

Dec 2005
through
Jan 2006

In this issue

Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Session Notes	4
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	3

Happy Birthday!

December

Kathy Scott	6
Rod Ryan	10
Dana Shibley	15
Grace Minor	21
Kevin Kirby	22
Jim Roden	28
Valerie Webb	28



January

Lucy Olson	6
Micah Shibley	7
Wilma Guttridge	16
Helen Minor	21
Ruth Cromer	24
Jennie Lou Poore	24

Happy Anniversary

December

Rick & Eileen Parfrey 16

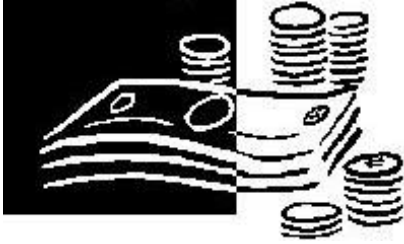


Advent & Christmas Events here at Springwater P C

Dec 4	Greening of the church
Dec 7	Advent vespers 7:00
Dec 14	Advent vespers 7:00 (Taize)
Dec 17	Children's Christmas story telling party - 3:00 at church
Dec 18	Caroling - meet at church 4:00 potluck at Fisher's
Dec 21	Advent vespers 7:00
Dec 24	Service of Lessons & Carols - 7:30
Dec 25	Christmas Day, worship at 10:30 communion
Jan 1	New Year's Day, worship - 10:30
Jan 8	Epiphany & communion
Jan 15	Annual meeting (election of officers, thanking retiring officers, year-end reports)

Complete listing of Community & Church Events - see page 6

FINANCE



Is Your Pledge Paid?

The year is drawing to a close. That means that the church has financial obligations to pay before 2005 is over. The latest figures show that we are about 7% behind in meeting this year's budget.

Have you paid your pledge in full yet? Your church is counting on you. Thank you!

Estate Planning Seminar, Dec. 3.

Got a favorite charity or favorite church? (insert Springwater Presbyterian Church here) Want to help out someone special when you graduate from life? Or do you have someone in mind you want to take care of your kids if something tragic should happen to you? To be sure your wishes are fulfilled, you can't wait until after you die. You have to do the legal stuff when you are still alive. Kinda obvious, right?

We'll help you save money and do it right at our Estate Planning Seminar on Saturday, December 3, 9 'til noon. Register in advance online at our church's website, <http://www.springwater-pres.org/> or by mail using the form provided. For more info, see Dick Scott, 503-630-4739.

Presenters will be Eric Chavis from the Presbyterian Foundation and Richard Schneider, a lawyer from Portland who specializes in estate planning.

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR - DECEMBER 3

Springwater Presbyterian Church

9:00am - Noon

Registration \$5.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Phone number: _____ Email _____

Please fill out this form and bring it to church or mail it with your check for \$5.00 to:

Springwater Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 1017
Estacada, Oregon 97023

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

One of the first things we learned in seminary theology class is that “God acts first.”

It's Not About Me?

Ah, Advent! The time of year when each day brings news of yet another thing unaccomplished, yet another obligation to meet.

No, wait. That isn't the Advent message. That's the message we get in every store and around every corner from Halloween onward: “If you really loved your family” That's the message that unfolds with all the Sunday advertising supplements starting the week of Thanksgiving: “You can buy love!” That's the message the magazine covers trumpet at us as we stand in line at the check out counter: “101 Ways to Make Things And Take Up Time!”

In the famous words of Rick Warren, “It's not about you.” The wonderful message of Advent is the same message we've been hearing from God for 2,000 years: “It's not about you.”

God Starts It

One of the first things we learned in seminary theology class is that “God acts first.” So when I tell you Advent is not “about you,” I'm sure you've already guessed that Advent is about God's work. The only part about us in Advent is the part about preparing for the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ.

On the other hand (and this is not at all contradictory), Advent truly is all about us. That's why the liturgical color for Advent is purple or blue. These are colors that remind us of penitence. And penitence is necessary when we tell the truth about ourselves in relation to God.

It's Not About Christmas, Either

The truth-telling that happens in preparation for Christmas is a truth-telling that makes emotional and spiritual room for the Christ Child. The early Church viewed Advent as a “little Lent,” a time of “clearing the decks” of distractions, bad habits—all the things that keep our full attention from the radical truth of God's grace coming in human form.

Shopping, gifting, feasting, partying are all recent innovations to Christmas in church history. Competitive celebration—outdoing one another in gestures of love and generosity—was never St Francis' intention when he invented the Christmas crèche. When St Francis re-enacted the Bethlehem scene with farm animals gathered around a mother and new child, he did so hoping that on-lookers would be filled with a sense of the holiness and compassionate love that would compel the Maker of Creation to take on created flesh.

