

THE PULSE

In my last two newsletter articles, I have responded to some of the recent events in the news. Events that have moved many to tears, and prompted many to reflection – the shooting in Orlando, the deaths of several African American men at the hands of police officers, and the shootings of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge. As I noted, it can be hard to absorb and process so much negative news, and difficult to know how to respond to so much violence and loss.

Even before those events, a member of a local clergy group I have been attending had already begun pondering a possible response to the negativity that seems to permeate the news. The Rev. Sharon Benton, of First Congregational Church, emailed the group expressing her concern about the current environment and the rhetoric that seems to focus on the negative aspects of our lives, much of which stems from growing hatred and racism. She asked if there might be some collaborative way that faith communities could offer an alternative, more positive message, and possibly change the conversation. How, she asked, can we work together to spread the message of love and grace?

After discussion at a couple gatherings of the clergy group, the “Let Love Be Our Legacy” campaign was born. A smaller task force developed the ideas that emerged. Then, working with a local graphic artist who volunteered his time, they finalized the concept. The result is the logo you see on this page. A banner with this logo was carried by members of some faith communities in the Bellingham Pride Parade and the Ferndale Pioneer Jr. Parade.

The official launch of the campaign is September 11, the Sunday when most congregations kick off their program year. The Session of St. James voted to purchase two yard signs for the church to express our support for the positive message of love and grace. That day there will also be some buttons and bumper

stickers available for purchase here and at a number of other congregations across Whatcom County.

A fundamental affirmation of our faith is that love is stronger than hate. *Love wins*. We want to counter the negativity, hatred and divisiveness that have become so prevalent in our culture with a message of love and hope and grace. Perhaps it will prompt some reflection and help change the conversation.



Let Love Be
Our Legacy

We are all in this together
— Whatcom faith communities

In love and with hope,
Pastor Janet

PULSE

NOTES FROM SESSION - SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2016

Discussed:

The overall the budget and expenses are on track.

The church picnic will be at the church next year.

The Deacons requested the number of deacons be increased from 11 to 13.

Outdoor lighting is 90% complete. Signage is at the final stages with the sign company. The tower has been sealed for winter. The landscaping from the planter south to the corner has been scheduled.

Increased security is being implemented for the building, as an unwelcome intruder has been reported to the police. Members are encouraged to report any unusual activities immediately or call 911 if the situation warrants it.

The Sunday School Kick-off will be Sunday, September 11, 2016 and will include giving Bibles to the children during worship. The Adult program starts its regular classes on September 4, 2016.

We are advertising for a second person to provide child care.

The CFF committee would like to install a bench or two and a free library for parents and children and for people walking by. Memorials and donations could cover costs.

The Stewardship Kick-off Luncheon "Celebrating our Strengths," is Sunday, September 25th.

Disbursements have been for Mission and Social Action as follows: \$700 - Maple Alley Inn for kitchen improvements, \$500 each - Lighthouse Mission, Interfaith Coalition and Bellingham Food Bank.

The Food Bank shopping cart will be for single-serve items. Egg cartons can still be placed on the bottom of the cart.

The WPJC clothing drive to benefit Syrian Refugees was on August 20, 2016. Jan and Bill and other volunteers covered the hours here between 7:30am and 2:30pm.

The Nominating Committee: 3 deacons and 2 session members will be needed for 3 year terms, 1 session member for a two year term and 1 session member for a one-year term.

The Power Church license will be moved to a computer requested by Marina McLeod, Treasurer.

Decided:

An updated Expense Reimbursement Procedure will be adopted.

We will reimburse commissioners the difference between what the Presbytery provides for the commissioner and what they pay for pastors and there will be no reimbursement for single room payment. (Presbytery fully covers double room occupancy).

Pastor Janet's study leave request is from September 26 - October 9, 2016 inclusive.

Saint James will be part of the *joint witness about* divisive issues in community and society related to hate, race and immigrants. "Let Love be our Legacy" is the campaign slogan. We will place one yard sign for the front and one in back. We will have 12 buttons and 12 bumper stickers available for members.

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SEPTEMBER 2016

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GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE,

Your PNC has continued to meet weekly to review and discuss the many resume/Personal Information Forms we have received. After 2 rounds of matches through the Presbytery and several individual applications we have gone through over 60 PIFs. We are currently narrowing down our list of applicants to 12-15 for the next stage. In the next stage the applicants will receive an in depth questionnaire that the PNC created. We will narrow that group down to 6-8 candidates. As usual, if you have any questions regarding the process or how things are going please don't hesitate to ask one of us!

Don Hoyt, Jeanne Uhles, Jenny Sue LeSchander, Tim Crandall, and Tracy Caruso

FOOD SHOPPING CART

A huge thank you to all of you who have so generously brought food for the food bank shopping cart over the past several years!

In the future, we ask that you consider monetary gifts to the Food Bank since money used by the Food Bank is able to secure much larger quantities per dollar than food purchased by individuals.

NW Youth Services has an ongoing need for single serve food items for drop-in street youth. We hope to regularly fill our food shopping cart with items that can be easily prepared and consumed by these vulnerable and hungry young people.

Suggestions: Tuna, Peanut Butter, Beef Jerky, Cup of Soup, Canned Soup, Canned Spaghetti, Energy Bars, Nuts, Juice, Fruit Cups.

Please continue to place egg cartons on the bottom shelf of the cart and they will be taken to the Food Bank. Need more suggestions? Contact Gretchen Pfueller (360-734-3953)

JULY FINANCIAL STATUS

	July	Current Budget	Yr. to Date	Yr. to date Budget
Income	\$18,810	\$17,871	\$138,340	\$134,990
Expenses	\$15,301	\$16,236	\$121,014	\$134,246

Finance Committee, Dick Carr, Chair

Stewardship Campaign

Mark September 25 on your calendar, and plan to enjoy a light lunch celebrating the **Kickoff of our Stewardship Campaign!** This will take place downstairs right after the morning church service. Our campaign theme this year is "Celebrating our Strengths". We will provide information on both financial and time and talent support needed -- both necessary elements to the future of our church. As we are looking forward to our next pastor joining us, this campaign has special meaning for our membership and visitors. We look forward to seeing you at this kickoff event!

Stewardship Committee: Martha Speer, Peter Burkland, Dave Armstrong, Pastor Janet Sonnanburg, Marina McLeod, Dick Carr, Chair.

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PULSE

LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP HOMELESS CHILDREN

According to school district figures, approximately one of every 32 Whatcom County students experienced homelessness during the 2014-15 school year. **These children, our neighbors, do not know where they will sleep on any given night.** There is a way we can help.



On **Thursday, September 15**, at **7:00pm**, Interfaith Coalition is sponsoring a community meeting about Family Promise to discuss how congregations are exploring networking together to provide overnight accommodations and meals for homeless families. Active in over 200 communities nationwide, including Skagit County, Family Promise is a successful and creative way to harness the strengths of congregations and serve our children and parents in need.

The meeting will be held at **Assumption Catholic Church Gym, 2116, Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham**. Please come to this meeting to hear about ways to get involved in this important ministry.

Laura Harker, *Executive Director Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County*

KICK OFF

St. James children kick off a new year of Sunday school studies by being presented with age-appropriate bibles during the Pastor's Time with Children Sunday, Sept. 11.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children's class will focus on the creation during September, with Ocean Sunday on the fourth; Fauna and Flora Sunday on the eleventh; Storm Sunday on September 18; and Cosmos Sunday on September 25. Lessons will touch on, Job, Psalms, and Proverbs, and ranging from God's wisdom and justice in creation to the artistry of God's creation. Children will explore these themes and stories through music, art and other hands-on experiences.



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION KICKS OFF

St. James Women's Association kicks off a new year of study on Tuesday, September 27, at 10:30am, followed by a potluck salad luncheon at noon. **The Presbyterian Women's Horizon book study, *Who Is Jesus?*** was written by Judy Yates Siker. The first lesson focuses on the Gospel of Mark, with key scripture Mark 8:27-33. The key idea is that Jesus is not the messiah people expected, but he is indeed God's son. Lesson books are provided.



We express our heartfelt sympathy to Marilyn Madden on the death of her husband, the Rev. Richard Madden, on Friday, August 19. Service plans are pending.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

"All who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves." (1 Cor. 11:29)



The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (1 Cor. 11:21). This is scandalous behavior opposed to the Way of Christ. Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.

A Presbyterian Gift

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

John A. Dalles, a PCUSA pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday notes this in his blog entry, reprinted from the October 7, 2002, issue of *Presbyterian Outlook*:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first

conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sunday spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied, "The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

WORLD PEACE POETS BELLINGHAM: Read-In! Write-On!



Saturday, Sept 24, 2016 Program Starts 5 P.M.

You are invited to a FREE and public event
Poets, writers, and musicians
are gathering to support peace
through words and song.



LIVE Music, Soup and Bread Supper Served.

Location:

910 - 14th Street
South Hill Neighborhood
St. James Presbyterian Church
Bellingham, WA

OPEN MIC SIGN UP AT:

worldpeacepoets@gmail.com

Partners for Peace:

Chuckanut Sandstone Writers Theater ~ Creekside Open Mic
Saint James Presbyterian Church ~ TALA (Teaching and Learning Arts)
Village Books Poetry Group

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT STUDY CLASS

On September 4, the adult Sunday morning study class will begin the fall session of the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum at 9:00am in the Lounge. If you have not attended before, we encourage you to come. The discussions are great and we have coffee and goodies too. If you have attended before, please know that you will be warmly welcomed back. You may pick up the background materials for this session in the Lounge. Call Faye Hill at 360-734-8098 if you have questions.



SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in September, our Thursday morning Bible Study will meet instead on Wednesdays – still at 10:00am in the Lounge. On **September 7** we will begin a study of the Book of Genesis, which contains many of the foundational stories of our faith. We will consider the creation narratives (yes, there are two), the account of the flood, the call of Abraham and Sarah, the story of Joseph, and more. Some of Scripture's most colorful accounts are found in Genesis. We invite you to join us in discovering what these stories have to teach us.

BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY CHORUS

The Bellingham Community Chorus is a non-audition community group open to all. Prior music knowledge or experience is accepted, but not necessary. The BCC is non-profit and not affiliated with any political, educational, or religious organization. We only ask that you do your best to practice, perform and grow with us musically and to give back to the community with our gift of song.

Rehearsals begin in September 2016. Sneak Peak at our Fall Season on September 6th, at Moles Farewell Tributes on Lakeway, 7:00pm-9:00pm

PULSE

FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR CAROLYN MULLEN

Our worship includes many elements; Holy Scripture, the Word proclaimed in a Sermon, Holy Communion, spoken liturgies, congregational hymns and instrumental music. All have a place in creating a worship experience intended to glorify God, bring us closer to God, and send us out to witness in the name of Christ. I'd like to explain a bit about the instrumental musical expressions we use here at St. James.

The Prelude, played for 10 minutes before Worship begins, is intended to create an atmosphere of worship. When the members of the church gather, their thoughts are often far from unified in an attitude of worship. This is a time for quiet reflection, allowing the beauty of the music to inspire an emotional unity which is conducive to spiritual unity and the spirit of worship.

This fall you will see Melany and me entering the sanctuary just before 10:20am, with the Ushers closing the side doors at this same time. Everyone

does not need to enter the sanctuary this early, but we hope to create a quiet, reflective space in the sanctuary for those who so desire. Pastor Janet and the Lector will enter at 10:25am – which is your signal to enter as well if you have not already done so.

The Offertory is another time for contemplative worship. As the offering plates are passed, we hope the music will inspire an attitude of prayerful reflection, as we prepare to hear the Word.

The Postlude is intended to be the bridge which takes us from communal worship back into the routines of daily life with a renewed resolve to do so in the service of God. We at St. James are quite joyous while exchanging the Peace at the close of worship, which is wonderful, part of the love we share. Just remember to keep an ear toward Melany's carefully chosen and prepared Postlude music, and be inspired.

(inspired: "spirit filled")



TIME FOR SINGING AND RINGING!

Chancel Choir rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 7:30pm.

Bell Choir rehearsals begin September 1, at 6:30pm in the Horizon Room.

New singers and ringers are always welcome, regardless of experience.

If you're age 12 to 112, we'd love to have you join us.
Questions? Please call Music Director Carolyn Mullen at 360-595-0934

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

O Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be love, as to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be love, as to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

O Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be love, as to love, with all my soul.

The Saint James
Arts, Crafts & Gifts Faire
Featuring the St. James Bakery
Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016, 9:30am to 3pm



What's new:

> We still have a few vendor spaces available, so if you know an artist or crafty person we should be talking to, contact Alice Beaty at 733-3371.

> Ticket sales for the quilt raffle will begin in mid-September. Once again our talented St. James quilters have created a beautiful queen-size quilt to be raffled at the event.

How you can help:

> Plan what you would like to bake for our
"St. James Bakery".



> We need volunteers to make signs, manage the gift raffle, be greeters, set up, clean up, help during the sale, and more. Watch for a sign up in your Sunday bulletin.

> Faire information postcards will be available in the Horizon Room to give to friends, post on bulletin boards, and place where you know they will be seen and appreciated.



All monies raised at the Faire
are given to local children's and women's charities.
Last year we raised \$2,800 to support our
community. With your help we can increase that
this year.

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St. James Presbyterian Church

910 - 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

www.saintjamespres.org

office@saintjamespres.org

360-733-1325

Office Hours: Tue-Fri, 9am-2pm

Children's Ministry: Merry Thomas, Coordinator

Zadra Nolan, Teacher

Clerk of Session: Carla Shafer

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Janet Sonnanburg

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