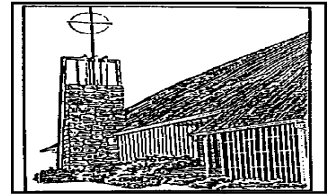


# The Pulse



Volume 36, Issue 11  
December 2004

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Friends, it is time to wait.

Advent, the season of waiting and watching, is here. It does not force itself upon us, like a shopping mall that demands our energy and resources. Advent invites us to wait.

Waiting is not something we do well. We glide down freeways past the footpaths of a hundred years ago, we access up-to-the-second election results and weather reports on the Internet, and we produce piping hot corn dogs and lasagna in seconds at the zap of a microwave. Waiting is a lost art in our day and age.

Advent waiting is different than just marking time waiting in a line at the Post Office, however. Advent waiting calls us to expect great things. It directs us toward building for a certain future. It reminds us that God is alongside of us, and that we have God-given hope for our days of waning light.

One of the Scriptures you will hear in the days ahead is Isaiah 11:1-10. It has wonderful images of a shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse and bringing righteousness to the earth. This shoot of righteousness does not suddenly land on the earth as a full-grown tree! It begins as a shoot, and initiates changes in the world that eventually results with a world of wolves living with lambs peacefully, under the leadership of a little child. Advent invites us to be part of that gentle yet powerful movement.

Let us actively wait in Advent of 2004. Let us open ourselves to “the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” Let us nurture within our hearts a place for the shoot from the stump of Jesse to take root in our world.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Mary

## DECEMBER WORSHIP TOPICS

**December 5, 2004:**  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Communion Sunday  
Isaiah 11:1-10  
Matthew 3:1-12  
“Transformation!”

**December 12, 2004:**  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Sunday School  
Program in Worship

**December 19, 2004:**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Music Sunday  
Christmas Joy Offering  
Isaiah 7:10-16  
Matthew 1:18-25  
“The Foster Parent to  
Hope”

**December 26, 2004:**  
Isaiah 63-7-9  
Matthew 2:13-23  
“The Sugar-Coating  
Comes Off”

St James Presbyterian Church  
910 14th Street ~ Bellingham, Washington 98225  
phone: (360)733-1325 fax: (360)733-1664 e-mail: stjpres@msn.com

## FROM THE INTERFAITH COALITION

Thanks for Sharing the Warmth

Thank you for your support of another successful coat drive. There were many big smiles and enthusiastic Thank You's from grateful individuals and families receiving coats from Interfaith Coalition's Winter Coat Drive. Because of your generous donations, many coats were distributed by volunteers at the food banks and through the area schools. What a meaningful way to send our warm thoughts to those in need.

## PONY EXPRESS DRIVE UPDATE

Thanks to Jack Drury, the "Trail Bosses" and others who made the 2005 pledge drive a success! As of November 15th we are 70% of the way to the pledge goal of \$170,000.

If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet please help us reach that goal by returning your card to Finance Leader Wendy Crandall at the church office. Additional pledge cards are available in the office, if you need one give Renee a call at 733-1325.

### 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 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

### PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The next prayer vigil will  
 be  
**Saturday,**  
**December 18, 5:30 pm**

St. Sophia  
 Greek Orthodox  
 Church  
 510 E. Sunset Dr.  
 734-8745

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

### *The Angel Tree will be coming in December!*



As in previous years,  
 the Mission/Social Action committee  
 will organize the Angel tree to provide  
 Christmas gifts for needy families,  
 selected by Interfaith Coalition.  
 Details will follow in future Sunday  
 bulletins.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE MOHRS

Once again, Pastor Mary, Randy, and Susannah invite you to their home for a Christmas party!

We hope you can join us for this open house any time between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 19. The Mohrs live at 231 Milton Street near the old Samish Twin Drive-In Theater (please don't confuse this short street with "Milton Court" out by Lake Whatcom). Call the church office if you need directions or more information.

Come celebrate the holiday with us!

## TREASURER'S REPORT FROM WENDY CRANDALL

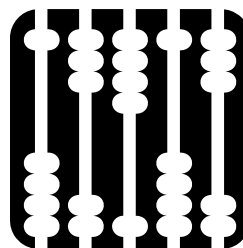
Offerings continue to fall short of budget levels; lower than expected expenses have helped mitigate this. If you have any questions about giving at St. James please contact Wendy Crandall in the church office at 733-1325 extension 22.

As of October 31st:

Year to date pledge income \$136,009  
Budget based on Estimate of Giving \$139,165

Other offerings \$15,874  
Budget amount \$22,902

Year to date expenses \$165,870  
Budget amount \$178,872



### December Birthdays

- 1 Bart Griffith
- 2 Walt Bayless
- 2 Analee Brethour
- 2 Gus Wagar
- 4 Jim Terry
- 5 Jordan Brink
- 5 Les Galley
- 6 Frances LeCocq
- 6 Sharon Schayes
- 7 Gale Pfueller
- 11 Aldene Engels
- 12 Christopher Anderson
- 12 Jan Resick
- 13 Dick Carr
- 14 Barbara Kilpatrick
- 17 Frank Brown
- 18 Scott Wenger
- 21 Rex Lary
- 26 Jackie Cochinos
- 27 Richard Elmslie
- 31 Katy Read

### December Anniversaries

\*\*\*

- 2 Don & Nelle McClenahan
- 4 Bill & Evelyn Hatch
- 5 Wayne & Linda Landis
- 18 Harry & Carol Pagels
- 22 Fred & Jean Richardson
- 28 Jim & Mary Hawk
- 28 John & Marion Dobbie
- 29 Jim & Leila Terry
- 31 Richard & Mary Elmslie

## COME, THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME! THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

*Come worship with brothers and sisters in several congregations as we gather together for an interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 24, 2004, at 7:30 p.m. Saint James Presbyterian Church will host this special opportunity to worship. Come, give thanks, and give praise to our God!*

## UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual meetings of the St. James congregation have been scheduled for immediately after worship on Sunday December 5 and Sunday January 16.

The purpose of the December 5 meeting is to elect new officers.

The purpose of the meeting on January 16 is to review the Annual Report and to review the terms of the pastor's call for the coming year.

### Lost & Found

A member of our church or a guest of a member recently lost a valuable Seattle Super Sonics ring. Please call the church office to identify: 360-733-1325

# St. James Events Calendar

# December 2004

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

	1	2	3	4		
<b>Every Sunday</b> 9:00 am Adult class 10:30 am <b>Worship</b> 10:45 am Church School for children 12:30 pm Korean worship 7:00 pm AA	6 pm Wednesday night study 7 A.A. Men	2 Membership 5 Worship Cm. 7 Christian Ed. 7:30 pm AA 6 – 8 Music Block		10 am O.A.		
5 9:30 am Session <b>Communion</b> 11:35 am Congregational Meeting 6 pm Girl Sc.	6 12:45 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	7 6:30 am Prayer Gr. 5 pm Stewardship 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Gr.	8 <i>Pulse</i> items due! 5 pm Mission & Soc. Act. 5:30 Weaver's Guild 7 A.A. Men	9 4 pm Staff 6 – 8 Music Block 7:30 pm AA	10 6 pm Prime Timers	11 9 am – 1 pm Church Work Party 10 am O.A.
12 9 am College Breakfast & Bible Study <b>Sunday School Christmas Program in Worship</b>	13 6:30 Boy Scouts	14 6:30 am Prayer Gr. 10:30 Women's Bible Study 12 noon Women's Christmas Luncheon 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Gr.	15 7 A.A. Men	16 10 am <i>Pulse</i> crew 6 – 8 Music Block 7:30 pm AA	17	18 10 am O.A. 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil for Middle East Peace @ St. Sophia
19 <b>Christmas Joy Offering &amp; Christmas Music Sunday</b> 3 – 6 Mohr Open House	20	21 6:30 am Prayer Gr. 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Gr.	22 7 A.A. Men	23 6:30 Bells 7 Chancel Choir 7:30 pm AA	24 <b>Christmas Eve 5:30 Worship</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 10 am O.A. Church office closed
26	27	28 6:30 am Prayer Gr. 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Gr.	29 7 A.A. Men	30 7:30 pm AA	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> Church office re-opens Jan. 4	<b>Music Block:</b> 6 – 8 pm Thurs. <b>Pizza, Sinfonietta, Bells, Chancel Choir</b>

# WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Women's Group Bible Study  
"Quotable Women in Scripture"  
(before the Women's Luncheon)  
December 14

\* \* \*

Women's Association Luncheon

Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share. All women are invited for food, fun and fellowship, at 12 pm!  
Christmas Luncheon & Gift Exchange  
December 14

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

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Bring your family and friends to worship by candlelight on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. Carols, special music, and the Christmas story from the Scriptures will be featured in this beautiful service.



# YOUTH NEWS

BY MEGAN STAMPFLI

Dear Youth, Parents, and People Interested in Cookies,

December is here! And I know that I'm excited about my winter break, but that still leaves us with the rest of the month. So I'm suggesting that we don't wait for winter break to have all of our fun. We will be having youth group for the first two Sundays of the month, and during the second week of December we will also be having a movie night. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Registration forms for the Mexico Mission Trip are due. Please see me if you still need a Registration form or if you have any other questions.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> we will be adding to the excitement with our first mission trip fundraiser, a cookie exchange. What is a cookie exchange you might ask... well let me tell you. The youth will be baking a variety of cookies for you to choose from, and then you can mix and match a dozen of whichever kinds you would like to purchase. This will be a great way feed your Christmas guests and help support our youth on their summer mission trip to Rancho Milagro in Mexico.

At the end of December my winter break will "heat up" with a trip to Puerto Rico, so I will not be available until January (not so exciting for you all, but really exciting for me). I'm sure you all have exciting activities planned for your Christmas break and I hope that you choose to spend plenty of time with your family and friends celebrating the birth of Christ.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

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

**Saturday  
December 11  
9am - 1pm**

Winter (i.e. The Rainy Season) has arrived! Bring your favorite tools, and join us in maintaining our lovely church.

# Welcome, New Members!

The following people were warmly welcomed into St. James membership in November:

- Ray Crow**
- Pam Gibson**
- Jenny Sue LeSchander**
- Valerie McBeth**
- Rob Reimers**
- Charles & Susan Snyder**





# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

PAT NELSON, REPORTER

738-9982

- ⇒ **Jean Seater** has a Russian-speaking child in her first-grade classroom in Burlington; the only Russian-speaking child in the entire district. Our very own Russian-speaking **Bruce Kraig** drove down to Burlington recently to spend 2 1/2 hours in Jean's classroom, much to the delight of the children in her class, especially the Russian child and his visiting mother. "Mr. Bruce" taught the kids some Russian words, played a game in Russian, wrote some of their names in Russian on the marker board, and shared some Russian stories and chocolate. Jean says, "The best part of Bruce's visit was seeing the eyes of the Russian child sparkle with pleasure at hearing his native language spoken in the classroom." Spasiba, Gaspadin Bruce! (Thank you, Mr. Bruce!)
- ⇒ **Gus and Nancy Wagar** are proud to announce the birth of their grandson, **Anthony Joseph Lamonica**, born Saturday Nov. 13. Parents are **Jenny and Joseph Lamonica**. Congratulations are also due to **Earl VanderWerff**, great-grandfather!
- ⇒ **Bill and Evelyn Hatch's** granddaughter, **Laura Hatch**, underwent surgery in early November for facial reconstruction and to remove the blood clot from her brain. Surgery appears to have been successful. She was released from Children's Hospital on Nov. 13 to go home. She faces a long period of healing and adjusting.
- ⇒ A recent letter from **Doris Wade**, dated Nov. 2: "Dear friends at St. James, I arrived here in Tucson on Oct. 20th and feel pretty well, except very tired. A couple days later, I began to develop really bad cold symptoms, so on Monday the 25th I was able to see a doctor, and he found I had pneumonia so I've been on antibiotics, lots of rest and fluids. Thank goodness, I'm doing much better and I will see my doctor tomorrow. My son Phil has taken good care of me and is a wonderful cook. At the present time we are in a furnished time-share condo, but on Sat. we are moving into a three bedroom apartment and will be there until one house in Bellingham sells – then we'll be looking for a home to buy. I miss you all and I hope everything goes well for everyone. God's blessings, Doris Wade" We miss you Doris!
- ⇒ **Anne LaShell** writes that her grandson **Sean**, who teaches Physics in a university in Istanbul, will be visiting Dec. 7 – 14. If anyone is interested in hearing about Turkey he will be glad to speak. He will be accompanied by his wife **Lisa**, four year old **Kristi** and 1 year old **Peter**.

## 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.



Maverette Butler  
 Margaret de Maine  
 Marion Dobbie  
 Pat Nelson  
 Helen Paulsen  
 Mel Reasoner  
 Margaret Rice  
 Inge Thurston

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**The Pulse is published once per month, with the exception of the combined July/August issue.**

Articles and announcements for the next issue must be **received** in the church office no later than Wednesday, **December 8, 2004**. That issue will be mailed Thursday, **December 16**. 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.

Ministers: The Congregation  
 Pastor: The Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr  
 Secretary: Renée Meyer  
 Treasurer: Wendy Crandall  
 Organist: Les Belrose  
 Wedding Coordinator: Jeanne Uhles  
 Mission: Skagit Hispanic Ministries, Bob & Gracie Eckblad  
 PC (USA) Regional Liaison to Jordan, Israel & Palestine: Doug Dicks  
 Christian Ed. Director: Margaret Van Zanten  
 Youth Director: Megan Stampfli  
 Music Director: Carolyn Mullen

St. James Presbyterian Church  
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 Bellingham, WA 98225  
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