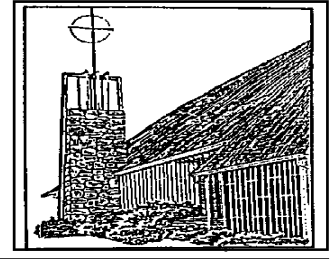


The Pulse



Volume 37, Issue 10
November 2005

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

A fun story is told by a person who lived next door to a family with two children and a very large German shepherd dog named Prince. One day Prince was on the patio. The smell (and the smoke) of a barbeque was in the air. Clark, the little boy of the neighbor house, came around the corner of the house with a very large steak and was about to give it to Prince when his dad, close on his heels, grabbed the steak and took it back around the side of the house.

Some time later, Clark appeared again, this time with a plate of bones. He put them down in front of Prince and said, "Prince, I was going to give you an offering, but you will have to settle for a collection."

Have you ever thought about the difference between an offering and a collection? Often, we use the words simultaneously, especially when we refer to that time of a worship service when we "pass the plates," or give financial support to the Church. The story above points out an important difference, however. We have just come to the end of our stewardship pledge campaign. This does not mean that we stop thinking about how to be stewards of all that God entrusts to us. How does the stewardship of our resources become a joyous offering to God, and not just a begrudged collection?

Perspective helps. Psalm 24 begins, "The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and all who dwell therein." This makes it quite clear that all of creation belongs to God. The implication of this (with the help of the Genesis story) is that human beings are permitted to manage this vast estate as inventively and creatively as possible, provided that they never forget they are only the managers. It is God that is the owner and director, and it is the will of God that this estate of creation be administered for the public good and not for private gain. The earth is actually a trust fund to be administered for others. And there are many, many ways to care for the resources around us for the glory of God.

There are several ways to give financial offerings to support the educational and worship opportunities of our congregation, too. Many of you have recently participated in the pledge drive. But there are other ways to give gifts that are designated for specific purposes. Saint James has had an endowment fund for Church Facilities that has been a much appreciated blessing in providing funds for needs related to the church building. It is still growing strong, and should continue to bless us for years to come.

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NOVEMBER WORSHIP TOPICS

November 6, 2005

Communion

Joshua 24:14-25

Matthew 25:1-13

"Truth and Consequences"

November 13, 2005

Blanket Sunday

Judges 4:1-7

Matthew 25:14-30

"Gifts That Stay
in the Box"

November 20, 2005

Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-24

Matthew 25:31-46

"The Bottom Line
of Compassion"

November 27, 2005

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

"Stay on Your Toes!"

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Recently, the Session established two additional endowment funds that are now in their very beginning stages. These are, first, a Music Endowment, which is established “for the purchase, replacement, and maintenance of musical equipment (i.e. handbell tables, mallets). For purchase of reference materials and large musical works (cantatas, scores) for the music library.”

Second, there is a Christian Education/Youth Endowment. This is established “to provide resources and opportunities for education, enrichment, and empowerment for persons in the St. James Presbyterian Church community on their faith journey.” Both definitions quoted are taken from the Funds Management Policies of St. James.

It is the hope of the Session that both of these new opportunities for gifts will excite persons with special interest in our music and our education/youth programs to be able to give with excitement a joyous “offering” to the mission and ministry of our congregation. Notice I didn’t call these a “collection”?

A blessed Thanksgiving to you all!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mary

INTERFAITH COALITION SEVERE-WEATHER SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interfaith Coalition is looking for volunteers to staff severe-weather shelters this winter. The shelters will provide a safe, warm place for homeless people to rest and sleep when severe weather would not only be uncomfortable but also could be life-threatening to some individuals. There will be two shelter sites -- one for men at Faith Lutheran Church and the other for women and children at Garden Street United Methodist Church. The shelters opened for the first time in January 2005, when nighttime lows dipped below 20 degrees and snow blanketed the ground.

There will be a training for new volunteers on Tuesday, November 15 from 7—8:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 2750 McLeod Road in Bellingham. The following supplies are also needed for the shelter sites: blankets (no comforters), 6 by 8 tarps, men's athletic socks and underwear. For information on volunteering or donating supplies, please call Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983.

THANKSGIVING EVE ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Come, thankful people, come! Come worship with brothers and sisters in several congregations as we gather together for an ecumenical thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 23 at 7 pm at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church (down the street from St. James). Come, give thanks, and give praise to our God!

YOUTH NEWS MEGAN STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Why do pilgrim's pants keep falling down? ... Because their belt buckles are on their hats! Ha Ha!!! November is here so it is time to start telling Thanksgiving jokes, right?!? We have great plans for the month. We will be continuing to have youth group from 4:30 to 6:00. This time seems to work best for most people, I'm sorry if it conflicts for you, but let me know if there is anything I can do to make this time work better. The 6th, 13th, and the 20th will all be regular meetings. On the 27th we will be participating in the Advent festival, which is at 3:30. I hope you're ready to make some awesome gingerbread houses for me to eat. In addition to youth group Sunday school will be held during worship on the 6th and the 20th. I hope to see you at lots of activities this month! If you have questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions please email me (pye_d_pye@hotmail.com) or call me (676-7401). Have a great month, and one more joke for the road. A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked the stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy answered, "No ma'am, they're dead."



St. James Events Calendar

Sunday schedule
 9 am Adult class
10:30 Worship
 12:30 pm Korean Worship
 4:30-6 pm Youth Group
 7 pm AA

November 2005

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
		1 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	2 7 pm AA Men 7 Wednesday Night Study	3 6:30 pm Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	4	5 Holiday Bazaar 9 am Saturday Morning Live! 10 OA
6 Communion 10:45 am Youth Sunday school 12 pm College Bible Study	7 12:45 pm Cub Scouts	8 Election Day 6:30 am Prayer Group 5 pm Stewardship 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Group	9 <i>Pulse</i> items due! 5 pm Mission & Soc. Act. comm. 7 pm AA Men	10 2 pm Membership 4 Staff 5 Christian Ed. 6:30 Cong. Life 6:30 Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	11 Veteran's Day <i>St. James Office closed</i> 6 Prime Timer's	12 9-12 Church Work Party 10 am OA
13 Blanket Sunday 11:45 am Deacons	14 6 pm Girl Scouts	15 6:30 am Prayer Group 12 pm Abu-Akel lunch 4 Abu-Akel-WWU 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	16 Presbytery @ Cascade View, Everett 7 pm AA Men	17 6:30 pm Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	18 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil @ 1st Church of Christ, Scientist 6:30 Women's Agapé <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Session Retreat @ Camp Brotherhood</div>	19 10 am OA
20 10:45 am Youth Sunday school	21	22 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	23 7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship service @ Sacred Heart 7 pm AA Men	24 Thanksgiving Day 7:30 pm AA <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">St. James Office closed</div>	25	26 10 am OA
27 1st Sunday of Advent 3:30 pm Advent Festival	28 6 pm Girl Scouts	29 6:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 12 pm Women's Association Luncheon 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	30 7 pm AA Men			

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

	<i>Birthdays</i>				
		20	Bill Hatch	28	Jack Brown
3	Irene Rome	20	Vicki Griffith	28	Gladys Eckhart
6	Emma Conlee	20	Jean Kaufman	29	Charlie Griffith
7	Jean Seater	20	Caitlin Lockhart	29	Kraig Keyes
7	Ricky Hodgson	22	Margaret deMaine	30	Brian Hodgson
10	Dick Johnson	22	Miranda Keefe		
10	Dorothy Herrmann	22	Marilyn Madden		
10	Courtney Todd	23	Sue Jamps		<i>Anniversaries</i>
11	David Seater	24	Eva Landis	4	Wally & Jane Botsford
12	Julie Keyes	24	Henry Von Bergen	14	Bob & Irene Rome
15	Denise Hoffman	26	Dale Monroe		
19	Nancy Wagar	27	Wendy Crandall		

