

The Pulse

St. James Presbyterian Church

APRIL 2015

Pastor's Article for April 2015



I recently sat at table with Myron Wlaznak, Tim Whiteman, and Joel Langholtz. No food was served, and we were not celebrating the sacrament of Communion, though either or both of these options certainly would have been fitting. Instead, we were sitting at a planning table. Myron is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic, while Tim and Joel are the pastors at Central Lutheran and Our Saviour's Lutheran, respectively. Each year, I gather with these church leaders to discuss our plans for the ecumenical, Easter sunrise service at 7:00am at Fairhaven Park.

Bellingham is the northernmost city in the continental United States. Yes. We are more northern than the state of Maine, and actually live at a higher latitude than the majority of the Canadian population! But, Northwesterners are a hearty bunch. And so we gather, in rain or shine, though often in the cold, to celebrate Easter together as a new day is dawning.

We do this time and again because we stand in awe of the mystery of the resurrection. Whatever your preference, whether it is the crisp sensation of morning, outdoor worship, or the traditional feel of organ pipes and classic architecture, the message remains the same. Christ is risen! Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Jon

PULSE

MARRIAGE



On March 17, 2015, Presbyterians approved marriages for same-sex couples in the first ever nationwide, grassroots vote on marriage equality by a faith tradition. The Presbyterian Church, USA now holds that marriage is between “two persons” rather than “a man and a woman.”

“Today, we can bring our whole selves to church,” said Alex McNeill, executive director of More Light Presbyterians. “Ratification is not the end; it is the continuation of ongoing sacred conversations. This is the next step in our long journey to minister to all of our people.”

Last summer, the PC(USA) governing body voted by a 71% vote to change the description of marriage, from between “a man and a woman” to “two persons.” However, the amendment required 51% of the 171 regional bodies called presbyteries to affirm the change. That threshold was crossed as 86 presbyteries voted yes, as of today. The tipping point vote was cast by Palisades Presbytery. The voting will continue through June until every presbytery meets. (Northwest Coast Presbytery will be voting on April 18 and Bill Read and Dick Carr will be serving as elder commissioners from St. James.)

“More Light Presbyterians led this nationwide campaign to ratify Amendment 14F in the middle of a conservative push to make religious discrimination a civil right,” McNeill said. “Presbyterians know that love of God and neighbor is, by definition, a call to

love and serve people who are different. Faithfulness does not include discrimination in the name of God.”

This vote is the culmination of four decades of selfless service by so many people. More Light and the Covenant Network empowered by courageous Presbyterians were helped to host honest conversations about marriage within their local Presbyteries. “Today we are rejoicing! So many families headed by LGBTQ couples have been waiting for decades to enter this space created for their families within their church communities,” said the Rev. Robin White, Co-Moderator of More Light Presbyterians. “After the church’s ruling body first affirmed marriage equality this summer, I finally married my partner in our home church,” said co-moderator, and Ruling Elder Nathan Sobers. “It was a dream deferred for 28 years! I wept when it came true. With this historic vote, the Presbyterian Church welcomes not just our wedding, but our whole family into the church community. I know so many families of LGBTQ people and church members are shedding tears of joy on this historic day!”

More Light Presbyterians is a national network of Presbyterians working for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

Article from Alex Patchin McNeill, More Light Executive Director, with some edits by C. Shafer

Celebrate Easter!

Sunday, March 29, 10:30 am
Palm Sunday Worship Service



Thursday, April 2, 7:30 pm
Maunday Thursday Worship Service

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

7:00 am
Sunrise Service at Fairhaven Park

8:00am-10:00 am
Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am
Easter Celebration

Mission Social Action Committee Planning

You are welcome to serve as a committee member.
Please contact Carla Shafer via e-mail:
chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com

Earth Care Expo, Saturday, April 25th

Earth Care Workshops, for our church and the community, will be held Saturday, April 25th. Proposed topics include:

- Panel on spiritual basis for earth care
- Updates on oil and coal trains initiatives in our region
- Alternative Energy sources for the home and aspects of conservation
- Salmon, daylight and Padden Creek
- Grass (for lawns)

If you would like to help organize and make this event happen, please let Carla Shafer know. Don't be shy. We need set-up, take down, workshop hosts, welcome tablers and help with publicity.

Earth Care Preach-In Sunday on April 26th. This is part of a PCUSA preach-in for the environment occurring this spring nationwide. Rev. Hauerwas will present a sermon with an environmental focus and worship will offer a time to be reverent regarding our care of the earth.

Presbyterian (USA) Peacemaker Program Speakers

Presbyterian (USA) Peacemaker Program Speakers have been invited from the Armenian Diaspora in Syria and Iraq, or the countries of Cuba, or The Congo. Representatives from one mission area are expected to come between September 25th and October 18th. We will need to provide housing, meals and opportunities to speak in Bellingham and throughout the Presbytery.

Church Mission and Social Action's gift of \$1,873 was allocated for the first quarter of the year as follows:

Progressive Christian Voices (WWU Students program) \$750

Whatcom Peace and Justice Center \$500

Interfaith Coalition's Our House \$623

Gifts totaling at least \$7,750 will be given throughout the year. Mission giving has been identified for Community to Community Development, Earth Ministry in Seattle, Habitat for Humanity, the Human Rights Film Festival, Interfaith Coalition, Maple Alley Inn, Montana de Luz, More Light, NWIC Environmental Studies Scholarship, Progressive Christian Voices (WWU students), and Whatcom Peace and Justice Center

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Glory to God!

Many of our new Hymnals, GLORY TO GOD have been purchased to be dedicated or memorialized. The dedicated Hymnals have been so labeled inside the front cover, and placed in the pew racks. They are as follows:

- 12 hymnals were given by Karen Summers in honor of William Summers - long time member, elder and several years on the worship committee;
- Sue and Mike Smith in memory of their parents and sisters;
- Kara and Jon Hauerwas in honor of the people of Saint James who seek to serve God with courage, conviction and compassion;
- Margaret Humble, in memory of John R. Humble;
- Martha Speer, in honor of Leslie and Norma Speer;
- Bill and Mavarette Butler, in memory of our parents, Alfred Butler, 1884-1952 and Esther C. Butler 1894-1971, Roy Barrick, 1894-1979, Vera Barrick 1893-1979;
- Bea Aubert, in memory of "Dad";
- Madeleine and Bob Smith in memory of our son, Lance; and another in memory of "our parents";
- 2 Hymnals were given by Mary Gilbertson in memory of Coralinn and Frank Jenkinson, my parents
- Nancy Peck gave a hymnal as a gift to the church;
- The Laughlin Family, in memory of beloved mother, Mary Ellen Bedford Clarke;
- Nancy Wagar, in memory of Dorothy and Earl Vander Werff;
- Jaowanoot S. Kennedy (Nooty) in memory of Thomas Scott Kennedy and Werner K. Paulus;
- Kay and Dick Carr in memory of parents Joe and Evelyn Carr who supported music in their church;
- Kay and Dick Carr in memory of Susanne Gresham, past St. James' treasurer and devoted choir member

Session Highlights

Discussed:

- Began a reflection on the SJPC Vision and Mission to develop a set of Priority Action Steps for the coming months St. James.
- Reviewed the 2014 Vision: "Called to Serve God through Faith in Action"
- Reviewed the 2010 Mission Statement: Saint James Presbyterian Church is a beacon on the hill where the people respond to the opportunities that God sets before us. We celebrate our rich past as we continue our journey into the future together. We worship the triune God in our beautiful, traditional sanctuary with music, prayer and learning from the word of God. We joyfully welcome youth and young families into our intergenerational and loving community of faith, nurturing relationships that bridge our differences. We are witnesses to God's presence and the grace of Jesus Christ as we address social justice issues locally and internationally through education and action. We are open and affirming, welcoming all to join us in discipleship.
- Discussed examples of Action Steps. The discussion will continue in April.

Reported:

- The tower at the entrance of the building has been repaired and reroofed. The roof was leaking causing rot in the walls allowing water to leak into the HVAC system.
- Bids are out for insurance coverage
- The Nominating committee is searching for who will be called to serve as a Ruling Elder in the vacant position.

Decided:

- The Mission Social Action Health Committee will schedule quarterly defibrillator training and an annual first aid training for 12-15 church members.
 - Offering counters were approved for 2015: Bill Read, Carla Shafer, Sue Smith, Dick Carr, Peter Burkland, Irene Rome, Marion Dobbie, Jeanne Uhles, Bev Stewart, Margaret McVie, Tom McVie, Bev Stewart
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Lone Leaders by M. Craig Barnes

PASTORS OFTEN TALK about their loneliness, even though in their work they're surrounded by many people. What pastors mean by loneliness is not what most people think of it as. And it's not unique to their calling.

This makes me wonder exactly what goes on in the mind of a leader who tires of building consensus and just strives to get things done. Americans have never agreed about anything. So our greatest presidents eventually found ways to be loyal only to the still small voice that kept whispering in their ears, "You know what you need to do."

This is how Washington found himself leading a revolution, how Lincoln got us through the Civil War, and how Roosevelt pulled the nation out of a depression. They were never leading a parade.

Opponents threw everything they could at them. All of these presidents had flaws that made them easy targets for gossip. And the politics of accomplishing their goals were staggering. At the end of every long day they were completely alone, but they kept moving in the right direction, haunted by a still small voice that would not let them stop.

It doesn't matter if you are leading a nation, company, congregation, school, or family — a time comes when you just have to do what you believe to be right. You give up on consensus, being admired, or even appreciated. It's the inner voice you have to serve.

This is never how the leader begins. Even the process of being chosen implies a contract to serve those who made the choice, and all leaders assume that means figuring out a way to bring everyone together around a spectacular dream. But it just doesn't work out that way in the end. We shoot our dreamers. Sometimes literally, but always metaphorically.

What we've always needed is a visionary leader, someone who hears the still small voice and is made lonelier because of it, but who understands what God means by a "calling." It's more than a bureaucratically

sanitized job description. It's a holy passion that overtakes your life.

A vision from God doesn't have to arrive through a supernatural revelation. The call can be stuck in a theology textbook that was abandoned after a final exam. It can arise through a late-night conversation with friends or on a trip to the West Bank. My wife once heard Nat King Cole singing "O Holy Night" on the radio. When he came to "till he appeared and the soul felt its worth," she couldn't stop crying. Heaven is inflaming bushes around us all of the time. The question is, are we paying attention?

I am certain that we must. There is no such thing as a vibrant congregation without a leader who's been called to burning bushes and great ideas and is willing to surrender everything to them. *Century Marks*

New Members Class

Are you interested in learning more about St. James or in becoming a member of the congregation? There will be a New Members Class on two consecutive Mondays, April 13 and 20 from 7-8pm. This is an opportunity to ask questions about the Presbyterian Church and St. James and meet members of the Session. For more information call Pastor Jon Hauerwas at 510-1750 or Alice Beaty at 733-3371.

It's Time to Update the Pictorial Directory!

The Membership Committee is updating the Pictorial Directory. Alice Beaty will be taking pictures until the end of April.

PULSE

April Birthdays

4	Gil Thurston
7	Patty Cromarty
10	Gus Danielson
11	Matt Hargleroad
11	Laurie Rechholtz
12	Gil Thurston
12	Sally Crandall
16	Erin Keyes
17	Bruce Kraig
18	Cliff Nelson
18	Zach Mullen
20	Sally Albers
20	Shirley Drury
20	Kara Hauerwas
23	Mark Beaty
25	Valerie McBeth
28	Liam Hauerwas
29	Margaret Snider
29	Cheryl McGregor
30	Mary Elmslie
30	Nicholas Jackson

April Anniversaries

1	Tom and Margaret McVie
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	February	Year To Date
Income	\$19,169.00	\$44,570.00
Expenses	\$14,459.82	\$34,712.68

The Finance Committee appreciates your financial support to St. James.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF ST. JAMES

Come join us on Tuesday, April 28

10:30am – Bible Study in the Lounge (8th lesson)
12pm – Pot Luck Salad Luncheon in the Horizon Room

Karen Ekdahl from the Bellingham Childcare & Learning Center will be our guest speaker.



Don't Miss This! ! !

**THE ST. JAMES WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
RUMMAGE SALE**

Saturday, April 11, 9am - 3pm



Donations for the sale can be brought to the Choir Office in the church basement, up the stairs just north of the Fellowship Hall. Your donations are much appreciated!

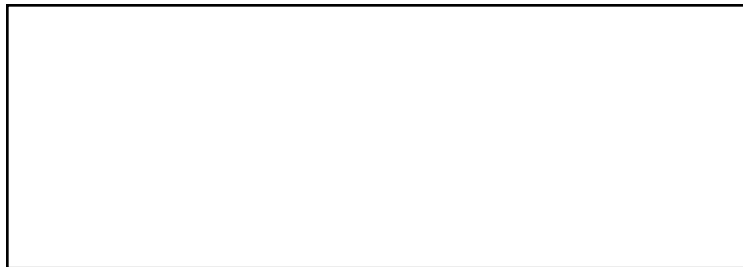
2015 APRIL CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>For events not listed on this calendar, check out the St. James website! www.saintjamespres.org</div>			1 8am Men's Bible Study 8am Music Teachers Association 1pm Staff 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Service	3 <i>Good Friday</i> 2:45pm Christian Faith Formation 4pm Cross-fit	4 9am Pet Evaluations by Kathleen Laughlin 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 7am Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Fairhaven Pk 8am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Easter Celebration 7pm AA	6 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	7 8am Prayer Group 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 6pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	8 8am Men's Bible Study 6pm SOS Men's AA 6:30pm Weavers Guild	9 10:15am Yoga 5:15pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	10 8am Rummage Sale Set up 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit	11 9am Rummage Sale 9am Church Work Party 10am OA
12 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 7pm AA	13 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	14 8am Prayer Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Preschool Parent Meeting 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	15 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6pm SOS Men's AA	16 PULSE DUE 8am Music Teachers Association 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	17 4pm Cross-fit 4:30pm Girl Scouts	18 12am Girl Scouts 9am Pet Evaluations 10am OA 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship 6pm Music Teachers Assoc.
19 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7pm AA	20 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	21 8am Prayer Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	22 Earth Day 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6pm SOS Men's AA	23 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	24 4pm Cross-fit 4:15pm Membership	25 10am OA
26 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Sermon Feedback 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7pm AA	27 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	28 8am Prayer Group 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Luncheon 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	29 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6pm SOS Men's AA	30 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	<div>Children's Co-Op Preschool For information call 360-510-9558</div>	

St. James Presbyterian Church
910 14th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

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St. James Presbyterian Church

910 - 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
www.saintjamespres.org
office@saintjamespres.org
360-733-1325

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



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

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

