

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

December 2015

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Sunday Hours

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

December 28

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

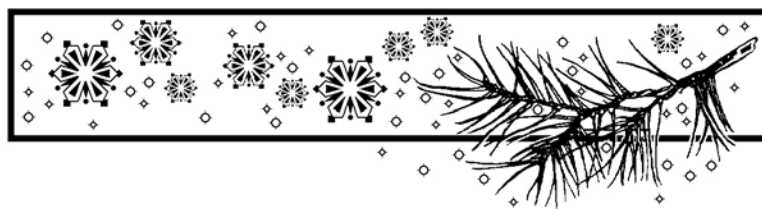
Church Events in December

12/6: Greening the Church after service

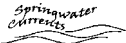
12/13: Progressive Dinner after worship, serve dinner at Human Solutions warming shelter— see page 3

12/20: Celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship. Caroling / Decorate for Christmas Eve Service (Time TBD)

12/24: 7:30 Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols



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



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Pastor's Perspective

Where did we have roadblocks and seem to be stuck? Where did things go smoothly and make us feel so happy.

As the calendar is turned to December, we automatically know several different things about keeping time.

- we know the end of the year is near and soon it will be 2016.
- we know that the season of Advent opens the month .
- we know that Christmas with all its preparations and festivities is near.

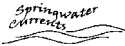
- we know it is time to put financial taxes and budgets in order.
- we know there have been changes in our lives this year.
- we know there have been changes in the world around us.

You can easily and quickly add a few other "we know" statements to this list and suddenly we have accumulated a huge bank of accumulated information and knowledge.

Some folks will register the facts listed above, give an implicit nod to the factuality of it all, and move on to the next item on their agenda. But what would happen if we took December, this last month of the calendar year and used it to reflect on the year we have been living and looked for moments behind the detailed facts. Where did we have roadblocks and seem to be stuck? Where did things go smoothly and make us feel so happy. Where were we aware that God had some movement in our lives. Where were the events that made us want to ask when God might appear and be active in our lives.

This might seem closely related to the type of things we are asked to do when the new year arrives, to look ahead and make new plans and set new goals. But that is a different step. A common spiritual practice is to take time at the end of each day and to reflect on the day as well as reflect on your reactions to it. To be able to identify where you were in step with God and where you went along on your very own. This month of December, as the year draws to a close, we might be well served to review the past year in the same manner of the daily spiritual practice. When we turn the calendar page at the end of December, we might then, be more prepared and ready to see how God might lead us into the new day.

Beverly Crow



Springwater Presbyterian Church



CHRISTMAS JOY - SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Now through December 20 we will be learning about the Christmas Joy offering. The Christmas Joy Offering is able to help provide financial assistance to individuals and families that have dedicated their lives to the church and also support racial ethnic education and leadership development for students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

Did You Know?

- 1) The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's.
- 2) The Offering distributes gifts 50/50 to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and racial ethnic education and leadership development.
 - The Assistance Program provides integral financial support to church workers and their families.
 - Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and spiritual leadership, while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

This offering will be dedicated on Sunday, December 20.

Kathleen Souders

Financial Update

Our church dedicated our pledges for 2016 on November 15th, and to date the total pledged amount to the General Fund for 2016 is \$75,560. This compares to \$84,270 pledged for 2015. If you haven't filled out an orange pledge card, please do so and get it to Gwen Shearer before the December 10th session budget meeting, where we will draw up a proposed budget for 2016. To all the people who have pledged for 2016, thank you!

Our finances for 2015 are looking OK at this time. Our income versus our expenses for our General Fund has been bouncing around this year but, at this time, it looks like we will end up the year about even.

Gwen Shearer, Accounts Receivable Treasurer



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Elders and Deacons wanted

Nominations needed

The Nominating committee is currently gathering names of those who are feeling called to help out our church by serving as an officer for the coming year(s).

We are especially in need of at least one person to serve as a Deacon for the next year. If you would like to be, or have a suggestion for someone to be a Deacon, then please let Tim or Nike Guttridge know as soon as you can. If you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2016, then we would like to hear that as well.

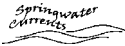
Tim Guttridge, Session Representative for the 2015 Nominating Committee.

Tim's contact info: 4tguttridge@gmail.com 503-307-5087

Nike's contact info: 4nikeguttridge@gmail.com 503-781-1025

What's on your Schedule?

	Ushers	Worship Leader:	Snacks:
December 6:	Don & Barbara MacKinnon	Nona Shearer	Wilma, Jeppesons
December 13:	Nike & Tim Guttridge	Jessie Jo Guttridge	Progressive Dinner
December 20:	Judy Coyne Gilbert Shibley	Mary Shearer	Souders
December 27:	Debbie Ingamells Mary Neigel	Neal Jeppeson	Nona



Springwater Presbyterian Church

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

The Adopt-A-Family program that we have participated in over the past years is not in operation this year. I was able to contact someone who is helping the foster families in the Estacada area.

I was able to get one of these families for Springwater to help. There is a 6 year old girl and a 1 1/2 year old boy that are in need of clothing and games/ toys. I will post a sign-up list in the fellowship hall with the needed information. I will need to have these items wrapped / labeled and returned to the church by Sunday, December 13.

Please feel free to also bring items for the Estacada Area Food Bank. They are in need of canned soup, stew, top ramen, tuna, diapers, personal hygiene items, etc. These items are gathered in our "Red Tub" and delivered to the EAFB weekly.

Let's remember our friends and neighbors in the community that are struggling to make ends meet.

Thank you,

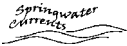
Kathleen Souders



December Events

The deacons are planning a progressive dinner on December 13th. The meal will begin after church and progress to three homes within our congregation. Please contact the deacons if you wish to attend or to contribute to the meal.

December 13th also begins our seasonal support of Human Solutions warming shelter in Portland. We will be serving dinner for about 100 people at the shelter on this evening. Please see Debbie Ingamells if you wish to help.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

It's Time to Plant for the Future!

It's dreary December with gray skies, wind, rain, bare trees and bundle up to go outside kind of weather.

So it's time to plant bulbs! Bulbs that will disappear underground as you plant them only to reappear later with colorful flowers to brighten your late January or early February days. You plant them for future rewards.

It's like that with donations to Springwater's Endowment fund. What you donate today will bring beautiful rewards in the future. And added benefits over bulbs is that you get a tax break and you don't have to go out in the December weather to do it!

So please consider your situation and see if you can't help out in the future by donating to Springwater's Endowment fund today. And be sure to mark your checks for the Endowment Fund.

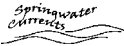
Support the Food Bank

In September Springwater's generous congregation donated 231 pounds of food and 15 pounds of other goods *and* 4 dozen eggs to the Estacada Area Food Bank. In October, those numbers were 195.5 pounds of food, 38.5 pounds of non-food items and 4 dozen eggs.

That doesn't even count all the coin offering. All of Springwater's loose coin offering is donated in support of the food bank.

What can we do in December?





Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mission Yearbook Transitions to New Digital-Only Format

Presbyterian News Service

PMA PRESS RELEASE

Melody K. Smith

LOUISVILLE

The 120-year old *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* will become an online-only free digital resource starting in 2016. This move broadens the reach of the book's audience by sharing its inspiring content in a timelier manner and also demonstrates good stewardship of church resources.

The *Mission Yearbook* dates back to 1892 as a simple calendar of prayer to help women's societies pray for missionaries on designated days. It has the longest history of any denominational mission and prayer book in the United States.

The publication's esteemed history will be reflected in the online version of the *Mission Yearbook* by connecting Presbyterians to the greater church and energizing them for mission.

Over the past decade, as readership of the printed *Mission Yearbook* declined, the cost per book increased dramatically, making it less accessible to many.

"We are saddened to discontinue the historical print publication, which has been the center of daily devotional life for many Presbyterians," said senior director of Communications, Kathy Francis. "With the vast majority of people accessing information online, it was a natural and financially responsible choice to transition the book to an online-only resource."

The transition to digital will make the *Mission Yearbook* available to everyone at no cost. In addition, a new, user-friendly Presbyterian Mission Agency website is being developed that will enable the *Mission Yearbook* to be more easily accessed.

Mid councils will no longer be asked to provide content for the *Mission Yearbook*. Instead, Presbyterian News Service reporters will call to interview mid council leaders and write stories reflecting mission. The shorter turnaround time for digital stories will result in fresher content. Additionally, the online format will allow some mission stories to be told using video.

"We're encouraged that by continuing the beautiful tradition of this book in an online format, we will be able to bring stories of mission to life in a new way," said Francis. "We appreciate the ongoing support of the *Mission Yearbook* and the prayerful financial support of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/> This is where you can find the mission yearbook online.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Lectionary Readings

Dec 6: Malachi 3:1–4, Luke 1:68–79, Philippians 1:3–11, Luke 3:1–6

Dec 13: Zephaniah 3:14–20, Isaiah 12:2–6, Philippians 4:4–7, Luke 3:7–18

Dec 20: Micah 5:2–5a, Luke 1:46b–55, Hebrews 10:5–10, Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

Dec 27: 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26, Psalms 148, Colossians 3:12–17, Luke 2:41–52

*Springwater
Currents*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED