

# Springwater CURRENTS

Springwater Presbyterian Church  
24553 Springwater Rd  
Estacada, OR 97023  
503.630.5480  
[www.springwaterpres.org](http://www.springwaterpres.org)

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

May 2015

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## May Birthdays

Leon Hilgartner	5/3
Kara Guttridge	5/20
Tabitha Souders	5/20
Jim Tedrow	5/22
Kenneth Fisher	5/24
Bruce Ryan	5/29
Kord Kirby	5/31



MAY

## Birthdays



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

## May Anniversaries

Mary & Randy Johnson	5/17
Nike & Tim Guttridge	5/24

## Church Events in May

**May 2:** mission trip fund-raising breakfast at the Grange, 7 to 11 a.m.;  
Walk Through Worship at 10 a.m. with 4<sup>th</sup> graders

**May 3:** 4<sup>th</sup> graders presented with a Bible from the congregation during  
worship service

**May 7:** session meeting, 6:00

**May 9:** spring outdoor clean up day at the church

**May 17:** deacon ministry food preparation after worship

**May 21:** joint deacon and elder book discussion group at church 7 to 8:30  
p.m.

**May 24:** Pentecost (celebration of the Lord's Supper during worship; wear  
red clothing)

## Sunday Hours

### No Sunday School

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

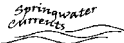
Deadline for next  
newsletter:

May 22

### Update your address book:

Bruce & Connie Ryan	Connie's phone: (971)409-0627
PO Box 514	
Brightwood, OR 97011	

*Springwater Currents* is published monthly by Springwater Presbyterian Church.  
Send submissions, corrections and comments to [enviromom@rconnects.com](mailto:enviromom@rconnects.com).



## Springwater Presbyterian Church

### Pastor's Perspective

Decision-making in any congregation is glacial, especially when compared with the way things get done in corporate America. The theological explanation for that is, "It's God's good timing, not ours."

That can seem flippant, and the glacial pace often drives most people nuts. Was it some kind of a joke, when session chose its book to read together in 2016, that the title was *Slow Church*? Session chose the book, but deacons wanted in on the discussion, too, so it wasn't until after our joint retreat the end of February that we could set a date. Thus, at warp speed we met for our first discussion in April.

The authors talk about a way of being church that embodies Christ in the world, ...

### How "Slow" is "Slow Church"?

The book title alludes to the Slow Food movement which (the authors say) was "started by eaters who stood up and declared that they were no longer content to be passive consumers of industrialized food." Fast food, they say, uses the principles of "McDonaldization"—efficient, predictable, measurable, controllable cuisine. The Slow Food movement, begun in 1989, is about local, natural, diverse food.

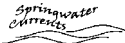
The principles, when applied to the church, mean holistic, interconnected, abundant life together, where "communities of believers . . . call for intentionality, an awareness of our mutual interdependence with all people and all creation, and an attentiveness to the world around us and the work God is doing in our very own neighborhoods."

That Springwater is not your run-of-the-mill congregation, is perhaps our greatest asset. To read *Slow Church* is to see where being small is actually an advantage. The authors talk about a way of being church that embodies Christ in the world, not by inviting people into the building or coming up with better and bigger programming, but by simply being good neighbors where we're at.

### Defined by the Center

Much of our discussion was about what the authors call a "centered set" type of church. What they mean is a congregation that defines itself by *core values*. People aren't defined as either "in" or "out," they say, but as "closer or further away from the center [which in this case is Christ]. In that sense, everyone is in and no one is out. Though some people are close to the center and others far from it, everyone is potentially part of the community in its broadest sense" (p. 34).

The biggest challenge to Springwater in this whole Slow Church discussion, is the foundational premise that slow churches are "local." Our



## Springwater Presbyterian Church

Our current session grapples with the logistical challenges of a congregation that is spread so geographically as to span nearly 60 miles.

current session grapples with the logistical challenges of a congregation that is spread so geographically as to span nearly 60 miles. This geography has an impact on people's ability to come to church at any time other than Sunday morning, especially as we all balance work and family.

### The Paradox

Springwater wrestles with a paradox. At a time when most of us long more than ever for a community of believers, for a place where we can engage our sense of calling to serve the world with like-minded people, we are separated by greater distances than ever before. The challenge is not only to maintain *this* community of faith nurture and witness, but how to get to know the neighborhoods in which we are called to serve—either around our church or around our increasingly separated places of work and home.

