

# THE PULSE



As I sit down to write this, I'm feeling wistful for bygone days. There was a time when composing an article for an August newsletter could mean coming up with something lighthearted, even lightweight. It's summer, after all. We're not in Advent or in Lent, but in "ordinary time," when no particular theological theme suggests itself, and no subject seems obligatory. In ordinary time, one is free to reflect on just about anything. Beyond that, summer has its own connotations. It's a time for vacations, for kicking back, and taking things easy. Once, an August article could reflect that mood. Somehow, that doesn't seem possible this year. A different mood prevails.

Newsletter deadlines being what they are, I'm writing this less than a week after the attack in Nice, on the day more police officers were shot and killed in Baton Rouge—events that echo earlier ones in Orlando and Dallas. The news has come at us fast and hard of late. It's difficult to take it all in, to process it, and to know what to say in response.

Janel Apps Ramsey, a Christian blogger, expresses a similar sentiment. After Orlando, she wrote, "While many people have said what I'm about to say - I will say it again - there just aren't words for what happened in Orlando. There just isn't a way to talk about it in a way that honors the depth and breadth of pain and sorrow that is encompassed by this tragedy. And so, I will lean into tradition, with something many

people dismiss off hand as simplistic or trite, but I call us to: Defiantly Love Your Neighbor. All the neighbors." In the face of Orlando, she said, many "defiantly chose another reality." So must we.

A month later she wrote, "This will sound so cliché. But, I'm just at a loss for words. France and another attack. Just no words left. That doesn't mean hopeless or despairing, just quiet and thoughtful. What is worth saying in the world we have lived through in the last few weeks? She offers these words:

First, repeating herself, she says, "Love your neighbor."

Second, she advises, "acknowledge your biases." Echoing the President's remarks after Dallas, she calls us to be honest about the prejudice in our own heads and in our own hearts.

Third, "Speak. Even when it's scary;" because "if we are silent then the world continues to believe that people don't matter. That very real things are just issues and not about people's lives. . . . We must speak because other people don't."

Fourth, "Create Community. Community is a powerful force. It is the force that can draw us together to change the world around us. It is how we find people that share our views and engage in conversation with those who don't. It is how we work to make things different. . . In community we find the strength to do the things that are too overwhelming to do alone."

Finally, "Build Bridges with people in other faith groups. . . Find people in other groups and get to know them. Have conversations. Share meals. Learn."

Some good words for a time when words are hard to find. I would add that we also need to look to the

Continues...



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words from Scripture, where we find the basis for hope in difficult times. So I end by quoting the new Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the first African American elected to that position. Responding to events in Baton Rouge and elsewhere, Herbert J. Nelson II says the Bible reminds us, "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is the one who is in you than the one who is in the world" (I John 4:4)." He notes that our "ability to overcome the world by the God-bestowed power within us" still requires faith and courage. But the foundation of our hope and the basis for our courage is found in God, whose character is love, whose will is peace, and whose promise is grace.

**"Defiantly Love  
Your Neighbor.  
All the neighbors."**

I'm out of words, for now. But I invite you to continue the conversation. Speak to one another, and to others, about the basis for our hope, about the need to speak up for tolerance, about the call to love others, all others. We find strength in community, a community formed by God's love.

In Christ,  
Pastor Janet

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**COLOSSIANS 3:12**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

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**THIS MONTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Aug. 7: Children will use manipulatives and song to explore the meaning of faith -- "Into the Unknown". Emphasis will be on Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-6, relating the story of Abraham and Sarah.

Aug. 14: Children will engage in artwork to explore faith "Against the Odds". They will be encouraged by stories of people who live and love in God's way.

Aug. 21: Children will explore the topic "Breaking the Rules" as they engage in a game and a story about healing and welcome.

Aug. 28: Children will learn that God invites all to the table, and it is up to each individual to accept his invitation. They will host a party to depict God's banquet.

**WE LOVE  
KIDS!**

**Kick off!**

A new year of Sunday School kicks off Sept. 11 with a special presentation of bibles to St. James children.

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**PRESBYTERIAN MISSION CO-WORKERS FROM INDONESIA VISITING ST. JAMES**

On Sunday, August 7, Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta will give a presentation at 9:00am during breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, then preach the sermon during the morning service. After the service they will be available for questions and answers in the Lounge.

Bernie is director of the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS-Yogya) at Gadjah Mada University (UGM) in Yogyakarta. Farsijana is director of the Center for Research and Community Development at Duta Wacana Christian University in Yogyakarta. Both Bernie and Farsijana spend a lot of time working together with Christians and Muslims to build a just society.

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**AID FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES**

On Saturday, August 20, we will have the opportunity to drop off used clothing and other items at the parking area behind our church from 9:00am to 2:00pm. They will be sold and the proceeds used to benefit the Syrian refugees, through the Salaam Cultural Museum in Seattle.

Salaam Cultural Museum is a charitable non-profit organization that promotes understanding of the people and cultures of the Middle East and North Africa. For the last several years they have been collecting and distributing humanitarian aid and coordinating medical missions to the region. Their current focus is on aiding the displaced Syrians who have fled the violence in Syria to neighboring countries. For more information visit their website: [www.salaamculturalmuseum.wordpress.com](http://www.salaamculturalmuseum.wordpress.com).

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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.

This month's prayer vigil will be on Thursday, August 18 at 5:30pm, hosted by the Assumption Catholic Church, 2116 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham, (360) 733-1380

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**Maverette Butler**

With sadness we share news of the death of long time member, Maverette Butler, on June 16, 2016, and extend our heartfelt sympathy to her husband, Bill. A private graveside service is planned.

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**August Birthdays**

- 5 Gary Culbertson
- 7 Jeanne Uhles
- 9 Monica Reynoso
- 12 Wilma French
- 13 Jill Hoyt
- 13 Lois Anderson
- 16 Megan Pfueller Melrose
- 19 Bill Read
- 23 Keena Mullen
- 24 Rick Seater
- 25 Mary van der Veen
- 28 Marilyn Monahan

**August Anniversaries**

- 6 Tim and Wendy Crandall
  - 13 Rick and Jean Seater
  - 21 Dwayne and Karen Rogers
  - 21 Jim and Carolyn Mullen
  - 23 Gil and Inge Thurston
  - 24 Gragg and Betty Miller
  - 24 Dick and Marilyn Madden
  - 26 Mark Danielson and Patty Cromarty
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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

On Tuesday, August 30, the Presbyterian Women will meet at Gretchen Pfueller’s home for the monthly potluck salad luncheon. Meet in front of the church at 11:30am to carpool. A new bible study will begin next month. Details to come!

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**GARY CULBERTSON JOINS INTERFAITH COALITION’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Interfaith Coalition is delighted to welcome Gary Culbertson as the representative from St. James Presbyterian on the Coalition’s board of directors. Gary will share his leadership skills and experience to help guide the organization. Gary shared why he is interested in serving in this way:

“My awareness of the issues of housing began when I was about ten years old. I was four when my father sold his business and enlisted in the Navy to contribute to the war effort. After the war we returned to Montana and found that there was no such thing as a vacancy rate. We lived in various substandard houses, most without indoor plumbing. I cannot claim that I suffered but it did impress on me the importance of decent housing. After I graduated from college, I started out as a teacher. My first teaching position was in a NE Montana town where many of my students lived in marginal housing with neither plumbing nor electricity. A couple of career changes over several years and I found myself as the Human Resources manager for the Housing Authority in Vancouver, Washington. This was a dream job because I could relate to and have empathy for the clients we served.

We moved to Bellingham after retirement because of my wife’s health. I was amazed and thrilled to learn about the Interfaith Coalition and the work they were doing to address homelessness. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute directly to the effort to mitigate the impact of homelessness.”

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**JUNE FINANCE STATUS**

	<u>June</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Yr to Date</u>	<u>Yr to Date Budget</u>
Income	\$13,475	\$17,530	\$118,975	\$117,119
Expenses	\$13,208	\$20,051	\$105,261	\$118,010

Finance Committee  
Dick Carr, Chair



Contribution statements for January 2016 through June 2016 have been mailed to everyone making regular contributions. If you have not received a statement, please contact Natasha at the church office and one will be sent to you.

Thank you for your support as it is very important in the life of St. James.

Stewardship Committee  
Dick Carr, Chair

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**PNC**

Greetings from the Pastor Nominating Committee,

Your PNC has been very busy and we wanted to give you all an update about what is going on in our search for a new pastor. On June 12 the PNC submitted our Ministry Information Form, basically our job posting, along with the proposed new Mission Statement to Session. Session approved both the Mission Statement and MIF. After approval from session, the MIF was sent to the Commission On Ministry for approval. Our COM approved our MIF and we posted it for potential candidates. We are now in the process of receiving Personal Information Forms from potential candidates and narrowing down our search from the many PIFs we have received.

As usual, if you have any questions regarding the process or how things are going please don't hesitate to ask one of us!

Don Hoyt, Jeanne Uhles, Jenny Sue LeSchander, Tim Crandall, and Tracy Caruso

*Mission Statement: We are a welcoming Christian community, seeking God's purpose, listening for God's message, and sharing God's love.*

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**HARVEST TABLE**

Consider sharing your harvest blessings with those who are lacking “green thumbs”. Bring your excess bounty to the Horizon Room, Harvest Table and collected donations will be given to the Food Bank.

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**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY 10, 2016**

**Discussed:**

It is the policy of St. James not to buy and use Styrofoam cups. We do use paper cups which are compostable and whenever we can, we use dishes.

Building and grounds work is addressing new landscaping on the southeast corner of the grounds, sealing the tower from rainstorms, and new signage that can be seen from the street when the parking lot is full, with sample placements up for people to see.

The sound system is of concern because it crackles and is inconsistent, operators can only adjust the volume and some people do not hear all voices and will not wear the headphones.

Bill Read is working on possible solutions.

New tables, as requested by the Women’s Association, are being purchased.

Themes for this year’s Stewardship campaign are being considered.

A new website is under construction. The current website is being maintained. Content suggestions should go to Carla Shafer, Web Editor since 2012.

Session generally supports a donation collection for Syrian Refugees, and will confirm who is receiving and distributing the gifts before approving the church as a collection site.

Interfaith Coalition will be introducing a project called Family Promise, to help families with support and resources as soon as they become homeless. This project, piloted in other communities, involves churches making space available for families four weeks a year.

**Action Taken:**

A recent gift of \$10,471.38 was placed in the Facilities Endowment as recommended by the Finance Committee. As an action of the Session, this places the gift in endowment investments, but does not necessarily confine the use of the earnings related to this gift to facility expenses.

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**AUGUST CALENDAR 2016**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	2 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	3 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	4 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 7:15pm AA	5 4pm Cross-fit	6 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
7 9am Breakfast with Bernie & Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta 10:30am Worship w/ Communion Bernie & Farsijana preaching 7:15pm AA	8 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	9 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	10 3pm Christian Faith Formation 6pm SOS Men's AA 6:30pm Weaver's Guild	11 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA	12 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit 4:30pm Nominating Committee 6:30pm Church Work Party!	13 10am OA
14 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA	15 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	16 PULSE DUE! 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	17 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Women's Bible Study	18 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at Assumption Catholic Church 7:15pm AA	19 4pm Cross-fit	20 9am-2pm Aid to Syrian Refugees in St. James Parking Lot 10am OA
21 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship - Pastor Mark Raynoso Preaching 7:15pm AA	22 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	23 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	24 6pm SOS Men's AA	25 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 1pm First Presbyterian Meeting 5:30pm Worship Committee 7:15pm AA	26 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit 6pm Taco Dinner (ten)	27 10am OA
28 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	29 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	30 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 12pm Women's Potluck Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	31 6pm SOS Men's AA	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">                     Pastor Janet will be on vacation from August 15 - August 22                 </div>		

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**THANK YOU FROM INTERFAITH COALITION**

Children from homeless families have a different attitude about summer break from school: their predictable, supportive routine of going to school, being with friends, being “normal”, is now gone. Their summer does not involve camp and hanging out with school friends. “Camping” is not a family vacation – it is an everyday situation for many children who would give anything to have a home and routine.

Through your partnership and generous donations to Interfaith Coalition, we are reaching out to children and families in Whatcom County and giving them a chance at being “normal” again. One of

the newest families in Interfaith Family Housing is a grandmother raising her six grandchildren. They had been living in her van or on the floor for *two years*! We cannot adequately describe the intense joy on the grandmother’s face when we recently dropped by to see how things were going. It felt like if it were translated into electricity it could power all of Whatcom County. **YOU MEAN THAT MUCH TO THEM** - and to many other children and adults.

*Thank You* for your congregation’s on-going support! Because somewhere out there is a child who is praying for someone, somewhere, who will help his or her family. We are grateful that you are here to help us be there for them.

Laura Harker, Executive Director  
Interfaith Coalition

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**St. James Presbyterian Church**

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[office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)

360-733-1325

Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 9am-2pm



**Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children’s Time

