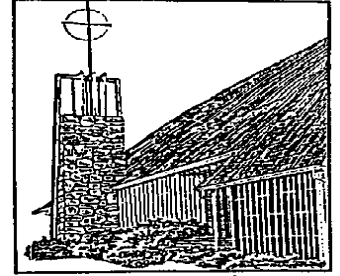


The Pulse



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Volume 40, Issue 6
June 2008

Just recently I was asked to participate in a conference call conversation with about a dozen Presbyterians from around the nation, along with Cliff Kirkpatrick, the Stated Clerk of our denomination, and Linda Valentine, the Executive Director of the General Assembly Council. Our topic had to do with spiritual renewal and revitalization in the Presbyterian Church, USA. The General Assembly, meeting in the last half of June, will use as its theme that wonderful phrase from Micah 6:8, “What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” The conference call participants were to reflect upon that theme as we shared ways we see the Holy Spirit bringing renewal and revitalization in the far corners of the Presbyterian Church, USA.

It was a fascinating conversation! People reflected far and wide about the concerns over shrinking membership in our denomination, but also shared examples of places where the Holy Spirit is bringing renewed ministry in our Church. I believe you all have heard me speak of how Palestinian Christians are my role models for faith in our day and age. I shared that during the conference call. Christians in Palestine are steadfast in their faith, acknowledging that they will probably not live to see justice and peace in their land in their lifetime, but nevertheless they know that God hears their cries and sees their suffering, and so they persist in their faith. They hold on to pure faith, knowing that their hope is in their Christian belief, and that’s about the only place they can find hope. They persist in being a light to the world around them, and they celebrate their identity as a different people. They teach non-violence to their children and youth, instructing them to resist violence in the face of the humiliation and restriction of checkpoints and frequent ID checks. They are a minority as Christians among an occupied people, and they find their difference in being a hopeful and peace-filled people, seeing their call of discipleship to Christ as a call to be a different people, loving enemies and working to bring kindness to their communities.

A call to be a different people is to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. Wherever that is the core identity of a faith community, the Holy Spirit is at work. This observation was confirmed repeatedly in my conference call. The question for North American Christians is, what is our core identity? How do we live out our discipleship to Jesus Christ? How are we different from other social groups around us? What takes the most energy in our life together as Christians? Is it working to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God?

May the glory of the Lord endure forever. Psalm 104

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

Sometimes a congregation can fall into a big whoopy-do (I'm honestly not sure how to spell that!) over whether or not to allow coffee cups in the sanctuary, or where to store candles. Feelings get hurt, sides are taken, and turf wars flare. Now, think about it. If something like this takes all the angst of a faith community, what does this say about its call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God? How does this set the Church apart as a light to the nations?

Well, it doesn't. Our national Church leadership is seeing that congregations thrive when they are serious about becoming a different people in their setting, a people who take the call of God seriously. Secondary things are kept to a secondary level. Matters pertaining to the work for justice, to the nurture of compassion and kindness, and to growing closer in relationship to and understanding of our Holy Creator God are those places in which the Holy Spirit thrives in our Churches.

How can you as an individual reflect the light of Christ to the world around you? How can the Holy Spirit lead our congregation to forge its identity as a community of disciples of Jesus Christ? How do we make a difference in Whatcom County? What exactly is our core identity? How can we together do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God?

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary

**NOTES FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR CAROLYN MULLEN**

Once again I'm searching for volunteers to provide Special Music for our summer worship services. All musicians are welcome regardless of age, instrument, or experience! PLEASE call me @ 595-0934 to reserve your preferred Sunday for performance. I can arrange for an accompanist if needed. Thank you.

What's your favorite Hymn?

Keep this question in mind as we prepare to have at least one "hymn-sing" service this summer at St. James. Watch for an announcement in the bulletin and your chance to register your favorite hymn. You can include comments about your favorite, or volunteer to share comments just before we sing your hymn during the worship service. Keep thinking, and as, always, keep singing!

Many thanks to our singers and ringers for their musical talents shared with us this past year!

Chancel Choir Members

Sopranos: Susan Burkland, Julie Keyes, Jenny Sue LeShander, Cheryl McCormack & Carla Shafer

Altos: Ann Culbertson, Ann Lary, Pat Nelson, Nancy Pace & Jan Resick

Tenors: Nancy Hamilton, Bruce Kraig & Dave Nelson

Basses: John Dobbie, Bob Harnden, Craig Keyes, Rex Lary & Earl VanDerWerff

Kirsten Rutschman: organist / pianist

Bell Choir 2007/ 2008

Sophie Burkland, Robin Crandall, Lizzie Crandall, Liam DeWilde, Jody DeWilde, Parker DeWilde, Brian Hoffman, Michael Hoffman, Jenny Sue LeShander, Keena Mullen, Zach Mullen

YOUTH NEWS TARA GIDDENS, YOUTH LEADER

What makes a “good” father?

Tara Giddens

What’s a good father? Books, therapists, religions, cultures each answer this in a different way. A good father is sensitive, a good father is strict, a good father is the rock of the family... and so on. This list will never stop. So how do we spot a good father? Is it that he’s always at his kids sport events, is it that he brings in a good income? Who knows, each family has their own definition, their own version of what is a good father. So all I can do, as a daughter who maybe needed her father around a little more than he thought, is try and explain what I think makes a good father, and hope that it might help other dads out there.

I never grew up thinking that my father was the head of the house, but more that both my parents were. However my mom somehow got the tough job of almost always having to set the rules and punish us when we were bad while my dad focused on being our friend. I was kid, and believe you me, I had enough friends I needed a father. I think the biggest problem is that my dad has never stopped trying to be my friend, which is fine, except when I need him to be a father. The friendship comes with time and trust not money and fancy vacations. A good father knows this.

My dad left my brothers and I when we were teenagers, he thought we were done being raised. Even now we aren’t. Each experience for us is new, each part of our lives comes with questions upon questions and we need parents who have gone through it to help, even if they haven’t had the exact same experience they may still have advice that can relate. My mom had to parent three teenagers through high school, you try telling her we were done being raised. A good father knows this.

My dad would pick and choose when he would come see us. He moved four hours away and would often make a trip all the way to our town to watch my brothers play football or even basketball, and even sometimes to see me play volleyball. Yet when I switched to be a cheerleader he could only find the time on senior nights to come watch, and couldn’t make it to my senior prom for the father/daughter dance. He was just too busy. I told him it was ok and not to worry about it, no big deal. He didn’t hear the crying once the phone was hung up. Things that might seem silly or insignificant to you might be extremely important to us. A good father knows this.

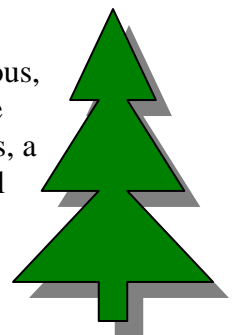
I don’t want to completely bash my father. I love him very much, and I do have a lot of very fond memories with him. He is the first man I truly loved and he will always have a piece of my heart. I know that he truly loves me and my brothers and has tried to be the best dad he could, but he has also made a lot of mistakes. While making mistakes is ok and defiantly going to happen. The hard part, the fighting through those mistakes and growing together, is what makes all the difference.

Now I know that there are men out there doing amazing jobs as fathers, and I don’t want to take anything away from them. In fact I would love to thank each and every one of them for being so amazing and say keep up the good work! In the bible we find many examples of good fathers from Jairus who was a synagogue ruler and still searched out Jesus to save his daughter, to Joseph who loved and protected a son that wasn’t even his own. Fathers are a vital part of the family and they should not be overlooked or given a bad rep. It is important that we cherish these good men and remember them on Father’s Day this month. A good daughter knows this. ;)

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.

Kral's Scrawls - A Wonderful Weekend

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THE REV. TAMALYN KRALMAN

My husband and I just attended the Regional Assembly for our denomination. Now, if you never go to big church events, you need to start. I heard sermons that inspired and challenged me. I saw old friends and made new ones. My spirit was lifted, my mind was expanded, and I was so happy to be there. Until the Saturday night worship service. As I walked toward the sanctuary, a friend stopped me dead in my tracks and said, "Do you have a problem with clowns?"

DO I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH CLOWNS? Oh, boy. To say I have a problem with clowns is a MAJOR understatement. And thus began my downhill slide into hell. Oh, yes. H * E * double hockey sticks. Because that was the worst worship service I have ever experienced in my life. Not only did it feature two face painted demons from the dark side, um, I mean clowns, it was a perfect example of emotional manipulation from beginning to end.

My denomination is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Explanation in a nutshell: Two of our founders were Presbyterians. WE DON'T LIKE EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION! We're more like Dragnet worshippers. Just the facts, ma'am. Sure, we get emotional. But, we want our feelings to be our own. Not manufactured by someone else.

But, smack dab in the middle of that horrendous experience, was an absolutely amazing sermon by Ana Goble-dale, one of our most well respected and well know pastor/missionaries. Ana's words, the sharing of communion, and the steadfast presence of my husband at my side (even when one of those evil fiends grabbed my hand and wouldn't let go) saved the day for me.

Sunday dawned beautifully, bringing with it a great Sunday School class, meaningful worship, a good sermon by an old friend, more communion (we Disciples like our communion), and a gazillion hugs. And I was reminded, yet again, that our days are never perfect. Into each and every wonderful moment, at least a hint of something dark may enter. It may come in the form of something that shakes us to the core. It may come in the form of something that just really gives us the willies. However it arrives, reach out for that which gives you strength and brings back the light. The hand to hold. The sermon to inspire. The book to challenge. The sense of humor to help you survive. The God who is always there.

Peace,
Pastor Tam



Teacher & Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 8th at 10:00a.m.



St. James Teachers

Alice Beaty, Patti Cromarty, Gary Culbertson, Margaret deMaine, Tara Giddens, Emily Hargleroad, Dorothy Herrmann, Faye Hill, Pastor Tamalyn Kralman, Eva Landis, Linda Landis, Margaret Landis, Ann Lary, Aundrea McBride, Marilyn Madden, Bob Monahan, Nancy Richter, Pastor Mary Robinson-Mohr, Carla Shafer, Elizabeth Snyder, Bev Stewart, Karen Summers, Peter van der Veen, Peg Wilke

Teaching Assistants

Akiko Anderson, Allison Crandall, Wendy Crandall, Mark Danielson, & Chuck Snyder

2008 Graduates

Sehome High School:

Allison Crandall and Laura Crandall

University of British Columbia:

Vanessa Hellinga

Central Washington University:

Justin James Engels

Come join us as we honour our teachers and graduates.

TREASURER'S REPORT SALLY ALBERS

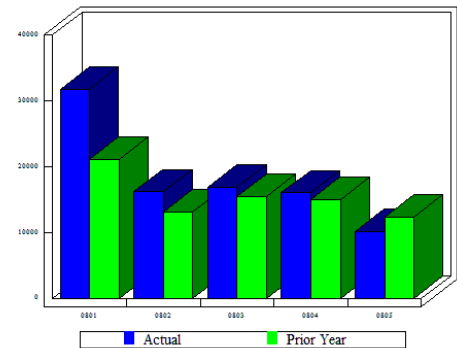
Contribution Statements through April were mailed out in May for those who have been supporting St James Presbyterian Church and its missions financially. If you did not receive a statement that you were expecting OR received one with errors or omissions, please let me know. I appreciate any opportunity to correct my mistakes.

Thus far in May (as I write there is still one Sunday to go), our general fund income is continuing to hold a healthy surplus over actual expenses year-to-date. As we head into the summer months our income tends to decline, but so do certain big expenses such as heating and electricity. With a current positive balance in the general fund of \$6,777 we are well ahead of May last year.

We are all blessed by your generosity. The Mission and Social Action Committee is on track to pay out \$10,000 in local benevolence this year, as well as another \$5,000 to PC(USA) mission at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly level and our missionary, Doug Dicks with \$250. Our staff and vendors are paid promptly and appropriately.

It is truly inspiring to be your treasurer!

Income by Month 0801 - 0805



THE HUMAN RACE SATURDAY JUNE 14

As in previous years, St. James members are invited to walk in the fund-raising for United Ministries in Higher Education at WWU (UMHE/WWU), and support those who volunteer to do the walking.

UMHE/WWU sponsors and co-sponsors speakers on campus on topics related to "Christian faith, science and society". Most recently, it organized the presentations by Sami Awad, an American-Palestinian Christian, on campus and at St. James on non-violent resistance in the occupied Palestinian areas.

The Human race is organized by the Whatcom Volunteer Center, starting at the Maritime Heritage Park. Packages for volunteer walkers with sign-up sheets for sponsors of the walkers will be available in the horizon room after the service on Sundays.

Check It Out! St. James Library News

One of the treasures you can find in our library is a series of small, thin volumes called FACETS – Brief, brilliant treatments of vital aspects of faith and life, published by Fortress Press. Though these books are small, they are packed with thought provoking ideas to contemplate. A few of the titles are:

Households and Holiness: The Religious Culture of Israelite Women

by Carol Meyers,

Religion and Empire: People, Power, and the Life of the Spirit

by Richard A. Horsley,

The Horrors We Bless: Rethinking the Just-War Legacy

by Daniel C. Maguire;

Who Is Christ for Us? by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

And – there are other titles in the series. Check it out!



JUNE WORSHIP TOPICS

Worship begins at 10am!

June 1:

Communion

Psalm 46

Matthew 7:21-29

"Walking – Not Talking – the Walk"

June 8:

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Genesis 12:1-9

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

"Going Boldly Where No One Has Gone Before"

June 15:

Happy Father's Day!

Genesis 18:1-15

Matthew 9:35-10:15

"Wanted: A Few Good Shepherds!"

June 22:

Genesis 21:8-21

Matthew 10:24-39

"Letting Go of Fear"

June 29:

Bread for the World Offering of Letters

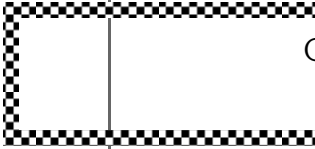
Genesis 22:1-14

Matthew 10:40-42

"Giving Gifts to God"

June

May the glory of the Lord

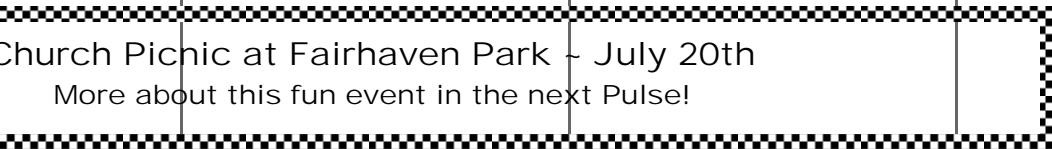

Sun	Mon	Tue	We
<p>1</p> <p>Communion Sunday 9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:00am Worship 11:30am Dinner for Damascus 7pm AA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6pm Boy Scouts Parent Meeting 6pm Boy Scouts Troop 7</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8am Prayer Group 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm Washington Gender Alliance</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2:30pm 6pm AA 5:30pm Person</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:00am Worship <i>Graduate Recognition Sunday</i> 12pm Deacons 7pm AA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6pm Boy Scouts Troop 7</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8am Prayer Group 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm Washington Gender Alliance</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6pm AA 7pm Allegra Con 7pm Whatcom V</p>
<p>15</p> <p><i>Father's Day</i> 9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:00am Worship 7pm AA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6pm Boy Scouts Troop 7</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8am Prayer Group 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm Washington Gender Alliance <i>Pulse Deadline July/August</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>2pm S 5:30pm Prayer V East Peace a Episco 6pm AA</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:00am Worship 7pm AA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts Troop 230</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8am Prayer Group 10:30am Pres. Women Bible Study & Luncheon 5pm Stewardship Comm. 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am Puls 6pm AA</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:00am Worship <i>Bread of the World Offering</i> 1-5pm, 7pm Session</p>	<p>30</p>		

St. James Presbyterian Church

910 14th Street
 Bellingham, Washington 98225

2008

endure forever. Psalm 104

	Thu	Fri	Sat
Staff Men Rel Committee	5 12pm FV 6pm SLAA Group 6:30pm Bells & Pizza Party 7:30pm AA Fairhaven Group	6 1:30pm Girl Scouts Daisy Troop	7 10am—2pm Worship Comm. Re- treat 10am OA
Men Concert Rehearsal Weaver's Guild	12 6pm SLAA Group 7:30pm AA Fairhaven Group <i>No music rehearsals until September</i>	13 12pm Prime Timers (Mary Hawk on Mental Health)	14 9am Church Work Party 10am OA 2pm Frank & Jean Brown's 70th Wedding Anniversary Party 5pm Allegra Concert
Staff Vigil for Middle St. Paul's Hospital Men	19 6pm SLAA Group 7:30pm AA Fairhaven Group	20	21 10am OA
Men Crew	26 6pm SLAA Group 6:30pm Bells 6:30pm Building & Grounds 7:30pm AA Fairhaven Group	27 6pm Friday Night Social	28 10am OA
 <p>Church Picnic at Fairhaven Park ~ July 20th More about this fun event in the next Pulse!</p> 			

Church office
Open Tuesday ~ Friday,
9am-12pm, 1pm-3pm
733-1325
office@saintjamespres.org

**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.....

The bravest battle that was ever fought-
shall I tell you when and where on the maps of the world you will find it not.
It was fought by the mothers of men.
-John Humble
(From a Mother's Day sermon when he was a boy.)

It was a pleasure to welcome the New Baby!
When Renee Meyer returned from the hospital, after giving birth to Abraham David, some members of Deacons Parish provided the Meyer family with meals. Those who helped with this service were:
Craig & Julie Keyes
Gale & Gretchen Pfueller
Tim & Wendy Crandall
John & Marion Dobbie
Bob & Barbara Harnden

Thank you, your support was appreciated!
Peg Wilke

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June Birthdays

- 1 George Lake
- 1 Alice Beaty
- 3 Ted Pritchett
- 5 Barbara Harnden
- 5 Bob Harnden
- 5 Kanai Callow
- 9 Jane Botsford
- 10 Terri Inge
- 11 Margaret Miller
- 11 Margorie Thorson
- 16 Christopher Snyder
- 20 Bev Stewart
- 22 Trent Eason
- 23 Bob Smith
- 25 Emily Hargleroad
- 27 John Aubert
- 27 Jeff Haggen
- 28 Mary Hawk
- 28 Jack Drury

June Anniversaries

- 1 Colleen & Ken Reimers
- 3 John & Bea Aubert
- 4 Craig & Julie Keyes
- 6 Ted & Bernice Pritchett
- 12 Bob & Madeleine Smith
- 15 Peter & Aundrea McBride
- 16 Bob & Barbara Harnden
- 16 Bob & Marilyn Monahan
- 17 Mark & Alice Beaty
- 17 Tass & Les Galley
- 18 Frank & Gene Brown
- 19 Walt & Judy Bayless
- 19 Dick & Virginia Green
- 19 Gary & Ann Culbertson
- 20 Bill & Karen Summers
- 21 Phil & Phyllis Jones
- 22 Jim & Betsy Freeman
- 22 Gordon & Cheryl Terpstra
- 25 Bob & Nancy Pace
- 28 Rook & Julie Van Halm
- 29 Randy & Mary
Robinson-Mohr
- 30 Claude & Faye Hill

*Invitation to the Congregation
to Attend an Open House
In Honor of
Frank and Gene Brown's
70th Wedding Anniversary*

Frank and Gene met on a blind date in 1936 after Choir Practice here at St. James Presbyterian.
Join us in celebration of this joyous event.



MONTHLY CHURCH WORK PARTY ~ IS SPRING HERE YET?!

Please join us for the monthly all-church clean-up ~ landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday on
Saturday, June 14 from 9am—12pm.
 Bring your favorite tools, and join us in maintaining our lovely church!

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
 Wednesday, June 18, at 5:30 pm, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bellingham.
 All are welcome!



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, June 24
 Salad luncheon in the Horizon Room.

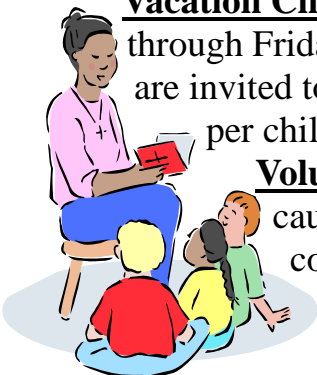
PRIME TIMERS

Prime Timers meet Friday, noon, June 13th The noon meeting of the Prime Timers will feature a presentation, "Strategies for Maintaining Good Mental Health" by one of our own, Mary Hawk, BS MS, Affiliate Faculty, Health Education, WWU. All are invited for her talk and for lunch. Questions, call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504.

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.

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 FOR MAY 18, 2008 CARLA SHAFER, CLERK

Bill Read and Randy Bowers were elected to serve as Presbytery Commissioners on May 21, 2008 in Shoreline, WA. The e-mail motion on the bike rack was recorded in the minutes and the Necrology report of deceased Elders and Deacons for 2007 was approved for Presbytery. Sharon Schayes reported from the Deacons that the Summer picnic will be July 20th. Their next meeting will be June 8th. It was noted with general good will and disappointment that Joe and Betty Picard are moving to Colorado very soon to be with their families. We wish them journeys mercies.

Income has been good, and the church budget is strong. Endowment earnings are down, in line with recent national trends. Rich Stipe and Gary Culbertson will serve on Stewardship Comm. A luncheon was approved to provide for the local needs and the children's ministries at the Church of Damascus. It will be June 1st after church. We will participate in the Human Race on behalf of UMHE in June and the Crop Walk in September. An offering of letters in support of Bread for the World will be collected at church on June 29th. Blanket Sunday will be 10/26/08.

Natasha Orme is our interim secretary on a 90-day temporary contract. The position will be advertised. Pastor Tam will take Continuing Education leave on September 8th and 9th. All staff will receive their one year evaluation during the next several weeks. \$1400 was approved for a consultant who will meet with Session members in June. On Sunday, June 1, 2008 worship will begin at 10 AM. Graduates will be recognized on June 8, and June 15th is father's day recognition. The Worship planning a retreat is on June 7th and Gary Culbertson needs RSVs from everyone who plans to attend so he will know how many lunches to provide. Everyone is welcome.

The Fairhaven AA group was approved to use the Fellowship Hall or the Scout Room on Thursdays and Saturdays. Janet Oakley, Carla Shafer and Pastor Tam are considering ways to offer a Golden Age group who would meet to share stories of their lives and faith journey, which would be written and compiled. The next adult study class could be either a study of the New Testament and/or an orientation for travel to Israel and Palestine.

The Baby Shower for Abraham Meyer and his parents, Renee and David will be at noon after worship on May 25, 2008. The 70th wedding anniversary open house for Frank and Gene Brown is June 14th. People who have cakes and service to offer for the reception should contact Nancy Pace. The family breakfasts have been great. The women's retreat went very well.

The web page: www.saintjamespres.org had a Frequently Asked Questions section for people who might like to come and worship with us. We are considering a new form for visitor sign-in sheets and Jan Resick offered to help put up entry banners.

The Planning Task Force work was tabled. The group will provide a report on their research. Steps were adopted for the Session to draft a new St. James Mission Statement which will be considered by the congregation in September. Gary Culbertson, Jan Resick, Randy Bowers, Rich Stipe and Carla Shafer, plus two members will serve on the committee.

Pastor Mary reported that Communion was served on May 4, 2008. A Graveside service was held May 11, 2008 for Rose Kathryn "Kate" Blythe (7/8/15-5/2/08). A Memorial Service at St. James was held on 5/17/08 for Richard G. "Dick" Elmslie (12/27/27-429/08). Our prayers are with both families as they deal with these transitions.

2008 PRESBYTERIAN PEACE CONFERENCE

"Sowing mustard seeds; working for God's Justice-confronting poverty" on July 15-19; Chapman University, Orange, CA. Details of the conference are posted at www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/conference/2008.htm. Keynote speakers: Anuradha Mittal, The Oakland Institute; Roberto Jordan, Reformed Churches in Argentina; Lisa Schirch, Professor of Peacebuilding, Eastern Mennonite University.

The conference includes worship, music, group activities for all ages.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Myanmar/Burma Response Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is PC(USA) responding to the disaster in Myanmar?

PC(USA), through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, is working in partnership with [Action by Churches Together](#) (ACT) and other ecumenical partners to meet the immediate needs of cyclone survivors. Action by Churches Together (ACT) is an international alliance of approximately 175 church-based relief organizations. ACT members' strong local roots enable the alliance to provide locally based knowledge, analysis and understanding of emergencies and disasters. PDA is an ACT member with full access for participation and information related to disaster responses. ACT member representatives have been assessing the impact on the ground with local organizations. Initial reports indicate that the devastation is overwhelming, with little assistance having been delivered to communities. The most urgent needs are food, water, medicine and shelter.

2. What has been accomplished so far?

PDA's direct assistance thus far has been to provide financial support to help our partners purchase critical goods and supplies. We know that financial support is crucial at this point so that our partners can secure and distribute emergency assistance. PDA has committed \$100,000 from [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) and designated funds towards the response, half of which has already been sent. Partners in Myanmar are already distributing food, clean water and emergency shelter materials to survivors in the affected areas.

3. Can U.S. funds be sent to Myanmar?

[Church World Service](#), a co-member with PDA of ACT, has been appropriately licensed by the U.S. government to provide financial aid in Myanmar. Myanmar also still has open land-trade routes with Thailand and India that allow for the importation of relief supplies. In addition, the CWS Asia Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok is coordinating the response of ACT.

4. How do you know that aid is getting through?

Based on our long-time relationship with ACT, we are confident that our partners are reaching people in the affected areas and will effectively distribute resources to those who need it most. ACT members have a long history of work within Myanmar and their relationships with local organizations are proving critical to our humanitarian response. Because our partners live and work in the affected communities, they were able to respond immediately to the disaster. Due to security sensitivities, we are unable to publicly provide the names of our partners.

5. Has PDA been able to communicate with anyone in Myanmar?

Despite increasing access and communication challenges, the ACT Coordinating Office is in regular contact with our rapid support team along with ACT members, which have a presence on the ground. An ACT member from the region was able to obtain a visa and arrived in the country on Thursday, May 8. He has been helping with the coordination and facilitation of the relief efforts.

6. What kind of accountability system do you have?

Since we have an established relationship with our local church partner in Myanmar, we have mechanisms for planning, reporting and accounting.

7. How can I help?

You can help Cyclone Nargis disaster survivors: Pray. Pray for all those whose lives have been affected directly and indirectly by the cyclone, and for those working with them toward recovery.

Give through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Your generous contributions will help the PC(USA) work through PDA to be a witness to Christ's healing love. Through this ministry of compassion and relief, donations will help meet people's physical needs and provide emotional and spiritual care to survivors and those who care for them.

Donations to DR000145 (Disaster Response – Myanmar) can be made [online by credit card](#) or by calling PresbyTel at (800) 872-3283. Checks may be sent directly to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Church gifts may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Church Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643678, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3678 or you can give through your congregation's normal giving channels.

Stay informed through reading regular Web updates on this unfolding response or by calling PresbyTel at (800) 872-3283.

8. Do you have any resources my church can use?

[Various downloadable resources](#) including litanies, prayers and a hymn are available on the PDA Web site. The appeal that was mailed to all PC(USA) congregations and a bulletin insert are also available.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD



This faith-based organization promotes policies to reduce hunger and poverty at home and abroad. One strategy is to write legislators to adopt legislation to reduce hunger and poverty. The Session agreed to have an "**offering of letters**" on **Sunday, June 29**. Sample letters on suggested themes will be included with the bulletin on Sunday June 22; we are encouraged to write a letter at home, addressed to Congressman Larsen and/or senators Murray and Cantwell, to be put in the offering plate on June 29th.

Thanks to the
Pulse Mailing
Crew

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

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Summer Sunday Schedule
9am Adult Class
9-10am Family Breakfast
Sunday Worship 10:00am

Summer Office Hours
(Beginning July 1st)
Tuesday - Thursday
9am-12pm, 1pm-4pm

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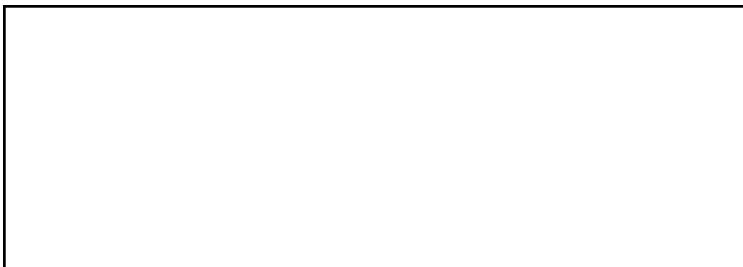
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Ministers: The Congregation
Director of Educational Ministries:
The Rev. Tamalyn Kralman
Youth Leader: Tara Giddens
Music Director: Carolyn Mullen
Organist / Pianist: Kirsten Rutschman

Pastor: The Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr
Secretary: Natasha Orme
Treasurer: Sally Albers
Custodian: Tim Chandonnet

Mission: New Earth / Tierra Nueva, Bob & Gracie Ekblad
PC (USA) Regional Liaison to Jordan, Israel & Palestine: Doug Dicks

*Deadline for
the July/August
issue
June 17th*



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