

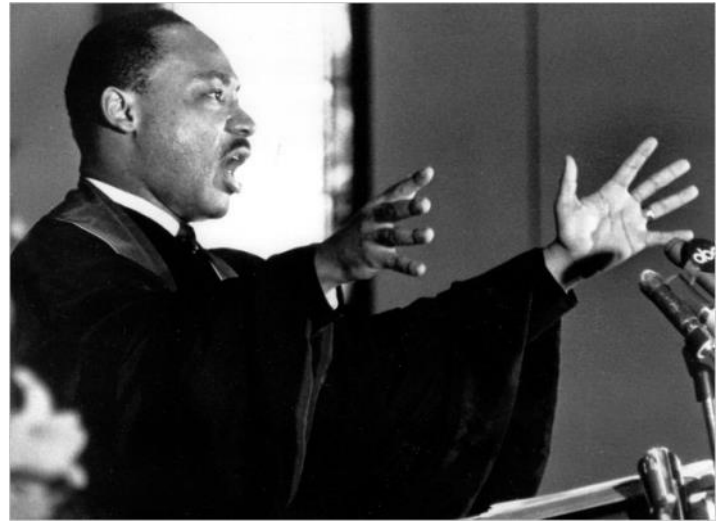
the Pulse

February 2017

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“IT REALLY BOILS DOWN TO THIS: THAT ALL LIFE IS INTERRELATED. WE ARE ALL CAUGHT IN AN INESCAPABLE NETWORK OF MUTUALITY, TIED INTO A SINGLE GARMENT OF DESTINY. WHATEVER AFFECTS ONE DIRECTLY, AFFECTS ALL INDIRECTLY. WE ARE MADE TO LIVE TOGETHER BECAUSE OF THE INTERRELATED STRUCTURE OF REALITY.”

- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



February is the month our nation sets aside to honor and celebrate the achievements of African American men and women throughout history – people whose contributions were long overlooked. Of those we honor, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is surely among the best known and most admired. With a conviction informed by his Christian faith, Dr. King led the non-violent fight for civil rights, promoted peace, and advocated economic justice.

Dr. King delivered many addresses, including his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. While aimed at the critical issues of his day, his words are timeless, and speak with equal relevance now. As a pastor, Dr. King also delivered many sermons. I recently came across a Christmas sermon on peace. These words, excerpted from that sermon delivered in 1967, seem equally well addressed to the issues of our time:

“Now let me suggest first that if we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective. No individual can live alone; no nation can live alone, and as long as we try, the more we are going to have war in this world. Now the judgment of God is upon us, and we must either learn to live together as brothers or we are all going to perish together as fools.” (Today, I suspect Dr. King would say “brothers and sisters.”)

He went on to remind us of our interdependence, as nations and as individuals, and of our responsibility to care for others, here and around the world. “It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We are made to live together because of the interrelated structure of reality.”

Dr. King had a dream of unity and hope, of justice and peace. Today some are endorsing a different vision, one that promotes separateness, that advocates looking out for number one, that divides us rather than unites us. Dr. King’s words about the inescapable network of mutuality” and our “single garment of destiny” (which echo his letter from Birmingham) are a welcome antidote to so much of what we hear in this current political season.

I invite you to use this month to recall and reflect on the wisdom of Dr. King; to remember a vision informed by Christian faith and undergirded by a conviction of the value and dignity of every person. As Christians, our dreams and our visions must always be informed by our faith.

In faith,
Pastor Janet



PULSE

TAI CHI with Linda Henderson begins this month!

--Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 1, after bible study at 11:15 a.m. (one hour) in the Horizon Room; followed at 12:15 p.m. by Chair Tai Chi (one-half hour).

--Monday evenings, beginning Feb. 6, for those who work or those who wish to make up for a missed Wednesday session. The time and place will be announced.

Cost is the same as for yoga: \$15 per month for one class a week; \$25 per month for two classes per week. Those who opt for one class plus the half-hour Chair Tai Chi pay \$20 per month.

Henderson is a long-time practitioner and experienced teacher of Tai Chi. She learned the martial art from a master in Los Angeles. She and her husband moved to Bellingham in June 2016. Linda also teaches Chair Tai Chi at the Parkway Gardens retirement home in Bellingham.

LOVE YOUR HEART!

EXERCISE AT ST. JAMES!

X-FIT, YOGA, TAI CHI

Contact Gretchen Pfueller for more information:

gmpfueller@gmail.com or 734-3953

**PLEASE, DON'T FORGET THE HUNGRY HOMELESS YOUTH
IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

They really appreciate the single serve food items we are collecting in the shopping cart in the Narthex. Just a reminder that these should be items that require no preparation but are immediately ready to eat or drink. According to Bill Read, favorites are beef jerky and Gatorade

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

No, we won't be watching the Seahawks play football, but we can bring canned soup to share with homeless youth through NW Youth Services or \$\$\$ to place in the team soup pots in honor of the Seahawks valiant season.

A LENTEN CHALLENGE: GIVE UP, GIVE IN, OR GIVE OUT

Lent begins on March 1, Ash Wednesday. Remember those years when we would sacrifice or "give up" something during Lent like candy, meat, smoking, or other assorted bad habits, often "giving in" after a couple weeks? The Mission Social Action Committee is challenging you to "give out" this year during Lent, with participation in several organized opportunities:

- We are forming a team to prepare and serve the Southside Community Meal on Sunday, March 19, 5:00 a.m., at Our Saviors Lutheran Church.
 - A Habitat for Humanity Work Party is planned for a Saturday in March.
 - Support the Annual Interfaith Hope Auction on March 26. Purchase tickets from Gary Culbertson or Gretchen Pfueller. Susan Burkland will be coordinating the St. James auction gifts.
 - Give a little "elbow grease" at the monthly St. James Work Party on Saturday, March 11.
 - Visit or send a card to someone in our St. James family who has not been able to be with us lately.
 - Bring single serve food items for NW Youth Services.
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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Louise Hardin
4 Allison Crandall
4 Laura Crandall
5 Janet Oakley
7 Glen Titus
12 Tim Crandall
12 Colleen Reimers
14 Katie Jackson
18 John Dobbie
19 Vie Renard
20 Randy Bowers
22 Gail Haines
23 Jim Gresham
23 Lynda Qualls
26 Ralph Rinne
27 Kay Carr
28 Nancy Peck

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Feb. 5: Letting the Light Through. The focus scripture is Matthew 5:13-20. Children explore the notion of God's love shining within us. Our behavior towards others shows God's love.

Feb. 12: Heart-Felt. The focus scripture is Matthew 5:21-37. God's love helps us to stay connected to one another, even as we experience frustrations with one another.

Feb. 19: Going Beyond. The focus scripture is Matthew 5:38-48. Children learn that God's love is constant. Adults can help by treating children with that love.

Feb. 26: Glorious Mystery. The focus scripture is Matthew 17:1-9. Children might be surprised to learn that some things are mysteries even to adults.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The St. James women's association will meet Tuesday, Feb. 28 for its monthly bible study at 10:30 a.m. followed by a potluck salad luncheon at noon. This month's lesson depicts the fifth of nine lenses through which we see Jesus. It is part of Judy Yates Sikor's Horizon series, "Who Is Jesus?" The focus is on Jesus according to Paul, with the primary scripture 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATUS

Table with 5 columns: Category, December, Current Budget, Yr. to Date, Yr. to Date Budget. Rows include Income and Expenses.

St. James ended 2016 with a surplus of \$17,671. This is the fifth year in a row that we have ended the year with a surplus amount. Each year the surplus has been placed into a reserve account where the Finance Committee and Session has agreed it should go. An example is the Pastoral Transition Reserve that was created at the end of 2013.

A PER CAPITA reminder

We pay the per capita that St. James owes the Presbytery over the next three months. Therefore, we would encourage everyone to pay St. James what they owe if you haven't already done so. The cost is \$50.00 per member. We want to thank everyone who has already paid their share.

Finance Committee
Dick Carr, Chair

PULSE

INTERFAITH COALITION CHOIR FESTIVAL

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Psalm 98:4

Come for an afternoon of joyous music at the **Interfaith Coalition Choir Fest on Sunday, February 12 at 3:30 p.m.** at First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall, Bellingham. This concert will feature individual performances by 13 choirs from Interfaith member congregations as well as a festival combined choir of over 175 voices singing two selections at the end of the concert.

In addition to spiritual music offered by diverse congregations, this year's concert will feature Jewish/Hebrew music with special guests "Millie and the Menschen," a local Jewish Klezmer band who will play a prelude and back up the combined choir numbers. A free-will offering will be taken at this event to support the work of Interfaith Coalition in the community, delivering hope through homes, shelter and food.

As days get longer, INTERFAITH COALITION'S HOPE AUCTION gets closer

Have you noticed the days getting longer? Nature's cycles never fail to amaze. The cycle of life at Interfaith Coalition also is amazing. Here it is again: auction time, a time when our friends gather to raise money in support of our community's homeless children and families.

Our Hope Auction is Saturday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m., and we look forward to seeing you at the Four Points by Sheraton, 714 Lakeway Drive in Bellingham. Please reserve this date and time and plan to be amazed by the generosity of our friends and the resiliency of our community's homeless families.

Whatcom County's friendliest auction fundraiser features fellowship, inspiration, hope and lively bidding on great silent and live auction items. Before this big event --our biggest fundraiser of the year-- we could use your help. Will you consider:

- **Donating an auction item!** A service you offer, your own artwork, gift certificate, tickets to popular sporting events, vacation home getaway, ...let your imagination soar and think of what you might be able to donate, and get in touch with us!
- **Buying tickets to the auction.** Tickets are \$55 each, including dinner.
- **Becoming a sponsor** or asking your favorite businesses or employers to support Interfaith with a dedicated donation.

Together our coalition of diverse congregations makes a difference. To donate an auction item and purchase tickets, please contact Gary Culbertson, your congregation's board member, or call Interfaith Coalition at (360) 734-3983.

Watch for a sign up in your Sunday church bulletin!



The Congregational Life Committee invites you to

PIZZA AND BINGO NIGHT

Friday, February 24, 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

We will provide pizza, salad and beverages
You can bring a dessert or snacks to share.

Featuring:

- A vintage Bingo wheel
- Amazing prizes
- Great food
- Lots of fun!

Food first, then Bingo!

We can provide child care if needed. Mark your calendars today and plan to join us! Bring a friend or two!

OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 4 AT PERCH AND PLAY

Skookum Kids is one of the worthy causes supported by our mission giving. Located within blocks of St. James, Skookum Kids provides care for children entering or transitioning into foster care. This allows time for caseworkers to find the right long-term placement. Director, Ray Deck III, shares that they “have been growing like crazy.” In just the last year they:

- expanded their Skookum House program to 24/7
- added 3 new full-time staff members
- launched the Skookum Parents program
- launched the Foster Family of the Month program



Recently Skookum Kids had the opportunity to take over operation of Perch and Play, an indoor playground and café, and decided it fit within their mission. They are holding an open house on February 4, from 9:00 a.m. until about 2:00 p.m. They’d love folks to come and see it in person. Play is free, with donations appreciated. Perch and Play is located at 1707 N. State Street in Bellingham.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-510-9558 Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule: contact hlearningsolutions@gmail.com </div>			1 10am Bible Study 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	2 Groundhog Day 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	3 4pm Cross-fit	4 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
5 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 7:15pm AA	6 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	7 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	8 10am Bible Study 3pm Christian Faith Formation 4:30pm Weavers Guild 6pm SOS Men's AA	9 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	10 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit	11 8am SOS Men's AA Group 9am Church Work Party! 10am OA
12 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA	13 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	14 Valentine's Day 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	15 10am Bible Study 6pm SOS Men's AA	16 PULSE ITEMS DUE 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	17 4pm Cross-fit	18 10am OA
19 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	20 Presidents' Day 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	21 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	22 10am Bible Study 6pm SOS Men's AA	23 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Worship committee 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	24 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Pizza & Bingo	25 10am OA
26 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	27 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	28 10am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> LISTEN TO SERMONS ONLINE saintjamespres.org </div> 			