

The Pulse

NOVEMBER 2015

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome Rev. Janet Sonnanburg!



After a period of focused energy and prayerful consideration, the Session has invited the Rev. Janet Sonnanburg to serve as the Interim Pastor for St. James with a one year contract renewable for a second year. She will be with us for approximately one to two years. We feel very fortunate that she is available for St. James as she is keenly attuned to the ministry that we provide in Bellingham, and is eager to support us in our work. She answered every question with depth and directness and she gave us a clear sense of her theology, worship style, programmatic and administrative leadership. We value a collegial partnership with our pastor and she will provide it. She will provide us excellent resources for pastoral care, Bible studies and leadership training. She is highly regarded in the Presbytery

and her interim work has been reported as very successful. We look forward to having her at Saint James. Her first Sunday in the pulpit will be November 1, 2015. Here's a little bit about her.

She grew up in the Pacific Northwest, except for 4 years in Korea where her father worked for USAID. Her parents had two sets of twins, both boy/girl. Janet's twin and she are just 13 months younger than her older brother and sister. While in Korea, her parents added a younger sister to the family, adopting a girl from the orphanage in Seoul where her mother was volunteering.

She graduated from Whitworth College and Princeton Seminary. Her first call was as an associate pastor in Michigan, where her responsibilities included adult education, young adult ministry, new member incorporation and working with the deacons. Since returning to the Northwest, she has served several Presbyterian Churches successfully as an interim or temporary pastor. For three years, she was the Congregational Care Pastor at a Methodist church.

She and her family live in Mukilteo, WA. She is married to Keith, a psychologist, and they have two sons. Their sons' names are Kevin and Luke. Kevin is in graduate school working on PhD in math, and Luke is attending college.

Welcome Janet!

Habitat of Humanity—Habitat Workday October 17



Mary Van Dyken visiting with her future neighbor



Hi volunteers from St. James. Thank you all for a terrific day together working on the Van Dyken's new home. They will be blessed by your service. What a great team!

Ray & Carol Dellecker

My View From the Chancel

On Sunday mornings, when I sit in the Chancel and look out on our congregation, I see many things: Lifetime members of St. James, new members, WWU students, folks who visit regularly, and newcomers. Beyond these faces I see love, commitment and attachment to St. James, expressed in many ways.



Right now, in this time of uncertainty and transition, I feel an undertone of "We can do this". I've felt it from the very first Sunday after Pastor Jon left. St. James church, to me, has always been much more about the people of the congregation than the Pastor. Yes, I've enjoyed our Pastors: Regular, Interim and Guest, but the life-constant for me has been the people. To see the ways we support one another and genuinely care about each other fills my soul with joy.

Then I think of all the people who are working behind the scenes to keep the life of the church moving steadily along, in Session, committee meetings, small groups. Showing up early to be sure doors are unlocked, staying late to see that all is put away. Volunteering to help in the Office or with Sunday school; joining our musical groups; ushering, greeting, decorating, feeding...the list goes on and on.

Lately I have heard a few voices of desperation, a bit of doubt, a loss of hope. There is no need for this. Attendance figures for the Sundays in September show better attendance this year than last on 3 out of 4 Sundays. Our giving totals are holding steady and we now have an Interim Pastor.

Perhaps the only real need we have at this time is for more people to serve on Session, Deacons, and committees. Please prayerfully consider helping out in this way. Most commitments are just one meeting a month, and I can guarantee a lot of committee work is done with email. All our committees would appreciate hearing new voices and discovering new ideas. Could you help us grow?

I am so thankful for my life at St. James. You are truly my family, my support system, my shining light. This Thanksgiving season, let us think on all these blessings and thank God and each other for this living, thriving being that is St. James church.

Music Director Carolyn Mullen

Changes Are Coming!

The Membership Committee has been contemplating changes in delivering the *Pulse* for some time. Continuing to mail printed newsletters is proving to be wasteful of our money and resources. Therefore, we will start sending the *Pulse* via email for all who have internet access. For those who do not have internet or prefer a printed Pulse, there will be ample copies available for pick up at church. The only newsletters that we intend to mail are to homebound members and friends or those who live out of town. Our goal is to have the bugs worked out by January so we do not have to renew our bulk mail permit. Thank you for your understanding as we transition to a new process.

If you would like the newsletter emailed to you, please send your name and email address to:

office@saintjamespres.org

PULSE

News from our missionaries overseas from Peter van der Veen

Periodically St. James receives letters from Presbyterian Mission Co-workers overseas, or from Presbyterian (USA) contact persons in areas such as the Middle East who coordinate assistance to and cooperation with local churches. We try to stay in contact with these Mission Co-workers, who are sent out by the Presbyterian World Mission, which receives about one half of the Mission budget of St. James, the other half being designated for our local benevolence program, and for the Mission activities of the Presbytery and the Synod.

In previous years several of the Presbyterian Mission co-workers were able to visit St James while they were in the U.S. on leave. We hope that Dr. John and Gwenda Fletcher, working at the Good Shepherd hospital in the Congo, will be able to visit us again next year during their furlough .

Another Missionary couple which visited us several times, are Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, who work in Central Java (Indonesia), at the Duta Wacana Christian University and with mostly Moslem women's groups in the area. Bernie teaches ethics and plays an important role in the inter-faith program of the Moslem, Christian and public university in Yogyakarta.

In their recent (Sept. 2015) newsletter they describe how in June they traveled to various islands of Indonesia to do research on how Indonesians of different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds "imagine and experience the relation between the seen and unseen world", and to "share with them their struggle to make sense of their own identity in the modern world".

During this study travel they also visited Tana Toraja, a mountainous area in the island of Sulawesi, where I was born and grew up. My parents came there almost 100 years ago, for Bible translation into the Toraja language. At that time the area was very isolated; one had to walk or ride small mountain horses for several days, partly through dense tropical forests, from the nearest harbor on the coast. Three years ago

my wife and I were invited by the Toraja Church to participate in the celebration of "100 years since the Gospel came to Toraja".

Following are some excerpts from Bernie and Farsijana's "Mission Connections" newsletter, with some minor changes and explanations.

" The purpose of our research was not to tell the Indonesians how they ought to think, but rather to learn from them ...Their journey will have an impact on inter-religious relations throughout the world.

First we went to Bali to learn from Balinese Hindus. Hanna, our niece, took us to a beautiful beach named " A Fragrant Place".(Tegelwangi). While Farsijana was filming, a wave suddenly caught her and threw her onto jagged rocks. She escaped with only minor scratches, but relates that after the "rock kissed her" suddenly she could smell the fragrance of the place. In Indonesian "kiss" and "smell" are the same word. Later a Balinese Hindu Professor explained that all the elements of nature are in our bodies. He suggested that there was a special resonance between Farsi's body and the rocks that "kissed her" so that she could smell/kiss the beauty.

In Flores, predominantly Catholic, ...a common ritual wards off the effects of bad dreams. If you dream that you break a tooth, it means someone close to you will die. One student told us that he dreamed he broke a tooth. The next day he ran into a tree and actually did break a tooth, and then the same day, his beloved uncle died!

In the mountains of Toraja, we attended elaborate funeral ceremonies (of very wealthy people of the aristocracy class), where (scores of) water buffaloes and countless pigs were sacrificed. Torajan pastors explained the funeral rituals as just family reunions and rejected the belief that blood sacrifice aids the soul in its journey to the next world.

In Makassar, the capital city of South Sulawesi ...we ended the fast with Muslim colleagues during



NOVEMBER 2015

Ramadan (the month of fasting) while they enlightened us about the different Islamic practices of the Bugis, Makassar and Mandar ethnic groups.

....Then we flew past an erupting volcano to Halmahe-
ra, the spice islands of Farsijana's doctoral research. Fifteen years ago....civil war broke out and uncle Din's Muslim village was burned to the ground. Today Muslims and Christians are much closer than they were before the conflict. We were able to celebrate Idul Fitri (the feast at the end of the month of fasting) before he left on the haj (pilgrimage) to Mekka.

From Ternate we flew to Aceh,... (Northern tip of the island Sumatra) the only Indonesian province legally entitled to base local law on Syariah (Islamic law) ...As we walked down the street holding hands, we suddenly realized that we were almost causing accidents because motorists kept turning to look at us. We

asked if it is illegal to hold hands in public. Our friend grinned and said: "no, not if you are married. But it is quite unusual". Farsi explained that she had to hold my hand to keep up with me because of my long legs!

After two months of travel we returned home to Yogyakartaand began analyzing around 2,000 completed questionnaires.Indonesia is creating traditional, religious and modern societies, which are unlike any other place in the world.We are honored to share in the life of God's people in Indonesia.. They give us hope that there are no barriers to the Spirit and that the Kingdom of God is already among us. Thank you for your prayers and support. "

Warm regards,

Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta
baryoga@gmail.com

Help Deliver Warmth and Comfort to People Living on the Streets



Interfaith Coalition's Severe Weather Shelters welcome homeless men and women to come in off the streets on the coldest nights of the year. The two shelters --- one for men, the other for women and children --- are staffed by open-hearted volunteers who work from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. each evening the shelters are open. Interfaith needs many caring volunteers to staff the three nightly shifts. Our volunteers greet guests, prepare basic food, distribute sleeping mats, launder blankets, clean each shelter site and offer simple acceptance to people whose lives are difficult.

To join us in caring for our neighbors, volunteers are asked to attend one shelter training at the site where they would like to volunteer.

The men's shelter training is offered at the Lighthouse Mission Drop-In Center (1013 W. Holly, Bellingham): **Tuesday, November 3rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. or Thursday, November 5th from 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

The women's shelter is at Garden Street United Methodist Church (1326 N. Garden, Bellingham). Please use the Magnolia Street entrance: **Tuesday, November 3rd from 12:30-2:30 p.m. or Wednesday, November 4th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

For more information call: Interfaith at (360) 734-3983 or email info@interfaith-coalition.org

A Celebration of Thanksgiving



Wednesday, November 25
7:30pm at St. James

Presented by the St. James Bell Choir and Chancel Choir

Enjoy beautiful poetry and prose
from our local writing community.

Join us as we pause to reflect on our blessings and give thanks
to God for all that we have been given.

The evening's monetary offering will go to the
Bellingham Food Bank. You are welcome to bring
non-perishable food items to fill
our harvest baskets.



*The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him.*

Psalm 28:7

NOVEMBER 2015**November Birthdays**

3	Irene Rome
3	Patricia Harris
7	Jean Seater
7	Ricky Hodgson
10	Dick Johnson
11	David Seater
12	Julie Keyes
19	Nancy Wagar
20	Caitlin Lockhart
22	Margaret deMaine
22	Miranda Keefe
22	Marilyn Madden
24	Eva Landis
25	Marie Mellinger
27	Wendy Crandall
29	Craig Keyes
30	Brian Hodgson

November Anniversaries

14 Bob and Irene Rome

**A Request from the
"Archivist"**

If you have photos to donate of past St. James activities/people of note, please do so, but please do label with dates, names of people and/or events.

Thank you, Kay Carr (398-7914)

Though our mouths were full of song as the sea,
and our tongues of exultation as the multitude of its waves,
and our lips of praise as the wide-extended firmament;
though our eyes shone with light like the sun and the moon,
and our hands were spread forth like the eagles of heaven,
and our feet were swift as hinds,
we should still be unable to thank thee and bless thy name,
O Lord our God and God of our fathers,
for one thousandth or one ten thousandth part of the bounties
which thou has bestowed upon our fathers and upon us.

- from the Hebrew Prayer Book

PUBLIC MEETING ON HEALTH CARE ACCESS

The Road to Health Care for All Progress made and setbacks encountered. Saturday, November 7 at 9:30am at Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave. (Reviewing the National, State and County outlook, and Legislative Prospects for Universal Health Care)

AGAPE sings in Whatcom County!**Hip Hop Concert for Youth and Young at Heart!**

David Scherer will perform his profound Christian lyrics in a free concert. Canned goods for local food banks are encouraged at the door, and a free-will offering will be gathered for ELCA World Hunger.

When: Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7pm

Where: Christ Lutheran, Ferndale - 5904 Vista Drive

Advent Festival

Sunday, December 6
Fellowship Hall after Worship

JOIN THE FUN!

First lunch will be served following worship. Then on to an afternoon of making gingerbread houses and/or a fresh evergreen wreath. All materials will be available. Please bring your own wreath-making tools.



PULSE

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank everyone who has provided St. James with their Financial and Time and Talent commitments. Though the formal campaign has ended, it is not too late to provide your financial pledge and completed Time and Talent sheet in order to support the various functions at our church. With everyone's participation we will have the best information to prepare our 2016 Budget. Thank you!!

September Financial Status:

	September	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget
Income	\$17,458.00	\$170,238.00	\$171,522.50
Expenses	12,255.52	153,911.31	178,892.12

Thoughts to consider as we continue this transition:

Fact 1:

As each goose flap its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common sense of direction and community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact 2:

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact 3:

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership, as with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skill, capabilities and unique arrangement of gifts, talents or resources.

Fact 4:

The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the productivity is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact 5:

When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until it dies or can fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

Lessons from Geese was transcribed from a speech given by Angeles Arrien at the 1991 Organizational Development Network and is based on the work of Milton Olson.

Upcoming Events in Adult Education!

For the seasons of Advent and Christmas, beginning on November 22nd:

We will be studying and discussing the book, **The Gift of New Hope**, by Christopher L. Webber. This book invites us to explore our yearning for God's presence through Bible readings during the weeks before, during and following Christmas. Hope is the focus of the Advent season. The book and our class discussions will help us to understand, appreciate and engage in meaningful and joyous celebrations of Advent and Christmas, to live each day in God's hope through Jesus Christ. Everyone is invited. Books are provided. Meets Sundays at 9am in the Lounge.

For the Season of Epiphany, beginning on January 3rd: You won't want to miss the discussion of the book, **Jesus, Pope Francis and a Protestant and a Protestant Walk into a Bar**, by Paul Rock, Senior Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Missouri and Bill Tammeus, columnist for the Kansas City Star. Pope Francis has taken the world by storm, captivating Catholics, Protestants and non-Christians alike. The revitalization Francis is bringing to the Catholic Church is not without precedent, however. Jesus had a similar effect in his day, drawing crowds with his humility, kindness and wisdom – even as he drew the disapproval of established religious leaders. We will learn what is universal among Christians, what is unique to Catholics and Protestants, and how all Christians can practice understanding and cooperation across differences. We anticipate rich and lively discussions as we go through the book. Everyone is invited. Books are provided. Meets Sundays at 9am in the Lounge.

Whatta ya say?

If God is that small space
left at the table, then go ahead
and sit there if you like.

Even is you weren't invited.
that doesn't mean you aren't welcome.

Perhaps you were just overlooked,
missed, as in
they would have missed you
and wished you were here
if you hadn't come...
not forgotten
only misplaced when places were set.

Yes, there,
wedge into that spot where John leans away
to rest his head on Jesus...right next to Judas,
where perhaps you'll have time
to whisper in his ear, or even chat a moment,
just small talk you understand until supper starts.

Warren L. Molton



Arts, Crafts and Gifts Faire

Featuring the Saint James Bakery

Saturday, November 7, 2015

9:30am to 3:00pm



Fun for all! Wonderful gift ideas, handmade crafts, beautiful art and more.

Visit our Coffee Shop for free coffee and a bounty of fresh baked goods.

(Please note: We are not serving lunch this year.)

BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS

> For our beautiful queen-sized quilt and adorable baby quilt that will be raffled at the event.

> To win one of the great items donated by our faire vendors.



WOULD YOU HELP?

Volunteers are needed to:

Support our vendors (breaks, food)

Clean up after the event

Please call Margaret McVie at 380-1079 to schedule volunteer time.

COULD YOU DONATE:

> Baked goods for our sale: Pies, cupcakes, candies, cookies and other home-baked delights. We will have packaging ready for these donations.

> Hand made items for our St. James crafts table; knitting, crochet, paper crafts, art, pottery, etc.

We'd appreciate receiving donated items Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning.



MOST IMPORTANT!

ADD THE FAIRE TO YOUR CALENDAR, PLAN TO ATTEND and BRING A FRIEND!

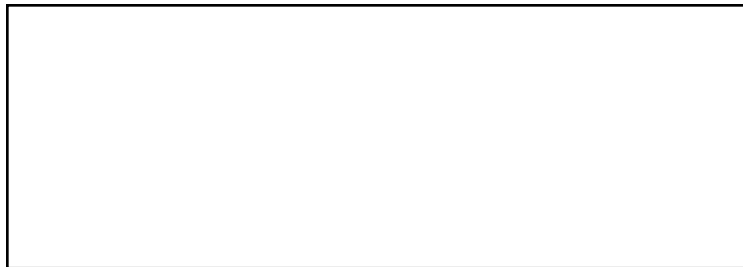
NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/communion - 6:15pm AA	2 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts	3 Election Day 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	4 9am Preschool 9:15am Christian Faith Formation 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA	5 9am Preschool 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 Arts & Crafts Faire Set Up 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit	7 9:30am Arts & Crafts Faire 10am OA
8 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 6:15pm AA	9 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6pm Children/Youth Ministries Task Force 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	10 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	11 Veteran's Day 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 6:30pm Weavers Guild	12 9am Preschool 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	14 9am Church Work Party 10am OA 12pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
15 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons 6:15pm AA	16 PULSE DUE 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 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 at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church 6pm SOS Men's	19 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 11am Worship Committee 11am Personnel 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	20 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit 4:14pm Membership	21 9am SOS Men's AA 10am OA 6pm Music Teachers Assoc.
22 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 6:15pm AA	23 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm St. James Literary Society	24 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	25 9am Preschool 10am Pulse Crew 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 Thanksgiving 7:15pm AA	27 Office Closed 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit	28 10am OA
29 9am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 6:15pm AA	30 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts		For events not listed on this calendar, check out the St. James website! www.saintjamespres.org			

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Bellingham, WA
PERMIT NO. 18

Return Service Requested



St. James Presbyterian Church

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

Children's Ministry: Merry Thomas, Coordinator
Zadra Nolan, Teacher
Katy Jackson, Teacher
Clerk of Session: Carla Shafer
Custodians: Cascade Vocational Services:
Don Bayne, Aaron Cook, Vernon Point
Music Director: Carolyn Mullen
Office Manager: Natasha Orme
Organist/Pianist: Melany Armstrong
Treasurer: Marina McLeod

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Children's Time

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
360-733-1325



Thanksgiving Eve Service!

Join us at 7:30pm
Wednesday, November 25

