

Springwater CURRENTS

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Why do we ask for pledges?

Perhaps the primary reason we ask for pledges is because, in any relationship of importance, **commitment** is a key element.

In other words, pledges of time/talent/treasure aren't about "what does the church want from me." Pledges are your statement that "my relationship with God—and its expression through this community—is important to me."

Why give?

A theologian named R.N. Rodenmyer wrote this about giving in his book, Thanks Be to God.

"There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving, and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, 'I have to,' duty giving says, 'I ought to,' and thanksgiving says, 'I want to.' The first comes from constraint, the second from a sense of obligation, the third from a full heart. Nothing much is conveyed in grudge giving since 'the gift without the giver is bare.' Something more happens in duty giving, but there is no song to it. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."

As Presbyterians, we believe that we give because "we get to." We give because God has blessed us with unspeakable grace, and the way we "speak" our thanks is by giving back.

Why NOW?

Because this time of year is the thanks-giving time of year it is appropriate for the church to give thanks by making **commitments** which **support the mission of the church**.

Every Sunday as we worship, we are reminded that it is in giving ourselves that we give thanks to God for all God's good gifts. The very structure of our worship service reinforces this. After telling the truth about ourselves and our need of God's grace

("confession") we hear the truth about God's grace ("proclamation") and then we get to do the truth of God's grace ("offering" and "enactment").

Our ancestors in the establishment of this nation (the English settlers known as "pilgrims") knew the importance of saying "thanks" when they held a feast for the particular purpose of rejoicing in the gift of harvest. Celebrating, partying, a festive atmosphere in the giving of thanks is ever and always appropriate. As we spend this month of November in preparation to make our stewardship **pledges**, I'd invite us to do the discerning of our pledges in a festive atmosphere.

How?

By doing so in a spirit of thanksgiving. Have you ever had the experience of working hard to make or provide a gift for someone, only to be thanked in an offhand way? A sort of ho-hum "thanks" hurts! If the recipient never uses the gift or acts unhappy that you gave it, how do you feel?

Think about it. All of the things happening at Springwater in this last year have knocked my socks off! People working and playing together, people making a difference in each other's lives and in the lives of the community. **Three** Sunday School classes for children, an **adult Sunday School** class that always challenges and interests the participants. A **youth group**. A **choir** and a **bluegrass group**. **Two musicians** at keyboards for Sunday morning worship. **Mid-week** gatherings for prayer and Bible study. A **newsletter** that is informative and challenging.

This list doesn't even begin to talk about all that is going on at Springwater. I am so grateful that God has placed me in this particular community. How about you?

See you in church.

CHANGES AT PRESBYTERY

At the June presbytery meeting in Bend, Presbytery of the Cascades voted to establish a new relationship with the Synod of the Pacific, in particular removing the personnel functions from the synod and placing them within the presbytery itself.

Just a quick course in Presbyterian polity. The basic form of Presbyterian organization is the particular congregation—us, in our case Springwater. Like the counties within a state, particular congregations are geographically organized into presbyteries—in our case, Presbytery of the Cascades. These presbyteries are then organized into larger geographic regions called synods—in our case, Synod of the Pacific.

When the presbytery voted to move personnel out of synod and into the presbytery, we were doing what most of the rest of the country's presbyteries already do. There are some ripple effects that extend beyond the regular hire/fire understandings of personnel.

Basic Mission Support has been re-titled "Mission Partnership Giving" to reflect the new relationship. What this means is that the giving from congregations like ours is what supports the mission of the entire church. We are a "connectional church," and the connection starts at the grassroots!