Please continue to be part of this conversation—prayerfully supporting the leadership of the church as it reads this book and grapples with the questions it raises. Ask deacons and elders for their insights into the premises of Slow Church, offer the insights you are gaining about where and how God is calling us to be the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

See you in church.

### Prepare for worship with the Rev Beverly Crow

Do you want to get a running start on the sermons for May 17 and 31? The Rev Beverly Crow will be preaching, and she poses the following questions to help you prepare (see Lectionary Readings, *page 8*, for the texts each week):

How does a faith community reflect on the lives we lead?

Does it all run together or are there breaks, divisions and overlays to the various segments of life?

Do all parts of life flow together to make sense or is life segmented without connecting links?

What does your life tell you about meaning and purpose, about divine/human relationship?

Email or phone Beverly with your experience and help shape the communal conversation.

## Springwater Presbyterian Church



SATURDAY  
MAY 9  
SPRING  
SPRUCE-UP  
9:30-1PM

**A Good Time WILL BE Had by All--**

**Saturday, May 9, Spring Spruce-up** on the grounds of our church is your chance to join the work and the fun of all working together. Your Buildings and Grounds Committee cannot do this without your help. You will miss the fun if you do not come, so mark your calendar now. We begin at 9:30 and end between noon and 1:00 PM

The woods and the labyrinth are not on the list for our weekly gardening crew. They are our special places and in need of a beauty treatment. Things grow, limbs fall and we never quite got things back to normal after last summer's thinning project. Trails are invisible but still there. The labyrinth bloomed brightly with spring warming but the paths need sweeping and a bit of weeding. Signs need replanting. A debris pile needs burning or hauling away.

You are welcome to add your special interest or observation of a need. We can all bring leaf rakes, hoes and gloves. When you come to breakfast on the previous Saturday wander over toward the northwest and have a look at the many opportunities,

A couple of us might volunteer to bring fruit, cookies or other treats for a special social break. April showers may be mostly gone by then, but we will do this all even in a wee bit of Oregon mist.

**Other activities of the committee**

This committee is also working with the Grange folks on upgrading other parts of the grounds, our paved driveway and the shared parking lot. The building we rent had an aging water heater reach the end its life so we worked with our Property Manager to get the renters back in hot water after a couple days in late April. Where do buildings and grounds come together? In the septic systems. They are due for periodic inspection and pumping and it may have happened by the time you read this. Thanks to a local contractor you need get no closer to this project than our budget and its source, our collective generosity mediated by the offering plates.

*by Gilbert Shibley, for the Bldg. & Grds. Com.*

## Springwater Presbyterian Church



### “Mission” Control: Springwater Youth Gear Up For Fundraising Season:

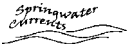
Preparation for the 2015 Mission Trip to Loveland, CO officially commences Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> with a Grange Breakfast. Springwater youth and members of the congregation will be cooking up breakfast from 7-11 a.m. in an effort to raise funds to offset the cost of the trip.

Springwater will be providing disaster relief for victims of the 2013 flood in the Loveland area from July 25-August 1, 2015. Members of our congregation and youth will be assisting with clean-up, rebuilding, and spiritual support for community members of all ages. With assistance from the Mountain View Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Springwater’s reach is limitless.

Don’t think you can make the breakfast? Don’t worry. The youth group will be offering a variety of opportunities to help send them to Loveland. Such events will include a Pizza Night, Silent Auction, Summer Work “Slave” Auction, and much more. Official dates to be announced. For more information regarding fundraising events or the mission trip, please contact Youth Leaders Jennifer ([jenn.souders@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.souders@gmail.com)) or Kasey ([kwatson4wyo@yahoo.com](mailto:kwatson4wyo@yahoo.com)).

#### What’s on your Schedule?

	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Worship Leader:</b>
<b>May 3:</b>	Peter & Carol Sturman	Mary Shearer
<b>May 10:</b>	Randy & Mary Johnson	Neal Jeppeson
<b>May 17:</b>	Kathy Scott Allen Siefken	Kay Moellenhoff
<b>May 24:</b>	Renate & Neal Jeppeson	Mary Neigel
<b>May 31:</b>	Gary Guttridge	Randy Johnson



## Springwater Presbyterian Church

### **Website to Get a New Look**

*An Update from Pastor Eileen*

It seems like every possible venue—both online and print—takes another whack each week at the question of how churches can position themselves to meet the challenges of ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One approach that keeps coming up is use of social media.

