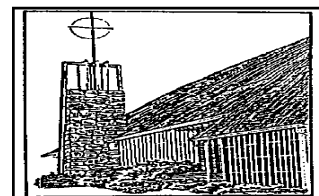


The Pulse



Volume 36, Issue 8
September 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Happy end of summer! I hope you have all been able to enjoy the beautiful sunny days we have had recently.

A seminary professor writes about the following question posed to him by a student.

“How do you get to Chartres Cathedral from Paris?” the student asked.

“Well, you simply head south,” I replied. “It’s well marked all the way. Just head due south, as I recall.”

“How do you get from Jesus to the Chartres Cathedral?” he persisted. “How do you get from a guy who didn’t write a book, never formed an organization, never built a building, to something that huge, glorious, and grand?”

It is an interesting question. I’m not sure it has one pat answer, either. In so many words, it is a question that I have pondered several different times over the last few months.

It is a question that was a sub-theme for our travels in Turkey and Greece last May. We wandered through ruins that had once been part of cities where early Christianity had met some “growth points.” Ancient churches reflected a growing sense of awe and grandeur as Christianity became more and more established, especially Holy Sophia in Istanbul. But these ruins also told tales of struggle, even persecution and repression of Christianity. One of the sites we visited in Turkey was Iznik, the location of ancient Nicaea. The First Ecumenical Council met here, and we walked through the ruins of the old church that had hosted the Seventh Ecumenical Council. These councils helped a new and growing faith shape its belief and identity. The most famous result of the First council is the Nicene Creed, which announces to a wondering world the unique nature of Jesus Christ. Yet a generation after that First council, the Church continued to debate the conclusions of that council. Doesn’t that sound like Presbyterians wrestling through a General Assembly, revisiting decisions again and again?

I thought of these things as I sat through the General Assem-

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>September Calendar</i>	4
<i>September Worship Schedule</i>	5
<i>Offering Update</i>	5
<i>Church Family News</i>	6
<i>Christian Education</i>	7
<i>Youth News</i>	8
<i>Women’s Association</i>	9

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

Would you like to explore membership in St. James Presbyterian Church?

A New Members Orientation will be held on Sunday, September 12 at 4:00 p.m.

There will be an opportunity following the orientation to meet with the Session to request membership.

It couldn’t be any easier! Childcare is available upon request.

Questions? Need more information?

Call the church office at 733-1325, or talk with Pastor Mary.

St James Presbyterian Church
910 14th Street ~ Bellingham, Washington 98225
phone: (360)733-1325 fax: (360)733-1664
e-mail: stjpres@msn.com

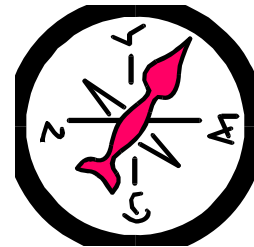
(Continued from page 1)

bly meeting last June in Richmond, Virginia. As I watched our Church slowly yet deliberately consider the work of Jesus Christ through Presbyterianism, I wondered, "What would Jesus do if he sat here next to me as a commissioner? Perhaps he who, to our knowledge, never wrote anything would get lost in the stacks of reports and recommendations!"

Yet I also recalled how it was that deliberative and reflective process that is credited by some scholars with being the reason that Christianity outlasted the popular mystery religions of the early centuries. Antonia Tripolitis writes of Mithraism: "Mithraism's remarkable ability to adapt to any environment in which it found itself, in the long run, proved to be damaging.... This caused it to lose its strength, definiteness, and cohesion. Finally, Mithraism did not have an established clerical hierarchy or a professional clergy, nor a developed organizational structure.... There is no evidence of a central organization or an established set of common rules, important factors in the survival of Judaism and Christianity even as minorities in a hostile environment."

The Church of Jesus Christ sometimes offends, sometimes comforts, sometimes hosts disagreements, sometimes hosts reconciliations. It is not always an easy place to be. It certainly does not sit still, and it does not let the status quo or popularity contests guide its purpose. It does not become solely the meetings, the institution, or the church buildings that it includes. It follows the way of Jesus Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit. May we faithfully follow, so that future generations will also have the gift of the Church available to them.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary



**COLLEGE BREAKFAST
& BIBLE STUDY**

Watch the next issue of the Pulse Newsletter for information about meeting times for the College Breakfast and Bible Study.



The class will begin again in October, after WWU resumes classes.

**ST. JAMES PRAYER
CHAIN/
E-MAIL TEAM**

If you have a prayer request for the St. James Prayer Chain/E-mail Team

call Linda Monroe at
360-671-6594
or e-mail her at
Lidale@aol.com



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE TRIP TO TURKEY AND GREECE?

No? Then come join us on **Friday, September 11 at 6 p.m.!** Prime Timers invites the entire congregation to their September potluck dinner. The program will be presented by the St. James travelers to Turkey and Greece. Peter Burkland, Randy Mohr, and Claude Robinson have been working on an audio-visual presentation for that night, and have even kept it to about twenty minutes! Displays and stories will also be featured by those who were part of the "Walking the Paths Where Faith First Flourished" study tour. Mark your calendar now, and be a part of this evening of good food, fellowship, and fun!



THANK YOU, NICK; WELCOME MEGAN!

Nick Stampfli has done a wonderful job with our Youth Groups over the last two years. He leaves us now to pursue law school at Seattle University. Our thanks to Nick for the nurture, training, intelligence, and care he has given to our youth in their formative years. Nick has been a wonderful friend and mentor to them all. Thank you, Nick!

How delighted we are that Nick's sister, Megan Stampfli, will join our staff as our new Youth Director! Megan is a junior at WWU, and is considering a major in Community Health with a Spanish Minor. She has worked as a camp counselor at Buck Creek Camp, leading activities for elementary through high school campers. Megan has also worked as a Resident Advisor in the Fairhaven Residence Hall at WWU, responsible for ensuring the well being of forty residents. These are just a few of the many things Megan has done in leadership and church work. Her brother and outgoing Youth Director, Nick Stampfli, says, "Megan will be much better than me. She has lots of experience working with youth!" Since Nick was so outstanding, we look forward to the abilities, vision, and Christian love that Megan brings to our youth programs. Please introduce yourself to Megan, and give her a warm welcome to Saint James!

PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The monthly prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East continues on the 18th day of each month at 5:30 p.m. The next prayer vigil will be

Saturday

September 18

at

**First
Presbyterian
Church**

**1031 N. Garden
734-5510**



**Come and join us in
this important time of
prayer.**

St. James Events Calendar

September

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Every Sunday (beginning Sept. 12): 9:00 am Adult class 10:30 am Worship 10:45 am Church School for children 12:30 pm Korean worship 7:00 pm AA		1 7 pm AA Men	2 7 pm Christian Ed. comm. 7:30 pm AA	3	4 10 am OA	
5 10 am Worship ~ Communion	6 Labor Day	7 6:30 am Prayer Group 5 pm Stewardship 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm Gender Group 7 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Personnel	8 <i>Pulse</i> items due 5 pm Mission & Soc. Action 5:30 pm Weaver's Guild 7 pm AA Men	9 2 pm Membership 5 pm Worship comm. 6:30 pm Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 pm AA	10 6 pm Prime Timers potluck & Turkey/Greece program	11 9 am Church Work Party 10 am OA
12 11:45 am Deacons 4 pm New Members Class 6 pm Session	13 12:45 pm Cub Scouts	14 Election Day 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm Gender Group 7 pm Girl Scouts	15 6 pm Wednesday Night Study begins 7 pm AA Men	16 10 am <i>Pulse</i> crew 4 pm Staff 6:30 pm Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 pm AA	17	18 Presbytery: Friday Harbor 10 am OA 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil: 1st Pres.
19 10:30 am Healing Service	20	21 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm Gender Group	22 7 pm AA Men	23 6:30 pm Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 pm AA	24	25 10 am OA
26	27	28 6:30 am Prayer Group 10:30 am Bible Study 12 pm Women's luncheon 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm Gender Group 7 pm Girl Scouts	29 7 pm AA Men	30 6:30 pm Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 pm AA		