Our Mission Partnership Giving is part of what it means to be Presbyterian. In part, this is what our Mission Partnership Giving does:

- *Provides missionary salaries and benefits, gifts/grants to global partners for their churches, hospitals, schools

- *Supports educators, administrators, doctors, nurses, youth workers, evangelists around the world

- *Enables the Presbytery of the Cascades to offer a wide range of services for congregations, church members, clergy

- *Starts new congregations, provides resources, makes it possible for children to go to camp

When we send this money to presbytery, 70% goes to the work of Presbytery of the Cascades, 30% goes to General Assembly. Of the 70% that goes to Presbytery, a fee goes to support the Synod. This is in addition to the synod's per capita of \$5.17 which we pay for each member.

The annual budget session approves based on congregational pledges reflects the presbytery Mission Partnership Giving.

Session Report

Session has been working hard to assist our church treasurer (Nona Shearer) in creating a reasonable and viable budget proposal for 2004. We need a budget that will be able to fund our dreams for ongoing mission work, and one that can support our programs and goals here in Springwater.

The final version of the budget will be presented to the congregation at our annual meeting in January. You, the members, will be asked to vote to accept the budget at that time.

Now is the time to talk to Nona or any Session member about any concerns you might have for 2004 funding.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for articles for the December/January newsletter is November 16th. There won't be any more newsletters published until Feb., 2004

Please remember that we need dates and information for both December & January. Questions? Call Kathy Scott
Calendar Questions? Call Don Barbee

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SHALOM CENTER

Shalom Prayer Center in Mount Angel offers one-day and overnight workshops (commuter rates available) designed to be of interest to people in exploring their faith.

Simplifying Life and the Rule of St Benedict explores the balanced way of life (work, prayer, leisure, relationships, rest) set out in the 1500-year-old Rule of Benedict (November 1).

Wholly Female: Seeking God in the Lives of Female Mystics explores the life and writings of four Christian mystics: Hildegard of Bingen, Clare of Assisi, Mectilde of Mageburg, and Julian of Norwich (November 8).

Initiation into Prayer of the Heart is a basic instructional workshop in the ancient practice of silent inner communion with God, using lectio divina practices and contemplative listening of scriptures (November 8).

Pillow Talk: How our dreams are an intimate encounter with the divine is a workshop (led by a Jungian analyst) focusing on how God speaks to us through our own dreams (November 14-15).

The Healing Power of Prayer invites participants to see how prayer heals our past so we can live more fully in the present (November 22).

Christ-the-Way-in-Prayer continues with the November 8 initiation into prayer of the heart, focusing on our deep longing for God and experiencing God's love for us (December 6).



November Birthdays

Phyllis Eaton	1
Cindy Babikoff	12
Karin Ryan	24
Tim Guttridge	27
Sam Fisher	30

A Gift Idea from Presbyterians Today

Are you shopping for a unique gift that will inspire, inform and educate friends and family-yet is kind to your budget?

Presbyterians Today plays a vital role in the spiritual lives of thousands of Presbyterians. Readers of the magazine testify that every issue brings something of personal and practical value. A gift subscription to Presbyterians Today is a thoughtful Christmas, birthday, graduation or any occasion gift!

For a limited time only you can give **two** people 10 information-packed issues of the denomination's award-winning magazine for only \$15.95. Order at <http://www.pcusa.org/today/gift.htm>.

HOW TO STAY SAFE IN THE WORLD TODAY

Our thanks to Waunakee Connector for this article.

1. Avoid riding in automobiles, because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home, because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks, because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water, because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. Above all else, avoid hospitals.

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church! Bible study is safe, too. The percentage of deaths occurring during Bible study is even less.

**For safety's sake, ATTEND CHURCH
AND READ YOUR BIBLE.
It could save your life!**



Baby Shower

Did you know that our favorite little Neal is expecting a **baby sister** around Thanksgiving Day? We're having a baby shower for Renate, Greg & Neal in honor of this event on Friday afternoon, Nov. 14, at 2:00 pm. Renate says she has plenty of blankets, but could use girls clothing and disposable diapers.

November Lectionary

November 2: Mark 7:24-37
"Unlikely Saint"



November 9: Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44
Portland State Players, Purposeful Performing Arts (PPA), will be leading in worship.

November 16: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Mark 13:1-8
"There Is a Reason (You are the one)"

November 23 (Reign of Christ Sunday): 2 Samuel 23:1-7, Revelation 1:4b-8, John 18:33-37
"So—You ARE the King?"

November 30 (First Sunday in Advent): Luke 21:25-36, Jeremiah 33:14-16
"Anticipated Promises to Keep"

DRAMATIC GUESTS TO APPEAR AT SPRINGWATER

Purposeful Performing Arts (PPA), an ecumenical drama group from Portland State University, will be performing at Springwater during worship on November 9.

PPA is dedicated to expressing "the deeper meanings of life" through worship-appropriate drama scripts. The group has participated in worship services in Disciples, Methodist, Presbyterian, and UCC churches in the Portland area, as well as at a Cascades Presbytery meeting.

PSU students with interest in and enthusiasm for drama participate in the group. By offering the invitation to express oneself boldly and by offering the invitation to collaborate with others in the profound experience of shared creation, students find themselves captured in the moment by the Spirit and moved to be more alive in their faith. They endeavor to share this experience with the congregations with whom they worship.

They are directed by Peer Director Blake Ward. The Reverend Elizabeth Winslea, Presbyterian minister and sometime guest preacher at Springwater, is one of the Covenant Five chaplains on campus which sponsors this group. Elizabeth will be sharing the Covenant Five ministry in worship with us as well.

WHY PRAY FOR OTHERS?

It's an interesting question. In the book John Macquarrie, a Master of Theology, Owen F. Cummings attempts to answer that question. Prayers of petition (prayers for ourselves) aren't about shopping-list theology, nor is intercessory prayer (prayers for others) magic formula "celestial string-pulling." Prayer "works," but not in the mechanical way engines work when burning gasoline. Prayer, according to Macquarrie "has repercussions beyond those who offer up prayers."

So, why pray?

"Intercessory prayer provides . . . openings into the dense texture of the human situation through which can come the creative and healing power of the reality we call God. Prayer, as petition and intercession, helps to make the human person porous to the divine reality."

You are invited to explore this question on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 as we gather at church to pray for each other, for the mission of the church, and for the world.

Parts of this article were reported in Christian Century, October 4, 2003.



We Can Help

Hunger is increasing in the Estacada area. There are fewer jobs available at this time of the year than there were in the summer. Jobs were tough, at best, during the summer, and they are getting even harder to find. This means that times are getting even tougher for many of our friends and neighbors. The joyous times of Thanksgiving and Christmas may not be very joyous for these folks.

We can help. We grow food. We shop in grocery stores. We can remember those who can't.

We have helped during the year. As of the end of October we had donated more than 6400 pounds of food and supplies to the Estacada Family Resource Center. The need hasn't ended. Neither should our help.

When you harvest your crop or shop for groceries set aside a portion for those who need it so badly. Bring your food and personal supplies with you when you come to worship. It will help us serve.

Stewardship



It's fall, leaves are colorful and disappearing, our clocks are again on something called "Standard Time", that must mean it's pledging season. It somehow seems difficult that we get our property tax statements and our pledge cards in the same month.

Now Eileen's favorite definition of "Stewardship" is: "Everything we do after we say, 'I believe'". This is a quote from Karl Barth, a great theologian of the last century.

We try to think of our whole life in terms of stewardship but this is the season where that word and pledge cards are emphasized in our life together. Over the month of November families and individuals will ponder what they will commit to God's service through this congregation in 2004.

How will this happen? You will be invited to the home of one of the session members for dessert and a conversation about our vision and mission as a congregation. You will receive information about

the budget the session proposes for 2004, a card for pledging your money, and a form for pledging your time and talent.

When you are asked say "yes" and come with your questions, joys, concerns and ideas to share. The session wants to hear from you.

Children are asked to participate in this stewardship campaign as well. They are encouraged to fill out time and talent forms and they can make a monetary pledge if they have resources for that such as an allowance. Any child that pledges will receive a special set of envelopes made for specifically for them.

Then on Sunday, November 23rd we will dedicate your pledges of money, time and talent.

Good news and Bad News

Springwater Presbyterian Church Financial Report as of September 30, 2003

Three quarter or 75% of the year has come and gone and the bad news is our General Funds income is not keeping pace with our General Funds expenses. Here are the numbers:

General Funds Income	\$56,084.58
	65% of anticipated
General Funds Expenses	\$57,864.06
	67% of budget
Net loss	(\$1,779.48)

Most of our General Fund income comes from your pledges. Only 60% of the amount pledged has come in so far, even though 75% of the year has passed. If you are behind and are able to pay your pledge, catching up as soon as possible would be appreciated.

The good news is that we are still able to pay our bills because of reserves and our generally healthy financial picture.

The other good news is that you are a generous people and we have received \$1,485.84 in money for special offerings and \$4,840.00 toward our capital improvement funds.

If you would like to see a detailed financial report ask any session member and if you would like to see your giving record just contact Nona Shearer.

Joseph the Dreamer

Genesis 37:1-11

Thanks to Katrina Anderson for bringing this children's article to our attention

- 1) Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.,
- 2) This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, and he brought their father a bad report about them.
- 3) Now Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. 4) When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.
- 5) Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.
- 6) He said to them, "Listen to my dream I had: 7) We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."
- 8) His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.
- 9) Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."
- 10) When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?"
- 11) His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Questions:

1. Name the land where Jacob's family lived. Genesis 37:1
2. How did Jacob show that his favorite son was Joseph? Genesis 37:3
3. How old was Joseph when he brought his father the bad report about his brothers? Genesis 37:2
4. What age was Jacob when he made Joseph the special coat? Genesis 37:3
5. How did Joseph's brothers feel about their father's show of favoritism to Joseph? Genesis 37:4
6. Describe Joseph's two dreams. Genesis 37:7,9
7. What did Joseph's dreams mean? Genesis 37:8,10

Additional scripture:

So, what happens if you hate your brother?

1 John 3:15 - Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and know that no murderer has eternal life in him. (1 John 3:11 We should love one another)

1 John 4:20 - If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

Game to play at the dinner table with your kids:

Who am I? — The parent/person who has the first turn pretends to be a Bible person revealing some bit of information about him or herself. The leader continues telling more information about the Bible person until someone guesses correctly. Let everyone have a turn being a Bible person. Give lots of encouragement!

Example: Who Am I?

I am a lady in the Old Testament.

I had two brothers.

I watched over my baby brother when my mother placed him in a basket in the Nile River. (Miriam-Moses sister)



You will all learn from this game!

LIBRARY NEWS

A new feature in Springwater’s library is magazine sharing. If you are interested in Biblical Archaeology and Archaeology journals, the Barbees have contributed their copies for folks to take home. When you are done, just return them to the library for other folks to enjoy this fascinating exploration into the physical evidence for our faith stories.

A seven-volume set of Jan Karon’s Mitford books are now in the library, thanks to Dorothy Shearer. These are delightful books which follow the lives of Father Tim, a later-in-life Episcopal rector, his dog “the size of a sofa” (who responds obediently and humorously only to scripture quotations), and a young boy needing some loving intervention in his life. Father Tim’s attractive female neighbor thickens the romantic plotline, and his Baptist church secretary just stirs the pot!

Families might want to take a look at the book, Making Time for God, a book of daily devotions for families which explores the Bible and helps develop a daily prayer habit in the home. Try it for two weeks. Then, if you would like to have a copy for your own family, contact Eileen about how to do so. Meanwhile, returning the book to the church library will give others a chance to explore its use.

Estacada Family Resource Center

Items you can donate for Thanksgiving dinner box



Cranberry Sauce
Chicken Gravy Mix

Stuffing
Margarine

Jello
Canned Corn

Canned Sweet Potatoes



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