

Springwater CURRENTS



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PASTORS PERSPECTIVE

Juggling Our Commitments

When my kids were young, it was an annual event for us to go see the Flying Karamazov Brothers at the Madison Civic Center. The first time I saw the act, I wasn't sure if they were really whacky Russians--too far out for me to understand--or if they were a circus act gone berserk. They were zany, outrageous, high energy.

You know that old trick of spinning plates on tall sticks? The Karamazovs could get dozens going at one time. They were constantly tumbling across the stage as they juggled, snatching objects from each other's juggling routines, flinging improbable things into the air and catching them while flinging more things. The standard juggler's trick of safely keeping airborne sharp knives or flaming torches--old hat for these guys. The grand finale of their act was inviting the audience to give them three things--anything--they'd brought from home for one or more of the Brothers to juggle. The most remarkable finale I can remember involved a chain saw, vacuum cleaner hose and a mixing bowl.

Do you ever feel like that?

Your life is so full, you have so many commitments and activities that you have to juggle activities and demands every waking moment. You have been handed an impossible set of circumstances to keep up in the air, while dashing from one commitment to another. Thank God for ice storms, or we would never catch up on things around the house!

Juggling our Faith

Recently I read something by Oscar Wilde--that notorious scallywag--that made me think about our response to Christ. Wilde said that Christ "is just like a work of art himself. He does not really teach one

anything, but by being brought into his presence **one becomes something**"

As if the purpose of our relationship with Christ isn't about what God **will make of us**. Or how God will use us. Or what we can **accomplish** for God Or even that **we aren't quite lovable** (even to God) until we get straightened around.

Just being in the presence of Christ one "becomes something."

What if That Was True?

Can we believe that? Is it true enough to **base your life on it**? What if the answer to the question, "What's all this about?" was simply "Being." The author of the work quoting Wilde concluded that the faithful response to the gospel of Jesus Christ is simply, "Let yourself be loved; let yourself be acted upon by God."

We've just come out of the time of year made up of a whirl of events, activities, parties, errands, shopping, and **things to do** at every turn. The concept of just "being" is not only something we're dying to do, just "being" seems as impossible as keeping a chain saw, vacuum cleaner hose, and mixing bowl all up in the air.

This time of year, the question we bring to worship is "Who am I? Who is God in the midst of this?" Now that we've been reminded of the awesome fearsomeness of the Incarnation of God, there is all the more reason for asking **where God is** in all of this. The Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ is God whispering in our ears the answer to that all-important question. Who is God, revealed in scripture, in our corporate worship, in our life and work together as the church? What does that mean for who you think you are? (see next page)

**Newsletter Deadline for March
February 16 @ 5:00 pm**

Friends, as your pastor, I'm here to tell you, our faith does not call us to be the Flying Karamazov Brothers. Our lives were never designed to be juggling acts. Join us this month as we ask the most faithful question in our lives--"Who am I? Who is God in the midst of this?" See you in church. *Eileen*

Estacada Family Resource Center

Thanks so very much to Springwater Presbyterian Church for their generous donations of time, money, food and supplies in 2003 to the Estacada Resource Center.

Last year the EFRC served 6,857 people of whom approximately, 2,000 were children. 2,767 food boxes were distributed as well as Easter and Thanksgiving boxes. The volunteers at the center worked 5,124 hours plus miscellaneous volunteers put in 202 hours. In total, 28,345 pounds of food and household items were distributed.

Our thanks to you all and keep up the good work.

Bettie Barbee

Our Neighborhood

Happy New Year. We are now a few weeks into 2004, but we're still dragging some of the load from 2003. The new year didn't end the hunger in our neighborhood. People, even more than before, are still hungry. The jobs aren't opening up, so the needs go on.

We have helped these folks in the past, and we can do it again. When you go shopping, remember those who can't afford to. Everything is needed, food and personal items that food stamps don't cover.

Bring your gifts to the church when you come to worship. The Estacada Family Resource Center and their clients need it. We can serve.

Denominational Talent Scout

The General Assembly (GA) is our denomination's Congress (in a manner of speaking), functioning as the highest level of church governance. The Nomination Committee for GA--our denominational talent scouts--is looking for people willing to act out their discipleship in terms of the larger connectional

church.

Quoting a commissioning service, the Nom Com gives its rationale - The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility."

The Nominating Committee is looking, in particular, for people with specialized skills and interests in finance, law, publishing, investments, and benefits. Right now they need auditors, healthcare executives, persons with financial and investment expertise, persons with funds development expertise.

If you are interested--or know someone who might be--check the website at:

www.pcusa.org/oga/ganc.htm

PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH

Springwater has a long history of praying for each other and for the mission of the church. Sharing joys and concerns is an important part of our weekly corporate worship experience.

A group of dedicated people meets every Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 for one hour to pray for each other, the church, our community and the world. There is an informal covenant among members to continue praying for each other throughout the week, to observe confidentiality about discussions. It is a wonderful, rich way to grow in faith. New members are always welcome!



