

The Pulse

St. James Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2015

Ash Wednesday and Lent begin on February 18 and carries on through Easter, April 5.

Lent

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days – like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.) In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

At Saint James, we will begin the 2015 Lenten season with a worship service in our sanctuary at 7:30pm on February 18. We hope that you can attend! In addition, we hope that you might consider signing up to contribute a written devotional of your own creation for circulation within our church community. The scriptures will focus on a variety of topics using the overarching theme of wonder as our guide.

1) *Discovering Wonder in Creation*. This will incorporate creation stories, God arriving in the whirlwind and then addressing Job, and animals in the Bible, for example. It will also include John 1, which is a gospel re-writing of the creation account.

2) *Childhood, Youth, and Wonder*. Here, it seems fitting to include Jesus’ welcome of children, and instruction of what can be regained by viewing the world from a child’s perspective.

3) *Wonder and the Arts*. Many Psalms speak of musical instruments. Psalm 98 comes to mind. There are also references to God as potter, or Psalm 139 which speaks of God fashioning us with this language: “you knit me together in my mother’s womb,” and “fearfully and wonderfully made.” The favorite hymn, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” was written by Charles Wesley in 1747. He writes, “lost in wonder, love, and praise.”

4) *Wonder in the Old Testament*. Examples will include Psalm 111, Ecclesiastes 2, where it is written that “there is nothing better for us to do than eat and drink,” and Ecclesiastes 3, with its focus on “a time for everything.” The rhythm of our world is wondrous, from mundane pleasures to the complex systems that govern the universe.

5) *Wonder in the New Testament*. Here we will examine the sacraments, transfiguration, forgiveness, and prayer.

6) *The Wonder of the Cross*. Finally, we will focus on stories of Peter denying Jesus and remaining frozen in place as well as women fleeing in terror from the empty tomb. Remarkably, all of these figures went from fleeing and denying to following and evangelizing. How wondrous!

Please sign up to contribute.

Peace and best wishes,
Jon

PULSE

New hymnals to begin the new year!

Starting in January, our worship together will be enhanced with *Glory to God*, the new Presbyterian hymn book. Times change, and trends in hymnody along with them. Over the century and a half since Presbyterians began singing hymns “of human composure” in worship and not just metered, rhyming versions of the divinely inspired Psalms of David, numerous texts and tunes—like “A Few More Years Shall Roll”—have come and gone. We have wrung out the old in eliminating such once-valued songs as “Ah! Wretched, Vile, Ungrateful Heart;” “How Condescending and How Kind Was God’s Eternal Son;” and “Quiet, Lord, My Froward Heart” (“froward,” the opposite of “toward,” once meant something along the lines of “perverse” or turned away from God). Typically, in fact, about half of the contents of one hymnal go by the wayside when its successor comes onto the scene. But by the same token, about half of the contents remain. Numerous texts and tunes have also come and stayed, gaining such long-lived popularity that since the date of their introduction they have appeared in every subsequent denominational collection of worship songs. “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” cannot be found in the 1874 Presbyterian hymnal, but once it came to light in 1895, it became a constant companion. “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” made its debut in the 1927 hymnal of the southern Presbyterian church and “Be Thou My Vision,” in the northern church’s hymnal of 1933; we would be unlikely now to have a hymnal without either. “God of Grace and God of Glory” and “I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art” made their initial appearances in 1955; “Go Tell It on the Mountain” and “Lord of the

Dance,” in 1975; “Here I Am, Lord” and the other examples from the introductory exercise were “new” to Presbyterians in 1990, but are already showing signs of longevity. We do well to remind ourselves that every hymn was “new” once upon a time; were it not for regular hymnal revisions, our congregations would not have access to such new songs to sing. Our Sunday morning worship would still resound with strains of “Stay, Thou Insulted Spirit, Stay” from the hymnal of 1874, and not “Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me,” which was not written until 1935 and not included in a Presbyterian hymnal until 1990. Or perhaps, instead, without a steady cycle of rejuvenation, the singing of hymns would have narrowed to a smaller and smaller number of eighteenth and nineteenth century favorites until even these classics fell victim to the tedium of overuse.

If you would like to donate one of these new hymnals in honor, in memory, in appreciation, or in celebration of a loved one, loved ones, or a special group of people, then please include this instruction with your check for \$20 to Saint James Presbyterian. Please write “hymnal” in the memo line. We will add the dedication in the front cover as you instruct us. Finally, if you would like to take one or more of the retired, blue *Presbyterian Hymnals* home with you, please feel free to do so. We will soon be finding a new home for any that are not taken.

Peace,
Jon

St. James Presbyterian Church Hymnal Dedication Form

If you wish to donate one of our new hymnals in honor, in memory, in appreciation, or in celebration of a loved one or loved ones, or a special group of people, please include this form with a check for \$20 for each dedication, to Saint James Presbyterian Church. We will add the dedication in the front cover as you instruct. Your name(s): _____

Dedication in memory of: _____

In appreciation for: _____

In celebration of: _____

As an expression of/for: _____

I am enclosing \$_____ for _____ hymnals.

May place order form and payment in the offering plate or deliver to office.

Parents are top influence in teens remaining active in religion as young adults

Mothers and fathers who practice what they preach and preach what they practice are far and away the biggest influence related to adolescents keeping the faith into their twenties, according to new findings from a landmark study of youth and religion.

Just 1 percent of teens age 15 to 17 raised by parents who attached little importance to religion were highly religious in their mid to late twenties.

In contrast, 82 percent of children raised by parents who talked about faith at home, attached great importance to their beliefs, and were active in their congregations were religiously active as young adults, according to data from the latest wave of the National Study of Youth and Religion.

The connection is “nearly deterministic,” said Christian Smith, lead researcher for the study and, a sociologist at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Other factors such as youth ministry, clergy or service projects, or religious schools pale in comparison.

Nothing else “comes remotely close to matching the influence of parents on the religious faith and practices of youth,” Smith said in a recent talk about the findings at Yale Divinity School. “Parents just dominate.” Several studies have shown that the religious behaviors and attitudes of parents are related to those of their children.

In research using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, sociologists Christopher Bader and Scott Desmond found that children of parents who believe that religion is very important and display their commitment by attending services are most likely to transmit religiosity to their children.

This is the fourth wave of the NSYR, a comprehensive national study first conducted in 2002—2003 among teens age 13 to 17 and their parents. These early findings add powerful evidence of the importance of mothers and fathers as the study traces the path of young respondents, who are now age 24 to 29.

One of the strongest factors associated with older teens keeping their faith as young adults was having parents who talked about religion and spirituality at home, Smith said.

Other key factors included having parents for whom personal faith is important and who demonstrate that faith through attending services. Teens whose parents attended worship with them were especially likely to be religiously active as young adults.

Among related findings, parents from religious traditions that in general promote greater commitment and encourage discussing faith outside the sanctuary also were more likely to have children who remained active in their faith as young adults.

For example, two-thirds of teens raised by black Protestant parents and half of adolescents with conservative Protestant parents had high or moderate levels of religiousness as young adults. On the other end, 70 percent of teens raised by mainline Protestant parents had minimal or lower levels of religiousness as young adults.

In interviews, many mainline Protestant parents said they “feel guilty if they think they are doing anything to direct their children toward their religion as opposed to any other possibility,” Smith said. They question if they should tell their child “what I believe is right.”

Yet if parents and faith communities are not able to communicate their beliefs, Smith said later, “the game’s over, already.”

The role of parents is even more critical today as trust in institutions declines and many children with more demanding schedules are spending less time in congregations, Smith noted.

Yet, he said, there are some powerful “cultural scripts” that discourage parents from taking an active role in the spiritual lives of their teens.

Cultural messages encourage parents to turn their children over to “experts,” and many parents consider faith formation to be the responsibility of clergy, Sunday schools, and youth groups, Smith said. “Parents, for better or worse, are actually the most influential pastors . . . of their children,” Smith said.

“Parents set a kind of glass ceiling of religious commitment, above which their children rarely rise.”

—David Briggs, theARDA.com
Christian Century



Interfaith

You're Invited to the Interfaith Coalition Choir Festival

Enjoy a concert of spiritual music by attending the Interfaith Coalition Choir Festival on Sunday, February 22 at 3:30pm at First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham. St. James Presbyterian Church's choir will be performing with other choirs that are members of Interfaith Coalition. Individual performances by each choir will culminate in the performance of two beautiful compositions by a combined choir of over 175 voices. Each year, the Interfaith Coalition choir festival offers an opportunity for singers and audience alike to rejoice in the voices of our many congregations. An offering to benefit Interfaith Coalition programs, which provide homes, shelter and hope for our neighbors, will be gratefully accepted.

Interfaith Coalition's March 28 Hope Auction

Lifting Up Our Neighbors With Homes, Warmth and Hope

It's an evening of fun and community spirit, all to support our neighbors in need of homes, warmth and hope. Our Interfaith Coalition Hope Auction is a lively and inspiring event you won't want to miss --- and we need your help!

If you can donate a homemade craft or art item, a service your business offers, weekend or vacation home getaways, gift cards, tickets to concerts, a themed party or specially-prepared dinner, then you have something valuable to offer!

Interfaith provides homes for families with nowhere to go, offers warm shelter for homeless men and women on the coldest nights, and delivers hope in the face of despair. Your donations to our auction help assist these vulnerable people.

Be sure to get your tickets (\$45 each, including a plated dinner) before we sell out...put together a table of your fellow congregation members...get creative with a special donation...know you are helping change lives. Interfaith Coalition's March 28 auction begins at 5:30 p.m. at Best Western Lakeway Inn.

To donate an auction item, purchase auction tickets or for more information, please call us at 734-3983, or contact Kara Hauerwas.

St. James Finance Status

	DECEMBER	End of Year
Income	\$25,530	\$254,044
Expenses	\$20,369.32	\$211,936

An example of a need that the church has which doesn't take a lot of time is being an offering counter for a month. This involves picking up the collection plates after each Sunday worship service and taking them to the church office. With another person, you count the money (both cash and checks) using a simple written procedure and prepare these to be handled by the Treasurer.



If you are interested in doing this please give your name to the church office or contact Dick Carr at 360-398-7914.

Thanks for your Support!

Lenten Study Group

The Christian Faith Formation Committee will be hosting a Lenten study beginning Sunday, March 1 and running for the next four consecutive Sundays through Palm Sunday, March 28.

We will be discussing *Small Victories*, Anne LaMott's newest book. Copies will be made available or you can obtain your own.

A soup dinner will begin at 4 p.m., followed by study and discussion until 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend, and a sign-up sheet will be made available in the Horizon Room.



PULSE

Birthdays of the Month

- 1 Margaret Rice
- 2 Louise Hardin
- 2 Jim Freeman
- 4 Allison Crandall
- 4 Laura Crandall
- 5 Janet Oakley
- 6 Anna Holstine
- 7 Glen Titus
- 12 Tim Crandall
- 12 Colleen Reimers
- 14 Katie Jackson
- 18 John Dobbie
- 19 Vie Renard
- 20 Randy Bowers
- 22 Gail Haines
- 22 Tony Richter
- 23 Jim Gresham
- 26 Ralph Rinne
- 27 Kay Carr
- 28 Nancy Peck



February Anniversaries

- 1 Tom and Margaret McVie

Voices of 2014

“Saving the planet would be cheap; it might even be free.”
—Economist **Paul Krugman**, commenting on several studies that conclude that strict carbon legislation wouldn’t hurt the economy but could actually help it by leading to faster growth through the investments in renewable energy.
The Christian Century

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Remember to mark your calendar!

Tuesday. February 24, 2015

10:30am
Bible Study – 6th lesson, in the Lounge

12:00pm
Salad Potluck Luncheon in the Horizon Room

Our guest speaker will be Duane Jager from ‘Ragfinery’ which is a non-profit training business. They divert unwanted textiles from the waste stream and upcycle them in a training business that provides transitional jobs for low income clients of their partner social service agencies and schools.

St. James Literary Society Book List

February 23: *Never Let Me Go* by Ishiguro, Kazuo

March 23: *The Snow Child* by Ivey, Eowyn

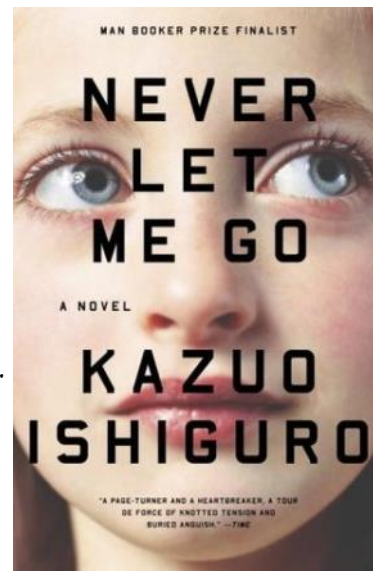
April 27: *State of Wonder* by Patchett, Ann

May 25: *Sing You Home* by Picoult, Jodi

June 22: *The Boys in the Boat* by Brown Daniel James

July 27: *The Necklace: Thirteen Women and the Experiment That Formed Their Lives* by Jarvis, Cheryl

August 24: *The Quilter’s Apprentice* by Chiaverini, Jennifer



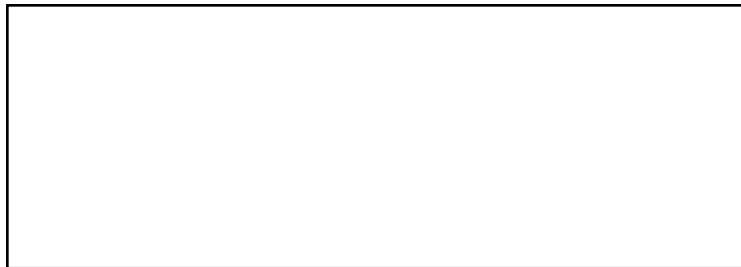
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship - Communion 7pm AA <div> Children's Co-Op Preschool For information please call 360-510-9558 </div>	2 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	3 8am Prayer Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 4pm Confirmation 5:30pm AI Anon 6:30pm Bellingham Community Chorus 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	4 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	5 9am Worship Committee 10am Yoga 11am Staff 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	6 4pm Cross-fit	7 10am Preschool Open House 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
8 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 7pm AA	9 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	10 8am Prayer Group 1pm Bellingham Schools 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7pm Preschool Parent Meeting 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	11 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6pm SOS Men's AA 6:30pm Weavers Guild	12 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	13 Tall Timber (through the 16th) 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit	14 Valentines Day Tall Timber (through the 16th) 9am Church Work Party 10am OA
15 Tall Timber (through the 16th) 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons 7pm AA	16 President's Day Pulse Articles Due! 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	17 8am Prayer Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 4pm Confirmation 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	18 Ash Wednesday 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at Garden St. United Methodist 6pm SOS Men's AA 7:30pm Ash Wed Service	19 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	20 4pm Cross-fit	21 9am Hawthorne Learning Solutions 10am OA
22 1 Sunday in Lent 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Session Feedback 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7pm AA	23 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	24 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	25 8am Men's Bible Study 10am Pulse Crew 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6pm SOS Men's AA	26 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 6pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	27 4pm Cross-fit 4:15pm Worship Committee <div> For events not listed on this calendar, check out the St. James website! www.saintjamespres.org </div>	28 10am OA



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, Interim 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

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

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

