

April, 2005

In this issue

Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Session Notes	8
Pastor's Perspective	2
Lectionary	4
Kid's page	7

Sunday Schedule

Christian Education
for all ages
9:30-10:15am

Worship
All ages are welcome
10:30 - 11:45 am

Nursery & child care
available during
worship



April

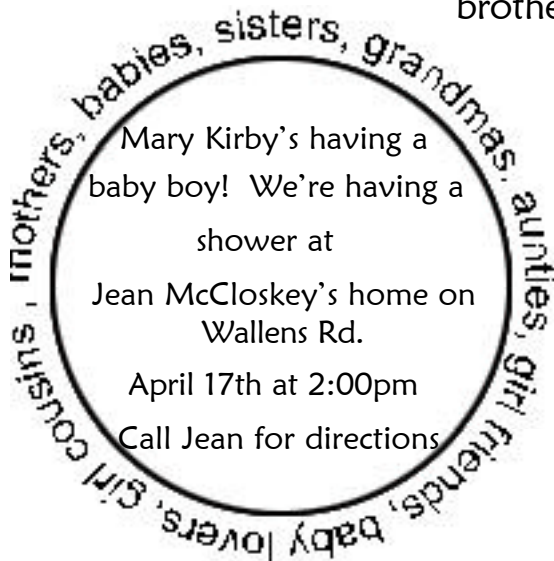
Kendra Guttridge	2
Gilbert Shibley	5
Judy Coyne	7
Rick Parfrey	17
Eileen Parfrey	18
Patrick Anderson	21
Debbie Tedrow	21

Rodney & Karin Ryan	25
Peter & Carol Sturman	26

April 3



Cortlan Matthew Souders
son of Kathleen & Vernon Souders
brother of Jennifer & Tabitha



This is a very diverse congregation. We hold deeply divergent political views, widely varying theological opinions, and an enormous variety of values.

Dates & Times to Remember

Taizé Service
Friday, April 8th-7:30pm

Prayer Group
Tuesday afternoons
at 2:00pm at church
All are welcome

Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Pastor's office hours
Tuesdays at 4:30-6:30pm

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Last month I celebrated five years with you as your pastor. All the pasturing how-to books say that something happens at the fifth anniversary of the pastor/congregation relationship. It's about trust, they say. About this time, the congregation begins to believe that The New Pastor might stick around, and it's time to embark on some new adventures together.

They might be right.

Who are we? What are we doing here?

In the last couple of months, session has invited the Mission Outreach committee to begin a discernment process. You will be learning more about this as the committee (chair Susan Horton, Barbara Shibley, Lloyd Olson, and Peter Sturman) solicits the whole congregation's input into ways we might "be the church" in our community.

Session has also commissioned a Mission Study (chair Gwen Shearer, Renate Ryan-Jeppeson, Colleen Roden, Don MacKinnon, Dana Shibley, Peter Sturman). Although Springwater did a mission study in 1998, as part of the process for calling a new pastor, presbytery recommends that a mission study process take place at least every five years. Perhaps we are overdue, or perhaps this is just God's timing. The Mission Study committee is charged with asking the macro questions: who are we, what are we good at, what are the needs of the community around us, to what does God call us?

Far from being a duplication, these two committees each bring to the process a particular way of answering the "so what?" questions about being the church. That both enterprises should emerge almost simultaneously feels like a message to me. This congregation is now ready to grow in faith together, ready to own the past in a new way, ready to embrace a future together that we don't exactly have spelled out yet.

This is an exciting time to be in Springwater. That doesn't mean it will always be a comfortable time. After 115 years, we have a lot to build on, a lot to be thankful for. And we have a lot to honor and set aside for a time. Our God is famous for declaring, "Behold, I am doing a new thing."

Not in my back yard you aren't!

The combined 1998 Mission Study and the process of writing the Church Information Form which called me, articulated something which continues to shape us. This is a very diverse congregation. We hold deeply divergent political views, widely varying theological opinions, and an enormous variety of values. The conclusion the session and Pastoral Nominating Committee came to in 1998 was that the single biggest challenge to this congregation was to honor the diversity

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another

while maintaining a “church family.”

This is still true. The Mission Study committee has the challenge of honoring our diversity while affirming what it is that holds us together. This means we are going to have to consciously agree to some ground rules for discussing things that might be controversial. This means we are going to have to learn to separate opinions (which might vary) from persons (whom we love in Christ). This means we are going to have to decide to forgive one another—and decide to accept that forgiveness ourselves!

All of this will be a challenge, but we believe that accepting that challenge is what makes Christian community different from the rest of the world. Jesus charges his disciples with it on Maundy Thursday: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

See you in church.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN APRIL

There will be two adult classes offered, starting in April. But first, on April 3 we'll all meet together.

Iconography

Stasia Van Buskirk will make an exciting Power Point (slides and graphics) presentation on Greek iconography. Why are those paintings so flat and stylized? What do they mean? Why do Eastern Orthodox Christians find them holy? Can Presbyterians learn anything about their own faith from studying this strange practice?

Many of you will remember Stasia from worship with us at our monthly Taize services, as well as preaching here in Eileen's absence. Now certified to seek a call as a Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament, she taps her ethnic background and theological training to give a very accessible presentation on the mysterious Orthodox practice of praying with icons.

Lectio Divina

Starting April 10th at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings, Gwen Shearer will be leading an Adult Sunday School class that will read the lectionary readings for the day, meditate upon them, pray about them, listen for God's word and how we might respond to it, and then share any insights that are appropriate. This is not so much a class as group getting together to read, pray, and share. Anyone can drop in on any Sunday and join the group. The class will continue until June when Sunday School classes will stop for the summer. Other Adult Sunday School classes will also be offered during this time, so you will have a choice!



