

The Pulse

St. James Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2015



March 2015 Pastor's *Pulse* Article

Music Theology at the Time of Lent

By the fourth century, the Western church had determined that the Lenten period of fasting and renewal should correspond to Christ's forty-day fast (Matthew 4:2), and, by counting forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain "feast" days), arrived at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. Ash Wednesday, as it is commonly known, thus marks the beginning of the Lenten season.

At one time Lent was primarily viewed as a period during which converts prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday, but later the season became a general time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. Ash Wednesday, which was celebrated this year on February 18, marks the beginning of the Lenten renewal.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Lenten devotional. The booklet, which is now available, includes scriptures and meditations for each of the forty days of Lent. We hope that it will provide you with the needed encouragement as you contemplate this holy season. In addition, we invite you to consider attending the Lenten study from 4:30pm – 6:30pm each Sunday in March. We will be studying Anne Lamott's book entitled *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace*. You can buy a copy from the main office for \$17.50 or speak with Pastor Jon if you need assistance with the purchase. Soup will also be provided.

Peace,

Jon

PULSE

Reflections from Our Pastor

April 2015 marks my fourth anniversary as your Pastor. This means that I have now had many moments to evaluate the strengths of our community, as well as to listen to your hopes and dreams for the future. What follows are some of my thoughts, in no particular order.

Strengths:

1) In the past four years, we have increased our focus upon mission and service. One example of this involves our partnership with the Interfaith Coalition. In addition to our regular contributions, we provided funding to provide solar panels at Our House, a triplex for homeless families in Ferndale. As a congregation, we also made a three year commitment of funds from our general budget to provide \$10,000 in support of the construction of Our House and maintenance of other Interfaith Coalition housing. We gave \$4,500 in 2014 and have pledged \$2,500 in 2015. Our work with Interfaith is a great example of Saint James' desire to engage in ecumenical, mission-focused service that will benefit those in need as well as the environment.

2) Every church claims to be "friendly and welcoming," but this is often not the case. All too often, visitors feel ignored or judged. You are a compassionate, loving community that seeks to be inclusive. This does not mean that we have reached our goal of making Saint James a safe and welcoming place for all people, but it does mean that our hearts are in the right place. I commend you for this, even as we acknowledge that we can always do more to engage new faces in our midst.

3) When I arrived in 2011, our building was outdated in many ways. According to our Buildings and Grounds Committee, the church was suffering from decades of deferred maintenance. Looking back, it is incredible how much you have accomplished in such a short time. The church is beginning to sparkle with new carpeting, vinyl flooring, windows, paint, a fantastic mural, tasteful artwork, and energy-efficient lighting. The new classroom downstairs was once a dingy storage area. It's hard to even imagine what it once looked like. Thank you for all of your patience, commitment, and hard-work during this transformative process throughout the building.

I also mentioned that I have been listening to your considerations for the future. Over the years, these are some of the key issues that you have brought to my attention. I have shared each of these with the responsible committees.

1) From the time of my arrival, greater accessibility has been a major focus of discussion. Many have said that they would like to see us add an elevator to our facility. The challenge, of course, is the great expense involved with a project of this kind. For this reason, others have suggested lower-cost options, such as a chair lift for the staircase. At present, it appears that this would require a fairly expensive redesign and rebuilding of our existing staircase leading from the narthex to the fellowship hall, in addition to the cost of the equipment. Some in our community have suggested expanding one or more of the bathrooms on the main level to bring them up to current American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. As you can imagine, each of these projects involve thoughtful planning, careful research, numerous bids, and adequate funding. The Buildings and Grounds Committee is aware of these requests, and appreciates your patience as they continue to investigate these issues.

2) Solar panels for our church have also been suggested. Session has approved a Task Force which is currently investigating this issue. We are expecting the Task Force to complete its work in the next several months and to present its findings to Session at that time. If you have comments or questions about this process, please don't hesitate to ask.

3) Often, you have expressed to me that young adults, youth, and children are vastly under-represented in our church. As you are well aware, this is a national trend which is particularly pronounced in places such as the Pacific Northwest. Saint James has experienced a number of difficulties since the late 1970's, including more than one painful, pastoral transition. Our shifting demographics did not happen overnight. It was a slow and gradual process. So too, rebuilding a ministry that is appealing to younger people will take time, commitment, and energy.

Peace,
Jon

LENTEN



St. James is offering a study of Anne LaMott's book, *Small Victories*. The group will meet from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. every Sunday afternoon in March, beginning March 1 and ending on Palm Sunday, March 29.

STUDY GROUP

There will be copies of the book available for a reasonable cost, and everyone is invited to share in a soup supper.

The Smallest Coffins Are the Heaviest

— Headline on an article reporting on the Taliban killing last month of over 140 people in a schoolhouse in Pakistan, most of them children. *Christian Century*

HE/SHE SAID

(RNS) "Building peace is difficult, but living without peace is a torment!" Pope Francis, quoted in *The Presbyterian Outlook*



The combined wealth of the world's richest 1

percent will overtake that of the other 99 percent of the world's population by 2016, according to a study by anti-poverty group Oxfam. The study also found that the richest 80 people in the world have collected the same amount of wealth - \$1.9 trillion - as the 3.5 billion people in the bottom economic half of the global population. - *BBC.com*

St. James Literary Society Book List

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

September 28: *Orphan Train* by Kline, Christina Baker

October 26: *The Language of Flowers* by Diffenbaugh, Vanessa

November 23: *Flight Behavior* by Kingsolver, Barbara

Be on the Lookout for Visitors

Have you noticed that we are having more visitors recently? Please keep in mind that one of the most appealing aspects of visiting a new church is being greeted by friendly faces. A smile and a handshake will help make everyone feel welcomed.

Holy Week and Easter Celebrations

at St. James Presbyterian Church

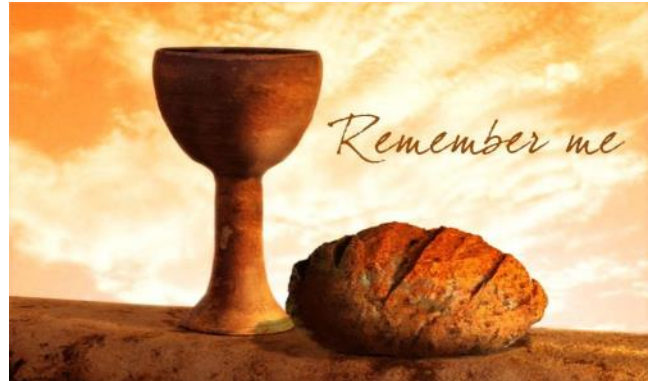
Sunday, March 29, 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Worship

Palm Procession

Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service



Easter Sunday, April 5

Easter Morning Celebration Schedule

7:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Sunrise Worship at Fairhaven Park

Breakfast Following Worship at Fairhaven Park

8:00–10:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast in St. James' Fellowship Hall
(Suggested donation \$5.00/person, children free)

10:30 a.m.

Easter Celebration in St. James' Sanctuary



keynote speaker, exploring the topic of the relationship between faith and humor. The cost is \$10, which includes a wonderful home-cooked lunch. Many fun events are planned for the day. Bring a friend and enjoy this wonderful day together with your St. James sisters.

You may register in the Horizon Room on any of these three Sundays: March 8, March 15, March 22. Registration fee of \$10 must be paid at the time of registration.

Dinners for Eight

Dinner for eight is a great way to meet new friends at St. James. Sign up in the Horizon Room for the spring round of dinners. From the list groups of about 8 people are formed. A volunteer host will contact each participant to set the date and coordinate the entrees for the evening. Good times are had by all!



On March 29, our congregation will join other churches across our denomination in collecting a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. This gift enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters (through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), assisting with food to the hungry (through the Presbyterian Hunger Program), and helping to empower the poor and oppressed (through Self Development of People). For more information about these programs, please visit the following link on the Presbyterian Church (USA) website <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs>.

For a Laugh. 12 Reasons Why a Clergyman Quit Attending Sports Events

1. The coach never came to visit me.
2. Every time I went, they asked me for money.
3. The people sitting in my row didn't seem very friendly.
4. The seats were very hard.
5. The referees made a decision I didn't agree with.
6. I was sitting with hypocrites — they only came to see what others were wearing!
7. Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.
8. The band played some songs I had never heard before.
9. The games are scheduled on my only day to sleep in and run errands.
10. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
11. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches, anyway.
12. I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.



PULSE

March Birthdays

1	Fern Wibbens
3	Jody DeWilde
5	Karen Jackson
8	Martha Speer
9	Wally Botsford
10	Sophie Burkland
12	Bob Hamilton
13	Richard Green
14	Virginia Green
17	Liam DeWilde
18	Madeleine Smith
21	Marion Dobbie
21	Randy Mohr
21	Pam Gibson
24	Zach Melrose
27	Donna Lane
28	Mike Smith
28	Mary Robinson-Mohr
28	Margaret Humble

March Anniversaries

10	Bill and Maverette Butler
25	Peter and Mary van der Veen

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

please come join us on Tuesday, March 31st
at 10:30am for our Bible Study (7th lesson) in the lounge and our
Annual Soup Luncheon at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Marcy Plattner from the Garden Spot Nursery will be our guest
speaker.

COMING IN APRIL!

The Saint James Women's Association Rummage Sale
Saturday, April 11, 2014, 9:00am – 3:00pm

**Donations for the sale can be brought to the Choir Office in the
church basement, up the stairs just north of the Fellowship
Hall.**

Your donations are much appreciated!



Finance Input

	JANUARY	YEAR TO DATE
Income	\$25,401.00	\$25,401.00
Expenses	\$20,252.86	\$20,252.86

A reminder that all church members should pay the annual PER CAPITA which is \$50.00 per member. Your per capita goes to support the work of our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Per Capita funds paid by our members ensure that our general budget is not needed for this purpose. The Finance Committee wants to thank you for your financial support to St. James.

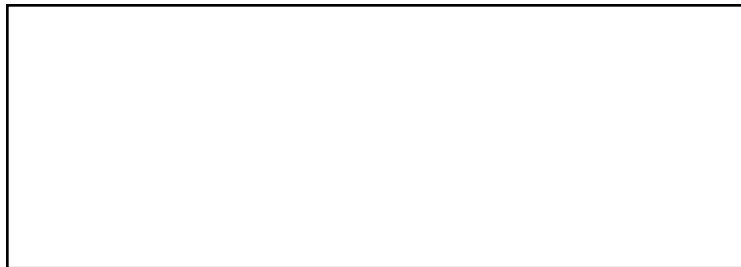
*A memorial service will be held for Nancy Hamilton in the Saint James sanctuary
at 10am on Saturday, March 7.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship - Communion 4:30pm Lenten Study 7pm AA	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 5:30pm AI Anon 6pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	4 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm B'ham Sings 5:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	5 9:30am Worship 10am Yoga 11am Staff 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congrega- tional Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	6 2:45pm Christian Faith Formation 4pm Cross-fit	7 10am OA 10am Hamilton Memorial 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
8 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 4:30pm Lenten Study 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 7pm AA	9 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	10 8am Prayer Group 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 5:30pm B'ham Sings 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 12pm Prime Tim- ers 4pm Cross-fit	14 8am Music Teach- ers Association 9am Church Work Party 10am OA
15 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons 4:30pm Lenten Study 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 7pm AA	16 PULSE DUE! 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	17 8am Prayer Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	18 8am Men's Bible Study 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm B'ham Sings 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at St. Paul's Episco- pal Church 6pm SOS Men's AA	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 10am OA 2pm Music Teach- ers Association
22 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4:30pm Lenten Study 7pm AA	23 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm St. James Literary Society	24 8am Prayer Group 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 5:30pm B'ham Sings 6pm SOS Men's AA	26 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:15pm Youth 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	27 4pm Cross-fit 4:15pm Member- ship	28 10am OA 11am Joyce Riv- ers-80th Birthday Donna Lane
29 Palm Sunday 9am Fellowship Breakfast 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Sermon Feedback 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 7pm AA	30 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	31 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				

St. James Presbyterian Church
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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, 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

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

