

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

February 2014

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Sunday Hours

9:30 AM Sunday School
for all ages

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:
February 24

February Birthdays

Don MacKinnon	2/12
Susan Horton	2/15
Gary Guttridge	2/21
Bill Varitz	2/28



Church Events in February

February 2: supporting Barbara Shibley's work at the Estacada Food Bank during the Moment for Mission

February 9: Quasiquicentennial celebration kick-off potluck at the Grange. Session meeting immediately following to examine candidates for ordination.

February 11: day retreat by Portland-area spiritual director peer supervision group at church

February 16: celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship

February 23: ordination and installation of deacons and elders during worship; Faith Nurture committee meeting after worship

February 26: Knit Nite, 4:30 onwards

March 1: session day retreat, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

March 2: Transfiguration Sunday, celebration of the Lord's Supper in worship, Feast of Fools (silly talent show and potluck at the Grange)



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Pastor's Perspective

During the week I spent with my grandson, Shel, in Chicago, I was able to slip in a weekend visit to Madison, Wisconsin. We stayed with my aunt and uncle, who are faithful morning quiet time practitioners. In fact, they have two rockers in front of their fireplace just for that purpose.

Shel and I shared their Sunday morning quiet time, with me reading the psalm of the day from Nan Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*, while Shel sat on my lap. I love how Merrill paraphrases Psalm 63: "Because your steadfast love is Life to me . . . My soul feasts as at a magnificent banquet . . . The fears that seem to separate me from You shall be transformed and disappear."

After reading the psalm, I explained to Shel that these words meant that God loves him, no matter what. With the wisdom of a 6-year-old he replied, "I know." Of course he knows. We all "know" that in our deepest selves. It's only the snarls and exigencies of life that distract us from that reality. This wisdom did not, however, distract his curiosity regarding sitting in front of a fire every morning. When he wondered, my aunt answered, "To remember. When we sit here and watch the fire, we listen and remember that God loves us, no matter what."

Again, that made complete sense to this boy, who had only been to church two other times in his life. Of course God loves him. Of course we need to remember.

Then, we were off to worship at my home church. The preacher used the same scripture passages you heard that Sunday. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" and "I will make you fish for people."

Wanting to make a point about a different type of fishing, the preacher read a long quotation from Jonathan Edwards' sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." The quotation continued for some time and included some of the more vivid descriptions of the punishments awaiting sinners. When he concluded, he said that the original listeners had responded to that sermon with convulsions, unconsciousness, fear and weeping. After they regain consciousness, they converted.

"Little pitchers have big ears," but I have never in my life so fervently wished someone was not listening to a sermon. Jonathan Edwards meant to terrify his listeners. What would a small boy hear about God? The preacher's words were in stark contrast to breakfast on Mor-Mor's lap, hearing "God loves you no matter what."



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Can a 6-year-old differentiate an illustrative quotation from a direct statement? Can any of us? What do we hear on Sunday morning that illustrates the simple truth, “God loves us no matter what”? What does the witness of our lives tell people the rest of the week about God’s love?

I pray that my grandson will trust the words and life of his grandmother more than what he heard or mis-heard from a total stranger. I pray that his confidence in what he “knows” is stronger than a quotation without context. I pray that he will **remember**, just as his great-great aunt and uncle **remember** every morning, sitting in front of the fire and listening. God loves us, no matter what.

I wonder if Jonathan Edwards misunderstood what CK Chesterton called “the furious love of God.” What I believe Chesterton means is a love that becomes furious at how far we are from what God dreams for us. It is not anger **at** us, nor an anger trying to hurt or punish us. It is the anger of frustrated love, the anger of a lover whose longing for a relationship of mutuality with us is frustrated. It is a love that longs and yearns, that draws and seduces the objects of that love—us. Remember.

See you in church.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen".

