

November 2006

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Sunday Schedule

Hymn Sing - 9:45am

Worship - 10:00am

Fellowship - 11:15am

Education for All

11:30am - 12:30pm

All are welcome to
worship with us

November Birthdays

- 1 Phyllis EATON
- 1 Kris KRAMER
- 12 Cindy BABIKOFF
- 12 Renate RYAN-JEPPESON
- 13 Tyler PIESCHEL
- 16 Emma KIRBY
- 21 Adelia JEPPESON
- 24 Karin RYAN
- 27 Tim GUTTRIDGE
- 28 Randy JOHNSON
- 30 Jim HANNUM
- 30 Sam FISHER



- 3 Lucy & Lloyd OLSON
- 27 Barbara & Gilbert SHIBLEY

Remember Consecration Sunday November 19

This is the day that we pledge to give to the church because we love God and because we respond to God's infinite love by being generous.



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

It's All Interpretation

John Calvin could put together the catchy phrase. This year's stewardship theme uses one of his prayers, "My heart I give the Lord eagerly and sincerely." OK, so 16th century language can sound a little more cumbersome than our more familiar advertising speak (Just Do It!). But in the immortal words of my Biblical Greek teacher, "It's *all* interpretation." Calvin might need a little interpretation.

My Heart

I can never remember if Jesus said, "Where your heart is, there will be your treasure also" or if he said, "Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." As it turns out, according to Jesus, **our treasure leads our heart** (Matthew 6:21, Luke 12:34).

Man, I don't like that. Who wants to think **money directs our loyalty** (credit card debt, how we spend our time, the investments we make)? Three years of seminary, a lifetime of working at acting holy, and it's **cash that brings my heart to God?**

Is that what Jesus meant? I'd rather believe that "how I spend my money" is an **indicator** of my discipleship, not the **leader** of my discipleship. That way, when I write out a check to church every month, I look holy. But that isn't what Jesus is saying. **Give, and you are investing in your place in God's kingdom.** Not "buying" it, just making sure that's where you want to be.

In the Middle Ages, when everyone was desperately poor, being stingy was seen as greed. We don't talk about that so much today, but that kind of greed is alive and well in 21st century America. It is the greed of thinking "I don't have much so I can't be generous" or "I **might not** have much in the future, so I have to hang on to what I've got." Calvin says "**I give my heart,**" and Jesus says we start by giving our treasure.

To find your "treasure," **look at your check book** to see where your paycheck goes, **look at your calendar** to see where your time goes. Then consider **where** your heart is being led.

I Give

Giving is a natural consequence of love. Giving is a part of courtship rituals (the boy brings the girl candy or flowers, the girl brings the boy home-baked cookies). Giving is part of parenting (piano lessons, Christmas stockings). Giving is part of becoming friends, part of nurturing important relationships (making time to spend together).

What keeps us from that same generosity toward our God?

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What keeps us
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when we nurture our discipleship together, it is easier to understand that giving to the Church is giving to Christ.

The Lord

Young children are very literal. If I'm "giving money to God," how do we get the money to heaven and what does God do with it? The understanding by many people, that the Church is Christ's Body, is supported in scripture. But to make the leap that "giving to the Church is giving to Christ" might be more than many people can do. When we work and minister together as a church community, **when we nurture our discipleship together**, it is easier to make that leap. **Eagerly and Sincerely**

I'm convinced that a goodly part of our consumer economy is fueled by a desire to give those we love tokens and remembrances of that love. I guess that's part of "treasure leading the heart," but it begs the question, if we shower gifts (or desire to) on those we love, what does it say about our relationship with God that we don't do this toward the Lord?

As family and friends, we invest our gift-giving with creativity and imagination to find "just the right gift" on gift-giving occasions. Often we ask the recipient, "What do you want? What do you need? What can I give you?" Behind that question is the implicit question, "How can I show you my love?"

God is calling us to give, dying to hear us ask, "What do you want?" We don't need to leave that last question unspoken. **"How can I show you my love?"** Listen for God's call.



Sacred Garden Update

The garden beds have been weeded and barkdust blown on them to prepare for planting the remaining planned plants. We are planning to have two planting days **December 1st and 2nd**. We will be planting somewhere in the neighborhood of 200 to 400 plants, ranging in size from 4 inch pots to 5 gallon pots. Please come to one or both days to help plant. Lunch will be provided.

We have an estimate for building steps from the parking lot to the upper lawn area. The Building Our Vision committee needs to meet to discuss the proposal, probably sometime after Thanksgiving. Also, the remaining work on the Terraces' stage area and the children's area will need to be discussed while developing a time line for completing the work in 2007.



Belonging or Possessing?

At the October 15 worship service, the end-of-sermon practical application brainstormed about three of Springwater's ministries in light of the community peacemaking issues of "possessing" as opposed to "belonging." Those present asked that our findings be published in the newsletter. They follow:

WORSHIP AS POSSESSING

We've got to do it in a certain way
Only certain people are leaders
Assigned seating

COMMUNITY CARE AS POSSESSING

Won't let anyone else help
I'm the only one who can do it
It's someone else's job
Deciding who "deserves" the help and who doesn't

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AS POSSESSING

Only certain people are teachers
We only teach in certain ways
We only use certain curricula
I'm not a teacher
I don't know enough to teach
We only do this at a certain time
This is just for kids

WORSHIP AS BELONGING

All of us, of all generations are ministers
Show of emotion is OK
It's fun, we feel closer to God and to each other
We come with joy, not a sense of obligation
Inclusive (hospitality, no secret words)
Worship in everything we do
Can question the pastor
Come away with something
Willing to try other things

COMMUNITY CARE AS BELONGING

Everyone cares/acts/participates
We allow others to care for us
"Community" doesn't have boundaries
Everyone welcome as caregivers
Atmosphere of joy
We "get to" not "we gotta"
Not "jobs" but "ministry"
No expectation of thanks

CHRISTIAN ED AS BELONGING

Everyone accepts the responsibility to teach
We're keeping baptismal promises to
nurture each others' faith
We each bring teaching gifts
Willing to learn as well as teach
CE might be at another time than "before church
on Sunday morning"

End Hunger

Here are some things that you can do to end hunger in the world:

1. **Write your state and national lawmakers** to let them know that world hunger is one of your top priorities.
2. **Shop at a local farmers market.** The food is fresher, and your dollars stay in your community.
3. **Buy Fair Trade items.** Farmers in developing countries are paid a price for fair trade items that exceeds their production costs, which helps them support their families.
4. **Learn about the issues.** The more you share what you know about making better-informed consumer choices, the more help you're giving to others.
5. **Get busy.** Volunteer for local or national organizations that work to end world hunger and poverty. Examples include the Estacada Area Food Bank and Heifer Project International.
6. **Ante up.** Charitable gift giving can directly support anti-hunger efforts.
7. **Pass it on.** Share your knowledge with your children, your friends, and folks at work.

You can make a difference. You can reduce world hunger.

Clackamas County 2007 Homeless Count

Clackamas County needs your help to find out who is homeless, why they are homeless, where they take shelter and what can we do to help them?

With real data, the county can develop responses to the many factors that contribute to homelessness.

What can you do?

Volunteer to survey at a few food banks or Pre-Thanksgiving community meals.

Volunteer to help with the 24 hour "Point in Time Count" – we need people to give a few hours to go to pre-assigned locations throughout Clackamas County to survey and count.

Volunteer to visit at assigned food site locations to survey and count homeless individuals during the last weeks of January or early February 2007.

Volunteers work in pairs or teams. There will be a brief orientation prior to visits to the counting sites.)

If you can help in any way please call or e-mail:
Lynne Deshler,

Homeless Count
Coordinator

503-631-8855 or email

5 lynned@ccwebster.net

PEACEMAKING MONTH RECAP

Springwater observed peacemaking month during all of October this year. Using a Scottish proverb we moved through an examination of peace in the home, peace in the community, peace in the nation, and peace on (and with) the earth.

Guest preacher, Ann Richards, began the worship activity focus by inviting us to consider the challenge that we are called "for such a time as this" to be peacemakers. Each sermon ended with the worshipping congregation participating in a time of developing practical applications for the teachings from the scripture texts. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the results of one Sunday's brainstorming on Springwater's ministry activities in light of peacemaking.

Our Sunday School children (and their teachers) delighted us during worship with a sock puppet presentation encouraging us to bring socks for children in Tajikistan associated with Presbyterian community developer, Jonna Reeder, with whom we have a partnership.

LOOKING FORWARD TO ADVENT

Advent begins December 3 by celebrating communion in worship and then joining the ecumenical Estacada community at 4:00 at St Aloysius Catholic church for a scripture reading service and potluck supper.

December 10, in lieu of Sunday School, we gather as an intergenerational group to make decorations expressing the scripture for the season, green the church and enjoy lunch together afterwards.

December 17, join us at the church at 4:00 to progress around the community singing carols.

December 23, children of the congregation will gather at the church with the pastor to act out the Christmas story.

December 24 morning worship will celebrate communion, followed by a candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:30.

Wednesday evenings in Advent (December 6, 13, 20), give yourself an early Christmas present by gathering at the church for a time of peace in the midst of all the season's busy-ness, with contemplative worship.

Invite your friends to join us for these activities.



Bring a Friend This Sunday

Consecration Sunday
is November 19

Give in response to
your love
for Christ

Commit to our
church's
missionary,
benevolent, and
educational
ministries
in this community
and around the
world.



Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's session has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitations to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as confidential acts of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and session. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events. Don MacKinnon,, Clerk of Session



Advent calendar

Dec. 3 - Begin Advent

Worship and celebrate
communion - 10:00 am

Scripture reading service
and potluck supper at
St. Aloysius Catholic
Church at 4:00 pm

Dec. 10 - Green the church, make scriptural decorations and eat together

Dec. 17 - Carolling to the Community - 4:00 PM

Dec. 23 - The children will act out the Christmas Story

Dec. 24 -

Worship & celebrate
Communion - 10:00 am

Service of Lessons and
Carols - 7:30 pm

Wednesdays in Advent

Dec. 6, 13 & 20

Peaceful worship time
A calm in the storm

Mission Notes

Peacemaking. Our Mission month ended with the dedication of the Peacemaking Offering on Oct. 29th. For Springwater, Peacemaking is an ongoing process, and we receive Offering donations anytime. Peacemaking funds underwrite educational and devotional materials, including *PeaceNotes*, a newsletter. Through *PeaceNotes*, we read that the Peacemaking Program liaison to the UN has new leadership and Presbyterians from all over the world are a viable presence at the UN. Check out pcusa.org/peacemaking/network/network.htm#ga.

Peacemaking (Local Portion). In Sept., Session voted to dedicate 25% of the total proceeds (local portion), to underwrite the community development ministry of our mission correspondent, Jonna Reeder, in the central Asian country of Tajikistan. The money will pay for shipping of the socks, hats, and light winter clothing that we have been collecting this fall. Any extra money can serve as “hope money”, such as the small amount Jonna paid in tuition to an academic preschool for her 3 year old friend, Di.

Last year, we gave our local portion to the PDA team from First Church, Salem. They worked for 4 months in Gautier, and then D'Iberville, MS, clearing storm debris, renovating homes and buildings, teaching Sunday School, and providing social and prayer support for Katrina survivors.

Our sister church at Oak Hills has decided to dedicate its local portion to the support and rehabilitation of Lebanese civilians caught up in the brief war this summer.

Peacemaking Resource: We have copies of *Presbyterians and Military Service*, a 15-page booklet about enlistment in the military, draft and registering for the draft, becoming a conscientious objector, and *Just War* principles. The Presbyterian position on military service is that “There is a Presbyterian tradition of individuals serving in the armed forces.” However, the Church has also taken the position that “all ministers and governing bodies [sessions]...should provide competent counseling for conscientious objectors and (in case there is a draft) for young men as they approach the age of 18...”

Is being a Christian peacemaker in uniform a contradiction in terms? This book, with its suggested resources, may be helpful in thinking about this complex subject.

Guide our feet into the way of peace—Luke 1:79.

Susan Horton

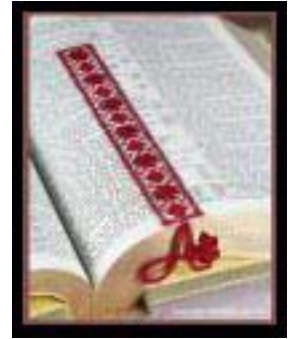
LECTIONARY READINGS

November 5 (MORE THAN YOU ASKED FOR): Ruth 1:1-18; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34; Psalm 146

November 12 (PAID FOR, FAIR AND SQUARE): Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44; Psalm 127

November 19 (Consecration Sunday): 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8; 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (the Reverend Jim Belt, Guest Preacher)

November 26 (Reign of Christ Sunday, *WHAT IS TRUTH?*): 2 Samuel 23:1-7; John 18:33-37; Revelation 1:4b-8; Psalm 132:1-18



Compassionate Communication Class

Learn how to get your own needs met while understanding other people's feelings and needs. This class is a practical how-to class that will practice what we preach. The class will meet the four Sundays in November at 7pm. Please sign up for the class on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Child care will be provided.

Springwater Presbyterian Church

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Forward & Address Correction