

A Place of worship, nurture and service for God's people of all ages

October 2011

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October Birthdays

Lynda Conway	10/1
Robert Wilson	10/10
Brenley Babikoff	10/13
Jim Odell	10/16
Lloyd Olson	10/24
Connie Ryan	10/27
Cortlan Souders	10/27
Jean McCloskey	10/28



October Church Calendar

- October 2: World Communion Sunday and dedication of Peacemaking Offering, stewardship training immediately following worship
- October 7: Youth Group Meeting
- October 12: Session (presbytery COM rep will join us), 6:00
- October 15: Compassion Estacada, all day at the high school
- October 26: Knit Nite, 4:30 onward

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School
for all ages

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

October 24



PEACEMAKING OFFERING

Every year we dedicate the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday. Local congregations are invited to keep 25% of the funds for peacemaking activities in their area. Session has authorized giving our 25% to the Estacada Area Food Bank. You are still able to give to this offering through the middle of October. Simply note on the check memo, "Peacemaking Offering." Your gift benefits peace and justice ministries on a presbytery-level (Oregon) as well as a national/international level.

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

A Fresh Start

Some of us never outgrow our school-age conviction that September means a new year. As far as I'm concerned, a person can never have too many chances at a fresh start, and what better time for a fresh start than a "new year"?

September is a new year for Springwater. We begin a new program year in Sunday School. Worship services go back to a less casual, more formal setting. Committees put new programs in motion. Then, as if to reinforce the newness of it all, we kick it all off with the Round Up—a cowboy-themed party in worship and barbeque. By October, things are truly underway. The Peacemaking Offering. The stewardship campaign in November, with Consecration Sunday. Thanksgiving is right on its heels. Before you know it, we're in Advent and then there's Christmas, and it feels like the year is half gone!

Traditional Offerings

Does that predictable movement of offerings through the months feel like a pattern to you? Does it offer predictability or boredom? The interesting thing about patterns like these is that they can be as comfortable as old shoes, while still offering the freedom of fresh, new starts. When patterns become tradition, they are how we know who we are, and especially who we are together. In this way, tradition helps us experience change in a positive way.

My dad used to say that creativity was a matter of knowing which rules to break. This presupposes, of course, that you know the rules. If we don't know what "is," how will we know what is "different"? Becoming aware of our "traditions" helps us know when those rules have trapped us in "traditionalism," and it's time to change. *Tradition* is "the living faith of the dead," whereas *traditionalism* is "the dead faith of the living." The one is something on which a community builds and grows, the other eventually kills it.

Commitment and New Years

I once had a pastor who felt that commitment was the cornerstone of faith. As far as he was concerned, **anything of importance is worth committing to.** It's a pretty relational way of looking at our faith, but there's a theological underpinning to it. In Blish we call that commitment "loyalty." Hebrew scripture says one of the primary characteristics of God is *hesed*, steadfast love or loyalty. This meant that

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Hebrew scripture says one of the primary characteristics of God is *hesed*, steadfast love or loyalty.

What are the loyalties with and among us that help us to know God's steadfast, undying loyalty?

God's people were to try to relate to one another with loyalty.

The beginning of a new is always an invitation to examine our commitments. As Springwater begins its new year together, this might be a time to consider our commitment to life together. What are the traditions that bind us to this community? What are the loyalties with and among us that help us to know God's steadfast, undying loyalty? How do you help carry out those traditions?

There are so many loyalties to draw our attention in this world. Family. Workplace. Sports teams. Old friends. They all make demands on us, competing for our time and energy. But what do they teach us about God's loyalty? Maybe you've made commitments you haven't always met. That's the nice thing about a new year—we get a fresh start. Maybe it's time to re-examine commitments.

See you in church.

Eileen



LECTIONARY READINGS

October 2 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY (Stealing Peace): Matthew 21:33-56; Exodus 20:1-4; 7-9, 12-10; Psalm 19

October 9 (You're Not the Boss of Me!): Matthew 22:1-14; Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

October 16 (Faith Trap): Matthew 22:15-22; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Psalm 99

October 23 (Celebrating What God Has Done, Peter Sturman preaching): Deuteronomy 34:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:35-56; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

October 30 (Celebrating What God Has Done) Matthew 23:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Your Invitation to pray with the Deacons



Do you ever feel as if you are 2 days behind for everything? Life is hectic, especially this time of year when school has started, sports teams are practicing, fall activities and TV programming are all new and demanding your time. Maybe you need a time of refuge and prayer in your life.

