The Pulse

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A few words about God's Mission for Peace and Reconciliation



<u>Astana, The Youngest Capital</u> Astana, Kazakhstan The Palace of Peace and Reconciliation

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, we will take time to acknowledge the *Season of Peace*. God challenges us to deepen our commitment to peace within our own lives. As we do so, we become a visible and profound expression of our personal understanding of Christ as the Prince of Peace. Living peace helps us grow spiritually, and when we witness for peace through our actions of concern, we extend the Peace of Christ around the world.

During worship the annual Peace & Global Witness offering will be made, and we will give what we can as one way of expressing our faith in Christ's peace. This year gifts to the offering at the PCUSA level (50% of what we collect) will support Syrian refugees who hope for an end to violence and flight to allow a peaceful future for their children.

Our congregation retains 25% of this offering which continues support of two mission projects of our church: Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza and Montana de Luz, a Guatemalan mission residence for children with AIDS. The Presbytery receives 25% to support peacemaking efforts being pursued together with our neighboring congregations.

Carla Shafer, Chair for the Mission and Social Action Committee

An excerpt from Syria: The Untold Story by Paul Seebeck

A tale of two pastors

In March 2014, I came face to face with the people living in the midst of this violent turmoil.

Over a shared meal, Syrian pastors Firas Farah and Saoud Bahi offered a funny story. Laughter erupted with the punch line – laughter that gradually faded away into silence.

"Our new friends, thank you for coming and listening." Bahi said. "Until this moment, we hadn't realized that we'd forgotten how to laugh."

As pastors and graduates of NEST (Near East School of Theology), Bahi and Farah are best friends. Both at the time were serving churches, under great duress, in northeastern Syria.

Bahi was in al-Hasakah, and Farah in al-Qamishli, a city bordering Turkey and close to Iraq.

The meal's laughter couldn't mask the sad knowledge that God was leading them in different directions.

Bahi was attempting to get out of Syria with his wife and children. Eventually the migrated, joining relatives in Sweden.

Even as danger was increasing, however, Farah was committed to staying.

Years of war were taking their toll. By the summer of 2014, nearly 75 percent of his congregation had migrated. Resources were thinning by the moment. But in the fall, when Farah learned that 1,500 Yazidi families – who had been driven from their homes in northern Iraq by IS militants – had crossed an unsecured border in Syria, he organized a team of Presbyterians to visit them.

At the tent city for the Yazidi refugees, Farah learned that they desperately needed a source of water. With assistance from the Outreach Foundation – a validated mission support group of the Presbyterian Mission Agency – the Presbyterian Church in al-Qamishli drilled a well for these families. "When we saw their problems," Farah told the Foundation, "we forgot our own."

See the full article in the September/October 2015 issue of Presbyterians Today magazine. You can learn more about the rise of IS in the region the online resources page at: presbyterianpeacefellowship.org.



Join us as we gather at 7:30pm on Wednesday, Nov 25 for a celebration of Thanksgiving in Music, Poetry and Praise. The St. James Bell and Chancel Choirs will join with writers and poets from our community for a very special program. Mark your calendars now, plan to attend, and please invite family, friends and neighbors.

Celebration of Thanksgiving in Music, Poetry and Praise

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OCTOBER 2015

Presbyterian International Peacemaker at St. James - Sunday, October 4

Once a year, the Presbyterian Peacemaker program invites international peacemakers, mostly from foreign conflict areas, to visit congregations in the U.S. One purpose is to understand the background of the conflicts, but another is to help us give moral and other support to Christians in such areas to bring reconciliation, peace and justice. Last year we had the privilege to receive the Rev. Salam Hanna, pastor of the Evangelical (Presbyterian) church in Latakia, Syria.

This year we are looking forward to the visit by the Rev. Vartkes ("Kass") Kassouni, of Armenian background. He will arrive here on Saturday afternoon/ early evening, Oct. 3, after visiting the Northern Light United Church in Juneau (now part of our Presbytery) on Friday. He will leave Monday morning.

At our request, he agreed to preach and lead in communion on Sunday, October 4. After the service, we plan to have a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall, during which the Rev. Kassouni will focus, as International Peacemaker, on "Armenian Christianity in the Middle East for 1,500 years: their suffering and their witness to Jesus Christ". There will be time for questions and answers.

The Rev. ("Kass") Kassoumi was born and raised in Cyprus. His father taught at the American Academy, an American Reformed Presbyterian mission institute. He came to the United States in 1949, studied for the Ministry, and was ordained in 1957. He has served pastorates in New York City (Armenian Evangelical Church), Fresno, CA (First Armenian Presbyterian Church), and Los Angeles (United Armenian Congregational Church). He served for a number of years on the staff of Los Ranchos Presbytery. He has been an initiating pastor and interim pastor in a number of Southern California congregations, and interim Executive Presbyter in San Fernando Presbytery.

Kass served the Armenian community as Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union and helped to form the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, and as Board member of the Armenian Missionary Association.

His lectures include: "Ancient Christian Churches in the Middle East" and "The Presence and Impact of the Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt". He travels extensively in the Middle East and stays in contact with church leaders there concerning the current situation.





Peace & Global Witness Special Offerings – October 4

In too many places around the world, peace is merely a hope. Conflicts between nations, peoples, and ideas put peace at risk everywhere. During the Season of Peace, we recognize that too many people live in situations that are both unsettled and unjust. This offering, one of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), will be taken on Sunday, October 4. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds will go to causes designated by our local church.

News from the Nominating Committee

The 2015 Nominating Committee, Elders Valerie McBeth, Alice Beaty, Deacon, Candy Ellis, and members of the congregation Faye Hill, Wendy Crandall, Lois Gray, and Rook vanHalm have been meeting for several months. We are now in the process of filling 4 Elder positions, 1 for the Class of 2017 and 3 for the Class of 2018 and 5 Deacon positions for the Class of 2018.

Elders are members, usually the chair, of a Session committee based on the Elder's skills and ministry gifts. Through these committees-Buildings and Grounds, Christian Faith Formation, Finance, Mission and Social Action, Membership, Personnel, and Worship- much of the work of

the church is accomplished. Routine building maintenance, yard work, Christian Education curriculum and classes, the budget, stewardship campaign, mission projects and education, advertising, new member classes, personnel policy and staffing, weekly and special worship services are some of the work done by committee. Because we have a lean staff, the work of committees is essential to the mission of St. James.

As members of Session, the governing body of the local church, Elders work together to discern and implement church vision, church mission, and short-and-long range planning for the church. Elders also participate in the work of the Presbytery, the area church governing body. Elders attend Presbytery meetings, vote on issues along with member pastors, and serve on Presbytery committees.

The ministry and calling of the Deacons is to help provide nurturing and compassionate care to our church members and visitors. The St. James membership is



divided into six parishes, with two deacons leading each parish. The deacons stay in touch with the persons in their parishes through phone calls, e-mail, cards and personal visits. The Moderator of Deacons leads the organizational functioning of all Deacon events and activities, conducts Deacons' meetings and communicates the needs of members to the deacons. Here are some of the other ways that the deacons serve St. James:

• Provide refreshments and a welcoming presence at the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour, both before and after the worship services.

• Sponsor and organize the annual church picnic at Fairhaven Park, providing food, set-up and clean-up.

- Provide refreshments following memorial services for the bereaved families and friends.
- Organize and prepare the parish lunch in October.
- Arrange transportation for those who are no longer able to drive.
- Deliver Easter and Christmas flowers to members confined to their homes or care facilities

If you are asked to step into church leadership positions please take time to prayerfully consider your response. There are a finite number of people eligible to serve in these positions. In this time of transition it is vitally important to have people willingly step forward to lead St. James into the future.

Interfaith Coalition's Winter Coat Drive

Join us for Interfaith Coalition's annual winter coat drive and donate warm outerwear for everyone from babies to seniors. This successful program brings warm coats to people in need throughout the county.

Please bring clean, gently-used winter coats, hats, gloves and mittens to the worship services this month. If you are a knitter, handmade hats and scarves are also cherished. A large box will be placed in the narthex for this purpose. Sunday, October 18 is the last day to bring in items. Many people appreciate this program because they don't have to spend their limited income on a coat or go without one through the winter.

Thanks for sharing the warmth!

CWS "Blanket Plus" Sunday Offering – October 18

"Blanket Plus" Offering will be on Sunday, October 18. Blankets provide comfort to many communities that are hit by disaster, for agencies assisting those experiencing hard times, and for those in shelters. Small tools are provided in areas where people have to recover from disasters. Contributions to Church World Service Blankets Plus mean CWS will be ready to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement, and build viable, sustainable lives and communities.

St. James and Habitat for Humanity partner up!

