

# Springwater CURRENTS

Springwater Presbyterian Church  
24553 Springwater Rd  
Estacada, OR 97023  
503.630.5480  
www.springwater-pres.org

A Place of worship, nurture and service for God's people of all ages

September 2011

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## **NEW!!! Fall Schedule**

Beginning September  
18th:

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next  
newsletter:

September 26

## September Birthdays

Philip Armstrong	9/5
Travis Babikoff	9/8
Janice Armstrong	9/14
Bob Poore	9/19
Samantha Sturman	9/19
Eric Roden	9/24
Steve Stiles	9/29



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

Anniversaries in September  
Kathleen & Vernon Souders 9/8

**Please note: The Round Up begins at 10:30 A.M. on September 11. Sunday School begins the next week at 9:30 A.M.**

## CALENDAR (FOR SEPTEMBER)

September 11: Round Up: **Worship at 10:30 (winter hours)**

September 14: Stewardship Meeting at the church, 6:00 P.M.

September 18: Harvest Sunday and Blessing of the Animals:

**9:30 Sunday School for all ages begins**

September 29: Worship Committee meeting at the church, 6:00 P.M.

**PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE**

This summer, I purchased an electronic reader. The theory was that I wouldn't have to carry 80 pounds of books on study leave; I'd just load everything onto the e-reader. It made the airport schlep easier, but it also enabled me to immediately download a book my sister recommended.

What she recommended was *Unbroken*, the story of a pre-WW2 Olympic runner involved in the crash of a bomber in the Pacific Ocean during the war. How he survives drifting 2,000 miles for 47 days, his capture and imprisonment by the Japanese is a story guaranteed to tune out airport stresses.

I didn't get the book to tune out airports, however. I was intrigued by my sister's description of the bombing site used on the B-24 planes. Actually there were two sites used on B-24s. One was "little more than a tin pie plate," according to the author, but the other site, the Norden was an automated system which, once engaged, took over flying the plane until the bombs were dropped on the target.

Only used on low-altitude runs, its use precluded pilots taking evasive action to avoid enemy fire. It struck me how vulnerable they then became, all for the sake of bettering the chances of a successful run. There was no guarantee they would meet their mission's goal—nor even that they would survive it.

What they all relied on, was training. A bomber crew doesn't have spare people. Each person is necessary, each person has specialized tasks, whether in flight or in emergency situations. Crew members learn what to expect of the others, what to do to fill in if another is incapacitated. Everyone's survival depends on each person his doing his part completely.

**Sounds Like the Church**

Maybe it's because I was on study leave, but when I read that, I thought about the church.

Not unlike a bomber crew, everyone in the church has a necessary job to do for the sake of the common mission. In order to accomplish the church's mission, each and every person must do their job and trust the others to do theirs.

Obviously we're not engaged in a military operation, the song "Onward Christian Soldiers" notwithstanding. And like all metaphors, this one does break down, so don't push it too hard. But there are things we can learn from it.

In order to accomplish the church's mission, each and every person must do their job and trust the others to do theirs.

Really? Is that why you go to church, why you hang out with folks at Springwater? **To have your life changed?**

For instance, do you even know what our church's mission is? Another book I read on study leave was by Anthony Robinson, *Stewardship for Vital Congregations*. In it he writes, "**Churches exist to change lives.**"

Really? Is that why you go to church, why you hang out with folks at Springwater? **To have your life changed?** Robinson says churches change lives "by helping people to be and become more trusting, generous, and giving. These are spiritual practices. They have to do with our sense of who we are and how we exist in the world, of who God is, whether we can trust God and whether we are able to give and commit ourselves to purposes and meanings larger than our self."

That's where the Norden bombing site is a useful analogy. When we turn on the spiritual equivalent of the Norden bombing site, we discover God's trustworthiness. When we allow God to take over the navigation and flight operations until we reach our target, we learn who God is.

That presupposes we know what we're aiming for. "To become more trusting, generous, and giving" is one way of talking about that. To find out "who we are and how we exist in the world," is another way. We'll be exploring this more in the coming months.

See you in church.

Eileen

## REMINDER!

Several weeks ago you received a letter regarding the creation of a theological theme for the windows of Springwater's sanctuary to accompany the upgrading of the east window.

Before we finalize our report to Session we would love to receive your input so *please* make a point of sharing your thoughts with any of the members of your Discernment Team.

Margo Maris  
Deb Odell  
Rick Parfrey  
Mary Shearer  
Cindy Woodbury





**MEET THE NEW MEMBERS:**

*Last month, we met Kay Moellenhoff and Allen Siefken. This month meet John Moellenhoff and next month Mary & Steve Stiles who all joined the church in July.*

**John Moellenhoff**

"If you've seen a tower crane in downtown Portland lately, it's probably one of my buildings." So says **John Moellenhoff**, in answer to questions about his job. His firm, RDH Building Sciences, is a Canadian-based architectural-engineering firm specializing in building envelop, maintenance, and construction industry legal support. John's role, he says is "a lot of weird, random, non-carpenter jobs."

Specifically, his work covers a building's construction from review of schematics through construction of the entire outside shell, including shop drawing approval (documentation of materials for construction), field review and site visit reports, quality assurance, including water, indoor air quality, thermal, and moisture testing.

One of his current Portland projects is at First and Main (by the Hawthorne Bridge), where the tenants of the Federal Building will be housed during its upgrade/remodeling work (another of his projects). Not all of John's projects are so close to home. He is also in California on a weekly basis for other projects.

John started in the construction industry when he was 16, rebuilding log homes in his home state of Missouri. When he moved to Oregon with his parents at 17, he worked in a cabinet shop for 7 years. When the cabinet maker and carpenter unions merged, John became a carpenter, then foreman, lead foreman, superintendent. "I went to bed one night the smartest carpenter," he laughs, "and I woke up the next morning as the dumbest engineer." It was, in effect, a case of beginning over, of moving from blue collar to white collar.

John's Significant Other of nine years is a member of Covenant Presbyterian. He's a NASCAR racing and hockey fan, rooting in particular for the St Louis Blues and Portland Winterhawks. Other hobbies include camping and fishing (bass), but since he works "close to 7 days a week," he doesn't have much time for them. In his "spare time," he does remodeling and maintenance jobs, helping his friends. Maintenance for people who could no longer do their own was part of his deacon work at Westminster in Portland. He also helped with their sound system.

John has been on the Board of Directors of FISH Emergency Services for 3 years, and is a member of the Sandy Planning Commission.



If you would like to send Bettie a note or a phone call, she is at the:  
 Friendship Health Center  
 3320 SE Holgate  
 Portland, OR 97202  
 503-872-1140

My dear, dear friends at Springwater Church

We sometimes wonder if our prayers are answered. Let me assure you that they are. My recent health problems have opened my eyes to the power of friends and of prayer.

When Don sent out the word of my situation, he notified 48 family friends located thru out the country. Our prayer chain at church was notified. Now I have learned that we have received replies back from them all including 4 different church groups and of course you yourselves.

I was concerned with my life facing such extensive procedures at the hospital. But I truly believe that God heard all those prayers and could not refuse to help me.

Through the skilled hands of a surgeon, God saw to the repairs needed and took away major pain. Now though the recovery effort is going to be long and arduous, I know that you and God are with me.

Thank you my friends,

*Bettie Barbee*



### LECTIONARY READINGS

September 4 (PHARAOH WHO?): Exodus 12:1-14, Matthew 18:15-20; Psalm 149

September 11 (WELCOME, STRANGER, communion): Exodus 14:19-31; Romans 14:1-12; Psalm 114

September 18 (BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, HARVEST SUNDAY): Matthew 20:1-16; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

September 25 (FOR THE COMMON GOOD): Exodus 17:1-7; Philippians 2:1-13; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16



**HARVEST SUNDAY AND BLESSING THE ANIMALS**

Sunday, September 18 is Harvest Sunday and the Blessing of the Animals. Tagging on to the Springwater Grange’s Fair on the previous day, we will celebrate the bounty of creation, the harvest of the season, and the joy of animal companionship.

In scripture, the act of blessing means imparting of power or life. To bless is more than an expression of goodwill or caring. To bless is to impart God’s power in person.

In adopting an annual practice of blessing the animals, Springwater follows a Church tradition that goes back centuries. As we bless each animal by name, we mediate health, healing and life from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners.

This is one reason why we don’t just bless the animals present with us in worship that day. We also invite worshipers to bring photos of animals not able to be with us in person, as well as endangered species. As you come to worship on the 18<sup>th</sup>, even if you don’t have a pet or animal you’d like blessed, you are welcome to bring your concern for the threatened animals of our planet.

Please also bring any garden bounty to share with the Estacada Area Food Bank. We’ll fill the sanctuary with produce, and then bring it down to the Food Bank on Tuesday.



**SUNDAY HELPERS**

Please check your calendar to make sure it indicates the Sundays you will be helping in some way for the worship service. If you are unable to meet your commitment, please find a substitute. If you would like to help and have not yet volunteered, speak to the worship elder, Kathleen Souders.

	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>CHILD CARE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>SNACKS</u>
September 4:	R & M Johnson	open	Carol Sturman	M & S Stiles
September 11:	M & K Kirby	open	Deb Ingamells	Round Up
September 18:	R & N Jeppeson	open	Mary Shearer	M & K Kirby
September 25:	D Ingamells	open	Peter Sturman	open

Volunteers are needed still to bring flowers for any Sunday in September.

Christian Education Fall 2011



**Fall Sunday School**

September is here and we are excited to offer Sunday School for all ages beginning on Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to our wonderful and dedicated group of teachers/leaders we will have classes for four separate age groups all starting at 9.30 am (Worship will be back to the 10.30 Winter schedule start time).

Renate Ryan-Jepesson and Deb Ingamells will teach the younger children, Deb Odell and Carol Sturman will teach the older children. Sunday School for youth (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) will be led by Peter Sturman and Kathleen Souders.

Adult Sunday School leadership will be shared by Pastor Eileen, Nona Shearer and Peter Sturman. This fall we will be offering coffee and a doughnut or baked goodie to all who participate in the Adult Sunday School .

During the Fall Round Up Worship Service on September 11<sup>th</sup> we will have an expanded Moment for Mission where the teachers for Fall Sunday school will talk about the classes they will be teaching.

**Youth News**

There will a camp out in the Canyon for the Springwater Youth over Labor Day weekend and starting Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> we will meet as a group for Bible Study and Fellowship on the first Friday of the month.

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CHOIR



Just a heads up. Choir practice will resume again in October. Everyone is invited to join us to sing, have fun and worship God with our voices. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Kathleen Souders. More specific information to come in the next newsletter.



**It's Round Up time again, pardners!**

Put on yer western duds, grab your pals, and c'mon over to the church corral on September 11. This here Round Up ain't just for the Springwater brand. It don't matter if they're wearin' the Springwater brand or not, jest bring 'em along. Rope in your neighbors, friends, folks from school or work. Bring in the strays. It's a day for havin' fun and there's plenty o' room.

We'll set outside for worship an' get an earful of what's cookin' for the coming year. Then we'll mosey on over toward the Grange for a Western-style potluck. Lookin' forward to seein' ya, yer kin, and all your pals on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Springwater  
Currents

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