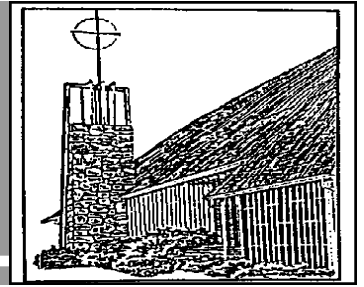


# The Pulse



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Volume 40, Issue 4  
April 2008

What a treat it has been to reflect on the St. James Lenten Devotional Booklet recently! It has been so meaningful to read the thoughtful reflections of so many of you, and I know I have been uplifted by your words.

Another book that I have read recently is one that was recommended by a person on the Session's Growth Plan Task Force and by our Presbytery Executive, Corey Schlosser-Hall: Christianity for the Rest of Us, by Diana Butler Bass. It is a very insightful and wonderful book about the renewal of mainline congregations. The author challenges the idea that mainline Protestantism is dying these days and that only theologically conservative congregations can grow. She studied ten mainline Protestant congregations in depth, and did surveys or interviews of 40 other congregations. These were all churches that describe themselves as "theologically centrist to liberal-progressive," and they are all vital and growing. So what is the secret to their vitality, when most mainline churches are seen as declining in members and in programs, and are seen to be in their twilight years?

The author has much to say, of course, but here is one of her summary statements. It follows hearing a Lenten sermon preached by The Rev. Anne Howard: "***Transformation is the promise at the heart of the Christian life.***" Then Ms. Bass goes on to write, "In a single sentence, Anne summed up what I had heard from hundreds of other churchgoers. Christianity for the rest of us is not about personal salvation, not about getting everybody else saved, or about the politics of exclusion and moral purity. Christianity for the rest of us is the promise of transformation – that, by God's mercy, we can be different, our congregations can be different, and our world can be different."

Ms. Bass continues, "...I remember what I have seen in all the churches in my study. In each place, and in the many stories of churchgoers I interviewed, I witnessed the same spiritual triad: connection to tradition, commitment to Christian practices, and concern to live God's dream. Together, tradition, practice, and wisdom embody the Christian life. These things offer the possibility of change, of communities that live change, and the transformation that is the promise of the Christian life.... Christianity for the rest of us is transformative Christianity. And it is transform-

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910 14th Street ~ Bellingham, Washington 98225  
phone: (360)733-1325      fax: (360)733-1664  
[www.saintjamespres.org](http://www.saintjamespres.org)



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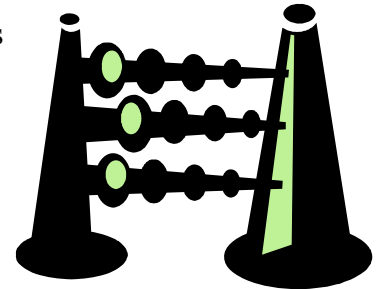
**TREASURER'S REPORT SALLY ALBERS**

February income (\$16,151) exceeded budget but was less than our expenses (\$16,454) for the month; so the general fund balance dipped slightly to a still healthy \$6,942.13. Our shares in New Covenant Funds' Balanced Growth mutual fund lost more share value in February along with most of the rest of the market – down 6% since December 31. Despite those “paper losses” our total net worth is still a generous \$232,525. The February financials are posted on the office window – you may also ask our secretary for a copy to take home if you are interested in the details.

Through March 16, the “Seeds of Growth” pledge drive to support expanded programs in 2008 has received pledges and contributions of approximately \$3,000. Our goal is an ambitious \$13,000. Look for our pledge letter and form as an insert in this Pulse. Any size donation is welcome and will be put to good use.

The generosity of St. James' congregation is inspiring. During these first 3 Sundays in March you have contributed to the following special appeals:

- \$ 1636 to One Great Hour of Sharing
- \$ 326 for tulips on Easter Sunday
- \$ 810 towards shipping the Iraqi kits to Damascus
- \$ 715 towards the Custodian costs



plus hours of volunteer time in fulfilling many needs within our congregation, our community and the world.

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**“APRIL SHOWERS” YOUTH NEWS TARA GIDDENS, YOUTH LEADER**


Yes we all know that cute little saying, “April showers bring May flowers.” Well, I don't know about you, but I'm sick of these showers! I never enjoy choosing between being super prepared with sixteen layers and no movement in my arms or looking like a drowned rat that at least can move around! Every time I feel like I can't stand the rain anymore, God brings out the sun and on rare occasions we get blessed with rainbows. It wasn't until recently that I discovered rainbows having an important part in the Bible. In Genesis God tells Noah that the rainbow is a symbol of the agreement God has made with all living creatures on earth.

“...Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.” Genesis 9:15-17

God didn't just make an agreement with Noah or humankind, but with ALL living creatures. An agreement that said God would never again flood and thus destroy the earth. It was now and forever theirs to love and protect. Even before Noah, when God first made Earth he gave all the living creatures including plants to Adam. It was Adam's job to name everything around him. It was both Adam and Eve's priority to take care of the beautiful planet God made. Now it's our turn. We must continue to love and protect Earth just as our ancestors before us. Every small thing helps: saving water, car pooling, even buying locally; it all helps protect what is good around us. April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day, and I hope everyone takes time to give thanks to the Lord for creating such an incredible place to live. Maybe, God willing, we'll even be able to go out and enjoy the day and start to see those May flowers. ; )

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**ST. JAMES TO HOST PRAYERS FOR PEACE ~ APRIL 18**

The community Prayer Vigil for Middle East Peace continues on April 18, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. **St. James is honored to host the vigil during April!** Please plan to attend and welcome other members of our community to this important event. If you are not able to attend, please offer your prayers for peace in the war-torn and despairing areas of our world wherever you may be.

## "We're Never Lost"

As we were riding through Vancouver with some friends, recently, the driver smiled as the navigator shuffled the pages of information from Mapquest and said, "Remember, we're never lost. We just haven't gotten there, yet."

Do you suppose God ever smiles at us and tell us the same thing? "You're never lost. You just haven't gotten there, yet."

Wherever we may find ourselves in life, wherever we are on our journeys, we probably all have moments where we wish we had a navigator. We may fall to our knees, desperately crying out to God. We may grab the dusty Bibles off our shelves, flipping open the pages, knowing the answers are in there, somewhere. We may just look to the heavens, shrug our shoulders and sigh, "You know, a little help might be nice."

And God answers, "You're never lost. You just haven't gotten there, yet."

So, how do we get there? How do we find those answers? The right directions? On our knees? In our Bibles? Of course. But, that's only a part of it. The rest of it is right here, in this community of faith. We hear God's voice in the voices of our classmates in Sunday School or in a discussion during Bible Study. We see God's smile on the faces of the people seated next to us in worship. We feel God's touch in the hugs and handshakes shared in the narthex before and after church. We know God's presence when we walk into that sanctuary and breathe in God's Spirit as we watch the candles being lit, as we hear the choir singing, as we listen to the wisdom of the sermon, as we hear the words of the liturgist, even as we share cookies in the Horizon room.

We're never lost. We're just on a great adventure. So, come be a part of the navigational team. It makes the journey just a wee bit easier!

Peace,

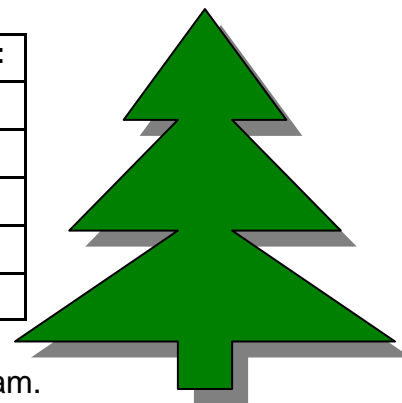
♥ Pastor Tam

P.S. Happy Earth Day. Everybody go plant a tree. (I think my yard needs an oak, now. Who wants to tell my husband?!)

## TALL TIMBER RANCH SUMMER CAMP

Are you making your summer plans and phoning in your reservations? If so, here's something that might help. Tall Timber's entire schedule is now available and posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway. But a few camps of interest are:

Camp Name:	Date:	Grade Entering:
Junior Camp 1	July 6 - 11	4 - 6
Junior Camp 2	July 13 - 18	4 - 6
Primary Camp	July 20 - 23	2 - 4
Junior High Camp	July 27 - August 2	6 - 8
Senior High Camp	August 3 - 9	9 - 12

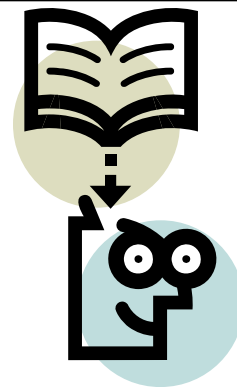


Remember, camp scholarships are available, if needed. Please talk to Pastor Tam.

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**“EXPERIENCING THE BIBLE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME”**

If the noon hour was just too difficult for you, we have good news. The Bible study that took place during Lent is going to continue, but at a different time. Written by Tim Scorer and Marcus Borg, and based on the book *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, this study will pick up with chapter six, where the Lenten series left off. You do not need to have been in the previous study to participate. Just pick up a copy of Borg’s book (in the church office for \$11.50 or from the church library) and meet us in the lounge at 1 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning March 27 and continuing through April 24.




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**APRIL  
WORSHIP  
TOPICS**

**April 6, 2008**

Communion  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Luke 24:13-35

“Haven’t I Seen You Before?”

**April 13, 2008**

Service of Wholeness  
Psalm 23  
John 10:1-10  
“Terror and Security”

**April 20, 2008**

“Seeds of Growth”  
Dedication  
Acts 7:55-60  
John 14:1-14

“You Will Do Greater Works  
Than Me”

**April 27, 2008**

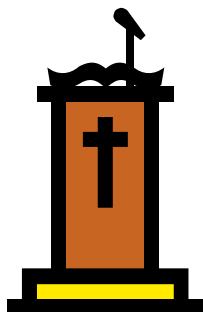
Youth Sunday

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**Two Items of Interest:**

1. A weekly e-mail for adults with a link to a background page with information about the lectionary scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. It helps prepare you for both the Sunday School lesson and worship.
2. A monthly Family Newsletter for families with children, ages newborn through fifth grade. (This is also e-mailed.)

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be added to either of these e-mail lists, please contact Pastor Tam at [christianed@saintjamespres.org](mailto:christianed@saintjamespres.org) or 733.1325.




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**Youth Sunday**

Sunday, April 27

**Come See Who Will  
Fill the Pulpit!**

**Come Experience Worship  
in New and Exciting Ways.**

**Come let your spirit be moved, as the youth of St. James lead us in worship, with their enthusiasm, their wisdom, their insights, and their faith.**

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**PASTOR MARY’S HEALTH UPDATE**

Well friends, I’ve certainly seen progress since my surgery in January! Immediately after my surgery in mid-January, I went for 21 days straight without a migraine! Yay! The migraines have returned, though I’m noticing that they are related to how active I am. Even so, they now average about every other day instead of close to every day. If I can “check out” for a while, that seems to ward off the migraines, though that can’t always happen. That is progress, as before my surgery, it didn’t matter if I slowed down or not, and often lying down made a migraine worse for me. Now it makes it better! I do get discouraged and frustrated that my energy level is slow to return, but I guess that’s to be expected for about another month. I’ll have a CT scan and an appointment with my surgeon on April 14. Hopefully I’ll get a report that the bone graft/fusion in my neck is complete and “all done”! My “lovely” neck brace can come off gradually now so that my neck muscles can strengthen, so very soon I hope to be in the pulpit and in the office without it. Your prayers and your words of support have been invaluable throughout this experience. I thank you for each and every one!

**A CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE:**

# Standing With the Living Stones Of Israel and Palestine

April 18-19, 2008

University Presbyterian Church – Seattle

“The Living Stones” is how the Christians of the Holy Land refer to themselves, residing as they are amongst the ancient stones and biblical sites. Concerned about the dire situation now facing these brothers and sisters in Christ, a broad group of Washington churches and organizations are joining together to present an illuminating conference featuring two days of general sessions, panels and workshops.

“We all need to be more active in supporting our Christian sisters and brothers in Israel/Palestine. This means that we need gatherings that will both educate us and inspire us about standing with them in their difficult situation. This important conference is not about ideology – it is about taking seriously our identity as members of the global Body of Jesus Christ.”

**Dr. Richard Mouw, President, Fuller Theological Seminary**

“I want to express my endorsement.....it comes at a very important time.....so much awareness and prayer is needed.”

**Rev. Jack Y. Sara, Old Jerusalem Alliance Church**

**Featured speakers include:**

**Mr. Sami Awad** (Baptist)

Director, The Holy Land Trust, Bethlehem

**Dr. Bernard Z. Sabella** (Catholic)

Middle East Council of Churches,  
Professor of Sociology, Bethlehem University

**Rev. Jane Barron** (Church of Scotland)

Immediate past pastor, St. Andrew’s Church, Jerusalem

**Honorary co-chairs include:** The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (USA); Pastor David C. Wold, Bishop Emeritus, SW Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Dr. Donald E. Wagner, North Park University (Covenant), Chicago; Sandy Brown, Church Council of Greater Seattle *and more to be named.*

**Co-sponsors include:** Episcopal Bishop’s Committee on Justice and Peace in Israel/Palestine; University Presbyterian Church, hosting sponsor; Middle East Fellowship; North Puget Sound Coalition for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine; Friends of Sabeel, North America; Social Justice and Peacemaking – Seattle Presbytery, the Phoenix Group *and more to be named.*

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:**

**Shannon Park-Beck**  
[windsweeper@gmail.com](mailto:windsweeper@gmail.com)

**John Berg**  
[johntberg@msn.com](mailto:johntberg@msn.com)

**Mary Pneuman**  
[Fmpneuman@cs.com](mailto:Fmpneuman@cs.com)

[www.livingstonesconference.org](http://www.livingstonesconference.org)

UMHE at WWU: United Ministries in Higher Education at WWU  
and St. James Presbyterian Church

Presents:

## Sami Awad

### “Non-violent Approaches to Resolution of the Conflict in the Middle East”

Wednesday, April 16th, 2008

7 pm to 9pm

St. James Presbyterian Church

910-14th Street, Bellingham

(Parking available in front of and behind St. James)

No charge

**Sami Awad is the Executive Director of Holy Land Trust in Bethlehem. Mr. Awad is one of the leading Palestinian advocates for peacebuilding and nonviolent resistance to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. He speaks about Palestinian strategies for peace with justice, and challenging the Israeli occupation. Mr. Awad has been closely involved in the Palestinian peace movement for more than a decade and is responsible for establishing non-violence, conflict resolution and youth service learning and training programs throughout the region.**

**Mr. Awad has directed The Holy Land Trust-Palestine since its establishment in 1998. The Holy Land Trust-Palestine focuses on improving lives through community development, by promoting peace and reconciliation, and creating the means for economic sustainability. As part of its work towards peace and reconciliation in the region, the Holy Land Trust conducts training workshops in nonviolence, conflict resolution and democratic practice for Palestinians. It holds trauma-reduction programs to help Palestinian children cope with the violence that they experience every day.**

Sami Awad will also be speaking at WWU's Library Presentation Room, 1-2:30pm April 16th

UMHE PRESENTATIONS ARE FREE  
DONATIONS APPRECIATED

For information contact: Vicki at [vickiday14@msn.com](mailto:vickiday14@msn.com) or 676-9531

**Sunday schedule**

9 am Adult Class  
**10:30 am Worship**  
 7 pm AA

*April*

**SUN**

**MON**

**TUE**

**W**

1

8 am Prayer Group  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

6 pm

6

**Communion**

7

6 pm Boy Scouts  
 7 pm Membership committee

8

8 am Prayer Group  
 4 pm Christian Ed. comm.  
 5 pm Stewardship comm.  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

6 pm

7 pm Whatcom

13

**Service of Wholeness**

12 pm Eagle's Wings Ministries  
 presentation  
 12 pm Deacons  
 6 pm Session

14

6 pm Boy Scouts

15

8 am Prayer Group  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

6 pm

7 pm Sami Aw  
 Approaches t  
 of Conflict in

20

21

6 pm Boy Scouts

22

**Earth Day**

May *Pulse* Items Due!  
 8 am Prayer Group  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

5 pm

6 pm

27

**Youth Sunday**

4 pm Youth Group

28

6 pm Boy Scouts

29

8 am Prayer Group  
 10:30 am Presbyterian Women's Bi-  
 ble Study  
 12 pm Presbyterian Women's Lunch-  
 eon  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

10 am

6 pm

# 2008

**Church office**

 Open Tuesday ~ Friday,  
9-12, 1-4

733-1325

office@saintjamespres.org

## WED

## THU

## FRI

## SAT

2

AA Men

3

 6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7 pm SLAA  
7:30 Chancel Choir  
7:30 AA

4

 1:30 pm Girl Scouts  
6:30 pm "Let's Get to Know  
the Old Testament" Study &  
Potluck

5

10 am OA

9

 AA Men  
m Weaver's Guild

10

 6 pm Worship committee  
6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7 pm SLAA  
7:30 Chancel Choir  
7:30 AA

11

 10 am UMHE  
12 pm Prime Timers

12

 9-12 Church Work Party  
10 am OA

16

 AA Men  
vad, "Non-violent  
to the Resolution  
the Middle East"

17

 6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7 pm SLAA  
7:30 Chancel Choir  
7:30 AA

18

 1:30 pm Girl Scouts  
5:30 pm Prayer Vigil for  
Middle East Peace ~ St. James

19

10 am OA

23

 UMHE  
AA Men

24

 6:30 pm Bell Choir  
7 pm SLAA  
7:30 Chancel Choir  
7:30 AA

25

6 pm Friday Night Social

26

 9 am – 3 pm Annual Women's  
Retreat @ St. James  
10 am OA

30

 Pulse Crew  
AA Men

*All are invited to attend the*  
**ST. JAMES WOMEN'S RETREAT**

*Saturday, April 26, 2008  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm*

*Fellowship Hall*

*\$15 per person  
Includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch  
and all materials*

*Register in the Horizon Room on Sundays*

*Our special guest speaker*

*The Rev. Bobbi Wells Hargleroad  
former editor of Church & Society Magazine*



FROM THE INTERFAITH COALITION

April concert to benefit Friendly Visitors program

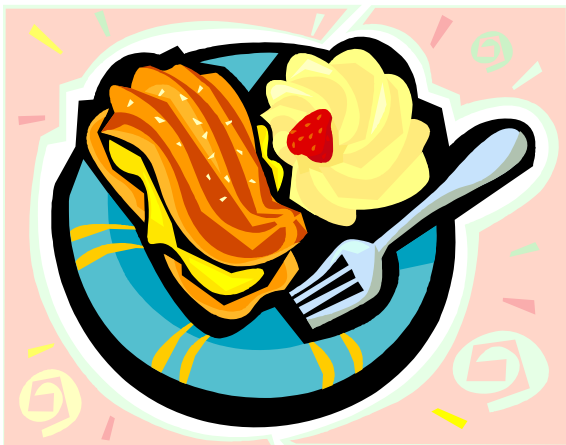
Renowned bassoon soloist and recording artist Martin Kuuskmann, whose repertoire spans the early Baroque era to jazz and contemporary music, will perform a concert to benefit Interfaith Coalition's Friendly Visitors program on Sunday, April 27, beginning at 3 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Estonia-born Kuuskmann, a Blaine resident, has performed at venues and festivals worldwide. His solo performances also have been broadcast on public radio in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden. A faculty member of Manhattan School of Music, he also performs with the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York and with Ensemble Sospeso, a chamber orchestra in New York that performs modern music.

Performing in the benefit concert with Kuuskmann will be Terhi Miikki-Boersma, an accomplished organist originally from Finland.

SUNDAY MORNING  
FAMILY BREAKFASTS

Feeling rushed on Sunday mornings?  
Would you like to begin worship  
feeling peaceful and relaxed instead?  
Congregational Life invites you to  
enjoy food and fellowship at Church  
Family Breakfast, served buffet-style  
from 9:00 to 10:00 every Sunday  
morning!



CHURCH FAMILY  
NEWS

- From **Inge Thurston**:  
"Gil & I would like to thank you for your prayers and support. We appreciate every one of you. The Drs. have told Gil he has an old man's back and there isn't much they can do. I have more tests at the U-W Hospital and I have butterflies in my stomach when I go. Your prayers sustain us and we are grateful. In his name, Inge." We will keep you two in our thoughts!
- **Lora Eckert's** 95th birthday was March 18! If you would like to send her belated greetings, her address is: 1924 Coyote Lane, Bellingham WA 98226. Happy Birthday, Lora!

*If you have news you would like to share with the St. James family, please submit it to the church office by the next newsletter deadline, April 22.....*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES

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

April Anniversaries

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



## 2008 EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

The Albers Family	In memory of Joyce Albers	Brian & Joan LaLone	In celebration of the LaLone / Meyer family
Marlene Amman	In memory of Vi Gerry, the best mother and best friend a daughter could have. I miss you!	Jenny Sue LeSchander	In celebration of the love and friendship of this congregation
Anonymous	In honor of the Sunday adult class	Bruce Lockhart	In memory of Alfred & Alma
The Beatty Family	In memory of Ralph & Patricia Stamm	The Meyer Family	In memory of brother Mark, and sister-in-law Melinda
Randy & Teresa Bowers	In memory of Marian Cram, loving grandmother	Jim & Carolyn Mullen	In memory of our mom, Jean Mullen In celebration of our musicians at St. James
Peter & Susan Burkland	In memory of Reynolds Burkland	Dave & Pat Nelson	In memory of our parents and friends afar
Bill & Maverette Butler	In memory of our parents	Helen Oliver-Leen	In honor of Renée Meyer, who keeps our church wheels running smoothly
Richard & Ruby Candey	In celebration of our daughters & spouses, Jeri Lynne & Mike, Joni LeeAnn & Bill	Bill & Katy Read	In celebration of Pastor Mary
Gary & Ann Culbertson	In celebration of our grandchildren Melissa Kay & Kyle, Justin	Jan Resick	In memory of Beverly Davenport In celebration of "Herkamore" Meyer
Margaret deMaine	In honor of Jeremy Titus, second deployment	Tony & Nancy Richter	In memory of our parents, Walter & Regina Richter Henry & Mary Bryant
Jack & Shirley Drury	In celebration of great granddaughter Lucille Titus	Irene Rome	In memory of Jason
Gladys Eckhart	In celebration of this blessed Easter season	Fred & Jean Richardson	In memory of Fred's sister, Laura Boyd
Bob & Barbara Harnden	In memory of our parents	Bill & Karen Summers	In honor of Covenant Network, More Light Presbyterians, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, who speak and act the love, compassion and justice of our gracious and inclusive God.
Margaret Humble	In memory of all of my dear one in life eternal	Martha Speer	In memory of Robt & Eileen Hodgson and Leslie Speer
Julianne Keyes	In memory of our mothers, Geraldine Harnden and Anne Donnelly	Cheryl Terpstra	In memory of my mother, Effie Bode In honor of my husband, Gordon, deployed to Iraq
Frank Jenkinson	In memory of Barbara Betaque Simpson, Sarah & Don Calmus, Howard & Elizabeth Keyes		
The Jones Family	In memory of wife Coralinn Jenkinson In honor of love, marriage, and family		
	In celebration of Pastor Tam and the Sunday school crew		

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**MONTHLY CHURCH WORK PARTY ~ IS SPRING HERE YET?!**

Please join us for the monthly all-church clean-up ~ landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday: **Saturday, April 12 9 am—12 pm.** Bring your favorite tools, and join us in maintaining our lovely church!

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**PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

Bellingham faith communities continue the monthly prayer vigils for peace in the Middle East, which were started in December 2000 at the initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and organized nationally by Churches for Middle East Peace.

Participating congregations thereby can incorporate the welfare of the people of the Middle East into their Church life and advocacy.

The next prayer vigil will be at 5:30 pm on

Friday, April 18 at 5:30 pm, at St. James Presbyterian Church. All are welcome!




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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF ST. JAMES**

The last Tuesday of each month, the Presbyterian Women of St. James gather for Bible Study at 10:30 am, and a potluck salad luncheon at 12 noon. Questions, call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504.

**Tuesday, April 29**

Salad luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

Marci Plattner from the Garden Spot Nursery will present the program.

**Rummage Sale:**

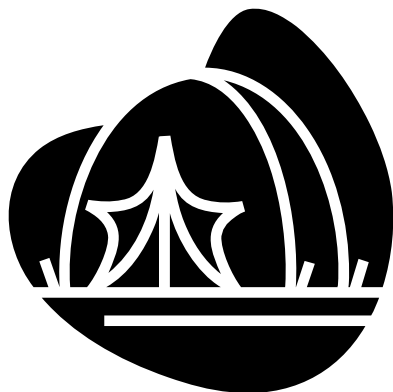
*Due to waning energy levels, there will not be a rummage sale this spring.*

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**PRIME TIMERS**

Prime Timers will meet on April 11th at 12 noon in the Horizon Room. Western Washington University Education Professor Robert Keiper will present a program on “Laughter Is the Best Medicine.”

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**VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL**


Registration for 2008 Vacation Church School will begin on April 20th. This year's program will take place from June 23-27. Questions, please contact Ann Lary.



**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS ~ MARCH 9, 2008** CARLA SHAFER, CLERK

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM with a reading and prayer offered by Jean Seater.

Rev. Erv Roorda, the St. James Committee on Ministry representative from Presbytery and Deacon Tony Richter were introduced.

Bill Read and Jan Resick reported that the Presbytery Mission fair gave great insight into what all churches in the Presbytery are doing and the meeting was efficient.

Tony gave the Deacon's report. 60+ people were at the Parish Breakfast. Another will be scheduled in the fall. Deacons will sell the coffee beans and order the ground coffee they prefer. Look for the sale to begin soon. Jean (who attended the Deacon's meeting) commented on how ready they are to help out with needs. Also, some feel that Deacons and Session are underrepresented at the Special worship services or events and there is a request that they make more of an effort to attend such events.

Sally reported the total fund balance of \$232,524.95. Our invested funds are at \$82/share. The Seeds of Growth campaign has grown to approximately \$ 2300 in gifts and pledges.

Gary gave an update on Holy Week activities. The community-wide Middle East prayer vigil was approved for April 18, 2008. The Worship Committee planning retreat is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2008 10-2 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Improvements were approved for wiring in the Friendly visitor office and CE office. Purchase of one new fire resistant file cabinet and repairs related to others was approved.

Space uses were approved for Girl Scout Troup # 48, the Dorothy Naor presentation on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 9 PM. for the Horizon room and the Sanctuary, the Chuckanut Sandstone Writers poetry reading Saturday, April 12, 2008, and a community-wide UMHE and St. James event with speaker Sami Awad was approved for Wednesday, April 16, 2008. (Parking will be made available at the playground as there is one other large meeting at the same time.)

New Tables have been purchased and are in use. New shelves have been built in the Project Room for Christian Education. The new use fee rate will be effective April 1, 2008.

Future projects are planned: New carpet is planned for two of the offices. Installation of an elevator or stair lift. A deluxe stair lift may work and Jan is doing the research.

Plans were described for Care packages to be sent to 20 St. James' college students. A St. James family newsletter is sent monthly (via e-mail) by Pastor Tam. The mission festival displays were effective. The Lenten Bible Study has gone well with 10-12 attending. Tara is working on a summer camp program and a "lock-in" schedule. Youth Sunday will be April 27, 2008.

Congregational Life activities were reviewed for Holy Week. A Baby Shower is planned for Sunday, May 4, 2008 following worship for David and Renée Meyer. This morning was the first family breakfast and it was wonderful. A stipend was approved for Bobbi Hargleroad to present at the Women's Retreat.

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**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...**

Membership meetings are scheduled for Mondays at 7 PM at the church. Church bulletins need to mention our taped ministry that is available.

Speaker Dorothy Naor will receive a \$50 stipend from the Peacemaking offering, and it was approved to solicit cash or donations for the Interfaith Auction.

Tim Chandonnet, our custodian, has a 90 day review scheduled and several members expressed that he is doing a great a job.

Randy reported that the Growth Plan Task Force is meeting two times a month. Bill Read is now the Chair. Presbytery representatives came and shared information. The Task Force feels that they have good resources, but does not need them to attend the meetings regularly. Randy offered that the task force is addressing what the Session has called them to do, and they are engaged with many aspects. Prior to having a conversation with interested members of the congregation, the Task Force will meet with the Session to be sure that Session is aware of how issues studied and data collected aligns with the task originally assigned. Questions about the scope of work of the Task Force need to be addressed to Session members.

Carla presented information about the United Way of King County Operating Endowment, where the endowment income supports infrastructure and basic operating costs so that annual gifts are spent entirely on meeting the community needs.

Pastor Mary closed the meeting with prayer.

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**EAGLE WINGS DISABILITY MINISTRIES ~ A MINISTRY IN NPSP**

Who was the company around your dinner table on Easter? Luke 14: 13 tells us that “when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, and you will be blessed.” This is the foundation for Eagle Wings disAbility Ministries celebrations. We partner with local churches to serve the relational needs of adults with disabilities in the North Puget Sound area by inviting them out to be honored and celebrated. The people served have no way to repay the hospitality offered. Those who offer hospitality are serving as the hands and feet of Christ, demonstrating to their guests that God loves them and they are valued.

Di you know that in the North Puget Sound area, there are more than 111,000 adults living with disabilities? The number one unmet need for persons with disabilities is caring and ongoing relationships. Eagle Wings addresses this need by showing them that God loves them, and so do we, by building relationships with them.

Eagle Wings is a ministry initiated by Rev. Henk Wapstra in North Puget Sound Presbytery with the presbytery’s encouragement and support. He served as the first Executive Director of Eagle Wings and continues to serve as its volunteer chaplain. Following Henk as director is Kinder Holdway.

Come and learn more about Eagle Wings on Sunday, April 13th, when St. James welcomes guest speaker Kinder Holdway, Executive Director of Eagle Wings, who will sharing a Moment for Mission during worship. Kinder will also be available after the service to answer questions and share how the life of her daughter led her to be called to ministry. For additional information visit [www.eaglewingsministries.org](http://www.eaglewingsministries.org) or contact the Eagle Wings office in Marysville in 360-658-6093.

*(Kinder’s visit is by invitation from the Mission & Social Action committee of St. James.)*



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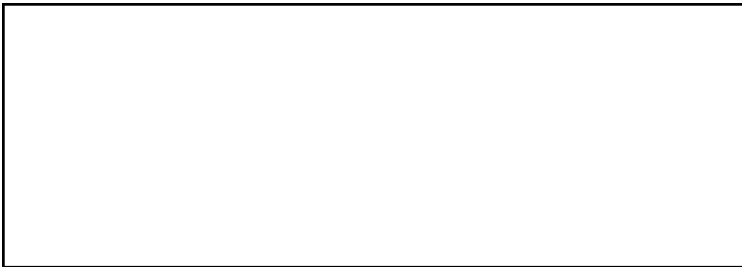
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