



FOSTERING RESILIENCE

This past year, I have had the honor of diving into a cohort of other Pacific Northwest pastors in the launch of a leadership development program at The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology. The Resilient Leadership Project explores how pastoral leaders practice resilience and sustainability in their work so that they and the organizations they serve can flourish and thrive.

What is resilience? I define resilience as the ability to dynamically live in a changing world: the ability to adapt and weather the storms of life. Resilience is a way of sustainable living in an era of scarce resources. It's the firm foundation of faith in Christ along the pilgrim way.

How do we foster resilience in our lives and communities? How do we, as a church, develop our capacity to weather storms and celebrate joys together? We need *people*, *practices*, and *purpose* to support us, ground us, and guide us. I'd like to explore these each a bit, thinking about our life together at St. James.

First, we need **people**. We need people in our lives that we belong to. Think about your support network in our community of fellow Christ-followers and in your homes, neighborhoods, and businesses. We have greater resilience when we feel like we belong to these folks. These are the people we reach out to help in times of need. They are the same people we share our joys with. I hold deep hope that we are strengthening the bonds of relationship with one another in order to foster this kind of community in our church — may we be each other's people as we journey.

Second, spiritual **practices** help strengthen our resilience. There are many ways that we practice together as a church: regularly gathering for fellowship and worship; the grounding and centering practices of prayer and repentance; actively pursuing peacemaking and service; approaching Christ's Table in a posture of remembrance; and creating space for gratitude. We practice together so that we might be formed and rooted together in God's abiding love — may we find our grounding and foundation in God's truth and goodness; may we be sustained for the long haul.

Finally, we engage discernment of **purpose** in order to stay the course amid all that comes our way. Purpose is something we have to pursue together: finding our purpose requires listening collectively and taking intentional steps forward as a body. Purpose helps us consider the who, what, where, when, why and how of our life together. At the most essential level, as the church, our Purpose is to love the Lord our God with all our soul, heart, mind, and strength and love our neighbors as we love ourselves. — may the work of finding our collective purpose stem from this foundation.

May marks the final month of the Resilient Leadership project and the end of my work with this cohort. While this project comes to a close, the work of resilience continues. I am grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow with others; I am learning how to create sustainable ways of serving our congregation that I hope will allow me to participate in our work together for many years to come. I look forward to deepening our resilience as a community as we move into all the ways God is calling us to serve, love, and grow as we engage our faith and lives alongside one another.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Set J. Thomas

RESPONSE

Throughout the year, *Response*, will feature members of our vibrant congregation. This month, we would like to introduce two of our recent church members. We hope these brief introductions prompt reflection, spark conversations and create opportunities for meaningful connections in our church family and community.

We would like to thank Merry Thomas for her assistance in contacting contributors and collecting stories for April's issue. Thank you, Merry! If you are interested in working with the office to publish the monthly Pulse Newsletter, send an email to the church office or leave a message at (360) 733-1325.



ALICE BAILEY

I am originally from San Francisco, and have spent the past 40 years in San Jose, CA, moving here in July 2018. I've always been attracted to the Pacific Northwest, and was looking for more green space, cooler weather, less traffic, a more relaxed lifestyle and greater affordability for my

adult sons (who haven't moved yet!). My sister and her husband just retired to Orcas.

I love hiking and walking, reading, quilting, travel, and music. I like to attend plays and concerts. I have been a physical therapist for 40 years, primarily geriatric rehab. I've been semi-retired for the last 3 years, because although I loved my work, I wanted more time for other things. I have not decided whether I will pursue getting a Washington license and work here.

I am widowed, my late husband Mayo and I have 2 adult sons, Gregg and Andrew. In addition to my sister, Janet, I have a brother, Stan, who lives with his wife in San Jose. I also have 5 nephews and 2 nieces scattered about. I was very active in my previous church, and have a large network of friends in San Jose. I'm still close to a group of friends from my high school days as well.

I am a lifelong Presbyterian. I actually checked out St. James before moving to Bellingham, since one of my requirements for a community was a church I felt comfortable at. I was attracted to your inclusivity, commitment to social justice and the environment, your worship style and welcoming nature.



MARILYN HORN

The main church on San Juan Island was and is Presbyterian so my siblings--a brother, sister, and I--were "connected" at a young age. I graduated from high school with a class of 14 in 1951. That fall I began classes in the nursing program; the University

of Washington was an overwhelming adventure and quite an adjustment. Marrying Chuck in 1954 took us to Pensacola, FL; Corpus Christi, TX, and San Diego, CA for his naval flight training.

After 3 years of active duty, he was ready to be home and became an employee of Allstate Insurance. We were back in Seattle and I was able to complete my nursing requirements in 1961 for my bachelor degree. In 1964, Chuck was transferred to the Chicago area. Retiring in 1985 and back to Washington in 1989. Our five children had finished college and left the nest. Retirement was a busy time with travel, bridge and RV-ing. We spent 25 years wintering in Apache Junction, Arizona. In 2000, we moved to Bellingham, and Chuck died in 2008.

As a widow, I joined my widower friend for eight years until his death in December 2017. St. James Presbyterian family has been a wonderful help in my changing life.

Marilyn's cell number was incorrectly listed in the church directory, she can be reached at (360) 319-7115.

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

NATIVE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By Carla Shafer

The St. James Mission and Social Action Committee has introduced a Land Acknowledgement Statement:

We acknowledge, with respect, that the land we are on today is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Lummi and Nooksack Nations and peoples. This was also a site of trade, gathering, and healing for numerous other Native tribes. We recognize the Indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land and all the relatives within it. As these words of acknowledgment are read, spoken and heard, the ties Nations have to their traditional homelands are renewed and reaffirmed.

Why would we do this? By acknowledging that we are living a Native lands, we show respect for Native American nations' and peoples' traditions that continue to serve the earth and support community well-being. General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its predecessors have affirmed the sovereignty and treaty rights of Native American tribes on numerous occasions. For example, the 193rd General Assembly (1981) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America called the President of the United States to develop "a national Indian policy that is consistent with the concerns of Indian people for self-determination, tribal sovereignty, economic self-sufficiency, and preservation of treaty rights."

A comprehensive policy, *Churchwide Conversation on Race, Ethnicity, Racism, and Ethnocentricity* was approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), includes a repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and a call to study the doctrine and its implications

Eight synods (including ours) within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have some form of Native American Ministry in their bounds. Most PC(USA) Native American churches are located on reservation and trust lands. The majority of churches do not have full time clergy. Most of the churches are small in membership and continue to be served in various ways. PCUSA has always stood with Native Americans and at the last General Assembly, the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture - "a people-powered, grassroots, action network that incites creativity and social imagination to shape a

culture of empathy, equity, and belonging" - offers this explanation for why the Land Acknowledgement statement needs to happen:

- Offer recognition and respect.
- Counter the "doctrine of discovery" with the true story of the people who were already here.
- Create a broader public awareness of the history that has led to this moment.
- Begin to repair relationships with Native communities and with the land.
- Support larger truth-telling and reconciliation efforts.
- Remind people that colonization an ongoing process, with Native lands still occupied due to deceptive and broken treaties.
- Take a cue from Indigenous protocol, opening up space with reverence and respect.
- Inspire ongoing action and relationship.

Posting the statement of Land Acknowledgment by itself is a small gesture. It becomes meaningful when coupled with authentic relationship and informed action. But this beginning can be an opening to greater consciousness of Native sovereignty and cultural rights, a step toward equitable relationship and reconciliation." The Mission and Social Action committee members invite you to join us with your support.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

By Carla Shafer

Some respond, "Don't all lives matter." Of course all lives matter. Initially, the "Black Lives Matter" movement acknowledged incidents of racially charged violence across the country—from Ferguson to Baltimore and in many other cities in between. Reactions brought to light the underlying racial tensions that continue to exist in American society.

By posting the words at St. James, the Mission and Social Action Committee affirms the individual and church work to raise awareness of institutional racism in our society and the church. Awareness is the first step in working to break down barriers that still exist.." said the Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, director of Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries, Presbyterian Mission Agency, PCUSA This information taken from: www.pcusa.org/speakantiracism. How does racism persist in the Pacific Northwest? in Bellingham? What can we do so all feel welcome?

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION (*cont.*)

BLACK SWANS, BOILED FROGS, & CANARIES IN THE MINE: CHOOSING OUR CLIMATE FUTURE

Join us for a presentation on Tuesday May 28, 7:00pm-8:30pm in the St. James Fellowship Hall. David Roberts will be sharing the latest information on the global and local effects of climate change and the challenges for the future. David is currently facilitating the City of Bellingham's Climate Action Plan Task Force as well as the Floodplains Integration Planning Team for Whatcom County. He will also share some positive news regarding solutions around the world. Lastly, David will point to the kinds of actions individuals, businesses and communities can take to reduce our impact and prepare for change. Childcare is available for ages birth through fifth grade, please RSVP to office@saintjamespres.org for childcare.

FINANCE UPDATE

By Dick Carr

	March 2019	Current Budget	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date Budget
Income	\$25,879	\$17,378	\$74,041	\$60,633
Expenses	\$19,400	\$26,671	\$52,566	\$65,804

Our income is higher this month as several pledges were paid in advance, also our expenses were lower as Mission Funds for the first quarter have not been expended. Overall we are looking good for the first quarter of 2019. **Online giving continues to be available for those who wish to use this option.** If you use the online giving option, please pay the fees that are involved with the amount that you are giving.

At Session on April 14, 2019, it was brought to our attention that we have an opportunity to help someone at St. James who has a near term financial need. Our Mission & Social Action Committee has a line item named Assistance Fund. If you would like to provide a gift to St. James for this specific purpose, please make your check to St. James Presbyterian Church and indicate *Assistance Fund*. Our treasurer will ensure that these gifts will go into this specific fund to help our member. If you use the advertised *GoFundMe* for your gifting purposes, they charge a 15% add-on fee to the gift amount you want provided.

GIVE TO SAINT JAMES ONLINE

Using our online system you can give from your bank account, make a one-time donation, set up recurring gift, designate your gifts as part of your annual pledge, and designate your per capita contribution.

saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Mark Beaty, Clerk of Session

APRIL 14, 2019

- I. Congregational interest motions approved:
 - A. Birthday Offering Collection by the Presbyterian Women's Association during church service on Mothers' Day, 12 May 2019
 - B. \$500 for staffing and programming in support of Vacation Bible School
 - C. Special Offerings for 2019:
 - One Great Hour of Sharing (completed); 2. Pentecost Offering (9 Jun); 3. Peace and Global Witness Offering (1Sep-6 Oct); 4. Christmas Joy Offering (1-22 Dec)
 - Establishment of "Assistance Fund" to help parishioners in financial need, details pending
-

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

Greetings from your Children and Family Ministries Director,

Spring has sprung! We had a great April with a wonderful Easter celebration!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter egg hunt after our Easter service, either by donating candy, or stuffing and hiding eggs. We had a great turnout!

Another huge thank you to everyone who has donated snacks for Lowell Elementary School. **We reached our goal of 500 snack items!** (See picture). So far we have delivered 200 snacks to Lowell and will be making another delivery in the beginning of May to get them through the end of the school year. We are still looking for volunteers interested in spending some one-on-one time with students from Lowell. The staff at Lowell has identified between 30 and 35 students who need some extra time and attention. It is a commitment of an hour each week. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Tracy know.



Our weekly Lenten study of John Pavlovitz's book, *A Bigger Table*, was filled with excellent discussion and new relationships were formed. Look for more information on our next group discussion coming this summer.

We are in need of volunteers for Vacation Bible School! We are again partnering with St. Paul's Episcopal and First Presbyterian for VBS June 24-28 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Email me to sign-up!

Our last Toddler Time is Wednesday, May 29. Join us at 8:30am on Wednesdays until then! We look forward to seeing you in the fall.



Our Sunday morning **Adult Bible Study** is studying the lectionary texts each week. The class starts at 9:30am in the lounge, childcare is available in the nursery.

Please mark Sunday, June 2 on your calendar as we will be celebrating the children of St. James that morning during worship!

Tracy Caruso

Director of Children & Family Ministries

tracy@saintjamespres.org

GODLY PLAY SCHEDULE



- **May 5th: Jesus and the Twelve**
This lesson tells the stories of Jesus' disciples, who we now call apostles.
- **May 12th: The Good Shepherd and World Communion**
This lesson sets the story of the Good Shepherd next to Holy Communion.
- **May 19th: The Synagogue and the Upper Room**
In this lesson, the synagogue and the Upper Room are joined together to form a model of Christian worship, the joining of the Old and New Testaments, and much more.
- **May 26th: "Work Day"**

We are always looking for volunteer nursery workers or anyone interested in teaching Godly Play, please let Tracy know if you are interested in either. Our wish list is up-to-date with current "wishes" for our Godly Play program.

<http://www.wishlistr.com/saintjamescfm/>



INTERFAITH COALITION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

INTERFAITH COALITION

HOPE AUCTION UPDATE

Thank you so much for your generosity to Interfaith Coalition's annual Hope Auction! We deeply appreciate St. James' auction gifts: from gorgeous entryway pots, small herb gardens, Italian and dog-theme baskets, your generosity was amazing and raised over \$600 for the families we serve. We are also grateful for your auction gift coordinator, Susan Burkland, congregation rep, Gretchen Pfueller, and your board member, Pastor Seth, for their generosity of time, and all who attended, donated, or whose work helped make the auction a success.¹

Your participation helped raise just over \$245,000 – an incredible amount that way surpassed our goal for the evening! This means that we can continue to work hard to ensure that every child and their family has a safe home at the end of the day, and that no one is cold or hungry in our community.

You should know that your generosity and support is an inspiration and expression of love to those who are served by Interfaith programs. William, our thirteen-year-old guest speaker at the auction and former participant in Family Promise, told us that he learned that you are *“extremely kind people who ... support me and are at my side.”* Our guests at C.A.S.T. (Coffee and Sandwiches Together) say that C.A.S.T. is more than vital – you “save them.” Our housing families frequently tell us that they are motivated to pay it forward when they are able.

Thank you for your congregation's donation to Hope Auction, for your consistent support, and your commitment to a better Whatcom County for everyone.

Laura Harker
Executive Director



“In Family Promise, I found a new family that taught me what giving and sharing really means. This family helped me achieve goals I'd never dared dream of. This family made me safer, stronger, more confident, and more courageous.”

- an Interfaith Coalition Family Promise guest

As a member of Interfaith Coalition, you have been a vital partner in bringing shelter, stability, and hope to many in our community, and you helped launch our Family Promise program in April 2018 to help more families transition out of homelessness. As we celebrate the first year, we want to **thank you** for your immense support as a Host/Support Congregation, and for your continued faith and work in this mission of service to families in need. You have been the face of love and compassion to many.

Here is a look at what you helped Family Promise accomplish this first year: 18 families served, representing 67 people (44 were children); 10 families found better employment, 10 families received better healthcare, 13 families received financial literacy training, and families spent an average of 7.5 weeks in the program before moving to stable housing. So far, 850 volunteers have been trained.

For over 35 years, the member congregations of Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County have been working together to eliminate homelessness and poverty in Whatcom County. www.interfaith-coalition.org

¹ Pictured: Susan Burkland (right) and Jill Hoyt (left) at Interfaith Coalition Hope Auction.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"BE ALERT" AWARENESS TRAINING

Join us after church this coming Sunday, May 5 from 12:30pm-2:00pm for an awareness and safety training by Bellingham Police Officer Jon Knutsen. Please plan on attending. The presentation covers recognizing dangerous situations, how to respond, and what to avoid. Contact Mark Beaty for more information (360) 325-5348 or mark_beaty@msn.com

BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY CHORUS: THE HEART'S JOURNEY HOME

The Heart's Journey Home, an upcoming performance by the 40-voice Bellingham Community Chorus, will take you on a memorable musical trek.

The program will feature folksongs, jazz, classical, pop and gospel pieces, including "Get Happy," "Your Love Was A River," "The Prayer," "Skye Boat Song," and the chorus's signature song, "One World."

Director, Rob Viens; Accompanist, Lisa Nakahara.

Result: Joy! Performance dates are Friday, May 3, 7:30pm and Saturday, May 4, 3:00pm. Children ages 12 and under are free! Tickets are \$10 and available at brownpapertickets.com.

19TH ANNUAL DINE OUT FOR MAPLE ALLEY INN!

Save the date for Tuesday, May 7. Treat yourself to breakfast, lunch, and dinner at one of your favorite local restaurants around Bellingham during this annual event and know a portion of what you spend will help provide meals for the community. This annual event helps provide hot, nutritious meals for anyone who is hungry. For a complete list of participating restaurants and locations, please visit www.dineoutbham.com.

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

The books are in! Stop by the office to check out a copy and join us Monday, May 20 at 7:00pm. Our selection for the May meeting is *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. The book club will be meeting in the St. James Lounge.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The monthly Bible study and luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28. Everyone is invited to attend the study at 10:30am and the luncheon 12:00pm.

HOLY LAND TRIP: SPRING 2020

A second presbytery-wide trip to the Holy Land is being offered on April 23 - May 6, 2020. Arrangements are being made with Pilgrims of Ibillin to visit holy sites as well as meet with Christians, Jews, and Muslims in Israel and Palestine. More details can be found under "Living Stones Pilgrimage" at <https://www.pilgrimsofibilin.org/>. Total cost including airfare will be around \$3,200. If interested, please contact Rev. Charlie Lewis from First Pres. Snohomish at charlie@snopres.org or call/text at 425-328-5283.

LOWELL ELEMENTARY

St. James is partnering with our neighbor, Lowell Elementary, to provide snacks for hungry students. We'd also love to be able to have volunteers spend an hour each week with students who have been identified as needing some extra one-on-one time. If you have any questions or are wanting to participate please talk to Tracy at tracy@saintjamespres.org!

CAST: CAN YOU HELP?

Four nights a week, people living on the street come to Interfaith Coalition's CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together) table for a simple meal, cup of coffee, and the friendliness of the volunteers. We are in need of small hotel-sized toiletries, razors, combs, hats, toothbrushes, and new socks. CAST also needs more volunteers to help transport and serve the meals. If you can help, please call us for more info about the volunteer shifts (360-734-3983) or drop off items at Interfaith.

ENGELS BABY SHOWER

Olivia and Zach Engels, along with big brother Cedric, are looking forward to a new family addition, due June 12. St. James Presbyterian church family is hosting a baby shower Friday, May 31 at 7:00pm, join us in celebrating with the Engels. Julie Keyes and Carla Shaffer are planning the event, and welcome volunteers to provide sandwiches, help decorate and lend a hand in the event's preparation. Please contact Julie at 360-671-2214 and Carla at 360-961-2320.

→ MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

5/2	Jenny Sue LeSchander	
5/4	Aaron Caruso	
5/6	Jim Hardin	
5/13	Bruce & Marsha Lockhart	
5/14	Peter van der Veen	

→ ST. JAMES CALENDAR

Christian Faith Formation Committee

Wednesday, May 1, 7:00pm

The Heart's Journey Home

Friday, May 3, 7:30pm; Sat, May 4, 3:00pm

Awareness Training: Keeping Us Safe

Sunday, May 5, 12:30pm

Personnel Committee

Tuesday, May 7, 9:00am

Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, May 7, 5:30pm

Finance Committee

Tuesday, May 7, 6:15pm

Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday, May 8, 10:00am

Mission & Social Action Committee

Wednesday, May 8, 4:00pm

Prime Timers

Friday, May 10, 12:00pm

Session

Thursday, May 16, 5:30pm

Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East

Saturday, May 18, 5:30pm

Deacons

Sunday, May 19, 11:45am

St. James Book Club

Monday, May 20, 7:00pm

Pres. Women Bible Study & Luncheon

Tuesday, May 28, 10:30am

Choosing Our Climate Future Presentation

Tuesday, May 28, 7:00pm

Engels Baby Shower

Friday, May 31, 7:00pm

→ ST. JAMES WEEKLY CALENDAR

Adult Education Class

9:30am, Sundays

Grief Support

10:00am, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

Toddler Time

8:30am, Wednesdays through May 29

St. James Bell Choir

6:30pm, Thursdays

St. James Chancel Choir

7:30pm, Thursdays

→ PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

AA Men's Book Study Group

6:30pm, Mondays

AI Anon

5:30pm, Tuesdays

AA SOS Men's Group

6:00pm, Wednesdays

AA Fairhaven Group

7:15pm, Thursdays and Sundays

OA

10:00am, Saturdays

You Are Not Alone (YANA)

6:00pm, 2nd Monday

WA Gender Alliance

7:30pm, Tuesdays

St. James Fitness

4:00pm, Mondays and Fridays

Tai Chi

5:15pm, Mondays

Yoga

10:15am, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Bellingham Community Chorus

7:00pm, Tuesdays

Bellingham Ukulele Group

1:00pm, 2nd Saturday

Weavers Guild

9:30am, 3rd Saturday

Boy Scouts Troop 7

7:00pm, Mondays

Bayside Co-op Preschool**Hawthorne Learning Solutions****Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County**



SESSION

Moderator, Rev. Seth Thomas

Aaron Caruso & Jeanne Uhles, **Building & Grounds**

Sarah Condreay, **Christian Faith Formation**

Dick Carr, **Finance & Stewardship**

Laurie Anderson, **Membership & Congregation Life**

Carol & Ray Dellecker, **Mission & Social Action**

Sarah Condreay & Jenny Sue LeSchander, **Nominating**

Faye Hill, **Personnel**

Jill Hoyt, **Worship & Music**



DEACONS

Moderator, Sue Smith

Marlene Amman, Adam Beaty, Alice Beaty, Pam Gibson,
Jim Gresham, Kate Haworth, Julie Keyes, Dwayne Rogers,
Karen Rogers, Carla Shafer, Merry Thomas



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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children's Time and Godly Play

St. James Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

Children & Family Ministry: Tracy Caruso

Ministry Assistant: Kate Hoskin

Treasurer: Marina McLeod

Music Director: Carolyn Mullen

Teachers: Erika Singh-Cundy,

Sophie Rose Kendrick, Lucy Sieczka

Nursery: Holly Jones, Claire Alarid



Stay current on activities and happenings @saintjamespres
