

# the Pulse

## THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### This is the New Year

Who are you? Have you taken stock in these last few weeks, asking the question of what your priorities are and how you will face the new calendar year? What does 2018 hold for you, how is God calling you to move and serve as this new chapter of our life together opens up?

A great joy of the Christian journey is that we are constantly called by God to be remade, resurrected and given a purpose. God offers each of us the opportunity, as we stand at this juncture in the calendar (and at every single moment) to discover true meaning and life among the community of God's faithful and in the restored, awakened relationship with Christ.



This January marks a movement in our community as we continue to take steps to heed God's call. We will be launching into a large building remodel project, updating and making our bathrooms on the main floor more accessible for all people. This will be a big undertaking for us, an important step in making our church more welcoming and hospitable. It isn't the flashiest of projects, but caring for the simple needs

of everyone by making sure our restrooms are accessible and easy to use is directly tied in with how we make space for all in the Kingdom of God!

We will be practicing our yearly tradition of gathering for an Annual Meeting on January 14 as well. Here we will share stories of how God has been faithful to us in 2017 and anticipate the ways God is calling us to go in 2018. We will look back and look forward, trusting that God has given our congregation a mission to live out in our neighborhood and city, a calling we intend to faithfully pursue in how we steward our financial resources, the use of our facilities, and the ways we support our partners in ministry.

In this season of the church year, we also move out of the story of Christmas and into the life and ministry of Jesus. Epiphany, the season of God's ministry and mission being revealed, will bring us to wrestle with the question — "Who is the Christ?" Who is Jesus, what was he about, who is the Christ that lives in us today? Encountering the ministry of Jesus with fresh eyes helps us enter into our own lives of service with renewed purpose and clarity.

My hope is that you get a sense of the Holy Spirit's forward momentum pushing through our community as we launch into this new year. This is the new year, the new moment, the present chapter of our life together. We each have been called by God to participate in this chapter here at St. James. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you all and recognize that God has brought each of us together at this moment of turning seasons to gather, to worship, and to collectively ask the question — who are we? I pray that you will find your place here at St. James and continue to bring your many gifts in the pursuit of God's good work in our world.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Seth



**PULSE**

**January Birthdays**

- 1 Teresa Bowers
- 2 Phil Jones
- 3 Susan Burkland
- 8 Marty Haines
- 11 Don Mellinger
- 13 Nancy Pace
- 15 Karen Summers
- 15 Les Belrose
- 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

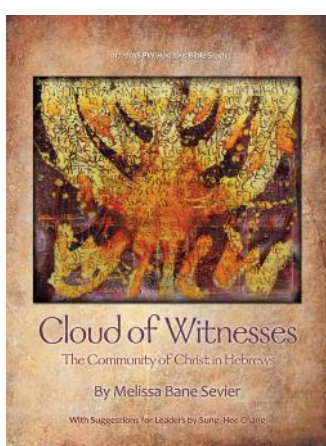
**From the St. James Women's Association**

Thanks to all those who supported the Annual Arts and Craft Fair!

We are sharing the proceeds in our community with several organizations who are Improving the lives of women and children. We have taken a load of much needed blankets, pillows, pillow cases and towels to Agape House and Lighthouse Mission. Agape Home provides a stable, nurturing environment for women and women with children.

Warm hats and gloves were distributed at the Maple Alley Inn Christmas meal. Maple Alley Inn is a weekly meal program of the Opportunity Council. Volunteers prepare and serve hot, home cooked meals on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church (2750 McLeod Rd, Bellingham) and Tuesdays, 9:30 am - 10:30 am, at St. Paul's Episcopal Old Parish Hall (2117 Walnut St, Bellingham). Anyone is welcome at these meals.

Speaker is Matt Hawthorne, of Hawthorn Learning Solutions.



**Presbyterian Women's Bible Study**

Bible study is the glue that holds Presbyterian Women together. It's our history—more than 100 years of publishing studies and using them together. It's our present—just finished *Who Is Jesus?* and ready to begin *Cloud of Witnesses?* It's our future—God's promises, the Ten Commandments, and more on the way.

The PW/*Horizons* studies are quite literally created for Presbyterian Women. Members of the Church wide Coordinating Team Bible Study Committee invite and choose the author. PW circles and groups field test and provide feedback on the author's first draft. Bible study authors are smart and faithful women who know PW.

The PW Purpose calls Presbyterian Women to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study. The studies are written in the Reformed Tradition and reflect the values of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). All of our studies can be read by individuals, but it is what the individuals discover together through group prayer and Bible study that nurtures Presbyterian Women.

The St. James Women's Association will meet Tuesday, Jan. 23. The 10:30 a.m. bible study is Lesson Five: with the focus scripture Hebrews 3:1-6 and 11.

A potluck salad luncheon begins at noon in the Horizon Room.



### Angel Tree

Our Angel Tree project has come to a close. Thank you all who participated by bringing gifts (requests were stated on "wings" on the Angel Tree in the Horizon Room this month). All wishes were filled, plus \$450 in donations that were used to purchase \$40 gift cards from Fred Meyer for our local families in need. I know that our efforts will bring "miles of smiles" on Christmas morning. Thank you for your contributions, and thank you "wrappers". It all went so smoothly, and we had fun doing it!

Kay Carr, chairman

**St. James' 2018 Annual Meeting will be January 14 following Sunday morning worship.**

**Annual Reports for 2017 are due this Friday, January 5, 2018.**

### Hope is on the Way! Save the Date for the Interfaith Hope Auction!

Interfaith Coalition's Hope Auction happens on **Saturday, March 24, beginning at 5:30 p.m.** The auction will take place at the Four Points by Sheraton.

Whatcom County's friendliest benefit features fellowship, inspiration, hope and lively bidding on great auction items. Please join us as we continue in our work of ensuring that all children have a safe, warm place to call home. You can help in these ways:

- Do you have an auction item to donate? A service you offer, your own artwork, gift certificate, tickets to popular sporting events, vacation home getaway, ... let your imagination soar and think of what you might be able to donate, and get in touch with us!
- Buy tickets to the auction. Tickets are \$65 each, including dinner.
- Become a business sponsor or ask your favorite businesses or employers to support Interfaith with a dedicated donation.

your support, we will be serving additional families through our new program, Family Promise. A father whose family stayed in Interfaith emergency housing shared his appreciation,

*"We want to thank Interfaith for giving me and my family a safe place to call home. It was a life changing experience. It took us out of our darkest moments and showed us the light of people who care."*

To donate an auction item and purchase tickets, please contact Gary Culbertson, your congregation's board member, or Interfaith Coalition at 360-734-3983 or through the website: [www.interfaith-coalition.org](http://www.interfaith-coalition.org)



We make a difference in the lives of homeless children and their families, and with

**PULSE**

**Stewardship Campaign 2017 Closure and 2018 Budget**

We have received 61 responses. We wish to thank everyone for these responses. The results in pledges for 2018 are \$166,524. This amount is used to prepare our budget for 2018. Pledging for 2017 was \$163,096.

Our goal for both 2107 and 2018 is \$200,000. Financial support is a key factor in sustaining St. James and in seeking growth in the future. Though our pledging through November is \$2,000 below budget, the generosity in general offerings is far exceeding expectations. Consequently, we are about \$14,500 ahead in total income which is good news.

We have presented a positive budget for 2018 and Session has approved it. A key factor is that we will show our end of the year excess funds as an income item as General Fund Income.

The Annual Membership meeting is January 21,2018. Plan to attend this meeting to answer questions you may have.

**November Financial Status**

	November	Current Budget	Yr. To Date	Yr. To Date Budget
Income	\$16,609	\$15,912	\$203,057	\$187,538
Expenses	\$16,870	\$18,818	\$174,810	\$191,671

Finance Committee

Dave Armstrong, Don Hoyt, Pam Gibson, Peter Burkland, Marina McLeod, Treasurer, Seth Thomas, Pastor, Dick Carr, Chair

**MATTHEW 2:1-12**



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.





### Godly Play

*Godly Play, is our educational program for kids age 4 through 5th grade.*

Jan. 7: Children's understanding of the Christmas season broadens when all of the elements of Advent -- Bethlehem, the Holy Family and the Christ Candle merge to tell the story of Epiphany. The spirit of Christmas continues to surround people.

Jan. 14: Holy Baptism, the story of Jesus's baptism, might remind the children of the baptisms that occurred in October at St. James. Children will see similar elements: a bowl with water; a pitcher; a dove; fragrant oil; and candles. They will be reminded that Jesus knows them by name.

Jan. 21: Children learn about Jesus's storytelling when they hear the Parable of the Good Shepherd. Children learn that God loves and forgives all of us -- as the shepherd searched for the one lost sheep.

Jan. 28: WORK DAY

Thank you

**Wedding of Daniel Warren and his bride, Chelsea. Daniel is the grandson of Claude and Faye Hill.**



We want to thank St. James for allowing our grandson, Daniel, and his bride, Chelsea, to be married in the sanctuary on December 2nd. It was a sacred, beautiful occasion that we will remember for a lifetime. Special thanks to the flower committee for the beautiful Advent/Christmas decorations. Many guests remarked on the beauty of St. James, and we totally agree.

-Faye and Claude Hill

## PULSE CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	2 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Ala Teen 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	3 3:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	4 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	5	6 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
7 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 7:15pm AA	8 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	9 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	10 2pm Worship Committee 6pm SOS Men's AA	11 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 3pm Congregational Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	12 12pm Prime Timers	13 9am Church Work Party 10am OA
14 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship <i>Annual meeting following</i> 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA	15 Martin Luther King Day 10am Grief Support Group 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	16 10:15am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm AI Ateen 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	17 6pm SOS Men's AA	18 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	19	20 9:30am Weavers Guild 10am OA
21 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	22 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	23 10:15am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	24 6pm SOS Men's AA	25 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	26 3pm Membership	27 9am Pet Partners 10am OA
28 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	29 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6pm Boy Scout Planning 7pm Boy Scouts	30 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	31 6pm SOS Men's AA			



## **St. James Presbyterian Church**

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

### **St. James Staff**

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas  
Children's Ministry: Zadra Nolan, 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

