

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

November 2009

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November Birthdays



Kris Kramer	11/01
Phyllis Eaton	11/01
Mary Shearer	11/07
Cindy Babikoff	11/12
Renate Jeppeson	11/12
Emma Kirby	11/16
Al Conway	11/21
Adelia Jeppeson	11/21
Karin Thomas	11/24
Randy Johnson	11/28
Sam Fisher	11/30

Anniversaries

Lucy & Lloyd Olson	11/03
Al & Lynda Conway	11/04
Barbara & Gilbert Shibley	11/27



Church Happenings in November

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
for all ages

10:30 AM Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:
November 23

November 1: Training for elders and deacons in bringing communion to the homebound. After worship.

Stewardship Campaign, November 1, 8, & 15.

November 14: Liturgical art workshop with Kathleen Brown

Consecration Sunday November 15: Potluck luncheon celebration

November 18: Liturgical art workshop with Kathleen Brown

November 29: No Sunday School, Thanksgiving holiday

Special dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2009
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 1, 2009
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2009
- Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2009
- Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2009
- National Bible Week, November 22-29, 2009
- First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2009

...we are more engaged in life-giving and faith-sustaining activities than ever before...

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

It seems ironic that, at a time in Springwater's history when we are more engaged in life-giving and faith-sustaining activities than ever before in my 10 years with you, that we would also be in the first negative cash flow situation.

It's counterintuitive to bring this up at the beginning of the stewardship season, but you need to know sooner rather than later. We are spending more money than we take in.

We have only experienced two months of this, but as part of addressing it, good leaders that they are, session believes the congregation needs to know.

There are several reasons for our being in this situation. About half of our negative cash flow can be attributed to heating costs. More on that later. Other reasons include the usual suspects: death of several major giving units, pledge reductions due to the tough economy. The term "tough economy" takes into account not only job losses, but the diminishing ability of people to engage in the practice of just buying supplies and not asking the church for reimbursement.

Did Session Drop the Ball?

It would be obvious to wonder whether session didn't see this coming. We did and we didn't.

We knew heating costs were high. Although we locked in a lower price at the beginning of the 2008-09 season, it was still higher than anticipated, and last winter was colder than usual. We turned on the heat for the remodeling work in the sanctuary and forgot to turn it down. Then the thermostat failed and ran high even after we turned it down. We responded by getting a new programmable thermostat. Session has asked building users to avoid the manual override to turn on whole-building heat and to only heat fellowship hall for meetings.

Giving is always down in the summer, and we hope to make up some of this in the fall. Unfortunately, the Treasurer had to re-build our financial records due to her computer's crash this summer, so we did miss some lead-time warning on our cash flow situation. This only reinforces the importance of her role, and session is very grateful for her conscientious attention to our finances.

Did You Try to Cut Costs?

We put together a bare-bones budget, which was hard, because we were experiencing an increased desire by folks to engage in activities related to faith nurture and worship. Several long-time and generous givers have died, and we were at the beginning of a major economic downturn. But even our bare-bones budget was under-funded by pledges. When we made this known, the congregation stepped forward with increased pledges. It was still a "faith budget," but we trusted God would provide.

Other cost-cutting measures included forgoing a pay increase for the

pastor and making greater use of lay preachers from the session.

Still, Aren't We Being Extravagant?

Even when we knew our cash flow situation was tight, session made a conscious decision to purchase both Sunday School and confirmation curricula. This is what church experts call "funding the vision," and we knew it was a risk. It was, however, a risk which Elder Renate Jeppeson reports has resulted in a full slate of teachers and enthusiastic and engaged students. We have **four** Sunday school classes this year and enough teachers.

Our class of five potential confirmands is the biggest one yet, the second confirmation class in my tenure, only the third in more than fifteen years. This is cause for celebration, not penny-pinching.

The youth mission trip was funded off-budget. This means the kids either raised the money, members gave specifically to the trip, or we used designated money from the endowment fund.

The activities in 2009 with artist-in-residence Melanie Weidner were funded with money left from the pastor's sabbatical grant given us by the Lily Foundation.