Hugs Of Thanks



To **Wilma Guttridge** for six years of faithful service as an elder on the session.

To **Nona Shearer** and **Jean McCloskey** for minding the finances of the church--"money in" and "money out."

To **Rick Parfrey, Steve Shibley and Youth group** for beautifully appointed sanctuary at the Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols.

To **Bob Maat** for maintaining electricity and water in the church building.

To **Gary Guttridge** for helping Bob dig nearly to China on behalf of running water in the church.

Pictures



Do you have pictures of how you and your family celebrated the holidays? Do you have any pictures of activities at the church?

If the answer to either, or both, of these questions is yes, please bring them to church and give them to a member of Session or Lloyd Olson. We will be assembling a packet of pictures for our friends in Saqua la Grande Cuba.

What if

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?

What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank Him yesterday?

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the Rain?

What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

What if God took away His message because we failed to listen to them.?

THINK ABOUT THIS ONE

What if God didn't send His Only Begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?

What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?

What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for each others?

What if God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him?

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service???

What if we failed to pass this message on??



Unsung Heroes

Time is precious and That being so, it is one of the most precious gifts we can give. Our time is a gift from God, and the interesting thing about this gift is that God gives *EVERYONE* the same amount. No favoritism here in God's book. Each person gets the same number of hours every day. Period. Sure, there are people who lobby God for an additional two hours--even one or two days a week. But nope, God gives each person only 24 hours each day.

What you do with your equal share of time today is up to you. Will you hoard your time like a miser? Will you throw it away? How about *GIVING* it away? Session is currently looking for a couple of volunteers. You might have already pledged yourself during the stewardship campaign. As the session is organizing itself in the new year, you will be hearing from the elders. But here are a couple of openings that didn't make the November list.

Public Relations: someone to help notify the newspaper of events and activities at Springwater. The same person, or another, to publicize events and programs within the church.

Bulletin board: someone to periodically take things down, to put things up, to give us a fresh look, to make this valuable communication resource in our fellowship hall more eye-catching.

Baby holders: OK, this WAS on the November Pledging Myself card, but there is always room for more. If 25 people signed up to hold babies, you would only be out of the sanctuary twice a year. Besides, we now have a speaker in the basement, so you can still listen in on the service. And, you are never alone as a baby holder. We have so many willing and able young people who assist in this precious ministry.

February Birthdays

Kathleen Leonard	7
Alder Shibley	8
Houston Webb	12
Susan Horton	12
Don MacKinnon	12
B. Anne Beecroft	14
Scott Clatt	21
Gary Guttridge	21
David Rigby	25
Bill Varitz	28
Susie Krueger	28



Leadership Fair

The annual Cascades Presbytery Leadership fair will be Saturday, February 21st from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at Lake Grove Presbyterian in Lake Oswego. Keynote speaker is Dr. Syngman Rhee, formerly Moderator of the General Assembly.

Last year, Springwater was the largest contingency in attendance. A full range of this year's workshop will help to enlarge your faith and deepen your understanding. Rick Parfrey is chairing the Opening Doors Task Force, which will have two workshops at the event. Another workshop of special interest is "The Earth is the Lord's: Greening Your Summer Kid's Program." Sponsored by the Presbytery's Eco-Justice Team, participants will receive tool kits for Vacation Church School.

If you would like to attend this enriching event, please contact a session member for registration materials and details about the workshops. Funding is available to assist in paying for the registration. Lunch is provided as part of the registration.

Newcomer In Colton

The Reverend Janna Adams was installed as the new pastor at Colton Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 25th. Pastor Adams grew up in Springfield, Oregon, went to seminary in California, and just moved with her family from serving a church in North Dakota. She and her husband have three small children.

We look forward to getting to know her in our shared ecumenical ministries.



Heifer International Continues to feed the hungry

How much of a gift would you need to substantially improve your standard of living, Perhaps say, from starvation to hunger? Most of us don't think in terms like this, but millions of people face some pretty dire futures.

We can help. If you care to find out about the difference that a heifer, a few chickens, or a duck can make, just read some of the letters that have been sent to Heifer International. A current gift list for Heifer International is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. You can either give one of the listed gifts, or a portion of a gift. The need is there, and the system works. Give it some prayer.



Hospitality

[Thanks to the Waunakee Connector for portions of the list]

Church growth experts tell us that 85% of the people who come to church for the first time are there because a friend or family member invited them. Whether these folks return depends on how welcome they feel when they come. *How* do we do that? No one intends to make visitors feel uncomfortable. Here are some suggestions, in the form of questions, to help you think about your "hospitality quotient."

- *When I arrive at church, do I go toward my old friends?
- *When I enter the sanctuary, do I look around to see if there is an unfamiliar face and go to greet them?
- *Do I arrive at church by 10:30 so the service can begin on time?
- *Do I note who is attending church alone and make an effort to speak to them or sit beside them?
- *Do I wear a name tag so others can feel free to call me by name?
- *When I am the first to sit in the pew, do I move toward the center so late comers will be able to get in easily?
- *Did I notice the one who seems lonely or upset, and go to them and ask if they are okay?
- *When I'm recruiting volunteers, do I ask someone new to help?
- *Do I invite newcomers to join me/us for a meal?

Youth Group: Sharing the Fruits of Their Labor

After a successful year of construction projects (bird and bat houses), sales earning \$490 were deposited, half into the Youth Mission Fund and half into the Youth Play Fund. To close out the year in 2003, we answered the call when it was announced during moment for mission that 10 Thanksgiving baskets were left to purchase at the Family Resource Center. The Youth Group donated the \$200 to pay for these much needed baskets of food!

Next the Youth Group were putting socks on the Christmas Families' feet--some 30+ pairs!! Plus we purchased two 80 load laundry boxes, toilet paper, paper towels, 10 toothbrushes, shaving gel, shampoo, lotion, and general cleaning products.

Then we spread more Holiday cheer by donation a case of peanut butter to the Family Resource Center through the Churches weekly food basket offering.

2004 looks to be a fun and busy year. The Youth Group is exploring a variety of Mission related projects and will keep you posted!!

In the mean time, We are tapping into our Play Fund. By the time you read this, we will have already returned from a long fun Sunday afternoon of swimming in the Warm Springs of Kah-Nee-Tah's village pool !!!

From the Youth Group,
To our church family, **THANK YOU**
FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

What's All This Foolishness?

Presbyterians are not known for their silliness. But the apostle Paul was proud to say he was a "fool for Christ" (2 Corinthians 11) and St Francis described himself as a "Clown of God." Before we get down to the serious business of Lenten disciplines, let's do something silly together. New Orleans goes all out for Mardi Gras--and we certainly aren't advocating that much partying--but we can embrace any excuse for fun on the last Sunday before Lent.

Come to a potluck at the Grange after worship. Then plan on sharing your "silly talents" with each other. The Gargle Sisters may still be in town that weekend. Join us for some "serious fun."



Sunday Lectionary For February

February 1: Known and Loved--
Anyhow (Jeremiah 1:4-10,
1 Corinthians 13:1-13,
Luke 4:21-30)

February 8: Out of Slavery (Isaiah 6:1-13,
1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11)

February 15: Called To Be Not Futile
(Jeremiah 17:5-11, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20,
Luke 6:17-26)

February 22: How to Live Uncomfortably
(Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2,
Luke 9:28-36)--Transfiguration Sunday,
Feast of Fools, communion

February 29: First Sunday in Lent (Deuteronomy
26:1-11, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13)

LOOKING AHEAD TO EVENTS

Two exciting annual event are coming up

The **2004 Mission Conference** will be May 1-2 (lay conference) and May 2-4 (pastor's conference) in Newport, Oregon. Focusing on mission and stewardship, this annual event features worship, workshops, and fellowship--and a great location.

The **2004 Cascades Summer Conference** will be July 11-16 at Linfield College in McMinnville. This event is always keynoted by a speaker of national reputation. In addition to daily worship (morning and evening) and two week-long workshop/class activities, there are great opportunities for fellowship and recreation. The music is outstanding, as are church musicians' enrichment opportunities. This years keynoter is the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, president of McCormick Seminary in Chicago. Her topic is "Christian Confession in a Multi-Faith World: Implications for Congregational Leadership." Cynthia was the preacher at Pastor Parfrey's ordination in Madison, Wisconsin.

Some things to Ponder.....

What is a Muslim? What are the basic ideas of the Islamic faith? How did the Bible become the Book we know today? How old is the Bible? Can you incorporate Spirituality into your everyday life? Would Spirituality offer your life peace, rest, renewal? What do Presbyterians believe? How have recent events impacted the people of Warm Springs? What can we do to help? How are our values or perceptions of current events shaped by media? Does a book have to be religious to impact us spiritually?

If you have attended our adult Sunday school classes these past five months, you may have answers for some of these questions.

So, why should I attend adult Sunday school? Things to make you go Hmmmm.

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| 1. It's fun. | 7. A great place to gain new perspectives. |
| 2. It's social. | 8. No one will laugh at you.
(Only with you, I promise.) |
| 3. You can be a student. | 9. It's spectacular fellowship. |
| 4. You can be a teacher. | 10. We can learn things together. |
| 5. Meaningful discussions abound. | 11. We need your insights. |
| 6. It's good modeling to our youth. | 12. It's virtually painless! |

If that isn't invitation enough, here's a little peek at some upcoming events. Come and read with us *lectio divina*. Curious? We can satisfy that! Also, we will be doing a unit called Living as Peacemakers in a Violent World which promises to be educational and entertaining! Sunday mornings, 9:30am, see you there!!!

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