

THE PULSE

I recently attended a talk by Dr. Darrell Guder on the missional church, a subject associated with him ever since he edited a book in the late 90's called *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. He told us that the term "missional" has become a cliché, used so frequently and so fluidly, it's become a trendy tag attached to countless approaches and programs, not always appropriately.

When Dr. Guder and his colleagues coined the term, they had something more specific in mind. They were seeking to address the changed cultural context of the church in the wake of a fundamental paradigm shift. That change was the end of Christendom—the end of a time when the church had influence, when church attendance was the norm, when churches could sit back and wait for folks to show up. Clearly that's not today's reality. So churches need to rediscover what it means to be missional, and to realize that being missional is inseparable from being the church.

I know folks here, as in most churches, have felt the impact of this shift, whether or not they've named it this way. We know people no longer automatically show up at our doors. In fact, in the focus groups convened by the PNC, there was considerable lamenting over the way things used to be. But the question is what to do about it. How do we look not backward, but forward in faith?

I'm sorry to say, there is no simple answer. There are countless books on church growth and programs promoting evangelism. But as Dr. Guder said, there is no silver bullet. No program is the answer. Instead, he believes the church needs to work on its own life, to put its own house in order, so that our witness will have integrity; because for many, the church has lost credibility. We've lost the right to be heard because our witness is not always consistent with our practice. What we say doesn't always match what we do.

His suggestions? Among other things, he said we need to have honest conversations about how hard it



Prophet Jeremiah - Michelangelo

is to be Christian today. We need a disciplined prayer life, individually and collectively. And we need to be engaged with Scripture, not using Bible study simply to glean nuggets that help us personally, but discerning together how God's Word is shaping us to be witnesses to the Gospel. We will have a convincing witness, he said, only when the character of our community is congruent with the Gospel message of grace.

So he offered no quick fixes, and I know that's what many want. Instead, his suggestions require patience. They take trust. They demand faithfulness over the long haul. If he's right, and I suspect he is, I suggest we start now. If these things take time, and I expect they will, it makes sense to begin these practices today. Have those honest conversations. Pray. And come study Scripture together at one of our Bible studies.

Finally, have faith. Remember God's promise in Jeremiah, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

In faith,
Pastor Janet



PULSE

Earth Care Events on Sunday, April 24, 2016

A Labyrinth for the Earth was held at Fairhaven Park at 9AM. People who came were first time labyrinth walkers and reported it to be a spiritually rich experience. Morning Worship was led by Rev. Janet Sonnanburg and worshippers became more aware of creation texts and messages related to creation and knowing God throughout the old and new Testaments. After Worship an Earth Care discussion focused on taking action based on one’s beliefs. Information also addressed the current problems created for the northwest due to current and planned increases in transporting coal and oil.

The Earth Care Actions discussion held after worship, featured Abby Brockway, Presbyterian Elder from Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, one of the Delta Five who blocked an oil train in 2014. Presenter Eddy Ury, Clean Energy Organizer from ReSources, explained the actions and work being done in Whatcom county to stop the export of non-renewable resources and increase the use of sustainable energy options.



Labyrinth walkers at Fairhaven Park contemplate creation and our part in it.

Abby told twenty-four St. James members and friends about the necessity she felt as a Christian to break the law to stop inadequately equipped and unsafe trains from transporting explosive and polluting oil through Washington towns and cities, past our schools, hospitals, businesses, and homes. She began writing letters and speaking up after the explosion in Quebec where 47 people were killed and 21 children became orphans. She described how her love for children, place and family drove her to find a way to be heard. She spoke of the need to upset the powers and principalities when they denied the problem or gave inadequate responses or continued to allow rail companies exemptions from reporting what they ship. She urged that we need the corporations to partner with us, the citizenry, on issues of health,

safety and development of sustainable energies to preserve the earth and a livable climate.

Abby said that fear blocks creativity. The support of her congregation and lessons learned teaching Church School were instrumental in her decision to be obedient to the natural law and to do what she knew was right. The action of blocking the oil filled railcars on the rail spur in Everett was planned with Rising Tide Seattle and four other environmentally concerned area residents. Several received training at Backbone Action Camp. Working with her lawyer father and pro bono attorneys, to develop a “Necessity Defense” that would involve a judge and jury and cause some media coverage. Basically, the Necessity Defense says that 1. The action was necessary to avoid a greater harm; 2. the harm to be avoided is more harmful; 3. The threat was not brought on by the person committing the action; and 4. No reasonable legal alternative existed.

Eddy gave the group an overview of the volume of the coal and oil transported through Washington. He talked of work being done on the update of the Whatcom County

Comprehensive Plan which will determine the future of our community – everything from whether our drinking water is protected by critical habitats along shorelines to whether struggling aquatic reserves take the brunt of new fossil fuel exports. Through research and community discussions, the following county policy guidelines, when implemented, would protect our community:

1. Keep our community safe by preventing new fossil fuel export projects;
2. Ensure we have enough clean water available to sustain farms, fish and people;
3. Preserve farm and forest lands by preventing urban sprawl;

- 4. Invest in energy security by opening the door to renewable energy jobs and achieving carbon neutrality.

A public hearing of the county council on this matter was held Tuesday, May 3 at 7 p.m. He commented that sitting in a meeting, may not be the same as blocking a train, but if citizens speak up and show their commitment to these policies it would create a sustainable future for us and for generations to come.

We discussed having Abby and Eddy back this summer to give us more information and updates.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped us have such a significant meeting on the topic. Special thanks go to: Gretchen Pfueller, Mary and Peter van der Veen, Carol and Ray Delleker, Marion and John Dobbie, Jan Resick, Gary Culbertson, Margaret deMaine, Pastor Janet, and the Pastor Nominating Committee members who rearranged the tables from an earlier meeting.

Report is by Carla Shafer, event coordinator.

4-27-16



Presenters Abby Brockway (standing right) and Eddy Ury (center front) and some of the 24 attendees.



Labyrinth for the Earth coffee and tea stop

Homeless Connect July Volunteer Opportunity

Saint James will conduct its annual Undie Sunday solicitation of new underwear for men, women and children on July 10 and 17. We will not be collecting socks or personal items because other congregations have that covered. The coordinators are thrilled with the support St. James' members give, so let's keep up the good work.

This year the community-wide Homeless Connect event where gifts and services are made available to homeless residents in Whatcom county is on Friday, July 22.

In addition to giving underwear, you may volunteer to help out on the day of the event. They will need all kinds of help, including food servers, recycling help, greeters and other volunteers who can provide specific services. You may already be connected with this project. If you are, please let Gretchen Pfueller or a member of the Mission Social Action Committee know. Volunteer sign-up information will be in the Sunday bulletins and in weekly e-mail notices from St. James' office.

Carla Shafer, MSA committee member

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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. The PNC has been meeting almost weekly since February 14. One of the first charges we were given was to create a new mission statement for the church as Corey Schlosser-Hall, our executive Presbyter, advised that St. James was in need of a new mission statement before proceeding with the posting of a position. In order to come up with that mission statement the PNC has been working to gather feedback from the congregation in the form of the congregational survey and focus group, in order to decide who our church is and to develop an accurate and telling view of our church. We are close to submitting a new mission statement for approval. Our next steps will be to complete our ministry information form and post a job opening, and start receiving resumes.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact one of us!

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

Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East

Since December 2000, some 18 churches and faith communities in Bellingham, Ferndale and Lynden have taken turns hosting the monthly Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East. The initiative for this monthly prayer vigil was taken by the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C. The ecumenical group "Churches for Middle East Peace" worked out the details and contacted churches nationwide. The basic pattern was that at any day of the month, a number of churches in the U.S. would incorporate the welfare of the people of the Middle East into the heart of their church life: in their worship, in their learning, and in their advocacy. "We urge people to see this prayer vigil as so much more than just words in a formal liturgy, but rather as an outpouring of concern for Palestinians and Israelis; Christians, Muslims, and Jews, whose lives are overtaken by broken relationships, and the resulting injustice, conflict and hatred."

The vigil was organized by States, starting with Alabama and New York on the first day of advent in December 2000, while the 18th of the month was designated for the States of Kansas and Washington. Each church or faith community follows a form of worship in accordance with its own tradition. For Bellingham and nearby places, it was decided to have the prayer vigil at 5:30 p.m., the prayer vigils lasting about 1/2 hour.

The Saturday, June 18 prayer vigil will be hosted by St. James Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m. The service will include a Baha'i prayer sung by Vedad Theophilus, in the traditional Farsi language, and the English version will be read by her husband, Lee. Several verses (Sura's) of the Holy Qor'an will be read by Hussam Abdo, followed by a reading of the meaning in English. All three have enriched the prayer vigils at St. James in previous years.

The Monday, July 18 Prayer Vigil will be hosted by the United Church of Ferndale.

Habitat for Humanity Dinner and Auction a great success!



On Saturday, May 14, eleven St. James members and friends had a great time getting to know more about Habitat for Humanity and helping out. Sitting around the table together were Margaret deMaine, Faye Hill, Claude Hill, Craig Keyes, Julie Keyes, Gale Pfueller, Gretchen Pfueller, a Habitat board member, and Carla Shafer (taking the picture). Also in the room working on the auction from St. James were Ray Dellecker, Carol Dellecker and Tim Crandall. Habitat thanked Ray as the current President of the Habitat Board of Directors, Carol and Tim for their work setting up and coordinating, and Claude for his on-going work fine finishing furniture that is sold in the store. We were happy to take part in the blue jeans barbecue that raised over \$50,000 for Habitat.

Habitat has some new volunteer opportunities at the store and with some new housing builds that are about to start. If you are interested, please tell Gretchen Pfueller and we can arrange an orientation session here at St. James (breakfast on a Sunday morning) or you can contact them directly for an in-store orientation.

For an individual contact go to <http://www.hfhwhatcom.org/volunteer> click on a type of volunteering and fill out a contact form, or you can send an email to Janet Straka at volunteer@hfhwhatcom.org for more information.

Bellingham Proud Volunteers wanted!

This year's Pride Fest Parade and Celebration takes place on Sunday, July 10. We are signed up for a "welcome" table at the Market square downtown. Bellingham Pride festival "is planned to build a strong and unified community for all to be proud of." When we attend the festival and have a table, we show that we are represent one of a few "open and affirming" churches in Bellingham where everyone is welcome. Individuals and families who take part in the festival, are always so glad to see us there and we have fun handing out our "Help us Grow" seed packets and talking to people.

It's a spectacle and pretty noisy, but there are colorful costumes, and music from many genres. This is one way we can affirm that God is love and God loves everyone. If you would like to volunteer to help set-up (before church 9-10 a.m.) or volunteer at our table (between noon and 4 a.m.), please sign up with Carla Shafer. If you want to talk to someone who has helped, talk to: Margaret deMaine, Alice Beaty, Jeanne Uhles, Bev Stewart, or Karen Summers.

If you can't volunteer, please join others in our church who come to visit our table to show support and interest.



PULSE

We can't do it without you!

Dear friend of Habitat for Humanity,

We would like you to join us for a readout of our work to alleviate Whatcom County's affordable housing shortage. We're gathering on **Thursday evening June 2 in the Community Room of the Cordata Food Co-Op**, 315 Westerly Road. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30pm, and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm. We expect to conclude by 8:30pm.



In this meeting, we'll share with you the current "State of the Affiliate" and our plans for the future. It's our desire that this meeting be an exchange of ideas and suggestions to help us achieve our mission.

We very much hope you can join us. Please RSVP by replying to this email or, if you have questions, please call 360-715-9170 and ask for Fred or Janet.

Sincerely,
Ray Dellecker, President, Board of Directors
John Moon, Executive Director

**LIGHTHOUSE MISSION EXECUTIVE RETIRES
A Farewell for Ron and Pat Buchinski**

Tuesday, May 31, 3-6:30 PM
MISSION DROP-IN CENTER, 1013 West Holly St.

Come enjoy chili and cornbread and tour all of the Mission facilities, many of which Ron was instrumental in starting over the eleven years he served the homeless men, women and children of Whatcom County through the Lighthouse Mission. Take this chance to say "Thank You" and also meet the new director, Hans Erchinger-Davis



"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

-Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

**Father's Day
Sunday, June 19**

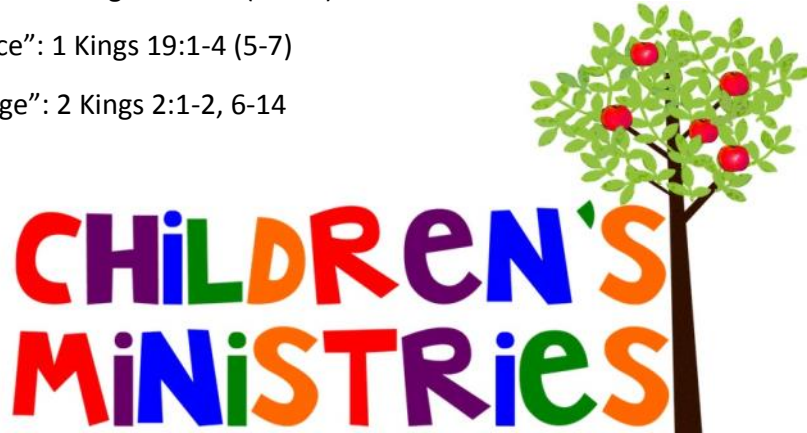
The Children's Ministries dates and lessons for the month of May are:

June 5: "Voice of the Silenced": 1 Kings 17:8-16 (17-24)

June 12: "Voice of Justice": 1 Kings 21:1-10 (11-14)

June 19: "Voice of Silence": 1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7)

June 26: "Voice of Change": 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14



June Birthdays

1	George Lake
1	Alice Beaty
5	Barbara Harnden
9	Jane Botsford
9	Fred Daugert
10	Terri Inge
14	Zadra Nolan
14	Lois Gray
15	Sue Smith
20	Bev Stewart
20	Amber Wainscott
23	Bob Smith
25	Emily Hargleroad
27	Corina Bowers
27	Ben Holstine

June Anniversaries

1	Colleen and Ken Reimers
4	Craig and Julie Keyes
12	Bob and Madeleine Smith
16	Bob and Barbara Harnden
16	Bob and Marilyn Monahan
17	Mark and Alice Beaty
21	Phil and Phyllis Jones
25	Bob and Nancy Pace
27	Susan and Jim Holstine
29	Randy and Mary Robinson-Mohr
30	Claude and Faye Hill

Presbyterian Women

The St. James Women's Association will meet for a potluck salad luncheon Tuesday, June 28, at noon. The bible study for this year wrapped up last month, and a new study will begin again in September.

In July, we'll get together for our annual luncheon at the Wonderful Buffet.

PULSE

Session Highlights – May 10, 2016

Discussed

- Overall income and expenses are in line with the budget. Memorial funds, Memorials and undesignated gifts are now fairly substantial and the Finance committee will recommend to Session a transparent process for committees to request funding for new projects from these funds.
- Having five Parishes instead of six seem to be working well. Thanks to the Deacons for their excellent work.
- PCUSA Presbyterian Mission Agency congratulates St. James PC as an Earth Care congregation since 2013. We are the only PCUSA church in Washington that participates in a nationwide effort to track commitments to care for creation in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.
- Northwest Coast Presbytery now includes Presbyterian churches PC(USA) from SE Alaska, Central and Eastern Washington Presbyterian Churches as well as, the Olympic Peninsula, Island, Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish and north King County.
- Bibles will be ordered and presented to children in the church.
- The remaining \$3,000 pledged to the Interfaith Coalition’s Our House project will be paid in two installments of \$1,500, one in 2016 and the final one in 2017.
- Thank you to Gale Pfueller for his many years of service mowing the church grounds.

Decided

- Increase the contract with Cascade Vocational Services to add 1 to 11/2 additional hours per week for the purposes of additional cleaning.
- Elect Carla Shafer to serve as Commissioner to Northwest Coast Presbytery, May 19, 20, 2016 in Kennewick, WA (We are eligible for two commissioners).
- Approve the St. James Staff Member Annual Review form and the Sexual Misconduct Report form.
- Contract with J and M Electric to improve lighting outside the church building up to \$5,000 .
- Contract with Rainshield Roofing to seal and coat the tower to prevent leaking up to \$5,000 .
- Schedule regular mowing with Rueben Mowing Service to be budgeted up to \$1500 in 2016.
- Schedule regular carpet cleaning to be budgeted up to \$1500 in 2016.
- Invite Presbyterian Mission co-workers Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta working in Indonesia to provide the sermon during worship and a program about their work at breakfast on Sunday, August 7.
- Grant Pastor Janet’s vacation request for June 21 to 26, 2016.

APRIL FINANCIAL STATUS

	<u>April</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Yr to Date</u>	<u>Yr to Date Budget</u>
Income	\$20,085.30	\$16,426.	\$84,200.30	\$81,634.00
Expenses	\$17,124.03	\$19,369.33	\$68,294 65	\$78,825.32

St. James has paid the second PER CAPITA payment to the Presbytery for the year. If you have not made your commitment to pay the annual \$50 per member, then now is a good time to do so. Remember, **this is the annual dues to** support the Presbytery just as you might be doing as a member of a club or other organization that requires annual dues.

The Finance Committee wishes to thank those who have committed to this PER CAPITA program.
Dick Carr, Chair

Save the Date!



Salmon Cookout

Friday, June 24

6 pm

JUNE CALENDAR 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:15am Christian Faith Formation 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	2 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA	3 4pm Cross-fit	4 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
5 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	6 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	7 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	8 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 6:30pm Weavers Guild	9 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Building and Grounds 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA	10 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit 6:30pm Church Work Party	11 10am OA
12 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA	13 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 7pm AA Men's Book Study	14 Flag Day 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	15 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Women's Bible Study	16 PULSE DUE! 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	17 4pm Cross-fit	18 10am OA 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at St. James
19 Father's Day 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	20 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	21 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	22 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	23 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	24 3pm Membership Committee 4pm Cross-fit 6pm Salmon Cook-out	25 9am Pet Partners 10am OA
26 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	27 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Campus USA 7pm St. James Literary Society	28 8am Prayer Group 10am Yoga 12pm Women's Luncheon 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	29 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	30 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA		