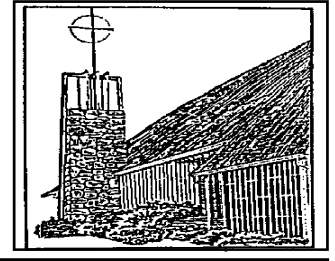


The Pulse



Volume 38, Issue 2
February 2006

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

These dark rainy days of Northwest winter are a good time to accomplish some indoor projects. Randy and I have been sorting through boxes and drawers that have called to us from the garage and from closets for several years, but have been very easy to ignore when the outdoors has beckoned instead. I know many people have similar boxes or “clutter nests,” as I have come to call them. These are boxes of “family stuff” passed on when parents have downscaled their homes, or wedding gifts that were too good to use all at once, or drawers of do-dads that we might need some day, or stacks of mail that were hastily shoved out of sight when company came and then forgotten, or “mystery hardware” with an unknown use that shouldn’t be thrown away because then it will become known and needed, and so forth and so on. The days of brief daylight are a prime time to stay warm and dry inside, and renew the interior living space that we enjoy.

This has been a good image for renewal from the inside out, something that the Church seeks to nurture as a Christian community. The Scriptures proclaim in many ways the renewing power and grace of God. You can probably all recite Psalm 23, with its words about “he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.” On Sunday February 5, one of the Scripture lessons assigned to us by the New Common Lectionary is Isaiah 40, which ends with “but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Jeremiah 6:16 urges “Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:28, which we sometimes read as we gather around the Communion table, comforts us with “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest...” Psalm 51:12 petitions God with “Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.” I Peter 5:10 is part of a directive for faithful living in difficult circumstances, and it proclaims “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.” Renewal of heart, soul, mind, and spirit. That is one of the goals of the Church.

I have tentative plans at this time for a vocational renewal for myself through a sabbatical. I have been working with the Personnel Committee on this since last summer, and have received word that I have been awarded a Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leadership from the Louisville Institute, funded by the Lilly Foundation. Plans are somewhat tentative based on several factors, and the Personnel Committee and I are trying to work out some of these. If all goes as planned, I will be away for three months, from May 15 until August 15, and we will arrange for temporary pulpit supply in the meantime. Hopefully this will be a time for rest and renewal of skill, study, and insight.

I encourage you to find ways to renew your spirit, also. Lent will begin on March 1, and we will gather for special services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. A Lenten study will be held on Wednesday nights using Marcus Borg’s book, The Heart of Christianity. A Lenten devotional composed by members of St. James will be offered.

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

But don't wait for Lent! There are other opportunities offered for renewal in our study groups, study classes, and fellowship groups (watch the calendars in the bulletins and newsletters), such as the Sunday morning Adult class or the Friday Women's Agape Night. If your schedule is pretty crazy and fitting in one more event is next to impossible, the church library has wonderful offerings for renewal, growth, and reflection through the books that you can check out and read on your own schedule. There are wonderful ways to renew one's soul through extending care and concern in mission projects, such as those offered by Habitat for Humanity, the Interfaith Coalition, the Food Bank, and so many other projects, both local and afar. Sunday morning worship, with its rich and beautiful music, is our keystone for spiritual renewal and community.

There is no time like the present to get one's house in order – especially one's spiritual home. God bless you and each one of us as the people of God grow together in spirit and understanding.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mary

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
February 11, 9 am – 12 noon.
Bring your favorite tools, and join us in
maintaining our lovely church!



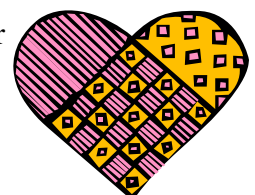
YOUTH NEWS MEGAN STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Love is in the air this month, so I would LOVE ☺ to tell you what is going on in youth group. We have decided on our mission activities this year and participant registration forms are due on the 19th. For our week-long mission we will be traveling to Reedsport, Oregon and meeting with the Reedsport youth group whom we have been meeting up with for three years now! Reedsport is a small coastal town about half way down the coast of Oregon, between Coos Bay and Florence. There we will be helping the community by adopting families who need physical and financial help maintaining their houses to be safe and habitable homes. Their church as well as the community will be fundraising to help pay for material. Our part will be donating our time and able-bodied-ness to this project. In addition to that we will be fundraising to pay for our travel expenses and some materials. This trip will take place July 2nd-8th.

The other mission activity will be local. Since there is plenty of work to be done in our own community we will be volunteering for a local organization that is yet to be determined. This trip will be a great opportunity for our group, especially those who are unable to attend the Reedsport trip.

I bet you're wondering what you can do to help. Well, this month we will begin fundraising with our Super Bowl Sub Sale. Subs are six dollars and include a soda and chips. On each sandwich there will be ham, turkey, cheddar, provolone, lettuce, and tomato, with separate mustard and mayo packets provided. There is also a vegetarian option. You can pick up your lunch on February 5th at church or it can be delivered if needed. This is an easy Super Bowl lunch for you and a great way to support our group.

Youth group is from 4:30-6:00 on Sundays with a special Valentines Day theme on the 12th. Sunday school will meet on the 12th and 26th. Have a great month!



AIDS IN AFRICA: IT'S A MATTER OF FAITH
 PARTNERSHIP PERSONIFIED (PART III OF VI)

Mission workers help churches face the AIDS crisis:

Sharing people in mission is one key way the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) contributes to the battle against HIV/AIDS in Africa.

In response to requests from African partner churches, the PC(USA) has appointed three HIV/AIDS consultants who work on the continent. Their roles are multifaceted, but they spend considerable time helping churches educate their members about HIV/AIDS prevention.



Janet Guyer is the HIV/AIDS consultant in southern Africa. She began PC(USA) mission service in Thailand in 1990 and moved to her current role in 2002.

The daughter of Presbyterian missionaries to Thailand, Guyer is an ordained PC(USA) minister. In a recent letter to friends and supporters in the United States she wrote: "I have thought of you while slogging down a muddy road to a very interesting feeding program started by women in the villages who said, 'These [AIDS] orphans are our children and we need to care for them.'"

Janey Guyer

Dorothy Hanson began her assignment in eastern Africa in 2004. She had worked for 40 years as a nurse, a teacher, and a teacher of nurses and spent two years as the international HIV/AIDS project manager for the PC(USA). Hanson is based in Ethiopia, where she grew up as the daughter of missionaries.

Recently impressed with a drama presented by an AIDS club at a church in Dembi Dollo, Hanson wrote: "The drama they presented was powerful. I wept, as did my friend and many others in the large chapel. I followed the young people out and was able to meet them and pray with them — wow!"



Dorothy Hanson

Caryl Weinberg works in western Africa. A registered nurse, she was appointed to mission service in Ethiopia in 1997 and moved to Cameroon in 2002, where she began serving as an HIV/AIDS consultant. In 2004 she accepted a position as regional liaison in western Africa and relocated to Ghana, but she continues her ministry as an HIV/AIDS consultant.

Recently Weinberg wrote about encouraging developments in the Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa (CPK) in the Democratic Republic of Congo: "The CPK wanted to 'break the silence' around HIV/AIDS, and it has made a good start. The challenge for them now is to continue the discussions about AIDS, but at the same time to respond concretely to the many needs they are facing. These are people of deep faith."



Caryl Weinberg

AIDS worker will be placed in Cameroon:

The PC(USA) will soon be able to place a public health worker in Cameroon to focus on HIV/AIDS ministry.

This position will be funded by Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. The congregation pledged \$250,000 over a five-year period to the Mission Initiative: Joining Hearts & Hands (MIJHH), a PC(USA) campaign to raise \$40 million for new mission positions and new church developments.

For more information about the position, visit the Mission Service Recruitment Web site.

This is the third part in a series of articles from the publication "AIDS in Africa: It's a Matter of Faith". The next article will be "Mass Messaging: Churches spread the word about AIDS prevention" in the March issue.

A CHRISTMAS POEM

BY JANE RANEY

(SUBMITTED BY JO MCLEOD)

My joy comes from watching white-edged
seagulls, soaring, circling, swooping,
gliding over the wind-textured
waters of Bellingham Bay.

My peace comes from listening
to the music of the spheres
transposed by composers whose
often pain filled lives still can
weave strands of hope into
the tapestry of sound.

My comfort comes from the
ever-changing sky.

We folk on earth are sheltered
by a kaleidoscope of clouds,
orange, pink, purple, turquoise,
pearl gray, charcoal, black-
with a background carpet
of blue.

Indeed, the sky is our passport
to the great un-traveled universe.

PIANO LESSONS

Wade Dingman, St.
James' Organist, is look-
ing for piano students!
Please contact him for
further information.

**MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION**

St. James has been asked to supply books for children at the Interfaith Community Health Center (ICHC) for the month of February. This is an important service and help for under-privileged girls and boys. Books are placed in the waiting area at the ICHC and children are encouraged to take them home and share with their siblings. Many come from homes with no books and little reading material. Reading is the key to success in education and many jobs.

Used or new books are welcome for ages 3-16.
Please place them in the box in the narthex.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

BY PEG WILKE

All of us who attend the Sunday adult Bible class are calling all of you who have not yet discovered this class.

We meet at 9 am every Sunday morning in the Lounge. We have wonderful discussions about various areas of our faith and find a lot of new ideas. It is a wonderful opportunity to share our ideas and thoughts about what we believe and follow.

We follow the New Common Lectionary, which is followed by the church school and Mary's sermons. It would be a pleasure to have you join us in our discussions. And besides, we always have coffee and goodies to help wake us up! We hope to see you Sunday.

KATRINA RELIEF TRIP

Presbytery of Olympia ~ Hurricane Katrina Relief Trip ~ February 20 – 26, 2006

Who Can Go: The only restriction on participation is that you must be over 15 years of age. People of all skill levels and physical abilities are encouraged. However, if you suffer from serious medical problems, please consult with your doctor before joining us.

What Will We Do: Working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, we will be given work assignments each day. Homeowners requesting assistance will work with us. The work involves a mix of cleaning up after the hurricane and skilled labor to rebuild the area.

We are encouraging congregations and individuals to raise money for the purchase of tools and building materials on site.

Questions: Contact Steve Klump 360-864-2479 presbyter@toledotel.com

An additional trip is planned for April 1 -8, 2006 by Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church in Puyallup. If you would like to join them, please call the church office at 253-848-4357.

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

February 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7 pm AA Men	2 Groundhog Day 6:30 pm Bells 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	3 2:30 pm Girl Scouts	4 9 am Saturday Morning Live! 10 OA
5 Communion Souper Bowl of Caring 11:45 am College Bible Study 6 pm Girl Scouts	6 12:45 pm Cub Scouts 6 Girl Scouts	7 6:30 am Prayer Group 5 pm Stewardship 5:30 Al Anon 6 pm Personnel 7 pm Co-op Pre-school (FH) 7 pm Gender Group	8 5 pm Mission & Social Action comm. 7 AA Men	9 6:30 pm Bells 2 pm Membership comm. 4 pm Staff 5 Christian Education comm. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	10 6 pm Prime Timers	11 9-12 Church Work Party 10 am OA
12 10:45 am Youth Sunday school 11:45 am Deacons 7 pm Session	13 6 pm Girl Scouts	14 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	15 7 pm AA Men	16 6:30 pm Bells 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	17 2:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 Women's Agapé Night	18 10 am OA 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil @ St. James
19 6 pm Girl Scouts	20 President's Day	21 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	22 7 pm AA Men	23 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	24	25 Presbytery @ Oak Harbor 10 am OA
26 10:45 am Youth Sunday school	27 6 pm Girl Scouts	28 6:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 12 Women's Assoc. luncheon 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group				

Tall Timber Snow Retreat Feb. 23-26

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

February 28

Women's Group Bible Study 10:30 am
2005-2006 Horizons Bible Study

Women's Association Luncheon 12 pm

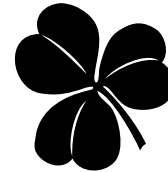
Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share.
All women are invited for food, fun and fellowship!

Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK!

Join us on Friday, March 17 at 6 pm for the annual St. Pat's Day potluck! (Prime Timers and Women's Agapé Night will be cancelled in March due to this special event.)

More information coming next month!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
***		***	
1	Margaret Rice	12	Tim Crandall
2	Martha Christensen	12	Colleen Reimers
2	Jim Freeman	14	Katherine Jackson
2	Jami Templeton	15	Amanda Anderson
4	Allison Crandall	18	Mel Reasoner
4	Laura Crandall	18	John Dobbie
5	Evelyn Hatch	19	Vie Renard
5	Janet Oakley	20	Randy Bowers
7	Glenn Titus	22	Gail Haines
7	Roy Hoffman	23	Margaret Woll
7	Roy Hoffman	26	Ralph Rinne
12	Sarah Baker	27	Kay Carr
1		1	Tom & Margaret McVie
		4	Dick & Ann Heaps Johnson
		16	Joe & Betty Pickard



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.

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.

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.

Saturday, February 18, 5:30 pm
St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th St.
733-1325; stjpres@msn.com



FEBRUARY WORSHIP TOPICS

February 5:
 Communion
 Souper Bowl of Caring
 Isaiah 40:21-31
 Mark 1:29-39
 “The Tireless God Comes to a Tired Creation”

February 12:
 2 Kings 5:1-14
 Mark 1:40-45
 “Humble Healing for the High and Mighty”

February 19:
 Isaiah 43:16-25 (not verses 18-25)
 Mark 2:1-12
 “A New Thing Finds Lost Causes”

February 26:
 Transfiguration Sunday
 2 Kings 2:1-12
 Mark 9:2-9
 “Grace-Filled Moments”

GOODBYE MYLES, HELLO BILL!

It is with regret that we have had to end the contract for custodial services that we have enjoyed with Cascade Vocational Services as of January 31. Through this arrangement, we have come to know and enjoy Myles Kroll, the custodian that has greeted us with smiles and jokes. Myles has been invited to join us for worship on an upcoming Sunday, so that we can thank him in person for the good work he has done for us. Myles works elsewhere on Sundays, but will try to join us on Sunday, February 12.

As of February 1, we will be blessed with the very capable and experienced work of Bill Read, who has generously volunteered to serve as our custodian for one year. Several of you have already stepped up to offer your help to Bill in this role. Thanks be to God for the offering of gifts on behalf of the whole community of Christ!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ~ APRIL 9

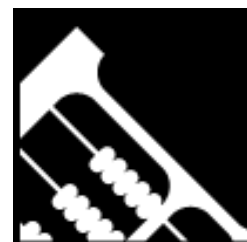
Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

GOODBYE WENDY, HELLO SALLY!

We also regret saying goodbye to our much loved treasurer, Wendy Crandall. Wendy has many irons in the fire, and it has been a wonderful offering of her precious time for her to serve as our treasurer for four years. Her attention to detail and thorough knowledge of the task will be missed.

That leaves the Session to elect a new treasurer at their February 12 meeting. Sally Albers has stepped forward to offer to serve as our treasurer, and is willing to perform this large task as a volunteer, at least for the short term. We are thankful to Sally for her willingness to offer her professional skills and expertise to St. James.

St. James has been blessed with good and faithful workers, and continues to be abundantly blessed with good and faithful workers. Thanks be to God!



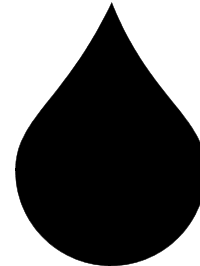


Maverette Butler
 Margaret de Maine
 Marion Dobbie
 Pat Nelson
 Mel Reasoner
 Margaret Rice
 Inge Thurston

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, **February 15, 2005**. That issue will be mailed Thursday, **Feb. 23**. 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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