

The Pulse

SEPTEMBER

THE SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Trusting Times of Transition by Erv Roorda

Life is filled with periods of transition, change and uncertainty. That is true for all of us in our personal lives, and certainly a common experience for congregations and churches. The writer of the biblical book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that “for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Members and friends of the Saint James Presbyterian Church of Bellingham are probably feeling that most keenly right now as we move through a transition in pastoral leadership.

In so many experiences of our lives, there is a time for beginning, and a time for ending. With the recent resignation of Pastor Jon Hauerwas and his acceptance of a call to the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Akron, Ohio, this family of God’s people is going through a process of saying goodbye, of letting go of a valued and cherished pastor and his family, and of beginning to make plans for a new chapter in your common life and ministry in this community.

In some denominations, a bishop or district superintendent, or some other person, simply “appoints” the next pastor without much participation or decision making on the part of the local congregation. In other church groups, the local congregation has “free reign” to go out and search for the next pastor quite unilaterally. The Presbyterian Church in the USA is some where in-between those two alternatives.

We entrust considerable authority and responsibility to our “elders,” (the Greek word is ‘presbuteros’) who make up our Sessions and who partner with others from our presbytery to a time of “study and discernment” in selecting the next pastor to lead our local congregations.

In the coming weeks, you will be working closely with our presbytery staff, especially our Executive, Corey Schlosser-Hall, and our Stated Clerk, Dean Strong, who will share their wisdom and experience with you. You will also be guided by the members of the Commission on Ministry (COM) made up of elders and clergy from this geographical area, as well as a designated “liaison” to walk alongside you every step of the way.

The process may include a time when an “interim pastor” serves for some months to assist the Session and the congregation in getting ready for the next chapter. The COM will appoint a new “liaison” to work with you and to give counsel as the Session and eventually a Pastor Nominating Committee do the necessary search for new leadership.

Let me encourage all of you to wrap your love, support and prayers around all of the people who will be involved in this process. Be patient with your church leaders and one another in the coming weeks and months. The Spirit of God is alive and well in this time of transition.

Grace and peace,

Erv Roorda (your former “liaison”)

Christian Vocation – Does it follow one into retirement? Is it still a viable concept?



Growing up as a Presbyterian, I was instructed to think in terms of my Christian vocation. Not everyone was expected to become a minister of the Word, or to be a full time missionary, but we were all invited to respond to God's grace, respond to our belief in God and Christ and let the Holy Spirit guide us in whatever work we found to do. I found a website at PCUSA <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/gods-work-our-hands-employment-community/> that says it like this: "We are called to respond to the grace of God offered in the gospel of Jesus Christ by joining in the life of the covenant[al] community. Second [is] the call to express one's response in doing one's daily work, whatever it [is], in terms of covenant life." This was written 20 years ago, and I'm surprised it hasn't been the on-going conversation of the church, because I have been able to hold the concept in my heart and life since I was twelve when I decided to become a teacher to serve others and help them achieve all they could in their lives.

I only taught three years, but I continued to work in education and community organizing with a sense of "Call," and with a sense that God has been with me and paving the way. I think this is a common experi-

ence among Presbyterians and Christians. When the Jehovah's Witness couple came to my door last Friday morning, I was reminded that I grew up with a sense of Call for every day witness, where I was not on the streets going from door to door, and I was grateful. At church I learned that we each do what we can do within our understanding of our skills and abilities. I have had a great working life. Every step has provided amazing opportunities to work among the poor, disadvantaged, inner-city African-Americans, American Indians, Latinos and farmworkers and to do what I could as a white woman of privilege to make the world a better place. I am so grateful.

However, my recent retirement on April 28, 2015, causes me to reassess the meaning of my life. It was clear while I was working that I could carry out my Christian vocation, but what am I to do as a retired person? I have no real work anymore. I am so fortunate to collect social security and be free from a job every day. Wow! I knew this time was coming, but hadn't given a thought to how much my sense of Christian vocation would be essentially undone.

I have many interests (too many, really), a grandson, and time to take care of myself. I am almost overwhelmed with a sense of blessing. Yes, there are bills, taxes, housework and other menial, time-consuming jobs, but even here I believe I can "let the Holy Spirit guide [me] in whatever [work] I find to do." Should I keep my house, or live more simply? I love my vegetable garden, should I make it a bigger part of my life? (All that canning and freezing???)

I look at each of you and how you use and share your gifts, and I see wonderful models of the Christian "vocation" benefitting the church, the community and families. I just wonder how I can apply this concept to the choices I make today, now that the lack of work leaves me free from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. I see that I can seek new ways to experience God in my life and live a life of witness. Or, I can just fill up each day and hope for the best. What a challenge!

Submitted by Carla Shafer

Session Highlights – August 9, 2015

Discussed: Vision-Mission-Strategic Planning – 2015 – 2020 - We reaffirmed our commitment to conduct a phone or personal survey among a random sample of older members (60-99) with a few questions, such as: 1) What are your favorite 3 things about St. James? 2) What are the primary wants, needs or opportunities that St. James provides to you? 3) If you could add one thing to your life in connection with St. James what might it be? 4) And what would be a good time for this to be scheduled? These survey questions are available to anyone who would like to respond and responses may be left in the mailbox of the Clerk of Session.

Jon thanked the Session members for working together as colleagues and highlighted our accomplishments. He mentioned some work ahead, such as: Is St. James' mission youth and families or one of caring for elders? How can we continue to practice respectful dialogue? What clarification do we need on the roles of committees?

Reported: Jon has scheduled guest ministers (a.k.a. Pulpit Supply) through September which were approved. He will complete October's list before he leaves for Ohio. The reverends Cindy Bauleke and April Boyden will be available for pastoral care. Building and Grounds is seeking bids to improve the plantings in the back parking area so it is attractive and less work to care for. Finance committee is working on a letter for the Stewardship drive beginning with a luncheon after church in the fall. The Hauerwas' house was sold for \$354,000 (purchased at \$294,900). The gains will be distributed to the Presbytery, Hauerwas' and St. James at an equal percentage based on their levels of investment. We need a volunteer Facebook "expert," so we can improve our social media presence, which could be much stronger. This person could do entries, but could also provide training to interested members and provide some troubleshooting support.

Decided: Accepted Milt Schayes resignation as a Session member.

Agreed to provide \$50/hour for ministers providing pastoral care for about 8-10 weeks, between now and when the Interim Pastor arrives.

Approved the Director of Children and Youth Ministries job description with the pay rate and hours to be added after conferring with Personnel and Finance committees.

Hands-on Mission Opportunities for St. James saints!

Community Meals

Every month from September through May, Our Savior's Lutheran Church provides community meals (primarily serving the low income people of Happy Valley) and volunteers are needed. The Mission and Social Action Committee will be helping to coordinate with our folks to cook a meal this fall, or regularly help with serving and cleaning up. If this is a mission that calls you, please let Carla know and we will move forward to join with the Lutherans in community service. Carla is at chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com or 360-961-2320

Habitat for Humanity

It's not all about building houses. There is work for unskilled teams as well. Site clean-up, painting and other small jobs. If we can form a team (2 or more) of helpers, Habitat can give us job options and a time and a day. Please let Carla know and you will be contacted with more information. Carla is at chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com or 360-961-2320

If you know of other volunteer opportunities where we can serve people in need, let the mission committee know. Others are asking, "What can I do to help." Let's work together.

The next Mission – Social Action committee meeting is September 5 at 5:30 PM. It's open to everyone. The regular meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month.

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Save the Date – September 27

The Stewardship Lunch, “Planting Seeds for St. James’ Future”, will be September 27 following worship.

Please plan on being here.

Finance Committee

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September Birthdays

3	Colin Jackson
6	Margaret McVie
8	Amanda Jones
16	Linda Landis
17	Dave Nelson
18	Ann Lary
20	Samantha Margaret Danielson
21	Margaret Landis
21	Nick Keefe
23	Twyla Bader
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

Financial Status for July 2015

	July 2015	Year to Date	Budget
Income	\$17,583.00	\$132,060.00	\$136,704.50
Expenses	\$15,053.08	\$126,477.90	\$141,560.76

Evening Women’s Bible Study

In order to make the 2015-2016 *Horizons* Bible study available to as many women as possible a new evening study will begin in September. This year’s study is ***Come to the Waters***, focusing on scripture text to tell the story of faith through water stories from Genesis to Revelation. Visit www.pcusa.org/horizons for more information about the study.

The organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16 at 7pm. If you are interested but cannot attend the September 16 meeting contact Alice Beaty at 733-3371 or alice_beaty@msn.com.

Time for Dinners for Eight

Sign up now for the fall Dinners for Eight. Dinners for Eight are a onetime dinner with 7-10 people brought together for the evening. Each participant brings part of the dinner to the volunteer host’s home. It is a wonderful way to meet others in the congregation. The signup sheet will be in the Horizon Room.

No More Breakfast Fellowship

Please note that the Sunday Morning Breakfast Fellowship will not take place this year. After several years of enjoyment, the cooks are taking a break. Thank you for your support in the past.

Happy
Labor Day
Weekend

Monday, September 7th

Presbyterian Women of St. James

Bible Study – Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 29th! The new year of Horizon's Bible study will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Lounge.

This year's study is *Come to the Waters*. Each of the lessons in this study includes one or more Bible passages that deal with water; each also focuses on a primary theological theme or issue. In this study we will explore some of the Bible's more than 800 references to water, including the deliverer of God's people through the parting of the Red Sea and the crossing of the Jordan River, the judgment of a people weak in faith, and the adoption of the people of God through baptism.



September Luncheon - We will be having a salad potluck luncheon at noon in the Horizon Room. Following lunch we will have the installation of a new Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Dorothy Herrmann

November 10, 1920 - June 1, 2015

At our luncheon in July we remembered Dorothy Herrmann who passed away June 1, 2015. Dorothy was very active with St. James and earlier at Birchwood Presbyterian Church. She led bible study classes and was the secretary of our Women's Association here at St. James and made sure birthday cards were sent to all our ladies. We could always rely on her helping out at the church rummage sales.

We are grateful to Marion Dobbie who furnished us with a little bit of her history as follows:

Dorothy was born in Manila, Philippines where her father worked for the U.S. government. She and her husband Bob, moved to Lake Padden Estates about 15 or 16 years ago after his retirement. They have one son and a daughter-in-law living here in the county. Shortly after they moved to Bellingham, Bob became ill and they were never able to realize some of their dreams of traveling around the country and the world like they had planned. She told everyone she met after that not to put off your dreams because you never know what the future will bring. In spite of this setback, and even after her own health began to fail, Dorothy maintained an optimistic outlook on life. She had a very cheerful disposition, sense of humor and upbeat personality which was inspiring to everyone who met her.

Kickoff on Sunday, Sept. 6!

Be sure to tune in to the latest study groups for all ages. The adult class, led by veteran teacher Faye Hill, will begin a new Seasons of the Spirit curriculum. A study guide steers the group over the sometimes bumpy paths toward understanding the Bible.

Children's ministries (preschool through early elementary grades) also uses a Seasons of the Spirit curriculum -- this year with a difference. The class will be adding Godly Play, a learning format based on Montessori methods. The first lesson will introduce children to the special way the church tells time: A Year in the Church.

The Christian Faith Formation Committee in partnership with the Personnel Committee hopes to hire a Director of Children's and Youth Ministries soon. The cornerstone of this position will be to minister to and teach the youth of Saint James.

Submitted by Merry Thomas, CCF Chair

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Cliff Nelson

Saint James member Cliff Nelson died in August. He was raised in a devout family of Missouri Synod Lutherans (conservative). A great-uncle of his was a Missouri Synod Lutheran minister. He had a rough childhood and a rough life. He was an epileptic and was ostracized for this throughout his life. In Thousand Oaks, California, he walked everywhere because he couldn't drive. He always had long hair and a long beard. Many assumed that he was a homeless Vietnam Veteran and he was an oddity there. He was interviewed by the local paper. While walking, he was once given a turkey at Thanksgiving by someone who assumed that he was homeless.

Due to his epilepsy and numerous other health concerns, Cliff's life was limited. For a time, he was employed as a machinist. But, as his skills diminished, he turned to ware housing work. His last employer kept him on the payroll at a meager wage for 5 or 6 years after his ability to contribute in the work force.

Cliff never had a romantic relationship, but volunteered with braille interpretation, on nature trails, on stage productions, and with shut-ins.

Cliff never asked people to pity him. His wardrobe came from dumpster diving. If his brother bought him

a new coat, he would say, "I already have one." Cliff was a man of simple tastes and desires. He never said that he wanted something. Cliff was also fiercely independent, despite his limitations. He didn't want to take advice or help, which sometimes resulted in poor decision-making, especially given his impulsivity.

Cliff was extremely well read and was well versed in classical music. His retention of books was astounding. He may have had OCD and bi-polar, neither of which were ever formally diagnosed or treated. He was politically active.

Cliff loved the L.A. Dodgers and the L.A. Lakers. He had season tickets for the Dodgers and was often featured on the jumbotron as the fanatic with a long beard and long hair firing up the crowd. People were laughing with him in those moments, but he did not have the emotional ability to know when people were really laughing at him, which happened often during his life.

Ray and Cliff spoke infrequently for about 40 years. Cliff eventually came to Bellingham because he was sick and needed Ray's help. The two ultimately became close. The support of those from church was a very important part of his life.

Emma Earlywine Conlee died on August 9, 2015. She was 93. She was born in Bellingham on November 6, 1921, to Ben Handway Earlywine and Gertrude Hjaltalin Earlywine. She graduated from Bellingham High School in 1940, attended Western Washington University, and later returned to complete her undergraduate degree in 1957. She was a teacher, mostly of third grade, in the Bellingham Public Schools for nearly 40 years. She is survived by her daughter Carol Conlee Caughey (Donald) of Portland, OR, a granddaughter Elin Caughey Sanders (Matthew) of Portland, a grandson Reed Conlee Caughey of Portland, and two great-grandchildren Louie Reed Sanders and Emma Lin Sanders. Throughout her lifetime, she was active in community organizations in Bellingham, including American Association of University Women, Whatcom Museum, St. James Presbyterian Church, Great Decisions, Whatcom County Democrats, League of Women Voters, and Whatcom County School Retirees Association. Education was always a passion for Emma, and hearing from the recipients of scholarships she established at two universities meant a great deal to her. She loved music, and she attended concerts of the Vancouver Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Whatcom Symphony, Bellingham Chamber Music Society, and the Seattle Opera, among others. A celebration of her life will be held at the Fellowship Hall of St. James Presbyterian Church in Bellingham on Saturday, September 19, at 4:00 pm. Please leave comments on the the e-Guest Book: <http://www.anewtradition.com/obituaries/obituary/11837> Emma Earlywine Conlee In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Emma Conlee Scholarship at Western Washington University Foundation, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

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SEPTEMBER 2015

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The Congregational Life Committee invites you to a St. James Congregational Apple Cider-making Day Saturday, September 19, 2015

Potluck Lunch @ Noon Cider-making through the afternoon

Jim & Carolyn Mullen's farm, 3265 Camp 2 Rd., Sedro Woolley (Alger)
Call us at 595-0934 for directions and info.



What to bring: Apples! (see note below)
Strong arms to turn the cider crank
Good food for the luncheon potluck
Clean, empty bottles and containers for cider.
Wear casual clothes and hiking shoes to walk the trails.

We'll provide: Table service and beverages.

Please note: You do not have to bring apples. We will certainly have plenty for everyone to have a taste of cider. Just join us for a fun afternoon!

Note about apples: If you pick up apples off the ground, please wash them thoroughly to keep our cider anti-bacterial and safe. We will wash them again and cut out bruises/bugs(!) just before pressing. If your apples get ready before the 20th, just store them in a box in a cool place. They'll just get sweeter and make better cider.



From Music Director Carolyn Mullen

Time for Singing and Ringing!

Chancel Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, September 3 at 7:30pm in the Choir Loft.

Bell Choir rehearsals also begin September 3, 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 595-0934

Pastoral Care and Grief Support Group

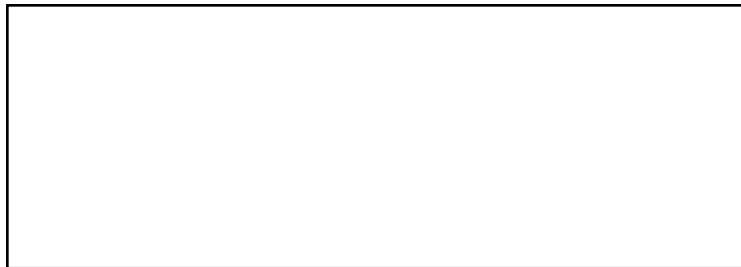
Please contact Cindy Bauleke at 360-303-1941 or cindybauleke@gmail.com for any pastoral care needs. Cindy will be on vacation from September 10-22, but please feel free to contact her anytime after the 22nd. The **Grief Support** group meets bi-weekly at 10am on Monday mornings. The next meeting will be **August 31, in the Lounge**.

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St. James Presbyterian Church

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www.saintjamespres.org
office@saintjamespres.org
360-733-1325

Ministers: The Congregation

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

International Day of Peace
Monday, September 21



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

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
You may reach Pastor Jon after 2pm
at 360-510-1750
email: jon@saintjamespres.org