

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

March 2011

Table of Contents

Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Calendar of events	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary Readings	3
Getting to Know Us	4
Building & Grounds	5
Bible School for Grownups	6
Sharing During Lent	6
Sharing Calendar	7
Per Capita	8

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Hymn Sing
10:30 Worship
11:15 Fellowship
Deadline for next newsletter:
March 30

Happy Anniversary to:

Kevin & Mary Kirby 3/15
Philip & Janice Armstrong 3/18
Cindy & Chris Babikoff 3/24



Time to
Spring Ahead



March Birthdays

Debbie Ingamells	3/1
Marlee Odell	3/6
Bob Maat	3/11
Tom Deshler	3/14
Gwen Shearer	3/17
Barbara MacKinnon	3/18
Vernon Souders	3/24
Taylor Webb	3/26
Matthew Webb	3/26
Margaret Shearer	3/27
Elijah Hauck	3/31

Events and Calendar for March

March 6 Transfiguration Sunday: celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship; **Feast of Fools** potluck and silly talent show after worship
March 9: 7:00, Ash Wednesday joint service with Eagle Creek Presbyterian Church, at Springwater
March 13: Daylight savings time begins, "SPRING FORWARD"
March 16: Bible School for Grown Ups, 6:00
March 21-25: Spring Vacation for public schools
March 23: **NO** Bible School for Grown Ups, on break for spring vacation
March 23: Knit Nite, 4:30 to 6:30
March 30: Bible School for Grown Ups, 6:00
April 6: Bible School for Grown Ups, 6:00
April 13: Bible School for Grown Ups, 6:00



Pastor's Perspective

It's All About the Journey

When I traveled with young children, rest stops always included checking our progress against the giant map signs provided by the highway department. Without fail, the maps always featured an arrow with the notation, "You Are Here." It never failed to amaze us. "How did they know we'd be here?" we would ask incredulously. GPS devices, of course, have made our game moot, but it was amusing to think that *someone* knew where we were!

Ancient Greek, the language in which the New Testament was written, makes a different assumption. The same word is used for both "come" and "go," a delicious ambiguity about whether "toward" or "away from" really matters, as long as you're moving. Sort of like Lent.

On the Road

The 40-day Lenten fast was accepted practice in the Church by at least the fourth century. Joan Chittister, In *The Liturgical Year*, suggests its development was a way of differentiating Easter from Passover. For a Jew, Passover is a sign of salvation, of "God with us" at a particular moment in history. Christians see Easter as a sign of "God with us" in the past, but also with us now and at a time to come.

Since its earliest times, Lent has been a time to renew one's commitment to Resurrection living. The desire for a fresh start is universal enough that, even in our secular culture, we continue to talk about whether to "give something up" (chocolate, monster car races on TV) or "take something on" (serving at the homeless shelter, mentoring an at-risk student) as a means of growth.

That Greek language quirk makes me think that it really doesn't matter whether you are giving up or taking on, so long as you are "on the road." Renewing one's commitment to experience and practice a deeper relationship with God doesn't really require figuring out whether you are "coming home" or "leaving home," as long as it involves both penance and faith, both purging what is unnecessary and intensifying what is meaningful.

Fast or Slow?

There's a reason why fasting has continued as a Christian practice. Revealing as it does the distance between our self-discipline and our compulsions, voluntary hunger—for food or any of our other

That Greek language quirk makes me think that it really doesn't matter whether you are giving up or taking on, so long as you are "on the road."

Voluntary hunger—
for food or any of
our other obscuring
comforts—heightens
an awareness of
what we carry with
us as we travel.

obscuring comforts—heightens an awareness of what we carry with us as we travel. “God with us” is an important awareness.

Travelers will tell you that the journey always changes them. This Lent, whether you are coming or going, leaving or returning, listen for God’s particular Word to you. Allow it to accompany you on your journey, transforming you.

See you in church.

Eileen



Lectionary Readings

The preaching theme this Lent is “Journeys of Faith.” It seems as if the People of God are always on the move—leaving home, doing an exodus, making a pilgrimage, going into exile, itinerating on some great errand for God.

If the journeys aren’t literal, they are figurative. It has become standard protocol in faith circles to inquire into a fellow traveler’s “faith journey.” What does that mean? How does a person of faith prepare for this journey? If it’s a “journey,” what do you pack? What kinds of maps are available? Is there a GPS system for God?

There is much to explore together during the year’s Lenten journey.

March 13 (OUT AND INTO THE WORLD): Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-11, 22-24; Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 32

March 20 (LEAVING HOME): Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; Psalm 121

March 27 (DANGEROUS TERRITORY): Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42; Psalm 95

April 3 (FOLLOW THE LEADER): 1 Samuel 16:1-13; John 9:1-41; Psalm 23

Welcome to a new regular feature of *Springwater Currents*. We will be getting to know a member of our community each month. I hope you enjoy it.

“I decided early on I wasn’t going to allow myself to get bitter,” she says with a smile. “It’s a daily decision, and it’s not always easy. But like I always said, no matter how broke I was, I could always afford a good attitude.”

Meet Ginger . . .

She goes by “Ginger,” but for years, we’ve thought of her as “Cindy’s Mom.” And, although her parents gave her a longer name at birth, “Mom” is the name that has meant the most to her. Ginger says motherhood was her main job in life and the most fulfilling. She raised four children—Cindy, Merri, David, and Joe (now deceased)—and is now a devoted grandmother.

In fact, that’s how Ginger came to us—a chance to spend time with her grandkids, Brenley, Bryce, and Travis Babikoff. Ginger drives “all the way” to Springwater from Happy Valley, where she lives with her daughter, Merri. It isn’t quite as long a drive for her to be part of the monthly Tuesday volunteer group at Eastminster’s warming shelter.