Maybe this Advent you will find time to do a little deck clearing of your own, so you can truly see the Gift the manger contains.

See you in church.



Competitive celebration—outdoing one another in gestures of love and generosity—was never St Francis' intention



LECTIONARY READINGS

The preaching theme for Advent this year is “Treasures.” Each week we experience a different dimension of the divine treasure we know as the Incarnation of God, Jesus Christ.

November 27 First Sunday of Advent (Judgment as Treasure): Mark 13:24-37; Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-29 (we will be celebrating Communion)

December 4 Second Sunday of Advent (Temporary Treasure): Mark 1:1-8; Isaiah 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2, 8-13 (greening of the church after worship)

December 11 Third Sunday of Advent (Treasure Sprouts): John 1:6-8, 19-28; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:47-55

December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Brand Spanking New Treasure): Luke 1:26-38; 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; or Luke 1:47-55

December 24 Christmas Eve (we will be celebrating a Service of Lessons and Carols): Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20

December 25 Christmas Day (Sunday) (Treasure the Child): Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-14; Isaiah 62:6-12; Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 97

January 1 New Year’s Day, First Sunday after Christmas, World Day of Peace (Treasure of Light): Luke 2:22-40; Genesis 1:1-5; Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 148

January 8 Second Sunday after Christmas, Epiphany (Treasured Gifts): Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (we will be celebrating Communion)

January 15 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins 1/18 (Serving When the Implications Are Vague): 1 Samuel 3:1-20; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

January 22 (God Doesn’t Waste a Thing): Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20; Psalm 62:5-12 (congregational annual meeting this date)

January 29 (The Wrong Sort of Success): Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28; Psalm 111

Youth Group

Want to know more?
Call Steve Shibley, Jim Roden or Peter Sturman for events, dates and any other information. Every one from 5th grade through high school is invited to participate.

Bring your friends with you, they will have fun too.

Who should you call?

Pastor
Moderator of Session
Eileen Parfrey

Clerk of Session
Communications
Kathryn Scott

Treasurer/Stewardship
Nona Shearer

Buildings & Grounds
Renate Jeppeson

Christian Education
Cindy Babikoff

Community Care
currently vacant

Mission Discernment
Susan Horton
(not currently on Session)

Mission Study
Gwen Shearer
(not currently on Session)

Personnel
Nona Shearer

Worship
Judy Coyne

Wedding/Funeral
Coordinator
Bettie Barbee
(not currently on Session)



Notes

Session met on Tuesday November 8th for their regular monthly meeting.

The buildings and Grounds committee chair, Renate Jeppeson, reported that some outside areas of the church, including the steeple, are starting to peel and expose wood to the elements. To protect the building, it needs to be painted, even if only in the very specific areas where the paint is deteriorating. We currently have only \$1,100 available for paint, which is not enough. Renate continues to look for ways to do the necessary work. The renters in the manse have given notice that they are leaving, so we are looking for some good people to live in the house. Much thanks to Gilbert Shibley for doing the furnace maintenance for this year.

The Christian Education chair, Cindy Babikoff, reported that Mary Kirby, Barbara Shibley & Susan Horton have been looking at the basement and figuring out how to make it inviting for the children. The committee is thinking of ways to encourage better attendance in Sunday School and are currently looking at Sunday evenings as a possible change that might give more families the chance to participate.

The Community Care Committee members have arranged to have 3 Christmas families for the congregation to adopt. In addition, the youth group will be responsible for a family as well. Jean McCloskey has offered to organize a one-time small group dinner occasion as a way for people to get better acquainted. Session was very pleased to accept her offer.

The Mission Interpretation Committee will do an un-bazaar. It will include information on all the giving opportunities for Advent. The Session commends Susan Horton for all of her work in Mission Interpretation. She's been doing a great job and we are grateful.

Session agreed to order 10 Mission Yearbooks and enough Children's Mission Yearbooks for each family with children to have a copy for study and prayer.

Session very regretfully accepted Debbie Tedrow's request to be removed from membership.

The meeting was closed with prayer as Session members passed the peace and went out to do God's work.

Kathy Scott
Clerk of Session



One
great hour
of sharing

The
Self-Development



of
People



Ending Hunger,
Caring for the Earth



Mission Notes

Disaster Relief. As this is being written, the intrepid Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [PDA] team from First Presbyterian Church, Salem, is flying home from Gautier, MS, to share Thanksgiving with their families in the Willamette Valley. Just before he left for the airport, the team leader, Wes Carter, wrote: "The job certainly isn't accomplished yet and won't be for years. But, your help, the help of our friends throughout Oregon...have made our Katrina mission trip successful...". Your giving, through the Peacemaking offering, contributed to the success of this trip." We'll be hearing more about Gautier, and how people of faith can work together under incredible odds.

Christ-Centered Holiday. Under the sponsorship of the Community Care committee, we will have the opportunity to contribute to the Christmas of four Estacada families. Over the years, this has been a chance to make a gift of the spirit in celebration of the greater Gift of the Christ Child. We would invite Springwater families to consider alternative gift-giving among themselves. Prompted by the Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway? curriculum, prepared by Alternatives for Simple Living, and distributed by the Presbyterian Hunger Program, we will be suggesting gifts, made in the name of justice, that can be an expression of regard and respect for your loved ones, and affect the lives of others. We know from our Mission Outreach survey of last spring that several Springwater folks have a long tradition of giving Heifer International gifts, and Lloyd will talk of how far a small gift goes in the hands of HI participants. Margaret will remind us of the Christmas Joy offering, and how half of the proceeds contribute to the support of ethnic Presbyterian-related colleges, such as Sheldon Jackson, where she has volunteered. And Susan will give us updates on the Gautier families who will be observing Christmas in homes that are still missing walls and roofs.

Special Offerings in 2006. The Session has endorsed three Special Offerings beyond our general mission giving, One Great Hour of Sharing [OGHS], Heifer International, and Peacemaking. The OGHS offering receives donations for 3 agencies, PDA, Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. This last year, from the tsunami to Katrina and Rita to the Midwestern tornadoes, has seen each of these agencies deploy resources throughout the world. You are a generous people, and we hope that you consider each of these offerings with an open heart.

Forecasting...The editor asked us to project Mission Outreach and Interpretation activities for the coming year. We are looking forward to the outcome of the Mission Study, and its guidance, to continue to our discernment process, begun last spring. We anticipate further Heifer International interpretation, and exploration of our opportunities for Hunger Ministry. And, every week, we will continue to walk with our neighbors through contribution to the Estacada Family Resource Center.

Susan Horton



The Manse Needs New Renters

The house has three bedrooms, two baths, and has two stories. It rents for \$900/month plus utilities. Contact Renate Jeppeson at 503-637-6855 for more information.

The Family Resource Center Needs You!

If you can spare one hour a month, and are interested, you could be a member of the board of directors of the Estacada Family Resource Center.

Meetings are always on the second Thursday of each month. Reports are heard and activities are planned. New ideas are needed and you can be of great help. If you're interested, contact Bettie Barbee.

Important Dates for Your Calendar



- December 1: worship committee meeting, 5:30
- December 4: greening of the church (immediately after worship)
- December 4: ecumenical scripture reading service and potluck at St Aloysius in Estacada, 4:00
- December 5: metro-area Taize service, 7:00 pm, St Mary's Cathedral, Portland
- December 7: Advent vespers service, 7:00
- December 13: session, 6:00
- December 14: Advent vespers, 7:00 (Taize worship)
- December 17: children's Christmas story telling party, 3:00 at church
- December 18: caroling party, meet at church at 4:00, potluck at Fisher's afterwards
- December 21: Advent vespers, 7:00
- December 24: Service of Lessons and carols at church, 7:30
- December 25: Christmas Day, worship service at 10:30, celebrating communion (no Sunday School)
- January 1: New Year's Day, worship service at 10:30 (no Sunday School)
- January 8: celebrating Epiphany with communion
- January 15: Springwater congregational annual meeting (election of officers, thanking retiring officers, year-end reports)

Mid-Week Services DURING Advent

Mid-week vesper services will take place around the Advent wreath during Advent. These services will feature candle-lighting, stories, and music. Appropriate for all ages, children will especially appreciate the stories bringing the much-anticipated birth of the Christ Child into a more immediate understanding. Grown ups will appreciate the low-key refocusing time of refreshment an often hectic season. Give yourself an early gift this year and plan to attend at 7:00 November 30, December 7, 14, and 21.



Springwater Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 1017
Estacada, Oregon 97023
Forward & Address Correction

“Encounters with God”
Touchpoints
Vol. 5

PROUD OF SPRINGWATER’S POET

Lloyd Olson, Springwater’s own poet, was published again in Touchpoints, the annual literary publication of the Presbytery of the Cascades. The theme of this year’s Touchpoints was “Encounters With God.” You can read Lloyd’s poem of the same title in the Springwater library copy of Touchpoints, or you may purchase your own copy from Circuit Rider Books for \$2.50 (they make lovely gifts!).