Lectionary Readings

February 2 (ATHELETIC DISCIPLINE): Hebrews 2:1-15; Matthew 12:9-14; Psalm 15

February 9 (DON’T BE FOOLED): Hebrews 13:9-16; Matthew 6:7-15; Psalm 28

February 16 (ADVICE: PRACTICAL AND IMPRACTICAL) (celebration of the Lord’s Supper): 2 Peter 1:1-11; Matthew 7:1-12; Psalm 12

February 23 (GOALS AND OBJECTIVES): Matthew 7:13-20; Psalm 119

March 2 (THE ONLY WAY TO RESPOND) (Transfiguration Sunday; celebration of the Lord’s Supper): Job 36:27-37:24; Matthew 17:1-13; Psalm 11



Springwater Presbyterian Church

You are invited!



1889-2014
Springwater Presbyterian
Church
125 years of service to the
community

Springwater Presbyterian Church will celebrate it's Quasquicentennial in July of 2014. We want to begin our celebration with a better understanding of our past. On **February 9th** we will have a program to look at the church and community through its historical photos. We want to hear stories about the pictures and we hope to contact as many people as possible who have been members over the years to join us in telling the whole story.

If you have not yet brought your pictures and stories to church, please bring them on the 9th, we can scan them and take down your stories.

Whether or not you have pictures or stories, please join us on February 9th to celebrate our history, hear stories and see photos from our past, and share in a potluck meal. We want to see **you** there.

Your Quasquicentennial committee,
Kathy Scott, Nike Guttridge, Wilma Guttridge,
Cheryl Watson, and Renate Jeppeson

Shining Lights --"Who, me?"

Sometimes things just seem to happen around here, but look a little closer and you will find someone has been making sure they do. People serve in little ways and our collective light gets brighter.

People helping others learn about Jesus and discipleship --teachers. People being good stewards of our health as the body of Christ --session and deacons. Thank them for all the behind the scenes energy we too often take for granted. They do it well and God blesses them --and us. Many more things get done in smaller bits without appointment or election.

If you have an idea of what also could happen, or if you just want to help on a small part of some bigger effort, then just speak up. Talk to a Committee chairperson or someone else about any place you might like to offer a hand. Or talk to me. In my role as Lay Ministry Coordinator I aim to help you find a place here for whatever talents and interests you have. I want to help your light shine. Then our church's will, too, and glory be to God!

" . . . let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." --Matthew 5:16

Gilbert Shibley, Lay Ministry Coordinator



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Thanks to Volunteers

Perhaps as a reflection of the gratitude emphasis of our stewardship campaign this fall, or maybe as a continuation of it, Session is more sensitive these days to saying “thank you” to people or “good job” for the work they do. We see it as part of the stewardship of our resources to express gratitude to people who serve the kingdom of God by what they do in their day-to-day lives.

Because our congregation is so spread out geographically, the ways we serve in our own locales are not so visible to each other as when we all lived in the same locale. Our “parish” these days extends 20 miles in any direction from the church building. It’s often a burden for volunteers to drive great distances to serve, and this doesn’t make sense when there are so many needs in our own backyards.

Consequently, session has decided to support volunteers who might not be officially representing Springwater, but who are, nevertheless, serving the kingdom. In the spirit of stewardship, it is appropriate to periodically say thanks to these folks.

Most volunteers do not do what they do in order to be thanked. Most volunteers do what they do because it is a passion of theirs, because they feel called to fill a need in this particular way, because they were asked. Thanks, especially public thanks directed toward ourselves, makes

What’s on your Schedule?

	Ushers	Worship Leader:	Snacks:
February 2:	Barbara & Don MacKinnon	Mary Shearer	Souders
February 9:	Debbie Ingamells Mary Neigel	Carol Sturman	Sturmans
February 16:		Gwen Shearer	Joy Thompson
February 23:	Renate & Adelia Jeppeson	Neal Jeppeson	Jeppesons



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Thanks to Volunteers

most of us very uncomfortable. But saying and receiving thanks—gratitude—is an important spiritual discipline to develop.

Gratitude is a curious thing. Jesus said “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” and most of us take that to mean, “Jesus wants me to give to others.” But if the recipients are deprived of the dignity of saying “thanks,” part of the blessing is lost on the giver. Even when the giver does not give for the sake of thanks, it is a blessing to receive those thanks.

We say thanks to Barbara Shibley on February 2 for her work at the Estacada Area Food Bank.

Presbytery Leadership Fair: Best Bargain Around

QUESTION: Where can you hear an engaging keynoter with real insights about dealing with church conflicts? Attend two timely, high-quality workshops to help you in your role at church and in your personal life? Enjoy a wonderful lunch and make connections with fellow Presbyterian? All for the incredibly modest price of \$20?

ANSWER: The Cascades Leadership Fair, slated for Saturday, February 22, from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian, Vancouver. To sign up for the event, visit www.cascadespresbytery.org or contact Janet Alpine, jalpine@cascadespresbytery.org or 800-701-7313.

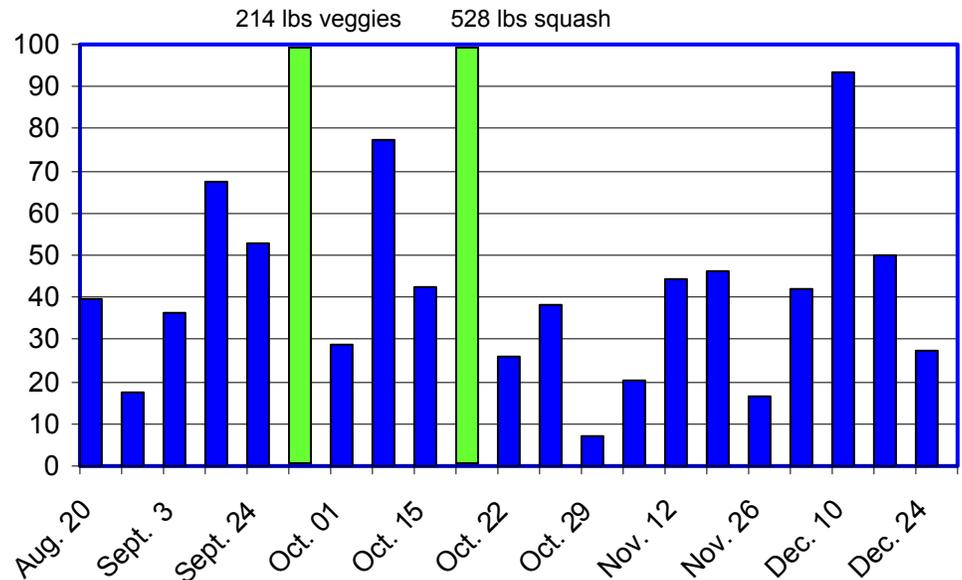
Each attendee may participate in two workshops, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Some of these workshops include sessions on parish nursing, involving all the senses in worship, appreciative inquiry, supporting your spiritual health, and personalities and peacemaking. There are also training sessions specifically geared for treasurers and session clerks.

Nationally known speaker, author and mediator Rich Carroll will keynote the 2014 Cascades Leadership Fair. Rich will speak on “Approaching our Conflicts in Christ,” sharing insights gained from his extensive training in mediation and his work through Peace Connections Ministries with scores of congregations in conflict.

Cost for the entire event is just \$20. To register, get a brochure from the church office, visit the website, www.cascadespresbytery.org or contact Janet Alpine at 800-701-7313 or jalpine@cascadespresbytery.org. Registration deadline is February 14.

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Pounds of Food Donated to the Food Bank in 2013



Remember the Red Tub

Look at all the food we donated to the Estacada Area Food Bank in the last half of 2013! This chart shows how many pounds of food we put in the Red Tub and that Lynda Conway delivered to the food bank each week. Thank you, Lynda! Let's see what we can do in 2014!



FOOLS EAT TOGETHER

Transfiguration Sunday is March 2. Traditionally we gather around the Lord's Table for communion during worship, and then go over to the Grange to gather around the tables for potluck. This year is no exception. This is our "final" celebration, the Presbyterian equivalent of Mardi Gras. We culminate with a Silly Talent Show after the potluck. Judy Coyne has graciously agreed to be the mistress of ceremonies for the talent show again this year. Start practicing up your jokes, foolish songs, silly skits, humorous poetry recitations. Anything to get us all laughing.





Springwater Presbyterian Church

[Home Page](#)



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