

March 2008

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Sunday Worship
Hours

Hymn Sing
9:45am

Worship
10:00am

Fellowship
11:15am

Education for
All Ages
11:30 - 12:30pm

March

- 1 Debbie Ingamells
- 7 Natalie Dreiszus
- 7 Victoria Dreiszus
- 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



Wedding Anniversaries in March

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

Day Light Savings time - Change your clocks
March 9th

Spring forward
Set your clocks ahead



Dates to Remember

- March 2 Congregational Meeting after Worship
- 7 World Day of Prayer
- 9 Celebrate the Gifts of Women;
Daylight Saving Time begins
- 16 Passion/Palm Sunday
- 20 Maunday Thursday
- 21 Good Friday
- 23 Easter/Resurrection of the Lord



Signs of Hope

High quality worship experience each week

Peacemaking month (October) intergenerational classes

Charity work (we are generous with our resources)

Membership numbers stayed the same

Desire to study the Bible

God is especially active during the rough times

The thing about *HOPE* is that it's contagious. But we find it in the most unpredictable places.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Session's annual planning retreat takes place every year after the election of new officers. We train the new elders, envision the work for the coming year, and organize ourselves to accomplish that work. Sounds like pretty standard operating procedure.

This Year Was Different

For one thing, we met at Whispering Pines Apartments, where elder Bob Wilson lives. Whispering Pines has a lovely community room and kitchen which we were able to use, thanks to Bob.

Another difference this year was that session got bigger rather than smaller. Our congregational by-laws allow nine elders, but that number has not been elected in recent years, so that in 2007 we had 5 members. Officially acknowledging that a congregation of 66 member does not need nine elders, nor does our committee structure call for nine elders, session instructed the Nominating Committee to present candidates for a session of seven members. And boy, are they seven terrific elders!

Signs of Hope

One of the retreat activities was to list Signs of Hope. It is so easy to forget that God continues to act, even during the hard times, but if you've been listening to the Beatitudes sermons this Lent, you might have heard that God is especially active during the rough times. These are the Signs of Hope session saw in 2007:

- Membership didn't decline in 2007 (we gained one member and lost one member)
- Successful pledge drive
- High quality worship experience each week
- A desire to study the Bible by members
- Artist's Way group, sabbatical preparation, life-changing and community-changing
- Time goes quickly
- Going to church: makes you laugh, makes you cry
- Vacation Church School participation and interest carried on past the week's activities
- Peacemaking month (October) intergenerational classes
- Charity work (we are generous with our resources)
- Award of Lilly Foundation clergy renewal grant
- Congregational response to the guests who camped in the back of our parking lot
- This new session

Hope Is a Good Thing

The thing about hope is that it's contagious. But we find it in the most unpredictable places. For instance, session saw the response to the homeless couple who lived in the back of our parking lot this fall

Who's Who on Session 2008

Faith Nurture (worship, Christian Education, youth):

Peter Sturman
Renate Jeppeson
Bob Wilson

Deaconate (congregational care, evangelism, mission):

Kathy Scott
Mary Johnson

Stewardship (Clerk, finance, stewardship, buildings and grounds):

Kevin Kirby
Don MacKinnon

Personnel:

Bob Wilson
Kathy Scott

Nominating (session representatives):

Don MacKinnon
Peter Sturman

Endowment (session representative):

Mary Johnson

as a sign of hope. When they first approached us, it was to be just a few days. But as they made their official request to session to stay, it became obvious that a longer term would be required. And that's when things got hopeful, maybe especially because they also got messy.

The congregation allowed them to stay, but individual members and families helped the couple with resources, rides, friendship. They prayed with us on Tuesdays, worshiped with us on Sundays. They ate our food, read our books. We got to know them simply as human beings. Even when they could say how much hope they gained from being treated with respect, sometimes they were hard to love. They were inconvenient, demanding, uncomfortable.

In her book, *Words to Love By*, Mother Teresa writes, "At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by, I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you took me in."

See you in church.



Vacation Church School, A Rainforest Adventure!

Save the dates! June 23 through June 27 from 9AM to noon, we will be celebrating Vacation Church School with some new rainforest animal friends.

Who is invited? Children 3 years to 4th grade, youth 5th grade through high school as assistants, and adults as helpers, leaders and teachers. We are beginning our planning now. We will need help with snacks, crafts, games and rainforest props: for example rainforest stuffed animals, or items made or grown in the rainforest. Please let us know what you can do to help.

Your Christian Education committee,
Renate Ryan-Jeppeson
Peter Sturman
Carol Sturman
Debbie Ingamells



Thanks be to God,
Indeed!

New Member Thank You

I have memories of Springwater PC from a long way back. We were always at least an hour's drive away so when the family issued a special invitation, I came. My earliest memory is of the big wood stove in the middle, pouring out heat with Uncle Everett (Shibley) sitting on the hearth. Singing was always with gusto, even from those who could not carry a tune.

Father (Bill Shearer) told stories regularly to his children of his experiences in the community as a young man. One was of when he and the 60 some year old pastor were the only ones willing to go up the cobbled together ladders to paint the steeple. The ladders were bound together end on end. He told many stories about the people and doings of this community.

This congregation has been part of my family's life since long before I was born. Membership in this church is very special to me. You have enriched my life with a sense of community, of directed energy towards God's work, of worship and I thank you for it. Finally, I was able to move here. When I come to church I have a feeling of coming home.

Thanks be to God!

Stewardship of God's Creation

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. You've all heard it. It's practically a mantra here in the Pacific Northwest. We north westerners have a reputation nation-wide as "guerilla" recyclers. Why do we do it? For some it's a practical matter of saving money: the less stuff you buy, the less you spend. One can reuse items instead of buying new, or simply do without. For others it's a reflection of our love of the beautiful scenery we are surrounded with and a desire to protect it. For others it is a matter of conserving precious natural resources. For me it's those things and more: it's a reflection of God's love for me and for His Creation. God created us in part to care for the rest of His magnificent creation. I am so grateful for the beauty God has given us, I want to do everything I can to protect it. That's why I am taking a class to become a Master Recycler and learning to share what I know with others. Watch this spot for more on this topic, or ask me your questions about recycling.

Your Master Recycler,
Renate Ryan-Jeppeson





One Great Hour of Sharing

So what is One Great Hour of Sharing? It's an offering that Springwater Presbyterian Church has received for many years. You may think everyone knows what it is since it's such a tradition. But do you really know what it does?

It started in 1949, when a lot of Christian leaders, seeing the devastation that World War II had left in much of the world, recognized both a responsibility to our sisters and brothers and an opportunity to witness to a loving God.

Over the years, the offering's mission has grown from simply emergency relief and rebuilding after disasters such as wars, earthquakes, and floods to addressing many kinds of human suffering, from the sudden to the chronic. Increasingly it has included focusing on the root causes of this suffering, so that the solutions can be sustained after our attention moves on to other communities.

Within the PC(USA), the offering supports three programs: the Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The ministries of these three programs address a wide spectrum of human suffering from the acute to the chronic, from offering short-term relief to addressing root causes.

Today, the offering continues the tradition it has maintained throughout its history--standing with our partners in the face of suffering, walking with them toward a more hopeful future, and witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ in tangible ways that proclaim in word and deed that they are not alone. I invite you to join this great tradition of sharing resources that truly changes lives.

Look in the fellowship hall for letters from people who have benefited from OGHS services as well as the new OGHS logo. Then visit these websites of the three programs your donation supports: <http://www.pcusa.org/sdop/index.htm> , <http://www.pcusa.org/hunger> , <http://www.pcusa.org/pda> .

Text taken from OGHS literature.



TOGETHER WE MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Springwater Faith Nurture February 2008

Christian Education at Springwater

Since we started the Artist's Way series for adult Christian Education one thing has become abundantly clear. To a large extent those members who want to participate in adult CE classes are the same group that would teach CE to the children and youth of the church. There has been much discussion recently within Session and the Congregation at large as to how to address this dilemma. One possible solution would be to offer Sunday School for the children and youth after Sunday worship and move adult CE to a midweek evening. The CE committee would be glad to receive any input you may have.

The Christian Education Committee met in February. The following items were discussed.

Vacation Bible School.

Vacation Bible School will be held this year from June 23rd through June 27th. The theme will be Rainforest Adventure. Anyone interested in helping with this fun program should contact Renate Jeppeson, Debbie Ingamells or Peter Sturman. Our next formal meeting for VBS will be at 5.00pm on Thursday April 17th at the church. Please join us if you would like to help with this.

Basement reorganization including paint, carpet and drapes.

We want to make the basement area a more warm and friendly place for the children and the adults who work with them. First step will be a general clearing out of stuff we don't need. As there are other areas of the church, like the attic, that also need to be gone through, it probably makes sense to make the clear-out a church wide activity. The CE committee is suggesting sometime during the weekend of 4/12 as a time to do this. While we are emptying out the basement we will have some discussion over color scheme and take measurements so that we can determine the cost of materials needed to do the job. As we all know many hands do make light work so come and join us.

Where do we want to go with CE at Springwater?

There is a strong desire to be able to offer weekly Sunday School for children and youth, Preschool through 12th grade. In order to make this happen we need teachers. As curriculum material is readily available all we need are congregation members who would like to work with the children. Again, the more the merrier as that will enable us to operate a rotation where no single person will have to carry the whole class. Please contact, Renate, Debbie or Peter if you have an interest. We also want to be able to offer CE for adults and are thinking in terms of 4 week block classes that would meet on a mid-week evening.

Youth Mission Trip

Session has passed a motion to send Springwater youth on a Mis-

Vacation Bible School
June 23 - 27

Clean
Wash
Redecorate
Paint
Organize

We will start with the
basement in April

Watch for the Date

Are You the Teacher
We are looking for?

Is God Calling You?



sion trip to Alaska in the summer of 2009. That seems like a way off but much planning and fund raising will be required in order to make this the experience we want it to be. This year we hope to organize a weekend trip to Warm Springs with the help of Dave and Bev Crow.

Other Events. We plan to organize a church trip to see the exhibition of works by Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec and others at the Portland Art Museum.

LECTIONARY READINGS

March 2 (Cooperation Inside Out):

Matthew 5:1-12, Galatians 5:22-25, Psalm

March 9 (Provocative Commitment to God):

Matthew 5:1-12, Peter 3:13-17, Psalm 32

March 16 (Late-Breaking News):

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11; Matt 26:14-27:66; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

March 23 (From Disciples to Apostles):

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10; Psalm 114

March 30 (New Birth Practice: Awe):

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Psalm 16



Why Do We collect books for Tajikistan

The "Early Literacy Box" in the Fellowship Hall is for materials to be used in rural schools in Tajikistan. A couple of years ago, MercyOp began community outreach programs for women (remember our discussions about the micro-loan programs for women to start their own businesses?). When Jonna and her co-workers talked to the women about improving prospects for their daughters, the nearly-universal response was more educational opportunities, especially to learn English. Your contributions of items from LIST I will help realize the women's dreams for their children.

The photo on the box is of young girls, and their mother, who attended the wedding of their relative, a woman English teacher who later lost her job with the spring 2007 Ministry of Education decision to withdraw MercyOp's teaching license. She has since found another job, but we don't know what educational opportunities now exist for these girls. However, as the MercyOp educational license has been restored, there is a special need for English alphabet and vocabulary flash cards, and books, to make up for lost time.



BEATITUDE ACTIVITIES

The Wednesday Lenten gatherings have been a wonderful blessing, thanks to the hospitality and food ministry of Barbara and Don MacKinnon and the activities planned and executed by the worship committee (Debbie Ingamells, Erin Roden, Kathleen Souders, Cindy Woodbury).

After the Ash Wednesday service (joined by our friends at Eagle Creek Presbyterian), to date we have gathered for intergenerational Beatitude Activities which have included a story and making “blessing cross boxes” and papier mache masks. You will see these mourning masks in the sanctuary as paint and materials dry. One night we helped break into the pastor’s office and watched a lunar eclipse. Almost too much excitement!

If you haven’t been able to join us, please come on March 5 and March 12 as we put together an advertising campaign for Beatitude Living. We’ll need all the best imaginations to come up with bumper stickers, posters, a website and Face Book additions. Not to mention the actors for a video, a commercial and singers for the jingle. If you don’t know how to do any of this, you are in good company! You’ll see the results of this at the Palm/Passion Sunday worship service. We can use your help in getting ready.

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1017

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Location:

24553 S. Springwater Rd.

Estacada, Oregon 97023

Forward & Address Correction