

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

April 2011

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April Anniversaries

Mary & Randy Johnson 4/17  
Peter & Carol Sturman 4/24



April Birthdays

Mary Johnson 4/1  
Lynne Deshler 4/4  
Gilbert Shibley 4/5  
Kayla Hauck 4/5  
Robin Fisher 4/5  
Ellen Ingamells 4/6  
Judy Coyne 4/7  
Rick Parfrey 4/17  
Eileen Parfrey 4/18



April Church and Community Calendar

- April 3:** Vacation Church School volunteer meeting immediately following worship; Eastminster warming shelter volunteers meet at the shelter
- April 6:** Bible School for Grown Ups, supper at 6:00 (activity for children, as well as adults)
- April 8:** screening of "Race to Nowhere" at Oregon City High School, 7:00. See article, page 5.
- April 9:** Work Party, sponsored by Building & Grounds, see page 4
- April 13:** Bible School for Grown Ups, supper at 6:00 (activity for children, as well as adults)
- April 14:** Session, 6:00
- April 17 (Palm/Passion Sunday):** special presentation of "Cry of the Whole Congregation" by Walter Wangerin, celebration of the Lord's Supper in worship
- April 21:** Maundy Thursday worship service, 7:00 (celebration of the Lord's Supper and hand/foot washing service)
- April 24 (Resurrection Sunday):** Easter breakfast at the Grange, 9:00; worship at 10:30 (no Sunday School)
- April 26:** Eastminster Tuesday volunteers meet at the shelter
- April 27:** Knit Nite, 4:30
- April 30:** A Walk Through Worship for 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents, with Pastor Eileen

Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 AM Sunday School
- 10:15 AM Hymn Sing
- 10:30 Worship
- 11:15 Fellowship
- Deadline for next newsletter:  
April 18, 2011

### Pastor's Perspective

Folks have seemed baffled about the lateness of Easter this year. In the last couple of years, Easter has been both its earliest (March 19) and its latest (this year's April 24). I am usually able to restrain my normal geekiness with a simple, "Yep, just about as late as it can ever be." It's only the courageous soul (with a lot of spare time) who ventures to ask, "Why is that?"

### How Does This Happen?

The short answer is, "luck of the draw—first Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox."

What makes that answer complicated is the civic use of the Roman (solar-based) calendar, while retaining Easter's tie to the Jewish (lunar) definition of Passover. Superimposing the lunar-year definition of Easter on a calendar based on rotation around the sun is like trying to convert quarts to liters—you're going to end up with some decimals.

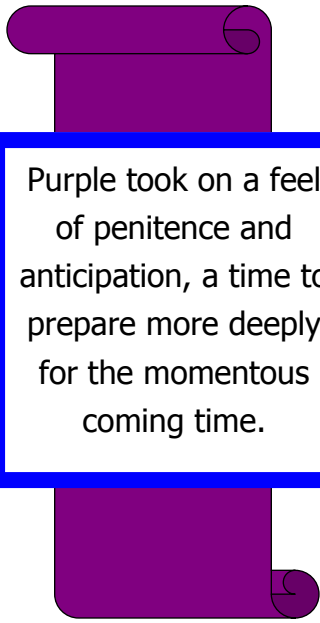
### Does This Matter?

When I first started attending a church that observed the liturgical year, the color of the cloths hanging over the pulpit and communion table seemed to change arbitrarily. The green made sense—so summery, so springy—but I didn't attribute any significance to it. The white used just after Christmas and Easter made some sense, because it seemed festive and holy. But I couldn't quite figure out why red happened just the one day (Pentecost), and why the pre-Christmas and pre-Easter colors were purple. Wasn't Christmas red and green? Purple didn't fit the season at all!

Silly me. It was only gradually that it dawned on me that when this church assigned the terms "Advent" and "Lent" to the times before Christmas and Easter, that there was a "reason for the season." Purple took on a feel of penitence and anticipation, a time to prepare more deeply for the momentous coming time.

### Does This Matter to Me?

It only matters if you use it. Lent may be a human construct, but it is a construct for our benefit. As the meaning of the sanctuary colors began to dawn on me, the colors reminded me to **mentally, emotionally, spiritually prepare to experience the Incarnation or Resurrection.** They invited me to **wonder what a 2,000-year-old event meant in my life right now.**



Purple took on a feel of penitence and anticipation, a time to prepare more deeply for the momentous coming time.

Where have you met God? What needs to die in you? In what ways have you recommitted to "resurrection living"?

There is still time, as Lent winds down over the next couple of weeks. There is time to reflect on where this year's Lenten journey has taken you.

Where have you met God? What needs to die in you? In what ways have you recommitted to "resurrection living"? What signs of new life do you see in yourself? A few moments of reflection each day are all that is necessary to discover what "matters" to you.

See you in church.

*Eileen*

#### LECTIONARY READINGS

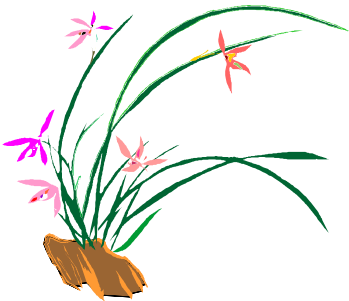
**April 3 (FOLLOW THE LEADER):** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; John 9:1-41; Psalm 23

**April 10 (LOOKING DEATH IN THE FACE):** Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45; Psalm 130

**April 17 (Palm/Passion Sunday)** (We will present Walter Wangerin's play, "The Cry of the Whole Congregation," based on Christ's passion story from the gospels): Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11, 26:14-27:66.

**April 24, Resurrection Sunday (EVERLASTING LOVE):** Jeremiah 31:1-6; Matthew 28:1-10; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

**May 1 (CURIOSITY):** Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Luke 24:13-35; Psalm 16



#### Perfect attendance

The church choir director was frustrated because at least one member was missing from each Easter cantata rehearsal. At the final rehearsal, she announced, "I wish to publicly thank the tenor for being the only choir member to attend every rehearsal."

"It's the least I could do," said the tenor, "since I won't be here for Easter."



**New Windows  
Installed!  
The church  
basement has new  
windows! Thanks go  
to the Women's  
Bible Study Group  
for their generous  
donations.**

## WORK PARTY SCHEDULED

Last month this newsletter promised an event aimed at getting our property looking good for Easter. It is now scheduled for **Saturday April 9, beginning at 9 a.m.** and lasting to about noon.

We will focus on outdoor projects like the **flower garden** in front of the ramp; planting it should be fun. All we need is to have a few folks make that into a community art project.

Also, the **labyrinth** in the back needs spring maintenance so that the paths and stones match the beauty of the blossoms and foliage. That one will be just as much fun and could include a chance to celebrate together with a quiet walk when the touchups to the design are done.

The **paths** in the woods and around the terraces need some TLC now, too. Perhaps this task could be made to fit our Lenten theme of journey, if some creative thinkers join the team. For these yard-care projects, you might bring your favorite hand tool and tell its story to your partners on the project.

Finally, for those willing to experience "many hands make light work" we can use a crew of lifters with levers and other tools to reset some **parking bumpers** in the lot. Tools will be prearranged for this project, and a simple recipe of guidance provided.

Everyone is invited. Everyone can help. We will share yummy snacks and good conversation along the way. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there. In case of rain we go to "Plan B" which is to use the next Saturday, April 16th instead.

*Gilbert Shibley,*

for the Building and Grounds Committee

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through the One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people around the world experiencing need. The gifts we receive support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development.

The monies received go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%), Self-Development of People (32%), and Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%).

The offering is received on Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.





## SPECIAL MUSIC WANTED

This is the day that the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Our church loves music. That is obvious during the hymn sing and during our worship service. I know that some of you have musical talents that we would love to have you share with the congregation. I would like to personally extend an invitation to anyone who would like to share their talent with us during the worship service. If you would like to provide a Prelude, Offertory, Postlude or just some Special Music, please let me know. (This can be instrumental, vocal, ensemble, or all of the above.)

Thank you for helping make our worship service special and meaningful.

*Kathleen Souders,*  
Director of Music

Springwater Environmental Sciences School will be hosting a screening of the documentary film "Race to Nowhere" on April 8th at 7:00pm at the Oregon City old high school- Jackson Campus auditorium.

Visit <http://www.orecity.k12.or.us/race-to-nowhere> for more information and to purchase your tickets online.

This is a powerful film about education in our country and the pressures to achieve. A "must see" for all parents, especially those of students approaching middle school and high school.

Please visit the website at [www.racetonowhere.com](http://www.racetonowhere.com) to learn more and view the movie trailers.

