

# The Pulse

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015



## Children and Family Ministries

### July 2015 Pastor's *Pulse* Article

At the April meeting of Session, our church leadership voted to form a Task Force to explore our ongoing ministry to children, youth, young adults, and families at Saint James. A number of individuals have already expressed a willingness to serve on this Task Force. They are: Laurie Anderson, Tracy Caruso, Faye Hill, and Gretchen Pfueller. If you are interested in these issues and have something to contribute, or if you would like to volunteer to serve on the Task Force, please let me know.

Here are the parameters of the Task Force's job description.

1) Explore the area demographics of Bellingham and of our Fairhaven community. Make a recommendation about whether or not these demographics support the success of a vibrant ministry to children, youth, young adults, and families at Saint James.

2) Do we have the volunteer support in our congregation necessary for this ministry to flourish? Make a recommendation about whether Saint James is equipped and called by God to pursue a vibrant ministry to children, youth, young adults, and families. Explain what factors have influenced your decision.

3) If you believe that God is calling our church to strengthen this ministry, explore possible funding sources for revitalization. How much money is needed to resurrect these ministries? (Pastor Jon also has some information from a consulting firm that I am happy to share with the Task Force and Session).

4) How would we go about finding a paid staff person to fill this role? Would the search be local, regional, national? How many hours/week would the paid staffer(s) need to work in order to effectively fulfill the responsibilities? What would the pay rate need to be in order for the position to be attractive to a strong candidate? Would the paid staffer(s) focus only on certain aspects of this ministry or on all ages included in the children, youth, young adult, and family categories?

5) The Task Force will complete their work within six months and provide a final report to Session upon completion of the task. Interim reports will be made available to Session throughout the process, as appropriate.

Peace,

Jon

## PCUSA Middle East Summary Report



In the ancient land where Abraham came from, the Presbyterian churches continue their witness for Christ, together with ancient churches dating from the apostolic era (in the first few centuries after Christ). These ancient churches (including Chaldean, Assyrian, Armenian), spread Christianity to India and other parts of Asia. American Presbyterians have been engaged with these churches, and later with local Presbyterians, since the mid-1840s. Outreach and support by the Presbyterian Church (USA) continues today, promoted by the Iraq Partnership Network (IPN). Some of the information from the latest IPN newsletter is included hereunder.

Following the invasion of Iraq in 2003, several hundred thousand Iraqi Christians fled the country, mostly to Syria, where they were given hospitality by

the non-Islamic, secular government and the local Christian communities. More recently, thousands, including large numbers of Christians driven out by ISIS, fled from Mosul and nearby villages to the relative safety of the Kurdish-controlled areas further East. The Christian communities there (as well as in other parts of the country) are actively involved in providing help to the refugees.

At the moment there are Evangelical (Presbyterian) churches in five major cities across Iraq.\*) Members of one of these churches support a radio ministry. In another town, the congregation has organized a rapidly expanding preschool program.

A team of the Iraq Partnership Program recently visited Iraq. They describe the work Presbyterian co-workers are doing and the need for outside help. This includes advocacy to urge the U.S. and other governments to fulfill their pledges for humanitarian relief in Iraq (and Syria). A major concern expressed to the IPN team was assistance with medical care. Prayers are asked, amongst others for the displaced people who are without homes, jobs, income; also for the new church starting in Erbil (Northern Iraq), the summer training program, and education opportunities for the displaced children.

\*Mary and Peter van der Veen were married in the Baghdad Church

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## Interfaith Coalition

Interfaith Coalition has opportunities for you to make a difference in the lives of people in Whatcom County. This summer we are doing exterior maintenance and repairs on several of our houses and would welcome a hand if you could offer a couple of hours on things like: painting, tree/brush trimming, general carpentry, etc. Skilled or not skilled – you can help! Knitters and crocheters can begin crafting warm hats and scarves for Project Warm Up to distribute this winter. Call Interfaith at **734-3983** for more info to volunteer or find out more. In addition, Interfaith helps collect items for Project Homeless Connect, a community one-day event in Bellingham on July 24th, that brings immediate access to services for the homeless. Giveaway items needed are: hygiene items, new socks and underwear, blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, tents, backpacks, shoes, towels, diapers, baby wipes and formula. Donated items can be brought to the Interfaith office – just call first. To volunteer before or during the event, contact the Whatcom Volunteer Center at 734-3055.

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## Session Highlights

### Discussed:

- Continued Action Planning.
- In considering the mission statement: "We joyfully welcome youth and young families into our intergenerational and loving community of faith, nurturing relationships that bridge our differences," we discussed the current situation with the isolated elderly members and brainstormed possible activities and long range outcomes. Next meeting we plan to consider how the church serves retired and active members and members who work between the approximate ages of 50 to 65.

### Reported:

- The Congregational life committee is planning barbecues this summer (salmon in July and pulled pork in August). Everyone is welcome.
- The next St. James "Connect Event" will be in the fall.
- Heidi's preschool class is moving to Larrabee school. Daravon's class for younger preschoolers will continue downstairs. New opportunities for space use and church program development can now be considered.
- A letter writing campaign to Congress people on world hunger will take place in June. The Undie Sunday campaign to collect new underwear for homeless people will occur in July.
- Staff reviews were completed and there were no major issues. We commend our staff for their excellent work.

### Decided:

- To develop a group of visitors (in addition to Deacons) to expand our outreach to isolated and elderly members.
- Not to host a ReSources Community meeting on the current situation with coal and oil train shipments.

## ***St. James Annual Church Picnic***

**Sunday July 26 2015**

**11:30 – 2:30 PM**

**at**

**Fairhaven Park Pavilion**

**Picnickers are asked to bring:  
Salad, Dessert, Side Dish, or Chips**

**Church will provide:  
Hotdogs, Drinks, and Ice Cream**

**Hope to see you there!**

**Deacons will be hosting**

**PULSE**

## Per Capita: What do You Get for Your Money?

Per capita pays for the operating overhead of the church at all levels beyond the congregation. It works like an insurance policy: the churches together provide services for congregations. Presbytery, funded by per capita, engages, equips and encourages people and congregations.

The Westminster Confession says, “all believers, are therefore, under obligation to sustain the ordinances of the Christian religion where they are already established, and to contribute by their prayers, gifts, and personal efforts to the extension of the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth” (6.058).

**Reformed theology and polity** including Constitution (*Book of Confessions* & *Book of Order*) and all support for a democratic, constitutional system of Christian governance. Processes for discernment, decision-making, and action responding to God’s mission.

**Network of people, expertise, and resources.** All for one and one for all!

**Presbytery Staff:** Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Communications Coordinator and Bookkeeper. Per Capita pays a portion of staff salaries at Synod and GA.

**Mission**--100% of your NPSP mission contributions go to recipient. Operations is paid by per capita.

### **Help churches find, develop, and support leadership**

- Finding pastoral & professional leaders
- Assist churches as they define their mission and staffing
- Outside support for those leaders

- Training & development for teaching and ruling elders and others.

### **Help for missional effectiveness and congregational development**

**Help during difficulty:** Conflict, power struggles, sexual misconduct, employment issues, etc.

- Executive Presbyter & Commission on Ministry
- Response, Investigation, Discipline

### **Corporate Affairs**

- Property issues, records, financing, co-signing, backup
- Liability, insurance, protection
- Budgets, audits, loans
- Legal issues and advice
- Church Constitution: advice, interpretation, accountability

### **Records and History**

- Minutes, Annual Reports
- Bylaws, Charters, Incorporations
- History, photos, brochures, bulletins
- Personnel records
- Wills, bequests, legal cases, contracts

### **Presbytery/Synod/General Assembly Meetings and Agencies**

- How the churches plan, agree, decide what to do together
- Build relationships and resources

**The collective wisdom and resources of 44 churches in NWC Presbytery and beyond for the benefit of each church.**

*-Presbytery of the NW Coast*

## Financial Status for May

	May 2015	Year to Date	Budget
Income	\$19,552.00	\$99,601.00	\$101,886.50
Expenses	\$18,389.59	\$93,218.82	\$104,120.40
	Collected to Date	Year to Date Budget	Total Paid to Presbytery
PER CAPITA	\$2,950.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,067.60

*Our 2015 Per Capita payments has been made to the Presbytery of the Northwest Coast. The received Per Capita commitments are below expectations. Please make your Per Capita payment if you have not done so already.*



JULY 2015

In 2013, Saint James Presbyterian Church developed “**Undie Sunday**” as an initiative to collect new and unused underwear for the people served at Homeless Connect. Donations of items and money (for others to buy underwear on your behalf) will be collected July 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The gifts will be delivered by Carla Shafer for the Event volunteers to distribute. Questions? Ask Carla at 360-961-2320 or chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com

## Homeless Connect

The 7th annual Bellingham/Whatcom Project Homeless Connect (B/WPHC) event will take place on Friday July 24h 2015 at Bellingham High School on Cornwall Ave. The primary goal is to express goodwill toward offering service and generous hospitality for neighbors who are unsheltered or experiencing a housing crisis. This one-day, one-stop event mobilizes community volunteers, service providers, and the donor community in order to:

- ☐ Invite and welcome people who are homeless
- ☐ Reduce barriers to service
- ☐ Provide immediate service outcomes
- ☐ Create sustainable and long term service partnerships
- ☐ Track and publicize results that connect to the 10-Year County-wide Plan to eliminate homelessness.

Originating in 2004, PHC is a now used in well over 700 communities across the US as well as in Canada and Australia to focus local resources on ending homelessness.

### Key Characteristics

PHC is a model for civic engagement recognized by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) as a best practice. While PHC events reflect local needs and priorities, they share several key features:

- ☐ Hospitality - People Experiencing Homelessness as Welcomed Guests
- ☐ Immediacy - Responsive Same-Day Service
- ☐ Community - Voluntary Civic Participation
- ☐ Partnership - Across Agencies and Sectors
- ☐ Excellence - Rigorous Evaluation and Improvement.

The **Bellingham Pride Festival** began 15 years ago as part of the National Gay and Lesbian Month. St. James has had a vendor's table to show support of the LGBTQ community and develop connections and awareness. This year's event is Sunday, July 12, 2015. We set up the table before church and sit at the table from noon to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Please call Carla at 360-961-2320 to say you can help.

## School Supplies

A box will be placed in the Narthex for the annual drive, in July, to collect school supplies for needy children. Details about most needed items will be given in the Sunday bulletins mid-July.

## Wit & Wisdom

“I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.” *E.B. White, quoted in the Ellsworth, Maine, American*

“It is always wise to look ahead, but difficult to look farther than you can see.” *Winston Churchill, quoted in Newsday*

**PULSE**

## Big benefits in small churches

Of the 10,053 PC(USA) congregations, more than 50 percent (5,675) have fewer than 100 members. Among those congregations, the average membership is 45. Fewer than 2 percent of PC(USA) churches have more than 1,000 members. This mirrors the National Congregation Study that found that 59 percent of all churches have fewer than 100 members and that only 2.5 percent have more than 1,000 members.

There are positives in being a small church. For example, because everyone in the congregation often knows everyone else, close relationships tend to develop. Members still bring food when a birth or death occurs. Every member has a greater opportunity to be heard, and the pastor has more opportunities to give members individual attention. That sense of belonging inspires action: a greater proportion of members of small churches participate in the work of the church.

While small churches may not offer all the programs that larger churches do, they share the same purpose—to share the faith, make disciples, and build interconnected communities. *Presbyterians Today*

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries!*

### July Birthdays

- 1 Milt Schayes
- 2 Jo McLeod
- 3 Parker DeWilde
- 4 Carolyn Mullen
- 5 Pat Nelson
- 7 Inge Thurston
- 10 Bill Butler
- 12 Merry Thomas
- 14 Maverette Butler
- 16 Karen Rogers
- 17 Karen Harnden Haggen
- 18 Charlotte Burkland
- 21 Gretchen Pfueller
- 23 Dave Bader
- 25 Ed Simmers
- 25 Betsy Freeman
- 26 Bob Monahan
- 31 Brian Seater

### July Anniversaries

- 9 Jim and Jody DeWilde
- 16 Dave and Pat Nelson
- 20 Gale and Gretchen Pfueller
- 24 Randy and Teresa Bowers

## HE/SHE SAID:

"They're actually all agreeing on mass incarceration. This has now risen to the level where virtually everyone running for president is saying this has to change." *Inimai Chettlar, head of the justice program at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University's School of Law (quoted by The New York Times)*



## Presbyterian Women – Mark Your Calendars!

Our Potluck Lunch for July is on July 28 at 12:00 p.m. Come socialize and enjoy lunch in the Horizon Room.  
Bring a friend!

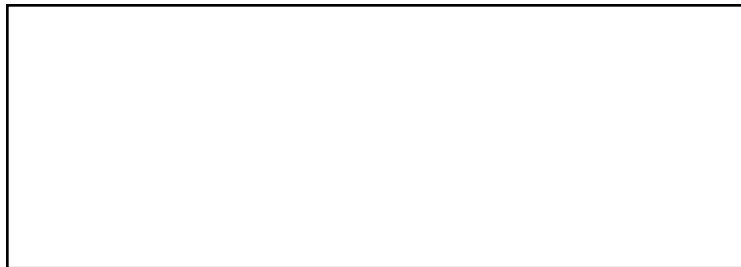
**JULY CALENDAR 2015**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Children's Co-Op Preschool</b> For information please call 360-510-9558			1 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	2 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 7:15pm AA	3 2:45pm Christian Faith Formation 4pm Cross-fit	4 Independence Day 10am OA 10am SIA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
5 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship w/communion - 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:15pm AA	6 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	7 8am Prayer Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	8 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	9 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7pm Bell Choir 7pm ReSources 7:15pm AA	10 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit	11 9am Church Work Party 10am OA 10am SIA
12 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	13 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	14 8am Prayer Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	15 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	16 PULSE DUE 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	17 4pm Cross-fit	18 10am OA 10am SIA 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at First Presbyterian Church
19 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm 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 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	23 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:45pm Worship Committee 7:15pm AA	24 4pm Cross-fit	25 10am OA 10am SIA
26 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 12:30pm St. James Picnic 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm 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 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 10am Pulse Crew 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	30 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	31 4pm Cross-fit 4:15pm Membership Committee	For events not listed on this calendar, check out the St. James website! <a href="http://www.saintjamespres.org">www.saintjamespres.org</a>

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

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## **St. James Presbyterian Church**

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[www.saintjamespres.org](http://www.saintjamespres.org)  
[office@saintjamespres.org](mailto: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](mailto:jon@saintjamespres.org)



12pm, July 26th at Fairhaven Park