St. James and Habitat for Humanity are partnering to build affordable houses in Whatcom County. Please mark your calendars with two exciting upcoming events:

1. **Saturday Oct. 17**: Volunteer day at the Habitat house under construction on Haxton Way in Ferndale. We will have two shifts 8:30am-12 noon and 12:30-4pm. We expect that the work will consist of outdoor landscaping and indoor painting. Sign up at the church service on Sunday, Oct. 4 or email Ray Dellecker at rdellecker@gmail.com if you'd like to participate.

2. Sunday Oct 25: The Habitat Store truck will be at St. James from 9:30am to noon to collect your donations for sale at the store. All proceeds will benefit Habitat. Please bring items with you to church that day, or call Habitat at 360-778-2036 to arrange for pickup of your larger items such as furniture. Habitat accepts gently used furniture, appliances, building supplies, housewares, home décor, tools and many other items. Unfortunately, Habitat can't accept small amounts of carpet, lumber, tile, or building materials, opened paint cans, non-flatscreen TVs, used toilets, etc. If you have any questions about an item for donation, please call the store.

Interfaith Coalition Annual Hope Meeting and Celebration

Tuesday, October 13th, 7pm Bellingham Covenant Church, 1530 E. Bakerview Rd.

Join Interfaith for a meaningful evening of fellowship, inspiration and opportunity. Hear from volunteers who share stories of compassion and hope. Learn about a new forum for congregations working with homeless visitors. Catch up with friends old and new. Be part of an active community of individuals and congregations dedicated to our brothers and sisters in need. There will be music and refreshments to celebrate the new partnership in change.

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 7pmWhere: Christ Lutheran, Ferndale--5904 Vista Drive, Ferndale

October Birthdays!

- 1 Rick Hodgson
- 1 Jim Mullen
- 4 Lance Melrose
- 5 Jon Hauerwas
- 6 Jim DeWilde
- 7 Dick Madden
- 8 Marilyn Methven
- 10 Neal Jackson
- 11 Carla Shafer
- 12 Christian Beaty
- 12 Ian Jackson
- 13 Don Hoyt
- 13 Beth Hawthorne
- 15 Rob Reimers
- 24 Claude Hill
- 24 Sean Keyes
- 25 Tom McVie
- 26 Peter Burkland
- 27 Robin Crandall
- 28 Susannah Mohr
- 31 Nancy Hamilton
- 31 Rook Van Halm

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF SAINT JAMES

Please join us on Tuesday, October 27 for our monthly get-together.

10:30 a.m. – Bible Study – Lesson 2 in the Lounge 12:00 p.m. – Pot Luck Salad Luncheon in the Horizon room



You're Invited! St. James Women's Evening Bible Study Wednesday, Oct 28 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Come to the Waters study guide available in the church office Bring a friend!

Save the Date!

Deacon's Parish Lunch Sunday, October 25 In Fellowship Hall following worship

OCTOBER 2015



Planting Seeds for the Future

St. James' Fall Stewardship Drive has begun. As the church pursues seeking a new pastor, St. James is taking this opportunity to plant seeds for the church's future. In 2016, our goal is to reach \$200,000 in pledges to directly support our church programs and invest in new endeavors for growth.

We invite you to open a seed packet and together we will provide the nourishment for these seeds to grow into bright things in the life of our church.

Let each one of us open our hearts to this important event. October 25th is our goal to complete our pledge drive.

Bring your pledge to the church!

Stewardship Committee

Finance Status for August

| | August 2015 | Year to Date | Budget |
|----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Income | \$20,405.70 | \$152,465.70 | \$144,720.00 |
| Expenses | \$15,220.28 | \$141,655.79 | \$158,899.44 |

Help! Call 911! Where is the AED?

Do you know where the AED is? Do you know what it is? Do you know how to use it?

The AED (Heart Start Defibrillator) is located in the narthex in the bright red case mounted on the wall to the right of the double doors entering the hall. The audio instructions in the case are very simple. However, in an emergency people feel more confident and helpful if they have taken an AED and CPR certification class. St. James is offering these classes on SATURDAY, OCT. 24, 9:00 - 11:30 A.M. The cost is \$7.00.

Sign up on the registration sheet located beneath the AED case in the Narthex or contact Gretchen Pfueller, 360-734-3953, <u>gmpfueller@gmail.com</u>



"Annual Dues" AKA Per Capita

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 General Assembly.

Mission--100% of your Northwest Coast Presbytery 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.



BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS

> For our beautiful queen-sized quilt that will be raffled at the event. Ticket sales will begin soon—watch your church bulletin for more info.
> To win one of the great items donated by our faire vendors.



 WOULD YOU HELP? Volunteers are needed Saturday Nov. 7 to: Work in our Coffee House/Bake Sale Support our vendors (breaks, food) Clean up after the event
 Please call Margaret McVie—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!



Session Highlights 9-13-15

Reported

The contract with Interfaith Coalition has been drafted with a move-in date of November 1, 2015. They will have two of the three rooms upstairs for their full time use. The third room will be available for scheduling as a classroom and meeting room. They will pay for rewiring the space and we will replace the carpets. Painting and general repairs have been done by church members. They will have separate phone and Internet service.

The Sunday School curriculum is under review. We are advertizing the position of Director for Children and Youth Ministries.

The Nominating committee has successfully called 4 deacons and elders to begin in 2016, there are five positions remaining to fill.

We plan to have a new members class when we have an Interim Pastor and St. James will be represented at WWU Information Fair.

Discussed

The 2016 Stewardship Campaign "Getting Connected" Luncheon will be September 27. The Interim Pastor's job description duties were discussed and the steps for hiring were defined as: 1) respond to 3 or 4 written questions, 2) hold face-to-face interviews, 3) observe delivery of a sermon.

Decided

- To lease space to Interfaith Coalition for their offices for three years, when the agreement could be renewed.
- Presbytery commissioners for Leadership Summit will be Dick Carr and Bill Read. The meeting will be Friday, October 16, 2015, 5pm 9pm at Community Church of Seattle
- \$12,000 will be moved from the Building Endowment Fund earnings to pay for new carpet and painting and sealing the outside of the building.
- Our share of the earnings on the sale of Hauerwas' house was a little over \$6,700. The entire amount of approximately \$66,700 will be returned to the Endowment investment fund.
- The Habitat for Humanity truck will be on-site to receive resalable items one Sunday in October.
- The Music Department's plan to hold a Thanksgiving Community Concert and Program was endorsed.
- The top candidates for Interim Pastor were confirmed for follow-up.

Blessed be the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Mathew 5:9

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| ON | TO SERMONS NLINE mespres.org | For Co-op Pres | chool 11 360-510-9558 | 1 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:30pm Building and Grounds 5:30pm Congrega- tional Life 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir | 2 9am Preschool 11:30am Boy Scouts 4pm Cross-fit | 3 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group |
| 4 World Commun- ion Sunday 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship w/communion - 11:30am Guest Speaker from Pres. Peace Making Program 6:15pm AA | 5 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 6 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 | 7 9am Preschool 9:15am Christian Faith Formation 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm Mission & Social Action 6pm SOS Men's AA | 8 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir | 9 9am Preschool 12pm Prime Timers 4pm Cross-fit | 10 9am Church Work Party! 10am OA |
| 11 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 12pm Session + Lunch 6:15pm AA | 12 Columbus Day 10am Grief Support Group 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts | 13 8am Prayer Group 9am Co-op Pre- school 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance | 14 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 6:30pm Weavers Guild | 15 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir | 16 PULSE ARTICLES DUE! 7am Preschool Garage Sale Set Up 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit | 17 7am Preschool Garage Sale 10am OA |
| 18 Blanket+ Offering 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at Faith Lutheran 6:15pm AA | 19 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 5:30pm SIA 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts | 20 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance | 21 9am Preschool 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA | 22 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 5:45pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir | 23 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit | 24 9am AED Class 10am OA 4pm World Peace Poets |
| 25 9am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Worship 12pm Parish Luncheon 6:15pm AA | 26 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 | 27 8am Prayer Group 9am Preschool 10am Yoga 10am Woman's Bible Study 12pm Woman's Luncheon 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Al Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance | 28 9am Preschool 10am Pulse Crew 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solution 6pm SOS Men's AA 7pm Women's Bible Study | 29 9am Preschool 10:15am Yoga 2:30pm Hawthorne Learning Solutions 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir | 30 9am Preschool 4pm Cross-fit 4:15pm Member- ship | 31 Halloween 10am OA |

St. James Presbyterian Church 910 14th Street 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

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 Gresham



is a celebration observed by Christian Churches around the world. Held on the first Sunday in October, it is an interdenominational service that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.

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

Join us a 7:30pm on Wednesday, Nov 25 for a celebration of Thanksgiving in Music, Poetry and Praise.

Office Hours

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