

April 2016 Edition

THE PULSE

St. James Presbyterian Church Newsletter

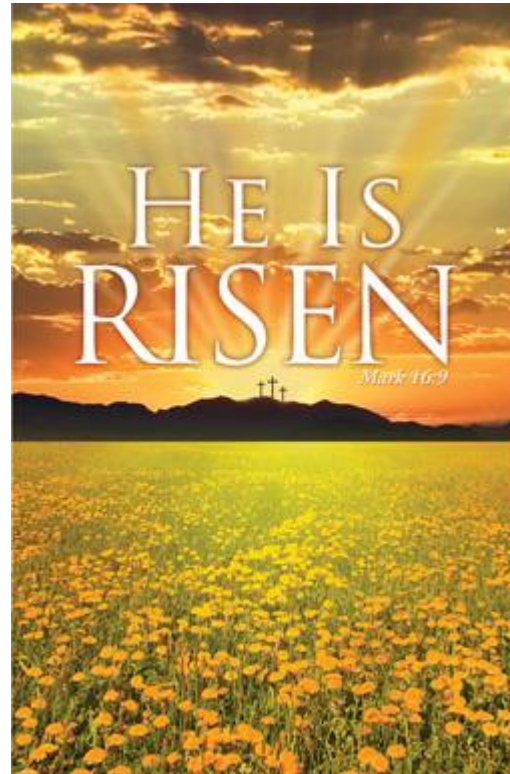
Once again we have celebrated Easter, the Church's annual proclamation of its most astounding claim: "Christ is risen!" Life, not death, has the final word. A website called Patheos, which hosts conversations about faith, this year invited some of their favorite Christian bloggers to answer the question, "Why I Need the Resurrection." Following are two of the responses.

Kara Root, a Presbyterian pastor in Minneapolis, wrote:

I need the Resurrection
because my sister is sick
and can't afford insurance,
because I've told a weeping Haitian mom,
"No, I can't take your son home with me."
because I've been rushed off a Jerusalem street
so a robot could blow up a bag that could've blown
up us.
because I've exploded
in rage
and watched their tiny faces cloud with hurt.
because evil is pervasive
and I participate.
I need the Resurrection
because it promises
that in the end
all wrongs are made right.
Death loses.
Hope triumphs.
And Life and Love
Prevail.

Another response came from Jim Ward, Rector of an Episcopal church in California:

"I'm not so sure that I need the resurrection as that I need the God that only the resurrection reveals. What the resurrection shows us is not so much how like God Jesus is, as how like Jesus God



is. The basic affirmation of Easter ("Christ is Risen") means that if you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. So all of our frantic attempts to silence the truth are forgiven by the very truth we've stamped out. It means God loves us so much that not even our killing him will keep him from reconciling us."

Whether our responses arise, like Kara's, from experiences that make us recognize the reality of evil and acknowledge our own part in it, or they result, like Jim's, from cerebral reflections on what the resurrection says about God—they all seem to arrive at the same place. They all affirm the power of grace, the sureness of love, the reasonableness of hope, the triumph of life. Grace. Love. Hope. Life. Why do you need the resurrection this year? May you know its power in your own life.

Pastor Janet



Caring for God's Creation – Saint James Earth Day Sunday Worship Service and Related Events Sunday, April 24, 2016

A schedule of worship and informational activities has been planned to inspire and to invite consideration. The event is coordinated by the Mission and Social Action Committee. All events are open to the public, so invite your neighbors!

9:00am Walking the Labyrinth with the theme of Caring about God's creation at Fairhaven Park

10:30am Morning Worship – Pastor Janet preaching in the St. James pulpit on an Earth Day theme.

12:00pm Lunch and Earth Care Information Event in the Fellowship Hall – for members and open to the public.

A simple lunch will be provided free of charge.

The effects of climate change are hardest on the poor. We have two concerns as Christians: How we care for the created earth and how we care for each other. There will be presentations (about 30 minutes each) and a moderated discussion to elicit what our current understanding of our situation is and to consider questions and the hopes of those attending.

The Earth Care Information Event will be an opportunity for us to hear how one Presbyterian woman through her love, faith, and energy responded to reducing carbon emissions on our planet. Abby Brockway, an Elder at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church will talk about her experiences as a person of faith taking a stand on reducing our dependence on coal and oil. Abby took action in ways that we might not, but her spiritual path is very like our own. How did she hear God's word and what will happen now? Presbyterians for Earth Care, a national coalition of interested members and churches, celebrate her journey.

Eddy Ury, Clean Energy Organizer of RE sources for Sustainable Communities, will give an update of the

local situation in Whatcom County and Washington State. He will give information about what seems to be at stake and how government and corporations might be responsive.

Information will be exhibited about what local citizens are doing to simplify, increase recycling and reduce one's carbon footprint. Many individuals at St. James take action every day and if you would like to share how you have changed behaviors to care for creation, we are collecting stories. Here at St. James our church has been responsive in practical ways to caring for creation. The Building and Grounds committee has made electrical and plumbing upgrades that are less polluting or more efficient. We have introduced recycling and green composting for all building users. Our coffee is fair trade, equal exchange coffee grown by a PCUSA Development of the People project. If you have a story to tell about caring for the earth, please let Carla Shafer know at 360-961-2320 or via e-mail.

2016 IS ENERGY YEAR IN BELLINGHAM HELP BELLINGHAM WIN A \$5 MILLION DOLLAR PRIZE

Bellingham is ranked 8th out of 50 finalists in the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition. In support of efforts to save energy, address climate change and increase the use of renewable energy sources, Bellingham is partnering with utility companies, nonprofits and local businesses. Residents can create a free online account at [Bellingham Energy Prize.org](http://BellinghamEnergyPrize.org) and set up a plan to make energy-efficient changes, many of which are simple adjustments. The goal is to get 5,000 homes into the program.

Recertification as an Earth Care Congregation!

March 2016

Dear Saint James Presbyterian Church,

Congratulations on your recertification as an Earth Care Congregation! The commitment that your church continues to show for caring for God's earth is an inspiration, and your ministry is appreciated. Thank you for all you have done since your earth care journey was first recognized in 2013. Enclosed is a certificate affirming your status as an Earth Care Congregation until February 2017.

Celebrating tremendous growth in PC(USA) Earth Care Congregations, we are now using a more streamlined effort to serve the growing number of congregations. The next application cycle will be January 1 – February 15, 2017. We will certify/recertify all congregations who submit applications during those 6 weeks and meet the criteria. The application will again be in Excel spreadsheet format; thanks to feedback this year, we will try to work out some of the kinks before then and will be available to help with the technology if needed.

Environmental Ministries is housed under the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and we believe that hunger, poverty, and environmental destruction are linked areas of concern, constantly interacting and impacting one another. We are including a sample of the *PHP Post*, which you will receive quarterly. If you prefer to view it only online, please email php@pcusa.org to let us know not to send the printed copy.

As an Earth Care Congregation, your church may use the Earth Care Congregations seal to promote your commitment to earth care on your website, the church newsletter, t-shirts, etc. until the date that the certification expires. The Earth Care Congregations seal will be sent via email.

Environmental Ministries will notify your presbytery of your recertification as an Earth Care Congregation, and your church will continue to be listed as an Earth

Care Congregation on the Environmental Ministries website.

If anyone active in earth care in your church would like to sign up for the Environmental Ministries Action Network (EMAN), we would welcome your participation. The goal of EMAN is to inspire and equip Presbyterians to care for God's earth and to increase the channels of communication between PC(USA) Environmental Ministries and congregations and presbyteries with environmental stewardship programs. Participants in EMAN are provided with regular updates from Environmental Ministries, are eligible to apply for grant funds for earth care projects in their church or presbytery, and are asked to stay in touch with other EMAN participants in their presbytery. You can sign up join EMAN at www.pcusa.org/eman.

If in the future you are looking for a more in-depth program for additional challenges, please check out our partnership with GreenFaith.org. If you become a GreenFaith church, you will still be counted as a PC (USA) Earth Care Congregation.

Please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Ministries at any time; we are here to help churches along their earth care journey. If you would ever like to share a story about earth care from your congregation, we'd love to post this on our blog or website.

Thank you for your commitment to caring for God's earth. I look forward to working with your church in the future.

Peace,

Rebecca Barnes
Associate for
Environmental
Ministries



Come join us for Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County's 14th annual

RAISE THE ROOF AUCTION



**Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at our Habitat Store, 1825 Cornwall, Bellingham.
There is plenty of free parking.**

For a \$35.00 ticket you will enjoy appetizers, a buffet dinner catered by Dickey's Barbecue in Ferndale, 3 drinks (beer, wine or pop), live entertainment, shopping from our silent auction tables, a frenzy of bidding on items during the live auction portion, and a series of games with prizes. Why not organize a group of 10 and reserve a full table for you, your family and friends. After all, where can you go these days and enjoy a fun-filled evening for \$35.00? See you on the 14th.

Tickets go on sale March 21st and will be available online, in person at our store, or by calling 360-715-9170.

If circumstances do not allow you to attend the auction, there are many other ways to support our affiliate and the work we are doing to bring permanent stability to our low-wage, hard-working partner families. You can donate items to our store by calling 360-778-2036 or scheduling a pickup online, shop at the store, or even volunteer. Please check our website at www.hfhwhatcom.org for a complete listing of giving opportunities.

New Weekday Bible Study

In the spirit of Easter, we are "resurrecting" the Men's Bible Study. The men, however, have decided they would like to open this opportunity to all who are interested. Pastor Janet will lead this study which will meet Thursdays at 10 am in the Lounge, starting April 21st. All are welcome!

April Birthdays

- 4 Gil Thurston
- 7 Patty Cromarty
- 10 Gus Danielson
- 11 Matt Hargleroad
- 11 Laurie Rechholtz
- 12 Sally Crandall
- 16 Erin Keyes
- 17 Bruce Kraig
- 18 Zach Mullen
- 20 Sally Albers
- 20 Shirley Drury
- 23 Mark Beaty
- 25 Valerie McBeth
- 29 Margaret Snider
- 29 Cheryl McGregor
- 30 Mary Elmslie
- 30 Nicholas Jackson

April Anniversaries

- 1 Tom and Margaret McVie



Good reading

Our church librarian, JoAnn Roe, suggests for good reading this week: *Confessions of a Christian Humanist*. The book will be on display in the library. Feel free to pull up a chair and read parts of it or check it out. Don't forget to bring it back soon. The author, John W. deGruchy, is the Professor Emeritus of Christian Studies at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. "Humanist" is not some new cult, but just his conclusion that we need to be both human and Christian. It deals with our struggles to be both in this current world of 2005 and later. Chapter heads help us know the thrust of this book: *Being Human, Being Religious, Being Secular, A Believer, A Christian, A Christian Humanist*.

Women's Association

The St. James Presbyterian Women's Association will meet Tuesday, April 26, for its monthly Bible study at 10:30 a.m. and potluck salad luncheon at noon. Special speaker will be a representative from the Bellingham Public Library to inform members about the library's newest services, including how to check out e-books.

The bible study is based on the *Horizon Come to the Waters* series by Judy Record Fletcher which focuses on Lesson 8, *The Hospitality of Living Water -- Compassion*. The focus scripture is on John 4:1-30, 39-42; and Acts 2:44-47.

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat will take place on Saturday, April 30 at the Parkway Village Clubhouse (same as last year) from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The cost will be \$15. **Save the date!**

Sunday Morning Adult Study class

The 9:00 Sunday Morning Adult Study class will be reading and discussing *Traveling Mercies* by Anne LaMott during the months of March and April. All are welcome.

Children's Ministries

April continues the Lent/Easter Season. Sunday, April 3, the theme is "Speak Out" and the focus scripture is Acts 5:27-32; April 10, "A New Vision" is depicted in Acts 9:1-6 (7-29); April 17, "Showing Up" is seen in Acts 9:36-43; and April 24, "Tipping Point" is revealed in Acts 11:1-18.

PULSE

Love in a Time of Fear: Muslims, Christians, and All Faiths as Good Neighbors

Monday, April 11 from 7 - 8:30pm, Bellingham High School Auditorium, 2020 Cornwall Avenue
Free Forum - everyone welcome!

In late November two people sat down to tea. One was a Muslim and the other a Christian. In addition to sadness about the terrorist attacks in Paris, Lebanon, and Mali they shared their feelings about the response of political leaders and community members in the US in response to these horrific events. They decided to see if others wanted to join them in encouraging all people to remember that love of neighbor is the core teachings of Islam, Christianity, and all great faith traditions. And that to love your neighbor as yourself means to work for their well-being. The Interfaith Coalition invites you to join us and our special guest speakers where, as people of many faiths, respecting our differences and celebrating our commonalities, we encourage:

1. All people to seek out neighborly relationships with Muslims.
2. All people to stand against extreme and exclusive forms of religious or political ideologies that lead to dehumanization of and violence toward others.
3. All people in this time of anxiety to resist the urge to stereotype and scapegoat minorities, including Muslims.
4. All people, corporations and governmental agencies to respect the human and civil rights of all people, including Muslims.

Sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Western Washington University, the Catacomb Churches, and American Muslims of Puget Sound

The Interfaith Coalition and staff members:

Laura, Carolyn, Andrea, Mike, and Janie all want to say another huge “Thank you” to the St. James congregation for our new space. Thanks also to your warm welcome, we now have signage (inside and out) and information about Interfaith posted on church grounds for everyone to see how you partner to help others. Because of our recent auction, there has been a steady stream of people from all over Whatcom County coming to drop off auction items and see our new office, and we have been proud to show off our new home in this generous congregation. Please drop by and say hello anytime you are in the area. YOU are Interfaith, and every family that is sheltered, every hungry person that is fed, every person who receives a warm coat or a safe place to shelter in the winter is because you have joined your efforts in this caring coalition.

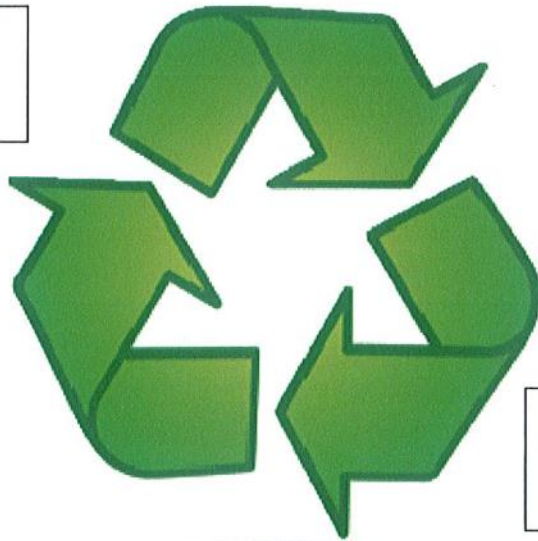
FEBRUARY FINANCE STATUS

	February	Budget	Yr. to Date	Budget Yr. to Date
Income	\$17,663	\$18,116	\$45,549	\$45,052
Expenses	\$13,007	\$16,160	\$30,456	\$34,644

Christmas Eve Collection

The money collected at the first Christmas Eve Service of \$461 went to purchase two pairs of goats, a piglet, and a treadle pump. They were purchased from the Presbyterian Mission Catalogue.

REUSE



RECYCLE

BUY LOCAL

St. James Women's Association

St. James Presbyterian Church

Church-wide Garage Sale

Saturday, April 9

9am-3pm

910 14th St.

733-1325

www.saintjamespres.org

Proceeds benefit local charities for women and children

DONATIONS FOR THE SALE ARE APPRECIATED! Please bring your clean, gently used items for the sale to the Choir Office in the church basement, up the stairs just north of the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

APRIL CALENDAR 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9am Preschool 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit	2 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
3 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/communion 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	4 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	5 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	6 9am Preschool 9:15am Christian Faith Formation 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	7 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congrega- tional Life 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	8 8am Rummage Sale Set Up 9am Preschool 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit	9 9am Church Work Party 9am Rummage Sale 10am OA
10 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	11 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	12 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	13 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 5pm Weavers Guild	14 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	15 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit 6pm Music Teach- ers Assoc. Rehearsal	16 Pulse Due Date! 8am Music Teach- ers Assoc. 10am OA
17 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	18 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at Bellingham Friends 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	19 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	20 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Women's Bible Study	21 9am Preschool 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	22 Earth Day! 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit	23 10am OA
24 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	25 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	26 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Luncheon 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	27 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	28 9am Preschool 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	29 9am Preschool 3pm Cross-fit 3pm Membership	30 9:30am Woman's Retreat at Parkway Village Clubhouse 10am OA 10am Co-op Parent Teacher Tour 2pm National Farmworkers Ministries NW