“It’s no trouble to get there,” she says, because it’s so close to her work at the Multnomah County Sheriff’s office, where she’s part of the support staff for the deputies. Thoughts of retirement have been crossing her mind lately, and she dreams of a warmer climate in a community with good train service. Born in California, raised in North Dakota, Ginger says, “Except for the short time I lived in Phoenix, I haven’t been warm since I was a baby.”

Ginger loves to travel, and it’s a good thing, what with eight surviving siblings scattered across the US in North Dakota, Tennessee, Colorado. Maintaining close family ties requires a willingness to travel. This summer, she and Travis will go to Italy to celebrate his graduation from high school.

“I’m the luckiest person I know,” Ginger says. “I’ve lived the fullest life possible,” and she mentions the closeness of her family as the primary reason for feeling so blessed. It wasn’t always easy for her as a divorced mother, but “I decided early on I wasn’t going to allow myself to get bitter,” she says with a smile. “It’s a daily decision, and it’s not always easy. But like I always said, no matter how broke I was, I could always afford a good attitude.”

What keeps Ginger busy these days is attending the sports events of her grandkids. She reads “everything and anything,” enjoys crafts, and browsing in second-hand stores.



CHURCH WORKDAY

we are not yet ready to schedule a major spring work party, but **we will** have one at our church on a Saturday between the end of spring break (March 25) and start of Holy Week (April 17).

Buildings & Grounds Update

At a recent Wednesday night meeting we decided we needed a work party for outdoor work the following Saturday. An e-mail was sent out that evening to all members who receive e-mail and 12 people showed up at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. Some started working on spreading and smoothing gravel in the parking lot, others realigned and re-anchored the concrete parking stops and still another group built steps to go up the embankment. Lastly, others worked on sprucing up the landscaping. By 11:20 we were all done and ready to enjoy more fellowship by having a lunch together.

What, you didn't get the e-mail and you heard nothing about it? That's because it had nothing to do with the church. It was Dick Scott's flying club based at Mulino Airport and the work was done at the clubhouse.

Must be a big club for 12 people to show up, right? No, there are only about 40 members. So why couldn't our church accomplish as much some Saturday morning? We have in former years. We can again. The buildings and grounds need it and we can all appreciate the boost in spirits that comes from working together and getting it done.

With winter hanging on we are not yet ready to schedule a major spring work party, but we will have one at our church. It will be on a Saturday between the end of spring break (March 25) and start of Holy Week (April 17).

Here are some projects coming up this spring:

- Plant new flowers in front of the ramp plus weed & prune some other plantings.
- Rake and otherwise rejuvenate the pathways beyond the parking lot.
- Insulate the attic of the fellowship hall, and the heating ducts in the crawl space.
- Realign and re-anchor the concrete parking barriers and handicap parking signs.

This will be a work party for the whole congregation by our Building and Grounds Committee. We will get that date settled very soon and let you know. Plan to be there!



BIBLE SCHOOL FOR GROWNUPS!

Bible School for Grown Ups During Lent

It's too bad the kids get all the fun of Vacation Church School, and the grown ups miss out. Not everyone can afford the week of mornings that VCS takes in order to be a volunteer. The Worship Committee's solution is to offer "Bible School for Grown Ups" during Lent this year.

Bible School for Grown Ups will be offered on four Wednesday evenings during Lent (March 16 and 30, April 6 and 13). Each night's activities will begin in fellowship hall with a family meal for all ages. (The Deacons are looking for volunteers to help with food.)

After supper, the children will be dismissed to go downstairs to watch segments of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (under supervision) while the grown ups spend some time unpacking the previous Sunday's scripture.

Then it begins to get fun. Just as we do in VCS, the students will respond to and unpack the scripture in some creative way. That might mean art, drama (costumes, anyone?), poetry or music. Be prepared to be surprised by how much fun it is to learn about the Bible.

Bible School for Grown Ups will be suspended on March 23, because schools will be having Spring Break.



You may be able to print the Sharing Calendar on the next page to use as part of your giving practice. If it is illegible, look for it on our website, at pcusa.org, or at church.

SHARING DURING LENT

What do gardens, floods, bottled water, and refugees have to do with fish? And why does this question come up during Lent?

Every Lent, joining with literally millions of other Christians in many different denominations, the PCUSA shares God's love with people in need by collecting an offering. The offering is divided into roughly one-third portions: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. These three programs support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Clean drinking water, garden plots in which to grow food, access to sewing machines for micro-businesses, and cleaning and health supplies after floods and earthquakes are only some of the practical expressions of these ministries.

And fish? It's an annual part of Lent at Springwater. Every year, our children each receive a "fish bank" to bring home to make their own coin contributions. Look for the Sharing Calendar (at church, on the website, or in the newsletter) and make this part of your family's conversation each day as you add spare change to the fish bank.

We will dedicate the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday, April 17.



Please Consider Paying Your Per Capita Apportionment

Presbyterians use "per capita apportionment" to provide for the administrative expenses of our denomination. It is an apportionment of the denomination's administrative costs on a per-member basis. This year the apportionment is \$22.90 per member. Of this, \$6.50 is for General Assembly, \$5.17 is for the Synod of the Pacific, and \$11.23 is for the Presbytery of the Cascades. Our church paid a total of \$1,419.80, based on 62 members. Some members like to reimburse the church for their per capita apportionment and some do not. Session, in creating this year's budget, choose to assume that \$200 of the apportionment would be reimbursed. Please consider reimbursing the church \$22.90 per member of your household and help Springwater meets its budget.

Thank you!

Gwen Shearer, Accounts Receivable Treasurer



[Return to Home Page](#)

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