

A Place of Worship, nurture, and service for the people of God of all ages.

MARCH 2009

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Sunday Schedule

9:45am
Hymn Sing

10:00am
Worship

11:15am
Fellowship

11:30-12:30pm
Varying Activities

Deadline for next
newsletter:

March 20



March Birthdays

- 1 Debbie Ingamells
- 6 Marlee ODell
- 8 Phillip Bittman Jr
- 11 Bob Maat
- 14 Tom Deshler
- 17 Gwen Shearer
- 18 Barbara Mackinnon
- 24 Vernon Souders
- 26 Matthew Webb
- 26 Taylor Webb
- 27 Margaret Shearer
- 31 Lydia Bashaw



Anniversaries

- Janice & Phil Armstrong - 18
- Cindy & Chris Babikoff - 24

Special Days in March

- World Day of Prayer — March 6, 2009
- Daylight-Saving Time begins — March 8, 2009
- St. Patrick's Day — March 17, 2009
- First Day of Spring — March 20, 2009

Special Holy Days in April

- Palm Sunday — April 5, 2009
- Maundy Thursday — April 9, 2009
- Good Friday — April 10, 2009
- Easter — April 12, 2009



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Biblical advice for times like this is counter to everything we learned about frugality. Jesus' model is, "Share first, save second, spend last."

Prayer is supposed to be paying attention to God, and praying out loud is making room for others to pay attention to God with you.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 is always the Ash Wednesday reading. Each year, it seems, we're told **how NOT to give alms and pray and fast**. NOT like the hypocrites! This year I decided to try for something positive from the text.

Almsgiving

These are hard economic times. Families, churches, states all feel the crunch. Corporations are on the verge of bankruptcy, whole industries are about to disappear, and unemployment is at double digit levels.

Biblical advice for times like this is counter to everything we learned about frugality. Instead of mourning that "life is not what it has been," Jesus' model is, "Share first, save second, spend last." It almost sounds like something our Master Recycler would say: reduce, reuse, recycle.

Part of my Lenten practice this year will be to **take a hard look at all my "stuff"**—what can I donate to Goodwill or some other worthy cause, what can I mend or repair, where can I simply not consume?

Praying

Most people would rather eat raw slugs than pray out loud in public. What's so holy about following Jesus' instruction to pray in secret? Isn't that what we do naturally?

The times I've felt most uncomfortable about praying out loud have been when I didn't think I sounded holy enough for the other people hearing my prayer. When I'm measuring my prayers by what I think my listeners want to hear, it's as if I'm saying to God and everyone around me, "Enough about me! What do you think of me?"

Prayer is supposed to be paying attention to God, and praying out loud is making room for others to pay attention to God with you. That means giving the One I'm addressing (God) a chance to be heard. Part of my Lenten practice this year will be to **listen for God when I pray**.

Regarding Fasting

We Americans have an unhealthy relationship with food. We eat too much and go on crazy diets or under-eat or eat food that is not good for us. I find that I spend an enormous amount of creative energy on deciding what to eat and when and with whom.

When my children were young, I felt a need to eliminate as much Sunday morning stress as possible. Instead of getting up Sunday morning and then deciding whether or not to go to church, it became a non-issue: we were going. We simplified breakfast by deciding that, if it was Sunday, we were having popovers. Thus we knew what needed

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to happen and when so we could make it to church without hassle.

Part of my Lenten practice this year will be to **simplify the what-shall-I-eat drain on my creative energies**. I can decide ahead of time what my weekday breakfast and lunch will be and stick to it.

The Bottom Line

These Lenten practices aren't intended to make me miserable or mimic penance. Hopefully, they will **eliminate distractions so I can focus on getting ready for Easter**. Which is, after all, what Lent is about.

See you in church.

Preaching Texts For Lent

Note: What follows is not the Revised Common Lectionary readings found in the *Mission Yearbook* (these may be found elsewhere in *The Currents*). [ital] Pastor Eileen will preaching a series based on Jesus' predictions of his suffering and death, found in the gospel of Mark.

Session

- Cindy Babikoff
- Renate Jeppeson
- Kevin Kirby
- Don MacKinnon
- Kathy Scott
- Jennifer Souders
- Peter Sturman
- Bob Wilson
- Moderator: Pastor Eileen

March 1 (Contagious Compassion): Mark 8:1-15, 27-9:1; Psalm 25:1-10

March 8 (Even When the Jury is Still Out): Mark 8:22-26, 31-9:1; Psalm 22:23-31

March 15 (Help My Unbelief!): Mark 9:14-32; Psalm 19

March 22 (Even If We Don't Agree, They Might Be Right): Mark 10:32-34; 9:33-41; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

March 29 (Peter Sturman, guest preacher)

Farewell

Board of Deacons

- Mary Johnson
- Mary Shearer
- Carol Sturman
- Moderator: Kathy Scott

Recently, I was trying to organize my office for about the 10th time this year. I came across my stash of church newsletters that I had saved since I became editor. The earliest issues were from early 1996. That is more than a decade of my life! I spent some time looking at how things have changed and how technology has changed the job.

At this point in my life, I'm ready to move on and do other work here in Springwater. I am currently the moderator of the newly organized board of deacons and I look forward to being part of the group that cares for this congregation.

I'm leaving this job in some very capable hands as I move into my new call in God's kingdom. Thank you for all your support and help over the years. I will miss this work, even as I move into a new call, doing new things.

Is this Really Springwater?

Our sanctuary restoration is essentially done! Yahoooo!

It happened because so many people made it happen. For starters, I couldn't have asked for better committee members than Gilbert Shibley and Debbie Ingamells. At each of many meetings they were always on track, always working for the same goal: fixing up the church. And although our committee was more intensely involved, your support was an essential ingredient. And almost everybody helped.

It started out as a pew replacement project but, at the first meeting became a church restoration project as Debbie identified the need to replace the carpet, repaint and refinish the floor in the fellowship hall. Gilbert confirmed there was no hope for the old pews; they had to be replaced, not repaired.

Then Bill and Marge Varitz offered to help out big time. They offered to pay for new pews and also covered the cost of the carpeting.

Meanwhile, Cindy Woodbury, Cindy Babikoff, Mary Kirby, Mary Johnson, Kathy Scott and Rick Parfrey helped select carpet and pew fabric, reviewing up to 300 fabric samples and numerous carpet patterns. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. Many of you contributed as well by commenting on the samples we offered for your input. And we did seriously consider your opinions.

Skip Smetana offered to paint the sanctuary at a bargain price, which made painting affordable. Someone had suggested painting clouds on the ceiling, but Skip made the idea come to life and I knew we had to consider it.

We had demos by 2 pew manufacturers at the church. Renate Jeppeson, Kathy Scott and Bob Wilson attended these events along with others, who I am sorry my notes do not list.

Although we knew you were willing to help paint the church, Anne Marie Sherman sent a check for \$3,000 for painting in memory of her friend Dennis. We found a couple of brothers whose references couldn't say enough good things about them. They bid \$3,150.

As work was about to begin, we still didn't have an artist to paint the ceiling clouds. With painting scheduled to start within a week, Debbie found Cris Chapman who has painted Hollywood movie sets and murals on houses at the Street of Dreams. She showed us her portfolio. Wow! I expected a bid of \$3-4,000, her she came in at an affordable \$900. Hired! Painting started Monday.

While the painting was in progress, using Jim O'Dell 's scaffolding, the carpet was removed, revealing another task—molding would have to be replaced after the new carpet went in. Teri Paul, who cleans our church, used to help her father with remodeling, she had installed lots of molding, she has a compressor and nail gun and volunteered to help with the molding. Don't you just love it when things fall into place?

So painting started and Monday, Feb. 2, was finished on Wednesday, Cris started the clouds on Thursday. Meanwhile, we cut

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Estacada Food Bank

You have all heard that more and more people need help feeding their children. You Can Help!

Please be generous with your food and money.

Bring canned & packaged foods, fresh produce, cleaning supplies, personal toiletries or money to the red tub at church.

The church will deliver it to the Food Bank for you. You will feel good and a family will eat better.

and painted the molding and Cris finished the following Thursday. On Saturday, Gilbert crawled through the 2 inches of flour like dust under the church and strung wires for the speakers and microphone, followed by 2 hours in the shower cleaning up! He also designed, built and installed the trim at the top of the metal post by the north wing—it wasn't as easy as it looks and he did a really nice job. Tuesday the carpet went in, Wednesday Teri came back and we install the molding. Thursday, the painter returned, caulked the nail holes in the molding, caulked where the molding met the wall, then painted the caulked areas as well as Gilbert's trim around the post. Later that day, the pews arrived in pieces and were unloaded, to be assembled on Friday. We also replaced the electrical switches and outlets to change to white fixtures and replaced the old heat registers. On Saturday, many folks helped to put everything in place for worship on Sunday, Feb. 22. Whew! Done!

I hope you will look around, check out not just the paint, pews, carpet and clouds, but also notice the little changes that give the project a finished look. A lot of people put in a lot of time and it shows. As they say, thank you for your support. With your support, we have gone far beyond finding used replacement pews on Craigslist!

By *Dick Scott*

WHY CLOUDS?

Our newly-renovated sanctuary is beautiful. Perhaps you enjoy the comfort of the new pews. Perhaps you relish clean, inviting new carpet. Perhaps you the fresh paint cheers you. Perhaps you wonder about the ceiling. "Why clouds?"

Preacher Fred Craddock remembers being a boy and wondering what happened in church. Never having experienced it, he asked his church-going friend, an aged and wise man, who said that people prayed until the ceiling disappeared they could see the sky and the clouds and heaven itself.

Scientifically, we know that clouds serve useful purposes: to bring rain, to regulate the earth's atmosphere and protect us from solar radiation. The Psalms remind us that menacing clouds carry blessing (rain). Jewish Talmudic wisdom literature says God created the world with clouds for other reasons as well, reminding us that "God often sends us worries and troubles but in the end we come to understand that the purpose of the ordeals was to carry us to great achievements."

As clouds protect us from direct sunlight, God uses spiritual blockages to protect and regulate our spiritual growth. God freeing Israel from Egyptian slavery in stages over 40 years is an illustration of "clouds" in our spiritual lives that enable us to temper the rate of our spiritual progress. "Stable growth needs to happen gradually. Taking on too much, too fast, most often doesn't last. . . . Spiritual growth requires patience and consistency. . . . It doesn't matter how high up you are on the spiritual ladder, as long as you are moving up."

Clouds may look like barriers, especially when the weather fore

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cast is for “partly sunny,” and the only “sunny” is the part above the clouds. If you’ve flown in an airplane, you know from climbing through the clouds that they have no real substance and are not really obstacles.

As you meditate on our sanctuary ceiling clouds, remember not only the blessings that clouds produce, but that they are remind us of the spiritual invitation “to aim for permanent, steady [spiritual] growth, one step at a time” (Rabbi Leff).

(Excerpted from “Why Clouds? Mystical Lessons Within the Clouds,” by Rabbi Boruch Leff, www.aish.com).

Greener Cleaners for Green Congregations

From the National Council of Churches of Christ Eco-Justice Programs, Green Cleaning toolkit.

There are many good reasons to use non-toxic cleaning products. They are safer for you, much safer for children, and are a part of hospitality. They are generally less expensive, widely available, and may involve less packaging and advertising. Also, they are quite effective. Though they may lack artificial scents, colors, and foaming agents used in commercial products to give you the impression that the product is working, they tend to work as well or better than their more toxic and expensive counterparts. Experiment for yourself!

Safer, Effective Cleaning Alternatives:

1. Baking Soda - cleans, deodorizes, softens water, scours.
2. Borax - cleans, deodorizes, disinfects, and softens water. Will clean wallpaper, painted walls and floors without damaging their finish.
3. Cornstarch - can be used to clean windows, polish furniture, shampoo carpets and rugs.
4. Isopropyl Alcohol - an excellent disinfectant.
5. Soap - unscented soap in liquid form, flakes, powders or bars is biodegradable and will clean just about anything.
6. Avoid using soaps which contain petroleum distillates or fragrances.
7. Washing Soda - cuts grease, removes stains, softens water, and cleans walls, tiles, sinks and tubs. It’s very effective, so use with care and do not use on aluminum.
8. White Vinegar - cuts grease, removes mildew, odors, some stains and wax build-up.

Please see the flyers on the bulletin board for recipes for greener cleaners made with the above ingredients. Or visit the following website for Metro’s greener cleaners:

<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=1400>.

Renate Jeppeson



Renate Jeppeson is certified as a Master Recycler and has studied environmental science



Sunday School Continues in March

Children from preschool through 4th grade are welcome downstairs after worship in March.

We will be preparing for a Persian New Year celebration on March 22nd. We will be growing things and hearing stories about planting and growing.

Also we will be preparing for Easter with stories, songs and crafts. Join us at 11:30 after worship; to learn, to teach or to be a teacher's assistant. Check the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. And then join us for lunch at 12:30. Our soup lunches have become a favored new tradition for all ages.

Working Together Brings Results

What do you get when you put the energy and prayers of a congregation to work on a historic church? We all found out on Sunday, February 22nd at the first worship held in the restored sanctuary. The sanctuary at Springwater Presbyterian Church has undergone a transformation! New floors (carpet and wood), fresh paint, comfortable new pews and the sky above make up the projects completed by our committee. This didn't happen overnight. Led by Dick Scott, with input from Gilbert Shibley and Debbie Ingamells, as well as assistance from Rick Parfrey, the committee worked many hours (especially Dick) planning and implementing these projects.

Many members of the congregation gave their suggestions and support. Moving day brought forth many helpers to ready the sanctuary for our contractors. Two weeks were spent worshipping at Eagle Creek Presbyterian church while ours was being restored. Saturday was moving back in day in preparation for worship. At last we reaped the benefit from our hard work! Everything seemed to work together. All the surfaces of the church reflect the transformation.

It was the efforts of many that made this all possible. We can be proud of our "new" sanctuary. May it serve our church well for many more years.



Lectionary for March 2009

March 1 (1st Sunday in Lent)

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15

March 8 (2nd Sunday in Lent)

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38

March 15 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19:1-14, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

March 22 (4th Sunday in Lent)

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Eph. 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

March 29 (5th Sunday in Lent)

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16, Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

HOW TO BE A PRESBYTERIAN

Following worship and fellowship time during Lent, we'll explore what Presbyterians believe, how one becomes a member, and the responsibilities of membership. Pastor Eileen and several elders will lead the class.

- If you are exploring becoming a member of Springwater Presbyterian Church, this is the class for you.
- If you have been a member for awhile but there are still things about being a Presbyterian that baffle (or surprise or annoy) you, this is the class of you.
- If you were a Presbyterian when John Calvin was in knee britches, this is the class for you

March 1: Beginning Stuff (how Presbyterians say what we believe, what **are** “essential tenets,” anyway?)

March 8: Holy and Connected (baptism, communion, worship, reading the Bible)

March 15: Who's In Charge Here? (history and community, organization, polity)

March 22: Discipleship Stuff (God's action plan of faith, grace, gratitude, the meaning of membership)

March 29: Belief and Witness (how do you say, “I believe . . .”?)

Springwater Presbyterian Church

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Forward & Address Correction