My second contact with Springwater, after the mutual exchange of denominationally-sanctioned paperwork, was an invitation to take a look at the congregation's website. I'll admit to a little smugness around my classmates. My only classmates interviewing at churches with websites were those at big city churches. Even my home church, with 750 members, in the heart of a sophisticated college town, didn't have a website!

These days, a congregation without a website is not locate-able by potential visitors. According to a recent article, an online presence is a congregation's new "front door." This claim prompted our session to wonder about how to best position our website (and thus Springwater Presbyterian) for 21<sup>st</sup>-century hospitality.

As if to validate that understanding, the Estacada phone provider contacted us to verify that our website would be included in our listing in the phone book. You remember "phone books"—that thing in which people used to use to look up street locations, before everyone did it online? Our directory listing now includes our website address as well as our street address.

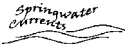
It turns out, according to the latest church-going surveys, most people find a new place to worship by entering a few key words in a search engine and waiting for websites to appear. They then peruse the websites to find out who worships there, when, what their local and global ministries and affiliations are. From these clues, they decide what might draw them to that congregation. Then they decide whether or not to attend.

Session asked Kathy Scott, Kasey Watson, and Nike Guttridge to work with me to enhance our online presence.

Kathy Scott was an obvious choice, since she has been our webmaster since the beginning. It was she who moved Springwater to the forefront of church communications, back when most congregations felt this was a fad. When Kathy retired as webmaster of the presbytery, I spoke warmly of her contributions at the presbytery meeting. Apparently I waxed over-eloquent (why are you not surprised?), to the point that hecklers thought that I said she had invented the internet.

Not so. Wasn't that Al Gore? Kathy has been a pioneer and, now that she is retired, she admits she has not kept up with recent developments. We asked Kasey to pull together suggestions for a new website and help design it.





## Springwater Presbyterian Church

At this writing the new website is still being developed, but suggestions so far are pretty exciting. We will use the same address, but there will be a new home page and—this is the best part—**lots of reasons to sign on and use the site.**

Some of the things you are used to accessing will still be there—archive of sermons and newsletters, the most recent issue of Currents, a calendar, the audio version of sermons. Of course, we still want you to use the link to Amazon.com to shop. Did you remember that we get a small percentage of purchases to supplement our ministry? We upgraded our sound-recording system in the sanctuary, so we can post audio sermons online.

New features will include links to our Facebook page, devotionals like the youth-oriented d365 from the PCUSA, the Mission Yearbook, and missions we support. We'll have photos of events and activities. The mission trip to Loveland, CO will post its blog through the website. Exciting possibilities are developing in conversation with the Worship and Faith Nurture committees, to include a password-protected youth group blog, and a pre-sermon conversation with the pastor.

We plan to launch the new website with an educational demonstration after church some Sunday. Stay tuned! Things are getting exciting around here!

### Deacons in our Community

If you are sick, have a chronic condition that limits your ability to care for yourself, or are in the middle of a family crisis, the last thing you need to have to do is cook for yourself or gathering family members.

The Springwater deacons are going to sponsor a food preparation day to cook foods that they can give to members when they have this type of need. The preparation day will be held May 17th at the Grange to prepare a variety of things that can be frozen until needed. We will be asking for food donations when it's closer to the day.

Right now, you can help by sending simple recipes that are tasty and high in nutritional value. We're looking for dishes with commonly found ingredients and a minimal number of them. Things that can be cooked quickly and easily. These recipes would be made available to anyone who wants them and would be used for preparing the food.

*Cheryl Watson*, deacon moderator



DEACON'S  
MEETING  
JUNE 14, AFTER  
CHURCH  
at THE WATSON'S  
HOME

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**Lectionary readings**

**May 3** (DISAPPEARING ACT): Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8; Psalm 22:25-31

**May 10** (I SEE NO REASON NOT TO): Acts 10:44-48; John 15:9-17

**May 17** (SEASONS AND CHAPTERS OF LIFE) (the Rev. Beverly Crow preaching):  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 and Mark 2:23-3:6

**May 24** (Pentecost; celebration of the Lord's Supper, wear red to worship):  
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

**May 31** (TRINITY SUNDAY, SEASONS AND CHAPTERS OF LIFE) (the Rev. Beverly  
Crow preaching): Psalm 1 and Matthew 13:24-30



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED