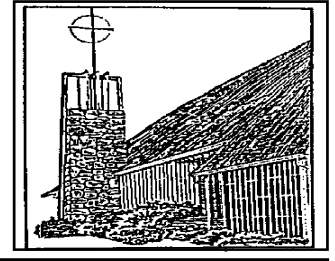


The Pulse



Volume 37, Issue 8
September 2005

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Here it comes! The beginning of school is on the horizon. Buses full of students will be on our roads again, families will regiment their household schedules into a workable routine, and teachers and other school personnel will be (are, actually!) disappearing from the “leisure class” to return to their important task of educating and equipping our children and youth to be productive citizens and informed lifetime learners.

I often think that the Church’s role in education is underrated. Education is critical to the life of Christianity, and it is often underplayed these days. I’m not sure why this happens. Perhaps it is because so many churches have had some kind of education program during the twentieth century, and so churchgoers take it for granted. Perhaps it is because children’s education, commonly in the form of Sunday School, seems unimportant to adults, literally “child’s play.” Perhaps it is because it is not mandatory. There are no tests or final grades given that follow one’s career or advancement. Perhaps it is none of these things, or other things not named, or a combination.

I am grateful for the strong support of Christian Education at Saint James. Our education programs are one of the strongest “missions” we support, and they are of high quality. No, this mission isn’t in a grass hut on some faraway shore. It is here, right in the middle of Bellingham, and this is exactly what a church should do.

First and Second Timothy and Titus are called the “Pastoral Epistles” by many. They give guidance to new pastors about what to do as leaders in a church, and they reflect the very beginnings of church organization. The Letter to Titus particularly spends a lot of time discussing right doctrine and errant doctrine, and the importance of reflecting such things in lifestyle and in teaching. **“But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine,”** reads verse 2:1.

Where else will people in our society learn about the Good News? Where else will they get guidance from a faith that has proven to be an anchor for troubled people for over two thousand years? Do we expect the public schools to teach these things? Of course not! This is not their role, nor are their personnel trained in such things. Do we expect the Learning Channel or some other TV station to give spiritual awareness and guidance? Need I even answer that?

Where are people going to find their spiritual development and education? Spirituality has been ignored for too long by modern and post-modern people, as if it doesn’t really matter. After all, the thinking seems to go, it doesn’t increase financial and material success, and it can’t be measured by human standards, so it must not exist, or it if does, it can’t be important. But we are starting to pay the price for such a mindset. The religious right has made a mockery of faith, especially in the political sphere, and our culture is losing its ability to bring ethical balance to its decision-making.

continued on page 2

St James Presbyterian Church
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cont. from page 1

So, one of the most important – and urgent - missions of our church is education. How wonderful that we have offerings for all ages, on Sundays and on weekdays. How wonderful that we have student-teacher ratios that are the envy of educators anywhere! How exciting to see our children and youth grow in faith because their families have included spiritual education as a priority in busy schedules that include music lessons, sports, etc. What a blessing to see adults build upon the foundations of an early faith.

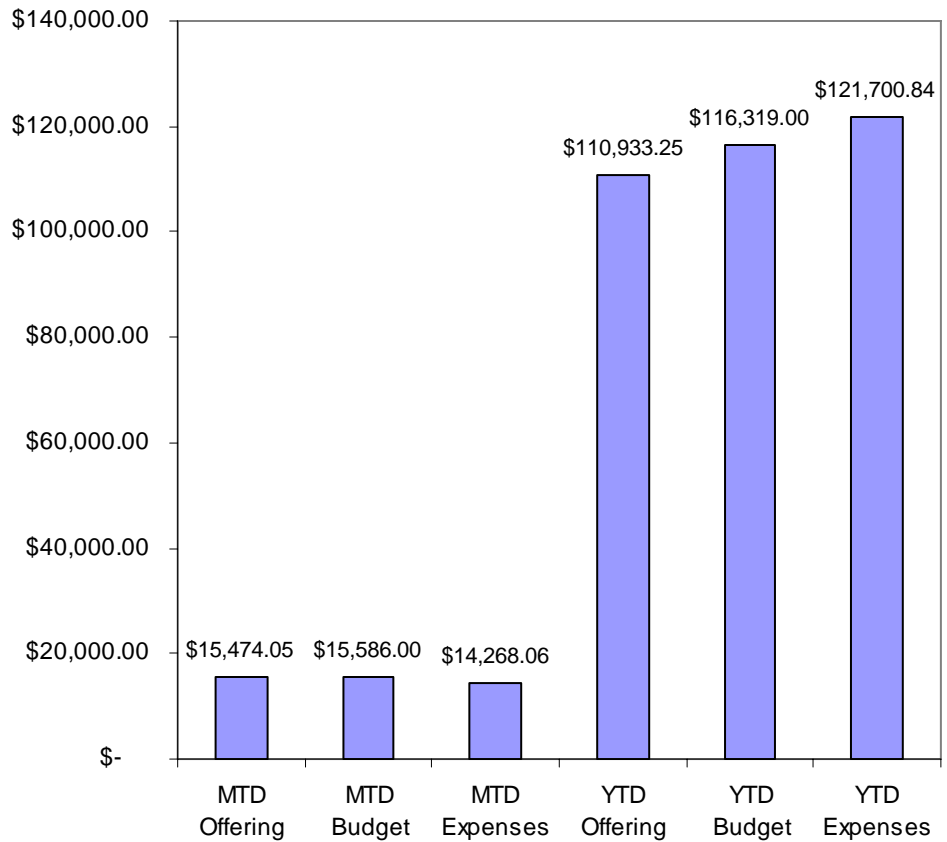
There is so much more to learn! Archaeological surveys in the last twenty years of the central hill country of Israel/ Palestine will rewrite much of our current Old Testament scholarship in the next few years. The changing face of families calls for Christian response. Defining when war is just and unjust has challenged the church in ages past, and continues to challenge us today. Exploring the richness of the Christian faith doesn't ever stop. I encourage you to take advantage of our many education offerings this fall.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mary

BLOOD DRIVE

You Can Help. *Donate Blood!*
 Friday, September 23
 12 –3:30 pm
 4:30-6 pm
 St. James Fellowship Hall
 For information
 and to sign up
 contact:
 Sharon Schayes 733-2540

TREASURER'S REPORT WENDY CRANDALL



2005 continues to be financially challenging. Year to date (July 31st) expenses exceed total income by \$2,084. The third quarter mission contributions to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly have been deferred; the Stewardship Committee is cautiously optimistic that fall will bring an increase in contributions that will enable St. James to provide monetary support to both denominational and local mission programs.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE JACK DRURY, CHAIR

October will be Pledge Drive Month. There will be events and activities during the 5 Sundays of the month. Highlights of these events will include an all congregation POTLUCK LUNCH after the Sunday service on October 16 and PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY on October 30 when all pledges will be brought forward during the service.

A table with the pledge cards and envelopes with congregation names will be set up in the fellowship hall at the potluck lunch so members can pick up their pledge package.

All members are urged to attend the October 16 potluck lunch to enjoy a special lunch entree provided by the Stewardship Committee and a program of skits concerning stewardship. Come join us.

SESSION MEETING IN BRIEF CARLA SHAFER, STATED CLERK

The Session met on Sunday, August 14, 2005, at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall.

Guests Dottie Villevik, NPSP Moderator and Louie Hamm, representing the North Puget Sound Presbytery Visioning Committee, gave the Vision Team report that was accepted by the Presbytery in May. This year the Executive Presbyter position will be taken out of the Mission budget category and placed in operating expenses. The covenant relationships that the Presbytery has with Tall Timber and Neah Bay Presbyterian Church will continue as mission budget items. All other mission giving will be defined by the Churches. Session members expressed support for the work of the Vision team and congratulated them for the work they have done. Dottie requested prayers for Presbytery and its changes.

A By-Laws amendment on e-mail motions was introduced as follows: E-mail motions may be considered by the Session when the topic for consideration has been introduced to the Session at a previous meeting. The motion must be presented to the Moderator of the Session, who will notify the Clerk of Session to contact all Session members by e-mail, or by telephone. Ordinarily Session members will be given 48 hours to respond to the e-mail. The results of the vote will be reported to and recorded in the minutes of the next Session meeting. The amendment was approved to be recommended to the congregation. It was decided to take the amendment to a Congregational meeting to be held on September 4, 2005 after church.

A special meeting with new members will be held prior to its next regular meeting at 5 P.M. on September 11, 2005. Session members will provide a pot luck dinner.

The financial reports for June, July and the Quarter for the Named Activities Fund, Memorial Funds, and Endowment Funds were presented and approved. We had a budget shortfall in June and July. But this is expected to improve in the fall and winter months. The Final Audit Report was submitted and all is in order. Wendy was thanked for her excellent work.

Reports were heard from all committees. Session approved that the cabinets in the sacristy and adding the Presbyterian logo and a roof to the sign be paid for

from the Building Endowment fund. Session approved the sale of Palestinian crafts on two Sundays in November. The Crop Walk planned for September 24, 2005 was discussed and volunteers are needed.

Pulpit guests will be here as follows. Michael Adey will come on October 9, 2005, and the Rev. Fahed Abu Akel will come in November.

The church personnel reviews have been completed and all were very positive.

The **Fall Pledge Drive** will take place on 5 Sundays in October and \$70 was approved for related incidental costs. A Stewardship workshop will be held October 1, 2005 at the Calvin Presbyterian Church in North Seattle. Jack Drury and Dale Monroe will attend and are happy to provide transportation for others.

Repairs and improvements were reviewed. Bathroom floors upstairs have been replaced. Windows will be replaced beginning September 12, 2005. Bill Read is assisting throughout the remodel. Carpets were cleaned. The dying Pine tree will be removed from the north side of the church.

Session members advised Building and Grounds that we don't have room available for more outside groups to meet on Sunday evenings. The Cub Scouts Pact 222 was approved to continue to meet on Mondays. The children's Mandarin Chinese Class fee was waived for August. Katy and Mary will work on renewals of expiring annual agreements.

We are looking for a **new volunteer** to pick up cleaning supplies at Costco. Claude Hill has been doing this for many years. Thanks very much Claude for your tireless efforts.

Pastor Mary reported on weddings, baptisms and communions.

YOUTH NEWS MEGAN STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR

The youth have had an interesting summer. We kicked it off with our mission trip to Mexico. It was a great experience for everyone that went. We currently have a bulletin board up in the fellowship hall with pictures from our trip just in case you missed the Sunday that we shared about it. The rest of the summer has been spent doing fun activities like going bowling and to Lake Padden. The following is a calendar of the events to come:

- * Sept. 4— I will be in New York, DOES ANYONE WANT TO HOST A MOVIE NIGHT AT THEIR HOUSE?
- * Sept. 11- disk golf 4:30-6
- * Sept.. 17-18 Fall Lock-in, for everyone including our new 6th graders, this will kick off our new school year, bring friends.

The lock in will begin at 7:00 pm and will finish after worship on Sunday morning. This is a great chance for our 6th graders, new people, and our regulars to come together and get to know one another a little bit better as we start a new school year. I hope many people can attend. After the lock in we will continue to have regular youth meetings on Sunday nights from 4:30-6:00. Hope you all have a great September!!!

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- * **Wednesday, September 21: International Day of Peace.** The Whatcom Peace and Justice Center invites us all to its second Annual Peace day with music, speakers, and children's program. A march will start at 6 p.m. from the Maritime Heritage Park, ending at the First Congregational Church at 7 p. m. for the program. Further details will follow.
- * **CROP Walk, September, 24, 2005** St. James Presbyterian is one of five local churches renewing the CROP Walk in Bellingham. The chief recipient of our walkers' pledges will be the *Church World Service*. Brochures are available in the narthex giving details of *CWS* work. Also look for live announcements during church services in September. 25% of donations will go to the local food bank. Plan now to support our walkers. We expect to have at least ten walkers from our church. Volunteers are needed to be walkers, or helpers on the path around Lake Padden, by manning water stations, directing traffic at path intersections etc. *Please see the insert for more information about CROP!*



CROP WALK
"We walk because they walk."



- * **Presbyterian Divestment Committee recommendations:** following General Assembly's decision last year, the MRTI Committee met in Seattle's Northminster Presbyterian Church on August 4 and 5. On August 4, more than 20 members of the Olympia, Seattle and North Puget Sound Presbyteries met with the committee to be informed of the committee's procedures and were invited to give their views on the divestment strategy. On August 5 the committee released the names of 5 companies which, in the view of the MRTI, are supporting the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories and/or contribute to violence in that area and Israel. The management of the companies will be approached and, if their practices continue, Presbyterian Church (Pension Fund and Presbyterian Foundation) may be withdrawn from the companies, subject to approval by the General Assembly. Here in Bellingham we have held monthly prayer services for peace in the Middle East; our denomination has now taken this important step of peaceful resistance to oppression, violence and violations of human rights in Palestine/Israel.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- * **Jack and Shirley Drury** recently returned from Colorado where they visited Jack's mother, other family members and Shirley's brother. Highlight of the visit was a family reunion and cookout celebrating Jack's mother's 93rd birthday. On their return to Bellingham they stayed three days at an B and B in the Longbeach area.
- * **Laura Cheifetz** has accepted a call! (Laura graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary this last May.) She will be working at McCormick as the Coordinator of the AADVENT Project (an ordainable position), which starts August, 2005 and runs 4.5 years. AADVENT stands for Asian American Discipleship for Vocational Empowerment, Nurture and Transformation; it is a McCormick project funded by Lilly. Congratulations, Laura!
 In addition, Laura was one of the keynote speakers at the National Network of Presbyterian College Women (NNPCW) annual conference in Chicago, July 27-31. The conference, titled "Many Hands, One Spirit: Confronting Prejudice through Education and Social Action," offered workshops on racism, sexism and other forms of prejudice. From the PCUSA News Service: "Cheifetz, a NNPCW alumna, served on the group's coordinating committee and has worked on gender-justice issues for the PC(USA)'s United Nations Office. She also has worked in leadership development among Asian-American young adults while attending McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and has been on the Churches Uniting in Christ Racial Justice Task Force. "Most of my significant mentors came from NNPCW while I was in college, and from Women's Ministries," Cheifetz said. "They invested a lot in me. I'm really grateful for them, because I'm not sure I would be going into ministry without their encouragement.""
- * From **Sean Baird**: Friends and Family, "I decided that instead of emailing weekly updates while I'm in Africa that I would make a little blog for you to read. That way, I won't flood your email box with letters that you may or may not want to read and it will save me time to write to each of you individually instead of lots of mass emails. . . I hope that you'll check in with me, at least through email, as I'm sure it will be nice to hear from friends and family while I'm in the midst of AIDS and poverty in Africa. Thank you for your prayers...Thanks!!!!
<http://underafricanskies.blogspot.com/> Shalom, Sean
- * "Indonesia Revisited", by **Peter van der Veen**: Accompanied by our daughter Marjolein and niece Augusta, I visited my birth place in the mountainous interior of the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia, in June. My parents arrived there in 1916, after a long journey around South Africa (because of WW I), to do language study followed by Bible translation. After a four year interruption due to WWII, my father completed the Bible translation, with the help of local assistants, in 1956. My "birth house" is located on a hill at the foot of a rocky mountain range which, according to local tradition, is the fallen ladder to heaven, overthrown by the Lord of the Universe as punishment for a sin committed by the first human beings. The house, renovated and surrounded by newer buildings, is now the Retreat and Training Center of the Toraja Church. A few years ago it hosted the meeting of the Indonesian Association of Churches. The current director of the Center, the Rev. Henriette ("Ery") Hutabarat and her husband, received part of their theological training in the United States. She was selected to attend the meeting of the World Council of Churches in Brazil early next year. I am thankful for the opportunity for this visit, for the work my parents could do, the support they received from many in the local community, and for the continued witness by the Toraja Church.
- * From **Carolyn Mullen**: A note to my wonderful family at St. James: A humongous heartfelt "thank you" for all the love and support you've shown to me and my family these past few weeks. While awaiting surgery after breaking my jaw (courtesy of a happy horse flinging up his heels into my chin) I felt truly uplifted and surrounded by your prayer support. As I recovered at home I was encouraged daily by your beautiful cards, flowers and goodie baskets. Our freezer is still full of your wonderful soups and casseroles though we're working our way through them. And as I continue to recover I'm thankful for your words of encouragement, especially when you hold your teeth closed (like me!) when you speak! Whenever people ask me about St James I tell them, "After working in 4 different churches in my life, St. James is absolutely the kindest, friendliest place I've found." Your love and generosity are evident not only in crisis situations but in your everyday support of so many good things, and I feel so lucky to be a part of this ministry. A few words of wisdom (?):
 - * you cannot lick envelopes with your teeth wired shut
 - * peanut butter and crackers in the blender taste JUST like normal
 - * YES, YOU CAN STILL SING THROUGH YOUR TEETH!

With love and thanks, Carolyn Mullen, Music Director

Please send your family news to the church office! (733-1325; stjpres@msn.com)

FROM THE INTERFAITH COALITION

* July 13, 2005

Dear Members of St. James Presbyterian Church:

Thank you for supporting Interfaith Coalition!

"The first night I spent in Interfaith Family Housing I felt so relieved for the first time in a very long time. With smart choices, I'm working hard at doing better for my kids and me. I am taking GED and Medical Records courses at Bellingham Technical College. I am so thankful for my case manager who helps me see my potential and shows me that there is no bad situation that cannot be turned around. Thank you for this opportunity." Mother of three children living in Interfaith housing.

Thank you so much for the donation to Interfaith Coalition of \$1000.00. We appreciate your partnership with other Whatcom County congregations as we work to make a difference in the lives of neighbors in need. Your gift is creating housing and support services for homeless families, supporting medical and dental programs for local people in need, and matching volunteers with seniors who may benefit from meaningful social connection.

We appreciate your support of our programs! You bring life to our mission and offer a better life to our neighbors in need.

In God's love, Laura DeRose, Executive Director

* **It's time to celebrate!** August marks 10 years since the first families moved in to Interfaith Family Housing, five units of housing built over two years through volunteer labor and donations. Prior to embarking on the building project, a huge undertaking for a small nonprofit organization like Interfaith Coalition, the coalition convened a series of community meetings on the issue of homelessness in Whatcom County. Participants, including representatives for local social-service agencies, identified housing for homeless families as the most urgent housing need at the time.

Since opening in August 1995, Interfaith Family Housing at Texas and Orleans streets in Bellingham has been home to 101 families. An integral part of the Interfaith Family Housing program is case-management services. All 101 families have worked with case-managers from Opportunity Council on attaining education or job training and employment, learning and practicing family and household management skills, securing permanent housing, accessing community resources, and leaning other skills necessary for self-sufficiency.

You are invited to share birthday cake and ice cream with Interfaith board, staff, and original donors and volunteers on Tuesday, Sept. 13, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Bellingham. The event also will include a short program and the option for a guided drive-by tour of the housing complex.

of families served since 1995

Fourplex (transitional housing for up to two years) - 30 families
 Little House (emergency housing for 30 to 60 days) - 71 families

* **Interfaith Coalition Sponsors Program on Health and Healing Ministry.** Join Whatcom County clergy, parish nurses, congregational staff, and interested parishioners in learning why congregations should actively promote the health and well-being of their faith communities. Interfaith Coalition is sponsoring "The Call to Wholeness: A Health and Healing Ministry for Your Congregation" on Thursday, September 29 from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Ken Bakken, a Lutheran minister and practicing physician, will offer his personal and professional perspective on the call to care for our bodies, minds, and spirits, so we are better able to fulfill God's purpose for our life. He will examine the congregation's role in providing leadership and spiritual support in parishioners' journey toward optimum health. Bakken is a national speaker on the subject of spirituality, health and healing.

The program will be at St. Luke's Community Education Center. To register, call Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983. There is a cost of \$5 for breakfast.

St. James Events Calendar

Sunday schedule ~ beginning Sept. 11

9 am Adult class

10:30 Worship

12:30 pm Korean Worship

7 pm AA

September 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7:30 pm AA	2	3 10 am O.A.
4 10 am Worship Communion 11:05 Congregational meeting	5 Labor Day	6 6:30 am Prayer Group 5 pm Stewardship 5:30 Personnel 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Group	7 5 pm Mission & Social Ac- tion comm. 7 pm AA Men	8 2 pm Membership 4 Staff 5 Christian Ed. 6 Worship comm. 6:30 Congrega- tional Life 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Ch.	9 6 pm Prime Timers	10 9 am -12 pm Church Work Party 10 am O.A.
11 10:30 Worship begins! 11:30 am St. James Open House 3 pm New Members class	12 12:45-3:15 pm Cub Scouts	13 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Group	14 5:30 pm Weaver's Guild 7 AA Men	15 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 pm AA	16 6:30 pm Women's Agapé	17 Presbytery @ Anacortes 10 am O.A.
18 11:30 am Deacons 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil for Middle East Peace	19	20 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Group	21 <i>Pulse</i> items due! 7 pm AA Men	22 4 pm Staff 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 pm AA	23 10 am-8 pm Blood Drive	24 10 am O.A. 1-4 pm CROP Walk at Lake Padden
25 4:30-6 pm Youth Group	26	27 6:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 Bible Study 12 pm Women's Assoc. luncheon 5:30 Al Anon	28 7 pm AA Men	29 10 am <i>Pulse</i> Crew 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 pm AA	30 6 pm Friday Night Social	

ST. JAMES PRAYER CHAIN

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**.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ~ SEPT. 27

Women's Group Bible Study 10:30 am

2005-2006 Horizons Bible Study
"For Everything, A Season:
A Study of the Liturgical Calendar"
by Kathleen Long Bostrom

Lesson 1: "The Nature of Time"
Margaret VanZanten, leader

* * *

Women's Association Luncheon 12 pm

Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share.
All women are invited for food, fun and fellowship!

September 27

Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504

WOMEN'S AGAPÉ NIGHT

Women's Agapé Friday
=
Christian women fellowship.

Put **September 16 at 6:30 pm**
on your calendars.

Each month will be hosted by different women.
The evening includes food, conversation, games
and friendship building. Hope to see you!

HOW TO REACH YOUR PASTOR

The Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr

910 14th St. Bellingham, WA 98225
(360)-733-1325 church
stjmary@msn.com

(360) 715-3157 home

MONTHLY CHURCH WORK PARTY

The monthly all-church clean-up
landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday
will be Saturday **September 10,**
9 am – 12 noon.

Bring your favorite tools, and join us in maintaining
our lovely church!

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL & KIDS' GROUP ~ SEPT. 30: A VISIT TO BRAZIL

Join us for an evening potluck with time afterwards for visiting with St. James family.
Kids through fifth grade can participate in organized games.
We will also be playing rhythms on drums (that we make!)

Please gather at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall; 6:15 potluck dinner; kids' group to start around 6:30

Questions? Contact Patti Cromarty at 595-2639

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.

THANK YOU, DR. LES

August 28 was the last Sunday that our worship was enhanced by the music leadership of Dr. Les Belrose. Dr. Les has faithfully supported our worship with his talents and abilities for over ten years. As of September 1, he will begin a well-deserved retirement with the promise that he will not become a stranger to the St. James congregation. Our gratitude and thanks go out to Dr. Les. Cards or notes of appreciation can be sent to his home address at: 1414 McLeod, Bellingham WA 98226

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Please join in an ecumenical prayer vigil for the Christian communities in Jerusalem, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East. All are welcome.

Sunday, September 18 5:30 pm Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1110 14th St. (down the street from St. James) 734-2850

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a brief congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, September 4. The purpose of this meeting will be to vote on an amendment to the church by-laws regarding e-mail motions: : E-mail motions may be considered by the Session when the topic for consideration has been introduced to the Session at a previous meeting. The motion must be presented to the Moderator of the Session, who will notify the Clerk of Session to contact all Session members by e-mail, or by telephone. Ordinarily Session members will be given 48 hours to respond to the e-mail. The results of the vote will be reported to and recorded in the minutes of the next Session meeting.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Would you like to explore membership in St. James Presbyterian Church? A New Members Orientation will be held on Sunday, September 11 at 3 pm. There will be an opportunity following the orientation to meet with the Session to request membership (and for a light supper). It couldn't be any easier! Childcare is available upon request. Questions? Need more information? Call the church office at 733-1325, or talk with Pastor Mary.

FALL SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE!

Please join us again for Saturday Morning Live! Come have a breakfast roll, coffee, good fellowship, and deepening conversation!

First gathering October 1
Watch for more information!

COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY

First meeting: October 2 after worship (around 12 noon.) Lunch will be provided with discussion on the "Questions of Faith" video series.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

Come join us September 14 at 7 pm as we work with the study guide "Transforming Families," adopted by the 216 General Assembly, which affirmed the following:

"This vision of transforming families presents the challenge to the church at every level... This challenge of strengthening and transforming families will require wide collaboration and a multitude of co-laborers. The task is daunting, but the power of God can make more of our imperfect efforts than we could ask or think."

Come join us for biblical, theological reflections with cultural and socio-economic analysis to seek God's call for families in our day and age.

MISSION PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OF NORTH PUGET SOUND PRESBYTERY

Presbyterian Counseling Service: Healing water for a hurting world

By Stephanie Ramos

Presbyterian Counseling Service (PCS) is a non-profit organization providing faith-based counseling and classes. PCS North Samaritan Counseling Center serves south Snohomish County from several churches.

Its professional therapists are committed to the “listening, caring, and counseling process by which the church extends the love of God to persons with emotional, spiritual, and relational hurt.”

People seek counseling for many reasons. Some are short-term and solution-focused, such as marriage conflicts and parenting challenges. Others are longer-term, such as coping with loss. Many people simply desire to grow and live fuller, richer lives. At Presbyterian Counseling Service, people can “find a way through confusion and make sense of the past.”

Cheryl Hamack, a PCS counselor, says our suffering sometimes becomes embedded so deeply within us that we are no longer aware of the cause. We all need God’s love to heal our brokenness. We often find this healing through friendships or meeting with a Stephen minister or church pastor. There are other times when the issues are beyond the time and training of these resources. The role of the therapist, according to Cheryl, is to help us see the bigger picture, to uncover relationship patterns in our lives, clarify our goals, and identify and build on our strengths. This can happen best when a relationship with a therapist is built over time. We learn to trust, relax, and allow the therapist to explore with us beneath the surface. We then may feel safe enough to cry, laugh, grieve, and eventually to release our suffering so that we can drink again from the well of God’s love and live more freely. “Think about Jesus’ work,” Cheryl said. “Extending the love of God to hurting people was what he was about. I think of the woman at the well. She couldn’t believe he was speaking to her.”

The professional therapists at PCS are carrying on the work of Jesus Christ by offering his living water that heals. For more information, call the PCS-Samaritan main office at 360-568-8737, or visit www.pcsnorthsamaritan.com.

