Jeppeson	6
Judy & Tom Coyne	8
Lynne & Tom Deshler	10
Barbara & Don MacKinnon	19
Connie & Bruce Ryan	21
Marge & Bill Varitz	27



Youth Group

Next meeting will be after the Worship service on **Sunday August 6th**. The plan is to play in the water somewhere so youth groupers should come equipped with bathing suits and towels. More details to follow. Next service function will be at the **Oregon Food Bank on September 30.**

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Faith is not being
sure where
you're going, but
going anyway.

"According to
Jesus, by far the
most important
thing about pray-
ing is to keep at
it."

In an about-face from every other study I've read, a report appeared this spring, saying that "Prayers offered by strangers had no effect on the recovery of people who were undergoing heart surgery, a large and long-awaited study has found. And patients who knew they were being prayed for had a higher rate of postoperative complications."

What gives? Do we have unreasonable expectations when we know someone is praying for us? Do we avoid standards-of-good-care when we think God is on our side? Have the studies with positive results only been wishful thinking? Is this, finally, proof that what Christians have been up to for 2,000 years is merely hocus-pocus?

Maybe the study used bad science.

A lot of Christians hope for the latter.

Faithful Prayer

But, **it's not "faith" if you need proof.** Frederick Buechner defines "faith" in *Wishful Thinking*, after first quoting Hebrews 11:1 (faith is "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"). He suggests that we think of faith "as **a verb, rather than as a noun**, as a process [rather] than a possession."

A clever definition of faith doesn't mean avoiding examining *what* we believe. Buechner continues his definition of faith: "It is on-again-off-again rather than once-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going, but going anyway."

With the wisdom we've come to expect from the Divine Understanding, God has put us with other people—a specialized community we call "church"—so we don't have to stew in our own wonderings, so that we don't have to fruitlessly wrestle with our questions, thus exhausting and doubting ourselves to the point that we give up pursuing the God questions.

The article on intercessory prayer quoted earlier might cause a Christian to ask, "**What good is prayer?**" If we pray for results, we're sure to be frustrated. If we pray "to get something accomplished" or to "fix that situation" or "take care of things," we may as well abandon our prayer requests, as a satirical article in *Christian Century* suggests.

Again, Buechner: "According to Jesus, by **far the most important thing about praying is to keep at it.**" Even if prayer is only "talking to yourself," Buechner advocates praying. Keep on doing it, he says, even if it's talking to yourself about what matters most to you, because if you don't, you

Even Jesus urged us to believe in prayer, and especially to believe in miracles

The Personnel Committee is working now so that Pastor Eileen can plan to take a sabbatical in 2008



may forget what matters most to you. Even if you don't believe anybody's listening, at least you'll be listening."

But faith means we believe "**Somebody is listening.**" Even Jesus urged us to believe in prayer, and especially to believe in miracles. And to **keep on praying.** Because, even if God doesn't answer prayer the way you want, God will bring you himself. And, Buechner suggests, "maybe at the secret heart of all our prayers that is what we are really praying for."

See you in church.

Personnel Committee Meets

The Personnel Committee met with Pastor Eileen on June 23rd to review her professional goals for 2005, and her proposed goals for 2006. General areas of interest for this year are the development of lay leadership, including a lay-led stewardship program; her involvement in Presbytery activities; and continuing education plans now that she has completed her spiritual director's training.

We are grateful for the time, thought & prayer that the pastor puts into planning her professional goals, and her openness to dialog about our congregational life. The dialog will be broadened to include "talk-back sessions" after Worship, to discuss the morning's sermon & it's implications for Springwater. The sessions will begin after the faith nurture discernment process has finished.

The Personnel Committee has established a Sabbatical Support sub-committee, chaired by Carol Sturman, charged with planning for the pastor's sabbatical in 2008. One of their jobs will be to begin financial planning for pastoral leadership during her 2-month absence, and outlining goals for the church during the time the pastor is away. Eileen plans a pilgrimage as her sabbatical activity, and will be seeking grant support. Our congregation will have the chance to look at our own spiritual growth and well-being. If you have some thoughts about this, please talk with Carol or Susan, and consider serving on the sub-committee.

Directory Updates

Colleen Roden

Julie Spencer

Please ask the pastor or a session member for this information

Mission Notes

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working in

Indonesia

Lebanon

Northeast Floods

Pakistan

U.S. Hurricanes
Katrina, Rita,
Wilma

Sudan

Tsunamis

plus additional
Responses in

Africa

Asia

Europe

Middle East &
Latin America

Disaster Assistance It's been a few weeks since we have seen pictures of the beleaguered people of western Pennsylvania coping with catastrophic flooding. The flood damage was extensive, effecting several presbyteries in the Synods of Trinity and the Northeast. Towns have lost their business districts, roads and bridges have been washed out, and thousands of homes damaged or destroyed. PDA teams are on site, and a Katrina-style Volunteer Village will be established in the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley.

More recently, we have heard and seen the plight of the 400,000 people displaced inside Lebanon. The Middle East Council of Churches is making a needs assessment & when needs are clarified, a PDA response will be made, probably through the Action by Churches Together International (ACT). This group has been very effective in responding to the Pakistan earthquake & the Indonesian tsunamis.

Estacada Area Food Bank The board & staff of the Food Bank have expressed their appreciation of the on-going support from Springwater donations of cash, food, and personal and household products, even before Christmas in July. The new director, Phyllis Varnell, has issued an open invitation to the monthly board meetings, on the 2nd Friday of each month, 4 pm at the Community Center. There are openings on the board, which could be filled by SPC folk.

Warm Springs Sid Birt, chair of the Presbytery Mission Support Committee, attended the July 11th Session meeting, to hear our concerns & support for the Warm Springs church. Sid and Aleida Jernigan, Co-Executive Presbyter, will be visiting Warm Springs to talk to the pastor and members of the church community. A triennial visit is planned by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry.

World Communion Sunday As part of the Peacemaking campaign we will be observing World Communion Sunday with in-home potlucks. The theme is "being united in different places" We will sit down together in different homes on October 1st. Some folks have volunteered their homes, but *we need more host families*. We also need someone to coordinate guest lists. Please talk to Eileen or Susan.

May the visions of God's reign fire our imagination.

May the promises of God's realm be a ferment in our lives.

Susan Horton

Bring in the
doagies
from the
summer range!



Bring friends,
neighbors,
and family!

Join in the fun
during worship
outdoors
and a chuck
wagon feast



SPRINGWATER ROUND-UP - SEPT 10TH

Return to the fold!

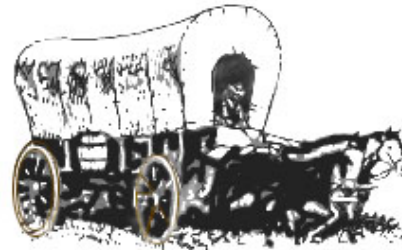
*Bring your
friends!!*



Children's CE **special activities**—getting to know the new teachers.

Worship Service—a special time of teaching, blessings for the new school year, dedicating teachers.

Lunch and party at the Grange after worship
Stick around because we'll have **games and lots of fun.**



Faith Nurture Cluster activities

Meetings of SPC members praying for guidance for Christian Education have been happening after Worship Service during June and July. From these prayer meetings, a group has emerged that will be the Christian Education Committee for Springwater.

Following the tremendous success of Vacation Church School, the committee decided to start planning for Sunday School for youth and children, beginning in September 2006. Session approved the idea at it's July meeting. Sunday School will start on Sunday September 17th after worship and fellowship time.

Parents of youth and children will be invited to attend planning meetings as we work on curriculum. In addition to Sunday School for children and youth, the committee is developing plans to give the congregation an opportunity to discuss the Sermon with the Pastor following the Sunday Worship Service.

We are also brainstorming other possible adult Faith Nurture activities. As always, we invite and welcome participation and ideas from the congregation at large. We hope that you will consider coming to one of our meetings after worship.



Our Youth Group
invites us to
volunteer at the
Oregon Food
Bank on
September 30th

Christmas in July Results

The Christmas in July table in the sanctuary got well covered with your donations. Thank you for your concern for people in our area.

Delivery was made July 25.

The Oregon Food Bank

The Oregon Food Bank distributes 190,000 food boxes each month to hungry Oregonians. On June 24th, some of us had the privilege to assist in this ministry.

Springwater Youth invited their parents and other adults (12 total) for 3 fun and rewarding hours of volunteer work. Along with dozens of others, we packed 13,300 pounds of red beans. The beans come in by the ton and we packed them into 2 lb. bags. Ask Emma Kirby how much fun it is to scoop those beans. Everyone who participated had fun and felt good about helping to feed hungry people.

You might think it would be hard to be on your feet for 3 hours but we had breaks and the time just flew by. There are some sit-down jobs for those who can't stand that long or wear sandals. (Ask Deb Ingamells) When asked what our volunteers would be doing if they had not come to help, responses included sleeping, housework, weeding, mowing, video games and writing a sermon. Given the options, all of us were glad we came.

This is our second event at the Oregon Food Bank and we will be doing this regularly. So if you feel bad about not getting in on the fun, you will get your turn.

The Youth Group will sponsor another volunteer day at the Oregon Food Bank on September 30th. We optimistically think that 20 of us will sign up. See Jim Roden if you want to get your name on the top of the list.

Children's Sunday School Resumes this Fall

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to announce the resumption of weekly Sunday school classes for children. Beginning September 17th, children from preschool through 4th grade will be able to attend Sunday school classes after worship. The classes will last approximately one hour and include a light lunch. The children will hear, see, and play stories from the bible using the methods of Godly Play. Other curriculum will be used when appropriate.

Volunteer opportunities will be available for youth and adults who would like to assist teachers with crafts, snacks, and such. See Renate Jeppeson or Mary Kirby if you would like to help.

LECTIONARY READINGS



August 6: PILGRIMAGE COMPANIONS

(2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Ephesians 2:11-22)

August 13: STRANGERS ON THE ROAD

(Luke 24:1-13, Genesis 18:1-10a), Communion

August 20: PILGRIMAGE FASHIONS

(Ephesians 6:10-18)

August 27: (Pastor Eileen will be out of town, Leon Bolen will be preaching)

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43;

Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

August 13 Communion

Start planning now to attend and participate in our **Fall Round Up, September 10**. Worship outside and enjoy the barbeque lunch. Watch for details!



A highlight of our annual **Harvest Sunday (September 17)** this year) will be a service of **Blessing the Animals**. Worship will be outside. Caged and leashed animals will be welcomed.

ONLINE JOURNAL

Columbia Theological Seminary has launched a new, very accessible journal for "regular folks" in the church—the kind of Christians whose faith is always seeking understanding and social relevance. The journal, "@ this point" is located at www.atthispoint.net. The current issue examines theology after disaster. Where *is* God when hurricanes hit, when tsunamis wipe out whole coastlines. Check it out.

Next Month in Springwater Currents

Look for an article about General Assembly. Kathy Scott will be writing about what goes on at an Assembly and what it's like to be a commissioner.



Heifer Project and AIDS

Heifer International works with struggling families around the world to help them escape poverty & hunger while caring for the earth. 15 million children have been orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. These children are now in the greatest need of all.

Unless immediate action is taken, these vulnerable victims face a future of unimaginable hardship, disease and starvation.

Because of Heifer's long-established presence and grass roots practices, Heifer is set up to improve the lives of these children. By extending their work in providing livestock and training to AIDS affected families they can help them to be strong from a good diet, and income that often makes an education possible. This is the most powerful weapon we have to stop this disease.

There are Heifer Project order blanks on the cork board in Fellowship Hall. If we don't help, who will? Thank you, *Lloyd Olson*

School Supplies for Low Income Students

Collection of school supplies for low income students in the Estacada School District will begin in early August.

As in previous years, the shopping reminders will be ready for your pickup in the sanctuary on August 6. Purchased items will be delivered the week of August 28.

Your generosity will be appreciated by the students and teachers.

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1017

Location: 24553 S. Springwater Rd.

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction