

# THE PULSE



This year we began our Lenten journey, as a gathered congregation, by packing away our alleluias. In her children's message, music director Carolyn Mullen invited young Hailey to collect the "alleluias" spoken by me, by the choir, and finally by the whole congregation, and place them in a special box, labeled with a warning that it was not to be opened until Easter. Hailey watched in wonder (and frankly a bit of skepticism) as Carolyn seemingly caught the words, mid-air, and stuffed them into her special box.

Clearly Hailey knew, or at least strongly suspected, that it was all "pretend." Or, as we grownups would say, Carolyn's actions were "merely" symbolic. Yet symbols have power, and Carolyn was teaching our youngest members, and teaching us all, about an ancient tradition of the church.

Jamie Martin-Currie, an Episcopalian Christian educator, notes that "the omission of alleluia during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century of the western church. This custom, she says, is "a kind of verbal fast which has the effect of creating a sense of anticipation and even greater joy when the familiar word of praise returns. We do not use it at

church. We do not use it at home. We let it rest, as it were, during Lent, so that when it reappears on Easter, we may hear it anew. In fact, once it returns on Easter," she writes, "we give it no rest at all, repeating it again and again, in celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus."

As this tradition suggests, and Ms. Martin-Currie makes explicit, our Lenten practice enhances and gives meaning to our experience of Easter. In fact, many have observed that it is not possible to celebrate Easter fully or

authentically without experiencing Lent. The absence of our alleluias makes their return all the sweeter and more joyous. Having put them aside for all these weeks, we may find ourselves on Easter Sunday singing them more loudly, and with greater gusto.

In the same way, our reflections during this season on Jesus' suffering and sorrow, his costly obedience and sacrificial love, give us a deeper appreciation for the immensity of God's grace. When we realize the depth of Jesus' passion, and the stark reality of his death, we more clearly grasp the power of the Resurrection. Then we cannot help but give voice to our alleluias, repeating them again and again, and yet again.

So, blessings, dear friends, on your Lenten practices, as together we continue our journey to the cross, and then beyond to the Resurrection. Refrain from your alleluias for now; then we will sing them together in celebration of the most amazing news the world has ever heard.

In faith,  
Pastor Janet



## Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

We can all be reassured that the call to a new pastor for St. James is progressing as planned. Once organized, the committee will begin with discerning the church's mission based on communications with members. The hope is to find a new minister for the ministry to which God is calling us.

The new members of the PNC were elected on January 31, 2016, and have provided the following statements about themselves so we know them a little better.

**The Session is pleased to present the following slate for the Pastor Nominating Committee:**

### Tracy Caruso



Tracy is married to Aaron and mother to Hailey. They have been members of St. James for 6 years. She serves on the Membership and Nominating committees and was a member of the Youth and Family Task Force. They joined St. James because of its traditional worship, progressive views, and the amazing community that makes it feel like home. She owns Bellingham Nanny Connection.

### Don Hoyt, Jr.



Don, a sheet metal worker before his retirement in 2007, was a Lutheran for many years. He and Jill attended a Presbyterian service in Cannon Beach, OR and felt very welcome. They came to St. James in 2012 and became members later that year. They both sing in the Chancel Choir and Don has attended the men's Bible study. The importance of finding the "right" leader prompted his desire to be a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

### Tim Crandall



Tim has been a member here about 15 years. He currently serves on the Christian Faith Formation and Building & Grounds committees. The most important aspect to him about St. James is the sense of community he feels here. He was a member of the PNC in 2010 and hopes that experience will help in the search for a pastor who can support the current church and strengthen us for the future. He is married to Wendy. They have four grown daughters.

### Jenny Sue LeSchander



Jenny Sue is a Production Planner at Trident Seafoods. A St. James member for 12 years, she appreciates the traditional service, music, and the inclusive nature of the congregation. She is in the Chancel and the Bell Choirs, is a Deacon, has been on Worship, and currently serves on the Buildings & Grounds and Sacristy committees. She was also a member of the Youth and Family Task Force. She brings experience from serving on the PNC in 2010.

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### Jan Resick



Jan is another member of both the Chancel and the Bell choirs. In the past she has been involved as a member of the breakfast crew and has cooked and cleaned as a member of the Congregational Life Committee. She has been a member of St. James for about 30 years and is excited to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee, as well as to begin her new term as an Elder on Session.

### John Sibold



A lifelong Presbyterian, John joined St. James over two years ago when he retired as Director of Rail at WSDOT. This will be his first committee assignment. John notes that, as the world changes so must St. James, if we are to remain a relevant ministry in our community. He hopes to help find a pastor who shares that vision.

### Jeanne Uhles



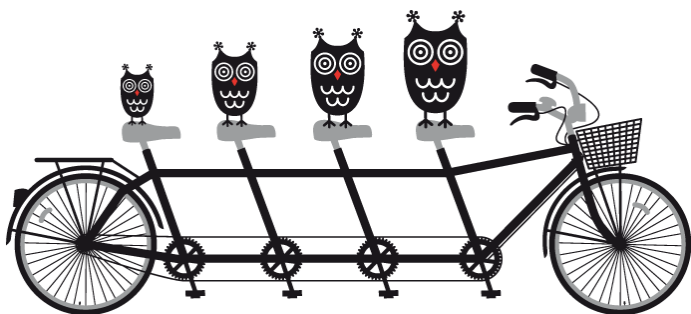
Jean has been a member of St James for 20 years. She has served as Wedding Coordinator, on the Personnel, Building & Grounds and Finance committees, and as a Trustee. She is retired from a number of interesting jobs. She says she could not ask more from a church than the kindness, generosity and forgiveness that she has received from St. James' pastors, leaders and members. She wants to be on the PNC to help choose a pastor who will keep the church positive and keep us moving forward.

*The Book of Order mandates that the PNC be representative, reflecting the demographics of the congregation, so there are 4 women and 3 men, 2 younger and 5 retired members (all young at heart). The slate includes fairly new members, who bring a fresh perspective, to work alongside seasoned members, who bring experience.*

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### 2016 St. James Committee Chairs:

Building & Grounds	Bill Read
Christian Faith Formation	Merry Thomas
Finance	Dick Carr
Membership	Jan Resick
Mission & Social Action	Gretchen Pfueller
Personnel	Mark Beaty
Worship	Gary Culbertson



## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**



### **PALM SUNDAY**

**Sunday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.**

Palm Procession

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**Thursday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.**

Communion Service

### **EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27**

**Easter Morning Celebration Schedule**

#### **7:00 a.m.**

Ecumenical Sunrise Worship at Fairhaven Park  
Continental 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



**PULSE****Financial Status for January 2016**

	JANUARY 2016	Budget
Income	\$27,786.00	\$26,936.00
Expenses	\$17,448.24	\$18,484.00

**What is PER CAPITA?**

This is an annual dues amount that is paid to the Presbytery for its operating expenses. The total amount to be paid is based on our membership. We wish to thank every member who has already paid their Per Capita for 2016. The Per Capita fee is very similar to annual dues that we pay to belong to any organization. If you haven't paid yours yet, please consider doing so in the next couple of months as the total amount needs to be paid by our treasurer this spring. The cost per member is \$50.00

THANK YOU!

Submitted by Dick Carr, Chair

**Easter Egg Hunt**

Children are invited to participate in the annual St. James Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday immediately following worship. Adults who would like to volunteer to hide the eggs on the front lawn (or in Fellowship Hall, if inclement weather) should meet in the narthex just before worship. Children should bring their own baskets, if possible.

**March Birthdays**

1	Fern Wibbens
3	Jody DeWilde
5	Karen Jackson
8	Martha Speer
10	Sophie Burkland
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
29	Natasha Orme

**March Anniversaries**

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

## Lenten Study

Pastor Janet is leading a book study Sundays during Lent, at 4:30 p.m. in the Horizon Room. Be prepared for a meaningful Lent experience as you read Sara Miles's *City of God: Faith in the Streets*. A light supper of soup and bread, plus dessert will be available. Additional books may be ordered, please contact Faye Hill.

## The Presbyterian Women's Annual Rummage Sale—*Spring Cleaning?*

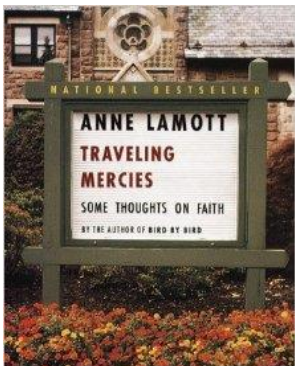


St. James Presbyterian Women have a solution. Sift through your closets for clothing that no longer fits or items that no longer bring you joy. Get rid of small appliances, furnishings and other items you no longer use.

The women's association requests that all donated items be clean and in good repair. If you need help transporting items, call PW Moderator Merry Thomas, who will match you with someone who can help bring your items to the church.

Items can be dropped off at the lower level, Fellowship Hall at any time.

**The Presbyterian Women's Annual Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 9. Mark it on your calendars now. And don't forget to drop by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to check out someone else's former treasures!**



## Morning Adult Study

The 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Adult Study class will be reading and discussing *Traveling Mercies* by Anne LaMott during the months of March and April. All are welcome.



## The Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat will take place on Saturday, April 30 at the Parkway Village Clubhouse (same as last year) from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The cost will be \$12.

**SAVE THE DATE! MORE DETAILS IN THE APRIL PULSE.**

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**THANK YOU** to all who supported Souperbowl Sunday! \$320 was raised to fill the bowls and plates of the hungry at Maple Alley Inn. Anyone in need of a hot meal is welcome at Maple Alley Inn. It has earned a reputation as a place where people receive a warm welcome along with a well-balanced meal. The guests include people who are homeless,

mentally ill, working poor, aging, disabled veterans and families with children. The organization serves more than 15,000 meals, amounting to more than 100 people a day. In addition to offering nutritious meals, Maple Alley Inn also acts as a resource center, providing information about community resources for food, shelter, employment, counseling, and medical and legal aid. Breakfast is served on Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Wednesdays and Thursdays lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church. Maple Alley Inn is an Opportunity Council program. If you are interested in being a Maple Alley Inn volunteer, please contact Gretchen Pfueller, 734-3953.

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## Thank you! From the Mission and Social Action Committee

Thank you, Saint James Community, for the following contributions and activities:

- The Northwest Indian College: \$1,000 for scholarships in September, 2015
- Presbyterian World Mission: \$50 for Presbyterian Mission outreach in the Middle East, December 2015
- Habitat for Humanity: Thanks to St. James volunteers for helping to complete the Van Dyken home, so the family could move in before Christmas.
- Christmas Joy Offering: \$1,255. This is one of the four special offerings taken nationwide by our denomination. It serves to assist retired Presbyterian (USA) staff who are in special need, and to help minority seminary students.
- The offering from the early Christmas Eve service was designated for purchases from the Presbyterian Mission Giving Catalog. The \$461 received will buy two pairs of goats, a treadle pump for watering crops, and farming tools, gifts that will make a real difference in live of people.

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## One Great Hour of Sharing



Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a

way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

## From February Session Meeting

Discussed:

The list of capital and maintenance projects have been prioritized for the year. Building use requests were reviewed. The Lenten Book Study led by Pastor Janet begins next week.

Dick Carr reported on his research which provides a summary of gifts for investment. He will set up a meeting of the Trustees to discuss it and review reserves created in 2013.

Decided:

Special offerings and fund drives were approved for the year.

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## Tickets for Interfaith Coalition Hope Auction on Sale Now

This year's Interfaith Hope Auction promises to be another sell-out, so be sure to get your tickets now! This friendly evening of fellowship, lively auction fun and inspiration starts at 5:30 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton (formerly Best Western Lakeway Inn, 715 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham.) A \$50 ticket includes dinner and hundreds of unique and intriguing auction items to bid on --- all to help us provide homes for families in need, shelter for those who live outside, meals for hungry people and hope that fuels transforming lives.

We are also seeking creative and enticing auction donations. These can be experiences that include travel, spas, gourmet meals, sports tickets, pet pampering, homemade quilts and jewelry, garden inspirations, and more! If you have a service to offer, an item you'd like to donate, an experience to share, please contact Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983 or through the website: [www.interfaith-coalition.org](http://www.interfaith-coalition.org)

Partner with us by attending Interfaith Hope Auction and lifting up our brothers and sisters!

### ST. JAMES SUPPORTS OUR PARTNERS!

# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERFAITH COALITION HOPE AUCTION

**Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30 P.M.**

Tickets available from Gretchen Pfueller or the Interfaith Office

Auction Donations accepted by Susan Burkland

2-3 People needed for mailing prep on March 11, 25 & 29 at St. James



Holy Week, Antigua, Guatemala—Brilliant flowers pave the way for Holy Week  
by Barbara Radcliffe Rogers | January 2015



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### Library Picks from JoAnn Roe, the St. James Librarian

The church library continues an unusual collection of useful books for just plain living. For instance, very readable, *9 Ways to Bring Out the Best in You and Your Child*, by Maggie Reich, a parenting expert on CHBC television and an international speaker and story teller. Just sign the "out" notebook and bring back to the library later.

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Cheryl McGregor (left), Gretchen Pfueller, and Margaret McVie listen as Skookum Kids outreach staff Ray Deck III describes the organizations needs and goals. Volunteer Nina (far right) helps answer questions, as well. Skookum Kids was created in July 2015 to respond to the need for foster children to experience a stable environment as well as necessary supplies before being placed in a foster home. "Skookum" is a Chinook word that translates to "strong and healthy," Deck explained. The interim housing also provides time for foster parents to prepare for their new family member and for the best match between children and parents. (Photo by Merry Thomas)

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# MARCH CALENDAR 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	2 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	3 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congregational Life 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	4 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit	5 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
6 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Lent 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/communion 3pm PNC 4:30pm Lenten Study 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	7 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	8 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	9 9am Preschool 9:15am Christian Faith Formation 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	10 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	11 9am Preschool 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit	12 8am Music Teacher's Assoc. 9am Church Work Party 9am Hawthorne Learning Solutions 10am OA
13 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 3pm PNC (ten.) 4:30pm Lenten Study 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	14 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	15 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	16 PULSE DUE! 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Women's Bible Study	17 St. Patrick's Day 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	18 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at First Christian Church	19 10am OA
20 Palm Sunday 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:30 Deacons 3pm PNC (ten.) 4:30pm Lenten Study 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	21 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	22 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	23 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	24 Maundy Thursday 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	25 Good Friday 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit 3pm Membership	26 9am Whatcom Democrats 10am OA 6pm Music Teachers Assoc.
27 Easter Sunday 7am Sunrise Service 8am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Worship 3pm PNC (ten.) 7:15pm AA	28 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	29 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 Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	30 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	31 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir		