

Springwater CURRENTS

Springwater Presbyterian Church
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www.springwaterpres.org

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

November 2015

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November Birthdays

Mary Shearer	11/7
Margo Maris	11/9
Mary Stiles	11/10
Renate Ryan-Jepesson	11/12
Emma Kirby	11/16
Al Conway	11/21
Adelia Jepesson	11/21
Karin Thomas	11/24
Tim Guttridge	11/27
Randy Johnson	11/28
Sam Fisher	11/30



Happy Anniversary

Al & Lynda Conway	11/4
Barbara & Gilbert Shibley	11/27

Sunday Hours

No Sunday School

10:15 Hymn Sing

10:30 Worship

11:45 Fellowship

Deadline for next
newsletter:

November 23

Church Events in November

November 1: Potluck after worship, celebrating Pastor Eileen's ministry with Springwater

November 12: Session Meeting, 5:45 p.m.

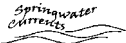
November 15: Dedication of pledges during worship; Deacons meeting after worship

November 26: Thanksgiving

Watch for information on a progressive dinner in December.



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



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Pastor's Perspective

It is very difficult to know how to begin the first words in the "Pastor" space of your newsletter following Eileen's retirement. Perhaps there are no "correct" words, but I will share a few pieces of information to help you know just what the next steps for Springwater will be.

First of all, I want to let you know that the Session has approved my presence with you while they take a deep breath and begin to look at the options for the next steps in your communal life. I will be there for the Session as they begin to discern just what to do next and I will be there to preach and help lead worship.

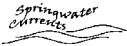
As I have often filled in for Eileen while she has been gone, I think we know each other pretty well and it will not seem too different. We will maintain the general format you have for worship and the worship leaders already signed up will continue in their accustomed roles. Of course in this time of my filling in, we all know and have to admit that something is different, and there will be something new following my time with you.

In preparation for that "something new" down the road, I would like to institute something new now. Following worship every Sunday, we will move into the other room for refreshment (have you signed up to help?) and after a few minutes of conversation, I hope several people will be able to stay for a time of questions and discussion. We will move back into the sanctuary and hear what is on people's minds: it may have something to do with the scripture, the sermon, the Presbyterian procedures following a pastor's retirement, current events, spiritual concerns, how you are coping with change, etc., etc. We will meet for 30-40 minutes allowing folks to move on with other plans for the day. This time will help me know best how to serve you and hopefully it will help everyone to help one another as we move ahead.

I do hope you remember and hold fast to the good news that in all times, God does go with us, preparing us and nudging us into the new and unknown days ahead.

Beverly

Session has approved my presence with you while they take a deep breath and begin to look at the options for the next steps in your communal life.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

What We Learned

As the session and deacons wrapped up reading *Slow Church*, they reflected on insights that can be applied to Springwater during this time of transition.

The premise of Christopher Smith and John Pattison's book is that our current world is one of unreflective speed, dehumanizing efficiency and dis-integrating isolationism. To resist what the authors refer to as the "McDonaldization" of faith, they urge a church model that is localized—people living, working, serving, worshipping in the same place.

What we readers immediately discovered (and have discussed in previous issues of Currents) is that this is not feasible under Springwater's circumstances. As a geographically-spread "parish," we cover nearly 60 miles from one side to the other, between where we live, work, serve, and worship.

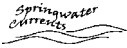
On the other hand, we decided that we agreed with many of the authors' values. While we dismissed the possibility of living into their utopian ideal, we also decided that, to avoid even attempting to live their ideals (because we cannot do them), is to skirt living into our own values.

In other words, just because we can't do something full-bore doesn't mean we shouldn't try to make adjustments to the ideal to meet our circumstances. Even utopian values do not need to be lived into perfectly. Even living those values imperfectly can be doing God's will.

For instance, even as a geographically spread congregation, we can serve as "sanctuary" for each other. Our congregational community is a safe place for us. Sometimes this means expressing doubts. Sometimes it means trying out new things. Sometimes it means changing our minds. Sometimes it means having irreconcilable differences—but loving folks anyhow.

An important skill we learned from reading *Slow Church* is the practice of focusing on our assets, rather than on what we don't have. It is necessary, we decided to "buck the system" by practicing both abundance and gratitude. When we look at our gifts and skills with eyes trained on gratitude, we develop the ability to see abundance.

The values we find most important in defining who we are and how we go forward in our ministry in this time of transition are abundance, generosity, hospitality, and table fellowship.



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It's Pledge Time

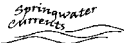
It's the time of year when session asks you to make a pledge for the following year so that we can plan. Letters and pledge cards will be mailed out Monday, November 2.

What is the right amount to pledge? Whatever you feel called to give in support of our ministry is the right amount. Last year the pledges ranged from \$200 to \$9,300 per year or, put another way, from \$17 to \$775 per month. All of them were the right amount and appreciated by the session.

This year we face the challenge of deciding what kind of leadership we need and discerning who God calling to us. But that doesn't mean our ministry goes on hold. The session dreams of expanded ministry in some areas, including those listed here:

- Increase pledge to the Estacada Area Food Bank
- Increase support of our mission co-worker
- Grow the building maintenance reserve funds
- Offer the musicians a pay increase
- Expand our opportunities for hands-on mission.

So, prayerfully decide how you would like to support our ministry with your financial gifts. Please consider increasing your pledge to support an increase in our ministry. We will dedicate the pledges during worship on November 15.



Springwater Presbyterian Church

Mission Project

Starting the 2nd Sunday in December SPC will again have an opportunity to walk our talk in our work on hunger missions. Human Solutions Warming Center on East Burnside needs volunteers to provide meals to approximately 100 homeless people. I signed us up to serve the second Sunday of every month. Will you help? See me in Church to sign up for next month. We can make a difference one person at a time.

Deb Ingamells



What's on your Schedule?

	Ushers	Worship Leader:
November 1:	Peter & Carol Sturman	Gwen Shearer
November 8:	Randy & Mary Johnson	Kara Guttridge
November 15:	Kathy Scott Alan Siefken	Peter Sturman
November 22:	Renate & Neal Jeppeson	Debbie Ingamells
November 29:	Gary Guttridge	Randy Johnson



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Lectionary Readings

November 1: Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 24, John 11:32-44

November 8: Ruth 3:15; 4:13-17, Psalm 127, Mark 12:38-44

November 15: 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10, Psalm 16, Mark 13:1-8

November 22: 2 Samuel 23:1-7, Psalm 132:1-12, 13-18, John 18:33-37

November 29, First Sunday in Advent: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10,
Luke 21:25-36



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Currents*

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED