

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

February 2018

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## Sunday Hours

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next  
newsletter:

February 24

## February Birthdays

Christina Nickols	2/7
Susan Horton	2/12
Don MacKinnon	2/12
Gary Guttridge	2/21
Bill Varitz	2/28



## Church Events in February

- February 3:** Deacon/Elder Leadership Day Retreat & Planning  
9:00am - 3:00pm at Springwater
- February 10:** Stephen Ministry Workshop - Open to all interested  
9:00am-1:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, OR  
97123
- February 11:** Serve a meal at Human Solutions Family Shelter - 5:30pm  
@162nd & Stark
- February 14:** Ash Wednesday Service - 7pm
- February 18:** First Sunday of Lent
- February 25:** Second Sunday of Lent

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# Springwater Presbyterian Church

*Let's walk the 40 days  
of Lent evidencing to  
the world that there is  
a God of love and that  
God is near.*

## Pastor's Perspective

Hello Springwater,

The liturgical calendar has a great sense of humor this year. Ash Wednesday, the mark of the beginning of Lent, a rather serious and somber moment of confession and repentance, complete with the sign of ashes placed on the forehead, falls on Valentine's Day. Take that romantic dates and fun gatherings with friends...have a side of ashes in remembrance of your mortality along with your sweet treats. If that didn't cause enough of a disjunct in the rhythm of the calendar...Easter falls on April Fool's Day. Surprise!

Actually, maybe it could hardly get better. Lent begun on a day when valentines, those sweet mementos of love and friendship, are given to those around us, and Easter on the day of the most astonishing surprise imaginable. Hope triumphing over despair, life over death, Love over all.

Let's take the cue and walk through the season of Lent with love on our mind, in our sight, and in our actions. Let's walk the 40 days of Lent evidencing to the world that there is a God of love and that God is near. I will have a devotional guide for you to use throughout Lent ready by Ash Wednesday.

I shared the following with you last year, and have to say, it rings ever true today...

"We are living in times and amongst people who need to see tangible signs of goodness, compassion, justice, and love. We are called to be those signs. You and me, through the power given us by Christ, living in the way of Christ, for the sake of the world Christ came to love and redeem. God wastes nothing. Every encounter you have with another person is an invitation to live God's goodness, to see the image of God in the other, and to let the image of God radiate from you." ...and I would add for this year... all this, too evidence God's love in a world that is so hungry for it.

God's love, presence and power be with you,

*Pastor Susan*



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Most of you are aware that Session is recommending that Pastor Susan's pastoral status be changed from Stated Supply to Called. Ordinarily a Stated Supply pastor, who is considered a temporary pastor, is not eligible to serve as the next Called or Installed pastor, but in some cases an exception can be made if Presbytery feels that its mission strategy permits this.

In the process of asking Presbytery to make an exception to this rule the Session was required to write a letter, known as a Letter of Rationale, stating why we feel an exception should be made in our case. This letter is sent to COM who, in turn, submits it to Presbytery for review and a vote. Some of you indicated at the Annual Congregational Meeting that you would like to see this letter. Here is the letter, a joint effort of Session along with help from Bev Crow:

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Springwater Presbyterian Church Letter of Rationale January 15, 2018.

In accordance with paragraph G-2.0504c of the 2017-2018 Book of Order, the Session of Springwater Presbyterian Church in Estacada requests careful review and approval of the attached petition to convert the status of our present temporary contract relationship with Rev. Susan Graham to a Called and Installed pastor.

Previously, Eileen Parfrey had been our pastor for 15 years, the longest time with one pastor in our church's history, so her retirement late in 2015 was met with a sense of loss and concern for our future. Rev. Beverly Crow served us as Bridge Pastor for 4 months. During that time Springwater Session was in contact with Presbytery and the COM to assist in the search for a new pastor. We interviewed and selected Susan Graham in February of 2016. We chose her as Stated Supply for two reasons. One, we were informed that if she was a good match for our congregation her status could be converted to Called and two, we wanted some time to make sure she was the perfect pastor for our congregation.

A Mission/Vision team was assembled to determine the direction in which we wanted our church to move. Every member of the congregation was interviewed about what they most valued about our church, what activities were most important to them and what they felt our strengths were. The team affirmed that our current priorities of worship, mission and nurture would continue and we will develop them in new ways. Thus the congregation now has a clear vision of the direction in which Susan would lead us.

One of the goals from our Mission/Vision project was to "grow" our church. In the past year Pastor Susan has offered a membership class and as a result we have accepted three new members into our fellowship. Three more will be baptized in the near future. In addition, one person reaffirmed his baptism.

Another goal was to increase our involvement in mission. Pastor Susan has been instrumental in involving us in mission in our community as well as the wider world.



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She spent a good portion of time in supporting the family of one of our members through her illness and death. As a direct result of her coaching and support we have one young person pursuing and applying for seminary. She is involved in a clergy group in Estacada and is working with the principal of the high school in supporting his new program of creating a positive culture in the school and is finding ways to involve our congregation. She is involved, along with the congregation in the following programs: Backpack Buddies in the Estacada schools and a ministry to the homeless, Human Solutions. She helped plan and lead a mission trip to West Virginia, which included 8 members of the congregation, many of whom were youth. She is encouraging us to find a new global mission to which we can contribute, after the retirement of our mission partner in Asia.

Pastor Susan's sermons are always textually based with attention to moving the congregation forward in mission. They are relevant to today's world in a way that resonates with the congregation. She keeps global concerns before us while gently coaching us in godly life works. She is down to earth, easy to understand and inspirational.

We have found in Susan the qualities of warmth, compassion, gentleness and graciousness. She has been inclusive and accepting of members and guests alike. She shows sensitivity in listening, is respectful of everyone's opinions and is nonjudgmental when expressing her views. She creates unity through development of relationships, taking the time to get to know each of us personally. We feel that she is invaluable in guiding us forward into the work of Christ, and that she has accomplished much in the 2 years she has been with us. In that period we have clearly felt the call of God working in our relationship. We feel that her leadership skills and style are exceptionally well suited for our congregation and that we would benefit from the unity and stability she would provide to us in the Called position.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Cascades Presbytery, together with its regional Committee on Ministry, approve our request to convert Pastor Susan Graham's temporary contract status to Called Pastor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Session members and Elders, Tim Guttridge, Debbie Ingamells, Randy Johnson, Tom Watson and Cindy Woodbury, Clerk of Session



UPDATE: As of 1/27/2018. The Committee on Ministry has approved our request to move on to the next step and will present this letter to the Leadership Committee when they next meet.



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## Buildings & Grounds

B&G are working to address some needed updates to the manse in order to get it rented. We have hired a property manager who will assist with getting it rented and ensure the rent is collected on time. The past 8 years have left the manse in need of repairs including painting, new flooring and an electrical update. We hope to have it complete and rented by March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a need for some help with cleaning up the yard. Anybody with an interest or time can contact Tom Watson. Thanks.

## Worship

Every Sunday we meet to worship. The worship service is aided by ushers, musicians, bell ringers and a worship leader who leads prayers and moves the service on to the lessons (Sermon). Without everyone participating the service might not seem as personal and inspiring. There are a few blanks in our schedule which need filling. Could you be the person to fill it? All assistance will be given to you to learn the order. Prayers are printed or you can write your own. We have a lovely service. Having more participation would add to it. A few Sundays a year is all that is required. Thanks! Contact Deb Ingamells for more information!

## Service

It's that time again! Members of Springwater Presbyterian Church will be feeding the homeless at Human Solutions on February 11th. It takes about an hour to serve about 80-90 men, women and children a hearty meal. We'll meet at the shelter about 5:30 to 5:45, planning to serve at 6 pm. The shelter is located at 162nd and SE Stark Street in Portland. In January we served 85 people.

### What's on your Schedule?

	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Worship Leader:</b>	<b>Snacks:</b>
<b>February 4:</b>	Don & Barbara MacKinnon	Debbie Ingamells	Sign up in the Fellowship Hall
<b>February 11:</b>	Nike & Tim Guttridge	—	
<b>February 18:</b>	Judy Coyne Gilbert Shibley	Mary Shearer	
<b>February 25:</b>	Debbie Ingamells	Neal Jeppeson	



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## Scripture Readings and Sermon texts:

### **February 4**

*Sermon Text: Isaiah 40:21-31*

Psalm 147:1-11

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

### **February 11** Transfiguration of the Lord -Communion Sunday

*Sermon Text: 2 Kings 2:1-12*

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

### **February 14** Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

*Meditation Text: Isaiah 58*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### **February 18** First Sunday in Lent

*Sermon Text: Mark 1:9-15 Into the Wilderness*

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

### **February 25** Second Sunday in Lent

*Sermon Text: Mark 8:31-38 The Way of the Cross*

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38



# Springwater Presbyterian Church

## Annual Congregational Meeting, January 21, 2018

Here are some highlights of the annual congregational meeting. Reports from the elders and committee chairpersons are available on the church's website.

New elders and deacons were elected.

Elders (3 year term) - Al Conway, Renate Jeppeson, Kathleen Souders

Deacons (3 year term) - Susie Garrison, Barb Palmer

The congregation offered questions and suggestions after all reports were given:

- Susan Horton asked if a summary of every Session meeting could be put in the church newsletter.
- Don MacKinnon noticed that there were no reports from either Nominating Committee or Personnel Committee this year and would like to see them next year.
- He also missed seeing the Christmas Joy offering (Backpack Buddies was done in place of the Joy Offering this year).
- Susan Horton wondered if Rick Parfrey, who died in January 2017, should be noted as a loss from the membership roll (Rick requested that he be placed on inactive list June 1, 2016).
- Nike plans to make up a new list of deacons and their assigned members this year.
- Debbie Ingamells expressed appreciation of all those who do the little things that help the worship service flow, and put out a summons for volunteers for worship leaders and ushers.
- Gilbert Shibley pointed out that the Endowment Fund is great place to donate to, especially in light of the fact that earnings were 14% this past year.
- Gilbert also had questions about the effort to change pastoral status from Stated Supply to Called. Congregation was updated on this effort and the Letter of Rationale which was sent to Presbytery to request this change will be sent to Renate Jeppeson to publish in the next church newsletter.
- In regards to the Mission report, Susan Graham would like to see more involvement from our members, is hoping to put together a mission team to discern where we want to go next in global mission.
- She also would like to see a local project done in the year in between our every-two-year Mission Trip.
- Gilbert Shibley suggested using the teleconference technology to develop a relationship with a far away church.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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