

The Pulse

May 2004

Volume 36, Issue 5

From Pastor Mary Robinson-Mohr

Very soon nine people will travel with me to meet Dr. Jodi Magness in Istanbul, Turkey for our study tour. We leave on Saturday morning, May 15, and return on Sunday afternoon, May 30. Needless to say, we are all very excited and look forward to the opportunity to visit sites where some of our Scriptures were written and first received. We will explore places where Christianity first flourished, and consider the timebound cultures that incubated our faith long ago, and then consider the relevance and timelessness of our faith in today's world.

While we are away, Laura Cheifetz will preach in the St. James pulpit. Most of you know Laura. She is a candidate for ministry under care of our presbytery and under care of the Session of St. James. She is pursuing her Master of Divinity degree at McCormick Seminary in Chicago. Laura has finished her seminary internship, and will conclude her final year of seminary next year. She hopes to go into parish ministry after graduation. Congratulations are in order for Laura, also. She just passed all four of her ordination exams on the first round, which is not easily accomplished by all Presbyterian seminarians. Be sure you give Laura your warm support and welcome while she preaches for us on May 16, 23, and 30.

It so happens that May 30 is Pentecost Sunday, the day the Church remembers and celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. If you review Acts chapter 2 for that special day, you will be reminded of the worldwide nature of Christianity. Think of our traveling group, part of St. James, but in a different part of the world on that particular Sunday. Together in Spirit, united by Christ, made one by our Creator, but spread across the earth. Our congregation will represent a microcosm of that worldwide missionary effort outlined in the Book of Acts. Some of us will explore areas close to "...Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia," (Acts 2:9-10). Remember us when you hear of ancient travelers to Jerusalem from those areas, as the words from Acts 2 are read in worship that Sunday.

Let us all give thanks that our faith has been alive and active in our world for two thousand years. Let us also give thanks that it continues to sustain and inspire people of all shapes and sizes, races and nationalities. "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.... Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2: 17, 21).

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mary

May Worship Service Schedule

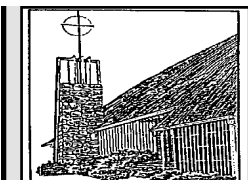
May 2:
Communion
Acts 9:36-43
John 10:22-30
"Eternity"

May 9:
Music Sunday
Mother's Day
Acts 11:1-18
John 13:31-35
"For the Love of
God"

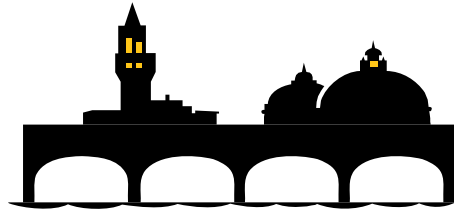
May 16:
Laura Cheifetz,
guest preacher

May 23:
Laura Cheifetz,
guest preacher

May 30:
Day of Pentecost
Laura Cheifetz,
guest preacher



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”

May 5 (last class!): “What About Colossae?”
 Read the Letter to the Colossians.



The monthly
 all church
 clean-up
 landscaping
 fix-it
 workday
 will be

**Saturday,
 May 15
 9am - 1pm**

Come join us -
 the coffee will
 be on!

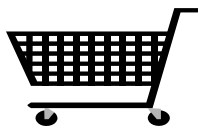
Church Family News

A word of thanks to **Peter van der Veen** for dressing up the front flower bed. It makes us all think spring is here and certainly makes a nice entrance. It sure pays to have knowledgeable Dutch people in our midst. Thanks, Peter!!

Dave and Pat Nelson flew to FL for a few days where they visited with Pat’s cousins. She was flower girl for them 63 years ago. They spent a couple nights in Orlando but were unable to meet the AK family there so they spent a night together in Seattle hotel upon their return through. The 70 degree weather wasn’t hard to take in March and sure enjoyed all the good restaurants while there.

From **Anne LaShell**: “My love and thanks to St. James for the love and support shown to us all the years we have been members. The fun times, the sad times, the loss of our daughter and now, my loving Jack. Even after he’d lost the ability to speak, he still felt included and counted the days ‘til Sunday. Love and best

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

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

Return Service Requested

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

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, **May 12, 2004**. That issue will be mailed Thursday, **May 20**. If you have something that you would like considered for publication, call the church office at 360-733-1325, e-mail 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.

May Birthdays

* * *

- 2 Dillon Griffith
- 3 Elizabeth Crandall
- 5 Jacqueline Hellinga
- 5 Hank Reasoner
- 8 Karen Morse
- 9 Fred Richardson
- 11 Helen Oliver-Leen
- 12 Janis Harnden Bayless
- 14 Peter van der Veen
- 14 Jane Fraser
- 17 Loren Frafford
- 18 Bob Pace
- 19 Leila Terry
- 19 Phoebe McGarry
- 20 Bev Stewart
- 21 Ann Heaps Johnson
- 25 Jim Hamstreet
- 29 Dorothy Brown
- 29 Don McClenahan
- 30 Mary Gloppen

May Anniversaries

* * *

- 1 Denise & Roy Hoffman
- 12 Dave & Twyla Bader
- 13 Bruce & Marsha Lockhart
- 26 David & Renée Meyer
- 27 Marjorie & Don Thorson



ANNUAL SPRING PLANT & RUMMAGE SALE!!!

Once again we are planning for our annual spring plant and rummage sale, **Saturday, May 1**, with set-up the day before.

If you would like to help set up on Friday, or help with sales and clean-up on Saturday, call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504

Join the Opportunity Council and

Dine Out **May 4th**

Dine out May 4th, all day, when participating restaurants will donate a portion of their sales to help support Maple Alley Inn, a local non-profit program which provides hot meals for people in need.

Some participating restaurants:

Bellingham Red Robin
Boundary Bay Brewery
The Calumet Restaurant
India Grill Restaurant
Wild Garlic

For a complete list of participants, or for more info., call the Opportunity Council at 360-734-5121

Women's Group Bible Study



* * *

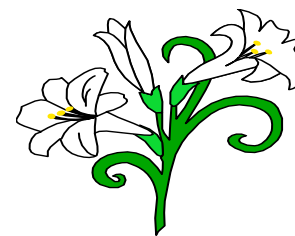
10:30 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month in the Lounge
(before the Women's Luncheon)

May 25

PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

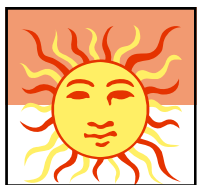
The monthly prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East continues on the 18th day of each month at 5:30 p.m.

The next prayer vigil will be



**Tuesday, May 18 at Garden Street United Methodist Church,
1326 N. Garden St. 733-7440**

Come and join us in this important time of prayer!



Youth News by Nick Stampfli

As we enter May, the youth group will be getting ready for changes and a new summer schedule. On May 1, we will have an important planning meeting in which we will discuss upcoming summer plans. Future summer activities include a trip to Reedsport, OR, a new style of "Coffeeshop" meetings for youth group, and an exciting mission trip.

Mission Trip participants, whose applications are due on April 30, will be having a bake sale during the rummage sale on May 1. Please plan on supporting our youth as they get ready to go to the Peacemaking Conference.

Lastly, Steven Ayers will be our church's representative to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. He will join over 6,000 other youth in Indiana, where they will worship, play, and learn together. Please congratulate Steven and give him your prayers as he begins this incredible journey.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about youth ministry here at St. James, please don't hesitate to contact me.

- Nick

*The Women's Association luncheon
will be Tuesday, May 25, 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



Bread for the World

**May 1, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, Mt. Vernon**

Join us for a workshop on Bread for the World's 2004 Offering of Letters, Keep the Promise on Hunger and Health.

**For information, contact
Zelinda Welch 1-800-315-3239 or breadwest@bread.org
or Bruce Radtke 733-7029**



"The Promise of Spring" Delivers Success to Interfaith Auction

Spring is off to a beautiful start for all of us in Whatcom County and for Interfaith Coalition. We raised about **\$92,000** from our auction, "The Promise of Spring in the Garden of Hope," on April 3. That figure is well above our goal. Proceeds will support Interfaith Coalition programs that seek to provide access to affordable medical and dental care, housing for homeless families, and other necessities for our neighbors in need.

Thank you to the many, many people in our member congregations who donated items to the auction, who participated in putting together congregational gifts, and who volunteered in so many ways that made our auction such a success. Simply put, the auction couldn't happen without you.

The People's Seminary is sponsoring a new course

"Welcome the Child: Searching for a Liberating Theology of Childhood."

April 29 - May 1, Burlington, WA.

What would a church look like that truly welcomes children?
What is a child - innately innocent? woefully willful? the consummate consumer? How does the Gospel view children?

To register, or for more information, please call Sharon at (360) 755-5299 or e-mail to: sharon@peoplesseminary.org

A recent letter written to President Bush by one of the officers of our church denomination.

April 19, 2004

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20400

Dear President Bush:

I write to share with you the deep concern of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), growing out of our long partnership with and work for the well being of Christians and people of other faiths in the Middle East.

On April 14, you announced a departure from former U.S. international policy and a reversal of long-held and current international policies toward Israel and Palestine. This departure continues a dangerous trend toward unilateral interventionism that inflames anti-American sentiment and nurtures militant religious fanaticism around the world. Your remarks seem instead to constitute a disengagement from the peacemaking process and an endorsement of a course of action that can only lead to more desperate violence and the prolonging of conflict in the region.

In 2003, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted a comprehensive policy statement addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. This policy:

- strongly urges the United States to take seriously its leadership role to begin a peace initiative that will end Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem and fulfill the stated goal of a two-state settlement based upon the pre-1967 boundaries as directed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242;
- emphasizes the need to listen carefully to the legitimate needs of both the Israelis and the Palestinians, and to require both to adhere to the same standards of nonaggression;
- urges the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to reach an understanding that includes the right of return of Palestinian exiles to the region.

By departing from long-held U.S. and international policy, the United States is failing to take a leadership role in establishing a lasting peace for the common good of the two peoples and three faiths that are deeply rooted in Palestinian and Israeli lands. We fear that you may be undermining a future peace and putting our own security at risk.

With deep commitment to the constructive role that the United States can play in the Middle East, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) urges you to reconsider giving your support to ill-considered policies advocated by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. We urge you to reclaim your role as a leader capable of using the influence of the United States to pressure Palestinian and Israeli leaders to turn from violence and re-engage in the hard work of moving toward a just peace.

Sincerely,

Clifton Kirkpatrick
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)