

the Pulse

April 2018

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Foolish Message — He is Risen!

It feels good to be foolish sometimes, doesn't it? Sometimes you just need to get up in the morning and put your clothes on backwards. Or play a practical joke. Or do a wacky dance in public.

We practice April Fool's Day in celebration of and reminder about the utter foolishness of things. Life doesn't go the way we plan. Foolishness can relieve us of the burden of feeling like we have to have it all together.

That's why the message of Easter, the message of the resurrection, in all of its foolishness, matters. It is the most utter foolishness of messages and yet, as we believe Christ did raise again and does bring about resurrection in our own lives — we find ourselves embracing foolishness as our central truth.

Think about it — the promise of restored relationships through the simple, foolish act of forgiving and extending a hand in peace: foolish. Or how about that by giving to the poor and the widow out of the abundance of our resources, and yet somehow receiving blessing in return: foolishness. Or that simple elements of bread and wine somehow invite us to a place of radical hospitality, a table where all people are accepted and belong: utter foolishness.

The message of Christ is utter foolishness.

1 Corinthians 1:18 reminds us, "the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Hear it this way — when we learn to live out of this April Fool's Message, we encounter the power of the Holy One in our lives. This power transforms what the world might count as ridiculous or foolish into what we know to be life, grace and radical acceptance. The message of the cross and Christ's resurrection is hogwash until you discover that it's not.

My prayer for us in this season of Easter is that we learn to embrace the paradox of this foolish story. Foolishness can draw us into a greater connection with life and bring vibrancy to the otherwise mundane logical world. And to step out in the foolishness of faith is to let go of what we

hold to be true in order to embrace the possibility that there is something greater than ourselves, something greater worth pursuing.

I hope that we can be like the disciples who rushed to the tomb once they heard the news that Jesus was risen. I hope we can long for the assurance of seeing it with our own eyes, while also embracing the foolish truth that something we could never imagine had, in *fact*, happened: Christ is Risen!

The message of the cross is foolish — it doesn't always make sense or match up with how we view the world. And yet it is always drawing us deeper into the grander story of God, the story where only through faith can we fully encounter resurrection ourselves, transformation and wholeness that we all long for.

You are invited to journey toward this wholeness with us here at St. James. We are foolish people, people on the journey, learning and growing and loving one another as Jesus taught us to. Please know that you are welcome here.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Seth



Easter Sunday, April 1

7:00 a.m.
Ecumenical Sunrise Worship at Fairhaven
Park

9:30 a.m.
Coffee Time at St. James

10:30 a.m.
Easter Celebration in St. James' Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt to follow



PULSE

16th Annual Raise the Roof Auction
Saturday, April 28, 2018 5:30PM to 9:00PM (Pacific)



This April, create pathways to homeownership for local residents at Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County's Annual Raise the Roof auction! Savor a delicious meal prepared in the Northwood Hall kitchens. Bid on a variety of carefully curated live and silent auction items. Enjoy live music and entertaining games throughout the evening.

Proceeds will fund the construction of Telegraph Townhomes, a multi-family development in Bellingham, WA, that will house 52 working, low-income families. For both residents and the environment, these energy-efficient, affordable units represent a paradigm shift in new urban home construction. Let's create pathways

Thank you for volunteering!

SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY MEAL THANKS! Alice Beaty, Carol and Ray Dellecker, Julie, Craig and Sean Keyes, Jenny Sue Leschander, Margaret McVie, Mike Smith, Jeanne Uhles, Gretchen Pfueller and Pastor Seth and Asher joined forces as a mighty force to provide caring friendship and a grand corned beef and cabbage meal with all the trimmings to a hungry crowd of about 100 neighbors and new friends at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We had a great time and look forward to being a part of this monthly outreach again next year.

Presbyterian Women

All women are invited to the monthly bible study and/or luncheon. Mark Tuesday, April 24 on your calendars. Join the bible study at 10:30 a.m. in the Lounge. The group is on Lesson Eight: *In Community with the Household of Faith*. Focus scriptures are Hebrews 3:1-6 and 13:1-6; Numbers 12:7; and Psalm 127:1-2. The study book is a Horizon publication, *Cloud of Witnesses, the community of Christ in Hebrews*, by Melissa Bane Sevier.

Luncheon is at noon in the Horizon Room. Everyone brings a salad to share.

PULSE**Meet Jenny Sue LeSchander**

My NE roots are immediately obvious in my communication style, and most people assume that with a name like Jenny Sue, I must have some Texas roots too; I do. In a large nutshell: I was born in Texas (hence “Jennifer Suzanne” became “Jenny Sue”) then moved to NJ with my family (mom, dad, brother who’s 3 years older) just before my 10th birthday. My parents were born & raised in NJ, so this was a homecoming for them; for me it was a serious culture shock. We arrived in NJ near the end of my 3rd grade year, so I got to be the new girl who talked funny (Texas accent) AND had a speech impediment (I struggled with my Rs.) I cemented my status as the Weird New Girl when I brought to my first Show & Tell a mounted coyote head (that was normal home décor in podunk Texas; it wasn’t so common in suburban NJ . . .)

Anyway, I survived my transition to NJ. I went to college at Washington College, in MD, for 2 years, then transferred to University of Rochester, in upstate NY. After college I moved back to Texas (Dallas) where I worked corporate, then coached the SMU novice women’s crew team for 2 years (I had rowed in high school and college.) Then I moved to Eugene, OR, to coach the men’s club crew team for one season. Then I moved to Golden, CO, with some friends. After about 5 months of easy living I realized I needed to grow up, so I moved to Bellingham in October of 2003. Why Bellingham? Back when I was coaching in Dallas I mentioned that I’d never been to the PacNW and perhaps I needed to move there (I was young and impractical.) One of my rowers said “You should move to Bellingham!” So I headed to Bellingham, sight-unseen. I stayed at the Coachman Inn on Samish until I found a place to live (it turns out that when you have the right motivation – and staying in a motel on Samish is! – you find a place pretty quickly.) I started temping the day after I arrived and soon “went perm.” Since then I’ve job-hopped a bit, and now I’m going on 7 years at Trident Seafoods, doing production planning. I’ve been attending St James since my very first Sunday in Bellingham! Now, about my other half – Feather is from Guemes Island, where my cousin still has her mom & one of her brothers. There were 9 pups in her litter, born January 28, 2008. Feather is ~75% Husky/ Malamute and 25% Golden Retriever (from her Grandpa Duncan.) In 2009 I was asked to dog-sit her for a long weekend. That first evening at my place (in Fairhaven, at the time) she jumped the fence and took herself on a 7

hr tour of the Arboretum, but she came back! Upon my cousin’s return while I was showing her pics of the fun Feather & I had, she asked “You had her off leash??” I had just assumed that all Island Dogs are off-leash dogs. A few weeks later I was asked if I would consider taking Feather permanently. That was an easy “YES!” Turns out Feather was still “available” after a year and a half because she was the worst pup in the litter. How could that be?? She was one of four dogs in the household and wasn’t getting very much attention, and left to her own devices her Husky side would come out in FULL. But luckily (?) I was unemployed at the time so I had the time to give her ALL my attention, plus it seems like that one weekend of assuming she was an off-leash dog had forged a really good “trust = freedom” relationship.

As you know, she is definitely a special sort of dog. Many people think she doesn’t know she’s a dog, but I counter that she absolutely knows she’s a dog, she just has a very high estimation of what a dog is. She doesn’t show her goofy side very often at church, but she really is a very funny dog. She’s also probably the least-trained dog you know; she’s just really good and we communicate well. She doesn’t like to sleep with me (she gets irritated when I toss & turn, plus she’s a bit scared of our 8 lb kitty who does sleep on the bed) so she sleeps on her own loveseat in my room. All of her siblings, and her mom, still live on Guemes and we go out there often so she can visit her #1 sister, and they spend hours mousing in the fields. Feather has provided me with many character-building experiences, like getting a number of squirrels and bunnies while we have an audience (what do you do when your dog gets a rabbit while we’re crossing an intersection? Or a squirrel while we’re on campus? Oy!) Luckily she seems to have outgrown the majority of her prey-drive instincts and we lead a pretty mellow existence now. Much like she just hangs out at church, she likes to relax in my front yard and watch the goings-on. She spends hours outside, untethered, showing off to all the leashed dogs walking by that she’s better than they are. She is by no means perfect (trust me, I have stories!) but I couldn’t ask for, or love her, more.

PULSE

Annual Garage Sale - Saturday, April 14 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Rummage through your closets and attics and donate items you once treasured so someone else can treasure them! We ask for clothing and household items that are clean and in good repair. No large appliances or large pieces of furniture.

If you have questions about what is appropriate, call Merry Thomas at 360-201-7181.

Prices are very reasonable, and the women’s association donates every bit of what we make to local non-profit agencies.



FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATUS

	February	Current Budget	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
Income	\$16,910	\$17,284	\$43,124	\$40,924
Expenses	\$19,909	\$18,153	\$35,762	\$35,196.

Dick Carr
Finance Chair



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Gil Thurston
- 12 Sally Crandall
- 16 Erin Keyes
- 17 Bruce Kraig
- 18 Zach Mullen
- 20 Sally Albers
- 20 Shirley Drury
- 23 Mark Beaty
- 25 Valerie McBeth
- 29 Cheryl McGregor
- 30 Nicholas Jackson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Tom and Margaret McVie

ST. JAMES CAN NOW ACCEPT ONLINE DONATIONS!

Using our new system you can:

- give from your bank account or using a credit card
- make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift
- designate your gifts as part of your annual pledge
- designate your Per Capita contribution

All of these options are available online at: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>

You can also set up a credit card or bank account for instant giving via text message.

Please talk to Seth or our treasurer Marina if you have questions or concerns. These are *additional options*. Please note that we are still happy to process your in-person or by-mail donations as well. Thank you for your patience and your questions as we launch this new opportunity. Treasurer's email address for questions: stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

PULSE CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Day 7am Sunrise Service 9:30am Coffee Time 10:30am Worship 12pm Egg Hunt 7:15pm AA	2 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	3 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Building and Grounds 6pm Finance 7pm Community Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	4 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Christian Faith Formation	5 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	6 4pm Cross-fit	7 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
8 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA	9 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	10 10am Staff 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Community Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	11 10am Worship 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	12 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	13 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit Woman set up rummage sale	14 9am Women's Rummage Sale 9am Church Work Party 10am OA
15 Family Promise through 21st at Sacred Heart 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	16 PULSE DUE 10am Grief Support Group 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	17 8am Music Teachers Assoc 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Community Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	18 5:30pm Prayer Vigil at Unitarian Fellowship 6pm SOS Men's AA	19 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	20 4pm Cross-fit	21 9am First Pres 9:30am Weavers Guild 10am OA
22 Earth Day 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	23 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	24 10:15am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Salad Potluck 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Community Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	25 6pm SOS Men's AA	26 10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	27 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit	28 8am Pet Partners 10am OA
29 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 3pm Community Chorus Concert 7:15pm AA	30 10am Personnel 4pm Cross-fit 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6pm Boy Scouts planning mtg 7pm Boy Scouts					





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Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 9am-2pm

St. James Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas
Children's Ministry: Tracy Caruso, Coordinator
Teachers: Erika Singh-Cundy, Sophie Rose Kendrick, Lucy Sieczka
Administrative Secretary: Natasha Orme
Treasurer: Marina McLeod
Music Director: Carolyn Mullen
Pianist/Accompanist: Julian Fajardo

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

