

THE PULSE

So, we have entered another new year. This is a time when we are invited to reflect on newness. More than that, we are called to embrace it—by turning over a new leaf, taking on a new practice, or giving up a bad habit. Then, there’s that perennial “favorite,” starting a new diet.

The idea of newness is hardly foreign to believers. At least it shouldn’t be. After all, it permeates Scripture. In Isaiah God proclaims, “I am about to do a

us? I’m not in favor of change simply for the sake of change, and I affirm that there is much of deep value in our tradition. Still, we claim the faith of the Reformers, and the motto, “Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda,” which is often translated, “The church reformed, always reforming.” A more accurate translation, however, is “The church reformed, always being reformed,” since it is God’s Spirit that reshapes us through the power of the Word.



new thing.” In Jeremiah the Lord promises a new covenant, in which God’s ways would be written on people’s hearts. Jesus comes preaching about the necessity of new wineskins to hold new wine, and delivers a new commandment—that we love one another. The epistles pick up the theme, with Paul declaring that if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; “everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” I Peter speaks of our new birth into a living hope, and Revelation points us forward to a new heaven and a new earth.

How well do we embrace this message? Are we truly ready for the new thing God might do among us? Do we welcome the change God might bring within

This motto is not a warrant for claiming that innovation is always an improvement; nor does it provide a basis for discounting the value of our heritage. Instead, it calls us always to be open to the movement of God’s Spirit, in order that we may remain faithful to the Gospel, and sometimes that means embracing something new.

In this new year, may we be open to the presence and power of God’s Spirit within and among us. Happy New Year!

Pastor Janet



PULSE



Dear Friend,

We thank you and your congregation for making possible, to those suffering from the effects of someone's drinking, the availability of an Al-Anon meeting.

As we're sure you are aware, there exists throughout this country a major public health problem in the misuse of alcohol. Governmental sources can provide information of the impact this problem has on the individuals involved. There are many resources available to treat the alcoholic. However, there are fewer resources available to those victims directly affected by that drinking, i.e., the children, spouses, partners, parents, friends, employees and fellow workers.

In 1960 two women, themselves the wives of recovering alcoholics, reached across North America to families of other recovering alcoholics with the purpose of bringing them relief from the pain of living with alcoholism. And from this outreach, Al-Anon was created.

Since that time, Al-Anon Family Groups have spread throughout the world. There are 14,449 Al-Anon meetings and over 1,000 Alateen meeting throughout the U.S. and Canada, with another 3,000 in Mexico. Al-Anon pamphlets and literature are written in 38 languages and Al-Anon family groups has become an established community resource recommended to clients by health care professionals.

Al-Anon Family Groups have no dues or fees for membership. Because of its tradition of being fully self-supporting through members' voluntary contributions, it is able to welcome anyone to its meetings and offer hope and comfort at no cost. Your partnership in providing low cost accommodation for our meetings helps make this possible. We are deeply appreciative of your assistance in offering this public health service to the surrounding community.

In Gratitude,

Al-Anon Family Groups - Washington Area

VISIT BY PRESBYTERIAN MISSION CO-WORKERS FROM THE CONGO
(DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)

On Sunday, February 7, 2016, Presbyterian Mission co-workers Dr. and Ms. Fletcher plan to visit us at St. James. They will give a "Minute for Mission" at the beginning of the service, then give a presentation in the Fellowship Hall during/after a light lunch. Dr. John Fletcher works in the Congo as a surgical consultant, Ms. Gwenda Fletcher as an education consultant.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Monday, January 18

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Hosted this month by

Garden Street United Methodist Church

1326 N. Garden Street

(360) 733-7440

Bellingham faith communities continue the monthly prayer vigils for peace in the Middle East, which were started in December 2000 at the initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and organized Nationally by Churches for Middle East Peace.

Participating congregations thereby can incorporate the welfare of the people of the Middle East into their Church life and advocacy.

The February Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East will be at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 18. The Prayer Vigil will be hosted by the Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Bellingham

New Opportunity to Help Provide a free meal - Sign up now for February
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

The Happy Valley Neighborhood Association provides a free community meal, once a month at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Harris Ave. Usually about 100 folks turn out including some among the less fortunate in our community. A hearty meal is prepared and served beginning at 5 PM on the third Sunday of the month. We are looking for about six volunteers to help setup the dining room and serve the meal, beginning at 4:30pm on Sunday, February 21, 2016. This is a great opportunity to provide service to our neighbors and extend some St. James friendship. If you would like to volunteer contact Ray or Carol Dellecker or Carla Shafer.

SOUPE BOWL
Sunday, February 7

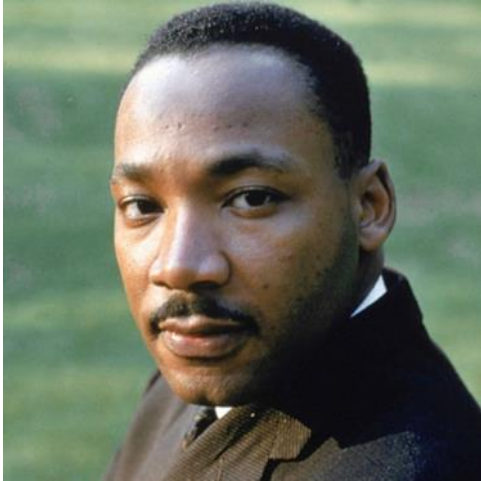
Gifts, in money (for Maple Alley Inn) or in kind (cans of soup or other non-perishable food, for the Food Bank), will be received at the church entrance (Narthex).

PULSE

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968



Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist minister, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. He was one of the most quotable speakers of the 20th century. Here is a statements from his address at Holt Street Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, 1955.

“We are not wrong, we are not wrong in what we are doing. If we are wrong, the Supreme Court of this nation is wrong. If we are wrong, the Constitution of the United States is wrong. And if we are wrong, God Almighty is wrong. If we are wrong, Jesus of Nazareth was merely a utopian dreamer that never came down to Earth. If we are wrong, justice is a lie, love has no meaning. And we are determined here in Montgomery to work and fight until justice runs down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

January Birthdays

- 1 Teresa Bowers
- 2 Phil Jones
- 3 Susan Burkland
- 7 Stacey Miller
- 8 Marty Haines
- 11 Don Mellinger
- 13 Nancy Pace
- 15 Karen Summers
- 16 Joan Elsethagen
- 17 Dwayne Rogers
- 18 Genevie Pfueller Roguski
- 20 Wayne Landis
- 23 Hailey Caruso
- 26 Melany Armstrong
- 26 Betty Miller
- 28 Mark Danielson
- 31 Marlene Amman



January Anniversaries

- 2 Ed Simmers and Jane Madden

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 31, 2016

immediately following the
worship service

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – DECEMBER 13, 2015

Discussed

Youth and Families Task Force Report, Elders and Deacons leadership training, Letter of support and concerns.

Reported

The Treasurer reported a year-to-date Budget balance of \$32,759.81 as of November 30, 2015. Carpet cleaning will be done for all the building. Three outdoor lights and fixtures needed replacing, which Bill Read took care of. The Building and Grounds committee is investigating the issues related to installing a stair chair between the first and second floors to improve accessibility between the Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary. Claude Hill installed new cupboards in the nursery. The pledging totals since 2009 were reviewed. The Finance Committee is proposing a 3% raise for staff. The 2016 budget will be considered in January. Sixty-four meals were served at the Advent Festival and the Membership Committee is working on re-engagement of members and engagement of new attendees. Mission and Social Action was asked to look into finding ways for the church to support Syrian refugees. The Personnel and Christian Faith Formation Committees are in the process clarifying staffing needs for 2016 related to the needs of youth.

Decided

- Session will include the Youth and Families Task Force Report in the materials provided to the Pastor Nominating Committee to use in developing the congregational survey and in discerning the future direction of the church.
- The 5:30pm Christmas eve service offering will go to PCUSA Mission giving catalog projects.
- A Souper Bowl Sunday offering will be taken for Maple Alley Inn on February 7th.
- \$450 for mission travelers be taken from the Mission Study trip designated funds.
- Pastor Janet's vacation days as follows. 12/26, 12/27, 12/29, 12/30, 12/31 in 2015 & 1/2/2016.
- We will seek Committee on Ministry approval to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, and hope to determine its composition at our next meeting on January 10th.
- The proposed budget will be presented by the Finance committee for Session review at our January meeting.
- The Deacon and Session retreat will be held Saturday morning, January 30th. Regular Meetings will be held after lunch.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 31st.

Thanks

- To the Task Force for the excellent work they have done researching need and developing some strategies for serving youth and families.
- To Carolyn Mullen and Carla Shafer for the Thanksgiving eve service which included wonderful music from the choir and the writings of community poets.
- To Gretchen and Gale Pfueller for hosting the Staff Christmas luncheon provided by the Personnel Committee.
- To the Beaty family, Mark, Alice, Christian and Adam, for their work with Deacons, Session, providing Cross-fit and their continued willingness to make extra efforts on behalf of St. James.
- To Bill Read for replacing light fixtures and bulbs outside.
- To Claude Hill for the new cupboard in the nursery increasing storage and child safety.

PULSE

Adult Education

On January 3rd we will begin a seven week study on the book, *Jesus, Pope Francis and a Protestant Go Into a Bar*. Everyone welcome! We serve coffee and goodies too.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women of St. James will meet Tuesday, Jan. 26 for our monthly Bible study at 10:30 a.m. and potluck salad luncheon at noon. Lesson five in the “Come to the Waters” study guide is titled “Stormy Water -- Faith”. Everyone is invited.

A thank you

Thank you all for your donations, both monetary and items, to our ANGEL TREE project this year. I know we created many smiles when Christmas arrived for the 3 families we provided for. Watch for the next issue of *Pulse* for a complete report on this project. Kay Carr, chair

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

CWS sent St. James Church a “Blanket + Certificate” in recognition of our support for CWS in “building a world where there is enough for all” (our special offering, October 18). The certificate is on the notice board across from the lounge. The latest “Blankets +” report can be found at www.blanket-plus.org.

URGENT NEEDS RECEIVE SJPC SUPPORT

Mission Committee extends a year-end hand-up to Samish Way Resource Center, Skookum Kids Project and Community to Community. A small amount of unexpended dollars will be put to work to give a little boost to three organizations that reach out to low income and displaced adults and families. The first is a coalition of church and community has formed to provide the Samish Way Resource Center at 113 Samish Way to help Samish Way residents tap into existing services provided by agencies and nonprofits, such as housing and health care. Plans include providing after-school tutoring for elementary school children. The second is Skookum House a new program to create a volunteer-staffed facility to care for children entering or transitioning in the Foster Care system throughout Whatcom County. Modeled after similar programs in Everett, WA, the Center is open, and caring for for children every weekend! The third is support to area farmworkers through the Community to Community Development Program in Bellingham.

Read more here: <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article22250463.html#storylink=cpy>

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATUS

	November	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
Income	\$18,907.00	\$205,461.70	\$206,341.50
Expenses	\$12,656.53	\$172,988.81	\$214,625.48

Plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting this month as we anticipate being able to provide you some good news.

The Finance Committee
Chair Dick Carr

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JANUARY 2016 CALENDAR					1 New Years Day Office Closed 4pm Cross-fit	2 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
3 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship-w/communion 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:15pm AA	4 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	5 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	6 9am Preschool 9:15am Christian Faith Formation 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	7 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	8 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TODAY 9am Preschool 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit	9 9am Church Work Party 10am OA
10 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:15pm AA	11 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	12 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	13 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 6:30pm Weavers Guild	14 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	15 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit	16 Pulse Due Date 10am OA
17 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:15pm AA	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace at Garden Methodist 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	19 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	20 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Women's Bible Study	21 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	22 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit 4:15pm Membership	23 10am OA 6pm Music Teachers Assoc.
24 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:15pm AA	25 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	26 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 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	27 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	28 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:45pm Worship 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	29 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit	30 9am Elders/Deacons Retreat 10am OA
31 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:15pm AA						

Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2016



St. James Presbyterian Church

910 14th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

360.733.1325
office@saintjamespres.org
www.saintjamespres.org

Children's Ministry: Merry Thomas, Coordinator

Ben Gamman, Youth Leader

Zadra Nolan, Teacher

Katy Jackson, Teacher

Clerk of Session: Carla Shafer

Custodians: Cascade Vocational Services:

Don Bayne, Aaron Cook, Vernon Point

Music Director: Carolyn Mullen

Office Manager: Natasha Orme

Organist/Pianist: Melany Armstrong

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sonnanburg

Treasurer: Marina McLeod

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Children's Time

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.