Funding the Mission

Stewardship resources maintain that "People don't give money to pay the bills; they give to fund the mission." Years ago I was given a rule of thumb, as I tried to figure out which of the worthy causes asking for my hard-earned donation dollars would receive them. I was advised, "Give where you are fed." In essence, give to what gives you life and a sense of purpose.

When session put together the budget, they were mindful of our mission statement. We have a longer version with several beautiful and distinctive points, but the short version of it is that we are "A place of worship, nurture, and service for God's people of all ages." Accordingly, the parts of our budget that receive our greatest attention are the places that reflect that sense of purpose.

We fund the pastor and musicians. "Personnel" costs are always the greatest percentage of a church budget, but our session prefers to think of "personnel" in terms of worship. Worship is the central core of who we are and what we do, and that is reflected by our support of those "personnel."

"Nurture" is Biblish for Sunday school, confirmation, youth group, mid-week Lenten and Advent activities, fellowship, women's Bible study, Healthy Eating and Living. As you take a look at that list, you can see why session felt it was important to purchase curricula. Not all the activities listed require financial support, but they often use volunteer and personnel support. Our understanding that "nurture" is central to who we are goes way back to our founding of our church, when we were a Sunday School long before we were a church. Springwater has 120 years of commitment to learning and growing in faith.

Even as session developed a bare-bones budget last year, they did not cut mission giving. Sometimes churches see mission giving as an easy way to cut costs, but that's like saying that giving up eating and sleeping

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saves time. Mission is the fuel that keeps us going as a congregation. Session continues to be committed to giving more than a tithe (11% this year) to mission.

We support mission in a number of ways. On the local level, we send money from our budget every month to the Estacada Area Food Bank. This is in addition to designated financial gifts members send through the church, in addition to the food we bring to the red tub every week as part of our worship. It reflects our commitment to the food security of our neighbors close by.

On a connectional level, in addition to the per capita giving presbytery asks of each congregation to support its administrative and polity activities, Springwater supports mission giving to the presbytery. This funding supports such things as education for pastors and lay people, Opening Doors Task Force (which helped fund our new front steps), new church development, evangelism, and social justice causes.

On an international level, Springwater’s budget provides for a monthly donation to mission co-worker Jonna Reeder, which reflects our sense of connection to the greater church and our neighbors far away.

Session makes provision for four special offerings throughout the year: One Great Hour of Sharing, Heifer Project, Peacemaking Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering. This is by way of recognizing the importance these causes have in the minds and hearts of our members, and by providing these opportunities to give, we are connected to something bigger than we are.

Too Many Words

It is always the pastor’s role to provide the theological framework for understanding. This is by far the longest Pastor’s Perspective I’ve ever provided. But I wanted you to understand the background so you could really hear me say, “We’re funding our mission.”

Yes, we are spending more than we take in. That’s bad economy. But we are funding our sense of God’s call to us as people in this time and place, and that’s good discipleship. And, since we are only two months into this, we can address it effectively. Pray that our checkbooks will follow our hearts as God leads us through these times.

See you in church.



Session Endorsement

During the October 15 Stated Session meeting, the cash flow problem for our church was a major topic of discussion. Pastor Eileen has clearly stated in this Perspective the cause and issues we are facing. We, the session believe that by working together, praying and placing faith in God, we will come through this problem stronger than ever. As a session we endorse and support Eileen’s Pastor’s Perspective.

Session is

Renate Jeppeson
Don MacKinnon
Peter Sturman
Kevin Kirby
Bob Wilson
Kathy Scott
Cindy Babikoff
Jennifer Souders

Financial Snapshot

With 75% of the year gone, we have received 74% of the monies pledged. Thank you for keeping up with your donations so faithfully. Unfortunately, some people have had to change their pledge amount, which has changed our General Fund budget from being \$894 in the black to \$856 in the red. This, plus some cost overruns (like church heat), has resulted in the cash flow of our General Fund being \$899.68 in the red as of September 30th. That is a little more than 1% of all monies spent so far. On a more positive note, the Peacemaking offering on October 4th collected \$454.61.

Treasurer,
Gwen Shearer

Do you know what's going on at church?

It's confusing sometimes, isn't it? Well, there *is* a way to find out what is happening and when it's going to happen. There is now an "Official" church calendar hanging on the new bulletin board in the newly painted fellowship hall. Here is how it works:

This calendar is planned to list all ongoing programs & meetings that are approved by the Session. So, if you are on a committee, you can find your next meeting on the calendar. If you are asked to bring snacks for a Sunday morning, your name will be listed in the appropriate place. Session meetings are listed, C.E. committee will be listed, Deacons meetings, worship committee meetings, church events and on & on.

Session is asking that unless you are the chair of a committee or the person in charge of an event, that you read the calendar, but please don't write on it yourself. If you notice an event that isn't listed, please ask a session member, active deacon or Eileen to put it on the calendar for you. That way, the events on the calendar will be checked for accuracy of time, date & place. This will make it easy to see when there is time available for a meeting or other event.

We have never done this before at our church (at least not in my 30 year memory) and there will be a learning curve. Please be patient and help us out when you see a mistake. Soon, you will find that this is a good thing for all of us.

Kathy Scott



Faith Nurture at Springwater

Adult Sunday School

October saw the start of Adult Sunday School at Springwater at the new time of 9.30 am. With this happening before rather than after Worship it was clear that the Sermon talk back format would not work so it was decided to instead start with silent Contemplative Centering prayer followed by applying the practice of Lectio Divina to one of the scripture passages for that Sunday from the Lectionary. The Scripture passage is read aloud twice followed by a period of silent meditation and prayer. The piece is then read aloud once more and those gathered, if they wish, share what spoke to them.

All through October we have read the lectionary passages from the Book of Hebrews that have told us that Jesus is just who we need and why.

I really look forward to these gatherings. It is a wonderful warm and sacred experience.

During November we will continue to read and meditate on the Sunday Lectionary scripture passages through Sunday 22nd. There will be no Sunday School on the 29th.



Youth Group Fundraiser

Back by popular demand will be Christmas Wreaths. We will start taking orders at the Grange breakfast on Saturday November 7th and will post an order sheet on the Church notice board on the 8th. Wreaths will be delivered to the Grange on 12/5 and Church on 12/6.

LECTIONARY READINGS

November 1 (The King Who Gives Life/ *Life is God's plan of abundance*):
Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-6a; Psalm 24

November 8 (The King Who Protects/ *The best of everything is abundance*):
Mark 12:38-44; Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127

November 15 (The King Who Destroys/ *Blessing in abundance*;
Consecration Sunday): 1 Samuel 1:14-20; Mark 13:1-8; 1 Samuel 2:1-10

November 22 (*This Sort of King*): 2 Samuel 23:1-7, Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37; Psalm 132:1-12

November 29 (First Sunday in Advent, The End of the Known World):
Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36; Psalm 25:1-10



Clutter getting you down? Do you want to get rid of stuff, but feel bad about throwing it away? Then Springwater freecycle is for you. Simply contact the editor to list items you wish to give away. They will be listed here for all to browse- someone may need just the thing you have!

Battery Recycling still available

The Springwater Green Team would like to remind you that battery recycling and CFL bulb recycling are still available in the fellowship hall. Look for the bucket labeled "battery recycling".

The Springwater Green team presents:

Springwater freecycle: \spring- wä-ter free-sî-kul\ a place to offer items you have and no longer need to someone who needs them. Also a place to find items you need at a good price (free).

Items available:

Hospital equipment:

- walkers
- bedside commode
- slant board
- crutches
- one-armed crutch
- canes

Contact Don or Bettie Barbee if you need any of these items, 503-630-5139.

Items needed:

Old button-up shirts to be used as paint smocks for our Sunday school classes

Contact Renate Ryan-Jeppeson if you have any of these, enviromom@peoplepc.com or 503-637-6855.

Contact Renate Ryan-Jeppeson, editor, if you would like to offer any items or are looking for any items. We will publish them in the next newsletter.





Consecration Sunday, November 15th

Celebrate God's abundance in all things. Sunday, November 15th is consecration Sunday, the culmination of our stewardship campaign. This is when we dedicate our pledges to Springwater Presbyterian Church for the coming year. Please join us for worship on this special day, and stay for a potluck luncheon celebration at the Grange.



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

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