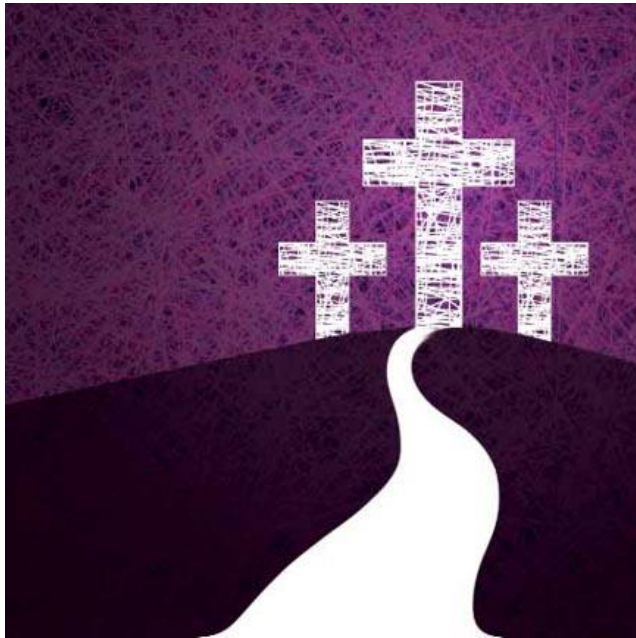


the Pulse

March 2017

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Lent begins this year on March 1, about the time you'll receive this newsletter. Lent, of course, is the liturgical season that precedes Easter, and commences with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Traditionally Lent is a time of prayer and penitence, a season in which to reflect on the passion and death of Christ in order that we may be fully ready to celebrate his resurrection.

Like many others who were raised Presbyterian, I didn't grow up with much of an awareness of Lent. In my family getting ready for Easter was about getting new clothes, coloring eggs, and anticipating a special Easter dinner. There was little emphasis on preparing spiritually for Easter, and I don't recall any mention of repentance or fasting. Lent was something our Catholic neighbors did.

That changed when I attended a Presbyterian-related college, and later went to seminary. By that time, Protestants had begun to embrace Lent, and it was acknowledged in our campus worship experience. Over time Presbyterians have come to appreciate Lent's invitation to reflect more deeply on our faith, and to consider our faithfulness as disciples. Some take up spiritual practices, meditation, prayer, and even fasting, as vehicles for opening oneself up to God. Good intentions, however, don't always meet with success.

Some of you may be familiar with Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest who writes about spirituality. He offers the following reflection, which has relevance for this season in which we turn our attention more intentionally toward God.

"For most of my life I have struggled to find God, to know God, to love God. I have tried hard to follow the guidelines of the spiritual life—pray always, work for others, read the Scriptures—and to avoid the many temptations to dissipate myself. I have failed many times but always tried again, even when I was close to despair.

"Now I wonder whether I have sufficiently realized that during all this time God has been trying to find me, to know me, and to love me. The question is not 'How am I to find God?' but 'How am I to let myself be found by him?' The question is not 'How am I to know God?' but 'How am I to let myself be known by God?' And, finally, the question is not 'How am I to love God?' but 'How am I to let myself be loved by God?' God is looking into the distance for me, trying to find me, and longing to bring me home."

How do you experience God's presence?

For some, spiritual practices can be a struggle, and they may end up feeling like failures when they don't follow through. Perhaps Nouwen's words can offer us permission simply to "be still and know that God is God." Maybe this Lenten season, instead of trying to "find" God through our own efforts, we might instead focus on becoming more aware of the God who is always with us, who is eager to know us, and who loves us. How do you experience God's presence? How do you let yourself be known by God? How do you receive God's love? I invite you to reflect on these questions, and to share with one another what you discover.

Wishing you a blessed Lent,
Janet



PULSE

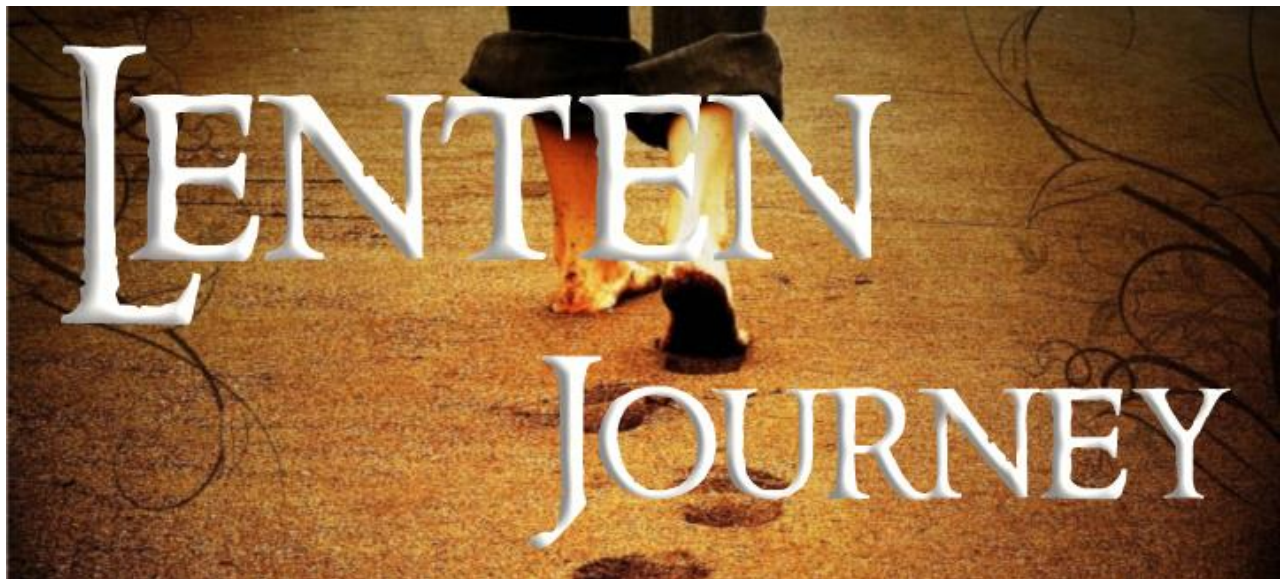
The session of St. James Presbyterian Church has called a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, March 12, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act on the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

Greetings from the Pastor Nominating Committee,

After many weeks, much work, prayer, and discernment the PNC is pleased to announce that we have selected a candidate! We will be sending out more information including personal information about our candidate and information about the candidate weekend. Congregation members will have a chance to meet the candidate the weekend of March 11th and 12th. The candidate will preach Sunday, March 12th and the congregation will get to vote that day. We are very excited about this next step and welcome you all to be a part of the weekend!

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



Ash Wednesday Service

March 1, 7:30 p.m.

On Ash Wednesday we will begin our Lenten journey, a time of reflecting on the grace shown us in Jesus Christ, and preparing to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Lent is a penitential season, and the imposition of Ashes reminds us of our mortality. This is an ancient practice of the church, offering a powerful symbol of our creatureliness and our need for repentance as we enter this holy season.

Lenten Study



The Lenten Study for this year will be a book titled *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. The books are available now in the church office during the week and in the Horizon Room on Sundays. The price is \$13.00 – please make your checks out to St. James.

The book was recommended to Presbyterian congregations by the co-moderators of the Presbyterian Church, T. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston. *Waking Up White* is engaging, challenging and action-oriented. It is a “must read” for anyone exploring issues of racism,

power, privilege and leadership. The Christian Faith Formation Committee believes that the book will stimulate our thinking about the realities of racism and the unintended impacts of white privilege. The contents of the book will lead us to some helpful discussion.

We will gather for discussion of the book on Fridays at 10:00am beginning on March 24th through April 14th. Since April 14th is Good Friday, Pastor Janet will include a brief Lenten liturgy on that day. We are asking that you read the whole book before the first gathering to facilitate the discussion.

If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Janet or one of our committee members – Faye Hill, Gretchen Pfueller and Merry Thomas.

A LENTEN CHALLENGE

The Mission and Social Action Committee is encouraging our St. James friends to take on a new challenge during Lent. Instead of giving up something, how about giving out your time and caring?

On Sunday, March 19, we will be preparing and serving the **Southside Community Meal** at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at 5:00 pm. This is a community meal which is served monthly and opened to all. We need several people to help with food prep and cooking on Saturday the 18th and help on Sunday preparing the meal. Please contact Faye Hill or Gretchen Pfueller if you are willing to help.

The **Annual Interfaith Auction** is Saturday, March 26. Susan Burkland will be gathering donations and items for a garden “basket”. Gary Culbertson and Gretchen Pfueller have auction tickets for this enjoyable dinner event. The Interfaith office has many tasks that require extra assistance during this busy time. Here are two:

- Send a card or visit St. James members who need our prayers and concern.
- Donate items and help with the annual **all church rummage sale** on Saturday, April 8.

Empowering Spiritual Activists & Sacred Earth Protectors

The Center for Spiritual Living is offering an 8 Week Class designed to increase the effectiveness of seasoned activists, and provide a safe space for those considering whether to become involved in advocating for sustainability. Mondays, Feb 27 through April 17, 6:00-8:30 pm, at the Center for Spiritual Living, 2224 Yew Street Road. Cost is \$75, with a sliding scale if needed.

Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East

March 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Hosted by:

First Church of Christ, Scientist

2700 Lakeway Drive

(360) 733-6070



PULSE

Let's Do Lunch!

Presbyterian Women meet Tuesday, March 28, 10:30am for bible study and at noon for a potluck salad luncheon. This month's study focuses on Paul's view of Jesus. Focus scripture is Hebrews 12:1-2 in the Horizon's study guide, *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*.

Everyone is invited -- for either bible study or luncheon -- or both! We will be planning the Annual Rummage Sale, set for Saturday, April 8.



Rummage Sale

St. James Women's Association is hosting the ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Take this opportunity to clean out your attic or garage and to find someone else's treasures. It's a great way to recycle!

St. James Children's Ministries

March 5:
"And So It Begins". Focus scripture is Matthew 4:1-11. For young children, Lent is an opportunity to learn more about Jesus. This week they learn that Jesus knows God is with him as he prepares for his ministry.

March 12:
"Glimpses of Grace". Focus scripture is John 3:1-17. Children begin to deepen their understanding of Jesus, learning about how he showed God's love.

March 19:
"Finding Refreshment". Focus scripture is John 4:5-42. Children recognize their own shortcomings and strengths and understand that God loves them as they are.

March 26:
"Seeing With the Heart". Focus scripture is John 9:1-41. Children demonstrate love naturally and will understand God's love as generous and unconditional.

JANUARY FINANCIAL STATUS

| | <u>January</u> | <u>Current Budget</u> | <u>Yr. to Date</u> | <u>Yr. to Date Budget</u> |
|----------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Income | \$32,228 | \$26,598 | \$32,228 | \$26,598 |
| Expenses | \$14,512 | \$17,332 | \$14,512 | \$17,332 |

March Birthdays

- 3 Jody DeWilde
- 5 Karen Jackson
- 8 Martha Speer
- 10 Sophie Burkland
- 12 Bob Hamilton
- 13 Richard Green
- 14 Virginia Green
- 17 Liam DeWilde
- 18 Madeleine Smith
- 21 Marion Dobbie
- 21 Randy Mohr
- 21 Pam Gibson
- 24 Zach Melrose
- 27 Donna Lane
- 28 Mike Smith
- 28 Mary Robinson-Mohr
- 28 Margaret Humble
- 29 Natasha Orme
- 30

March Anniversaries

- 25 Peter and Mary van der Veen

Thank you!

Thank you to all who generously donated to the SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY collection. The Maple Alley Inn received \$460, which will be used to provide healthy, hearty, hot meals on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for hungry people in our community. Many single serve food items were delivered to N.W. Youth Services.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is currently building a house for the Ortiz family in Birch Bay. The family has already put in well over the required 500 hours of sweat equity, and they're looking forward to moving in soon. In the spirit of good-neighborliness, Habitat is organizing a workday on Saturday, April 8 in the Ortiz family's new neighborhood. Volunteers will help with a variety of projects, such as landscaping, clean-up, and painting at houses near the Ortiz' home. We would love to have a team of volunteers from St. James join in this project. Please contact Ray Dellecker (rdellecker@gmail.com, 425-922-0653) to sign up or for more information.

Hope is on the Way! Save the Date for the Interfaith Hope Auction!

Mark your calendar: Interfaith Coalition's Hope Auction happens on **Saturday, March 25, beginning at 5:30 p.m.** at Four Points by Sheraton. Whatcom County's friendliest fundraiser features fellowship, inspiration, hope and lively bidding on great auction items. Please join us as we continue in our work of transforming struggling lives. You can help in these ways:

- Do you have an auction item to donate? 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 children and their families. Partner with us by attending Hope Auction and lifting up our brothers and sisters! 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, call Interfaith Coalition at (360) 734-3983, or through our website: www.interfaith-coalition.org

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Bill Read Super Volunteer!

The Interfaith “Super Volunteer” award -

The words on the plaque say “Superhero Bill – seeking out and conquering rot, dysfunction, and disrepair in buildings everywhere!”

Bill is the recipient of this award from the many hours he has labored on Interfaith housing doing repairs, updates, and general un-fun, tedious, and hard work. He has helped to ensure that Interfaith housing is repaired and ready for the families who move in – part of the “welcome” and caring that Interfaith extends to all of our families seeking that step up out of homelessness. He is a “Super Volunteer!”

Thank you Bill for all that you do!



Janet L. Oakley our resident author.

Janet L. Oakley recently flew to Nacogoches, Texas for the annual Pulpwood Queen’s Girlfriends Weekend. Pulpwood Queen is a 600+ chapter book club. Janet was a featured writer along with Jamie Ford, Robert Hicks, and other NY Times best sellers. *Timber Rose*, a 20th Century Historical Fiction written by Janet in 2013, was a book club choice. “*Timber Rose* is an involving yarn, filled with well-drawn characters, interesting historical nuggets, plenty of adventure and a dash of romantic spice.” (Barbara Lloyd McMichael)

The *Jossling Affair*, another of Janet’s books has also been honored with a Best Book Finalist award and short listed for the Goethe Historical Fiction Award.

Janet is a long time member of St. James, is a Deacon, and has sung in the choir. She loves history and writes every day. No matter what. You can find her articles on

Washington State History on line at Historylink.org. A historian and educator, Janet has taught everything from splitting shakes to making butter to 3rd graders at a cabin in the woods, has researched the life of a 19th century West Coast bark, and hiked across Haleakula Crater on Maui. She loves gardening and eating the fruits of her labor. Lately, she planted flax to figure out how to ripple, ret, scutch, and hackle it. The linen yarn may be too rough for weaving, but it’s the journey that counts.



Session Highlights for January 28, 2017

The new 2017 Session of Laurie Anderson, Mark Beaty, Dick Carr, Tim Crandall, Gary Culbertson, Gretchen Pfueller, Merry Thomas, and Jeanne Uhles met, with outgoing members, Bill Read and Carla Shafer, also in attendance.

Decided

In keeping with St. James' past practice and the Book of Order, eleven members were removed from the roll at their request, because they had moved and requested transfers, or due to lack of attendance and participation for over two years. Jan Resick resigned from the session and asked to be removed from the roll. This reduces our membership from 144 members to 130.

Having reviewed the language about same gender marriage in the Book of Order, and in keeping with our policy to be open and affirming to all, the Session agreed that church grounds can be used for same gender couple weddings and performed by the current teaching elder in keeping with processes described in the 2015-22017 the Book of Order, Section W-4.9000-9004 Marriage.

Elections

Elections took place as follows: Marina McLeod was elected to continue as treasurer. Marina's excellent work was noted and appreciated. Mark Beaty was elected as Stated Clerk. Tim Crandall and Mark Beaty expressed willingness and were elected to serve as Elders on the Nominating Committee. Tim will chair the committee. Thank you Marina, Mark and Tim!

Discussed

Building and Grounds is making plans to repair the play yard as it is considered unsafe due to rot and needs repair.

The book and study guide *Waking up White* by Debbie Irving will be used for our Lenten study. The Reverends Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderators of the 222nd PCUSA General Assembly have invited the churches to read and discuss the book to increase our insights as Christians into loving our neighbor and to help us deal with the racism in USA society today.

The Lenten challenge is planned for the six weeks of Lent where people can participate in community activities planned by the Mission and Social Action Committee or other church members.

The Prayer Vigils for Peace are taking a winter break and will meet again in March.

The Nominating Committee will meet to plan to call a member to serve as the 9th elder, so Session membership will be full.

The Personnel committee will sign off on reimbursement of the expenses for the Pastor candidates which were budgeted in 2016 and available for use now.

Plans for Lent and Holy Week are nearly completed. Ash Wednesday is March 1, Easter is April 16th.



MARCH 2017 CALENDAR

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Bayside Co-op Preschool Schedule: 360-360-733-3972</p> <p>Hawthorne Learning Solutions Schedule: contact hlearningsolutions@gmail.com</p> | | | <p>1 Ash Wednesday 10am Bible Study 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA 7:30pm Ash Wed Service</p> | <p>2 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p> | <p>3 3pm Membership Committee 4pm Cross-fit</p> | <p>4 9am Chuckanut Sandstone Writers Workshop 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group</p> |
| <p>5 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 7:15pm AA</p> | <p>6 10am Grief Support Group 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p> | <p>7 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p> | <p>8 10am Bible Study 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 3pm Christian Faith Formation 4:30pm Weavers Guild 6pm SOS Men's AA</p> | <p>9 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p> | <p>10 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit</p> | <p>11 9am Church Work Party 10am OA</p> |
| <p>12 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA</p> | <p>13 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts</p> | <p>14 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p> | <p>15 10am Bible Study 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA</p> | <p>16 Pulse items due today! 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p> | <p>17 St. Patrick's Day 4pm Cross-fit</p> | <p>18 10am OA 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at First Church of Christ, Scientist</p> |
| <p>19 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 2pm Dorothy Brown's Memorial 7:15pm AA</p> | <p>20 10am Grief Support Group 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts</p> | <p>21 8am Music Teachers Assoc. 10am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance</p> | <p>22 10am Bible Study 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA</p> | <p>23 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Worship committee 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p> | <p>24 10am Lenten Book Discussion 4pm Cross-fit</p> | <p>25 9am Pet Partners 10am OA 4pm Music Teachers Assoc.</p> |
| <p>26 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA</p> | <p>27 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts</p> | <p>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</p> | <p>29 10am Bible Study 11:15am Tai Chi 12:15am Chair Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA</p> | <p>30 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir</p> | <p>31 10am Lenten Book Discussion 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit</p> | |