

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

December 2014

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Sunday Hours

9:30 Adult Sunday School

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

December 22

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

Kathy Scott	12/6
Danika Odell	12/12
Kevin Kirby	12/22
Valerie Ballantyne	12/26
Jim Roden	12/28



Happy Anniversary
Eileen & Rick Parfrey 12/16

Church Events in December

December 3: personnel committee, 6:30

December 6: wedding in the afternoon

December 7: greening of the church after worship

December 14: progressive dinner immediately following worship,
organized by deacons

December 16: session meeting, 6:00

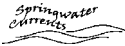
December 21: celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship

December 24: Service of Lessons and Carols, 7:30

January 4: celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship

January 18: annual congregational meeting (yearend reports and election
of officers)

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Send submissions, corrections and comments to enviromom@rconnects.com.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Pastor's Perspective

Was it synchronicity, just plain coincidence, or was it (as we Presbyterians might say) “pre-ordained before the beginning of time”?

When Bev and I went on pilgrimage in September, we decided on a book to read and discuss as we walked. The book was *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings*, by John Philip Newell. It's a brand new book by one of our favorite authors, and we covered a lot of ground—literally and literarily—during rest stops in France.

On the train from Glasgow to Iona, we learned that Newell would be leading another retreat there while we were on the island. Our surprise at this development was tempered by a tiny bit of disappointment, but never mind! It turned out that he, a member of the Iona community, would do a book launch talk in the Abbey, where we were staying.

Some book launch! Through a shipping snafu, Bev and I had the only two copies of the book on the island that didn't already belong to the author. The line to have our copies autographed was, therefore, short enough to allow for real conversation.

The organizing motif of his book uses the weekly pilgrimage walk around the island. He uses that to unpack the ways Christianity needs to reconnect—with the earth, with compassion and non-violence, with spiritual practice, with what other faith traditions can teach us.

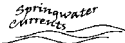
Newell's reputation (according to the book jacket) is as a writer, visionary spiritual leader, peacemaker, and scholar. He speaks from deep *within* the Church, having served as pastor at Iona Abbey and St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. When he isn't writing or on speaking tour, he resides at Ghost Ranch, in New Mexico.

It is from a place of being deeply embedded in the Church that Newell speaks of the collapse of Christianity. The changes in the Church, he claims, are seismic. “In twenty-five years,” he said “the Church will be gone.”

What good?

One of the questions on my mind as I left for sabbatical pilgrimage was, “What *good* is the Church?” That was not a cynical question. It was shorthand for wondering about the changing mission of the changing Church in a radically changing world. What *are* we up to? And is it of any useful good, for God's sake?

It is from a place of being deeply embedded in the Church that Newell speaks of the collapse of Christianity.



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Prophets now, as back in Bible times, hold God's people accountable for acting in light of that hope, no matter what—...

This year's Advent preaching series focuses on the Hebrew prophecies for the coming of the Messiah. It's called, "Dream Keepers," because the prophets served as custodians of God's hopes, desires, dreams for God's people and all creation.

It was the prophets who kept alive God's dream. We often portray them as angry screamers, but they were really encouragers, helping God's people to **translate hope for the future into action in the present**. Prophets now, as back in Bible times, hold God's people accountable for acting in light of that hope, no matter what—even in the face of seismic disappointment, confusion and discouragement. Even when we hear news of the collapse of Christianity, we need the prophets to help us live into the "good" of God's calling for us.

See you in church.

Eileen



Advent Daily Devotionals

When a congregation reads and prays scripture together, even for a season as short as Advent, powerful things happen. The Faith Nurture committee is excited that Pastor Eileen will again be pulling together a daily devotional for us to use during this season. Each week will be in a self-contained pamphlet, with readings based on the Sunday lectionary texts, short meditations taken from spiritual writers, and activities suitable for use on one's own or as a family.

Look for these devotionals in fellowship hall. If you miss your copy on Sunday, the devotionals will be posted on our website:

www.springwaterpres.org.

In conjunction with the Advent daily devotionals, Adult Sunday School will be held throughout Advent. Please join Peter every Sunday in Advent at 9:30 to discuss how the daily devotionals have touched you during the week.

Adult Sunday School
9:30 each Sunday
during Advent



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Springwater's Endowment

It is during this time of the year we tend to give and receive gifts.

I would ask you to close your eyes and let your mind wander back through the pages of your memory...do you recall the best gift you ever received? Now, once again, think back through your past...do you recall the best gift you ever gave to someone?

Now, which of these gave you the most pleasure? Without question, we all know that giving is by far the most satisfying of the two.

Which leads me to this message of giving. Your gift to the Springwater Presbyterian Endowment Fund can be one of the most lasting gifts you could make. There are many ways to give to this program, and any one of the Endowment Committee members would be happy to discuss this with you.

When you begin to think about gifts you might make to loved ones this Christmas season remember to include Springwater Presbyterian's Endowment Fund in your thoughts. It will be so rewarding to know that you gave a gift that will touch so many people in various ways, and you will find the pleasure of giving to be far more rewarding than receiving.

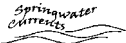
If you make your gift prior to years end you will also get the benefit of writing this off on your taxes. So, a tax break and the knowledge that you have given the best gift one can give, can it get any better than that ???

May the peace of Christ be with each of you

Steve Stiles and Your Endowment Committee

Dick Scott, chair





Springwater Presbyterian Church

Pledges for 2015

A few weeks ago we celebrated Consecration Sunday and dedicated your pledges for the upcoming year. The session thanks you for your pledges. As usual you have been generous. We are busy working on next year's budget. If you haven't made your pledge yet, please give it to a session member as soon as you can.

Progressive Dinner

December 14th, beginning after church, the deacons are hosting a progressive dinner. There will be three stops: appetizers, soup at Tom and Cheryl Watson's, and dessert. The first and last stops are to be announced. Please sign up to attend this special dinner. A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall.



What's on your Schedule?

	Ushers	Worship Leader:	Snacks:
December 7:	Randy & Mary Johnson	Mary Neigel	Jeppesons
December 14:	Kathy Scott Allen Siefken	Mary Shearer	Conway
December 21:	Judy Coyne Gilbert Shibley	Carol Sturman	Souders
December 28:	Peter & Carol Sturman	Neal Jeppeson	Nona



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mission Yearbooks for Prayer

Man! We haven't even finished the 2014, and already the 2015 Mission Yearbooks have arrived. The cost of these wonderful daily devotion resources has risen over the years, and this year's price increase was particularly steep, due to decreasing demand for print copies. Springwater was able to purchase the 2015 books for \$18 each. If you are able to help pay for your copy, please mark your check as "Mission Yearbook" or leave the cash in an envelope with those words on the outside.

Demand for print books has been falling, because so many people are choosing to go online to get the day's lectionary readings and mission emphasis. If this is what you choose to do, go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/> and the day's entry will appear.

Otherwise, please pick up your print copy in fellowship hall. There are few better ways to support the mission of our church, than to read the scripture daily and pray for those who are in mission.

Adopt-A-Family

This year Springwater is adopting 3 families for Christmas. These families are all in need of clothing and household items. I will have posters up with the information for each family in the Fellowship Hall. You can either sign up and bring items for the families or you can donate money and we will go and do the shopping for you. The items need to be returned to the church by December 14.

Thank you for helping make Christmas brighter for these families.

Kathleen Souders

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**Choir**

Springwater has a choir again. We may be small, but we can lift our voices to the Lord. The choir will be singing each Sunday in Advent and Christmas. A reminder to the Choir members, we plan on meeting at 9:30 am each Sunday as well as each Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Kathleen Souders

Youth Group Update

Hi everyone! I hope that your Thanksgiving festivities have been spectacular and that you've been able to relax with friends and family. I just wanted to let you know about some of the upcoming events we will be having for youth group in December. Our first outing will be Saturday, December 13th, at 10 am. We will be shopping for the Adopt-a-Families and wrapping gifts at my house once we're done with the shopping. We will be meeting at the Clackamas Promenade (where Target is) to do our shopping. I will let you know more specific details once the date gets closer.

For our fun activity, we will be getting together to go to the Grotto Festival of Lights. I will contact you all to see when would work for you, either a week day or a weekend.

Talk to you all soon,

Jennifer Souders



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Lectionary Readings

November 30 (DESIRE): Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 7 (CHANGE): Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 14 (HOPE): Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21 (DREAM) (celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship): 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 28 (ENJOY): Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

January 4 (EPIPHANY) (celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship): Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 11 (BAPTISM OF THE LORD): Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 18: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51



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