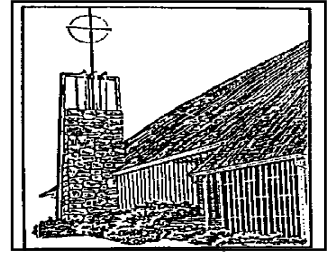


The Pulse



Volume 38, Issue 4
April 2006

APRIL WORSHIP TOPICS

April 2:

5th Sunday in Lent
Communion

Daylight Saving Time begins

Jeremiah 31:31-34

John 12:20-33

“A Grain of Wheat”

April 9:

Palm Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Mark 11:1-11

“The Calm Before the
Storm”

April 16:

Easter Sunday

7 a.m.: Sunrise Service

8 – 10: Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m.: Easter Worship

Isaiah 25:6-9

Mark 16:1-8

“Love Lies Waiting”

April 23:

Acts 4:32-35

John 20:19-31

“The Walls Came Tumbling
Down”

April 30:

Psalms 4

Luke 24:36-48

“You Are Witnesses”

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

How wonderful it has been to study together on Wednesdays through Lent. The Heart of Christianity, written by Marcus Borg, has been very eye-opening and inspiring. With Holy Week and Easter ahead of us in April, I want to share with you some of Borg's insights as to the meaning of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Borg joins many other Biblical interpreters in identifying at least five understandings of the cross of Jesus Christ. The first stays with a political understanding of the cross. Good Friday and Easter hold rejection and vindication. The religious and political authorities, threatened by the work and teachings of Jesus, rejected him and killed him. But God vindicated Jesus by raising him from the tomb to sit at the right hand of God. The purpose of the ministry of Jesus was not to end in death, but to stay steadfast to the course God set before him, to confront and transform the powers of greatness of his time, even at the risk of death. And death could not end this work of God in Jesus.

A second meaning of the cross is called “the defeat of the powers” by Borg. This view is written by Paul in his letters when he states that the world is in bondage to “the principalities and powers.” These are represented by the Romans and Judean aristocrats, who put Jesus to death. However, the domination system to which they belong is much bigger than the Roman governor and the temple aristocracy. Again, Paul writes that God through Jesus “disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in the cross.” The oppressive powers that seem to always be with humanity killed Jesus, but by doing so they revealed their own moral bankruptcy and ultimate defeat.

Thirdly, the death of Jesus opens to us “the way.” The path that Jesus walked dies to an old way of being and raises one into a new way of being. Following Jesus on the way of the cross and giving deep value to the people and things that Jesus loved changes us into a new creation.

The fourth understanding of the cross sees the death of Jesus revealing to us the depth of love that God has for us. In the cross, we see unexpected and amazing love. John writes, “For God so loved the world that God gave God's only son” for us.

The fifth way to understand the cross is probably the most familiar. It tends to be emphasized far more than the other four. It sees Jesus on the cross as a sacrifice for us. But Borg points out that, in its first-century setting, this is not just about God needing something or someone to be killed in order for us to be forgiven. It has to do with the practice of sacrifice in the Jerusalem temple. The temple, and its priesthood, claimed an “institutional monopoly” on the forgiveness of sins.

Continued on page 2

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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

Spring is coming! Please join us for the monthly all-church clean-up landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday: Saturday

April 7, 9 am – 12 noon.

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

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.**

TREASURER'S NOTE

SALLY CRANDALL

As of March 20, St. James has received 92% of the pledge income anticipated for the first quarter of 2006, which is right on target with one Sunday "to go." We appreciate that so many members have been conscientious in their stewardship. In addition members have contributed \$3777 towards the total per capita payment of \$12,124 assessed in January (\$47.92/member).

Meanwhile the congregation has been generous in other appeals with \$342 going to Maple Alley Inn for Souper Bowl Sunday and \$50 to the Food Bank, and \$1045 to Tall Timber Cabin earlier this year. The Africa AIDS appeal has also inspired early donations. It is quite heartening to serve as your treasurer and see how committed you are to sharing your abundance with those in need.

