

Springwater CURRENTS

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

April 2015

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April Birthdays

Mary Johnson	4/1
Kendra Guttridge	4/2
Brittany Ingamells	4/2
Robin Fisher	4/5
Gilbert Shibley	4/5
Ellen Ingamells	4/6
Judy Coyne	4/7
Mary Neigel	4/14
Rick Parfrey	4/17
Eileen Parfrey	4/18
Joss Kirby	4/26
Tom Watson	4/27



Happy Anniversary

Carol & Peter Sturman 4/24

Sunday Hours

No Sunday School

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

April 20

Church Events in April

April 2: Maundy Thursday service with foot/hand washing and celebration of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 (joint service with Eagle Creek Presbyterian)

April 5: Easter Sunday; breakfast at the Grange before worship

April 16: joint deacon and elder discussion of the book, *Slow Church*, 7 to 8:30

April 19: deacon meeting at the Watson's home, immediately following worship

May 2: A Walk Through Worship for the 4th graders, 10 a.m., at the church

May 3: presentation of Bibles to 4th graders

Springwater Currents is published monthly by Springwater Presbyterian Church.
Send submissions, corrections and comments to enviromom@rconnects.com.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

We are blessed to be made of a scattered membership that's willing to "come home" to worship and nurture our particular and distinctive community.

Pastor's Perspective

A fifteenth anniversary sounds momentous. When we celebrated my fifteen years as your pastor on March 15, it was momentous enough for me to resurrect the scrapbook the congregation made for our first anniversary. Notes from parishioners, photos of first-year activities, autographs—it's a real "trip down memory lane," illustrating how much we all have changed!

Not "spare change"

The changes aren't just because we're all older. We're a different congregation. Although our membership numbers have not changed much, a casual glance shows as much as 50% turnover in members, due to death, moving, and moving on.

It's not unusual. Church experts tell us to plan on a functionally "new" church every ten years or so, due to member turnover. They recommend that leadership take that into account for long range planning.

Our current leadership—session and deacons—is doing that by reading a book together. The book is *Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus*. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll see drop-in quotations from a few elders as to what we hope to accomplish in this conversation about our next "new" church.

"Slow" as opposed to "fast"

Slow Church gets its title from a word play reflecting the Slow Food movement that emerged at the end of the 20th century. This movement resisted what it called the McDonaldization of eating--efficiency, predictability, and control. Slow Church resists the same trends, only in churches—bigger, disembodied, disconnected. Slow Church is a way of imagining church as local and intentional about interconnectedness, mutuality, and abundant life *together*.

We are blessed at Springwater to have a rich and cherished tradition, passed on through story and commitment to place. We are blessed to be made of a scattered membership that's willing to "come home" to worship and nurture our particular and distinctive community.

That blessing is also the very challenge we face. How do we continue to nurture this community so we can send us out into our week-day scattered communities? Ever since St Benedict founded his order in the 6th century, intentional Christian community has been predicated on "stability of place"—a localized commitment to community.

But it goes back further than that. The early church described in the book of Acts met in people's homes—about as local as you can get. The semi-public meeting halls we've come to think of as "church" didn't come along until Constantine declared Christianity the state religion.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

"How do we remain
in *this* community
and still engage in
and love the
communities in
which we are placed
the rest of the week?"

The authors of *Slow Church* suggest ways to nurture communities of believers gathered and rooted in particular places at a particular time. The conversation our leadership will ask is, "How do we remain in *this* community and still engage in and love the communities in which we are placed the rest of the week? How do we nurture *Springwater* so that Springwater can nurture us?"

I speak for all the deacons and elders when I invite you to join us in that conversation, wondering where God is leading us.

See you in church.

Eileen

Session's Conversation on *Slow Church*

For 2015, session and deacons have agreed to read a book together and gather on a regular basis to discuss what they have been reading. The book is *Slow Church: On Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus* by C Christopher Smith and John Pattison. The reasoning behind this and what we hope to accomplish is suggested by various sentences you'll find popping up throughout this newsletter in **bold print** with a border like the one shown below.

This is a form of corporate discernment as to what God is calling us to do as a congregation.

Lectionary Readings

April 5 (Easter Sunday, REJOICE! REJOICE!): Acts 10:34-43; mark 16:1-8; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 12 (YOU MAKE IT REAL): Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31; Psalm 133

April 19 (SITTING UP AND TAKING NOURISHMENT): Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48; Psalm 4

April 26 (WE LIKE SHEEP): Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18; Psalm 23



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mission Trip Destination

After prayerful discernment, the Mission Discernment Committee has presented to session their plans for an inter-generational mission trip. Session has endorsed the plans, which include traveling to Loveland, Colorado, where our members and congregation will cooperate with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the Larimer County Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) as it rebuilds after 2013 floods. Travel will be (approximately) July 26 to August 1. Our volunteer efforts will consist of debris clean-up, neighborhood beautification, rebuilding, etc. LTRG will be providing all of the necessary tools and oversight needed in a safe working environment. A representative of the PDA will be providing us with more details and trip arrangements as our trip dates get closer. Planning of the room & board and mission work is all conducted through the PDA.

Room & Board

The Mountain View Presbyterian Church (MVPC) has graciously agreed to host our group by letting us use their facilities, which consists of kitchen/dining, sleeping arrangements, shower, and other amenities. In an effort to reduce the burden, MVPC requires a \$20 per diem for each person. We are responsible for both food purchasing and preparation. The kitchen is fully equipped to accommodate our needs. We will need to budget and plan for three meals a day for five days. Each individual will be responsible for his/her meals the other two days.

Travel Arrangements

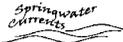
We plan to travel by air from PDX to Denver, because this gives us more time "on the ground" in Loveland. This will involve group booking, which may allow us to receive a discount on airfare, but non-refundable tickets. To further reduce the cost of airfare, we are encouraging members to donate Alaska Airlines miles. It will take 20,000 miles/person. **If you are willing to donate miles, please contact Rick Parfrey at 503/638-0109.**

In addition to the airfare, we will need to arrange ground transportation (15 passenger van) for travel to/from airport, church, worksite, etc. Due to insurance requirements, only individuals over the age of 25 are able to drive.

Fundraising

For several years, session has allocated endowment fund disbursements to a mission trip, so we have some money set aside. But in order to supplement the endowment funds, we plan an array of fundraising events between now and our travel dates. These will include: Slave Auction, Grange Breakfast/Car

Our church body is
a fellowship of
worshippers who
want to learn and
follow in Jesus'
path to the
betterment of the
world.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Wash, Burgerville, Can Collection, Silent Auction, and Go Fund Me page. More details to come.

Loveland

A little history of our host church, Mountain View Presbyterian. It was founded February 15, 1959 as a result of the union of two Presbyterian denominations, in recognition of which, then, members of two Loveland churches voted and agreed to "support a new church both spiritually and materially."

During the 2013 flooding, Mountain View sustained minimal flooding in the basement. The majority of the Loveland flood damage was contained by the river flood plains. Sometimes the difference between total loss and no damage was less than 10 feet in some cases depending on the land contour. Areas that were most impacted are canyons, river beds, runoff tributaries and flood plain sites. Adding to the losses were that some homes in the area were rebuilt after damage from fires two years previous. Many homes were washed away or damaged from flood runoff issues stemming from previous fire devastation. Everyone in the community knows someone impacted by either of these disasters or was themselves damaged.

We're told that Mountain View Church is very focused on mission beyond the church walls, both locally and internationally. They have many partnerships around the world in Malawi, Africa, India, South America and Alaska. Locally they support and volunteer at House of Neighborly Service, the local food bank, Meals on Wheels, and Community Kitchen.

The future of our church is God's plan; we are just the workers who forward it.

What's on your Schedule?

	Ushers	Worship Leader:	Snacks:
April 5:	Please check the volunteer list in	Peter Sturman	Easter
April 12:	Fellowship Hall	Deb Ingamells	Open-Please sign Up
April 19:		Nona Shearer	Open-Please sign Up
April 26:		Jessie Jo Guttridge	Open-Please sign up



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Report from the March Session Meeting

The following actions were taken or items discussed at the March 19 session meeting:

We read Jeremiah 29:4-14 as lectio divina for the devotions. Elders were asked to listen for a present word regarding scattering, a word for the future, and a word that calls to action.

There will be no Vacation Church School this summer, because of the upcoming inter-generational mission trip to Loveland, CO. There is no convener for the Faith Nurture committee at this time.

A committee will be invited to recommend ways to enhance our online presence as a congregation.

We renewed our commitment to having a monthly Moment for Mission on stewardship.

Buildings and Grounds will set a date for the spring clean up.