## THE DOCUMENTARY RACE TO NOWHERE

THE DARK SIDE OF AMERICA'S ACHIEVEMENT CULTURE

A film by Vicki Abeles



US | 2010 | DCP | 85 mins | PG13 | English, Spanish and Mandarin subtitles

Media Contacts: Josh Baran  
Baran Communications  
New York  
jbaran@gmail.com  
917-797-1799

Chelsea Doctors  
Reel Link Films  
California  
chelsea@racetonowhere.com  
925-310-4242

[www.RaceToNowhere.com](http://www.RaceToNowhere.com) | [www.facebook.com/RaceToNowhere](https://www.facebook.com/RaceToNowhere)

## Meet Your Neighbors, (again or for the first time!)

### **KIDS, COWS, AND COOKIES: Meet Joy Alford-Thompson**

Joy came to Oregon on a one-way train ticket. Accompanying her were her husband, Omer, their first two children, and the cedar chest that held everything they owned. Settling in Portland, Omer worked and eventually started his own fencing company. In 1970, the family purchased the farm in Springwater. Soon, Joy says, running both the company and the farm became too much. Faced with a choice, Omer opted for farming. We're glad they did, because that's how this born-and-raised Lutheran from Minnesota became a Presbyterian. "I felt comfortable coming to church here as a farmer," she says, remembering that Dr John Anderson was pastor at the time.

#### **Kids**

The first thing you need to know about Joy is that she has a family. And it's a big, one. Many of her original family are still in northwestern Minnesota where she was born, but her offspring all live around here. She has three sons and a daughter. When asked about her grand children, Joy says, "They're ALL great!" If pressed on the point, she'll admit there are eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She lives in the home she and her second husband, Dennis, established on Springwater Road.



#### **Cows**

Joy shares her home with Minnie the basset hound, so it seems obvious that the second thing you need to know about Joy is that she loves animals. Minnie rode in the airplane with Joy from **Minne**-sota to live out here, and she shares Joy with the award-winning Pinzgauer cattle she and her children raise. Most afternoons you can catch Joy heading down Holmen Road to toss hay and feed for the cattle, who all know the sound of her truck. Joy was a 4H leader for 16 years, doing sheep, cows, and pigs.

#### **Cookies**

We all know Joy can cook, which is why the kids and grands love to come out to visit. "Everyone's always coming in, and they always want something to eat," she says. Most of them make a beeline for the freezer, where they know she keeps the home-baked cookies. In the fall, Joy and the family turn her garage into a lefse-making assembly



line, turning out dozens of packages of the soft Scandinavian “potato taco.”

Does Joy have any hobbies? Winter is the only time she has for hobbies, “when I can’t do anything else outside,” she concedes. Joy crochets—“anything and everything”—when she can’t be out working out in her gardens. In addition, “I’m the only one who knows how to patch!” she laughs. Everyone brings their mending to her and leaves it. There is a rumor that one granddaughter has asked to be taught that fine art.

### By Popular Request

Here is Joy’s applesauce bar recipe, which came from her mother, Fran, in the 1950s:

#### BARS

- 1 good cup of raisins
- 2 cups water
- ½ c butter (4 oz.)
- 1 c sugar
- 1 c apple sauce (if using store-bought, add a little more cinnamon)
- 1-¾ c flour
- 1 tsp EACH soda, cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg
- ½ tsp salt

Boil raisins and water together for at least 5 minutes. Remove from heat and, in the same pan, add butter. Allow to melt, then add sugar and applesauce to the same pan. Mix well. Add dry ingredients and mix well by hand. Spread on a large, lightly greased cookie sheet with sides (jelly roll pan) and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Bars are done when an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

#### BROWN SUGAR FROSTING

- ¼ c butter (2 oz.)
- ½ c brown sugar
- pinch of salt
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 c powdered sugar (sifted)
- 2 Tbsp milk

In pan on stove, melt butter. Stir in brown sugar and salt, boil on medium for 1 minute. Add milk and vanilla to pan while on burner, about another ½ minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add sifted powdered sugar. Mix by hand until it starts to thicken. Spread on bars while warm.



Church Work Party, Saturday, April 16: 9 am to noon

- Flower gardens
- Labyrinth
  - Paths
- Parking bumpers

Because of Easter

"The joyful news that [Christ] is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice."

—Henry Knox Sherrill



Springwater  
Currents

Springwater Presbyterian Church  
24553 Springwater Rd  
Estacada, OR 97023  
503.630.5480  
[www.springwater-pres.org](http://www.springwater-pres.org)