

## Moving Boldly Ahead

This month, I plan to run the Leavenworth Oktoberfest Half Marathon. This will be my second 13.1-mile race of the year, a goal I set back in January to complete two half marathons in 2019.

In 2010, I ran the Leavenworth Oktoberfest Marathon. It is the only marathon I have ever run and immediately following the race, I took a fairly significant break from running. (Read: I crashed and couldn't get myself back out on the road after such a large race — 26.2 miles).

However, I set a goal this year to get back in shape and start running again. I knew that it would take a bold move of my spirit, my heart and body needing to reclaim what had been lost in weakened muscles, extra weight, and the fear of consistent distance training.

The excuses for not running are so easy to listen to: Life is so very busy and there's no time to lace up my shoes and get back out on the trails. Or, the aches and pains of my mid-thirties (Read: late-thirties) made the first long runs unbearable, the recovery more difficult. Is it worth it?

I've been challenged this year to take bold steps into places of physical exercise and practice that I have never ventured to before. I've had to find parts of myself that I thought was lost, a capacity to handle the full life of a pastor, partner, and father of a 5-year-old and not let that serve as an excuse, but rather as a catalyst for movement and bold reclamation of myself, my health, my spirit.

At this juncture in our life together at St. James, we are being called to a similar bold movement. This month, we are in the midst of our Annual Stewardship Campaign and celebrating a year of strong growth among the programs and participants in our congregation's life. In order to accommodate this growth, we have to be bold and increase our financial giving to meet the needs of our present and future community here. Like training for a race, it is going to require some sacrifice from us, digging in deeper into what we know to be the vital mission we are called to as a community.

In Luke 17, Jesus' disciples cry out that their Lord would "Increase our faith!" Jesus responds by likening their faith to a tiny mustard seed, which is sufficient enough to uproot its much larger fellow tree, the mulberry. Hear this: though our faith is small, it can do immense things. The call to mustard seed faith, the call to lace up our shoes, the call to expand our work as a church — it is possible with the faith of Christ in our midst.

Setting out to run 13 miles for the first time in a long time seems impossible. But with the right training, deliberate pacing, slow and steady obedience to the goal, it becomes not only possible but dare I say: enjoyable! I love running and my body feels better, my spirits uplifted, my mind renewed.

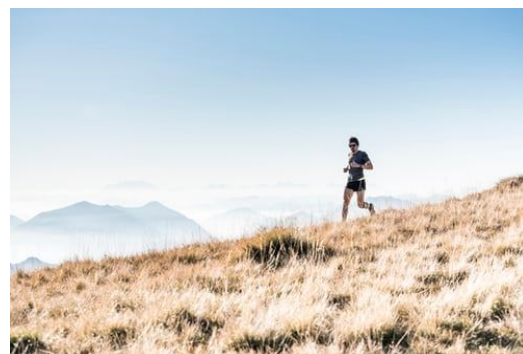
Likewise, increasing what we do here as a church, with the growth of our congregation, expanding missions endeavors, broadening programs to form and nurture our faith — it can seem like a lot to try to tackle. But if we band together, if we each take the bold step forward to do our mustard seed-sized part — we can make immense things happen. The truth is that we do not do this ourselves, but it is Christ who empowers us.

My prayer is that you will be bold this year as you respond in faith to increase your contribution here at St. James. And...perhaps...you'll take other bold moves in your life to increase your faith, take a journey, step into what you once thought impossible, and discover the joy of all that God provides in the process.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Seth Thomas



## UPDATE FROM MCKENZIE CLARK STUDYING IN AMMAN, JORDAN, PART 1

*Special RESPONSE three-part section from McKenzie Clark*



Hello St. James Pres friends!

I'd like to preface this by saying that the experiences I talk about are not a holistic overview of the diversity of Jordanian society by any means, and I will never intend for them to be representative of anything but the pockets of culture I have experienced, from my perspective. Although there are, of course, a lot of challenges in being abroad in a culture and language that I do not know very well, I ultimately am very privileged to be here, especially when there are so many who do not have freedom of mobility.

I have now been in Amman, Jordan for one month doing an Advanced Arabic Language study abroad program. There are 12 people in my program and just 6 in my classes! I have 3 classes a day but 4 classes total. One is on the formal Arabic dialect/Modern Standard Arabic, one is on the colloquial Jordanian dialect, one called Contemporary Arab Media, and the last is a writing class. They are all taught in Arabic. I have the same professor (who, thankfully, I love dearly) for 3 of my classes and a different professor for the other one. We spend about 5.5 hours in class daily, Sunday-Thursday (weekends are Friday/Saturday here because about 98% of the Jordanian population is Muslim), except for Tuesdays, where we do some sort of activity together. Last week we got to visit the Iraq Al-Amir Women's Co-op Society, where we had a delicious breakfast, got a tour, and learned how they make food, paper, pottery, and clothes all from natural resources.



*(Photo credits: left- McKenzie in Jerash, right- Iraq Al-Amir Women's Co-op Society, McKenzie learning to make paper. Photos provided by McKenzie.Clark, September 2019.)*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HOMELESS FAMILIES



**FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE:** We will have another opportunity to support our neighboring church, Sacred Heart, when they welcome **FAMILY PROMISE during the week Oct. 27-Nov. 3.** We will be providing daily breakfast supplies, two dinners, dinner and evening hosts as well as performing other necessary tasks. Please look for sign-up opportunities in the Horizon Room. Family Promise training and additional training provided by the Catholic Church are required for those directly

involved with the families. Training dates will be available soon.

Many thanks to all of you who helped make FAMILY PROMISE, year 2, week 22. at Sacred Heart another successful week for homeless families in our community in September.

Contact Gretchen Pfueller for more information, [gmpueller@gmail.com](mailto:gmpueller@gmail.com)

## FINANCE UPDATE: STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2019

*By Dick Carr, Finance Committee*



Our fall pledge drive kickoff took place on September 29th at the end of the morning service. We hope that each of you picked up a packet before you left the sanctuary. If you didn't, please be sure to pick it up after the service on October 6th. Our goal for 2020 is \$200,000 in pledges to support commitments the church has made in 2018.

This year the number of children involved in our church has grown from four to twenty-three at the end of this past school year! Included in that twenty-three is a middle school group and a high school youth group. The high school youth group recently participated in a bed race event on Sept. 8th and received an award for their participation in this event. What a great start! We want to continue to watch these three age groups grow!

Another area of growth for our church is in Mission and Social Action areas. We support the Interfaith Coalition organization located in our church with a growing number of local Bellingham area projects.

The church is experiencing some increased expenditures that for decades have been provided by several members who can no longer do these important tasks for the church.

As a result, our pledging has become more critical as it is the primary source of our income to allow the church to cover its expenses and growth. We realize that the financial situation of each of our church families varies in their ability to contribute, but we do need more folks to pledge for 2020. We also encourage each of our current contributors to see if they are able to increase their giving by 10 to 15% for 2020.

If you happen to be contributing to the general offering category, please do consider responding with a pledge. This helps us determine the expected income when preparing a budget. The bar charts included in each packet provide a picture for 2018, 2019, and projected 2020 of relationships between our income sources and expenditure sources. St. James has a long history of taking annual budgets seriously as income and expenses are tracked on a monthly basis. A high percentage of our expenses are known for operating costs. This church does not use endowment funds for operating expenditures. To get into these funds for operating expenditures is a very dangerous option for the future of our church.

Therefore, all of us have a responsibility to participate in providing pledges to St. James for 2020. Let's show the church that we want it to remain healthy and also provide a little for growth.

**THE CHURCH APPRECIATES EACH AND EVERY CONTRIBUTION! PLEASE PLEDGE!**

Your Stewardship Committee, Pam Gibson, Christian Beaty, Marina McLeod, Treasurer,  
Seth Thomas, Pastor, and Dick Carr, Finance Chairman

	<b>August</b>	<b>CURRENT BUDGET</b>	<b>YR TO DATE</b>	<b>YR TO DATE BUDGET</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$16,731</b>	<b>\$15,130</b>	<b>\$152,030</b>	<b>\$131,655</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,254</b>	<b>\$17,416</b>	<b>\$151,894</b>	<b>\$163,420</b>

*On-Line giving continues to be available for those who wish to use this option. Also Giving through your IRA account is also an option if you have to withdraw funds from your account by December 31, 2019.*

**THANK YOU!** [saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving](http://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving)



## CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

*By Tracy Caruso, Children & Family Ministry Director*



Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries. We have had an extremely busy start to our fall!

Our Youth group participated in the Family Promise Bed Race on September 8<sup>th</sup> raising over \$900 and bringing home the Best Themed Bed award! Everyone had a great time and I want to give a huge thanks to everyone who donated and/or came out to cheer on our youth!

We have resumed our Godly Play curriculum for the year and our students have been amazing participants. We held a welcome back ice cream event where students had the opportunity to enjoy some ice cream and share their classrooms with their adults. A sticky and fun time was had by all!

We are once again working to partner with Lowell Elementary school. This year we are hoping to provide them with snacks for those students whose only food for the day may be the lunch they get at school. Please bring individually wrapped nut-free snacks to the shopping basket in the narthex. We are also hoping to get a group of volunteers who would be willing to participate in the mentor program for an hour a week one on one with a student. Please let Tracy know if you are willing to help.



Toddler Time also resumed in September. We will be meeting Wednesday mornings from 8:15-10:15, ages 4yrs old and younger. Come join us in Saint James Fellowship Hall for open playtime. Parents have a chance to socialize with other parents and enjoy free coffee while their children play. This is free, unstructured playtime and while it is staffed, parents/guardians must be present at all times. We provide a few toys but feel free to bring your own to share.

We will be holding a St. James game night on October 13<sup>th</sup>! Bring your family, bring some games to share and join us for a time of fellowship. Look for more details to follow! Thank you for being part of our St. James family.

### **Godly Play Schedule for October:**

- October 6<sup>th</sup> The Great Family: In this lesson, we continue seeking the elusive presence of God. God was present at creation, blessing all that was made. Noah walked with God and was led by God's presence to build the ark that preserves life. And then? The people living around Abraham and Sarah believed that there were many gods embedded in nature. This meant that the gods had to be "here" or "there." Abraham and his family believed that God was everywhere, but was that really true? What if they were to go into an unknown place or experience, would God be there? They were not sure of this, but they put their faith in God's promises and found them to be true.
- October 13<sup>th</sup> Exodus In this story, we continue to evoke the People's experiences of God's elusive presence. These moments of high drama reveal the complexity of such experiences and provide a narrative of their richness. This not only gives children an appropriate language to name, express and value their own experiences but also permission to talk aloud about them.
- October 20<sup>th</sup> Work Day
- October 27<sup>th</sup> The 10 Best Ways: In this story, we continue to witness God's elusive presence with God's People on 3 occasions at Mt. Sinai: First in the burning bush when God revealed to Moses the name of God. Second, when God gave the Ten Commandments to the people through Moses. Third, when, after breaking the tablet in anger, Moses climbed up to Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments a second time.

## PROVIDING WARMTH TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED



Interfaith Coalition's annual winter warmth drive provides warm outerwear for everyone from babies to seniors. Please bring clean, gently used or new winter coats and jackets, gloves, scarves, and hats to worship services **through October 13th**. If you are a knitter, handmade hats and scarves are also cherished. For many of our neighbors, this program means they won't need to spend limited income on a winter coat or do without.

***Thank you for sharing the warmth!***

## ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas  
 Children & Family Ministry Director: Tracy Caruso  
 Worship & Music Leader: Dylan Cisneros  
 Accompanist: Luke Arnold  
 Treasurer: Marina McLeod  
 Administrative Assistant: Shannon Laws  
 Nursery: Erika Singh-Cundy, Fiona Dent,  
 Lucy Sieczka, Holly Jones, Claire Alarid  
 Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm

### SESSION

Moderator: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas  
 Clerk of Session: Mark Beaty  
 Building & Grounds: Jeanne Uhles  
 Christian Faith Formation: Sarah Condreay  
 Finance & Stewardship: Dick Carr  
 Membership & Congregation Life: Laurie Anderson  
 Mission & Social Action:- Carol Dellecker  
 Nominating: Jenny Sue LeSchander & Sarah Condreay  
 Personnel: Faye Hill  
 Trustees: Dick Carr, Jeanne Uhles, Mark Beaty  
 Worship & Music: Jill Hoyt

### DEACONS

Co-Moderators: Sue Smith & Alice Beaty

Parish 1: Alice Beaty and Adam Beaty  
 Parish 2: Pastor Seth & Deacons  
 Parish 3: Julie Keyes and Carla Shafer

Parish 4: Marlene Amman and Kate Haworth  
 Parish 5: Karen & Dwayne Rogers and Pam Gibson

### Sunday Worship Schedule

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON & BIBLE STUDY

Date changes: The Horizon Women's Bible study and the Women's Association luncheon will be held on Tues, Oct 1 and then again on Tues, Oct 29. We will NOT be meeting on our usual 4th Tuesday.

*Bible Study 10:30-11:30 (Lounge),*

*Luncheon 11:30-1:00 (Horizon Room)*

### VAN HALM CELEBRATION OF LIFE

On Saturday, October 5th, 1:00pm, at the St. James Sanctuary, we will celebrate the life of Rook "Wigger" Van Halm. All are welcome to attend.

### DIGNITY DIALOGUE

On Oct 7, 2019, 6-8 PM, at the St. James Sanctuary, learn about the Immigrant Resources Program initiated by and Interfaith Immigrant Welcome Committee. Rosalinda Guillen, Community 2 Community, will present their findings on what is happening to asylum-seeking immigrants released from Detention. A representative of the Seattle ACLU will be present.

### WORLD PEACE POETS

October 26, 2019, World Peace Poets Read-In, St. James Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, hosted by Carla Shafer and friends. Doors open at 5 PM, supper at 5:30. Readings and music on World Peace begins at 6:15. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to sign up for the open mic send an email to [worldpeacepoets@gmail.com](mailto:worldpeacepoets@gmail.com).

### PARISH LUNCH

Sunday, October 27, 11:45am, in the Fellowship Hall is the annual Parish Lunch. Have lunch with your Deacons and parish members. Everything will be provided by the Deacons.

### INTERFAITH COALITION ANNUAL HOPE MEETING AND CELEBRATION

Monday, Oct 28, 7:00pm, at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 2600 Lakeway Drive. A meaningful evening of fellowship, inspiration, and opportunity. Hear from volunteers and families, and learn how the first year of Family Promise has made a difference, our new housing units, and help us celebrate the power of working together.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

10/1	Jim Mullen	🎂
10/1	Laurie Anderson	🎂
10/2	Alyson Storrs	🎂
10/4	Lance Melrose	🎂
10/7	Aubrey Caruso	🎂
10/11	Carla Shafer	🎂
10/12	Christian Beaty	🎂
10/13	Don Hoyt	🎂
10/24	Claude Hill	🎂
10/24	Sean Keyes	🎂
10/26	Peter Burkland	🎂
10/27	Robin Crandall	🎂
10/31	Selina Baker	🎂

### WHERE IS IT?

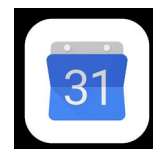


The sign-up sheet for Flower Ministry is in the Horizon Room on the right side of the bulletin board.

Get more St. James calendar information and sign up for our weekly emails and the monthly magazine.

Visit our website:

<https://saintjamespres.org/>



The usher sign-up sheet for October and November is on the bulletin board in the Horizon Room. Sign up to meet, greet & usher folks that gather for worship.

Add your name to the 2020 church directory and include your birthday to our monthly birthday list today. Contact the office to be added or update your information. [office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)



→ **ST. JAMES CALENDAR**

**Building & Grounds Committee- Lounge**

Tuesday, Oct 1, 5:30pm

**Pres. Women Bible Study & Luncheon**

**-The Lounge & Horizon Room**

Tuesday, Oct 1 & Oct 29, 10:30am-1:00pm

**Grief Support- Lounge**

Wednesday, Oct 2 & 16, 10:00am

**Mission & Social Action- Lounge**

Wednesday, Oct 2, 3:30pm

**Christian Faith Formation- Godly Play**

Wednesday, Oct 2, 7:00pm

**Finance Committee- Upper Level**

Tuesday, Oct 7, 6:15pm

**Personnel Committee- Lounge**

Tuesday, Oct 8, 9:00am

**Session- Lounge**

Sunday, Oct 13, 12:00pm

**Worship & Music Committee- Lounge**

Wednesday, Oct 17, 10:00am

**Deacons- Lounge**

Sunday, Oct 20, 11:45

**St. James Book Club- Lounge**

Monday, Oct 21, 7:00pm

**All Parish Lunch-Fellowship Hall**

Sunday, Oct 27, 11:45am-2:00pm

→ **ST. JAMES WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Toddler Time**

8:30am, Wednesdays

**St. James Bell Choir**

6:30pm, Thursdays

**St. James Chancel Choir**

7:30pm, Thursdays

→ **PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY**

**AA Fairhaven Group- Fellowship Hall**

7:15pm, Thursdays and Sundays (childcare)

**AA Men's Book Study Group- Horizon Room**

6:30pm, Mondays

**AA SOS Men's Group- Horizon Room**

6:00pm, Wednesdays

**Bellingham Com. Chorus- Fellowship Hall**

6:30pm, Tuesdays

**Bellingham Ukulele Group- Fellowship Hall**

1:00pm, 2nd Saturday

**Boy Scouts Troop 7- Fellowship Hall**

7:00pm, Mondays(except school holidays)

**Happy Hour Al Anon-Horizon Room**

5:30pm, Tuesdays

**Overeaters Anonymous- Lounge**

10:00am, Saturdays

**St. James Fitness- Fellowship Hall**

4:00pm, Mondays and Fridays

**Tai Chi- Fellowship Hall**

5:15pm, Mondays

**WA Gender Alliance- Godly Play Room**

7:30pm, Tuesdays

**Weavers Guild- Fellowship Hall**

9:30am, 3rd Saturday

**Yoga-Horizon Room**

10:15am, Tuesdays and Thursdays

**You Are Not Alone (YANA)- Lounge**

6:00pm, 2nd Monday

**Bayside Co-op Preschool**

**Hawthorne Learning Solutions**

**Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County**



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