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- * **Helen Oliver-Leen** wanted to let the Stewardship committee know how much she appreciated the brunch on Sunday, Oct. 16: "A big thank you to the people who made the Sunday potluck dinner possible. It took a lot of planning, work, and good food. Chef David Meyer was quite imposing in his white cap and coat while he was cutting and serving ham. The Men's Quartet added music, and even the arrangement of our pledge envelopes was artistically laid out on the table. Really, Pledge Sunday is worth attending!"
- * A recent letter from **Edna Zoet**: "Dear Friends at St. James Presbyterian Church, Here I am—writing before thanksgiving with Marjie's help—to let you know that I've moved from my apartment in the independent living section of The Villa to a single room in "assisted living." Now I have someone to make my bed, help me bathe, and urge me to go to physical therapy (which I'm not thrilled about). My new address is The Pavilion (B-30) 855 Hunter Drive Pueblo CO 81001. Physical changes made the move necessary, but I'm happy with my new place. Barb and Bill were able to get the grandfather clock in and I have some of my favorite pictures on the wall. The first thing I see when I open my eyes in the morning is that heirloom clock, which Grandpa Zoet built himself. On July 28, I was surprised to pass my 91st birthday...forgetful and little frail, but still able to enjoy occasional outings with Barb, who helps me in so many ways. I'm also grateful for my friend Erma, who comes when needed, which gets more often all the time. This year, my fourth great-grandchild was born to Drew and Amy Cummings in North Carolina. And soon there will be a fifth, born to Mimi's eldest daughter, Zoe. And Phoebe's working round the clock at a hospital in Baton Rouge as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Recently the Vidmar family was featured in the local newspaper for the contribution of their family business to this community. And in that spirit, Barb is running unopposed for the City Council... so we feel confident she'll be elected in November. What a blessing it has been to live long enough to see this expansion of family, beginning with just Jerry and me. At this stage in my life, I'm feeling SO grateful for long-lasting friendships like ours and I look forward to hearing from you at Christmas."
- * A note from **Ann Heaps**: "An update on my health: It is great to be back home in my own bed, etc. I am receiving dialysis 3 times a week, plus chemo, but tolerating all quite well. St. James' love, support, prayers, and many cards and good thoughts much appreciated! You are an awesome congregation. My thanks and my love, Ann."
- * Our prayers and condolences are with the family of **Beti McCormick**, who passed away peacefully at home on October 19.
- * News from **Richard and Marilyn Madden**: "We've had lots of visitors for the month of Oct., but a special visitor was our son, Prof. Ryan Madden from Sitka. He is an associate professor of History at Sheldon Jackson College. His book "Alaska: On the Road Histories" has just been published, and is in the bookstores now! Mother and Father are very proud!"
- * **Parker deWilde**, son of **Jim and Jody deWilde**, has been featured in the book "Woodshop for Kids" by Jack McKee (his picture is on the front cover!) Parker has completed several of the woodworking projects outlined in the book. Copies are available at Village Books!

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

REV. DR. FAHED ABU-AKEL IS COMING!

Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, Moderator of the 214th General Assembly of PCUSA in 2002 - 2003, will present "4 Options for Peace Between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs." Dr. Abu-Akel was born in Galilee to Palestinian Christian parents, and traveled to the U.S. for his college years. He holds M.Div. and D.Min degrees from Columbia Theological and McCormick Theological Seminaries. He became an American citizen in 1981. There are 15 million Arab Christians in the Middle East as our mission partners, and more than half a million are Presbyterians. Come and learn about the Church in the Middle East and our mission history. Come and learn about the importance of working for justice and peace in Israel and Palestine. There is a strong interfaith movement of Jews, Moslems, and Christians -- both Israeli and Palestinian-- who are working together toward a just peace. We will learn more about their work, and about how we can help in their efforts.

All are welcome to hear him at the following locations!

--Mon, Nov 14, 5 pm potluck, 6 pm presentation at Maplewood Presbyterian Church, 19523 84th Ave W, Edmonds--contact Rev. Barry Keating to RSVP with number attending potluck and/or presentation

--Tues, Nov 15, 4-5:30 pm at WWU Library Presentation Room (across from the PAC and large red metal sculpture)--contact Vicki at vldaybaz@quest.net for further details

--Wed, Nov 16, 6:30 - 8 pm at Mukilteo Presbyterian Church, 4514 84th St SW, Mukilteo--contact church office for further information at 425-355-2802

--Thur, Nov 17, 7-8:30 am for breakfast at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church--contact Rev. Stephen Weber to RSVP at sweber@mvpres.com, 360-424-7675

A CONVERSATION ABOUT PEACEMAKING ~ BEGINNING NOVEMBER 8

"Blessed are the peacemakers" or if you prefer, "happy are the peacemakers" Jesus said it, and it's true, although probably some of us who want to be peacemakers often think that "tired and frustrated are the peacemakers" is more likely true. On the other hand, if there is no peace perhaps we are really only peace-wishers, or war-opposers. If you're serious about becoming a blessed, happy peacemaker, join us for a conversation to help bring that about. We will use Jim Forest's book, *The Ladder of the Beatitudes*, as well as sharing our own experiences (the book will be at Village Books at the front desk). Jim is a much-experienced peacemaker, having headed the Fellowship of Reconciliation for many years. Conversation about peacemaking: Tuesdays at 7 pm, starting November 8 at Beatus, 215 W. Holly.

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.

Friday, November 18, 5:30 pm
First Church of Christ Scientist
 2700 Lakeway Drive tel. 738-3502

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE!

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

Nov. 5, 9 am
 Continuation of discussion of border issues.

COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY

November 6 after worship (around 12 noon.) Lunch will be provided with discussion on the "Questions of Faith" video series.

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 AGAPÉ NIGHT

Women's Agapé Friday
=
Christian women fellowship.

Put **November 18 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

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ~ OCT. 25

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 3

* * *

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!

November 29

Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504

MONTHLY CHURCH WORK PARTY

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

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

BLANKET SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 13

Church World Service Tools and Blankets create a rainbow of help and hope each time the right tool is placed in the hands of people in need. A simple truth: ordinary things - things that we often take for granted like blankets... clean water...education...tents...garden tools...seeds - can make a world of difference for people devastated by tragedy, as well as those working to build a better life for themselves and their communities.

Please give a Tools and Blankets gift on Sunday, November 13!

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.

MISSION PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OF NORTH PUGET SOUND PRESBYTERY

NEAH BAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Continuing a tradition of sharing the Holy Spirit

By Liz Abendroth

The Presbyterian church has a long history in Neah Bay, a Native American fishing village on the northwest tip of the Olympic Peninsula. In the early 20th century, a Presbyterian lay woman rowed into the harbor off the Strait of Juan de Fuca and waited all day in her boat to be welcomed into the community. She is credited with starting the connection with Christianity in the village. There now are five churches in this small community, the cultural and economic center of the Makah Nation.

Neah Bay Presbyterian church strives to serve the whole community of 1,005 residents on the Makah reservation by connecting with them and encouraging them to come to church. This is accomplished through visitations, such as supporting families in response to medical emergencies. As the commissioned lay pastor for the last three years, Margie Ervine answers the needs of families any time—day or night. She often works for two weeks straight so she can be available to the community.

For example, Margie recently obtained a second pair of glasses for a legally blind boy in the community who frequently loses his glasses. She held onto the spare pair until a day when she caught the youth without his spectacles, and was able to literally help the blind to see.

Many mission groups have come out to help the church and have connected with the community. This summer a group of 50 volunteers came from South Carolina and Georgia to help replace bathrooms in their facility. Last summer, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian provided a Vacation Bible School.

“When people come out to the far reaches of the state, it really shows our community how the greater church cares for them and people care about them,” Margie said. She encourages anyone to give her a call and come out to visit. Visitors often comment to her about how relaxing it is at Neah Bay.

For more information on Neah Bay Presbyterian Church, contact Margie Ervine at church (360) 645-2276 or at home (360) 424-7750.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

Come join us November 2 at 7 pm as we continue to 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.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR ~ NOVEMBER 5

Saturday, November 5, 9 am - 3 pm

If you have small collectibles to donate or if you are making jams, jellies, knitting, carving, creating handicrafts of any kind, please set aside a few items to donate to the St. James table. Contributions are also needed for the baked goods table. If you can make pies, cakes, cookies, breads or other yummy baked goods to donate, please bring them to the church kitchen on Sat. morning, Nov. 5.

Come and enjoy shopping for holiday goodies!

For more information, please contact Ann Lary (734-7534), or Phyllis Jones (734-4504).





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

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, November 9, 2005.** That issue will be mailed **Thursday, November 17.** 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

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**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**

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