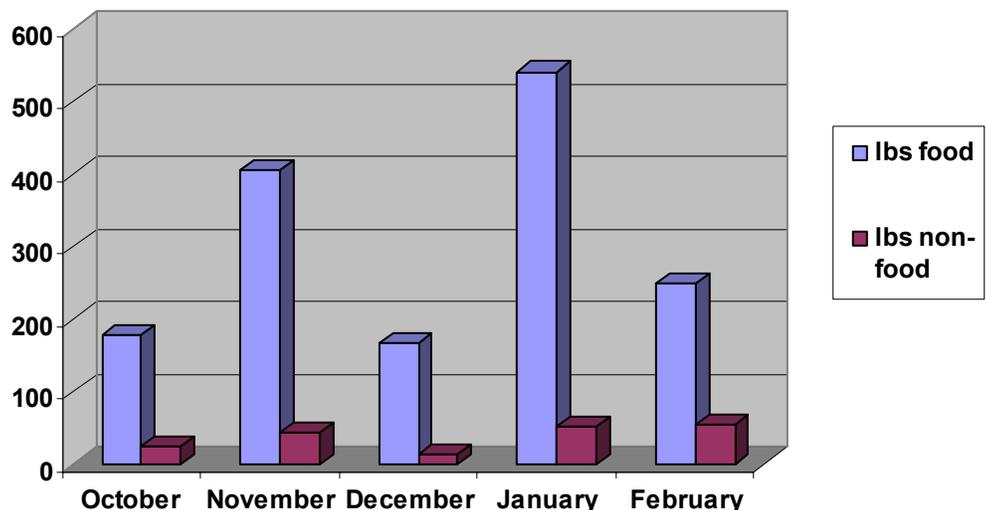
Pastor Eileen will attend the presbytery's (required) sexual misconduct prevention training and bring back suggestions for updating our congregation's policy and training all volunteers in it.

The presbytery's Committee on Congregational Connections asked what our congregation brags about itself. We responded with these items: our recent 125th birthday celebration, our beautiful buildings and grounds and their relative age and excellent maintenance, that we are actively a multi-generational church (people of all ages participate in the leadership and worship), our brand-new stained glass window (and that the whole congregation participated in the fundraising and development of its design), the up-coming inter-generational PDA mission trip to Loveland, CO.

We'll discern whether we need to make changes in the church or congregation to assure it thrives in the next generation.

We are discerning and working out a realistic plan to continue our church's growth and mission.

Food Bank Donations





Springwater Presbyterian Church

Youth Group News

Hi everyone! I hope that you've been enjoying the wonderful weather that spring has brought us. This month's youth group's activities will be:

The first outing will be to see the Grange play "I Don't Have a Clue". No, that is the name of the play. The play runs April 10, 11, 12 and April 17. The youth have not narrowed down an exact date to see the play. Everyone is welcome to see the play as several of the youth and their parents are performing in this play. Please contact Tami and Don Guttridge for reservations/tickets.

Our next activity will be a game night on April 24 at The Souders house from 6:30 - 8:30. Bring your favorite board games and a snack to share.

Our first fundraiser of the year will be a breakfast at the Grange Saturday, May 2 from 7 - 11. \$5.00 will get you pancakes, eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, biscuits and gravy and coffee, juice or milk. All youth and parents will be asked to help. Even if you are not a parent of youth, you can still help make or serve breakfast. Contact Jennifer or Kasey for more information.

We are looking forward to our Mission trip to Colorado this July. More information to come in the next months.

Jennifer Souders

Session Roster

Clerk: Nona Shearer

Treasurer: Gwen Shearer

Financial secretary: Lynda Conway

Deacon moderator: Cheryl Watson

Representatives for Endowment: Al Conway, Deb Ingamells

Representative for Nominating: Tim Guttridge (session),

Representative for Personnel committee: Tom Watson, Al Conway

Buildings and Grounds: Tom Watson (moderator), Tim Guttridge, Al Conway

Faith Nurture: none at this time

Worship: Deb Ingamells (moderator), Kathleen Souders

Mission interpretation: Kathleen Souders

Deacon Roster

Hospitality: Nike Guttridge, Cheryl Watson

Visits/communion

Prayer chain: Kathy Scott

Representative for Nominating: Nike Guttridge (deacon)

Who are we, what is
God calling us to
be, what are the
next one or two
steps we might take?



Springwater Presbyterian Church



Easter Celebration
Sunday, April 5
Service begins 10:30
Join us for a potluck breakfast at 9 a.m. in
the Grange

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Currents*

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