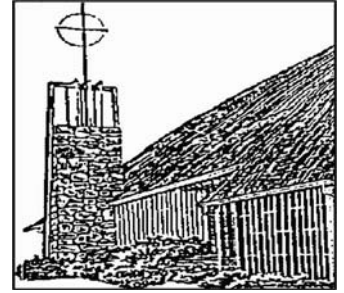


The Pulse



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JERRY POOLE

Volume 41
Issue 1
January 2009

Happy New Year!

2009 promises to be a very challenging year for all of us. We face economic problems such that many of us have not faced for twenty or thirty years (if you have lived that long). Yet, we have reason for great hope this year. God is with us! We know we have a message of good news that people all around us need to hear. Saint James congregation has important work to do in the New Year.

Some of you may be experiencing financial and employment challenges. If you are, please let us know it. Let your deacon know or give us a call in the office. We want to be able to pray for you through the rough time and if possible, provide other assistance as available.

We also want to be able to reach out to people in our neighborhood and community who may be struggling, and lend a hand.

I'm especially interested in how we may be able to build a stronger connection with our nearby university. I suspect this year may also be a very challenging one for students, as tuition costs may increase, jobs may not be as plentiful and student's friendship and family connections may not support them as strongly as they need. Not to mention, probably many students at WWU are pre-Christians. They may welcome our prayers and efforts to reach out to them.

In this season I want to encourage each of you to take forward steps to grow closer to God. Some daily and weekly practices will help us. I want to offer a couple of suggestions. First, be sure to have some daily conversation with God. One suggestion is to go to "pray as you go.com" (Google will get you there). It is a website provided by the Jesuits of Britain. They offer a daily free twelve minute bible reading with meditation music. A number of pastor/friends of mine are using it to start their day.

Additionally I invite you to read the bible this year. You can find a number of one year Bibles available at your local bookstore, or online via Amazon.com. For years I have been reading the New RSV Bible annually. Each daily one year bible reading includes an Old Testament selection, a New Testament selection, a reading from the psalms and a brief verse from Proverbs. Some people read through the whole bible in a year. That would include about four pages each day. Others prefer to read the New Testament one year and the Old Testament the next. Do what works for you. I can attest that reading the bible daily will change us. When we think we are reading the bible, we eventually find that the bible is reading us.

Events to anticipate:

Jan 4 Installation of new church officers and Communion

Jan 11 Renewal of Baptism

Jan 18 Service of Healing and Wholeness

Jan 25 Annual congregational meeting following Worship

Grace and peace!

Pastor Jerry

One suggestion is to go to "pray as you go.com"

Friends: Moderator Monday is an article posted online at www.pcusa.org/GAmoderator by our current GA moderator the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, who was elected at last June's General Assembly. I found this article, posted on December 8, very interesting and pass it along for your review. Our moderator is commenting on our national church's struggle with the issue of the ordination of avowed, practicing gay/lesbian/transgender/bisexual persons which our constitution prohibits but which is the subject of proposed amendments to that constitution this year.)
Pastor Jerry

Moderator Monday: The pain we cause

Even though folks at the Town Halls that I have been conducting over the past months rarely ask about issues of sexuality, I do know that for many the continuing debates over homosexuality, biblical interpretation and ordination demand much of their spiritual, emotional and strategic energy.

As most folks know, I have not given much energy as Moderator to being a part of this debate other than attending some events of some groups, being the receptor of messages of rage, hurt and urging and trying to answer honestly about what I am hearing.

I don't think it would do any good for me to weigh in on any of the many many many ideas people have for "solving" a seemingly insurmountable denominational impasse. For one, my relative power or influence on the traditional "players" in the debate, I am pretty sure, is non-existent at best and second, I still think our debates of homosexuality is a way to deflect our energy away from dealing with what I think is a larger question of our ability to effectively be church in the world today as culture changes around us.

Now I understand that we may disagree about the centrality of the homosexuality debate to our future and if you want to know more, you can read more about my thoughts on how we are not dealing with cultural shifts in my post [*Number 1 reason why PC\(USA\) churches are dying a slow, painful sad, drawn-out death and other happy thoughts*](#). These are both worthy of some discussion, but this is not what I would like to challenge us to think about today.

One thing that I have NOT heard during much of the debate or in any of the many letters that have been sent my way is an acknowledgment from either side that the structural ramifications of their particular belief system causes any kind of pain or hurt to those who disagree.

Rarely have I heard liberals express the reality that by moving towards ordination of GLBT folks, local option or denomination-wide, we are asking conservatives to, in some way, compromise deeply held beliefs and values and to take moral responsibility for something they believe is not morally or Biblically valid.

And at the same time, I have rarely heard conservatives acknowledge the fact that liberals have endured for decades within a system that goes against what they believe is an injustice imposed on GLBT folks in this church AND that they too hold deep Biblical understandings of how we extend the privilege of leadership and ordination.

Our modus operandi is to dismiss the struggles of the other, lest we give ANY validity to their experience or perspective. Without thinking, we engage in a "my way or the highway" posture that makes it difficult to see any other outcome than an inevitable separation of some kind. And while that certainly could be in our future,* I think we owe it to one another and to those to whom we have the opportunity model a different way of moving through conflict to engage in the discourse with a posture of compassion and empathy towards the other.

We act as if we are at war with each other with the result to be conquering and expulsion of the defeated. Now I know this may be the posture of some folks - *acknowledged or not* - but I still hold tightly to the belief and practice that together, as community, we better and continually discern the mind of Christ and the will of God.

Sometimes this process is conflicted and tumultuous, but for me, the practice and discipline of moving through conflict by a body that claims to be joined by the covenantal reality of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ should never be a war. Never.

We are called to be different, we are called to live as a community that believes in new life over death. We are called to stand apart from the ways the world deals with conflict. We are called to be first and foremost brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter how much we disagree or what our institutional relationship is at a particular time in our life. And if we take that relationship seriously, we cannot simply discount the pain that exists, but that we may cause one another.

So what can we do?

Can each of us acknowledge and have some level of empathy for the pain of the other? Can we acknowledge that our belief systems around issues of sexuality can indeed cause that pain? And, lastly and most importantly, is it worth it? I suspect that the most strident of both sides may indeed say, "Yes, it is worth it" while others not. But whatever the case, we need to at least answer these questions for ourselves. We each need to either live with the pain we may cause NO MATTER how faithful we are being to Christ's calling on our lives and/or decide that it is just not and let that inform how we may vote on amendments, react to results and engage in the future of our church.

At the very least, let us step away from a posture of war and destruction of the other and step into a posture of compassion and empathy. We know how to battle, why not see what happens if we try a different way. Who knows what we may discover if we do.

Peace.

*** LET ME BE VERY CLEAR - I AM NEITHER PREDICTING NOR ADVOCATING ANYTHING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR DENOMINATIONAL STRUCTURE.**

YOUTH NEWS Tara Giddens, Youth

A Fresh Start

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a safe New Years! Now it's back to school and work for most of us. As we head back to our regular schedules it's exciting to start off with a new year. Every new year is like a re-start for plans and dreams. Many of us make New Year Resolutions, even if we know they won't last, and hope that this year will be better than the previous year. It's a chance for us to move on from whatever happened last year, to turn over a new leaf and focus on the year ahead of us. Now is the time to make plans for the future, to take that trip in the summer that you've always wanted to (mine is to go to Ireland), or call that friend that you've been meaning to, maybe you've been really wanting to re-decorate your house or clean your garage. Whatever your dreams are, from small to big, they are all important to God. While no wish could ever be too small for God to care about, only he knows what is best for us. We might not get to do everything we wanted to but God has his own dreams for us that are better than we could have ever imagined. So here's to a fresh start, here's to the love, confusion, peace, anger, kindness, pain and all the other emotions that will flow through us in our brand new year. Here's to our faith in God as we continue to learn more about him and what his plans are for us. Here's to letting go of our feelings from last year, to letting go any pain we've stored up, any anger we've fed on and any regrets we can't seem to get over. Finally, here's to our trust in God, and no matter what does actually happen to us in this new year, God is with us, protecting us, watching us and most importantly loving us.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THE REV. TAMALYN KRALMAN

Kral's Scrawls – Some Really Great Stuff...

I'm very excited about the things that are coming our way. Yes, we've just "done" the holidays. Yes, we might be worn out, ready for some rest and relaxation. Yes, we might even deserve it. But, after a little bit of recuperative time, get ready. Because this is what's on the agenda:

January 18, Legacy Diaries

Still not clear about what this is? Think "writing your autobiography." Think about the events, places, people in your life. That will be a part of it. But, the main focus will be on your spiritual journey. How did you become the person of faith that you are, today? If you were to leave words of wisdom (yes, you have them) for future generations, what would you say?

February 8, St. James Super Sunday

This is a new event, for us, and it's very exciting. Invite your friends and neighbors. Invite St. James's friends and neighbors. This is going to be a mini-Vacation Bible School for a couple of hours after church. We'll have stories, art, games, music, and perhaps even a discussion time for parents & grandparents. If you'd like to be on a planning team, please talk to me. This will take a lot of energy and brain power to pull together, but it will be worth it.

Early March, College Care Packages

Remember the shoeboxes of homemade cookies, Starbuck's & Target gift cards, and handmade greeting cards that were mailed to our college students, last spring? We're going to do it again and we need your help. So, start saving up and planning ahead, because we'll need those cards in \$10 increments and we'll need your help. At last count we had 18 college students and 1 person away in the military.

So, are you ready? We're going to start out our year running. Or, at least at a jaunty clip. I wonder if Fairhaven Runners sell Jaunty Clip Shoes.

Peace,
Pastor Tam

Dirty Water

My sister decided it was time that her three sons get baptized. So, after weeks of suitable instruction one bright Sunday morning they were on their way to church where the three boys, 8, 9, and 11, would have their sins washed away. The 9 year old was particularly pensive that day, and when Ruth Ann asked him what he was thinking about, his reply was in the form of a question.

"Mom, I want to go first."

"Why?"

"Because, I don't want to be baptized in water that has all of my brother's sins floating around in it."

They were baptized in birth order. Come to think of it, the oldest one was always my favorite nephew...

[Courtesy of Paul Harmon from Albany, Oregon]

January 11th—Baptism of Our Lord

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

SAINT JAMES' FALL AND WINTER OUTREACH

The Mission and Social action committee thanks the St. James community for its generosity, financially as well as through many hours of volunteering, to help those in need in our community and around the world during these last few months. These include:

Crop walk, for Church World Service projects and disaster relief. Six Bellingham Churches with 75 walkers participated including a record of 15 walkers from St. James; total donations were over \$ 5000 of which over \$ 1400 from the St. James community. Special thanks to Tony and Nancy Richter who played a key role in the organization, setting up and returning tables, getting the envelopes, marking the course; to Bev Stewart and Nancy Richter for providing the cookies; to Tara and the youth group for "manning" the water and cookie station.

Peace offering

For peace making work by our denomination, the Synod, and Presbytery: \$ 1455 was received of which \$ 364 is to be designated by the Session.

Warm coats and CWS blanket Sunday

A full load of warm coats was taken for distribution by Interfaith Coalition; thanks for all who gave coats, and to Bill Butler and John Dobbie for taking them to the distribution center. The collection for the Church World Service blanket and small tools program amounted to \$ 760.

Angel tree (Holiday gift program)

Interfaith coalition provided the information for gifts to three homeless families, who are currently in transitional housing. They were screened by a Opportunity Council case manager. They are: 1) One 63 year old woman; 2) a family consisting of a 24 year old male and a 19 year old female with one 3 month old baby girl, and 3) a 24 year old woman with 4 children; 4,3,2 years and a baby. Some money goes for "generic" gifts for some who had not been identified earlier. Thanks to all who provided gifts or money, to Margaret deMaine and Bill Read to set up the tree and prepare the tags, to Julie Keyes for the organization and taking the gifts to the collection center (Lutheran Church), to Tara, Wendy Crandall and the youth for organizing the gift wrapping.

Cold weather shelters

Faith Lutheran Church and Garden Street Methodist Church provided night shelters for the homeless; thanks to Bob Monahan for volunteering at the man's night shelter.

Alternative Holiday Market

Thanks to Pastor Tam for taking the initiative and doing the organization; thanks to several St. James members for helping setting up and cleaning up: some 33 groups had tables, including Church World Service (gift certificates), Bread for the World, the Peace Child Foundation (Bethlehem Center for traumatized children), Whatcom Peace and Justice Center.

Food Bank

Special thanks for all who brought food, helped with transport and volunteered, in Blaine and Bellingham.

Habitat for humanity St. James provided two chocolate gift baskets (value \$ 150) for the auction early November at Semihamoo. The auction raised \$ 50,000 for low income house construction in our county, in which several St. James members participate as volunteers.

Sun	Mon	Tue	W
<p>4 9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:30am Worship-Communion 7pm AA (FH)</p>	<p>5 9:30am Walk for Health (Parking Lot) 9:30am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 11-12:30pm Preschool (FH) 7pm Preschool Board (HR) 7pm Troop 7 (FH, SC)</p>	<p>6 8am Prayer Group (Lounge) 10am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 11am Staff (Lounge) 11:15-12pm Preschool (FH) 5:30pm AI Anon (SR) 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance (SR)</p> <p>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</p>	<p>7 9am Co-op Preschool 9am Co-op Preschool 10:30am Whatcom I 11:45-2:30pm Presc 6pm AA Men (HR)</p>
<p>11 9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12pm Deacons 1pm Session 7pm AA (FH)</p>	<p>12 9:30am Walk for Health (Parking Lot) 9:30am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 11-12:30pm Preschool (FH) 7pm Troop 7 (FH, SC)</p>	<p>13 8am Prayer Group (Lounge) 10am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 11:15-12pm Preschool (FH) 12pm-5pm FV (HR) 5:30pm AI Anon (SR) 7pm Preschool Parents (FH) 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance (SR)</p>	<p>14 9am Co-op Preschool 9am Co-op Preschool 10:30am Whatcom I 11:45-2:30pm Presc 12:30am Health Cor 6pm AA Men (HR) 6:30pm Whatcom W</p>
<p>18 9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:30am Worship 11:30am Legacy Diaries (HR) 7pm AA (FH)</p>	<p>19 9:30am Walk for Health (Parking Lot) 7pm Troop 7 (FH, SC)</p>	<p>20 8am Prayer Group (Lounge) 10am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 11:15-12pm Preschool (FH) 5:30pm AI Anon (SR) 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance (SR)</p> <p>PULSE DUE DATE</p>	<p>21 9am Co-op Preschool 9am Co-op Preschool 10:30am Whatcom I 11:45-2:30pm Presc 6pm AA Men (HR)</p>
<p>25 9am Adult Class 9-10am Family Breakfast 10:30am Worship—Carla Shafer 12pm CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 7pm AA (FH)</p>	<p>26 9:30am Walk for Health (Parking Lot) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Troop 230 (HR) 7pm Troop 7 (FH, SC)</p>	<p>27 8am Prayer Group (Lounge) 10am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 11:15-12pm Preschool (FH) 5:30pm AI Anon (SR) 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance (SR)</p>	<p>28 9am Co-op Preschool 9am Co-op Preschool 10:30am Whatcom I 11:45-2:30pm Presc 6pm AA Men (HR)</p>

Happy New Year!

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><i>1 New Years Day</i> 7pm SLAA Group (SR) 7:30pm AA Fairhaven (FH)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 9:30am Friendly Visitors (HR) 10am OA (SR)</p>
<p>ol (Upstairs) ol (Downstairs) Literacy Council (L) chool (FH)</p>	<p>8 10am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 10am Sew & Sews Craft Circle (HR) 11:45-12:15pm Preschool (FH) 12:30pm Health Committee (L) 6:30pm Bell Choir (HR) 7pm SLAA Group (SR) 7:30pm AA Fairhaven (FH) 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>9 9am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 9am Co-op Preschool (Downstairs) 12pm Prime Timers 11:45-2:30pm Preschool (FH)</p>	<p>10 9am Church Work Party 9am-3pm Session Retreat 10am OA (SR)</p>
<p>ol (Upstairs) ol (Downstairs) Literacy Council (L) chool (FH) mmittee (Lounge) eavers Guild (FH)</p>	<p>15 10am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 10am Sew & Sews Craft Circle (HR) 11:45-12:15pm Preschool (FH) 6:30pm Bell Choir (HR) 7pm SLAA Group (SR) 7:30pm AA Fairhaven (FH) 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>16 9am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 9am Co-op Preschool (Downstairs) 11:45-2:30pm Preschool (FH)</p>	<p>17 Rachel Hann Wed. (ten.) 927-2009 10am OA (SR)</p>
<p>ol (Upstairs) ol (Downstairs) Literacy Council (L) chool (FH)</p>	<p>22 10am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 10am Sew & Sews Craft Circle (HR) 11:45-12:15pm Preschool (FH) 2pm Buildings & Preschool Meeting 6:30pm Bell Choir (HR) 7pm SLAA Group (SR) 7:30pm AA Fairhaven (FH) 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>23 9am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 9am Co-op Preschool (Downstairs) 11:45-2:30pm Preschool (FH)</p>	<p>24 10am OA (SR) 6pm Music Teachers Association (S)</p>
<p>ol (Upstairs) ol (Downstairs) Literacy Council (L) chool (FH)</p>	<p>29 10am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 10am Sew & Sews Craft Circle (HR) 11:45-12:15pm Preschool (FH) 6:30pm Bell Choir (HR) 7pm SLAA Group (SR) 7:30pm AA Fairhaven (FH) 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>30 9am Co-op Preschool (Upstairs) 9am Co-op Preschool (Downstairs) 11:45-2:30pm Preschool (FH)</p>	<p>31 10am OA (SR)</p>

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Teresa Bowers
- 2 Phil Jones
- 3 Susan Burkland
- 7 Stacey Miller
- 8 Marty Haines
- 9 Beverly Sherman
- 9 Charles Snyder
- 13 Nancy Pace
- 15 Karen Summers
- 16 Joan Elsethagen
- 17 Dwayne Rogers
- 18 Genevie Pfu eller Roguski
- 20 Wayne Landis
- 21 Peg Wilke
- 22 Michael Hoffman
- 23 Fred McCormick
- 26 David Meyer
- 26 Betty Miller
- 26 Marianne Thomas
- 28 Kris Baker-Selvy
- 28 Mark Danielson
- 31 Marlene Amman

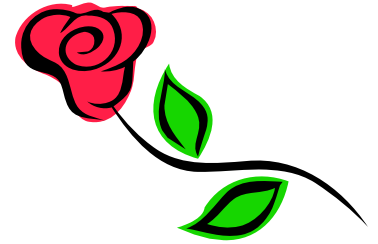
Gladys Eckhart—95 years

Gladys Eckhart is celebrating her 95th birthday. She was born Thanksgiving night November 28, 1913, in Seattle General Hospital to James William and Bessie Dry Lawlor. She graduated from Puyallup High School in 1931, the University of Washington in 1935 and married Dr. Emerson R. Eckhart June 12, 1942. They were married for 59 years until he passed away in 2001. Gladys and Emerson resided in Edmonds for 47 years before moving to Bellingham in 2001. Currently, she is actively involved in the Humanities Society at Lynden Manor and bible study at St. James Presbyterian Church. Her family includes daughter Pam and Skip Gibson, grandson John and Allison Hulbert, great-grandchildren Sarah, Abby and Cameron; and daughter Shary and John Ennen, grandchildren Kirk, Carl and Gretchen. She contributes her long life to a positive attitude and her strong Christian faith.



Anniversaries

- 2 Ed Simmers & Jane Madden
- 26 Rex & Ann Lary



NATASHA ORME, SECRETARY

Next PULSE Due Date is Tuesday, February 17TH

Everyone is encouraged to share newsletter items with our Church family. Please submit articles on or before the Pulse due date to Natasha in the Church office. (Late articles or ads may not make it in.) **E-mail is preferred: office@saintjamespres.org and check out our website: www.saintjamespres.org**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF ST. JAMES

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study and Potluck Luncheon on Tuesday, January 27

Bible Study at 10:30am and Potluck Luncheon at 12 noon. For more information contact Phyllis Jones at 734-4504

PRIME TIMERS

Prime Timers' Salad & Sandwich Lunch on Friday, January 9th at 12pm

Come join us in the Horizon Room for a potluck luncheon! Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones at 734-4504.

Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East



The next Prayer Vigil will be at Saint James Presbyterian Church
910 14th Street, Bellingham (360.733.1325)

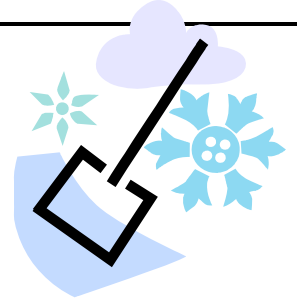
Sunday, January 18th at 5:30pm

MONTHLY CHURCH WORK PARTY!

Please join us for the monthly all-church clean-up!

Saturday, January 10th at 9am

Bring your favorite tools and warm coat—join us in maintaining our lovely church!



INTERFAITH COALITION

Volunteers Needed: Project Homeless Connect

On Thursday, January 29, as many as 750 people experiencing homelessness will have access to a one-day event providing free services such as dental treatment, vision screening, mental health and medical services, and housing assistance. The event is called Project Homeless Connect and is part of a ten-year plan to end homelessness in Whatcom County.

The goal of Project Homeless Connect is to promote a welcoming environment and to provide access to services in a centralized location in our community. The event will be held in three locations in close proximity to each other: the Depot Square (non-medical services), The Majestic (medical services and screening), and the YWCA (meals).

Approximately 350 volunteers are needed. Volunteer positions include assisting with guest intake, food service, venue support and distributing complimentary gift bags. Project Homeless Connect will be one of the largest volunteer-run events created in Whatcom County.

Those interested in volunteering may call the Whatcom Volunteer Center at 1-800 VOLUNTEER. Volunteers are needed from 7-4:30 that day with shorter shifts available.

Laura DeRose, Executive Director

Interfaith Coalition (734-3983) laura@interfaith-coalition.org

HEALTH COMMITTEE

- Health committee will meet on January 8th at 12:30pm in the Lounge
- Walk with us on Mondays at 9:30am—meet at the upper parking lot
- Questions? Contact Bob Monahan (733.3947) or Barbara Kilpatrick (714.8165)

Everyone Welcome!



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Healthier Holiday Presentation—lots of great ideas were shared

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS CARLA SHAFER, CLERK

Sally Albers reported:

General Fund shows a positive fund balance, and income and expenses were aligned.
Mission/benevolence payments were made as planned.

Bill Read reported for Building and Grounds.

Science club of fifth graders will continue to meet after church on Sundays. Go Science.
Middle East Peace presentation and monthly Vigil scheduled for January 18th at 4:30 - 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
Preschool contract has been negotiated and signed.
Kitchen dishwasher is working again. Thanks Tim Crandall!
Red Cross will list St. James as an emergency gathering place.
Preliminary sketches for an elevator are being made.

Rich Stipe reported for Christian Education:

Study Bibles may be purchased for reference in the library.
B&G will work with CE to develop a plan that fits with the preschool hours to provide space for children while Lowell parents build a new playground in May.
Lenten Study, led by Rev. Jerry Poole, is planned for noon on Tuesdays in the New Year.
We received a certificate of recognition for our support from Church World Service. We are still getting information for the insurance company on the parish nurse volunteer job description.
Jean gave an update that Tim Chandonnet will be ready to go back to work in January. Bill Read and Jan Resick are doing basic clean-up.

Sally reported for the Stewardship Committee:

So far, this year's budget may have a 7% funding gap, initially.
Session members discussed canvassing members and embarking on a process of discerning how to be the Church.

The following dates were scheduled:

January 4, 2009 - Elder and Deacon ordination and installations are scheduled during worship.
Jan. 6 - Annual report information is to be submitted to Natasha. Everyone who has a report should be sure to submit it.
Jan. 10 at 9 AM - Session is holding a retreat to be led by Jerry.
Jan. 10 at 2 PM - Regular meeting of the Session.
Jan. 11 A renewal of baptism service will be conducted during worship to emphasize our Reformed understanding of baptism in coordination with the text of John the Baptist's baptism of Jesus.
Jan. 18 - The quarterly healing service to receive a blessing and anointing of oil is scheduled. After worship Jerry will have teams of two or more people provide prayer and laying on of hands for those who wish.
Jan. 25 - The first (of the year) congregational meeting is scheduled after worship.
St. James is looking for volunteers to coordinate St. James Food Bank Activities and for the Tall Timber Retreat.

Report from Presbytery commissioners. Bill Read and Sally Albers reported.

Presbytery accepted Jerry Poole as a member of the Presbytery.

The PCUSA 218th General Assembly voted to approve an overture to revise the standard on ordination to remove the "chastity in singleness" clause. Presbyteries need to vote and a majority of all Presbyteries voting in the affirmative is required.

The next Presbytery meeting is Sat Feb 28 at Trinity Presbyterian in Sedro-Woolley where a vote will be taken. Bill and Sally were elected to serve as Commissioners, and Jan Resick is an alternate.

TREASURER'S REPORT SALLY ALBERS, TREASURER

General Fund

November income was \$14,266.67, very close to budget thanks to a "5 Sunday" month.

The local benevolence 4th quarter payout of \$2150 was made in November rather than October, bringing the final total for 2008 to \$10,000 as budgeted for the year. The mission contributions to Presbytery, GA, Synod, and Doug Dicks were also paid out.

Despite these payouts, total expenses were under budget by \$2500 and the General Fund balance improved by \$600 to \$2446.48

Endowment share values fell again. All three endowments are currently valued below their principal (original purchase price) which prevents any new capital expenditures. Fortunately the Buildings & Grounds committee had completed planned upgrades to our facilities before the stock market began its big decline. We are in good shape to weather the recession as we enter 2009.

Pledge Drive

The budget proposed for the 2009 pledge drive was an increase of 4% over 2008. Pledges received so far do not support that plan. While some members were able to increase their pledge amounts, others are struggling with rising costs, fixed or reduced incomes, or providing extra financial support to their own family members. Many have not yet responded to this call.

Session is reviewing our options and will approve a new budget proposal, to be presented to the congregation in mid-January. In the meantime, your treasurer would appreciate hearing from those of you who have not yet returned your pledges. When times are difficult financially, it is better that we base our plans on your promises than on my "best guesses."

Please do not be fearful; our God promises abundance. We will abide in faith, giving with a willing heart, and showing gratitude for all that we have received.

St. James Presbyterian Church
910 14th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 733-1325
www.saintjamespres.org

Sunday Schedule

9am Adult Class
9-10am Family Breakfast
Sunday Worship 10:30am

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday
9:00am-2:00pm

Ministers: The Congregation
Interim Pastor: The Rev. Jerry Poole
Minister of Educational Programs:
The Rev. Tamalyn Kralman
Secretary: Natasha Orme
Treasurer: Sally Albers
Youth Leader: Tara Giddens
Custodian: Tim Chandonnet
Music Director: Carolyn Mullen
Organist / Pianist:
Kirsten Rutschman
Mission: New Earth / Tierra Nueva
Bob & Gracie Ekblad
PC (USA) Regional Liaison to Jordan, Israel & Palestine:
Doreen Dickson

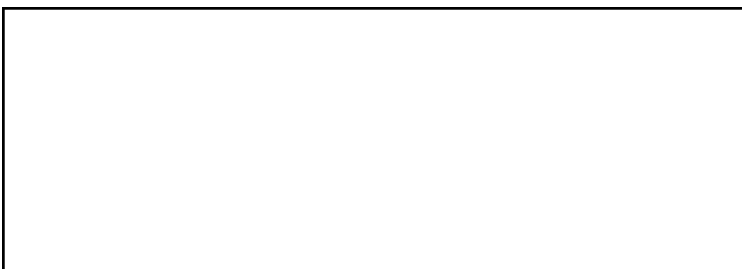
**Thanks to the
Pulse Mailing Crew**

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



*We give thanks to you
O God: we give thanks:
Psalm 75*

*Annual Congregational
Meeting on Sunday,
Jan. 25th
following Worship*



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