

# the Pulse

September 2017

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## “Pastor’s Note”

A Season of Shift

Friends of Saint James Presbyterian Church, welcome to September! The last days of Summer are upon us and Autumn is slowly creeping in. School is beginning and the seasons are shifting.

Looking forward into Autumn, I am encouraged to begin a season of shifting, growing, and renewing our commitment to one another as a church. In the month of September, we have the opportunity to do many things together that mark our common bonds as a community. First, we are launching a new Sunday morning children’s program, Godly Play. Godly Play embraces a style of curious, experiential learning for children to encounter the story of God in fresh, life-

connected ways. Godly Play connects our children to the story of the church’s liturgical year cycle, moving them through the seasons of God’s work in their lives as they see the story of God unfolding each week in worship. My hope is that we will see Godly Play as a shift for our entire community, a place for us to embrace loving care of our children in new ways and be inspired in our worship in “big church” as well.

In September, we will also welcome new members into our worshipping community. Membership courses at the end of August and beginning of September will culminate in the welcoming of new and transferring members to Saint James on September 17. On this joyous occasion, we bear witness to the deepening of connection for these people who have journeyed along with us and now seek to publicly declare their faith in Jesus and their participation as members of

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Christ’s body in this church. If you are interested in joining or learning more about this process, let me know! It’s not too late!

I have long believed that the shift from Summer to Fall is time of rich reflection and renewal. I embrace a practice I like to call “Autumnal Resolutions.” Connected with the natural life cycle of plants preparing for the long winter, we also can embrace a cycle of shedding off what hinders us, break old habits, and prepare ourselves for the season of the coming of Christ’s light, which we celebrate in the darkness of Winter. Over the last few years as a church, Saint James has been in the process of exploring what it means to shift and grow into our identity as a community that shares the love and grace of Christ throughout our neighborhood. Over the course of the Autumn, we will make resolutions together through our Stewardship Campaign, how we will pledge the resources God has given us to bless one another and the missions of our church.

We will also spend time reflecting on who we are as a church with our mission and vision. The Saint James Session met recently to deepen their bonds of relationship with one another and explore hopes for how God is perhaps leading us in the years to come. This Autumn will be a time deepening those conversations and beginning to set in motion plans for how we enter more fully into a chapter of renewal and growth as a community.

What is shifting in you this month? How is God calling you to change like the leaves, to embrace this cycle of renewal as one season draws to a close? I’d love to hear about it. Please stop by and say hello or send me an email or give me a phone call — I want to hear your stories of how God is leading you in this season of our life together.

As always, I write with great joy in my heart at the rich blessing it is to serve Christ alongside you all.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Seth

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Rev. Seth J. Thomas | Pastor  
Saint James Presbyterian Church  
910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225  
t. 360.733.1325  
e. [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)

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**From your Worship and Music committee.**

All current and prospective ushers! A short informational and discussion meeting will be held Sunday, October 1st. We will go over the current duties list, as well as discuss what ideas you might have. Join us in the Horizon Room at 9:00am before church.

We encourage current ushers and those interested in ushering to attend.

See you there!

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## World Communion Sunday - October 1



Vintage engraving showing a Communion Chalice from the twelfth century

October 1 is World Communion Sunday, a yearly celebration of the Lord's Supper together with the church worldwide. As we gather for worship, we gather to practice the act of remembering Christ's last meal with his disciples in connection with our brothers and sisters in the faith around the world.

For that Sunday, we are asking the congregation to share any chalices they may have in their personal collections so that we can display them around the sanctuary. We do this to symbolically represent the Last Supper. If you have chalices to share, please mark them with your name and bring them to church on September 24 (the Sunday before). They can be taken home following worship on October 1. Thank you!

## Peace and Global Witness Offering at St. James

### OFFERINGS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP, LEARNING, AND WITNESS

The four church wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church. One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other and in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns.

It is a tradition at Saint James to participate in the Presbyterian Church's Peace and Global Witness Offering which ends on World Communion Sunday. This special offering will be used to enable the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world, as well as in our own local community.

At Saint James, we will receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering on Sunday, September 17th. 25% of the total offering will be divided among Whatcom Peace and Justice Center, Tierra Nueva, for their jail ministry, Engedi Refuge, for victims of human trafficking in Lynden, and Community to Community for assisting farm workers.

For more information on the Peace and Global Witness Offering, visit <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/peace-global.html>

"The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." —Rom. 11:29

# A Persistent Dream of Peace



Albert González Farran

**PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION**



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS



## SPOTLIGHT! Jody DeWilde, member

Whatcom Community College News:

The 2017 WCIC Foundation Faculty Excellence Award went to Jody DeWilde, full-time faculty. Jody DeWilde has been teaching developmental mathematics at Whatcom since 2004. Students praise her for her approachability, caring nature, and ability to help them see the beauty of mathematics. One student said, "She has taken the fear and loathing out of math for me and has made it the class I look most forward to."

### September Birthdays

3	Colin Jackson
6	Margaret McVie
16	Linda Landis
17	Dave Nelson
18	Ann Lary
21	Asher Thomas
23	Faye Hill
27	Ken Reimers
30	Phyllis Jones
30	Hannah Donnelly

### September Anniversaries

7	Peter and Susan Burkland
11	Bill and Katy Read
14	Rob and Cheryl McGregor
29	Milt and Sharon Schayes

From Music Director Carolyn Mullen

## Singing and Ringing begin Thursday, Sept 7.

Bell Choir rehearsals are held at 6:30pm in the Horizon Room. We usually arrive a few minutes early to set up the tables and bells. We'd love to have new ringers. Beginners are welcome. Bell ringing is fun, interesting and satisfying.

The Chancel Choir rehearses in the Chancel area of the sanctuary, at 7:30pm. New singers are always welcome.

**No auditions, just join us!**

If you're age 12 to 112, we'd love to welcome you to our St. James Music-makers! Questions? Please call Music Director Carolyn Mullen at 360-595-0934.

## SEPTEMBER PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Join our ecumenical prayer vigil for the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities in Jerusalem, for all those, Israelis and Palestinians, who are suffering in the Holy Land, and for peace in the Middle East and the world.

The September prayer vigil will be hosted by Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Monday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m. The October 18 prayer vigil will be hosted by Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Wednesday, October 18th at 5:30 p.m.



**PULSE**

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### July Financial Status

	July	Current Budget	Yr. to Date	Yr. to Date Budget
Income	\$15,945	\$15,802	\$133,183	\$123,818
Expenses	\$13,578	\$16,541	\$113,257	\$124,379

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### FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

It's getting to be that time of year again. Our Fall Stewardship Campaign starts on October 1 and will formally end on October 31. We invite everyone to attend a short congregational meeting after our service on October 1st. The purpose of this meeting is to kickoff the campaign by distributing the packets. Each committee chair will briefly share about their committee and their needs.

Offering our time and talent to the various committees and their efforts is just as important to the life of St. James as providing financial support via pledging. A brief summary of the contents of the packet will be provided.

If you have questions regarding this campaign, please bring them to this meeting. The Stewardship Committee appreciates your support.

See you on October 1st!

The Finance Committee  
Dave Armstrong  
Peter Burkland  
Marina McLeod  
Pastor Seth Thomas



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### Children's Ministry

Sept. 3: Children's Ministries will celebrate the end of the summer with a party. Lots of toys for playing and ice cream for snack!

Sept. 10: The Circle of the Church Year. Children will begin to understand time in a different way, from the church's perspective. They will note the colors of the seasons and anticipate special days in the church year.

Sept 17: The Holy Family: Children will be introduced to figures in the Nativity. These figures will be a central focus in the Godly Play room throughout the year.

Sept. 24: Children's Work Day. Children will finish previous projects or start new ones. They will experiment with various art forms and with story figures.



## Farmworkers Ministry North West

On Sunday, August 6, Honesto Silva Ibarra died at Harborview Medical Center after he fell ill while working in very hot weather at a berry farm in Sumas, WA. During the week that he died, I attended two meetings where the situation at the blueberry labor camp (Sarabanand Farms) was described by observers and workers. It sounded horrific and the employer did not seem to be living up to their federal contract. By not renewing temporary worker VISAs the employer is trapping workers in the U.S. and making them criminals, as they are now undocumented. The workers' houses are surrounded by a chain link fence and they are locked in each night, only let out to work the next morning. They pay just over \$80 each week for meager rations. The farmworker union: Familias Unidas por la Justicia, (FUJ), is helping workers find resources and has successfully signed a farmworkers contract this spring. You can get information at this KUOW website <http://kuow.org/post/death-ignites-labor-tensions-berry-farm-near-canada> and you can ask me about local meetings.

In May, 2017 I became a board member of the Farmworkers Ministry-NW, which is a cluster group of the National Farmworkers Ministry NFM was organized in 1920 and Presbyterians have been part of it ever since.

For two years, I have been meeting with local church people to provide local support and gather information. There are five of us. If you are interested, I'd be happy to provide more information.

I've written a poem which helps me deal with my own pain and frustration at what I perceive as this needless death and the continued mistreatment of people providing food for our tables. I was a school kid farmworker and it wasn't fun, but it only lasted 6 summers, my parents provided room, board, gas money, and I earned the tuition for my first year at college in 1962.

## Lady Liberty: Her Brother's Keeper

by Carla Shafer

All day in the yard—I staked tomatoes prone to sprawl. Replanted lettuce, picked zucchini, watered cucumbers, beans, eggplants, and peppers. I learned today that Honesto Silvas Ibarra, an H2a worker, twenty-eight year-old father of three died yesterday, collapsed two days earlier in a blueberry field thirty miles from my backyard garden.

His employer said he had to work. His employer let his VISA expire. so though he tried, he couldn't get a ticket home. It's the law you know for the employer to renew it. Maybe you didn't know. We should all know. We should love these people who risk life for field work in America. Imagine being so poor.

We should protect them. If we don't then who are we?



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The St. James Women's Association resumes their monthly bible study on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 10:30 a.m., followed by a potluck salad luncheon at noon. This year's Horizon study guide, *Cloud of Witnesses, the Community of Christ in Hebrews*, was written by Melissa Bane Sevier. The first lesson, "Community with Jesus Christ", focuses on Hebrews 1:1-4.

If you have any questions, please call Merry Thomas.





## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Bayside Co-Op Preschool</b> For information please call 360-733-3972				1 For events not listed on this calendar, check out the St. James website! <b><a href="http://www.saintjamespres.org">www.saintjamespres.org</a></b>		2 10am OA
<b>Hawthorne Learning Solutions</b> Contact Matt and Emily Hawthorne for times and dates. <a href="mailto:hlearningsolutions@gmail.com">hlearningsolutions@gmail.com</a>						
3 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship w/Communion 7:15pm AA	4 Labor Day 10am Grief Support Group 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	5 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	6 11:15am Tai Chi 3:30pm Mission & Social Action 5:30pm CFF Dinner 6pm SOS Men's AA	7 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Building and Grounds 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	8 12pm Prime Timers 6:30pm Church Work Party	9 10am OA 1pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
10 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 12pm Session BYOL 7:15pm AA	11 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	12 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	13 11:15am Tai Chi 2pm Worship and Music 6pm SOS Men's AA	14 10:15am Yoga 3pm Christian Faith Formation 4pm Cross-fit 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	15	16 PULSE items are due 9:30am Weavers Guild 10am OA
17 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons 7:15pm AA	18 10am Grief Support Group 11am Congregational Life 5:15pm Tai Chi 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East at Sacred Heart 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study	19 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	20 11:15am Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA	21 International Day of Peace 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Pulse articles are due on the 16th of each month.</b>  <i>Please mark your calendars.</i> </div>	23 10am OA
24 9:30am Adult Church School 10:30am Worship 7:15pm AA	25 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:30pm AA Men's Book Study 7pm Boy Scouts	26 10:15am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Potluck Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm AI Anon 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance	27 11:15am Tai Chi 6pm SOS Men's AA	28 10:15am Yoga 4pm Cross-fit 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:15pm AA 7:30pm Choir	29 3pm Membership Committee	30 9am Pet Partners 10am OA