Sacred Story

Every person's
life story is
precious, and sharing
our story is the most
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can give.

Also starting April 10, we'll be asking a holy question, "What is my story?" Every person's life story is precious, and sharing our story is the most precious gift we can give. Nobel Peace Prize winner, Elie Wiesel, says that "every story contains the spark of the eternal."

But how do we even begin to tell that story? Looking back on one's lifetime can feel intimidating or unimportant. It is actually a spiritual practice. But how does a person even begin to remember 40 or 60 or 90 years of experience? And once it's remembered, who cares? What can I learn from my own life story? Where was God while my life was going on? Wilma and Joe Guttridge recently attended a class in personal story-writing at our denomination's Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.

Springwater is filled with fabulous stories and talented story-tellers. That can sometimes make "ordinary folks" hold back. But each story is sacred, because it is your story. The class will give some structure and direction for learning to find our own stories, whether you like to tell your story or whether you feel more comfortable writing your story. Wilma Guttridge and Eileen Parfrey will teach together.

Springwater Presbyterian Church Financial Report as of February 28, 2005

Two months or 17% of the year has come and gone and our General Funds income is keeping pace with our General Funds expenses. Here are the numbers:



General Funds Income	\$12,813.76	16% of anticipated
General Funds Expenses	<u>\$12,530.05</u>	15% of budget
Net gain	\$283.71	

Most of our General Fund income comes from your pledges. It makes a real difference to us if you can keep your pledge amount current. Your first quarter giving reports will be available by April 3. Please check to see if you are keeping up with your pledged amount.

So far 13 members have donated their per capita of \$21 per member. If every member came through we would have \$1200 more to spend on the ministry and mission of this congregation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Rev. Jim Wallis will speak on Sunday, April 17 at 7:00 pm at First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Ave., Portland. His topic is "Common Ground Through Higher Ground." Author of God's Politics: Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It, Rev. Wallis offers a new vision for faith and politics in America that will challenge your assumptions and give you renewed hope in what we can accomplish together. He is a preacher, activist, author, and founder of Sojourners community, based in Washington DC. Tickets are \$15 and will benefit the Presbyterian ministry on the PSU campus. For information and tickets, contact Elizabeth Winslea, 503/226-7807 X 104 or winslea@pdx.edu



Youth Group meets:

2nd Fri. at 6:00 pm
Includes
Taize service
and
4th Sunday
after church

LECTIONARY READINGS

April 3 (What Happened When You Weren't Here Last Week):
John 20:19-31; Acts 2:14a, 22-33, Psalm 16

April 10 (Bread for the Road): Luke 24:13-35; Acts 2:14a, 36-41;
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

April 17 (Surely, Goodness, and Mercy): John 10:1-10; 1 Peter
2:19-25; Psalm 23

April 24 (Growing My Way?): John 14:1-14; 1 Peter 2:2-10, Psalm
31:1-5, 15-16

Daylight Savings Time April 3





Kids hear what
is happening
even if it looks
like they're
wiggling



WHY WE ASK KIDS TO STAY IN CHURCH

With apologies to Anne LaMott, who wrote a piece regarding this question for her son, "Why I Make Sam Go to Church." It is published in *Traveling Mercies*.

When the worship committee revised the order for worship several years ago, we were very intentional about keeping the children in the worship service until after the scripture reading. Why? When kids wiggle so much (and cause their parents so much anxiety), why do we make them stay?

Because we cared enough to baptize them (and when we did, we all promised to nurture them in their faith until the time when they can affirm it on their own).

Because we think kids hear what is happening (even if it looks like they're wiggling).

Because we want the children's sermon to happen in the context of scripture (otherwise, it's just "entertainment").

If you have any doubts about the wisdom of this, your mind might have changed in the worship service a couple of weeks ago. The pastor was reading the story of Ezekiel and the vision of dry bones. That's Ezekiel 37:1-14, if you want to check it out. As God interprets for the prophet what has just happened with the dead bones coming to life, God says this is about Israel: "I will place my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord have spoken and will act."

That being said, a three-year-old wiggler cheered loudly, "Yaaah!"

That was just exactly right. There have been other times during scripture reading when little ones responded aloud to what was being read. One time the littlest children took turns repeating "the Lord!" every time it was mentioned during the psalm reading.

This means the children are paying attention. Even though they are squirming, they are hearing God's Word.

And that's why we ask them to stay in church until after the scripture reading.

ESTACADA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Help support them with food and money

They assist families and individuals facing a crisis. They help in cases of emergency by providing 3-day food boxes, rental, energy and employment assistance, kid's car seats, nutrition and budgeting classes, information on food stamps, public health, and social services. EFRC also provides the community with the Christmas Basket Program. Open Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm and the last Saturday of each month. Please help EFRC through your continued offering of food and money.

What is Session doing?

The last Session meeting was held March 13 after church.

Session received a certificate from Cascades Presbytery thanking Springwater for our contributions to Mission Partnership giving. Presbytery uses this money to fund programs and services to it's 126 congregations.

Session voted to accept Kathleen and Vernon Souders request to have Courtlan Matthew baptised. The service will take place on April 3 during worship.

The Buildings & Grounds committee will hold Spring Cleaning Day on May 7th. All volunteers are welcome to come and help spruce up our church building. Work day is always fun, working together, making new friends and getting to do God's work together.

Session has agreed to read the book "Holy Conversations" together as training.

Session has agreed to call an audit committee to review our books and records from 2004.



David Laschober has offered to clean our church building once a week! Way to go David!

Springwater Presbyterian Church
24553 S. Springwater Rd.
Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction

