

the Pulse

January 2017

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not
perceive it?*

*I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

-Isaiah 43:19

As I celebrate my second New Year with you, I reflect, as I did last year, on the theme of newness. This time around, however, that reflection takes place within a changed context. Consequently, it takes on a different meaning.

When I wrote last year's January newsletter article, I had been at St. James less than two months. We were just beginning our interim journey together. This January, though, my time with you is drawing to a close. The Pastor Nominating Committee has announced the exciting news that they are narrowing the field of candidates to their finalists.

As I did before, I remind you that the call to newness is integral to our faith as Christians. We worship the God who does new things – who brings new hope, who establishes a new covenant, who ushers in a new kingdom, who invites us to new life. Our God is all about doing a new thing. And now God is calling you into a new future.

As the PNC nears the completion of their task, it is time to look forward, and to prepare to embrace newness in a tangible way. No doubt, your next pastor will have new ideas, will suggest new initiatives, and will do things in new ways. Embracing newness means having an attitude of openness and hopeful expectation.

I invite you to make January a time of prayer. Continue to pray for the PNC as they continue their work and complete their task. And pray for this community of faith, that you will continue to look forward in hope, and be ready to welcome your next pastor . . . with all the newness that brings.

In faith,

Pastor Janet



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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The St. James Women's Association approved at the November meeting to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month, rather than the last Tuesday. So, this month's bible study (10:30 a.m.) and luncheon (noon) are scheduled for Tuesday, January 24.

Because of inclement weather during December, we canceled both the luncheon and the bible study. Our next bible study will focus on last month's lesson: According to John. This year's Horizon study asks, "Who Is Jesus?" The key scripture is John 9:1-7.

We will have our usual potluck salad luncheon at noon, and we'll welcome featured speaker Shirley Dunwoody, a member of the Bellingham Storytellers Guild.



ST. JAMES CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Jan. 1: "Let Everything Praise God" -- Children will think about how they and all living things can praise God. Focus scripture is Psalm 148.

Jan. 8: "See How God Sees" -- Children hear how they please God, in a message of love and affirmation. Focus scripture is Matthew 3:13-17.

Jan. 15: "Big Call" -- Children learn God loves and values children, knowing that each one is special. Focus scripture is Isaiah 49: 1-7.

Jan. 22: "A Call to Follow" -- Children hear about Jesus's calling some fishermen and that he invites children, too, to follow his ministry. Focus scripture is Matthew 4:12-23.

Jan. 29: "Re-imagined Realm" -- Children learn about the concept of "blessing" and learn that they are always a blessing to God, whether they are feeling sad or happy. Focus scripture: Matthew 5:1-12.

From the Sacristy Committee: We could use clear or red votive candle holders for future church events. If you discover any extra holders as you pack away your Christmas decorations, you can leave them in Music Director Carolyn's mailbox or in the Sacristy - the room behind the chancel (front of the church). Thank you so much.

**ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY 22ND
immediately following the worship service.**

**Annual Reports are due the January 6th.
Please send them to Natasha at office@saintjamespres.org**

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

January Birthdays

- 1 Teresa Bowers
- 2 Phil Jones
- 3 Susan Burkland
- 7 Stacey Miller
- 8 Marty Haines
- 11 Don Mellinger
- 13 Nancy Pace
- 15 Karen Summers
- 15 Les Belrose
- 16 Joan Elsethagen
- 17 Dwayne Rogers
- 18 Genevie Pfueller Roguski
- 20 Wayne Landis
- 23 Hailey Caruso
- 26 Melany Armstrong
- 26 Betty Miller
- 28 Mark Danielson
- 31 Marlene Amman

January Anniversaries

- 2 Ed Simmers and Jane Madden

FOOD CART DONATIONS WANTED!

Please don't forget the many youth living on the streets of Bellingham who are so hungry. Please place donations of single serve items in the grocery cart in the Narthex.

THE GRIEF SUPPORT DATE CHANGE

Grief Support Group will meet on January 9th and January 23rd at 10:00am in the Horizon Room.

2017 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION SUGGESTION

Join the St. James X-fit group on Tuesday & Friday at 4:00pm.
Join the St. James yoga group on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:00am.

For details contact Gretchen Pfueller at 734-3953



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INTERFAITH COALITION HOPE AUCTION IS ON THE WAY

Mark your calendar: Interfaith Coalition's Annual Hope Auction happens on **Saturday, March 25th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.** The auction will again take place at the Four Points by Sheraton, 714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham.

Whatcom County's friendliest auction fundraiser features fellowship, inspiration, hope and lively bidding on great silent and live auction items. Please join us as we continue in our work of transforming struggling lives. You can help in these ways:

- Donate 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!
- Buy tickets to the auction. Tickets are \$55 each, including dinner.
- Become a business sponsor or ask your favorite businesses or employers to support Interfaith with a dedicated donation.

We make a difference in the lives of homeless families and individuals. Partner with us by attending our Hope Auction and lifting up our brothers and sisters! To donate an auction item and purchase tickets, please contact Gary Culbertson, your congregation's board member, through our website: www.interfaith-coalition.org, or call Interfaith Coalition at 360-734-3983.

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE

January 7, 2017, 3:30pm - 6pm
Guru Nanak Gursikh Gurdwara
176 Pole Rd., Lynden, WA

Greetings for the Holiday Season from the Sikhs of Whatcom County.

Please join us for an INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE: from 3:30 - 6:00pm on January 7. People from all faith community are invited to this prayer service and to learn more about the Sikh religion.

Whatcom County faith leaders and civic leaders will be sharing prayers and peace in multicultural congregation. Noemi Ban, Holocaust Survivor - Keynote speaker.

As the event progresses it will become an informal open mic. We would like people to share 2-3 minutes of their message of peace, unity and sharing. Our intent is not to have any political discussions, rather people sharing with people and respecting everyone's beliefs and faith.

Please bring your families, friends and congregations! A free vegetarian meal will be served.

Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Council member,
President and Executive Committee of Sikh Temple

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE MEETING HELD DECEMBER 11, 2016

Reported:

- As of 11/30/16, the year to date income/expenses balance was \$18,251.77.
- Annual Reports are due January 6, 2016.
- This month St. James gave \$694 to Lighthouse Mission, \$200 to Presbyterians for Earth Care, \$200 for Earth Ministry Northwest.

Discussed:

- A Policy and Procedure policy manual (available electronically) will be kept in a notebook available in the church office and the pastor's office.
- Mission and Social Action Committee is developing a Lenten Challenge day of service during Lent where members can participate in a service activity.

Decided:

- The pulpit supply honorarium was increased from \$150 to \$200 per supply.
- The budget was approved as proposed.
- That the unexpended balance from 2016 will be set up as a reserve account for Mission spending in 2017.
- Installation and ordination of officers be held January 1, 2017.
- Session members will meet to examine new officers on December 18, 2016 after worship.
- A Security Policy was approved as presented by the Building and Grounds committee.
- Offerings and fund raising efforts were approved for 2017: PCUSA: OGHS, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, Christmas Joy; Other Support: Souper Bowl Sunday, Undy Sunday, CWS Blanket Sunday, Warm Coat Drive, Angel Tree, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering, Interfaith Auction, Habitat for Humanity Auction.

CHURCH OFFICERS elected and terms completed

Ruling elders elected to serve up to 3 year terms, beginning in 2017, will be: Jeanne Uhles, Laurie Anderson, Dick Carr, Merry Thomas and Tim Crandall. Deacons elected to three year terms will be: Karen and Dwayne Rogers, Janet Oakley and Alice Beaty. We are extremely grateful that they have accepted their positions, to provide leadership and support in our church. Thanks to Merry and Dick who continue the work and to those who bring fresh perspectives to the work of Session. We appreciate the excellent and dedicated work of Madeleine Smith as Deacon and Bill Read as elder. Carla Shafer also completes six years as elder (two as Clerk of Session).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE elected

Tracy Caruso, Kay Carr, Randy Bowers, and Cheryl McGregor have been elected to serve one year terms as at-large members of the Nominating Committee. It is their job, with the help of a Deacon elected by the Deacons and two Ruling Elders elected by the Session, to call new people to positions that will open in 2018. Thank you to them for agreeing to serve. Special thanks to Nominating Committee members: Tracy Caruso, Kay Carr, Randy Bowers, Jan Resick, Betsy Freeman, Valerie McBeth, and Carla Shafer.

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**GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Your PNC has continued to meet in our search for a new pastor for St. James. We have stopped accepting new applications for the position, and have conducted phone interviews with several candidates. The plan is to be finished with the phone interviews by the New Year. We have 2 neutral pulpits scheduled in January to meet the candidates and are extremely hopeful that we are nearing the end of this process. 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



NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATUS

November	Current	Budget	Yr. to Date	Yr to Date Budget
Income	\$18,328	\$17,701	\$207,409	\$206,052
Expense	\$17,628	\$16,587	\$188,675	\$202,846

Pledging by the membership to support St. James in 2016 was \$183,253. Pledging for 2017 is \$160,476 which is close to \$23,000 less. We have 76 pledges for 2016 and 51 pledges for 2017. Our income sources are membership pledges, Non-member contributions, and building usage. For the past four years we have been fortunate to end these years with excess funds. These funds have been allocated to various areas to be used in the future such as pastoral transition. The shortfall for 2017 is very difficult to accommodate as there are very few areas in our budget where cuts can be made without a serious impact. Using these excess funds to cover expenditures, paying the bills, is a very risky approach to doing business. The Finance Committee has discussed this matter and decided that, as a one time situation, the excess funds from December 31, 2016 should be used to support mission related expenditures as there are no funds in the budget to support this cause. Session has reluctantly agreed to this recommendation. The results of this approval leaves us with an \$8,000 deficit budget which Session has also approved. \$7,000 of these deficit funds have to do with the difference in what we are paying our interim pastor and the maximum we can pay our next pastor. We, as members of St. James, need to take a serious look at this situation during this year and decide as a church what our options are. Please plan to attend the annual membership meeting on January 29th Bring questions and suggestions.

Dick Carr

Finance Chair

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

There will be no Prayer Vigils on January 18 and February. 18. We are all invited to remember the Middle East in our own prayers on those days.

The March 18 Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East will be hosted by the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 2700 Lakeway Drive, at 5.30 p.m.



PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

God of mercy and compassion,
of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians,
Palestinians and Israelis.

Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope,
oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation,
that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces,
and peace and justice could be experienced by all.
Amen.

- Reverend Said

JANUARY CALENDAR 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 7:15pm AA	2 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	3 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	4 10am Bible Study 3pm Christian Faith Formation 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	5 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	6 4pm Cross-fit	7 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
8 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	9 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	10 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	11 10am Bible Study 5pm Weavers Guild 6pm SOS Men's AA	12 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	13 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit	14 9am Church Work Party! 10am OA
15 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	16 Martin Luther King Day Pulse due date! 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	17 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	18 10am Bible Study 6pm SOS Men's AA	19 10:15am Yoga 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	20 4pm Cross-fit	21 9am Pet Partners 10am OA 6pm Music Teachers Association
22 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Annual Congregational Meeting 7:15pm AA	23 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	24 10am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	25 10am Bible Study 6pm SOS Men's AA	26 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	27 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit	28 10am OA 9am Deacon's & Session's Officer Retreat including lunch at 11:30am
29 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	30 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	31 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance				

Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-510-9558
 Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule:
 contact hlearningsolutions@gmail.com



St. James Presbyterian Church

910 - 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
www.saintjamespres.org
office@saintjamespres.org
360-733-1325

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

Children's Ministry:

Zadra Nolan, Coordinator

Luchy Sieczk, Teacher

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Janet Sonnanburg

Music Director: Carolyn Mullen

Office Manager: Natasha Orme

Organist/Pianist: Melany Armstrong

Treasurer: Marina McLeod

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children's Time