September Worship Schedule

September 5

Communion Sunday

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Luke 14:25-33

“Jesus Gets Real with Disciples”

September 12

Fall schedule resumes;

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Teacher Commissioning

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Luke 15:1-10

“The Judgment and the Joy of God”

September 19

Healing Service

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Luke 16:1-13

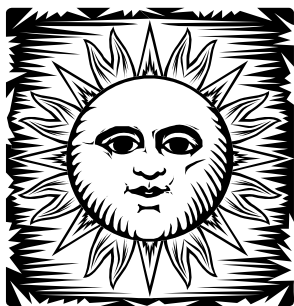
“Better Late Than Never?”

September 26

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Luke 16:19-31

“For Love of Lost Causes”



OFFERING UPDATE

FROM WENDY CRANDALL, TREASURER

Income for 2004 continues to fall short of budgeted amounts. For more information about giving at St. James please call Treasurer Wendy Crandall at the church office (733-1325 extension 22).

As of July 31st:

ACTUAL:

Year to date pledges \$87,993

Non Pledges 5,954

Loose Offerings 1,150

Total actual offerings 95,097

BUDGETED:

Year to date pledges \$97,411

Non Pledges 11,076

Loose Offerings 1,456

Total budgeted offerings 109,943



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL ADVISORS

NAIFA WA – NW INVITES YOU TO PLAY OUR:

6th Annual Charity Golf Classic to benefit

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Friday, September 17, 2004

SHUKSAN GOLF CLUB

Four (4) Person Scramble

9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

\$80 Includes: Carts w/GPS, Snack & Chicken Dinner

PRIZES: KP, SD, Hole ‘n One, Putting Contest
Plus Optional Mulligans and Raffle

Questions?.....Call Keith Wallace
@ (360) 734-1161

FOOD BANK!



**Remember to
bring canned food
each Sunday for our
Food Basket
in the Narthex.**

FAMILY HOLIDAY CAMP ~ TALL TIMBER

September 3 ~ 6 at Tall Timber Camp: Whether a family, single parent, couple or senior, the Family Holiday has something special for you. It is carefully planned to provide a balance of relevant Christian teaching with plenty of recreational opportunities for all ages. Camp will begin Friday evening with a 6:00 pm dinner and will include the traditional 10:30 am brunch on Monday. There will be free time in the afternoons when you can explore the magnificent setting of Tall Timber. There will be worship on Sunday morning, and scheduled blocks of time each day for teaching.

For more information, please visit www.talltimber.org, or see the brochure on the bulletin board in the church hallway.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

⇒ A note from Clo Laird dated June 23, 2004: “No, I haven’t moved, I’m just staying with my Mom (age 84) while my Dad (age 88) is hospitalized recovering from pneumonia and related problems – hope to be back in Bellingham before the summer is over. P.S. I see on the weather channel where the Pacific NW is having a ‘hot’ spell – trust me, I’ve been here (Missouri) since 4-21 and you’ve not had as hot or as humid a day as we’ve had these whole two months. So grin and bear it!”

Please direct Church Family News to Pat Nelson, 738-9982.

CALLING ALL POTENTIAL SINGERS AND RINGERS!

Rehearsals for our St. James musical groups will begin Thursday, Sept. 9

The Bell Choir meets from 6:30 – 7:15pm in the Horizon Room. The Bells are easy to play – if you can lift a 2 lb. bell and count to 6, YOU can ring bells! Plus, the Bell Choir has been known to have pizza parties and other fun events throughout the year. Our Bell Choir will play for worship services once a month Sept. through June.

The Chancel Choir meets from 7:30 – 8:30pm in the Sanctuary. The Choir sings a variety of music for our weekly Worship services.

**We invite all interested folks age 12 - 112 to join with us in merry music making.
Experience is NOT required! Try us out for a week or so; we think you’ll enjoy the experience.
Questions? Please call Music Director Carolyn Mullen at 595-0934.**

HOW TO REACH YOUR PASTOR

The Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr

910 14th St. Bellingham, WA 98225
(360)-733-1325 church (360) 715-3157 home



YOUTH NEWS

FROM NICK STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR (RET.)



It is with both sadness and excitement that I leave my position at St. James. It was an honor for me to serve Christ with you as Youth Director here, and I will have many happy memories and I will miss the many friends that I have met over the years.

Starting August 19, I will be attending Seattle University School of Law. I am looking forward to a period of personal growth and education. Unfortunately, this means that I must leave Bellingham. However, I will always keep St. James and its church family in my thoughts and prayers, and I ask that you would do the same for me.

As always, please feel free to contact me.

My new home address is: 2309 NE 48th St. Apt. 833
Seattle, WA 98105

By phone: (206) 985-8137
Email: gr8nicko@hotmail.com

Keep in touch,
Nick

YOUTH NEWS

FROM MEGAN STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR (INCOMING)



Hello Youth!

I hope you are as excited as I am to kick off the school year. I am thrilled to be your new leader and hope you're ready for an action packed year. I'm planning some awesome events for September, like a lock-in and painting the youth room, as well as regular Sunday night youth group starting up mid-September. Be ready for some great games, fun friends, tasty snacks and intelligent discussions. I have also heard that you all have a lot of ideas of things you want to do this year, so keep me informed of those and I'll try and make it happen. Finally, keep your eyes peeled for more dates and times, and gather up your friends to join us. Hope your summer continues to be great.

Megan Stampfli

A NEW ST. JAMES LIBRARY SERVICE

Beginning in September a BOOK EXCHANGE SHELF will be set up in the hall just outside the library. Feel free to bring books -- children, youth, or adult -- just taking up space at home, but which someone else might find interesting. Then select an "exchange book" from the shelf to take home....the best thing about this is there are no due dates involved!

No books at home to exchange? Browse the shelves anyway!

All materials are free for the taking by anyone.



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Women's Group Bible Study

"Quotable Women in Scripture"

10:30 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month in the Lounge
(before the Women's Luncheon)

September 28th

"God Hears Us Crying and Brings Us Laughter"

Sarah and Hagar will be speaking from the book of Genesis.

Women's Association Luncheon

Sept. 28th

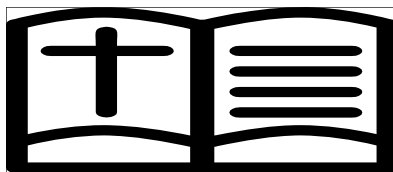
Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share. All women are invited for food, fun and fellowship, last Tuesday of every month at 12 pm!

The monthly all church clean-up landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday will be

**Saturday
September 11
9am - 1pm**

Fall is coming, and so are the rains ~ help us finish summer chores while the good weather holds!

A NEW LOOK AT MARK'S GOSPEL

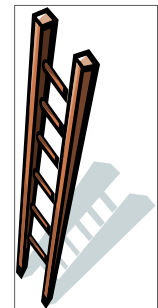


We continue our successful Wednesday night supper and study programs this year with a study of Mark's Gospel that promises to be both challenging and refreshing. We will meet once per month this year, beginning on September 15 at 6 p.m., then meeting on the first Wednesday of each month from October through May. Supper will be provided.

The study will use the book, Say to This Mountain, a team-authored book based on Ched Myers' monumental study of Mark, Binding the Strong Man. Myers has worked with a team of Catholic and Protestant authors who are committed to the work of justice and peace, the renewal of the church, and to Christian discipleship. As they developed this study book, they have shared in the conviction that Mark's story has transforming power only as it intersects with our personal lives and with the broader story of the times in which we live.

Plan to join some of your St. James friends, have a delicious supper, and take a new look at an old favorite, Mark's Gospel, in our new Wednesday night supper and study.

Books and further information will be available ahead of time, in the church office, and also at the Wednesday night gatherings.



Bring your favorite tools, and join us in maintaining our lovely church.