If you have any questions about your pledge or giving at St. James, please feel free to contact Treasurer Sally Albers at the church office or at home (734-8412) or by email: stjtreas@msn.com.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays

* * *

- 1 Alex Todd
- 4 Gil Thurston
- 7 Mike Anderson
- 7 Patty Cromarty
- 7 Lillian Snow
- 9 Gene Brown
- 10 Rosie Danielson
- 10 Gus Danielson
- 12 Jim Hawk
- 12 Sally Crandall
- 16 Erin Keyes
- 17 Bruce Kraig
- 18 Zach Mullen
- 20 Shirley Drury
- 20 Sally Albers
- 22 Battle Nelson
- 22 Helen Paulsen
- 25 Joe Pickard
- 25 Valerie McBeth
- 29 Margaret Snider
- 29 Cheryl McGregor
- 30 Nicholas Jackson
- 30 Mary Elmslie



April Anniversaries

* * *

- 4 Bob & Nancy Hamilton
- 6 Jack & Dorothy Brown
- 6 Joe & Karen Morse
- 20 Tom & Barb Kilpatrick
- 21 Clyde & Margaret Rice
- 30 Jackie & Richard Cochinos

Cont. from page 1
 Forgiveness could happen only if sacrifices were made in a manner approved by the temple priests. Furthermore, since the forgiveness of one's sins was a prerequisite to come into the presence of God, the temple priests also claimed an institutional monopoly on access to God.

So the claim that "Jesus is the sacrifice for sin" subverted the temple's claim to its monopoly on forgiveness and access to God. To claim that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of one's sins was to claim that God in Jesus had already provided the perfect sacrifice. God in Jesus has thus already taken care of whatever you think separates you from God. You have access to God apart from the temple and its system of sacrifice. Here we see a powerful affirmation of radical and amazing grace.

I hope that these ponderings upon the meaning of the cross of Jesus Christ bring new meanings and wonder and excitement to you as you approach Easter. May your remaining Lent, Holy Week, and Easter be full of blessings.

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Mary



Jesus said God cares for us like a shepherd cares for sheep.

God's Legacy Is 24/7

(Small Group Ministry for Children)

We are blessed at St. James Presbyterian Church with a multi-age class that is bursting with faith, energy **and** intelligence.

These children and the grandchildren of members who join them from time to time, are fortunate to be so deeply loved by their families. These nurturing, extended, intergenerational caregivers are the focus of Martha Bettis Gee's resource, **For Your Children, Creating Communities of Faith in Our Families**, Editor, Martha H. Miller, 2005 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) A Corporation, Peace-making Program.

I attended the Association of Presbyterian Church Educator's Conference (APCE) last year in Vancouver, B.C., and once again, a few weeks ago, in St. Louis, Missouri. Ms. Gee and her peer's names emerged again and again as educators and pastors joined forces to align themselves with her support of "*real families*," those that, through God's grace, nurture us 24/7 in 2006.

Martha Gee is refreshing, her theology futuristic, the "guilt trip" of palm pilot parenting transformed into a vision of community, calling all of us to mutual responsibility to nurture the precious lives entrusted to our care:

Real life in the family is fraught with broken promises and unrealized dreams, as well as unintended or unimagined twists and turns in the family's life journey... and families endure — not because they keep all the promises they make to each other, but because with God's help they can make fresh promises and work to live into those promises.

For Your Children, p. 8

Take the opportunity to read Ms. Gee's resource. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, caregiver of children, or a member or frequent visitor at St. James, you are a part of encouraging family rituals that are a meaningful way to connect with the spiritual formation of children.

I like especially the sections of this resource that applaud rebuilding rituals in families who have experienced adoption, divorce, death of a spouse, remarriage, or life in blended or stepfamilies.

Joining You on 'the journey to Easter,'

Margaret Van Zanten

Youth Leader Position Open

Qualifications:

Love of Youth. Strong sense of Christian faith and commitment. Appreciation for Presbyterian worship and ministry. Ability to work collaboratively with parents and church groups. Prior experience teaching youth and/or working in a church setting preferred.

Purpose:

To encourage spiritual and social development of middle and high school youth in our church community according to their needs.

Ten hours of work per week is expected.

Please submit résumé with references to St. James Church before April 15, 2006 .

Position begins September 1, 2006.

WHAT IS A SEDER MEAL?

A Seder Meal is a traditional Jewish Passover meal. The Gospels speak of Jesus sharing a Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was betrayed. The Worship Committee and the Congregational Life Committee are using an adapted Seder Meal to enhance our Maundy Thursday worship this year. Come to the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 13 for a full supper at 6:30. After the meal is completed, we will journey to the sanctuary to share Holy Communion. Come and join in a very meaningful time for worship on Maundy (Holy) Thursday.

WHAT EXACTLY IS OUR PASTOR DOING?

Come to a luncheon right after church on Sunday, April 30 to hear details about Pastor Mary's sabbatical. Her Louisville Institute grant (Lilly Endowment Program) for a pastoral sabbatical was given to support her project titled, "Learning from the Lands That Have Nurtured Faith." The Personnel Committee is pleased to be able to host a luncheon for the congregation for the purpose of hearing all about the upcoming event.

Mary will be on sabbatical from May 15 until August 15. We are delighted that The Rev. Richard Madden will be on duty part-time for pastoral duties and preaching during that time. Dick Madden and his wife Marilyn worship regularly at St. James, ever since they moved to nearby Blaine for their retirement.

Of course, Mary will have slides to show even before she has gone away (she could very well be "The Slide Queen"). She and Randy and Susannah will first be staying at Kibbutz Ginnosar for the first eleven nights of their adventure. This kibbutz is right on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and close to the site of ancient Magdala. For the entire month of June, Mary will be digging at the archaeological site of Yotvata, on the location of an ancient Roman fortress. Yotvata is very far south in Israel, half an hour north of the town of Eilat. Yotvata is definitely out in the sticks, if the desert has sticks, and its isolation makes it quite secure. Mary hopes to do some writing and research regarding the origins of Israel when she is not taking pictures or digging. Stay tuned for more of that next fall, but in the meantime, come for lunch and a show on April 30!

Community-based care serves a growing orphan population.

AIDS killed the parents of Precious, a 20-year-old, who is now caring for five younger brothers and sisters and a niece and nephew whose parents also died of AIDS.

But thanks to community-based orphan care, Precious does not face this awesome child-rearing responsibility alone. The preschooler in the family receives day care and nutrition from a nearby center. Precious also gets moral support, mentoring, and other resources from the community, including food and help with school fees for the older children. The AIDS crisis has created more than 12 million orphans in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the U.N. AIDS program. By 2010 that number is expected to grow to more than 18 million.

African churches have been a leading force in establishing community-based orphan care. Typically older siblings, grandparents, uncles or aunts tend to AIDS orphans, but community members pitch in to help their neighbors care for the children.

Community-based orphan care programs are operating across Africa both in urban areas and rural villages. In some rural communities open-air pavilions have been constructed to serve as "feeding stations" for AIDS orphans.

Frank Dimmock, a PC(USA) health consultant for southern and eastern Africa, says the community-based orphan care programs are designed to:

- Enable extended families and guardians to keep children within the home community
- Provide opportunities for village/church volunteers to help in the development of their community
- Free elderly guardians from constant child-care responsibilities, providing time for household chores, gardening, and income-generating activities
- Integrate orphans with other children in their village and facilitate formal education
- Support child-headed households with basic resources
- Provide a site and an opportunity for health screening, counseling, and psychosocial development
- Provide a venue for village meetings, literacy classes, and vocational training
- Minister to orphans, widows, the handicapped, and the chronically ill, providing a place of support and hope



*George Pope, executive director of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, at an orphan feeding station.
Photo: Dorothy Hanson.*

Community grain banks, gardens, and shallow wells assist in supplying an adequate supply of food and water for the programs. The PC(USA) supports orphan care programs by helping communities buy food and dig wells, and the Medical Benevolence Foundation, a PC(USA) validated mission support

group, has been involved in the construction of feeding stations. In some areas the cost of feeding an orphan costs less than \$30 per month.

Crosby Mphande, a Presbyterian layman, is executive director of an NGO in Malawi that deals with orphan care. He says the community-based approach works well in sub-Saharan Africa, where there is a strong emphasis on family and community.

"Orphanages are the last resort," says Mphande, "if there isn't anything else the community can do."

This is the fifth part in a series of articles from the publication "AIDS in Africa: It's a Matter of Faith". The next article will be "African Churches Bring Unique Strengths to the AIDS Battle" in the May issue.

EASTER BREAKFAST!

Join the Congregational Life committee for this year's Easter morning breakfast! Eggs, sausage, cinnamon rolls and more...



**8 am—10 am
Sunday
April 16**

MUSIC FOR MISSION ~ MAY 12

St. James Church will be holding a "Music for Missions Event" on May 12 at 7:30 pm after the Prime Timers Potluck dinner. Everyone is invited. If you would like to attend the potluck dinner which starts at 6:00 pm, it would be appreciated if you would let us know that you plan to attend.

The Star Performers for the "Music for Missions" will be announced at a later time.

The "Music for Missions" committee

WOMEN'S RETREAT**The annual Women's Retreat**

will be
Saturday, April 8
from 9:45 am to 2:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme this year:
"Walking with Labyrinth ~ A Sacred
Journey; an activity of centering
oneself as we prepare for Holy Week,"

with Bobbi Virta ,
Pastor of Custer United Methodist
Church, Certified Labyrinth Facilitator.

Tickets are \$12.00; please RSVP by
April 3.

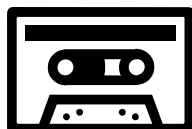
YOUTH NEWS

MEGAN STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR

This month the youth will be just as busy as usual. We will be having youth group on Sunday evenings from 4:30- 6:00 and are still looking for parent and snack volunteers for most of those evenings. On the 9th and 23rd we will be having Sunday school during worship. Also our confirmation class will continue meeting at 3:00 on Sundays. As a fundraiser this month, the youth will be auctioning off themselves as cleaners, gardeners, and more. If you haven't gotten the chance to do that bit of spring cleaning or landscaping, consider hiring one of our youth. The money will benefit our summer mission, working with Habitat and Interfaith. Keep your eyes peeled for more information! Happy Spring!

**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.

**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.



Tuesday, April 18, 5:30 pm
Bellingham Friends

Exploration Academy, 1701 Ellis St. , Tel. 312-8234

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6: 8

St. James Events Calendar

April 2006

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 10 am OA
2 Daylight Savings! 9:45 am Session Communion 11:45 am College Bible Study 6 pm Girl Scouts	3 12:45 pm Cub Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	4 6:30 am Prayer Group 10 am Health comm. 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	5 5 pm Mission & Social Action comm. 6 pm Lenten Study 7 pm AA Men	6 2 pm Membership 4 pm Staff 5 Christian Ed. 6 Worship comm. 6:15 Bells 6:30 Congregational Life 7 Chancel Choir 7:30 AA 8 Requiem reh.	7 (Women's Retreat set-up)	8 9-12 Church Work Party 9:45 am Women's Retreat 10 am OA
9 Palm Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing 11:45 am Deacons 7 pm Session	10	11 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	12 5:30 pm Weaver's Guild 7 pm AA Men	13 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Worship & Seder Meal 7:30 AA	14 Good Friday 7:30 pm Fauré Requiem	15 10 am OA
16 Easter 7 am Sunrise service in Fairhaven Park 8-10 am Easter Breakfast	17 6:30 Boy Scouts	18 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 5:30 Prayer Vigil 7 Gender Group	19 <i>Pulse</i> items due! 7 pm AA Men	20 4 pm Staff 6:30 pm Bells 7:30 Chancel 7:30 AA	21 (Rummage Sale set-up) 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 Women's Agapé Night	22 9 - 3 Rummage Sale 10 am OA
23 11:45 am Work Team to Gulf info. meeting	24 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	25 6:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 12 pm Women's Association luncheon 5:30 pm Al Anon 6 Girl Scouts	26 7 pm AA Men	27 10 am <i>Pulse</i> Crew 6:30 Bells 7:30 Chancel 7:30 AA	28 4:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Friday Night Social	29 10 am OA 12 - 2:30 pm Mission Support Lunch
30 12 pm Personnel Lunch ~ Pastor Mary's sabbatical plans						

UNIQUE HELP FOR THE WHATCOM PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER

The Whatcom Peace and Justice Center is applying for a financial grant from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. The grant is similar to a matching funds grant, in that the Peacemaking Program will match monies donated by a local Presbyterian church. If you wish to financially support the Peace and Justice Center, the Mission and Social Action Committee encourages you to give your gift to St. James, designated for the Peace and Justice Center. St. James will donate your gift in turn to the Peace and Justice Center. Giving in this way will increase the amount that the Center can apply for from the Peacemaking Program.

THANK YOU!!!

A large and resounding "thank you" comes from the Presbytery of North Puget Sound to all persons who worked to compile our Lenten Devotional, "Meditations for Lent – 2006." The Presbytery asked to put our booklet online to share with the entire Presbytery! Interim Presbytery Executive Gail Neal wants to extend her thanks for a job well done to all editors, artists, and contributors. The booklet has been very inspirational, and is a beautiful product of our Christian community.

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.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Annual Spring Rummage & Plant Sale

will be held on Saturday April 22, from 9 am—3 pm (with set-up on Friday April 21). If you have items to donate, we have a minimal amount of storage space available now. If you have larger collections it will be helpful to have them arrive later. If you would like help please call Phyllis Jones 734-4504.



HELP PASTOR MARY PACK!

When Pastor Mary leaves for her sabbatical, she will take a suitcase with her to carry donations from members of St. James to programs for Palestinian children and youth. The Arab Orthodox Society in Jerusalem provides education and development programs for people of all ages, as well as other human services such as meals and healthcare. Their primary concern is to care for refugees and other underprivileged persons caught in a very troubled area of the world.

The Arab Orthodox women have suggested to Mary that school supplies and children's books would be much appreciated. Watch for Mary's suitcase after Easter. It will appear in the Horizon Room (or that vicinity) on Sunday April 23, and will be open for packing until Sunday May 14.

Wouldn't it be wonderful for Mary to have the problem of an overflowing suitcase of school supplies and books?

FAURÉ REQUIEM

**Friday, April 12
7:30 pm
in the Sanctuary**

A deeply meaningful musical experience for Good Friday. Our Music Director, Carolyn Mullen, conducts the St. James Festival combined choir, Wade Dingman, accompanist.

HURRICANE KATRINA ~ WHAT CAN I DO?

Hurricane Katrina

Have you ever wondered:

WHAT CAN I
DO? HOW CAN I
HELP?



Well here is your chance!

St James will be sending a work-group to the Gulf Coast region as a part of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. If you are interested in learning more please come to an informational meeting on April 23rd in the Lounge.

Or call
Matt Hargleroad
at 671-2646 if you
are interested but
can not attend.

LENTEN PRAYERS

(FROM ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MATERIALS 2006)
(CONTINUED FROM THE MARCH NEWSLETTER)



Lent is a season of reflection, often associated with fasting and prayer. It is a time to take stock of our lives in light of Christ's life given for us. Use this as a guide for Lenten prayer in your home. Set a glass or bowl of water next to this prayer guide. You may use this at meals or at some other regular time of day.

Week Five
Week of April 2-8

Scripture	Spiritual Practice	Prayer	Faith & Action
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6	Take some kind of dirt and stir it into the water. What is your reaction to drinking this kind of water? What are the influences that pollute our intent and attempts to embody just and righteous lives?	With the Psalmist we pray, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Help us discern not only those things we should avoid, but also guide us to work for that which needs to be done to restore wholeness within ourselves and in the world. Amen.	Water and sanitation issues are key needs addressed following disasters, particularly in the camps of displaced survivors. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing and PDA provided for the needs of over 20,000 families in Indonesia and Pakistan last year at a cost of about \$20 per family. What kind of difference will you make this year?

Holy Week
Week of April 9-15

Scripture	Spiritual Practice	Prayer	Faith & Action
After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scriptures), "I am thirsty." John 19:29	Empty the dirty water and let the glass or bowl sit empty this week. Let this be a reminder of the One who emptied himself for the redemption of the world.	Loving God, you are the One who has come to us in the form of a servant, emptying yourself in order that we may be made whole. Teach us to empty our lives of those things that keep us from sharing your love and healing with others. Amen.	Through gifts given to the One Great Hour of Sharing people all around the world have experienced God's healing and power. Consider what you may do without this week in order to give to the ministry of the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Prayers for Easter & Eastertide
April 16

Scripture	Spiritual Practice	Prayer	Faith & Action
The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let everyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. Revelation 22:17	Fill the glass with water again. Dip your fingers into the water and touch your forehead. Let this be a sign of new life in Jesus Christ. You are God's own forever!	Thanks be to you, O God, for the gift of life. Thanks be to you, O God, for the new life in Jesus Christ. May this be a day of blessings and new beginnings given. Use our lives to renew your earth and heal the world through the power of your Spirit at work in your people. Amen.	How does one live in gratitude for all God has done? We can find ways to share the gifts of God's grace with others, work for a just and righteous world, and live in an attitude of joy – knowing we abide in God's care.

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

APPEAL FROM CHURCH LEADERS IN JERUSALEM

On February 6, Church leaders in Jerusalem wrote to Church leaders and Christians around the world urging them to actively participate in a week of Christian advocacy for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

Some excerpts:

"During the last 39 years [of occupation] ...Christians have worked tirelessly and patiently advocating for Peace in Palestine and Israel...As the situation continues to deteriorate ... it is crucial for Christians to make their voices heard vigorously in the public arena. ...the Churches in the Holy Land need you to speak with the moral authority of the Church from the ethical perspective of the Christian faith. Lawmakers and politicians in your country need to know that the Churches are well aware of the on-going suffering caused by the occupation ... All national governments have the responsibility to uphold international law and Christians have a role in holding our governments to account.

We ask all Christians to consider the prophetic role of the Church and the power and importance of public witness so that the sufferings, injustices and insecurity of the occupation which affects Israelis and Palestinians ...becomes an urgent priority for all national governments.

[In the West Bank and East Jerusalem } there is a steady expansion of Israeli military control. Settler blocks continue to grow and land is illegally seized to build a wall which has been condemned internationally. West Bank cities are being choked to death economically and the people live in constant fear of military incursions. ...the Palestinian Authority must be supported to impose the rule of law and at the same time held accountable in fulfilling its responsibilities.

....to end the suffering both in Palestine and Israel: a just peace [is required] reached through negotiation guided by international law. An end to the occupation is the first step toward real peace and security ... [for both Palestine and Israel]. ...[we] call for a two-state solution based on international law which provides a truly viable, contiguous, independent , sovereign state.

...We call for assertive non-violent efforts to bring peace and we condemn in the strongest possible terms all that use violence and acts of terror. ...However, the situation is urgent. With every passing month the possibility of a peaceful negotiated solution grows more distant. The more settlements that are built and the more the Wall sets the borders on confiscated lands means that the west Bank communities are separated further from each other. Palestinian children are illegally detained.....more Palestinian Christians leave the Holy land...a viable, contiguous Palestinian state becomes less likely.

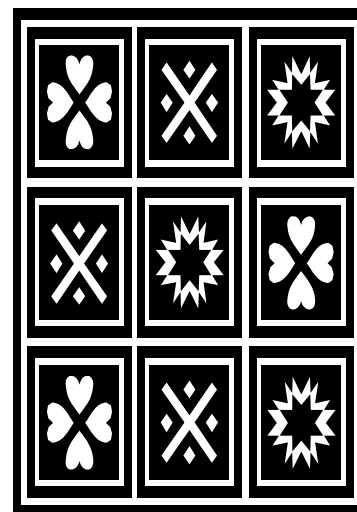
We hope that Christians throughout the world will join together to make a public witness for peace. It is our prayer that you will speak boldly to your lawmakers to lift up the suffering of the people and to ask them to undertake specific actions for peace.It is your solidarity that together with God's grace helps us to be advocates of Peace and ministers of reconciliation...God has given us the vision of Peace with Justice. Join us to "make plain the vision" [Habakkuk 2;2]

"If one member suffers, all members suffer with it"
1 Corinthians 12: 26

"They have treated the wounds of my people lightly saying; Peace, Peace, when there is no Peace."
Jeremiah 6 : 14

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION CONTINUED...**MIDDLE EAST PEACE QUILTS COMING TO BELLINGHAM**

During the month of May an exposition of 30 panels of Middle East Peace Quilts will be displayed at the First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall. 300 people around the world of all ages and backgrounds, including Palestinians and Jews, created these panels. A binder with the words of its makers accompanies each panel; the quilt blocks being based on the question, "What is your vision for peace in the Middle East?" The exhibit will start May 1st and end May 30th. It has been touring North America for more than 5 years. Details about the hours during the week and on weekends will be announced soon. Volunteers are needed to be at the exhibit for 2-3 hour shifts. More information to come...



INTERFAITH AUCTION ~ APRIL 22**From the Interfaith Coalition**

Through the Looking Glass into the Garden of Hope Tickets are on sale now for Interfaith Coalition's spring auction on Saturday, April 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the Best Western Lakeway Inn in Bellingham. Cost is \$40 each and includes dinner. This year's auction honors the 25 years, from 1981 to 2006, Interfaith Coalition has assisted local people in need. To purchase tickets, call 734-3983.

Proceeds from the auction comprise about one-third of the coalition's annual budget and support its programs for housing homeless families, improving access to affordable health care, and offering meaningful social connection to seniors who may be lonely and isolated.

A NEW WAY TO OFFER PRAYERS

The Worship Committee wishes to provide a way for our congregation to offer prayers on Sunday mornings that also includes persons who are not comfortable speaking publicly. We will try using prayer cards to share our joys and concerns during worship. The cards will be placed in the pew pockets of all of our pews. Persons can write a prayer request on the cards, and place them in the offering plates during the offering time. Ushers will then gather the cards and give them to Pastor Mary to be included in the Prayers of the People.

Prayer cards will begin to be used in worship after Easter on Sunday, April 23. They will be used for several weeks, during which time the Worship Committee will appreciate any feedback about the use of prayer cards. Elder David Meyer chairs the Worship Committee, and Elder Janet Oakley also serves on the Worship Committee.

SUPPORT FOR MISSION OVER THE LONG TERM

St. James will host a lunch and discussion for persons from Whatcom County Presbyterian churches on Saturday, April 29, from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. Eric Chavis, from the Presbyterian Foundation, will lead a discussion for persons in our area churches that are involved in Stewardship, Budgeting, and Mission Support. The discussion will explore how churches can fund mission and outreach programs in 2006 in a time of dwindling resources. Recent conversations between local pastors have revealed that all of our churches are struggling to be good stewards and faithful disciples at this time. Opportunities to give beyond pledge campaigns may be able to help Presbyterians continue to give faithful and solid support to outreach programs that we highly value.

If you are on St. James' Stewardship Committee or Mission and Social Action Committee, or if you are interested in this conversation, please plan to come for lunch and discussion with your nearby Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Thanks to
the Pulse
Mailing
Crew*

Maverette Butler
Margaret de Maine
Marion Dobbie
Dottie Hager
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, **April 19 2005.** That issue will be mailed Thursday, **April 27.** 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 Note</i>	2
<i>Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	2
<i>Christian Education</i>	3
<i>Youth Leader position open</i>	4
<i>AIDS in Africa</i>	5
<i>Youth News</i>	6
<i>Event Calendar</i>	7
<i>Lenten Prayers</i>	9
<i>Mission & Social Action</i>	10-11
<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	insert
<i>Holy Week Schedule</i>	insert

**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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