

Springwater CURRENTS

Springwater Presbyterian Church
24553 Springwater Rd
Estacada, OR 97023
503.630.5480
www.springwaterpres.org

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

July-August 2015

Table of Contents	
Birthdays	1
Anniversaries	1
Church Events	1
Pastor's Perspective	2
Church Birthday	3
Buildings & Grounds	4
Food Bank Support	4
What's on your Schedule?	5
The Conversation Continues	6
Food help with Deacons	7
New Website	7
Lectionary Readings	8

Sunday Hours

No Sunday School

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

August 24

July Birthdays

Richard Scott	7/5
Jessie Jo Guttridge	7/5
Don Guttridge	7/15
Stephen Shibley	7/17
Jennifer Souders	7/26
Carol Sturman	7/26



August Anniversaries

Greg & Renate Jeppeson	8/6
Judy & Tom Coyne	8/8
Lynne & Tom Deshler	8/10
Connie & Bruce Ryan	8/21
Steve & Mary Stiles	8/26
Bill & Marge Varitz	8/27

July Anniversaries

Sam & Robin Fisher	7/18
Tami & Don Guttridge	7/22
Don & Bettie Barbee	7/27

August Birthdays

Peter Sturman	8/11
Nancy Tedrow	8/13
Marge Varitz	8/14
Barbara Shibley	8/16
Miranda Kirby	8/16
Nona Shearer	8/17
Kathleen Souders	8/18
Joy Alford-Thompson	8/20
Bettie Barbee	8/20
Marilyn Guttridge	8/21
Natalie Ingamells	8/23
Neal Jeppeson	8/26

Church Events in July and August

July 10, 5:30 p.m.: mission trip training session

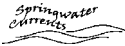
July 12: church birthday celebration (celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship, potluck following worship, mission trip training make-up session, silent auction)

July 15, 8:30 p.m.: family movie night in the outdoor worship area

July 25-August 1: intergenerational mission trip to Loveland, Colorado

August 9: mission trip participants lead in worship

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



Springwater Presbyterian Church

There will come a day
when **we will be the
past**—the ancestors
of those who will be
the Springwater of
the future.

Pastor's Perspective

My spiritual director recommended I read a certain book by Henri Nouwen. When I looked for it at home, I couldn't find it. Instead, what found me was another book by him about a gift—*Our Greatest Gift*.

I'm reading it in conjunction with the book session and deacons are reading together, *Slow Church*. While the deacon/session book is about cultivating community on a local level, the Nouwen book is about dying in community. Its subtitle is "A Meditation on Dying and Caring."

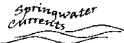
Nouwen, one of the 20th century's pre-eminent spiritual writers, spent the last years of his life in the L'Arche community, caring for people with disabilities, people who struggle with the fear of rejection and of being useless. They live, he says, with those fears as a daily reality, whereas most of the rest of us only face those fears as we near death. We are people of the resurrection, we are told; we are in the "business" of letting go of what must pass away, in order to be resurrected. Or as Nouwen says, "We are the parents of generations to come."

Speaking of our birthday . . .

That sounds suspiciously like something a pastor would say to a congregation on the event of its birthday, after she has waxed nostalgic about the local ancestors, told stories about founding events, and taken justifiable pride in how well the traditions have been passed on. As we turn 126 this year, we are more aware than ever that our future is part of our past. Nouwen, of course, is more eloquent as he writes of the practice of "being the parents of generations to come." What we do now is the basis of what will come after us.

This is part of the wisdom behind session's choice of *Slow Church* for their shared book this year, why it was such a good idea to include the deacons as part of the conversation. There will come a day when **we will be the past**—the ancestors of those who will be the Springwater of the future.

Nouwen, of course, has good theology for his assertion. He speaks of the mystery of Jesus' life: that he fulfilled his vocation by moving from **action** (a life of teaching and preaching around the countryside) to **passion** (when, rather than taking action himself, he became the subject of others' actions). The gospel-writer John says Jesus' last words are, "It is fulfilled." Nouwen interprets this to mean both, "All I needed to do I have done" AND "All that needed to be done has been done to me." *It is only then*, when all has been "fulfilled," that Jesus' life and ministry bears fruit. Because he dies, Jesus is able to offer life to all creation.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

What if we took a page out of Nouwen's book and understood this loss as "fulfillment"?

By logical extension . . .

Nouwen's book is about the dying process of individuals, but I wonder if this is also a part of the life cycle of congregations. There comes a point when "pushing the string" is no longer effective. Or, as one wise person noted, there comes a time when promoting a program that garners no interest is "over-sell of a product that won't sell on its own merit."

It grieves us when a much-loved and formerly vital and exciting part of our ministry disappears due to lack of interest. What if we took a page out of Nouwen's book and understood this loss as "fulfillment"? What if we received the passing away of (for instance) Sunday morning faith nurture in a classroom model, as fulfillment of a ministry that bears fruit in other ways? What if we receive "what was" as a gift that nurtures "what will be"?

The leadership of Springwater continues to explore ways of "being church" for all ages, right now and in the future. That means being church right now for those who never sign on to Facebook, as well as for those who have moved two iterations beyond what FB used to be. For those whose worship style involves interactive texting with the "preacher" and those who wouldn't dream of interrupting a spoken sermon. For those who can get to the church in under two minutes and those who need a week's warning in order to make arrangements.

There are a lot more ways of "being church" than our ancestors anticipated. Some of them we are beginning to see from here. Happy birthday, Springwater.

Eileen

Birthday Bash

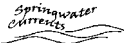
Our congregation's birthday is coming!

This year is Quasquicentennial-plus-one, and we're celebrating on July 12 with a good, old-fashioned worship service—emphasis on "**old fashioned.**"

The Order for Worship and the hymns will be taken from historic worship books and hymnals from the last 126 years. You can join in the spirit by wearing vintage clothing—also from the last 126 years.

A potluck after worship will top off the day. Deacons are providing meat for a barbeque, congregants are asked to bring a salad or dessert.





Springwater Presbyterian Church

Thanks for big and little projects

Remember that list of little things we did not get done on the spring cleanup day? It was posted in the fellowship hall, all were claimed by different ones quite soon thereafter and now all have been completed without any more urging by the B & G Committee. Thanks to all you willing helpers for that cooperation.

Remember our less than always good looking flower/vegetable bed near the front steps and ramp? Notice the transformation? it is now planted to nice shrubs and perennials. Some more will be added. Seasonally vital, it is also protected by automatically timed watering. Rick Parfrey got an idea, developed it and got funding, plants and hoses lined up. Gary Guttridge made time in good farming weather for transporting plants from the nursery and for adding his soil mixing and planting expertise. Those two installed it before it got too hot.

We all owe a big "Thank you" to these guys for good work in beautification. Thanks also to the Conways and Parfreys for the necessary funding. This helps the Buildings and Grounds Committee budget cover its many needs.

Gilbert Shibley, for the B & G Committee

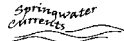


Estacada Area Food Bank

This may be vacation time for many of us. However, there is no vacation for the Estacada Food Bank. Folks still come in for help with lots of children in tow. We also see a number of transients visiting our beautiful area. Any support from our congregation is greatly appreciated--food donations, money, volunteering. If you have an abundance of fresh produce and eggs this summer, please send them our way.

Thanks again for all you do. Our treasurer says we can't do it without Springwater's support!

Barbara Shibley, Director of EAFB



Springwater Presbyterian Church



What's on your Schedule?

	Ushers	Worship Leader:
July 5:	Peter & Carol Sturman	Nona Shearer
July 12:	Randy & Mary Johnson	JessieJo Guttridge
July 19:	Kathy Scott Alan Siefken	Mary Shearer
July 26:	Renate & Adelia Jeppeson	Neal Jeppeson

	Ushers	Worship Leader:
August 2:	Don & Barbara MacKinnon	Carol Sturman
August 9:	Nike & Tim Guttridge	Mary Neigel
August 16:	Judy Coyne Gilbert Shibley	Gwen Shearer
August 23:	Debbie Ingamells Mary Neigel	Peter Sturman
August 30:	Gary Guttridge	Randy Johnson



Springwater Presbyterian Church

The Conversation Continues

Session and the deacons have committed to reading together and discussing the book, *Slow Church*, by C Christopher Smith and John Pattison. We hoped this book could help us address the challenges of being a parish that spans 50 miles. What attracted us to this book was that it seemed to value small congregations such as ours, while offering a model for building community.

Turns out, the authors think of church community as more than what happens on Sunday morning. For them, the ideal church community is highly localized and is more of a whole lifestyle than usually implied by Sunday morning gatherings.

Rather than being discouraged that this wasn't a useful model for us, we decided to take from the book some principles to apply to our situation.

The authors cite a Benedictine community model, predicated on "stability of place," with people living, working, worshiping together. Rather than reading that literally (that's not gonna happen for us!), we decided to think of Springwater as expressing "stability" through our tradition and history.

Once we thought of stability in that way, we saw a congregation that continues, even when people's names and faces change. The last 20 years have certainly exhibited that. The WAY we do ministry changes as the names and faces change, but the ministry continues.

The chapter we focused on at the last meeting had to do with work. We decided that the role of Springwater as a community of faith, scattered across an enormous geographic area, was to support people in their own work locales. Here is what the authors say about the role of the church in nurturing "good work" in the lives of our members. See if you think this rings any bells for you about life in Springwater Presbyterian. Are there ways we can enhance these ways of encouraging our congregation?

1. Help people recognize and prefer good work over bad work. ("Bad" work is defined as meaningless and exploitive work.)
2. Explore the possibilities (and limitations) of work as worship. (How can we help people see God as "radically immanent" even in the most mundane tasks of our lives?)
3. Champion work-related justice.
4. Recognize the human resources within our congregation and leverage them in the reconciling work of God's kingdom. (How can we practice "vocational stewardship" in supporting the congregation's ministry, not just "spiritual gifts"?)

Springwater Presbyterian Church

Food Preparation with the Deacons

The deacons are hosting another food preparation gathering to provide meals to homebound persons and those in need of assistance. This will be on July 19th after the worship service. More information will follow.

New Website Published!

Same address, exciting new format.

Check it out at www.springwaterpres.org and let us know what you like and what is missing. There's a button on the homepage to send us an email, or let one of the committee members know: Kasey Watson, Kathy Scott, Eileen Parfrey, Nike Guttridge, Rick Parfrey.





Springwater Presbyterian Church

Lectionary Readings

July 5 (SEASONS OF CREATION: STORM): Job 28:20-27; Luke 8:22-25

July 12 (CHURCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, the Lord's Supper during worship):

Ephesians 1:3-14

July 19 (SEASONS OF CREATION: SERVICE, commissioning of mission trip during worship): Mark 10:41-45; Ephesians 2:11-22


July 26: Hymn Sing service, led by Elder Kathleen Souders

August 2: guest preacher Peter Sturman

August 9: Mission trip report

August 16: guest preacher

*Springwater
Currents*



Springwater Presbyterian Church
PO Box 1017
24553 Springwater Rd
Estacada, OR 97023
503.630.5480
www.springwaterpres.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED