



# The Pulse

March 2004

Volume 36, Issue 3

From Pastor Mary Robinson-Mohr

William Willimon, in the current issue of "Pulpit Resource" magazine, writes the following:

*"A number of years ago, when I was teaching homiletics in Germany, I showed my German seminarians videos of a group of American preachers. After viewing the videos, the German students were asked, 'What do you think is the distinguishing characteristic of American preaching?'"*

*They answered in unison, 'Entertainment.'*

*I was somewhat surprised by their characterization of American preaching. They ascribed it to the role of television. I resisted this characterization, but maybe they had something.*

*A retired pastor told me that the main difference between when he entered the ministry 60 years ago and today was, 'People came to church to learn and receive God's word. The preacher had only the responsibilities to proclaim the word obediently. The people's job was to listen. Today, the preacher is expected to grab people's attention, to entertain them. If the preacher doesn't entertain, they go to another church.'"*

Whether or not you agree with the above written reflections, we are about to enter the season of the church year that is least described as "entertaining." The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25. This is perhaps the hardest season for Americans to connect with these days. Perhaps it is because Lent, with its themes of penitence, reflection, self-examination, and spiritual discipline, does not readily lend itself as entertainment.

Neil Postman wrote a book several years ago titled Amusing Ourselves to Death. Willimon also cites it. The main thesis of this book is that Americans are no longer interested in information, truth, or transformation. All we want is to be entertained. We have less interest in actually playing a sport than watching sports, for example.

I would offer a more positive spin. Perhaps we ask for our faith to be engaging and interesting. Nothing is wrong with that! Churches have at times slipped into the sin of making the amazing Good News of Jesus Christ utterly boring. At the same time, in the quest to attract people to the pews at all costs, churches have also rendered this Good News down to the lowest common denominator. Paradoxically, this is what alienates Twentysomethings from churches, a faith that muffles its integrity and its divine charge, while grasping desperately to appear wrapped in the trappings of relevance.

Let us take a deep breath during Lent of 2004. Let us find ways to recapture the richness, the depth, and the wonder of our faith. Let us set aside a faith that asks little, demands little, and offers little. Let us instead recapture a faith that engages us, that involves our total being, and that transforms us into a person that we could not be left to ourselves. Let us use Lent to draw close to the living Jesus Christ. Find ways to quiet your soul, and hear the call of the Holy Spirit over and above the blare of cable TV!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mary

## March Worship Service Schedule

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### March 7

Second Sunday in  
Lent

Communion

\*The Rev. Gail Neal,  
Interim Executive  
Presbyter,  
Moment for Mission  
\*Time, Talent, and Per  
Capita Dedication  
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-  
18  
Luke 13:31-35  
"It's Not Too Late"

### March 14

Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Luke 13:1-9

"God's Greatest  
Mercy"

### March 21

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Healing Service

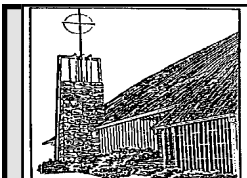
Joshua 5:9-12

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

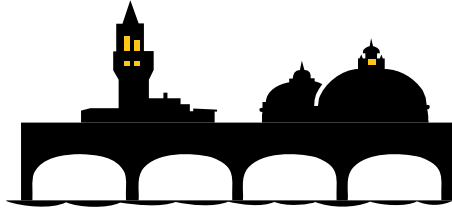
"The Persistent God"

### March 28

Youth Sunday



ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
910 14th Street ~ Bellingham, Washington 98225  
phone:(360)733-1325 fax:(360)733-1664 e-mail: stjpres@msn.com



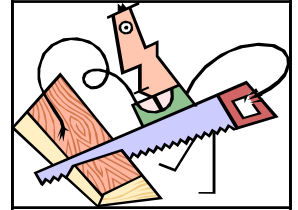
**First and Third Wednesday Programs, 2003-2004**  
**Dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by program.**  
**Childcare provided.**

**“Walking the Paths Where Faith First Flourished”**

**March 3:** “Paul Goes on the Road: Corinth.” Read Acts 12, and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Read pgs. 68-77 of Bornkamm.

**March 17:** “Paul Goes on the Road: Ephesus.” Read Acts 19 and 20, and the Letter to the Ephesians. Read pgs. 78-87 of Bornkamm. You may also want to read articles and chapters about Origen’s “Against Celsus,” or read the actual document (if you are energetic...it is lengthy!)

A complete schedule of upcoming classes is available in the church office and in the narthex.



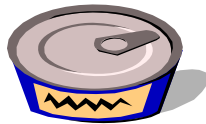
The monthly all church clean-up landscaping fix-it workday will be **Saturday, March 13 9am - 1pm**

Come join us - the coffee will be on!

**CONGRATULATIONS, CARLA SHAFER!**

Carla Shafer has been nominated by the Session of St. James to be the Elder Commissioner Alternate to the 2004 General Assembly, which will be held in June in Richmond, VA. The Presbytery of North Puget Sound will take action to elect her on Feb. 21.

**FOOD BANK!**



**Remember to bring canned food each Sunday for our Food Basket in the Narthex.**

**HOW TO REACH YOUR PASTOR**



**The Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr**

910 14th St. Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360)-733-1325 church  
(360) 715-3157 home

**WORSHIP TAPES AVAILABLE FOR LOAN.**

Our morning worship service is audio-taped each Sunday.  
If you know of anyone who would like a copy of any recent service,  
please check one out in the church library.

**SUNDAY MORNING PARKING**

Four reserved (handicapped) parking spaces are designated in our front, 14th Street parking area. In addition to these designated spaces, we would like to save all of the 14th Street parking on Sunday mornings during the Worship Service for those who need level access and our first-time visitors. If you have no difficulty climbing stairs, please use the lower parking area or the Lowell playground lot. The Lowell lot is accessed off of Taylor between 14th and 15th. There is a stairway down to 14th at the south end of the area.

**THANKS TO THE PULSE MAILING CREW:**

Maverette Butler, Margaret de Maine, Marion Dobbie, Pat Nelson, Helen Paulsen,  
Mel Reasoner, Margaret Rice, Marge Thorson, and Inge Thurston.

***THE PULSE* is published once per month.**

Articles and announcements for the next issue must be **received** in the church office no later than Wednesday, **March 10, 2004**. That issue will be mailed Thursday, **March 18**. If you have something that you would like considered for publication, call the church office at 360-733-1325, e-mail [stjpres@msn.com](mailto:stjpres@msn.com), put it in *The Pulse* box near the church office or mail it to St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

**St. James Presbyterian Church**  
**910 14th Street**  
**Bellingham, WA 98225**

**Address Service Requested**

**Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Bellingham, WA**

# Habitat for Humanity

is having its second annual "Raise the Roof" auction, silent and live,  
with dinner and dessert on Saturday, March 13.

Reception is at 5:00pm; dinner at 7pm.  
Place: Semiahmoo Resort Grand Ballroom

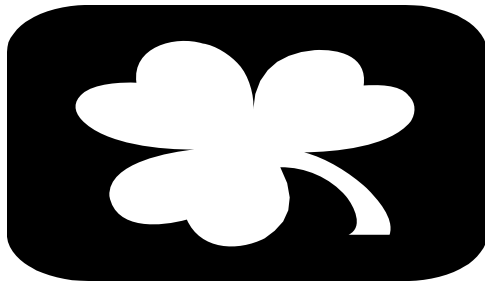
R.S.V.P. by March 5:

360-715-9170 or e-mail: [general@hfhwhatcom.org](mailto:general@hfhwhatcom.org)

ERIN GO BRAUGH...

The Prime Timers and the  
Congregational Life  
Committee present...

A ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
POTLUCK!



Friday, March 12 at  
6:00p.m.

Everyone invited -  
bring your favorite Irish  
dishes!

Sing-Along and Irish Music

## March Birthdays

\*\*\*

- 1 Fern Wibbens
- 3 Jody DeWilde
- 5 Karen Jackson
- 6 Judy Bayless
- 7 Linda Monroe
- 7 Ramona Villani
- 8 Martha Speer
- 8 Julie Van Halm
- 9 Wally Botsford
- 10 Sophie Burkland
- 12 Bob Hamilton
- 13 Richard Green
- 14 Justin Engels
- 14 Virginia Green
- 16 Akiko Anderson
- 17 Liam DeWilde
- 18 Nate Boshears
- 18 Mary Eason
- 18 Lora B. Eckert
- 18 Madeleine Smith
- 19 Eleanor Rinne
- 20 Rick Tremaine
- 21 Marion Dobbie
- 21 Randy Mohr
- 24 Carmen Hellinga
- 25 Richard Hellinga
- 25 Eleanor Lake
- 26 Betty Pickard
- 28 Mary Robinson-Mohr
- 31 Dianne Harter

## March Anniversaries

\*\*\*

- 10  
Bill & Maverette Butler
- 19  
Jim & Cathy Casey
- 22  
Jack & Shirley Drury
- 25  
Peter & Mary  
van der Veen
- 26  
Bart & Vicki Griffith
- 30  
Bryan Brink & Jeanine  
Bushue



## Food Bank News

by Jack Drury

As Food Bank liaison I would like to report the results of our contributions to the Food Bank during 2003. A total of 1131 pounds of food items, hundreds of paper and plastic bags, as well as cash contributions were made by members and friends of St. James. Thank you for your generous contributions. Also thanks to Hank Reasoner, the Food Bank liaison alternate who filled in for me when needed.

During our recent Souper Bowl collection for the Food Bank, St. James members and friends contributed 113 pounds of food items and \$342 cash (which will be donated to the Maple Alley Inn.) Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Scott Wenger, our new Parish 2 Deacon, has volunteered to be the Food Bank liaison for 2004. Hank Reasoner has agreed again to serve as alternate. Let's continue to support the Food Bank program. It's an important part of our St. James Mission support.



## Youth News

by Nick Stampfli

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Super Bowl sandwich fundraiser such a great success. Everyone who bought sandwiches, those who made sandwiches, and even the youth who sold them have all contributed to making our first mission trip fundraiser work. Thanks to you, we are closer to our goal of attending the Peacemaking Conference this summer.

There are a lot of wonderful opportunities out there for our youth right now. I have received plenty of information on how our youth group can get involved with the church on the national scene. Our Presbytery needs youth to serve as Youth Advisory Delegates to both the Synod of Alaska-Northwest and General Assembly. This is a chance to participate in the decision-making process and make a difference in your church and community. I have also just been given the registration information for the 2004 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. I would really like it if our congregation sent delegates to this event.

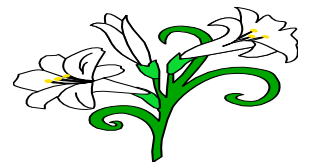
If you or someone you know is interested in any of the events I have mentioned please let me know and I will get you more information. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about youth ministry here at St. James, please give me a call or send a message by email.

-Nick

## ***PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST***

The monthly prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East continues on the 18th day of each month at 5:30 p.m. The next prayer vigil will be **Thursday, March 18 at the Bellingham Friends Meeting, Senior Activity Center, 315 Halleck St, 676-2491, in Bellingham.**

**Come and join us in this important time of prayer!**



**Session Meeting Notes**  
**Stated Meeting on January 8, 2004**  
**Carla Shafer, Clerk of Session**

Kathryn McGregor and her daughter-in-law Cheryl McGregor, were accepted as new members. The session accepted the Treasurers report and voted on unbudgeted items. January's income exceeded expenses. Choir music has been purchased and the Bells have been serviced. North Puget Sound Presbytery requested nomination of an Alternate Commissioner to attend the 2004 General Assembly to be held in Richmond, VA from June 26- July 3. The Session 's nomination of Carla Shafer will be taken to Presbytery on Saturday, February 21, 2004. Jack Drury and Carol Ayers are the Elders elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. Jack will be Chair.

The Personnel Committee has developed a contract with Cascade Custodial Services, an employment program for developmentally delayed adults, for church custodian. Brett Pullar will work Tuesdays and Fridays, and two supervisors through CCS will oversee his work. Mary and the Session thanked and commended Claude for his hard work and success in leading the volunteer custodian team. Also, Renée Meyer has successfully completed her 90 day review period as Church Secretary.

The Stewardship and Budget Committee is raising awareness about the value of adding \$40 Per Capita payments to members' pledges. Session approved announcements during February and set the Dedication Sunday for Time, Talents and Per capita for March 7th. Session approved the "Pony Express" Program Stewardship campaign for a second year.

Worship Committee announced the Ash Wednesday service on Feb 25th at 7:30 PM. Concern was expressed about the length of announcements at the beginning of worship. As a solution a bulletin board will be maintained for announcements by Margaret Van Zanten.

Session approved use of the church social hall for the Whatcom County Foster Parent Group's DSHS Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, April 27, 2004. Church members may volunteer to Claude if they would like to help set up and clean up. Also, the WWC Preschool plans were approved to add kindergarten experiences in November through May on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to noon and serving up to 10 children.

Session approved a mission trip in August when youth will attend the National Presbyterian Peacemaking conference at PLU and follow-up with a service project in the Hilltop neighborhood. Fund raising was approved and specific events will be reviewed by the Christian education committee before they occur.

The Mission and Social Action Committee will be co-chaired by John Dobbie and Peter van der Veen, and Rook Van Halm will report activities and requests. Session approved an Economic Inequalities Workshop to be held Saturday, March, 27, 2004; solicitation of Auction items for the Interfaith Coalition Auction to be held April 3, 2004; a Tall Timber fund raising goal of \$3,500 for two new buildings with a solicitation scheduled for Sunday, April 25, 2004; expenditure of the balance of the Peacemaking Offering toward Jeff Halper's presentation on Palestinian and Israeli issues, to be held Monday, February 16, 2003 at Beth Israel Synagogue.

The Deacons brought a concern for parking options for people who need close, street level access, but do not qualify for handicapped spaces. Generally, people who can manage the hill and the stairs continue to park in back of the church and up at Lowell school. People who need 14th street access will be reminded to let the ushers and Deacons know so signs can be moved or drivers provided. Claude will put all the signs out to add space.

Pastor Mary advised the Session that Elder Dick Carr resigned and the Nominating committee will need to fill

*You are invited . . .*  
*Annual Women's Retreat*  
*"Hyacinths for the Soul"*

*Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>*

*Retreat begins at 11:30,  
lunch will be served at noon.*

*Bellingham Yacht Club*

*\$15*

*Special Guest Speaker ~ Gini Bunnell*

*We are privileged to have artist and illustrator, Gini Bunnell, speak at our retreat. Gini grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, lived most of her married life in Palo Alto, California and finds herself delightfully transported to Bellingham. She and her husband, Kirk, moved here a little over a year ago. She is the mother of two grown sons and grandmother of four. Gini taught Bible Study Fellowship for twelve years and loves sharing stories with women of all ages. Painting is her favorite occupation and she has recently illustrated several beautiful children's books currently in print which she shared with the Women's Retreat Committee. Gini is the mother of the Rev. Doug Bunnell at First Presbyterian Church.*

**You may register in the Horizon Room:**  
*February 29<sup>th</sup> both before and after worship.*  
*March 7<sup>th</sup> both before and after worship.*

**You may register by March 10<sup>th</sup> through the church office using the form below:**

**Women's Retreat Registration Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The \$15 registration fee must be included with your registration.  
The deadline for registering is MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Notes from Music Director Carolyn Mullen



Special Musical Event coming in April!

On **Good Friday**, April 9, 2004, at 7:30 pm, **St. James' Chancel Choir** will join with the **Choir from Sacred Heart Catholic Church** and other singers from our community to present **Gabriel Faure's "Requiem."** The "Requiem," accompanied by John French on the organ, will be presented here at St. James.

Singers interested in joining the choirs for this special event should contact Carolyn @595-0934. We will rehearse on Thursday evenings beginning March 11. Tapes of the music will be available for your rehearsal use.

A big **"Thank You"** for Music memorials.

In the past year we've used Music Memorial monies to purchase the following items for our Music Library:

*25 Choir copies of the "Faith We Sing" Songbook*

*2 accompaniment and 2 liturgical guidebooks for the "Faith We Sing" Songbook*

*40 copies of the Faure "Requiem"*

*8 new anthems for the Chancel Choir*

*8 new songs for the Bell Choir*

*New mallets, gloves and other supplies for the Bell Choir*

These are wonderful additions to our Library! Many thanks to all who have contributed. We hope you have been uplifted by our use of the music. **Unfortunately**, the Music Memorial Fund is now sadly depleted. As this fund is our only supply of monies for music here at St. James we will not be able to purchase any new music until the fund is replenished.

Please consider the Music Memorials fund for your gifts.

Thanks again for your love and support!



