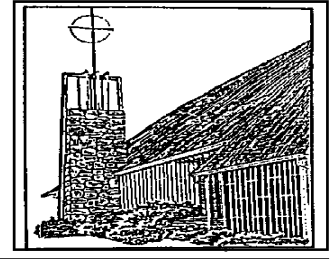


The Pulse



Volume 37, Issue 10
December 2005

DECEMBER WORSHIP TOPICS

December 4, 2005:

Second Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday
Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-8
“Good News Is Coming!”

December 11, 2005:

Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
John 1:6-8, 19-28
“Change Is in the Air!”

December 18, 2005:

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Music Sunday
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:26-38
“David’s Throne”

December 24, 2005:

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2005:

Isaiah 52:7-10
John 1:1-14
“Break Forth Together into
Singing!”

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 shouts at us, demanding our energy and resources. Advent quietly and gently invites us to wait.

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 my favorite passages of Scripture for this season is the Magnificat. This is Mary’s song in Luke 1:46-55. Many scholars see similarities in it to Hannah’s song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Both are poetic outpourings of gratitude sung by two different mothers, but each one a woman with an unusual pregnancy. Expectant mothers must wait for a long nine months before welcoming a child, and that is a time for reflection, anticipation, and preparation.

Both Mary and Hannah sing of God turning things upside down through the children that they will bear. Specifically, those who are weak, lowly, and hungry will be counted as important. The “important” people will lose their trappings of importance because of the things God is about to do.

Advent is a time for us to reflect, anticipate, and prepare for God’s work of uplifting the unnoticed people of the world, and of guiding self-important people to put their feet on the ground and find true meaning in their lives. It is a time to remember that Jesus Christ came humbly, quietly, and gently into our world, but the world has never again been the same. Advent is a time for us to join the work of God’s justice and love in our world. It is a time for us to realize the blessings of God in our lives, and to be a blessing to others.

How will you treasure such things during this Advent, and ponder them in your heart?

Mary sings, “He has filled the hungry with good things....” Let us be the instruments of God, just as Mary was willing to say, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord.” Let us be part of God’s plan to fill the hungry with good things.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mary

St James Presbyterian Church

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE MOHR'S

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 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 18. The Mohrs live at 231 Milton Street near the old Samish Twin Drive-In Theater. You will want to be sure you 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!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

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

EVENING MUSIC FOR ADVENT

St. James has a special treat for Advent this year! Our new organist, Wade Dingman, has suggested that we use a tradition from northern Germany known as *Abendmusik*, or "evening music." The organist Buxtehude, from Lübeck, started this tradition during the season of Advent. Watch for brief services of music (about 30 minutes), either organ, vocal, or instrumental, to be held on Sundays during Advent. The first of these will be at our Advent Festival on November 27 at 5 p.m. We hope to hold two more at 4:30 on Sunday, December 4, and at 4:30 on Sunday, December 11.

TREASURER'S REPORT WENDY CRANDALL

Pledge income recovered in October, partly due to response to 3rd quarter pledge statements. Pledge income as of October 31st was \$132,322; total income was \$163,285, or \$10,509 short of the budget target.

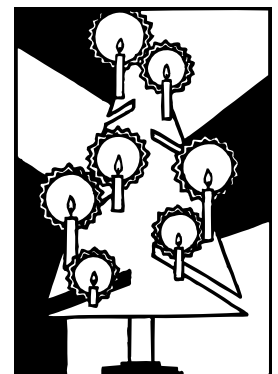
Expenses as of October 31st totaled \$162,698. Scheduled local benevolences and mission pledges to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly have not been paid in the second half of 2005.

In summary, for the period ending October 31, 2005:

Starting Balance	-\$ 3,523.37
Income	\$19,223.78
Expenses	\$15,113.42
Ending Balance	\$ 586.99

YOUTH NEWS MEGAN STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Wow! December is quickly approaching and it seems to be a busy month for most. The youth group will be having normal youth group meetings on December 4th and 11th, from 4:30-6:00. On the fourth the Roguskis will be bringing a snack and on the 11th the Keyes will be bringing snack. The parent volunteer for the 11th is Julie Keyes and we still need a parent to volunteer on the 4th. Also I was hoping someone would be willing to host a Christmas movie night on the 18th, as I will be out of town. Let me know if you would like to host (676-7401, pye_d_pye@hotmail.com). On the 25th there will be no youth meeting, because it's Christmas of course! Sunday school will be during worship on the 4th only. Mark your calendar for January 1st because we will be meeting again then. Hope you all have a wonderful winter and a very merry Christmas!



AIDS IN AFRICA: IT'S A MATTER OF FAITH
 GENERATION AT RISK (PART I OF VI)

Generation at risk

African churches respond to the AIDS pandemic

Half of all 15-year-olds in many African countries will not reach their 50th birthday. They will die of AIDS.

This stark observation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation illustrates the severity of the AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, a generation is at risk because of the AIDS pandemic sweeping the continent. About 60 percent of the people in the world with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa, a region that contains only 10 percent of the world's population. More than 25 million people there are infected with the virus and AIDS killed 2.3 million residents of sub-Saharan Africa in 2004.



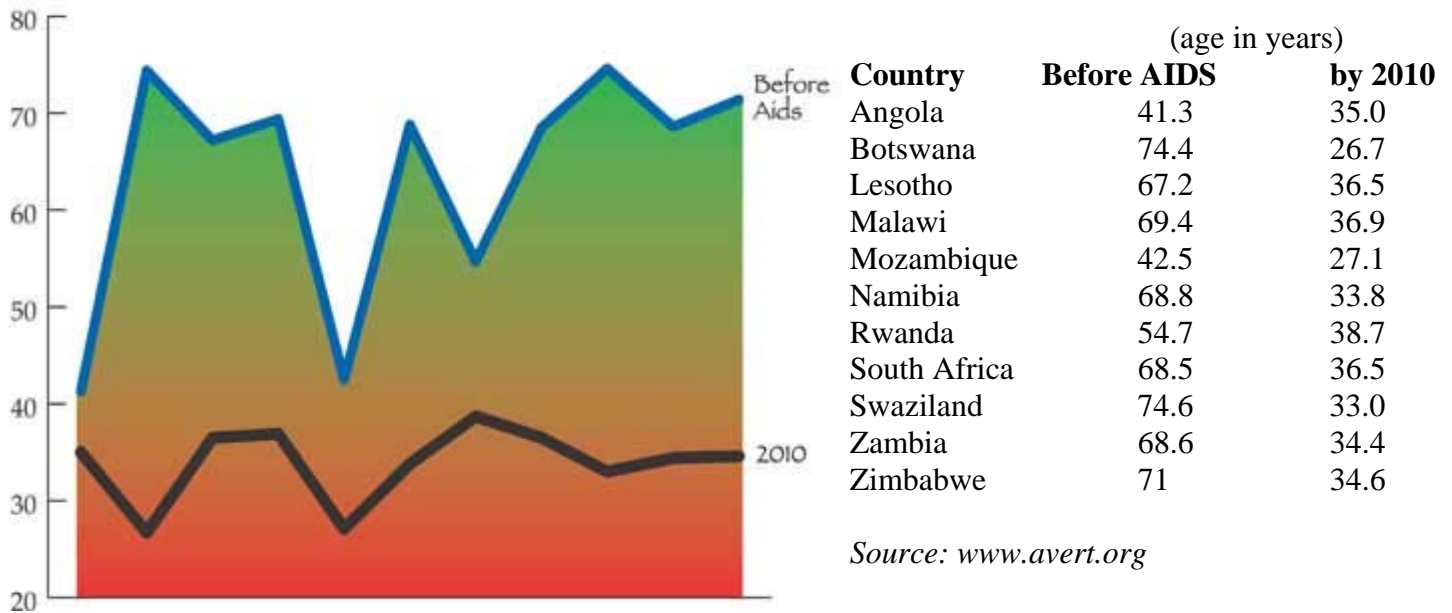
Families are seeing their already fragile livelihoods shattered as AIDS claims the lives of income earners. Extended families and communities are struggling to care for orphans. Economies are threatened because so many people are dying in the prime of their working lives.

African churches are confronting the crisis with compassion and courage. They are spreading the message of prevention, caring for the sick, and tending to orphans. They are bearing witness to hope as they serve in the name of Jesus Christ. For African churches the AIDS pandemic is a Matter of Faith.

African churches have turned to Christians around the world for help, and many have responded. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has sent both people and financial resources to help its longstanding partners in the fight against AIDS.

Contributions to this effort will help African churches instill hope in the lives of African people. This hope is strengthened when prevention efforts are successful, orphan care is plentiful, and patient care is compassionate. It is a hope whose ultimate promise is in the gospel of Jesus Christ and its clarion call for abundant life.

Average life expectancy in 11 African countries
 (age in years)



Source: www.avert.org

This is the first part in a series of articles from the publication “AIDS in Africa: It’s a Matter of Faith”. The next article will be “Hands of Compassion: Volunteers give comfort and hope to AIDS patients” in the January issue.

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

December 2005

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
				1 5:45 pm Sinfonietta 7:30 AA	2 2:30 pm Girl Scouts	3 10 am OA
4 Communion 10:45 am Youth Sunday school 11:35 Congrega- tional meeting 12 pm College class	5 12:45 pm Cub Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts	6 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm Gender Gr.	7 <i>Pulse</i> items due! 7 pm AA Men 7 pm Wed. Night Study	8 2 pm Member- ship 4 Staff 5 Christian Ed. 5:45 Sinfonietta 6:30 Congrega- tional Life 7:30 AA	9 6 pm Prime Timers	10 9 am Church Work Party 10 am OA
11 11:45 am Deacons 11:45 Children's Play practice 7 pm Session	12 6 pm Girl Scouts	13 6:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Bible Study 12 Women's Assoc. luncheon 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm Gender Gr.	14 5:30 pm Weaver's Guild 7 pm AA Men	15 10 am <i>Pulse</i> Crew 5:45 pm Sinfonietta 7:30 AA	16 2:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Women's Agapé Night	17 10 am OA
18 10:45 am Youth Sunday school Christmas Joy Offering, Music Sunday 11:45 Children's Christmas Program 4-7 Mohr Open House 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil	19	20 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm Gender Gr.	21 7 pm AA Men	22 4 pm Staff 5:45 Sinfonietta 7:30 AA	23 Church Office Closed	24 10 am OA Christmas Eve Worship 5 pm
25 Christmas Day Worship 10:30	26	27 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm Gender Gr.	28 7 pm AA Men	29	30	31 10 am OA New Year's Eve
Church office closed						

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 **Bart Griffith**
 2 **Walt Bayless**
 2 **Analee Brethour**
 2 **Gus Wagar**
 5 **Les Galley**
 6 **Frances LeCocq**
 6 **Sharon Schayes**
 7 **Gale Pfueller**
 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**

Anniversaries

 4 **Bill & Evelyn Hatch**
 5 **Wayne & Linda Landis**
 18 **Harry & Carol Pagels**
 22 **Fred & Jean Richardson**
 28 **Jim & Mary Hawk**
 28 **John & Marion Dobbie**
 31 **Richard & Mary Elmslie**

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual meetings of the St. James congregation have been scheduled for immediately after worship on Sunday December 4 and Sunday January 15.

The purpose of the December 4 meeting is to elect new officers.

The purpose of the meeting on January 15 is to review the Annual Report and to review the terms of the pastor's call for the coming year.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

Come join us December 7 at 7 pm as we 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.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
 DECEMBER 18

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council.
Please see the insert for more information.

ADVENT FESTIVAL ~ NOV. 27

Just a reminder that the Advent Festival will be Sunday, November 27 from 3:30 pm—6:30 pm. Come join us for wreath making, caroling and worship (and dinner!)



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**December 13****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 4

Women's Association Luncheon 12 pm

Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share.

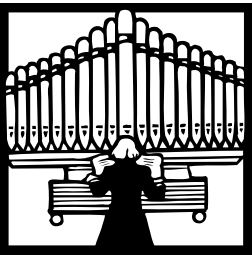
All women are invited for food, fun and fellowship!

*Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504***A Big Thank You**

to all who helped make our bazaar a big success! We made \$1400 from all your efforts—donating items, eating, selling, baking, cooking, and course buying! Special thanks to Rex Lary for greeting guests at the front door, and to Bill Read who seems to always be there to pick up our loose ends!

November 29

Luncheon at 12 noon with guest speaker from the YWCA!

WELCOME, WADE DINGMAN!

St. James is pleased to welcome our new organist, Wade Dingman. Wade is a graduate of Western Washington University, and completed his Master's degree in Organ Performance and Literature from Notre Dame. He comes to us now from Germany, where he continued his studies and performed professionally. Wade will also be teaching piano in Bellingham, so please contact him if you'd like lessons. Welcome, Wade!

ST. JAMES SINFONIETTA

The St. James Sinfonietta returns for Christmas! We will begin rehearsals Thursday, December 1, with pizza at 5:45 pm and rehearsal from 6:15 - 6:45 pm. Anyone middle school age and up, playing a band or orchestra instrument is invited to join us. We will perform for Christmas Music Sunday, December 18. Questions? Need some music? Call Music Director Carolyn Mullen at 595-0934.

**FROM THE INTERFAITH COALITION**

Thanks for Sharing the Warmth

Thank you for your support of another successful winter 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. Recipients appreciated not having to spend their limited incomes to purchase a coat, or go without one through the winter. 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.

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, December 18, 5:30 pm

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
495 E. Bakerview Road; Tel. 734-6820

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**.

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.

WOMEN'S AGAPÉ NIGHT

Women's Agapé Friday
=
Christian women fellowship.

Put **December 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!

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.

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 **December 10, 9 am – 12 noon.**

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

WITH APOLOGIES TO WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE...

FROM A STEWARDSHIP SCRAPBOOK BY WILLIAM R. PHILLIPPE

To pledge or not to pledge –that is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in a man
To take the gospel free and let another foot the bill,
Or sign a pledge and pay toward church expenses!
To give, or pay -aye, there's the rub. To pay,
When on the free pew plan, a man may have
A sitting free and take the gospel too,
As though he paid, and none be aught the wiser.

To err is human, and human too, to buy
At cheapest rate. I'll take the gospel so!
For others do the same –a common rule!
I'm wise. I'll wait, not work –I'll pray, not pay.
And let the other fellow foot the bills,
And so I'll get the gospel for free, you see!

But there is no cheap grace -
It cost God his son.





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, Dec. 7, 2005.** That issue will be mailed Thursday, **Dec. 15.** 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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