

Springwater CURRENTS

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

How to survive a war

You know, I wish I had the answers to that for you. How does anyone survive a war? How does anyone survive the aftermath of war? My 10th grade Government teacher used to tell us that “war was beneficial.” He thought it was good for the economy. I’m not going to take valuable newsletter space to argue that one way or the other with you. But I am going to talk about “what Christians do” in a war.

I’ve been talking with other pastors about this—Presbyterians and lots of other denominations. For most of us, war is a new pastoral challenge we haven’t had to meet before. Frankly, it scares me. The Bible has a whole lot to say about war, and there is very little internal agreement, which says to me that war is cultural—it’s about humans, not about God.

The one thing the Bible says consistently is to trust in God. Whether you think this war meets the standards of a “just war” or not, Christians are called to *trust God* and to love each other. Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin word meaning

“commandment.” Jesus’ last words of advice to his disciples were about *loving each other* (John 13:34-35).

All the pastors I talked to agreed on one thing about the “work” of Christians during war: prayer. From all those conversations, this is the list I’ve put together of what exactly Christians need to pray about:

- *Pray for peace
- *Pray for the wisdom and compassion of the leaders of the world
- *Pray for the people fighting the war
- *Pray for forgiveness—all life belongs to God, even the lives of those we think are our enemies
- *Pray for God’s will to be done

Then, keep a close watch out for detecting God’s work in the world. Try to see where God is answering your prayers, and be sure to give God the glory and thanks.

See you in church.

INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH

Session recognizes that Springwater is a special place to be and grow in God’s love, so it has decided to designate one Sunday Invite a Friend to Church Sunday. As committed Christians, it is our humble opinion that most people want a warm and loving acceptance. What better way to let other folks in on that experience than to extend hospitality to them!

Session has chosen May 4 as a special Sunday for inviting family, friends, and neighbors to church! It’s coming the first Sunday in May. Not that *every* Sunday isn’t “hospitality Sunday” for Springwater, because it is! Every Sunday, there is lots of evidence that Springwater folks just like to be with each other. As an extra incentive to invite folks to church, the Springwater Ramblers will be sharing their bluegrass music with us. Start now to talk up the event to your friends, and let’s fill the sanctuary to bursting.

April Birthdays

Kendra Guttridge	2
Judy Coyne	7
Rick Parfrey	17
Eileen Parfrey	18
Patrick Anderson	21



Reach Out to Cuba

We have now received two letters from the Presbyterian Church at Sagua la Grande, Cuba. This is a rich opportunity to expand our mission and grow in our faith.

We can further our bonds with these folks. We can let our friends in Cuba know about us, and you can help. Please write a letter to somebody in the Church at Sagua la Grande. You won't know who will receive your letter now, but when they write back you will be able to learn more about them.

In your letter you can include information about yourself; who you are, how your days are spent, your interests, your family, how things are around here, and, if possible, your photograph. Also, you can ask that they write back.

Correspondence with churches in Cuba through the mail is difficult. However, the Presbytery has information about folks from the denomination who will be traveling to Cuba in the near future. These folks will be glad to act as couriers for our letters to Sagua la Grande.

If you would like to write a letter to Cuba, and we hope you do, please write your letter and give it to a Session member by May 1. Then our letters can be grouped together and sent to our Cuban friends.

If you have any questions, please contact a Session member.



Food Stamp Program

Dear Church Members and Friends

We are asking for your assistance in our efforts to enroll people in the Food Stamp program and other assistance programs. If you or someone you know is having a hard time making ends meet, Food Stamps and other assistance programs can help. And, thanks to changes in the way that income and resources are evaluated, even more Oregonians are eligible for Food Stamps. For more information about Food Stamps and other assistance programs call **Oregon Safenet** hotline at **1-800-SAFENET (1-800-723-3628)**. Or, on line, visit the **Oregon Helps** website at www.oregonhelps.org.

Because some people may be hesitant to admit that they need help, this information in the newsletter allows you, or them, to respond to it in the privacy of their own homes.

The Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force is providing this information to you. Their mission is to end hunger in Oregon. One way of making progress toward this goal is to ensure that anti-hunger government programs such as the Food Stamp Program, are fully utilized.

A copy of the full letter from the Task Force is posted on the bulletin board at church.



Wildflower Walks

(Does this sound familiar?)

We are looking forward to our Clear Creek Canyon hike. It was cancelled last month due to the weather. We will re-schedule when the ground dries out a bit. We already know from experience that footing can be treacherous in rainy weather.

Later this spring we may return to one of our favorite haunts, Wilhoit Springs, south of Molalla. The county is beginning to restore this historic site and we'll check out the work in progress.

AND . . . We still plan for a hike in the Mt. Hood National Forest in late June.

Lend a *Helping Hand*



The Helping Hands Project?? “What is that?” you ask.

In a nutshell it consists of two or three women, or men, who would respond to a need and organize a friendly “help” to an individual or family when there is an illness, a new baby, a death, or a need to get to a doctor’s appointment, etc.

To participate, this is your opportunity to volunteer by marking the attached card accordingly.

The Community Care Committee and the Session would like this project organized and in operation shortly after April 27. Please give your replies to a member of the Community Care Committee or a Session member before April 27, or you can mail your response to the church (PO Box 1017, Estacada) before that date.

If you have any questions or suggestions, call Lucy at 503-518-3124, or Eileen at the church.

TALK BACK



Most parents would find it inconceivable to encourage their kids to “talk back.” But church people aren’t kids and session isn’t a parent. Session is anxious to talk with folks in the church to find out how they think things are going. In business, that’s called a “customer satisfaction survey.” In the church, it’s just simpler to ask folks to “talk back.”

Do you remember last November when a session member or stewardship committee member invited you to an in-home gathering to talk about the stewardship campaign? Everyone said they had a good time and learned a lot about the mission of the church. Now it’s time to get together again and talk about what’s working and what isn’t, as far as *you* are concerned. A couple of groups have already gotten together. When your “contact” calls, say yes, and come prepared to talk back!

REFLECTIONS

Through grace, I have been created to be a living expression of my Creator.

GRACE

Many complex ideas about God and human-kind’s relationship with God have emerged over the centuries. And yet one of the simplest ideas of all is also the most profound: God loves all unconditionally. This realization frees me from criticizing, doubting, or blaming myself for mistakes.

Through the grace of God, I am not only human but also an expression of the divine. God’s joy bubbles forth as my smiles and laughter. God’s wisdom flows through my mind as new ideas. God’s power courses through the cells of my body as energy. God’s compassion moves through my tender words and gentleness to comfort others.

Divine grace has created me, and God’s spirit resides at the core of my being. I am blessed to be a person through whom the work of God is being done.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"
2 Corinthians 9:15

Shared by Debbie Tedrow

CHILDREN TO RECEIVE BIBLES

It is the custom for Springwater to give Bibles to children on or about their fourth grade year. This is exciting and we hope it's a big deal to the young people. We give them the same Bible (New Standard Revised Version) that we have in the pews—with a few minor exceptions. For one thing, their own Bible will have pictures in it (always more interesting!), and there are some great helpers bound into the back of the Bible. Dictionary, who's who, where to find it tools.

This is a wonderful gift from session to young people, indicating that we think they are old enough to start exploring God's Word to them with their own resources. Session also thinks it's a good thing to educate these young people about what they are receiving. For the month of May (except for the 18th), Eileen will be teaching a class during the Sunday School time called "A Walk Through Worship." She will talk about what goes on during our worship services, how to get the most out of it, and resources of the book they will receive on June 8. Parents are invited to attend any and all of these classes.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE SUMMER?



What makes Summer Conference so special? History is one of the reasons. In one expression or another, Summer Conference has been around for over 50 years, and Springwater folks have been a

part of that, as teachers and as participants. Another key: pastors and lay people are together in every aspect of the conference. A final plus: Summer Conference is multi-faceted: worship, education, music, fun meet in the lives of people to the glory of God.

John Anderson was one of the Summer Conference teachers for years, and this year's teachers promise to live up to his fine example. But it's not just about classes for grownups.

Summer Conference is a family place. There are activities to interest people of all ages, and in fact one out of every three participants is under the age of 18! Wow! Great programs for kids, high-quality care for preschoolers, programs for youth.

What if a "conference" isn't your thing?

What if you just want to camp at the beach? Have you thought about Family Camp at Honeyman State Park? Talk to one of the families from our church who attends year after year to find out why they take their vacation with Presbyterians (Jim and Colleen Roden or Steve and Dana Shibley).

What if you like fishing? What if you are really into drama? What if you just want to spend quality time with your kid (or your parent)? Presbytery offers camps with these possibilities as well. Borrow the video from the church library (catch Jim Roden in his premiere screen role), take home one of the brochures (ask Dana Shibley or Cindy Babikoff) and see what there is on offer. Register before the end of May to receive a discount. You can register for Summer Conference online at:

<http://www.mollyguard.com/event/5276783>
or at: <http://www.cascadespresbytery.org>

What if money is a problem?

Session has set aside some money for camperships. We have a limited amount of money, but *nothing* would make session happier than using it to send folks to camp this summer!

Thank You!

Thank you for all your prayers and thoughtfulness during our waiting period and Vernon's surgery. We feel very blessed to have such loving friends who go out of their way to help. Even though our future is still unclear, it is looking brighter now that Vernon is feeling better.

Love,

Kathleen, Vernon, Jennifer &
Tabitha Souders



Lectionary Texts for April

April 6: Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33
It's About Time

April 13: Mark 11:1-11, Mark 14:1-16"47
Philippians 2:5-11 The Story Continues

Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2,
12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17,
31b-35

Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22,
Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42

April 20: Isa. 25:6-9 1 Cor. 15:1-11 Mark 16:1-8
He is Risen! (Don't Tell?)

April 27 Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31 Look Out for Commies

Estacada Family Resource Center

Since the first of January, 2003 our small congregation has given away 2023 pounds of food to the Estacada Family Resource Center. On Sunday, March 23rd we collected 624 pounds. This is about what we gave in the whole year in 2001, and about 2/3 of what we gave all last year. There are always more hungry people to help and children in great need. Don't forget to

~ Shop 'n Share ~

In The Service . .

Morgan Driskell has a new address!

S.A. Driskell, M.L.
STC CODE N7423 - AI
3975 Norman Scott Rd., STE 1
San Diego, CA 92136

You Are Invited!

To our beloved friends and family:

*We followed our hearts
to the kingdom of romance . . .*

Together with our children, we

Karin Crow Lalka

and

Rodney Dale Ryan

request the honour of your presence

at our marriage

on Friday, the twenty-fifth of April

Two thousand and three

at six-thirty in the evening

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Reception following at the

Springwater Grange

Our home address: 25260 S. Ester Court

Estacada, Oregon 9702-Springwater Road

Estacada, Oregon

Maundy Thursday, April 17

This special evening during lent, there will be an ecumenical service at Springwater (the Grange). Potluck at 6:00 (details to follow). We will be celebrating a Christian interpretation of a Passover meal.

What's Session doing ?

At the last stated meeting of Session, on March 3, 2003, Session made the following decisions:

- to give \$388 to help fund the Senior Meals program in Estacada
- to place the balance of 2002 carryover funds into the Capital Improvement Fund
- to designate May 4, 2003 as "Bring A Friend to church
- to endorse Gilbert Shibley's efforts to bring communities together through local churches to talk about new ways to fund Oregon schools. Session agreed to be the place of hospitality in our community.
- to change the date for Communion from May 4th to May 11th.
- to meet in small groups to talk with Eileen and Session members about our church - what's working well and what's not working well.

We Remember You . . .

When we look closely at an old building or a large tree planted over a hundred years ago, our thoughts reflect on the many people who lived here in Springwater many years ago. In 1853, Jacob Kandle moved here and occupied the land where Joe and Wilma live now. He probably built the big barn with its hand-hewn timbers or watched it being built.

Joe's grandfather, Christopher Guttridge, added a few more feet with the lean-to toward the west for cows. After the Columbus Day storm of 1962, Joe and his family struggled to replace the roof that had blown off. With care, it should last a few more hundred years



**SPRINGWATER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P O BOX 1017, ESTACADA, OR 97023
LOCATED AT: 24553 S. SPRINGWATER RD.**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED