

Springwater CURRENTS



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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Living By Faith in Uncertain Times

As I write this we are not quite at war, but we are on Orange Alert, Armed Services people are mobilized or on their way to the Middle East, and the United Nations continues to debate and hear evidence, as city streets around the world are filled with demonstrations for peace. It would take an act of God to stop war between the U.S. and Iraq. And I never say that lightly.

It would take an act of God to stop war, the God whose Son we call the Prince of Peace. Now, more than ever, it is time to invoke what I lovingly call, "The Reichelderfer Doctrine." Named after my friend and colleague, the Reverend Glen Reichelderfer, this very Reformed Theology says that sometimes we just have to do what we think is right--and then "pray like hell."

Indeed. The trick is "doing what we think is right." As people of faith, we are called to do. That is so hard during uncertain times. But as people of faith, we are called to act as if we think God is still in charge.

Is this true?

Is God still in charge? Sometimes it does not feel as if God is in charge. When the "weapons of mass destruction" get ever more subtle, ever more pervasive, it is easy to engage in negative idolatry.

You know what idolatry is—thinking or acting as if anything is more important than God. You've heard me preach about different types of modern idolatry—relying on our own management abilities, our spending capabilities, our "drugs of choice"—

instead of trusting God to care for us. Negative idolatry is letting our fears get the best of us, acting as if the human ability to destroy is more powerful than God's power to redeem.

Magic Tricks

At some time in your life you have been amazed by a magician's amazing sleight of hand trick. The mysterious wave of the hand over the hat, the magic word and—presto! The rabbit appears. I've read interviews with magicians who let us in on the tricks of their trade: they are distracting us. Rabbits don't appear by magic! They appear because the magician has been quick—yes, quicker than our eyes—which were just at that moment distracted by something else.

I just heard about yet another psychologist's study about how people attend to visual cues. A group of people was shown a video of two teams tossing a ball back and forth and told to count how many times the white shirts caught the ball. Video over, the viewers were asked if they had seen anything else going on. Most hadn't noticed anything—they were counting the ball. Some, however, had seen something. Everyone was shown the video again, and there it was—a man in a gorilla suit walking out between the teams, waving, and then walking back. Half the audience had missed the gorilla the first time.

What if we are missing something?

What Would A Christian See?

What if we are missing something? What if God—right now—is working to redeem the world, and we were so distracted by what we are afraid of that we didn't notice it?

God would still keep working God's redemp-

tion thing. But we would miss it.

What's a Christian to Do?

Act as if. As people of faith, we are called to act as if we believe God is in charge. We are called to act as if our small acts of trust in God's redeeming work will make a difference. Act as if there is reason to hope. Act as if the radical notion that God is even now redeeming the world continues to be true.

You know that silly bumper sticker: "Jesus is coming. Look busy." As Christians, we believe God is omnipotent—a big-ticket word meaning "more powerful than anything." That means that it is a silly notion—negative idolatry, if you will—to think that how humans act could take away some of God's power. Which means that God's purpose for the world cannot be stopped.

God will certainly let humans live with the consequences of how they act. But God will not let the purpose of creation be stopped. Friends, the whole New Testament is written with the underlying assumption that the purpose of creation is redemption.

Yeah, Jesus is coming. And yeah, we should be busy. But not just "looking busy." We can and should be acting as if we believe that God is still redeeming. That means to carry on with our little acts of trust and confidence that God's providence will still provide for us, even when the world is a scary place to live.

See you in church.



LECTIONARY CALENDAR

What's Happening in Lent

We have spent the time between Epiphany (January 5) and Transfiguration Sunday (March 2) exploring what would be in our backpack if we were packing one to "be a Christian" as opposed to "be a student." What would we put in it to help us be Christians? We found a mixed assortment: a second chance at a new life (baptism garments and a new

name, "Child of God"), authorization (photo I.D.) and responsibilities (license), spiritual disciplines (a little of everything, a personal trainer). By the time we got to finding ADA regulations, we were beginning to figure out that being included in community was part of the deal.

Now that it's Lent, it becomes a matter of water. Baptism involves water, but it is about more than getting wet. Join us on Sundays during Lent as we think about the commitment we make in our baptisms, when we become Christians.

March 9: Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15 (guest preacher the Reverend Debbie Blair)

March 16: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 (Is It Hard to Say the J-Word?)

March 23: Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22 (Spring Cleaning Makes a Mess)

March 30: Numbers 21:4-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21 (What's With the Snake?)

April 6: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33 (It's About Time!)

April 13: Mark 11:1-11, 14:1-15:47; Philippians 2:5-11 (The Story Continues)

Building Our Mission

On Sunday, February 16, we dedicated pledges of money, time and resources to go toward phase I of our long-range site plan. This generous congregation pledged \$6,480, all the gravel necessary to complete the landscaping and parking areas, and other pledges of time and equipment use.

THANK YOU ALL!



LENTEN SERVICES TO BE HELD

Did you know that the wild goose was a Celtic symbol of the Holy Spirit? The Celts--ancient settlers of Ireland and Scotland--are said to have "saved civilization" when they protected precious books and religious resources during the fall of the Roman empire. They go way back.

A more recent interest in Celtic spirituality has given Christianity new/old ways of worshiping and living in the presence of God. A center for Christian spirituality has remained on the Isle of Iona for centuries, and it has gained new vitality and life with the interest in Celtic spirituality. The Wild Goose Worship Group, a part of the Iona Community in northern Scotland, in recent years has produced worship resources used around the world. We used some of their Advent resources during the Christmas season in our adult Sunday School class.

During Lent, we will hold vesper services on Tuesday nights, using some of the Wild Goose resources as we prepare for the most important time in the Christian calendar, Easter. On Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 (Ash Wednesday), our worship service will observe the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes. The schedule for ensuing weeks follows:

Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00: the temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

Tuesday, March 18 at 7:00: the suffering servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

Tuesday, March 25 at 7:00: Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (Luke 13:31-35)

Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00: the prodigal father and his two sons (Luke 15:11-32)

Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00: in days to come (Isaiah 2 and 11)

The services are designed to be independent but cohesive. Please feel free to join us for one or all of the services as you celebrate and prepare during Lent.

Share the Bounty!

A local garden center has donated vegetable seed to the Estacada Family Resource Center in an effort to put fresh vegetables on the tables of the hungry.

While this seed is outdated as far as retail goes, it is still viable and can be used to grow hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables. If you have the time and the space, why don't you use this seed to grow a row for yourself and one for the ResourceCenter.

Remember, the Center serves about 700 people every month. If just a few gardeners "grew a row" for the Resource Center, they would have fresh produce of the highest quality to offer their clients on a more regular basis.

If you are interested in this program, please contact Lloyd or the Estacada Family Resource Center. If you have a garden this year, why don't you donate some of your crop throughout the growing season, even if you don't participate in this program.

Lloyd



Happy Birthday to . . .

Justin Anderson	2
Leslie Soule	13
Colleen Roden	17
Gwen Shearer	17
Barbara MacKinnon	18
Vernon Souders	24
Matthew Webb	26
Taylor Webb	26
Margaret Shearer	27



Presbyterian Peacemaking

The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program sends these suggestions for "working for peace"

§ **Be in community** with other people (worship, prayer services, vigils, public witness). Share meals and hold private discussions.

§ **Make your voice heard.** Contact elected officials. Email addresses for the ones in Washington are:

president@whitehouse.gov &
www.senate.gov &

www.house.gov &

www.congress.org

§ **Visit** the Peacemaking Program's website at www.pcusa.org/peacemaking.

§ **Check out** the Interfaith Listening Pilot Project, which brought together Christians and Muslims. There is a website with that story and details about a video coming on this project. Visit this at www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/intl/international.htm.

[**Note from your pastor:** whether or not you support our current situation--the war which is literally against terrorism and Iraq—Christians are called to activities which make peace.

See Matthew 5:3-12. Last fall we made available several articles on the faith concept of "Just War," which you might still wish to consult.]



How Are We Doing?

This year we are averaging about 150 pounds of donations per week to the Estacada Family Resource Center. At this rate, we should expect to provide almost four tons of food this year. This would be about 4000 pounds more than we gave in 2002. However, we can do better. If we give at the same rate as we did last December, we would give more than six tons this year. People need our help. Let us feed them. **Lloyd**

Wild Flowers!!



The first wild flower hike of the season will be on Sunday, March 9th. Meet at the church at 1 p.m. We will be walking on open, level ground near an old beaver pond in Clear Creek Canyon. Bring camera, binoculars, sketch pads, or guide books as well as water. (If the weather is bad, we will reschedule.) **Susan Horton**

Labyrinth - why would we want one?

A labyrinth has been included in our proposed landscape enhancements.

So why would we want one? You might discover this at a labyrinth workshop scheduled on March 8 from 9 am to 3 pm at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland.

Eunice Schroeder, Certified Labyrinth Facilitator, is leading it, and rumor has it that she is good. The workshop costs \$45 and includes lunch. To register, call The Center for Spiritual Development at 503-478-1218 (they take credit cards).

Gwen Shearer is going to the workshop and would be interested in carpooling.

Gwen

Help Wanted: We need an eager **Newsletter Editor** - Here's what the job entails:

§ Being *right in the center of things and knowing what's happening*.

§ Encouraging people to write articles & add items to the calendar. (We have some really wonderful writers in this congregation)

§ Organize the material so it's easily read & makes sense.

§ Lay out & proofread the material.

§ Assemble and make ready for printer.

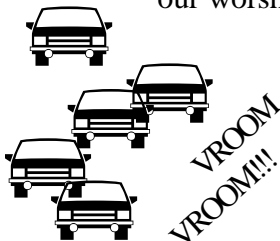
Please talk to Eileen or Kathy Scott.

Who Is She?

Do you know her? Let's see . . . She is a Grandmother of 19. She's also *Great Grandmother* of 19. She is a tireless worker in our church and we hear the results of her hard work & dedication almost every Sunday. Now, here is the surprise: She has been drag-racing since 1997. Can you guess who I'm talking about?

OK, now you get the picture. She is Ruth Newman, of course! At 76, Ruth took up drag-racing at Portland International Raceway. Her car? A plain old 1987 4-cylinder Toyota Camry. Ruth says her car has not been supercharged and that it's not how fast you can go, it's how *sharp* you are. Quick reflexes help her win more races than she loses. Ruth says "When the lights come on and it says go, you GO!"

When she's not on the race track, you will find her at the organ or piano. She is our music director, choir director and she returned to college a few years ago to continue studying music. Don't forget, she's also musician for Springwater Grange. Springwater has always been known as a "singing congregation", we love music and under Ruth's guidance, our music program has continued to grow and thrive. We have added instruments to enhance the music, the choir has grown and taken on more complicated music and has added tone chimes to their repertoire. Together with Kathleen Souders, our childrens music director, the music programs of the church continue to evolve, grow and enhance our worship experiences.



Be sure to tell her how much you appreciate her hard work and talent. And don't forget that she is a woman who knows how to have fun!!

Tim & Nike Guttridge

have a new e-mail address:
niketim@evenlink.com

REFLECTIONS

I am free and unlimited through God's spirit within me.

FREE - Studies have shown that a fish confined by a barrier to one end of a tank for an extended time will not swim beyond that point after the barrier is taken away. I may find myself in a similar situation when my own negative thinking holds me back. I may feel as though I have an insurmountable wall in front of me and can't go any further.

So I look beyond any seeming barriers, keeping an open mind, my thoughts focused on God. I am not bound by a style: I have the strength of mind and the faith to step "outside the box" and onward to my freedom.

Through my prayers, I am in touch with God - my source of strength. I am no longer a victim of my own habitual negative thinking. I am able to move forward because I am free and unlimited through God's spirit within me.

"We walk by faith, not by sight." - 2 Corinthians 5:7. Shared by Debbie Tedrow

We Heard It Through The Grapevine . . .

The word is out! It seems that everyone who participated in the Stewardship groups in November really enjoyed the get-togethers and the chance to talk and listen to each other.



Very soon, we will be meeting again in the same small groups. This time, the pastor will be there too.

So be listening for the phone to ring so you can be included. For the people who couldn't make it last time, we especially hope you will be there. This should be a good and useful time for all of us.

See you there!

Christian Education News

Confirmation Classes

Attention parents! If you are interested in hearing about confirmation classes for your child who is seventh grade or older, we will have an information meeting on March 23rd at 3:00pm at the church. Please come and bring your confirmation aged child with you!

Congratulations

To Alder, Alex, Bryce, Marilyn and Travis for memorizing the 10 commandments. We have been working on the commandments in addition to our regular Sunday School curriculum since fall. These kids worked really hard and each received a personal journal in recognition of their achievement. Great job you guys!

What's Up With Session?

In February, Session made the following decisions:

- MSC** to skip May & August session meetings if possible.
- MSC** to accept the Easement document as drawn up by attorney Simon Harding for access to new parking area.
- MSC** to pay for the recent well repair out of budget dollars held over from 2002.
- MSC** to carry the remainder of 2002 CE budget into the CE budget for 2003.
- MSC** to put 2 memorial contributions (total of \$150) into the Capital Improvement Fund.
- MSC** to celebrate Communion on July 13th instead of the 20th due to date conflicts.
- MSC** to give \$100/month to EFRC senior meals.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED