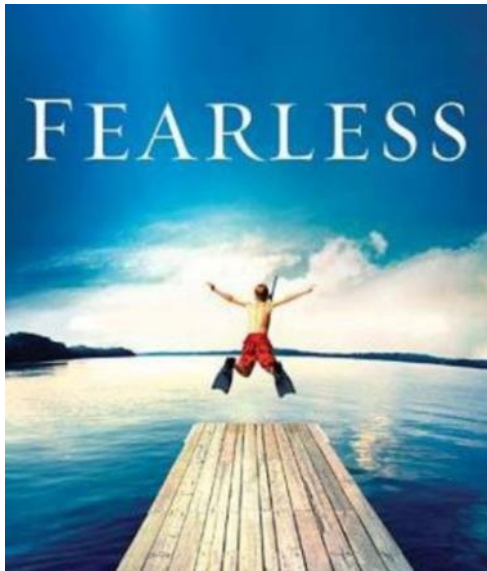


The Pulse

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

June 2015 Pastor's *Pulse* Article



When we think about the qualities that define a good leader, it is common for us to imagine a vocal visionary who is skilled at rallying others to support a shared cause. This kind of leader is confident and fearless. She is a gifted orator with a clear mastery of social networking and the unwavering determination to inspire change. In reality, though, such leadership is quite rare. What I have observed in ministry is that leaders are truly a diverse bunch who exert their influence in a variety of ways. To put it simply, leadership takes many forms.

I was once meeting privately with one of our members and in the course of our conversation I said to him with all sincerity that I believe him to be one of the best leaders in our congregation. He looked a bit puzzled at first before saying, "I have never really viewed myself as a leader. I tend to think of myself as the kind of person who fills gaps, instead." It was then that I added, "But, isn't that exactly the kind of thing that a leader does?"

It is often said that leaders are born. But, as Lovett H. Weems, Jr. notes in his book about

church leadership, this is far from reality. In fact, most of the skills of leadership can be learned. Meanwhile, most effective leadership involves a team. It is the team, then, that is moving forward with passion, courage, and conviction. Some in the group will offer occasional bursts of wisdom and insight. Others will be more vocal. In the end, though, it is the group, rather than any individual, that is moving forward to influence change.

Without a doubt, there are some people who do not want religious organizations to change. But, as Weems notes, "The only way to preserve values over time is to be involved continuously in renewal and change, thus finding ever fresh expressions for those values. When any organization decides it will seek to save its life by building walls against change, that organization is destined to lose its life, its vitality."

Harvard business professor Rosabeth Moss Kanter notes that "The task of leadership *is* change. Leaders inspire others to their best efforts in order to do better, to attain higher purposes. Leaders are not satisfied with the status quo. They are not satisfied with maintaining things as they are. They are idealists who believe that things can be better, utopians who dream of perfection. Leaders, therefore, must be change masters. They must understand how to create and guide innovation."

On June 7, Saint James is hosting a church leadership Sunday. Information will be available from each of our committees in the Horizon Room and narthex. That day, we invite you to visit the displays, learn more about our existing ministries, and to consider your role in the ongoing renewal of our church family.

Peace and best wishes,

Jon

PULSE

Session Highlights

Discussed:

- Continued Action Planning.
- Considered the mission statement: “We joyfully welcome youth and young families into our intergenerational and loving community of faith, nurturing relationships that bridge our differences.” This has been an area of crisis for the church with dwindling numbers of families with children for the last several decades. We discussed the current situation and brainstormed possible activities and long range outcomes.

Reported:

- A regularly scheduled internal finance audit will be conducted by five congregation members to assure that all is in order.
- The Congregational Life committee will be asked to be responsible for supplies related to the kitchen, including: paper cups, plates and electric dishwasher soap.
- A Saint James “Connect Event” will be held after church on June 7th, so people can learn what work the committees do and sign up for the committee that interests them. It will be followed up with a “Pie Social.”
- A site visit with an architect specializing in church environments identified the following areas that are out-of-date: the entry way, narthex, the bathrooms, nursery location and lack of access to all floors for everyone. Building and Grounds is following up.
- A letter writing campaign to congress people on world hunger will take place in June.

Decided:

- To designate a task force to determine how Saint James can address the needs of children, youth, and young adult families now and in the future, answering the following questions by November 30th with progress reports along the way:
 - a. Do we as a congregation have a desire to pursue ministry to children, young adults, families?
 - b. What are Bellingham demographics and what direction do they provide?
 - c. How would we fund a revitalization?
 - d. If we were to hire someone, how would we go about it?
- To place the unrestricted gift from Robert and Nancy Hamilton in the Designated Funds account.
- To add a harassment policy from the Personnel Committee.
- To add a bereavement leave category for employees.
- Approved Jon’s vacation days on June 4-7 and 16, 2015.

Finance Note:

We are a third of the way through the year. Are your pledges up to date? If you are not sure, contact our treasurer, Marina Gresham at treasurer@saintjamespres.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE STATUS FOR APRIL

	<u>APRIL 2015</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
<u>Income</u>	\$15,815.00	\$79,274.00	\$84,477.00
<u>Expenses</u>	\$19,920.63	\$74,829.23	

Bread for the World

As in previous years, we will do our “Offering of Letters” in June (date to be announced). On the preceding Sunday, the themes and suggested wording of the letters to legislators, (Senators and Congressperson) on hunger issues, will be made available in the horizon room. Based on these guidelines, we are asked to write the letters at home and place them in the offering plate the following Sunday. This year we are asked to urge Congress to protect and strengthen our nation’s child nutrition programs, the focus of Bread for the World’s 2015 offering of letters.

The 2014 Offering of Letters focused on reform of U.S. food aid overseas. Authorization was obtained in the 2014 farm bill to purchase \$80 million of food locally where it is needed for development projects, rather than having it shipped by US vessels for distribution or sale. This helps to build up rather than displace local farming communities.

In addition, the Coast Guard Reauthorization bill would have taken away \$75 million of food aid to increase subsidies to shipping companies, reducing the number of food aid recipients by two million. Bread for the World members and supporters sent thousands of hand-written letters and e-mails, and made hundreds of phone calls, in opposition to the above bills.

Furthermore, Bread for the World, inspired letters and phone calls, together with other advocacy, convinced Congress to include \$130 million for programs that reduce hunger, poverty and violence in Central American countries pushing immigrants to seek to enter the U.S. The House, in a bipartisan effort, passed the Global Food Security Act, to authorize the Feed the Future initiative for one year. Bread for the World also was also instrumental in protecting funding for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program.

From: “Special Report to members. An overview of Bread for the World 2014”

Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at St. James

On Thursday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m., St James will host the monthly prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East. Since December 2000 some 20 faith communities in Bellingham, Ferndale, and Lynden have taken turns in hosting the vigil. “Churches for Middle East Peace”, representing many denominations, asked churches nationwide to have one day a month in which prayers and awareness would be focused on the Middle East. Churches in the States of Washington and Kansas were asked to do it on the 18th of the month. The service lasts about 30 minutes. Please join us that day to pray for peace in that troubled part of the world.

Christian Communities in Syria

The Presbyterian Church (USA) and its two parent denominations have been involved in missionary outreach work in Syria since the mid-19th century. The Presbyterian International Peacemaker who will visit us on October 4, originally from Syria and of Armenian ethnic background, will tell us about the hardships the Christian communities in Syria are going through. She had her initial Theological training at the Near East School of Theology, started by Presbyterian Mission Co-workers in 1866.

A special edition of “Mission Crossroads”, our denominational mission magazine, contains an article *Faithful Response of the Church to the Conflict in Syria* by Hadi Ghantous. The article shows a picture of the inscription (in Arabic) at the Presbyterian Church in Damascus (where Mary van der Veen played the pump organ for a while, when they had no organist.) More about Presbyterian Mission work overseas in the next “Pulse”.

Just What Is It That Elders Do?

When you hear the word Elder what does that mean to you? Here is what the *Book of Order* lists as Elder duties. "Elder duties include strengthening and nurturing the faith and life of the congregation; encourage the people in the worship and service of God; equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and the mission in the world; assist in worship; cultivate their ability to teach; perform duties of the sacraments when called upon; perform committee duties and attend meetings as required to further the life of the church."

So in practical terms what do Elders at St. James do to fulfill their duties? Each Elder is a member, usually the chair, of a Session committee based on the Elder's skills and ministry gifts.

Through these committees, Buildings and Grounds, Christian Faith Formation, Finance, Mission and Social Action, Membership, Personnel, and Worship, much of the work of the church is accomplished. Routine

building maintenance, yard work, Christian Education curriculum and classes, the budget, stewardship campaign, mission projects and education, advertising, new member classes, personnel policy and staffing, weekly and special worship services are some of the work done by committee.

As members of Session, the governing body of the local church, Elders work together to discern and implement church vision, church mission, and short- and long-range planning for the church. Elders also participate in the work of the Presbytery, the area church governing body. Elders attend Presbytery meetings, vote on issues along with member pastors, and serve on Presbytery committees.

The Nominating Committee nominates candidates for Elder after reviewing eligible candidates from the congregation. Elders are elected to a 3-year term during a yearly congregational meeting.

The Ministry of the Deacons

The ministry and calling of the Deacons is to help provide nurturing, compassionate care to our church members and visitors. The St. James membership is divided into six parishes, with two deacons leading each parish. The deacons stay in touch with the persons in their parishes through phone calls, e-mail, cards and personal visits. The Moderator of Deacons leads the organizational functioning of all Deacon events and activities, conducts Deacons' meetings and communicates the needs of members to the deacons.

Here are some of the other ways that the deacons serve St. James:

- Provide refreshments and a welcoming presence at the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour, both before and after the worship services.
 - Sponsor and organize the annual church picnic at Fairhaven Park, providing food, set-up and clean-up.
 - Provide refreshments following memorial services for the bereaved families and friends.
 - Organize and prepare the parish lunch in October.
 - Arrange transportation for those who are no longer able to drive.
 - Deliver Easter and Christmas flowers to members confined to their homes or care facilities.
-

Getting Connected – Check Out Committees on June 7

Are you looking for a way to meet more people at church? Joining one of the Session committees is a great way to meet and get to know others in the congregation. At the same time you will be helping accomplish work needed to keep St. James viable and vital.

On Sunday, June 7, after worship the Nominating Committee is hosting “Getting Connected Sunday”, during the usual coffee hour. The Session committees, Building and Grounds, Christian Faith Formation, Finance, Membership, Mission and Social Action, Personnel, and Worship, will each have a table highlighting the work of their committee. Please take a walk around the narthex, Horizon Room, Lounge, and front porch area to see if there is a place for you on one of the committees. All of the committees welcome new members and new ideas. You do not have to be a member of the congregation to be on a committee.

And do we ever do anything fun without food? There will be a different type of homemade cookie on each table. We encourage you to sample every kind!



June 23 and 24 Coffee and Pie

Those who have expressed an interest in learning more about committee service on June 7 will be invited to attend a Coffee and Pie hour. Aspects of church leadership will be discussed, and no commitment to serve will be expected at this time. Also, you need not be a member of the church to serve on one of the church committees.



Undie Sunday

During July, in coordination with the Opportunity Council, Interfaith Coalition and Volunteer Center program of “Homeless Connect,” Saint James is conducting its annual collection of brand new underwear for homeless men and women in need. The Collection will be taken July 12th and 19th.



Infant and Toddler Food Drive

Thanks to everyone who made the Infant and Toddler Food Drive a success. The Food Bank set a goal of 1000 items, by mid-May we were 25% of the way toward their goal. However, we can celebrate our generous giving which filled the grocery cart four Sundays in a row for the first time in many months.

Lost and Found

There are two locations for lost and found items at St. James. There is a kitchen lost and found for kitchen items only in the island cupboard nearest the back door (has a label on door). There is a lost and found cupboard for non-kitchen items located in narthex, lower cupboard closest to the Horizon Room (has a sign on it).

PULSE

Celebration of Life

Please join the Freeman family for a Celebration of Life for Jim Freeman, Betsy's husband, on Saturday, June 13 at Fox Hall, Hampton Inn from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Those attending are encouraged to bring stories/memories to share with his family. In addition a 9-hole Best Ball Scramble will be held that morning at Lake Padden Golf Course.

If interested, contact Betsy @ 734-7583 for tee times.

ATTENTION WOMEN OF ST. JAMES

Come join us on Tuesday, June 30th in the Horizon room for our Monthly Pot Luck Salad Luncheon.



May was the last class for our Bible Study. In September we will be starting with the 20015-2016 PW/Horizon Bible Study – *Come to the Waters*.

Why does this church exist?

A NEXT conference was recently held at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago to discuss creative and innovative ministry in the PC(USA). Jan Edmiston, an associate executive presbyter for ministry for the Presbytery of Chicago was one of the presenters and workshop leaders. Edmiston said that it is important for us to ask directly, "Why does this church exist?" The right answer is not "Because we have an historic building" or "Because my family's always been here." Better answers, she suggested: Faith formation. To love our neighbors and ourselves. "Broken people in the neighborhood need the news of Jesus, and I'm kind of broken too."



St. James Literary Society

SCHEDULE CHANGE!

Instead of Monday, June 22, we will meet on Monday, June 29 to consider *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. The book box with *The Boys in the Boat* is in the church office. In July we will be back to the regular schedule of the 4th Monday of each month. On Monday, July 27, we will consider *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant

Summer Salmon Supper

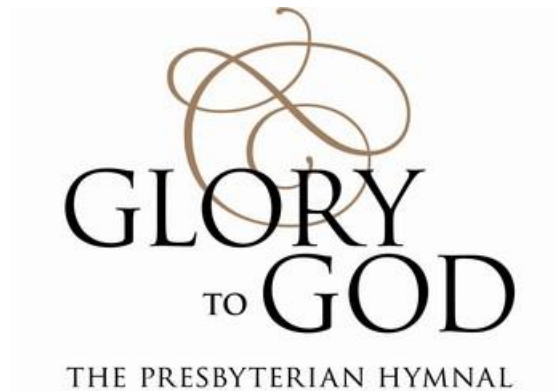
Join your church friends on Friday, June 26, for a grilled salmon barbecue on the back porch of St. James church. Enjoy our spectacular view and delicious food. Bring a salad or dessert to share. Beverages, bread and salmon will be provided. Guests are welcome, and sign-ups will be in the Friendship Pads.

Also mark your calendars for a Deacons' picnic Sunday, July 26, in Fairhaven Park and a church barbecue Friday, August 28, once again on our back porch.

Hymnal Dedications

Three more of our lovely new *Glory to God* hymnals were dedicated, these by Bev Stewart. They are “In honor of the Reverend Linda Steward-Kalen, who was Ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the PC (USA) in this Sanctuary on August 24, 1997”; “In memory of William Summers”; and “In memory of Peg Wilke”. If you look inside the front cover of the hymnal you use, you may see that it has been dedicated to a loved and or honored one.

This project is ongoing, and if you wish to dedicate a hymnal, it is never too late. Do so by donating \$20 and filling out a Dedication Form, available in the Horizon Room. OR, include a note with your check with your name, and to whom you wish to make the dedication. You may mail it to the church, drop it in the offering plate, or at the office.



Favorite Hymns

Have you discovered an old favorite hymn in the new *Glory to God* hymnal? Why not share it? June 28, July 19 and Aug. 30 we will celebrate these favorite hymns by using them in worship. Please take some time to look through our new hymnals for your favorites, jot them down on the form provided in your Sunday bulletin or e-mail them to me at zolhavn@gmail.com. Thanks! Carolyn, Music Director

Coming this summer, Hymn Sing Sundays! Starring our new hymnal!

“I think music in itself is healing. It’s an explosive expression of humanity. It’s something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we’re from, everyone loves music.” Billy Joel

Did you know? Music has the ability to ease the perception of chronic pain. In fact, according to a paper in the *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, music can reduce chronic pain by up to 21 percent. The paper reports that 60 patients participated in a controlled clinical trial and were subdivided into two groups — music and no music. The results revealed that people who listened to music for an hour each day for a week had improved physical and psychological symptoms compared to those who were deprived of music. Music can put you in a better mood, which can advance recovery time since a positive-thinking patient almost always recovers better and faster than a patient filled with negative energy. Music shouldn’t be considered a first-line treatment for your chronic pain, but once medical treatment is underway, a healthy dose of your favorite tracks can help ease the suffering.

This is your brain. This is your brain on music...

Learn more about the benefits of music at these links:

http://www.askmen.com/money/body_and_mind_100/146_better_living.html

<http://greatist.com/happiness/unexpected-health-benefits-music>

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St. James Presbyterian Church

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Ministers: The Congregation

Melany Armstrong, Organist/Pianist
Cascade Vocational Services:
Don Bayne, Aaron Cook, Vernon Point, Custodians
Tarryn Brands, Nursery Attendant
Ben Gamman, Youth Director
Marina Gresham, Treasurer
The Rev. Jon Hauerwas, Pastor
Carolyn Mullen, Music Director
Natasha Orme, Office Manager
Lena Rachinski, Youth Director
Payton de Witt, Nursery Attendant
Kara Hauerwas, Carla Shafer, and Merry Thomas, ages 3-5



Don't forget to check out
the St. James website!
saintjamespres.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Children's Time

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
You may reach Pastor Jon after 2pm
at 360-510-1750
email: jon@saintjamespres.org



Father's Day
Sunday, June 21