

NOVEMBER 2008

In this issue

Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	8
Youth Activities	3
Faith Journey Story	4
Heifer International Restoration Project	5
Weeders - Unite!	4
Helping Veterans	7

**Sunday
Schedule**

9:45am
Hymn Sing

10:00am
Worship

11:15am
Fellowship

Christian Education
for all ages
11:30am-12:30pm

Deadline for Next Issue:

November 16

Birthdays

November

1. Phyllis Eaton
1. Kris Kramer
12. Cindy Babikoff
12. Renate Ryan-Jepesson
13. Tyler Pieschel
16. Emma Kirby
21. Adelia Jepesson
24. Karin Ryan
27. Tim Guttridge
28. Randy Johnson



Birthdays
This Month

Wedding Anniversaries

- November
- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 3 | Lucy & Lloyd Olson |
| 27 | Barbara & Gilbert Shibley |



Days to Celebrate - November 2008

All Saints' Day — Nov 1

Daylight-Saving Ends — Nov 2



Veterans Day — Nov 11

Chili Feed - Nov. 25



Thanksgiving Day — Nov 27



Christ the King Sunday — Nov 3

First Sunday of Advent — Nov 30



P
A
S
T
O
R
'
S
P
E
R
S
P
E
C
T
I
V
E

A miracle is God's power leaking-flooding-exploding into the fractured and broken world.

In the gospel of Mark, Jesus says, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you" (4:24).

If you ever wondered what pastors do when laypersons aren't around, two words: dead languages.

True. Sad little secret, but it's the price of requiring your clergy to study them. My aunt, the former telephone operator, always felt that "long distance" conversations were more serious than other kinds, so don't call unless you've got something worth paying to say. The last time my friend Julia and I talked long distance, we went right to the dead languages, it was that serious.

Julia reminded me that, when the New Testament talks about miracle, the word it uses means power. When Jesus performs a miracle, he is, therefore, letting God's power into the world. The healings, the feeding of the thousands—expressions of God's intention for creation. From God's point of view, that the blind see and thousands eat lunch from one kid's sandwich—that's how God created the world to be. Therefore, a miracle is God's power leaking-flooding-exploding into the fractured and broken world.

Theologically, this might mean (and here I'm pushing the boundaries) that from God's point of view, our brokenness has a purpose. That we are broken, sinful creatures, means we are weak spots through which God's power breaks in and changes everything.

What's That to Me?

At the end of our sabbatical summer of "Bringing Creativity to Faith," one of the elders had a startling insight—God had created humans in order for us to be how God experiences beauty.

We started Mission Month in October by remembering that we are "human beings" not "human doings." We are moving into our observance of Consecration Sunday. It may, at first glance, appear ironic that the theme of our stewardship emphasis is "What is God asking me to DO?" But this is where it helps to remember that elder's insight: we were created in order to be how God experiences beauty.

And if "beauty," then other things as well. Generosity, among them. Don't think so? In the gospel of Mark, Jesus says, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you" (4:24).

We give because God gives. We are generous because God is generous. And when we are generous, God gets to experience that generosity through us. This understanding of God might make us inclined to say, "Give! For God's sake." But we are really giving for our own sake. Thomas Keating says, "Selfishness cannot survive in a climate of self-giving." Give, to become the person you wish to be. The person God wishes you to be.

Remember that dead language talk I had with Julia? When we are generous, that's miracle. Our generosity is God's power leaking into the world. If you are willing to let God's power leak into the world through you, you must start by giving. See you in church.

Springwater Youth

Youth Christian Education gatherings will be on Sunday's from 11.30 am – 12.30 pm. The Schedule for Sunday Youth Christian Education and Activities has been revised as follows:

November

1. Saturday Grange Breakfast have table with Christmas Wreath/Swag order forms
2. Youth Sunday School
9. Consecration Sunday – No Sunday School
16. Youth Sunday School – Moment for Mission on Youth Mission Trip
23. Youth Sunday School
29. Saturday Wreath and Swag making at the Sturman's
30. Advent Sunday School

December

6. Saturday – Deliver to Grange Wreath and Swag orders shop for Xmas family – bowling
7. Advent Sunday School – deliver Wreaths and Swags to Church
14. Advent Sunday School
21. Advent Sunday School

Christmas Wreaths and Swags Fundraiser



The big event for November will be the Christmas Wreath and Swag making fundraiser.

Proceeds to be dedicated to the 2009 Youth Mission Trip.

Wreaths will be \$ 25.00 each and Swags \$15.00

On Nov. 1st order forms will be available at the Grange Breakfast

On Nov 2nd through Nov. 23rd order forms will be available in the Church Fellowship area.

My Faith Journey

This shift in my thinking from looking at the blessings I receive from God as personal gifts, to looking at them as resources to be managed on God's behalf, has transferred the act of giving from my head to my heart.

Friends, we are all servants of God. We exist only through His Grace

My faith journey has led me to the realization that being a good and faithful Steward of God's Love, Grace and Abundance is my real Job Description. Given to me by God. Performance reviews by God given freely to me through prayer whenever I want to listen.

Maybe more than anything else my Steward job defines my relationship to God.

Websters dictionary defines Stewardship as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care" (repeat)

Who saw Finding Nemo?

Who remembers the one and only word spoken by the Seagulls over and over?

Mine. Mine Mine. When I look at the life I have in God maybe the word mine ceases to have any meaning. I can replace the notion of giving away something that is mine, giving it up, loosing it, with the notion that I am instead doing my appointed work as Steward of the resources God has charged to my care. My reward is to be filled with Joy that I am doing Gods work.

This shift in my thinking from looking at the blessings I receive from God as personal gifts, to looking at them as resources to be managed on God's behalf, has transferred the act of giving from my head to my heart. I change from thinking of Me as self, an individual, to thinking of Me as part of God's greater community.

For me nothing feels so right as knowing when my Actions serve the purpose for which God brought me to this time and place.

God has brought me to Springwater to be part of this gathering of souls. This Fellowship of Believers in him. God directs me to channel a portion of the Blessings he has placed in my care to preserve and grow this faith community of which I am part.

Friends we are all servants of God. We exist only through his Grace. Let us go forward as faithful Stewards of the blessings he has entrusted to our care.

Peter Sturman

Adopt-A-Bed

Thanks to the people who have participated in the Adopt-A-Bed project, sponsored by Buildings and Grounds, our grounds have looked neat and hospitable this summer. It is encouraging to see all the good and experienced Oregon gardeners who understand that, with the fall rains coming on, one final push to clear the gone-to-seed weeds will make spring clean up that much easier.

Way to go, weeders!





HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

OLD PEWS Available!

The old white-painted pews are going to be sold and the profit from them will be used to help pay for a portion of the restoration

Call Debbie Ingamells, Gilbert Shibley or Dick Scott if you want to purchase any pews.

Great Presbytery Event!!

A Harvest of Hope

Make this fall a season of hope for millions of struggling families around the globe. With your help, the cold reality of hunger and poverty can be transformed into rays of hope and self-reliance. There are two ways you can be a part of the Heifer Project in meeting these needs. There are Heifer order forms on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or you can participate in Friends of Heifer. Friends of Heifer is a group of dedicated and compassionate people who agree to give a little as \$10.00 per month to help provide a steady, reliable source of support for Heifer's project work around the world. You'll be providing a steady supply of milk, cheese, eggs and income to families suffering from malnutrition. And each month Heifer will send you a special report detailing how your monthly gifts of livestock and training are touching the lives of children and families struggling to overcome poverty and hunger.

If you choose to donate gifts to Heifer as we have for several years, pick up an order form from the bulletin board. If you would like to be part of Friends of Heifer, telephone toll-free to 1-888-5-HUNGER.

Church Restoration

It's finally happening! The restoration is underway!

Session has made their decisions and pews have been ordered for delivery in mid February. Within a couple days of this writing, the carpet should have been ordered as well as chairs for the fellowship hall. Fabric on chairs and pews will match. And how do I describe the fabric color? Basically, it's blue, but with speckles of other colors thrown in. You'll like it. The carpet is neutral in color.

Chairs may be delivered in time for Christmas. It will be close. Painting, carpeting and pew installation should be in mid to late February.

What will happen to the old pews? We'll sell them. And if you want one or more of them, you need to speak up. Let Debbie Ingamells, Gilbert Shibley or Dick Scott know so we can reserve one for you.

Why Older Adults Make the Best Lovers

Pre-Thanksgiving Weekend at the Beach

The presbytery's Older Adults Ministries team is hosting an event in Pacific City the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 22. The seminar has a catchy title: "Growing Your Congregation: Why Older Adults Make the Best Lovers . . . and How to Be One."

Check the Older Adult Ministries newsletter posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall to find out about the noted speaker, Dr Charles Arn, how to register, where to stay. This promises to be a great event.

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5**

**LITURGICAL ARTS
WORKSHOP**

**TOFU ?
What is that stuff?**

Tofu is made from soybeans, water and a curdling agent (LIKE COTTAGE CHEESE). It is high in protein and calcium and well known for its ability to absorb new flavors through spices and marinades. Due to its chameleon-like qualities and nutritional value, tofu, a staple of Asian cuisines for hundreds of years, has recently become popular in Western vegetarian cooking. So popular, in fact, that it is celebrated with its own annual festival and has almost become synonymous with vegetarianism itself. Look for tofu in the produce section of your regular grocery store.

Nutritional Value of Tofu
Tofu is very high in protein with over 10 grams per half-cup serving, and is also a **great source of calcium and iron.**

Sabbatical Experience Continues

Wednesday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m., liturgical artist Kathleen Brown will join us to prepare for Advent. Kathleen was the first artist-in-residence we met as we began the summer sabbatical of "Bringing Creativity to Faith." **Even if you think you are not an artist,** we guarantee you will be blessed as you join us in exploring worship in the season of Advent and what place art has in that experience. Kathleen will lead us through an exploration of what the preaching texts have to say and **how the congregation expresses** that message in ways that can be seen. You do not need to be an artist to be part of this evening.

The Tofu Challenge:
Report From the Food Bank

Carol Sturman led us in a challenging Sunday School experience on October 19, as she related her experiences at the Estacada Area Food Bank (EAFB). Carol had brought the food contained in a typical once-a-month box of food given a food bank client family of four. We then tried plan menus *for only one week*, based on the box's contents. The limitations were frustrating and sobering.

As we considered the challenges of putting together nutritious meals based on the contents of one of the boxes, Carol told us that one of the best sources of protein available at the EAFB is routinely offered but rarely taken. Why? Because no one knows how to cook tofu, and most people are convinced they won't like it.

Here's the challenge to Springwater.

We are good, creative cooks. The challenge:

Develop tasty recipes for tofu, using ingredients you find in EAFB boxes We will have a tasting event, sharing our efforts with each other. Think tofu would be a good addition to soup? Can you make tofu into a sandwich? Does tofu make a box of macaroni and cheese more interesting? Can tofu be part of a bowl of chili?

This will be a fun activity, and one of the ways we can respond to Bev Crow's challenge to us to "go beyond the red tub." Watch Currents and bulletin announcements for dates and times to share our results.



VETERANS DAY: A TIME TO REMEMBER AND SUPPORT

[Excerpted by permission from materials provided by
Mental Health Ministries]

Veterans Day is a time that we remember and honor all persons who have served in the US military—past and present. We can make a difference in the lives of millions of people if we not only remember, but also reach out to support the troops returning from combat service. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has become a major mental health issue as our veterans return from serving in the war. The Rand Corporation recently released a study estimating that one in five US service members who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffers from major depression or combat stress.

We are seeing an increase in combat stress, addiction, domestic violence and suicide. Too often the ethic is to be silent about combat-related mental health problems. Only half of those with mental health problems seek treatment.

This is slowly changing as the military is encouraging veterans with combat stress symptoms to seek help. When treated early, the symptoms can be treated and need not lead to lifelong problems. Regardless of our political views about the war, clergy and faith communities can be part of the support team for returning veterans and their families.

How You Can Support Veterans and Their Families

Publicly acknowledge those who have served and pray for those who are currently serving.

Send letters, care packages, and other tokens of support to persons who are deployed.

Support families dealing with the transition of persons leaving for service and returning from service. You can reach out through phone calls, providing meals or child care, providing a listening ear.

Know the signs of distress and reach out when an individual or family is struggling. Children are especially sensitive to signs of stress in the home.

Provide non-judgmental pastoral care and opportunities for veterans to share their story and talk about how their combat experience has affected their faith.

For more information, go to www.warveteranministers.org/ptsd.htm

Lectionary Readings

November 2 (CHRISTIAN AND CITIZEN):

Matthew 23:1-12; Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

November 9 (CONSECRATION SUNDAY, the Reverend William McCreevey preaching):

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 16 (Pastor Eileen will be on vacation; the Reverend Paulette Mixon-Weller is preaching): Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 23 (REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY; communion):

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46

November 30 (First Sunday of Advent; Happy New Year!):

Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 10:46-52; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

You Can Be A Part Of These Seasonal Giving Events:

*** Help feed hungry Christmas Tree Workers:** We will be preparing and serving Chili at the Springwater Store on Tuesday, November 25. Call Kathy Scott to see how you can participate.

**** Adopt-A-Family for Christmas.** The congregation will collect and purchase items for specific families who would not have a Christmas if we didn't help them. Youth Group will adopt a family too. Call Carol Sturman for information.

***** Buy a Wreath or swag from members of our Youth Group** and help them raise money for their mission trip in 2009. (See story on Page 3)

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1017

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Location:

24553 S. Springwater Rd.

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction