

THE PULSE



Betsey Monnot

On May 15 we will celebrate Pentecost, which some have dubbed the “birthday” of the church. Originally, Pentecost was a Jewish holiday recalling the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. For Christians, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other believers gathered in Jerusalem after Jesus’ death and resurrection.

At the first Pentecost (described in the book of Acts), the Spirit’s arrival was accompanied by a sound “like the rush of a violent wind,” and by the appearance of tongues of fire that came to rest on each of the believers, signifying their being filled with God’s Spirit. Ever since, wind and fire have been associated with

the Holy Spirit, who inspires (or “breathes life into” and “fires up”) the church.

Just as important as the events that took place on that first Pentecost were the changes that followed in the lives of those gathered. Filled with the Spirit, they were no longer timid or hesitant about their faith. Instead, they began to proclaim the Gospel with boldness, and to demonstrate by their common life their love for one another.

The Spirit’s arrival was not a one-time event. The Spirit continues to come to us, communicating God’s presence, forming us into community, and inspiring our ministry and mission. However, we must be open to the Spirit’s presence and sensitive to the Spirit’s activity in our midst. The following poem, titled *Pentecost*, was penned by William Blake.

Unless the eye catch fire,
The God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire
The God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire
The God will not be named.
Unless the heart catch fire,
The God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catch fire,
The God will not be known.

Let us be alert for the Spirit’s presence, and receptive to the Spirit’s movement among us, so that we may catch fire with passion for God and for the mission to which God calls us.

Pastor Janet



PULSE

The Pastor Nominating Committee Wants to Hear from You!

If you haven't completed the PNC Mission Survey, you can find it on the church website or pick up a copy from the office or the Narthex. Surveys need to be returned to the Pastor's box or the church office before May 1. We also have a focus group session scheduled for Sunday, May 1 at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Food will be provided so please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex, or email Jeanne Uhles at uhlesco@gmail.com, so we know how many people are coming.

Welcome a student into your home.

This summer, Saint James will be the "school room" for a group of high school students from China. Please consider opening your heart and home to host a student for a 10 day stay July 8-18. Students participate in English classes and group activities most weekdays. Adult households are welcome to host! Dates don't work for you? We will also have a group from July 21-August 3.

For more information please contact Wendy Crandall at 360-820-5441 or compass.wendy@gmail.com.

SEEKING CHANGE



Oh, no! "The Church" is asking for money again. Yes, we are often given the opportunity to support special offerings and worthy causes in our community and beyond. This is the task of our Mission/Social Action Committee: to seek ways in which we can serve Christ through our responses to those in need. We expect St. James Church members to support the annual budget and the per capita assessment. However, all other requests are opportunities for giving or volunteering and there is no expectation that the same caring people are obligated to respond to every great cause. St. James has amazing people who are very generous with their time, talent and treasure. Please know that whatever you are willing to share is greatly valued and much appreciated.

Thank you, St. James

Interfaith Coalition would like to thank Saint James Presbyterian Church for your generous contribution to our 2016 Hope Auction. Your faithful response through your congregation's gifts of a Pair of Planters, Herb Garden, and "View of the Beach" raised a total of \$450.00, in addition to what those of you in attendance contributed through ticket or auction item purchases. Know that every day families and individuals in Whatcom County are lifted up and experience hope because of you. Thank you!

Thank You! From St. James Presbyterian Women

Thanks to all those who generously donated items and their time to make this year's annual rummage sale a great success. We made over \$1,300 that will be shared with local organizations that provide services for women and children in need. The "leftovers" were shared with NW Youth Services, Assistance League of Bellingham, Goodwill, and Interfaith Coalition.

Thank You for Your Mission Support!

We received notes of appreciation from the following recipients of St. James support:

- Presbyterian Mission Agency- \$671 for a pair of goats, one piglet and a treadle pump
 - Presbyterian Mission Agency- \$1,000 (matched funds) for missionary support
 - NW Indian College- \$1,000 for one or more scholarships to students in the Marine Sciences & Environmental Studies program
 - Opportunity Council/Maple Alley Inn- \$387 from Souper Bowl Sunday contributions
 - Interfaith Coalition's Annual Hope Auction- Which raised over \$165,000
 - Also, the garden baskets donated to the auction by St. James raised \$450
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PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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.

We are pleased to inform you that St. Paul's Episcopal Church (as part of their mid-week evensong) has offered to host the monthly prayer vigil on Wednesday, May 18 at 5:30 p.m.

We are grateful for all the faith communities who have hosted the prayer vigils in Bellingham and Whatcom County.

PULSE

2016 Birthday Offering

St. James will celebrate Presbyterian Women's history of mission giving on Sunday, May 1. Bring your checkbooks to church and be prepared to give toward the four recipients earmarked for this year's grant.

Heartland 180, based in Overland Park, KS, serves children from 11 to 17 who have been convicted by the criminal justice system. The program teaches character building, core values and life skills. Our donations will help Heartland 180 purchase a dedicated space and furnish computers toward the group's goals.

Another recipient of this year's grant is Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley, based in Oakland, CA. Funding will help more than 100 individuals and families repair their manufactured homes.

The Direct Action and Research Training Center in Miami (DART) targets local justice ministries by training clergy and lay people in more than 20 communities. Donations will allow these communities to foster development and education among local youth.

The fourth recipient of this year's Birthday Offering, Building Minds in South Sudan, is based in Pittsford, NY. This program increases access to education for girls living in the Republic of South Sudan. Building Minds is working on building a primary school for about 600 girls in levels one through eight in Majok-Keen, a village in Warrap State, South Sudan.

Presbyterian Women

This month's meeting, Tuesday, May 31, will offer the last of the series of Bible studies in the Horizons' *Come to the Waters* series. The women will meet at 10:30am, in the Lounge, for the final lesson: *River of Life – Hope*, based on Revelation 21 and 22. A potluck salad luncheon follows at noon in the Horizon Room. This month's speaker is St. James member Kaye Carr, who will present "Grandma's Aprons".

Children's Ministries

The Children's Ministries dates and lessons for the month of May are:

May 1: "Shared Ministry", based on Acts 1b: 9-15

May 8: "For the Common Good", based on Acts 1b: 16-34

May 15: "Pentecost Sunday", based on Acts 2: 1-21, concluding the season of Lent/Easter

May 22: The liturgical season of Pentecost begins with "Voice of Wisdom", focusing on Proverbs 8:1-4 and 22-31

May 29: "Voice of a New Song", focuses on Psalm 96

Don't Forget the All Church Work Party!

On May 13 from 6:30pm - 7:30pm is the All Church Work Party! There are Lots of weeds, Morning Glories, pruning and lots of fun & fellowship! See you there!

Come join us for Habitat for Humanity in Whatcom County's 14th annual

RAISE THE ROOF AUCTION

Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at our Habitat Store, 1825 Cornwall, Bellingham.

There is plenty of free parking.

For a \$35.00 ticket you will enjoy appetizers, a buffet dinner catered by Dickey's Barbecue in Ferndale, 3 drinks (beer, wine or pop), live entertainment, shopping from our silent auction tables, a frenzy of bidding on items during the live auction portion, and a series of games with prizes. Why not organize a group of 10 and reserve a full table for you, your family and friends. After all, where can you go these days and enjoy a fun-filled evening for \$35.00? See you on the 14th.

If circumstances do not allow you to attend the auction, there are many other ways to support our affiliate and the work we are doing to bring permanent stability to our low-wage, hard-working partner families. You can donate items to our store by calling 360-778-2036 or scheduling a pickup online, shop at the store, or even volunteer. Please check our website at www.hfhwhatcom.org for a complete listing of giving opportunities.

St. James is creating two garden themed baskets for the auction. If you are willing to donate items please bring them to the Horizon Room by Sunday May 1. Questions? Call Gretchen 734-3953

Save the Date!

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016

DINE OUT FOR MAPLE ALLEY INN

As loyal Maple Alley Inn supporters and volunteers know, Opportunity Council's hot meals program provides a safe place where people can get a nutritious meal, meet friends and enjoy a safe and warm comfortable setting. The program has expanded to serve more people. What used to be a meal for 70 is now a meal for over 100. Human and health services are also provided onsite.

Please support the program by dining out at one or more of the sponsoring restaurants on Tuesday, May 3, and a percentage of your payment will be donated to the Maple Alley Inn. For a list of participating restaurants go to: www.opcco.org

May Birthdays

2 Jenny Sue LeSchander
3 Elizabeth Crandall
4 Aaron Caruso
6 Jim Hardin
14 Peter van der Veen
18 Bob Pace
29 Dorothy Brown

May Anniversaries

12 Dave and Twyla Bader
13 Bruce and Marsha Lockhart



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Pentecost Offering is one of the four denomination-wide special offerings for youth and young adults. With Session approval: 40% of the Pentecost Offering will be divided among Home Port Learning Center (alternative high school for local youth), N.W. Youth Services (support services and housing for local youth), Montaña de Luz (orphanage for children of HIV/AIDS victims in Honduras) and Atfuluna School for the Deaf in Gaza.

BECAUSE WE CARE SO DEEPLY FOR THEM

*We were glad to share not only God's good news with you
but also our very lives **because we cared** for you so much.*

—1 THESSALONIANS 2:8

VOLUNTEERING WITH
YOUTH GROUP INSPIRES
IDEA FOR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT NONPROFIT

BECOMES AN EDUCATOR
WORKING WITH LOCAL
AT-RISK YOUTH

TRIENNIAL SOLIDIFIES
CALLING TO A LIFE IN
YOUTH MINISTRY

MINISTRIES FOR TODAY. IMPACT FOR A LIFETIME.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

40% stays with your congregation

25% supports Young Adult
Volunteers

25% goes to Ministries with Youth

10% advocates for at-risk children

Three ways to give



Through your congregation



Text YOUNG to 20222 to give \$10



presbyterianmission.org/give/pentecost

PC(USA) General Assembly to Meet in Portland, Oregon

The 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will meet this year, from June 18–25, in Portland, Oregon. Commissioners and advisory delegates from all 171 presbyteries, along with other participants and observers from around the world, will converge on the Oregon Convention Center for celebrations, deliberations, and inspirations in support of our denomination’s biennial gathering.

This Assembly’s theme is “The Hope in Our Calling,” from Ephesians 1:18. It will include rich worship services, the election of a new Moderator, action on a plethora of overtures, and much more.

With the Assembly meeting so close to home, you might want to consider attending all or part of the proceedings. Schedule and registration information can be found on the official Assembly website: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/222nd-general-assembly-2016/> Be sure to check important information on deadlines.

You may also sign up to volunteer at the Assembly. If you do, your volunteer badge will allow you to attend worship services and observe plenary sessions at no cost. Volunteer opportunities include ushering, preparing and serving Communion, serving as a prayer room host, and more. Volunteer information can be found at <http://www.gaportland.com/volunteersignup/>

MARCH FINANCIAL STATUS

	March	Budget	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
Income	\$18,665.	\$18,626.	\$64,214.	\$63,678.
Expenses	\$20,715.	\$24,821.	\$51,171.	\$59,465.

Note: St. James has paid 1/3 of our Per Capita expense for the year. If you haven't paid yet, you still have an opportunity to contribute your \$50 per member annual fee which supports the Presbytery. We want to thank everyone who has already contributed their Per Capita for the year.

Bellingham At Home

Early volunteers and members are being sought for a new nonprofit effort to help older adults in Bellingham stay in their homes as they age.

Members would have access to chores, transportation and social activities. The initial fee of \$350 a year includes membership in Bellingham Senior Activity Center. The Bellingham At Home program will start delivering services to members in June. Volunteers will be trained to do minor chores for members and to drop by for a friendly check-in.

For details about membership and becoming a volunteer, join the Deacons in the Lounge on May 15 at 12:00 noon to hear an informational presentation given by Nanette J. Davis, Ph.D., member of the Leadership Council for Bellingham At Home.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**

Over the past week, the earth has shaken. On Saturday night the coast of Ecuador was rocked by an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale. This came on the heels of two separate earthquakes in Japan, the first measuring 6.2 on the scale; the second, 7.0.

As aftershocks continue to threaten, more than 500 lives have already been lost. Thousands of other people have been injured, and communities lie in ruins. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working in collaboration with our partner the ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance to respond to this crisis, providing support to those suffering in the aftermath. As our immediate response takes shape, PDA is also preparing for long-term support for both Ecuador and Japan. Long after the initial wave of relief recedes, PDA will remain to accompany the people of Ecuador and Japan as they rebuild their lives, walking the road out of this chaos with hope.

The needs for the response are great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the GAP (Give/Act/Pray) to help survivors.

Give: Share your financial blessings by designating gifts to DR999999–Disaster Relief–International Disasters and Emergencies. Gifts can be made online at <http://pda.pcusa.org>, by calling (800) 872-3283, or by mailing a check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. You can also text PDA to 20222 to donate \$25

Act: Stay informed: Subscribe to receive PDA Rapid Information Network emails to keep aware of current responses and urgent needs that you can share with your congregation, and like us on Facebook.

Pray: Please pray for those who suffered loss of loved ones and for those who are working tirelessly to provide rescue, humanitarian aid, and spiritual and psychological support.



Veronica Paladines removes rubble in search for her husband in the Tarqui neighborhood in Manta, Ecuador, after a powerful quake hit the country.
Luis Acosta/Getty Images

Presbyterian Mission Agency, an agency of the
Presbyterian Church

100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202

800-728-7228 | 502-569-5000

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/about/about-pma/>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 12pm PNC 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	2 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	3 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	4 9am Preschool 9:15am Christian Faith Formation 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	5 9am Preschool 10am Bible Study 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	6 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit	7 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
8 Mother's Day 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	9 10:30am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	10 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Session 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	11 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 6:30pm Weavers Guild	12 9am Preschool 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	13 9am Preschool 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit 6:30pm Church Work Party!	14 10am OA 6pm Music Teacher's Assoc.
15 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45pm Deacons 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	16 Pulse Due Date! 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	17 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	18 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East, St. Paul's Episcopal 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Women's Bible Study	19 9am Preschool 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	20 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit	21 9am Hawthorne Learning Solutions 10am OA 10am Preschool Tour 1pm Bellingham Music
22 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	23 10:30am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	24 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	25 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA	26 9am Preschool 10am Bible Study 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	27 9am Preschool 3pm Membership 4pm Cross-fit	28 10am OA
29 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/communion 5pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 7:15pm AA	30 Memorial Day 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	31 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				