Reprint from The Current: The Newsletter of North Creek Presbyterian Church. Each issue of the Current in 2005 will feature a mission supported by the North Puget Sound Presbytery, of which North Creek is a member.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP TOPICS

September 4, 2005

Communion
Exodus 12:1-14
Matthew 18:15-20
“A Call to Mend and Heal”

September 11, 2005

10:30 worship resumes
Sunday School for all ages resumes
Exodus 14:19-31
Matthew 18:21-35
“The Rules – and the Grace - Apply to Everyone”

September 18, 2005

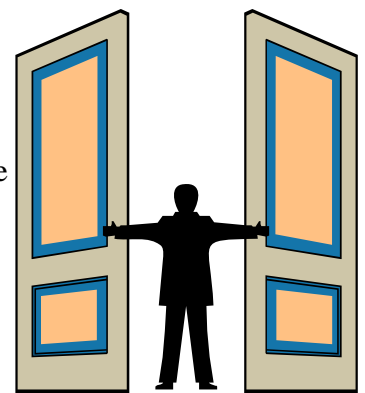
Exodus 16:2-15
Matthew 20:1-16
“Letting God Be God”

September 25, 2005

Exodus 17:1-7
Matthew 21:23-32
“Actions Speak Louder Than Words”

ST. JAMES OPEN HOUSE ~ SEPTEMBER 11

Please join the Congregational Life committee on September 11 following worship for an “Open House”! Session committees and other programs will set up informational booths all around the church describing their activities and missions. Visitors will be issued a “passport” that can get stamped at the booths they visit. Come and find out all the wonderful activities that St. James is involved in!



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning in September, St. James office hours will be Tuesday through Friday, 9 am to 12 noon, and 1 to 4 pm. Please feel free to contact the office at any time!

(360) 733-1325
(fax) (360) 733-1664
stjpres@msn.com

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**August 2, 2005 PDA sends \$10,000 to famine-plagued Niger***Despite aid efforts, 3.5 million people in West African country face starvation* by **Evan Silverstein**

LOUISVILLE — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has sent \$10,000 in initial emergency relief aid to famine-stricken Niger. The money, from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and designated disaster funds, will be used to buy more than a ton of millet, milk powder, seed and cattle fodder for thousands of villagers in the hardest-hit regions. A locust invasion last year, followed by a long drought, has triggered Niger's worst food shortage in two decades and left millions of people in the West African nation in danger of starvation. "It's unfolding, it's deteriorating and it's going to be large," PDA Coordinator Susan Ryan said of the crisis. "This is a very initial response. We're still determining which partners we're going to work through." PDA, which announced the contribution last week, is responding to an appeal from Action by Churches Together International (ACT), a Geneva-based international alliance of churches and relief agencies, of which PDA is a member. ACT has asked for a total of nearly a half-million dollars.

An estimated 3.5 million people in Niger face starvation, according to the government. The United Nations says more than 800,000 children under age 5 are suffering from hunger, including 150,000 children who show signs of severe malnutrition. Last year's crop-devouring locust swarms ravaged about 7,000 square miles of farmland in Niger, a country of 11.5 million people that is among the world's poorest nations. The ACT money will be used in support of two of its long-term members, Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS) and Lutheran World Relief (LWR), which have worked in Niger for years and have mechanisms in place to respond, Ryan said.

HEKS, through four partner organizations, hopes to deliver 1,125 tons of emergency provisions to 50,000 people in 55 villages and settlements in the severely stricken Tahoua and Maradi regions, according to a summary of the ACT appeal. The appeal calls for 600 tons of millet, 10 percent to be reserved for seed; 50 tons of milk powder, mostly for children; 475 tons of animal fodder (cotton cores and grain chaff); and 4,520 salt blocks to supply essential minerals to farm animals. Thirteen clay-brick cereal banks have been built, and committees are being formed to manage the cereal supplies as well as food banks for cattle.

The initiative targets those who have remained in their homes, especially women, children, the elderly and cattle farmers. Many residents have fled to refugee camps, feeding centers and hospitals. Under the program, aid will continue through September, when a new harvest is expected to ease the famine conditions, the ACT appeal said. Meanwhile, the LWR is developing a proposal for additional humanitarian aid for consideration by the ACT alliance. In Niger, most people live on a dollar a day, according to the United Nations. Forty percent of children are underfed, and one out of four dies before turning 5. Milk, flour and meat are overpriced, according to published reports. Niger's government sells millet for \$18 per 220-pound bag, but for most people that is just as far out of reach as the unsubsidized price of \$54. The situation is worsened by increasingly severe famines in neighboring countries of Mali, Burkina Faso and Mauritania. The U.N. World Food Program's country director for Niger, Giancarlo Cirri, said recently that the food crisis is causing "some of the worst hunger I have ever witnessed."

Despite months of famine predictions, international food aid started arriving in Niger just last week. Relief workers say as many as 25 percent of Niger's population needs food assistance. They complain that the U.N., the government and other agencies should have started large-scale emergency aid much earlier. The U.N. first appealed for assistance in November, and got almost no response. In June, Niger's government refused demands that it distribute free food. Officials have been sharply criticized for failing to do more to prepare for the food shortages. However, donations have jumped dramatically in recent weeks, because of increased media attention and donors' responses to TV images of starving children, according to the U.N.

Ironically, early last month the world's attention was fixed on Africa, when leaders of the world's leading industrialized nations pledged to double African aid to \$50 billion and forgive the debts of 18 countries, including Niger. At the same time, 10 Live 8 rock concerts on four continents drew the world's attention to Africa's troubles. Contributions for Niger relief may be sent through normal mission-giving channels.

To contribute by credit card, call PresbyTel at (800)872-3283 or visit the PDA Web site, <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/donate/accounts.htm>. Refer to designated account DR000168, Niger. Checks payable to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can also be mailed directly to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

ST. JAMES MUSIC REHEARSALS BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER!

The **Chancel Choir's** first rehearsal will be **Thursday, September 8** at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. The Choir sings a variety of music for our weekly Worship services September 11 through June 11. All singers are invited to join us regardless of experience or musical knowledge!

The **Bell Choir's** first rehearsal will be **Thursday, Sept. 15** from 6:30 – 7:15pm in the Horizon Room. The Bells are easy to play – if you can lift a 2 lb. bell and count to 6, YOU can ring bells! Plus, the Bell Choir has been known to have pizza parties and other fun events throughout the year. Our Bell Choir will play for worship services once a month Sept. through June.

We invite all interested folks age 12 - 112 to join with us in merry music making. Experience is NOT required! Try us out for a week or so; we think you'll enjoy the experience. Questions? Please call Music Director Carolyn Mullen at 595-0934.

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

St. James will be having a new church pictorial directory, published by the Olan Mills Company. Sittings will be scheduled for October 5, 6, 7, and 8, here at the church. Appointments will be made closer to the actual dates, but please make plans to be available during that time to have your family portrait taken. The more pictures we have, the better our new directory can be! There's no cost to the congregation for the directory, and one 8x10 portrait is free, if you choose not to buy any of the packages.

Volunteers will be needed to assist the Membership committee in coordinating this project, so if you're available, please contact Ann Lary (734-7534) or the church office (733-1325).

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays		23	Twyla Bader
	* * *	23	Jillian Bader
3	Bea Aubert	25	Matthew Haggen
3	Colin Jackson	26	Margie Burkett
5	Ryan Haines	26	Tom Kilpatrick
6	Margaret McVie	27	Tass Galley
6	Earl VanderWerff	28	Margaret VanZanten
13	Brian Hoffman	30	Phyllis Jones
13	Bill Summers	30	Hannah Donnelly
14	Don Thorson		
16	Linda Landis	September Anniversaries	
17	Dave Nelson	* * *	
18	Ann Lary	7	Zane & Aldene Engels
19	Greg Schayes	11	Bill & Katy Read
21	Margaret Landis	11	Ralph & Eleanor Rinne
21	Nick Keefe	29	Milt & Sharon Schayes
23	Faye Hill		

SHOWER OF STOLES

The Shower of Stoles is coming again! October 2 and 9, stoles will be displayed in the church.

The Shower of Stoles is a collection of hundreds of liturgical stoles from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons from twenty-three denominations in five countries. Each stole contains the story of a GLBT person who is active in the life and leadership of their faith community in some way: minister, elder, deacon, teacher, missionary, musician, administrator or active layperson.

Organized by the Membership committee.

CONENANT REGIONAL CONFERENCE ~ OCTOBER 15

Save the date for the upcoming Northwest Regional Covenant Network Conference, "A New Way for a New Day: reframing the dialogue on sexuality in the church." Keynote speaker, The Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews; Preacher, Rev. Dr. James Noel. Newport Presbyterian Church in Bellevue. More information will be in the next *Pulse* newsletter, and in upcoming bulletins.



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

**If you wish to be added to or deleted from the church mailing list, please contact the church office:
360-733-1325, stjpres@msn.com**

***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, **September 21, 2005**. That issue will be mailed Thursday, **September 29**. 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

Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Page</i>	1
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	2
<i>Stewardship committee</i>	2
<i>Session Highlights</i>	3
<i>Christian Education</i>	4
<i>Youth News</i>	5
<i>Mission & Social Action committee</i>	5
<i>Church Family News</i>	6
<i>From the Interfaith Coalition</i>	7
<i>September Events Calendar</i>	8
<i>Church Events</i>	9, 10
<i>"Thank you, Dr. Les"</i>	10
<i>Presbytery Mission articles</i>	11
<i>September Worship Topics</i>	11
<i>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</i>	12
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	13

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