Praying with the deacons on Tuesdays is a chance to experience a calming of the heart, and to spend an hour in the presence of God. Please join us for prayer Tuesday mornings at 10:30am at the church.

We spend about an hour together, sometimes a little more. Each person is encouraged to share their own concerns and needs. We find that this helps each person there to feel supported and loved. We pray for each other and we pray about the specific joys and concerns that are lifted up on Sunday mornings in worship. We also pray for everyone who has a birthday or anniversary during the month. We pray for the world, especially for people in countries where there is war, revolution or disaster happening and where people are hungry.

We can never have enough people praying. This time is set aside for **YOU** to spend an hour in conversation & prayer. It would benefit you to be there and it will benefit all of us to pray more for our church and community and it gives all of us a chance to experience deeper bonds of friendships.

Please come!

For more information, please call Kathy Scott, 503.630.4739



SING IT BABY, SING IT.



Choir will meet every Thursday at 7:00pm starting October 11. We will be preparing songs for Advent and Christmas time. I am planning on having the choir participate in the Festival of Choirs in December.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us to sing and have fun.

Kathleen

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS: Steve Stiles

The sign in his office window reads, "Accidents forgiven here," but **Steve Stiles** says that isn't a theological statement, just part of owning an Allstate Insurance agency.

A native Midwesterner, Steve was born in Illinois but moved to Colorado when he was 5, graduating from high school in Longmont. When he was 12, he was baptized by full immersion following a public statement of faith in First Christian Church.

Although Steve is a graduate of Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing Michigan, he never pursued a license to practice law, preferring instead to apply his legal training to finance, working as a financial planner for over 25 years. "We're essentially licensed to give advice," he says, which explains the extensive training. He and his partner at Bradley Stevens pioneered the now-common practice of partnering financial planners with banks. Eventually the firm had 350 client banks across the country, which meant a lot of travel. "My record," he admits, "was sixteen cities in one week. But," he adds cheerfully, "I had a ton of air miles." The decision to switch to "forgiving accidents" wasn't just the travel. It gave him an opportunity to be in business with his son, Jason.

Steve gets the credit for getting wife Mary interested in Belgian Shepherds. "I'm just a sponsor," he says of his role with the dogs. But ask Steve about his grandchildren! Bryson (age 7) and McKenzie (age 4) are, according to Steve, "the light of my life."

Currently a board member of the "Wings of Freedom," a non-profit dedicated to preserving the B17-G located at the Bomber restaurant on McLoughlin Blvd, Steve appreciates their mission is to ensure that this piece of history is not forgotten. He admires "the sacrifices made by our forefathers," has always loved history, and admits to being "a little over the top on my patriotism."

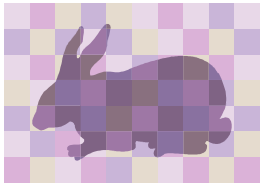
Other volunteer work has included serving a six year term on the board of directors of the Oregon Community Health Charities, which functions similarly to United Way for a wide range of health care charities. "Mary and I have always felt that we were blessed in many ways," he says, "and we have always given back. God has blessed me with a talent that allows me to know people who have the means to share, so I give them the outlets to feel good about their sharing experience."

When this Gladstone resident is asked, "How did you get to Springwater?" he laughs. "We wouldn't have found it without Eileen—literally. The first time we drove out, I kept asking Mary if there were churches this far out. It was like going to Kansas to get to church." They look forward to the beautiful drive and watching seasons unfold,

but surely scenery is not enough to keep coming all that way to church faithfully week after week? "When we got here," Steve says, "the people were extremely welcoming. We never felt like outsiders. We love the other people, and it reminds me of the church we went to in my childhood."

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS: Mary Stiles

What do Jessie Jo Guttridge and **Mary Stiles** have in common? Bunnies. Both are 4-H champion rabbit breeders. "I was a 4-H nerd," Mary admits. "I spent years in 4-H, baking, sewing, animals, you name it. After all, I grew up on a small ranch." She may have been alluding to the sheep, horses, cows, pet goat and, of course, the 32 rabbits. "I went to the State Fair every year," she says, "They don't just want you to sew the clothes, they want you to model them, so I missed the first week of school for years."



Mary is a native of Hood River, moving to Portland to go to beauty school. Cosmetology was a second choice for her, fashion design was the first. Having won every prize possible for her 4-H clothing projects, it was a natural. Her father had concerns, she says. "What I should have been," she adds, "is a vet."

Given what we know about Mary's interest in dogs, that makes a lot of sense. "We always had dogs," she says, "but I didn't do anything with Belgians until Steve saw one at Home Depot. The next thing we knew, we were at the Rose City Classic, talking to breeders." Their first Belgian, Storm, joined an aging Golden retriever already in the family. Agility competitions and conformity showing were "accidents" of dog raising, she says. Storm had a lot of energy, so she enrolled him in basic agility to burn up some of that energy. When he developed cancer and had a leg amputated, Mary went through therapy dog training with him. They ended up volunteering at Emmanuel Children's Hospital, in the cancer ward. Ask her to tell you some of the heart-warming stories of Storm giving sick kids the heart to continue fighting their illnesses.



When Mary got her second Belgian, Sage, sheep herding was added to the dog-raising mix. Sage took over working with children for him. With the third Belgian, Sota, Mary discovered a real champion potential. "Sota is the talented one," she says. Storm retired as a therapy dog when she developed a staph infection. Now Ming, a blind Golden retriever rescue, is the therapy dog, taking Mary to Raphael House, where they work with abused women and their children. We all met Ming and Sota at the Blessing of the Animals in September. Sidda Lee is

the most recent member of Mary's canine family. We're not even mentioning the cats who live or are rehabilitated at the Stiles house!

Mary is "Mimi" to the grandchildren she shares with Steve. She recently earned the title, "Best Grandmother in the World," which she attributes to her willingness to do silly things with the kids and "let them do the messy stuff."

STEWARDSHIP: Celebrating

The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is "**Celebrating What God Has Done.**" This is misleading, if you think God has finished creative activity in the world. Here at Springwater, we believe God was active in past, God is active now, God will continue to be active in the future.

To help with the celebrating, the Stewardship Committee invites your help. Building on the success of the Window Discernment Team's graffiti walls in fellowship hall over the summer, you are going to find another opportunity to "write on the walls," naming ways you've seen God at work at Springwater in the last year. Please take a few moments as you think of things, to write them and help us give God thanks.

On October 23, elder Peter Sturman will kick things off by preaching. Through November 13, when we have Consecration Sunday, you will be hearing stories from other parishioners about how and where they see God at work in our congregation.



Celebrating What God
Has Done

SUNDAY HELPERS (are you on the list?)

	Worship Leader	Usher/greeter	Snacks	Flowers	Child Care
Oct 2	Nona S	Gilbert S	Margaret & Gwen	open	Deb I.
Oct 9	Gwen S	Bob Wilson	Deb Odell	open	Nike G.
Oct 16	Neal Jeppeson	Marilyn G	open	open	MackInnon
Oct 23	Carol Sturman	Judy Coyne	Judy & Nona	open	Sturman
Oct 30	Deb Ingamells	Gary Guttridge	the Souders	Nike G	Kirby



HELP

Folks in our area need help. The number of our friends and neighbors who rely on the Estacada Area Food Bank is increasing. This August the food bank served 252 families. This is about 14 percent more than they served in August 2010. Twenty-six of these families were new this month. There were 656 people in these families. Two hundred and one of these were children.

The demands on the food bank's resources are increasing, but the available supplies are decreasing. The food bank received 20 percent less food from donations this August than it did in August 2010.

The statistics are stark, but they are even more so when you realize they represent hungry people. We can serve. We can help. When you are out shopping or are harvesting your garden, remember these folks who need you. Remember the Red Box.

WANTED

Our children in Sunday School have a great love for dressing up to act out stories. We currently have a "dress up box" with many scarves and scraps of fabric, a few clothes and hats, but we could use some updates to our costume wardrobe. Perhaps you've been meaning to clean out your closet; that old plaid shirt would be fantastic for a shepherd, and that vest with the sequins? Great angel material. Please take a look and consider donating your old clothing to our young dramatists.

Thank you,
Renate Ryan-Jeppeson

*Springwater
Currents*

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