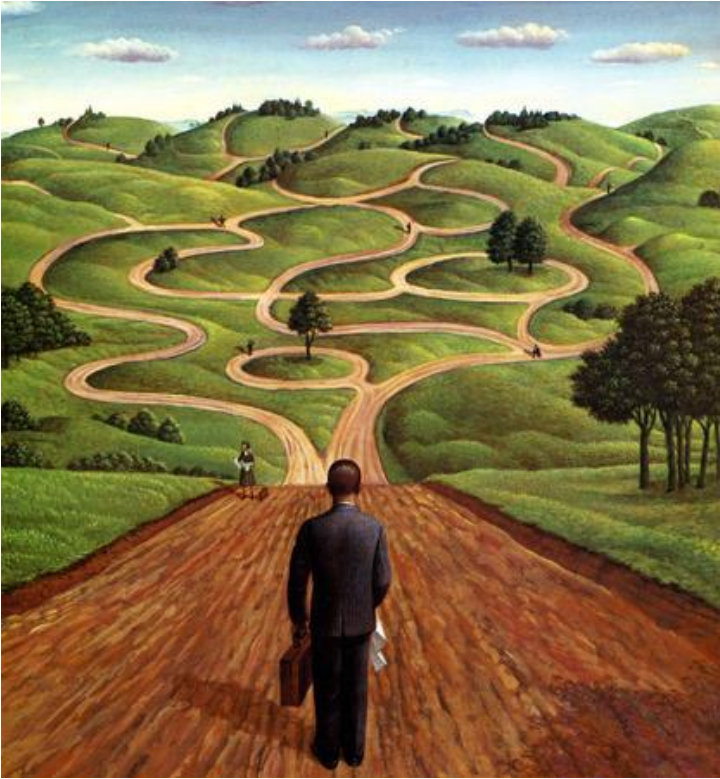


The Pulse

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015



There is no easy way for me to say this. I have accepted a position at another congregation and, soon, I will no longer be your pastor. I have now served alongside you for four years. During this time, I believe that we have accomplished many things of great value. We have stabilized and strengthened our financial position. We have updated the facility in numerous ways. We have increased our benevolence giving. We have become an official Earth Care congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We began a new ministry to support and engage younger adults, witnessed the successful implementation of a new cross-fit class, and launched a support group for those who are grieving.

You have been incredibly generous and gracious to me and my family. I have learned much from you. We have laughed, studied, and prayed together. At times, we have cried. Most importantly, we have been supportive partners in ministry. Kara, Liam, and I love you all and will miss you deeply.

Still, though, more work remains, as Saint James seeks to define its priorities for future ministry. As you engage in this process, I am both hopeful and confident that God will lead you to the right leader for this portion of your journey. The next step for my family is relocation to Akron, Ohio, where I will serve as head of staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Jon Hauerwas

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 9, immediately following worship for the purpose of dissolving the pastoral relationship between Saint James and the Rev. Jon Hauerwas.

PULSE

FROM THE JUNE LETTER BY BERNIE AND FARSIJANA ADENEY-RISAKOTTA, MISSION CO-WORKERS IN INDONESIA



Dear Family, Friends and colleagues,

The villagers of Gowok held a meeting in their mosque to prepare for Earth Day. The men prepared a huge tent to protect the people from sun or rain, and a stage for gamelan percussion orchestra, dancers, a shadow puppet show, and a video screen. The women planned the menu: good, tasty healthy food, served on banana leaves, without plastic.

They planned the earth day events with Farsijana, PC (USA) mission co-worker and founder of the Griya Jati Rasa, House of Authentic Sense (HAS), an organization to empower villagers.

Gowok is a model village for environmental consciousness. It created a garbage bank in 2012, where garbage is sorted and recycled. Poor villagers make about \$120 per year by sorting the garbage. They also make and sell items like bags, purses and wall hangings.

Gowok is a Muslim village. The people believe a true Muslim takes good care of the earth. Muslim and Christian staff of HAS together planned the creative

performances on Earth Day to raise consciousness about the perilous state of the planet. Muslims and Christians should work together to protect our common earth. Environmental destruction affects especially the poor. They have little protection against disasters caused by global warming. Often it is the poor who lose their land and livelihood; global warming is often aggravated by mining and timber companies.

At the Earth Day celebration the men playing the gamelan looked stunning in their traditional Javanese batik clothing. The women wore embroidered blouses as they served delicious Indonesian food. The puppet show and dancers created a new message about protection of the earth. The puppet master was Farsijana's friend, a simple village woman, who grew up surrounded by the art and lore of puppet theatre.

This show featured not only shadow puppets, voice and orchestra, but also video images and live dancers who told an old story with a new message.

A few days after the Earth Day celebration, Farsijana presented a seminar on Theology and the Environment at the Duta Wacana Christian University. She used a Muslim organization, Muhammadiyah, as a model of how to build a green economy for the sake of world peace. Muhammadiyah, with over 20 million members, has pressured the government to manage the sources of groundwater, rivers and run-off for the prosperity of all the people. Water is a basic right, to be protected for all citizens. Christians can work together with Muslim organizations to achieve this.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As in previous years, St. James again will collect school supplies for Middle and High School children, to be distributed through the Bellingham School District homeless outreach department. Items specifically listed are: scientific calculators, large size backpacks (not kids size), zip drives, black marbled composition books, hand-held non-electric pencil sharpeners. A box will be placed in the narthex where the items can be deposited.

TASK FORCE CONTRIBUTIONS

As I reported in the cover article last month, Saint James has a new Task Force to explore Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. The Task Force is now comprised of Laurie Anderson; Tracy Caruso, secretary; Faye Hill, chair; Jenny Sue LeSchander; Gretchen Pfueller; and Carla



Shafer. They have begun to meet and are currently exploring the five Session charges. Please contact them if you have anything that you feel would be helpful to contribute. Thank you, Jon

70 YEARS OF FEAR:

From the August 2015 Issue of *Soujourners*



70 years after the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima: three articles on the morality of nuclear weapons, by a conservative Christian: *Nukes and the Pro-Life Christian*, a Japanese theologian: *A Love that Disarms*, and by the chair of the Global Task Force on Nuclear Weapons of the World Evangelical Alliance: *Creating a New Norm; Younger Activists, in Both Government and Civil Society, are Leading Worldwide*

Efforts to Ban Nuclear Weapons.

Some information included in the articles: Continued bilateral reductions by the U.S. and Russia brought their 90% of worldwide nuclear stockpiles down from 65,000 in 1986 to 16,000 now; but enough are still on high alert to devastate all life on earth. Moreover, the U.S. is planning to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to “upgrade” its stockpile. Russia has cancelled the historic Nunn-Lugar cooperative threat reduction program. Prospects for bilateral progress have evaporated. Smaller nuclear powers quietly commit funds to the indefinite perpetuation of their stockpiles. On the other hand, the three bodies representing global Christianity, and many other faith groups, are actively working for nuclear disarmament and abolishment of nuclear arms altogether.

PULSE

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – JULY 12, 2015

Discussed

Vision-Mission-Strategic Planning – 2015 – 2020 - Session discussed program strategies **for active and retired seniors** as it might relate to the mission statement portion which says: “We joyfully welcome youth and young families into our intergenerational and loving community of faith, nurturing relationships that bridge our differences.”

What the church offers active and retired seniors now are: leadership roles, Prime Timers, women’s association, men’s study group, exercise groups and worship. In a brainstorm of what may be needed, Session listed: opportunities for them to offer their expertise, service projects, information about retirement and financial planning program, connecting people to volunteer activities, renew what it is to have a Christian vocation in retirement, friendship.

Then Session discussed program strategies for **working adults whose children are adults**, as parents and youth are under discussion by the Families and Children Task Force. What we offer now: Leadership and worship. What may be needed: evening programs, week-end programs, relevant articles in the *Pulse*.

It was decided to conduct a survey with a few questions, such as: 1) What are your favorite 3 things about St. James? 2) What are the primary wants, needs or opportunities that St. James provides to you? 3) If you could add one thing to your life in connection with St. James what might it be? 4) And what would be a good time for this to be scheduled? These questions will be posted in the *Pulse* for members and friends to consider, and during August, Session members will make calls (on the phone or by e-mail) to gather

answers from a random sample of members and friends. If you have answers and don’t receive a call, please contact a member of the Session.

Reported

Roof repair is waiting for the seagulls to be less threatening. A plan is developing to repair and update the upstairs Coop preschool rooms which have been vacated this fall when the older preschool students program will move to School District space. Zadra Nolan is now a nursery caregiver. Welcome Zadra! The Family and Children Programs Task Force had its first meeting. The Stewardship Sunday gathering in the Fellowship Hall will be on the last week in September. It will include the “Connect project” information and sign-up tables. The nominating committee plans to fill five deacon and three elder positions in 2016. Discussion of recommendations for fall programs are underway in the Christian Faith Formation committee.

Decided

Session accepted Peter van der Veen’s resignation as a Session member.

Mission and Social action or other study sessions will be held after worship on the first Sunday of each month. The fall program is under discussion in the Mission – Social Action Committee.

Jon’s vacation was approved for July 23, 24, 26, 28.

PULSE

THANK YOU FROM INTERFAITH COALITION

Dear Member of St. James Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for supporting the lifesaving work of Interfaith Coalition with your recent generous donation of \$400 towards our general programs and \$625 towards Our House in Ferndale. Gifts like yours help homeless families stay together and begin the hard work of turning their lives around. Your donation, together with others from our community, helps shelter men and women who live on the streets and need a place to rest during the most extreme weather. Donations provide warm outerwear for children and their parents.

Interfaith’s mission is simple but powerful: together we are filling gaps in human services and meeting the needs of marginalized people. As a community of many faiths, we work together, believing that we can eliminate homelessness and poverty in Whatcom County. We do this with gifts from people like you who believe that change is possible, broken lives can

be repaired, and every person’s life has value.

You’ll be hearing more about Interfaith’s newest program, CAST. CAST (coffee and sandwiches on Tuesdays) is a food outreach that has served simple meals four nights a week for over a decade. When CAST needed a new home and partner, we stepped in to support this all-volunteer program. Feeding hungry people and offering conversation and fellowship is a natural extension of our other programs, such as the Severe Weather Shelters.

With each gift we receive, we are filled with gratitude for this wonderful community. We are motivated to continue this essential work, knowing we are making a difference. You, too, are making a difference. Thank you for being our partner in caring.

In faith and appreciation,
Laura Harker, Executive Director



FINANCIAL STATUS FOR JUNE

	<u>June 2015</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 14,876.00	\$114,477.00	\$119,295.00
Expenses	\$111,424.82	\$111,424.82	\$124,103.08

Please take a look at your own pledge status to see if you are current at this mid-point of the calendar year. We appreciate your commitment to St. James to keep it financially strong!

THE SECRETS OF MR. HAPPY

Matthieu Ricard has no property and no income and lives in a tiny Nepalese hermitage with no heating, said Esther Addley in *The Guardian* (U.K.). Yet the French-born Buddhist monk has been dubbed “the happiest man in the world.” Twenty years ago, neuroscientists studied the celibate monk’s brain while he was meditating, and discovered an extraordinary degree of activity in the areas associated with positive emotions. “My friends tease me about it—you know: ‘Here comes Mr. Happy!’” says Ricard, 69. “That’s OK. I’m not unhappy, for sure.” The secret, he says, is to meditate every day, and make a conscious decision to focus on all the good that surrounds us. Evolution, he says, has primed the brain to be on alert for danger and drama. “We have this overwhelming feeling of this wicked world. And the banality of goodness is overlooked.” Even now—after the devastating earthquake in Nepal—Ricard can find reasons to be cheerful. “Of course there was a moment when everyone ran for their lives,” he says. “But immediately afterward, there was calm, discipline, helping. They do it in solidarity.” Ricard’s lesson? “Anyone can be the happiest man or woman in the world if you look for happiness in the right place.” *THE WEEK*

HIGHER CALLING

The number of women in England and Wales choosing to become nuns is on the rise, reaching a 25-year high. Many of these women are under 30. The increase is occurring in both active and cloistered orders. One novice explained her choice: “If our society is obsessed with money, sex, and power and the games people play with them, then vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience represent a profound freedom... It’s not a fleeing from the world—it’s a finding your place in it”. *Christian Century*

WATER QUIZ

Which consumes more water: taking a ten-minute shower, growing ten almonds, producing a quarter-pound hamburger, or washing a load of clothes? It’s the hamburger, by a wide margin. While a washing machine load takes about 35 gallons, producing the hamburger takes 450 gallons. The conversion of protein from plants to animals is very inefficient. It takes 880 gallons of water to produce a gallon of milk. *Christian Century*

“Nostalgia is a file that removes the rough edges from the good old days.”

Columnist Doug Larson, quoted in the *Vancouver Columbian*

THE WEEK



A memorial for Bea Aubert will be held at 2pm on Friday, August 7th in the St. James Sanctuary.

A memorial for Helen Oliver-Leen will be held on Saturday, August 15 at 2pm in the St. James Sanctuary.

PULSE

VIEWPOINT

“Many of us aren’t nearly as independent-minded as we like to think. The views many of us hold are largely dictated by partisanship and ideological affiliations rather than intellectual rigor. This leads to an almost chronic unwillingness to revisit and refine long-held positions. Our thinking on matters of politics and philosophy and faith not only can become lazy; it can easily ossify. It may be worth asking yourself: In the last 15 to 20 years, on what issues of importance have you changed your mind, recalibrated your thinking, or even attempted to take a fresh look? Or has every event, serious study, and new set of facts merely confirmed what you already knew? To put it another way: Do you think you’ve ever been wrong?”

Peter Wehner in *CommentaryMagazine.com*

THE WEEK

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August Birthdays

- 5 Gary Culbertson
- 7 Jeanne Uhles
- 9 Monica Reynoso
- 12 Wilma French
- 13 Jill Hoyt
- 16 Megan Pfueller Melrose
- 19 Bill Read
- 23 Keena Mullen
- 24 Rick Seater
- 25 Mary van der Veen
- 28 Marilyn Monahan

August Anniversaries

- 6 Tim and Wendy Crandall
- 13 Rick and Jean Seater
- 21 Dwayne and Karen Rogers
- 21 Jim and Carolyn Mullen
- 23 Gil and Inge Thurston
- 24 Gragg and Betty Miller
- 24 Dick and Marilyn Madden

WHEN

Will You harass a driven leaf,
Will You pursue dried-up straw...
—Job 13:25

When
the sun
no longer
warms
nourishes
trees
dry
leaves
wither
crack
fall
pummeled
under foot
ground
into
earth
to begin
again
i pray
you do
the same
with
the sins
i leave
behind
and not
with those
i keep

Yehiel E. Poupko
Christian Century

**BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY CHORUS
HOLIDAY SONGFEST IN AUGUST**

Come preview our Fall music on Saturday, August 8th
from 9am to 11:30am at Hillcrest Chapel, Bellingham
Refreshments provided
Donations Accepted

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Bellingham, WA
PERMIT NO. 18

Return Service Requested



St. James Presbyterian

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



Pulled Pork BBQ
August, 28th!
Watch for more information
in the Sunday bulletins!

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

