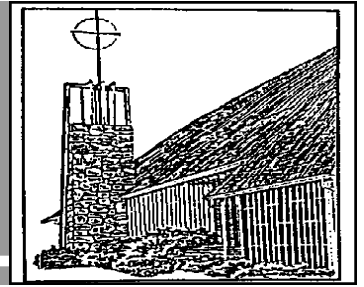


# The Pulse



Place your message here. For maximum impact, use two or three sentences.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Volume 40, Issue 5  
May 2008

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “hospitality”? That was the theme of the recent St. James Women’s Retreat with The Rev. Bobbi Hargleroad. We heard a lot of information that stretched our understanding of hospitality, and definitions of Christian hospitality that proclaim a different type of hospitality than just politely serving refreshments in tea cups. One phrase that stuck with me is this: “Hospitality is when strangers and enemies become friends.”

“When strangers and enemies become friends.” Jesus spent a lot of time sharing food with persons who were the strangers and enemies of the good people in his day, the notorious “tax collectors and sinners.” He shared meals with the good people, too, and challenged them to rethink how they offered hospitality in order to get something from it: “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:13-14). Jesus also shared parables that were set around banquet tables, and chapters 14, 15, and 16 of Luke have a lot to tell us about how to practice our faith, offering hospitality in a manner that allows strangers and enemies to become friends.

Have you ever felt that quality of hospitality? Bobbi allowed us to share in small groups times when we have felt hospitality that drew people together. There was some wonderful sharing. I’ve reflected upon that off and on ever since the retreat, thinking of different times when I have felt that strangers and enemies could become friends.

Randy and I once chaperoned a group of high school students who were on a two-week exchange to a sister city in Japan. I stayed with a delightful and gracious family, and they made me feel like royalty in every way. I could have sworn the grandparents of the home in this multi-generational house were a close carbon copy of my own parents! We didn’t speak much of a common language, and much of our conversation was in bits and pieces of single words culled out of little language dictionaries.

It was not until I left Japan that I began to know more of the story of this wonderful family. There was a Japanese gentleman who traveled with our little group as an interpreter, and my family handed him a long letter to read and translate to me as we drove to the airport. As he read the letter, I heard their deep and unforgettable love for me articulated repeatedly. I was so moved, for in our short time together I had grown to love them and feel as if I had always known them.

But then I heard that my time with them had been a monumental step for them. Apparently something had happened to them during World War II that had soured them on Americans. I was not told what exactly this incident had been, and I suspect their politeness would not allow them to go into detail. I had noticed a large black and white picture of a small girl, perhaps about five years old, prominently displayed on their household shrine. This would be a deceased family member, and the photograph was old. I assumed it had been taken sometime in the 1940s. Was

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**PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...**

she killed in the war?

I was struck, too, that my own father had served on a submarine that patrolled the waters of the Sea of Japan, on a search and destroy mission. The Japanese grandfather, living near that southern coast of Japan, was about the same age as my father. Had they held each other in their mutual gun sights?

A lot of my questions were unanswered. That's okay. I knew the most important thing. This family had taken a leap of faith to host me. This family had some long-standing and unresolved wounds left over from a war in which my father had fought. Without that letter, I would have no idea that there was any difficulty with my presence in that household. The overwhelming hospitality shown to me had brought strangers and enemies to become fast friends. Their letter stated that my presence with them had brought resolution and healing to them.

I wish I could take credit for bringing that measure of healing to them, but I was totally unaware of any issues around my presence. It was their own willingness to become open to me, and to risk reaching out to me with generosity of time and presence that brought their blessing. What a wonderful example of a giver being blessed!

How can you provide a quality of hospitality that reaches out to the stranger and the enemy? Jesus challenges us to do this in so many ways. Just remember, "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you...."

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Mary

**ADULT STUDIES: LET'S GET TO KNOW THE OLD TESTAMENT!**

**Let's Get to Know the Old Testament!** will be held on **Friday, May 9**, beginning at 6:30 with a potluck supper. The study begins at 7 and concludes at 8:30. What's that? You haven't attended this series yet? Well by all means come join us on May 9 in the Fellowship Hall! Children's activities are available as the adults study the next segment of the Old Testament in our yearlong survey of the entire Old Testament. What a surprise to find what is waiting in the Old Testament for you to discover! Come and find out!

Upcoming dates:

- **May 9:** Exilic and Post-exilic Prophets (Isaiah II and III, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Habakkuk, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)



**GREAT NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**RENÉE MEYER, SECRETARY**

**Announcing my arrival! My name is Abraham David Meyer. I made my appearance on Sunday, April 27, 6:10 a.m. My parents are Renee and David Meyer. I was born at University of Washington Hospital in Seattle. I weigh 4 lbs., 8oz.**

**Stay tuned for new date of my baby shower!**



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**TREASURER'S REPORT SALLY ALBERS**
**General fund:**

Contributions from the congregation and building users continued to be generous during April. In fact, each income line item is exceeding last year and our 2008 YTD total income of \$80,767 is 25% ahead of YTD April 2007.

Our expenses, of course, are also running ahead of last year but by 6.6% so we continue to be operating within our income. During April we disbursed \$2,700 in local benevolence as directed by the Mission & Social Action committee. This brings our total for 2008 to \$4,500, nearly half of the \$10,000 budget.

**Named Activities/Designated Giving:**

We forwarded your contributions of \$1930 to Presbytery from the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. The St. James High School Youth raised an extra \$274 in April for their planned summer Mission.

**Endowment Funds:**

Building & Grounds has been making major progress on long-sought improvements to the facilities. Jack Drury has moved forward on major purchases for adding electrical circuits, a fire-resistant filing cabinet, a bicycle rack, and replacing the building siding during April. Bill Read built cabinets for our hand bells at Carolyn's request, charging only the cost of materials. Altogether we have invested an additional \$6871 in April and a total \$25,219 so far this year. We are all benefiting from the foresight of those members of St. James who established our facilities endowment fund decades ago and those who made substantial gifts in their lifetime as well as in their wills.

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**YOUTH NEWS TARA GIDDENS, YOUTH LEADER**
**"Mother's Day"**

As May comes upon us I feel as though my stress level is continuously rising. I thought that spring was suppose to be relaxing, sunny, and warm... so far none of those have really been true!! With all our activities this month there is one person we shouldn't forget... our mothers, ok well maybe two, God and our mothers. My mom is definitely one of my best friends. I talk to her almost every day... ok I'll be honest... not only every day, but at least twice. She has been my rock and my best advisor. You know the saying, "mother knows best..." well apparently that's true. Believe me; I've tested it many times, each ending with me saying.... "Ok maybe I should have listened to her." One of my favorite scriptures in the Bible is in Proverbs 31, Epilogue: The Wife of Noble Character, while I won't quote the whole thing, I will put my favorite part,

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." Proverbs 31:25-30

While I'm not a mother yet, I do try to live by this, it gives me strength when I'm feeling down. It reminds me that being a mother or even a woman is earned, not given. As Simone de Beauvoir once said, "One is not born a woman, one becomes one." It is something we have to work to become, and through God it is something we can all achieve. So this month I ask that we remember all women. Whether she's a great grandmother, on the go, super mom, or future mother, we love them all.

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## “Kral’s Scrawls” – CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THE REV. TAMALYN KRALMAN

### A Few Words of Thanks!

We’ve been receiving such wonderful messages – happy messages from happy parents of happy college students. It’s amazing how we’ve put smiles on so many faces. And, in such a simple way. Cookies, candies, a letter, handmade cards, and gift cards to Starbucks and Target. So, thank you, St. Jamesers, for your generosity of spirit, time, and donations. Thanks to you we were able to send 17 care packages to college students and 1 to someone serving in the military. 18 people were given a message of love. Your love and God’s love.

This project could not have happened without the help of so many of you, but special thank yous must go to Margaret De Maine, Emily Hargleroad, Nancy Richter, Genevieve Roguski, Bev Stewart, Rook & Julia Van Halm, and Scott Wenger, whose extra support made the tiny dream into something amazing.

We also received some special thank yous. Brent Oakley called, thanking the church for our kindness and generosity. He shared his goodies with his roommates (speaking of generosity!) and they wisely added ice cream to the feast. He also liked the Proverb (18:24), which was included in the letter from the church. Rosie Wenger was quite thankful for her box, which arrived just in time for her birthday, a perfect surprise for her, and included a great picture of a goat, compliments of our own Anna Stipe. A little birdie also told us that Sophie Burkland enjoyed her goodies, but that her Papa Bear helped himself to a few of them. (Hmmm. Was that part of the deal?)

And, then, there’s the letter from Keena (see below). Happy people makes for a happy me. How about you?

Peace, Pastor Tam

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear friends at St. James,

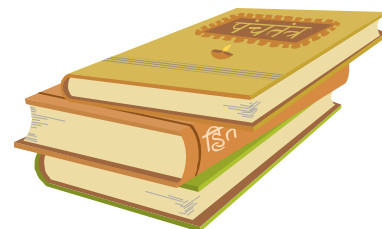
Thank you so much for the care package! It is wonderful to receive mail, and especially to receive packages with goodies in them! Thank you so much. Sincerely, Keena Mullen

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## Check It Out!

St. James Library News

Did you know that one of the world’s foremost Old Testament scholars is right here at St. James? Yes indeed! “And, where is this person?” you ask.



It seems to have been a closely guarded secret but Walter Brueggemann is right here on the shelf in the St. James Library – check it out!

When you enter the narthex through the front door, turn left at the hall, take a left at the end of the hall and you’re there!

**Walter Brueggemann** is William Marcellus McPheeters Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. He continues write and travels widely teaching and preaching. As some of you know, Professor Brueggemann’s book, [An Introduction to the Old Testament](#) is one of the resources used for Pastor Mary’s Old Testament class. He has written many books, including several on preaching, teaching, and prayer.

Two which might be of special interest are [Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth](#), a book of prayers, and [Inscribing the Text](#), Sermons and Prayers.

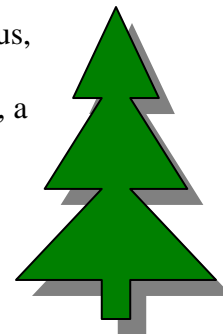
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**An Invitation from the Health Committee:** Sunday, May 18, immediately following worship your Health Committee brings you "Symptom Recognition of Major Disabling Diseases of the Heart, Vascular System and Nerve Endings" by Sharon Kerlin, ARNP, RN. A healthy light lunch will precede her talk both which will be held in Fellowship Hall.

## TALL TIMBER RANCH SUMMER CAMP

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

Register now for a fabulous, life changing, never to be forgotten experience. Yes, a week at church camp will impact you forever.



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

MAY  
WORSHIP  
TOPICS

May 4:  
Communion  
Acts 1:6-14  
John 17:1-11  
“The Church Is Not an Accident!”

May 11:  
Pentecost Sunday  
Mother’s Day  
Numbers 11:24-30  
Acts 2:1-21  
“The Pentecost Problem”

May 18:  
Trinity Sunday  
Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Matthew 28:16-20  
“The Wonder at the Heart of Christianity”

May 25:  
Isaiah 49:8-16  
Matthew 6:24-34  
“Written on the Palm of God’s Hands”

Bike to Church on May 18th!

Bike to Work Day began 51 years ago through the League of American Bicyclists, which declared May as National Bike Month to promote bicycling for personal, environmental and community health and fun. The national event now occurs each year on the third Friday in May, which is “Bike Month.” May 16<sup>th</sup> will be Bellingham and Whatcom County’s 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike to Work & School Day, with “Celebration Stations” at locations throughout Whatcom County. A new addition to Bike Month is “Bike to Church” day on the third Sunday in May – May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The bicycle is the most efficient form of transportation ever invented – better for the environment than any motorized vehicle on the planet. If biking to church isn’t practical for you, please consider walking or sharing the ride to shrink your “carbon footprint”.

**Mark your calendar!**

**Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** Bike to Work & School  
**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** Bike to Church

For more information about Bike Month events see [www.everybodyBIKE.com](http://www.everybodyBIKE.com).



## FROM THE FRIENDLY VISITORS PROGRAM

JANIE PEMBLE

The office and staff of St. James are so warm and welcoming that I often forget that I am actually a guest here—you all have made me feel a part of your Christian family, and I am so grateful. Not only do I love what I do, but working here, in your space, is a truly enjoyable and uplifting experience. Thank you Pastor Mary, Renée, and all the St. James staff and congregation for giving Friendly Visitors, and me, a loving home.

I created a 2007 year-end report of the Friendly Visitors Program for Whatcom County, our major funding agency. As I was making copies for our volunteer training I realized that you too, as a major supporter of our program, should receive a copy of our report. You and the members of St. James share in helping our volunteers reach out to isolated and lonely seniors in Whatcom County. If you have questions or comments about information in the report, please do not hesitate to ask. I’m just around the corner! Blessings and joy, *Janie Pemble*.

*The 2007 year end report is posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway.*

**Sunday schedule**

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

# May

SUN

MON

TUE

W

4

**Communion**  
 12 pm Meyer Baby Shower

5

6 pm Boy Scouts

6

8 am Prayer Group  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 6 pm Girl Scouts  
 6pm Membership Comm.  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

5:30 pm Per  
 6 pm

11

**Mother's Day  
 Pentecost**



12

6 pm Boy Scouts

13

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

3 p.m. S  
 5 pm Mission  
 C  
 6 pm  
 7 pm Whatcor

18

***Bike to Church Day!***  
 12 pm Health presentaaion  
 12 pm Deacons  
 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil, Unitarian  
 7 pm Session

19

6 pm Boy Scouts

20

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

**Presbyter**  
 6 pm

25

*Worship at 10:30 am*  
  
*(Summer schedule begins next week—Worship at 10:00am)*

26

**Memorial Day**  
 5:30 pm Girl Scouts  
 6 pm Boy Scouts

27

8 am Prayer Group  
 10:30 am Presbyterian Women  
 Bible Study  
 12 pm Pres. Women luncheon  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

10 am  
 3 p.m. S  
 6 pm

2008

**Church office**  
 Open Tuesday ~ Friday,  
 9-12, 1-4



733-1325  
 office@saintjamespres.org

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

	1 6 pm SLAA 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm AA	2 1:30 pm Girl Scouts	3 10 am OA
7 Personnel Comm. AA Men	8 6 pm SLAA 6 p.m. Worship Comm. 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm AA	9 12 pm Prime Timers 6:30 pm "Let's Get to Know the Old Testament" Adult study	10 9-12 Church Work Party 10 am OA 
14 Staff Meeting a & Social Action Comm. AA Men m Weaver's Guild	15 6 pm SLAA No Bell Choir tonight! 6:45 p.m. Bldg. & Grounds 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm AA	16 <b><i>Bike to Work &amp; School Day!</i></b>  1:30 pm Girl Scouts	17 10 am OA
21 y @ Shoreline AA Men	22 6 pm SLAA 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm AA	23	24 10 am OA
28 Pulse Crew Staff Meeting AA Men	29 6 pm SLAA 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm AA	30	31 10 am OA

**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**

*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, May 20.....*

We received good news and give thanks that **Gordon Terpstra** is returning from Iraq. Prayers continue for him and his family's upcoming reunion.

Please pray for **Mary Elmslie** and her family at the loss of her husband **Richard** who passed away Tuesday, April 28.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES**



**May Birthdays**  
\* \* \*

- 2 Dillon Griffith
- 2 Jenny Sue LeSchander
- 3 Elizabeth Crandall
- 5 Jacqueline Hellinga
- 8 Karen Morse
- 9 Fred Richardson
- 11 Helen Oliver-Leen
- 12 Janis Harnden Bayless
- 14 Peter van der Veen
- 17 Loren Frafford
- 18 Bob Pace
- 29 Dorothy Brown
- 30 Mary Gloppen

**May Anniversaries**



- 1
- 2
- 3 Denise & Roy Hoffman
- 3 Tony & Nancy Richter
- 12 Dave & Twyla Bader
- 13 Bruce & Marsha Lockhart
- 26 David & Renée Meyer
- 27 Marjorie & Don Thorson

**Friday Night Social**  
**Reformatted!**

Our Friday nights will take on a new look, as the once monthly group will now be shifted to a less structured format. The contact list for previous attendees will be available in the Christian Education office and anyone who would like to coordinate an event is invited to do so. Please contact Pastor Tam for the list and for help planning and advertising any activities to which you would like to invite the members of St. James. Remember, any family friendly activities are welcome, indoors

**Pentecost Offering Boxes**

Pentecost Sunday lands on Mother's Day this year. So, if your youngster brings home an offering box, here are some ideas to help collect this year's offerings. For each person in your home who now has, or has ever had, a mother, collect 50¢ and say, "Thank you, God, for my mom!" Need some other ideas? Since Pentecost is the day in which we remember God's spirit coming down like tongues of flame, look around your house:

- ✦ each match— collect 1¢
- ✦ each candle—collect 10¢
- ✦ each light bulb—collect 25¢
- ✦ each light switch—collect 50¢
- ✦ each fireplace—collect \$1
- ✦ each BBQ—collect \$2

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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

Sunday, May 18, at 5:30 pm, at the Unitarian Fellowship, 1708 I Street, Bellingham. 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, May 27**  
Salad luncheon in the Horizon Room.




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### PRIME TIMERS

- **Prime Timers meet Friday, May 9 at noon.** Guest Dr. Evelyn Ames, Professor Emerita of Health Education, WWU will speak on "The Savvy Consumer of Health Products and Services," how to avoid being ripped off and how to live longer and healthier. The Prime Timers meet at noon in the Fellowship Hall: all are welcome.
- 

### VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

**Vacation Church School** registration has begun. Program dates are Monday, June 23 through Friday, June 27, held at First Christian Church. Children ages 4 through 6th grade are invited to attend. Registration forms are available in the Horizon Room. Cost is \$35 per child. Questions? Website address: [vcsbellingham@comcast.net](mailto:vcsbellingham@comcast.net).

**Volunteers are needed** to help with Vacation Church School. VCS is possible because of the scores of volunteers who serve God and the children of our church communities during this amazing and fun-filled week. Volunteer forms are available in the Horizon room. A volunteer training session will be held Tuesday, June 17, 2008, from 6 to 9 pm



**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS ~ APRIL 13, 2008** CARLA SHAFER, CLERK

Sally Albers offered the opening meditation and prayer. The docket was approved.

Nancy Pace moved and seconded to approve March 9, 2008 minutes after changing the word agenda to minutes. The motion passed.

Growth Planning Task force members Randy Bowers, Matt Hargleroad and Bill Read represented the Task force that includes Chuck Snyder, Pastor Mary and Dorothy Brown. In spring, 2007 the Session asked Randy, Carla and Dale to nominate task force members. They were approved by the Session, and the group was asked to identify what issues affect the future of St. James with regard to facilities and program.

The committee met with Executive Presbyterian, Corey Schlosser-Hall; reviewed growth plans of other churches; discussed our own thoughts on church growth and a sense of what a plan of action could be. They met with resource people who included the Interim Synod Executive and an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Bellingham.

They have begun to look at demographics of the church, of Bellingham/Whatcom County and where growth is occurring. Bill noted that Whatcom County is growing faster than the state. The population is growing older. Growth rates: University South Hill 6%, Sudden Valley 60%. Increases vary but most growth is happening outside the city. According to PCUSA, people ages 21-34, make up 18-21% of the Northwest. The task force senses a need to attract a broader range of people.

Randy presented their Plan of Action. The task force has these concerns: to accentuate strengths with an eye toward the future, remain viable and engaging within the community that is changing, and to help with reevaluating and looking forward.

Congregational demographics are being researched. The plan is to have a map of our members' homes. Sally has a list of church demographics for the last ten years which she will make available.

They are ½ way through the research; next phase – in-person research with members of the congregation: sit down luncheon with congregation to engage in casual conversation on specific questions. Maybe a formal survey of questions and opportunity to talk to specific households to learn what's going on in the community at the neighborhood level. Throughout the summer assess data collected and present a report to the Session in the Fall. The survey and conversations will focus on growing the church, improving facilities and improving communications. Session will review the survey before it is given to the congregation. Once we know our community and how it is changing, the church will be better able to lead the community to God's call.

The Task force is here to put together proposals/recommendations to the Session who will decide what to do with it. The Task force is not changing the church, but just giving some insight and providing information and tools.

Bill reported that the facilities plan from 1998 has been updated and is about 80% completed.

The Task Force recommended that the Mission Statement for St. James, which is currently lengthy and needs to be condensed, be given to a second group to work on. "

Wendy Crandall moved and seconded to rename the task force "Vision 2020." The motion passed. April 22, 2008 at 7 PM is the next meeting of Vision 2020.

Gary Culbertson moved and it was seconded that Session appoint a mission statement task force. The motion passed.

Bill moved and it was seconded to open the floor to Shirley Drury, Erv Roorda and Corey Schlosser-Hall. The motion passed.

Roll and correspondence were explained and circulated. A membership change was considered. It was moved and seconded to delete Sue Jampsa from the inactive membership roll. Mail to her has been returned, and her phone number is disconnected. The motion passed.

Pastor Mary shared that Dr. Diana Butler Bass will be speaking July 11, 2008 at Vancouver School of Theology and invited members to consider attending.

Shirley Drury reported that the Baby Shower for Renee and David has been planned and gifts were discussed. The next event is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jean and Frank Brown on June 14, 2008. Deacons are building their parish service and the contact information was discussed.

Sally Albers covered the financial statements. General and loose offerings are improving, so if the Seeds of Growth fund (at \$5,000) does not meet its goal, it is likely the expenses will still be covered. Carla moved and it was seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Sally moved approval of the cost overrun in the CE curriculum purchases of \$40. The motion passed.

Sally moved to reimburse \$125.82 from Facilities for cabinets for hand bells already built by Bill Read. The motion passed.

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**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...**

Insurance has been renewed for the year at 2% more than last year, with 4% more value on our building.

Personnel: A long and good conversation was held with Presbytery's liaison to St. James, The Rev. Erv Roorda and Presbytery Executive Corey Schlosser-Hall. Pastor Mary had a vacation day on March 25, 2008. Pastor Tam's vacation is planned for July 15-21, 2008. The 90 day review for custodian Tim Chandonnet has been completed and it was very satisfactory.

Worship: Gary Culbertson reported that Holy Week went well. Maundy Thursday might have one less table. Prayer vigil is April 18.

Building & Grounds Committee: JackDrury moved that up to \$16,000 be approved for Bakerview construction to install new siding on all south facing exterior walls of the church building per scope of work document. The motion passed.

Building use requests: Facilities request for Overeaters Anonymous with the new use reimbursement of \$50/month for multiple meetings per month and meeting in the Scout room. The motion passed.

Facilities request for Presbyterian Women of North Puget Sound Presbytery for Oct. 2, 2008. The motion passed. The Session is delighted that St. James has been asked to host the Fall Gathering of PW of NPSP.

Facilities request May 16, 2008 for piano recital in sanctuary and use of Horizon room. The motion passed.

Facilities request by WWU for a recital May 10, 2008, w/ use of the piano and sanctuary. The motion passed.

Approve Tuesdays in the Scout room Alanon group request. The motion passed.

Jack moved to approve \$68.00 for costs related to make a new flowerbed by the church youth and paid for from interest income. The motion passed

We discussed chair lifts versus elevators to provide accessibility within our building, and Jack will investigate it further to find the best solution, not the most expedient. Grounds clean-up was Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Christian Education: Rich Stipe reviewed youth events. Things are going well with them.

Nancy Pace reported for the Congregational Life Committee. Holy Week activities went well. Breakfasts are going well. The Women's Retreat sign-up is happening. The shower plans for the David and Renee are being made. Nancy moved approval for Women's retreat communion served by the Reverend Roberta (Bobbi) Hargleroad. The motion passed.

Randy Bowers reported that the Membership Committee met and has made positive progress on advertising, pew cards and a fall directory.

Mission and Social Action – Bill Summers reported that the Iraqi children's kits are in Syria. It was moved and seconded that St. James will designate one Sunday a month to be Bike to Church starting May 18, 2008. The motion passed. The need for a bike rack was discussed.

Local mission disbursements were approved: Interfaith coalition \$750, Tierra Nueva \$750, UMHE/WWU \$250, Food Bank \$250, Lighthouse Mission \$100, Salvation Army \$100, Habitat for Humanity \$100

Pastoral report: March 1 and April 6, 2008, Communion was served and Pastor Mary officiated. Carla moved and it was seconded that Session meet May 18, 2008 and June 29, 2008, with no meeting in July. The motion passed.

Pastor Mary closed the meeting with prayer.

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**Emerging Spirit: A conversation on Future Directions of the Mainline Church.** July 11—12. Dr. Diana Butler Bass, author of the book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, will reflect on foundation-shaking challenges and where emerging forms of Christian practice might take us. Sponsored by Vancouver School of Theology and the Emerging Spirit campaign of the United Church of Canada.

**For more information and to register, visit [www.emerging spirit.ca](http://www.emerging spirit.ca)**



Thanks to the  
Pulse Mailing  
Crew

Maverette Butler  
Margaret deMaine  
Mary Elmslie  
Dorothy Herrmann  
Phyllis Jones  
Mel Reasoner

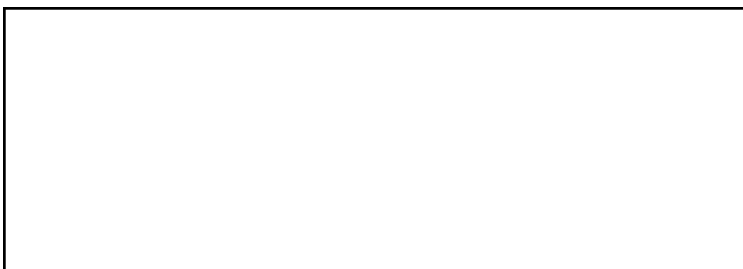
Deadline for the June issue:  
May 20

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**The 8th Annual Dine Out for Maple Alley Inn** will be Tuesday, May 6. "Dine Out" is an all-day event, sponsored by the Opportunity Council, when all are encouraged to Dine Out for breakfast, lunch or dinner, and participating restaurant will donate a portion of sales (usually 20%) to Maple Alley Inn, a program that provides hot, nutritious meals for people in need. Last year Dine Out raised over \$20,000 for Maple Alley Inn and provided nearly half of the funds raised for Maple Alley Inn for the whole year. Please see the bulletin board for participating restaurants and more information. Also, check out <[www.oppco.org/dineout](http://www.oppco.org/dineout)>



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