*The Women's Association luncheon  
will be Tuesday, March 30, 12:00pm  
Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share.  
All women are invited for food,  
fun and fellowship!*

*Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504*

**ST. JAMES  
PRAYER CHAIN/  
E-MAIL TEAM**

If you have a prayer request for the St. James Prayer Chain/E-mail Team  
call Linda Monroe at 360-671-6594  
or e-mail her at  
Lidale@aol.com

## Interfaith Spring Auction Just Weeks Away

“**The Promise of Spring in the Garden of Hope**” has nearly arrived. Interfaith Coalition’s annual spring auction on Saturday, April 3 is only weeks away. The auction, which is Interfaith's largest fund-raising event of the year, begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Best Western Lakeway Inn in Bellingham. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased by contacting **Bob Monahan (733-3947)** or through the Interfaith Coalition office. Dinner is included in the price of the tickets.

Hoping to meet or exceed its goal of raising \$85,000, Interfaith Coalition is still procuring items for the silent and live auctions. If you have an item, a service, time to donate at your vacation home, or any other contribution you’re willing to offer that will help raise money to support Interfaith’s housing and health-care programs, please call the Interfaith office.

The success of an event like the auction also requires a number of volunteers who can help with a variety of responsibilities. Interfaith Coalition needs volunteers with large vehicles who can help load, then transport to and unload items at the auction site on Friday evening, April 2. A volunteer also is needed to coordinate schedules of the many volunteers working the evening of the auction and the day prior.

If you wish to volunteer, make an auction donation, or purchase tickets, please call Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983.

### From the Mission and Social Action Committee

The WHATCOM HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL will take place at the Pickford Cinema from April 16-30. Details will be posted at the bulletin board.

The PRESBYTERIAN PEACE AND JUSTICE CONFERENCE this year will take place in Tacoma, at the Pacific Lutheran University campus, early August. Details will be provided in the next Pulse. This intergenerational event includes worship, workshops and other activities for all ages, and gives a unique opportunity to share "faith and works" experiences with Presbyterians from all over the country.

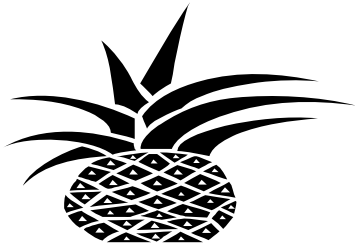
ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES WORKSHOP will be hosted by St. James on Saturday, March 27. For details, call Carla Shafer or watch the bulletin Board in the coming weeks.

### *Women's Group Winter Bible Study*

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10:30 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month in the Lounge  
(before the Women's Luncheon)

March 30: The Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr, Moderator



## Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, February 15 we were pleased to welcome these new members to our fellowship.

**Cheryl McGregor** joins us by reaffirmation of faith. Cheryl moved to Bellingham from Everett in 1987, and was previously involved with Baptist churches in Florida and Kentucky. Her husband, Robb, is a landscaper/excavator here in Bellingham, and Cheryl works with him as an office manager, as well as being a homemaker. She enjoys reading, music, and crafting, and is considering joining the St. James Choir. *Welcome, Cheryl!*

**Kathryn McGregor** joins us by reaffirmation of faith. Kathryn moved here from Gardnerville, Nevada, to be near her son, Robb, and daughter-in-law, Cheryl. She is a retired librarian, and enjoys history and books, especially genealogical research. *Welcome, Kathryn!*

### Church Family News

#### From Jim and Leila Terry:

We cannot begin to tell everyone in our St. James family how moved we both have been at the outpouring of caring and blessing during our recent relocation to Roseburg. St. James has meant so much to us that it is hard to express what you all have been in our lives.

We fully expected to still be in Bellingham for several months yet while our condo was being sold, but it actually sold, inside unseen, before it was listed on multiple. Jim now remembers why he left the moving business. We fully expect to have the last boxes unpacked and put away within six years!

Please call and come see us (541-957-9328) or e-mail us (leilanjim@aol.com). Much love to All.

#### **Needed: A new Family News Reporter for the Pulse.**

Leila Terry has retired. Interested?  
Contact Renée Meyer, secretary: 733-1325,  
stjpres@msn.com



### CONFIRMATION CLASS!!!



All youth who are sixth grade and older are invited to join a Confirmation Class, which will be held during March.

The class will meet on Thursday afternoons from 4:30 until 6:15, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. A light supper will be included.

An overnight field trip will also be part of the class and will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 12. It will end on Saturday, March 13 at 6:15 p.m.

Need more information?  
Call Nick Stampfli or Pastor Mary at 733-1325.