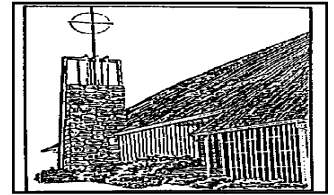


The Pulse



Volume 37, Issue 1
January 2004

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Susannah rolled out of bed at 7 a.m. on a school day recently. "Why is it so dark outside?" she asked, rubbing her eyes and staring out a window. A good question for December and January!

This is definitely the dark time of the year. Almost everyone has commented on it in different meetings and studies this week. People drive to work in the dark, and drive home in the dark. Gloomy mornings and afternoons have everyone dragging a bit more than usual, longing for light and sunshine.

Our Scriptures occasionally use images of light and darkness. I think of two in particular that are especially meaningful to people with waning hope, to people who need encouragement.

Isaiah 9: 2 proclaims, "*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who living in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.*"

John 1:5 relates, "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*"

These verses, and many others, can remind us of the spiritual sustenance that we have when life is shadowy, or indistinct. During the gray days of winter, we can remind ourselves of the contrast used by the writers of our Scriptures, and use this teaching image to remember that our hope is based not on some earthly condition, but on heavenly realities. Even in the midst of gloom, we have a "light" that comes from God.

In addition to that, we can look for the beauty of these dark days! Christmas lights need long evenings to show off their soft yet beautiful light. Stars need darkness to show us their brilliance and wonder. Cold temperatures draw us indoors, to cozy cups of cocoa, and the warmth of friends. It is a time to relish snugly comforters and cushy slippers. This is the perfect season for planning gardens, sorting closets, and getting organized in general. Most of all, it is the season to remember that in all times and places, we belong to God, and our gracious God goes to great lengths to give us fullness of life, without end.

Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mary

JANUARY WORSHIP TOPICS

January 2, 2005:

Communion

The Rev. Richard Madden,
Guest preacher

January 9, 2005:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

"The Business of Baptism"

January 16, 2005:

Healing Service

Ordination and Installation
of Officers

Shower of Stoles Display

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42

"Led by a Lamb, not a
Lion"

January 23, 2005:

Isaiah 9:1-4

Matthew 4:12-23

"Searching and Finding"

January 30, 2005:

Micah 6:1-8

Matthew 5:1-12

"The Future in the Here
and Now"

St James Presbyterian Church

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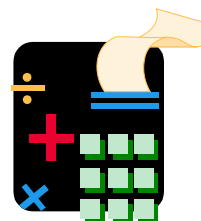
TREASURER'S REPORT

Like many churches in our community, St. James has had a very difficult year, financially speaking. As the following figures indicate, income has fallen short of both budget targets and current expenses. Friends of St. James are asked to prayerfully consider their financial commitment to the mission and ministry of the church. As always, if you have any questions about giving at St. James please contact Wendy Crandall in the church office at 733-1325 ext. 22.

As of December 12th (all figures are year to date):

Offering Income:

Pledge income	\$153,522	Budget amount	\$160,036
Other offerings	\$ 18,810	Budget amount	\$ 27,500



Expenses:

Expenses	\$182,090	Budget amount	\$215,788
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HOW TO REACH YOUR PASTOR

The Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr

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



♦ **The Interfaith Coalition will be sponsoring "Out of the Cold: Severe-Weather Emergency Shelter Program" this winter for the homeless .**

Volunteers are needed for many purposes: to help provide supplies such as blankets, towels, wash cloths, snacks and breakfast items; to help maintain sites and work shifts welcoming people, providing security, and set up food.

Please contact Phyllis Jones for more information, 734-4504.

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



PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The next prayer vigil will be

**Tuesday,
January 18, 5:30 pm**



**First Congregational
Church**

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

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE FROM PETER VAN DER VEEN

- * SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 at noon, light lunch and presentation on CHRISTIAN ZIONISM: Its historical development and impact in the Middle East by Fred and Mary Pneuman from Bellevue. They attended the conference on this topic last April at the Sabeel Center for Christian Liberation Theology in Jerusalem. They will also give a slide presentation on life in the occupied West Bank, which they visited at that time.
- * MONDAY, JANUARY 24 in the evening (details to be announced): "BREAD FOR THE WORLD" A representative of this Christian organization promoting legislation for social justice, reducing poverty, better health care at the national level and around the world will speak at the WWU campus as part of UMHE's lecture series.
- * SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6: SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY: Canned soup and money can be donated in the narthex for the Maple Alley Inn kitchen and the Food Bank.
- * THANK YOU, St. James community, for the \$ 1,503.65 given to the Peacemaking Offering on October 3. The Session approved the allocation of the 25% to be designated by our congregation to the Arab Orthodox Clinic in Jerusalem
- * THANK YOU, St. James community, for the \$ given to Church World Service on Blanket Sunday for its blanket and small tools program around the world.
- * TUESDAY, JANUARY 18 at 5.30 p.m.: Prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East hosted by First Congregational Church.

THE SHOWER OF STOLES PROJECT

Sunday, January 16, St. James will participate in the Shower of Stoles Project. 2 dozen stoles will be on display in the church.

“**The Shower of Stoles** is a collection of hundreds of liturgical stoles from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons from twenty-three denominations in five countries. Each stole contains the story of a GLBT person who is active in the life and leadership of their faith community in some way: minister, elder, deacon, teacher, missionary, musician, administrator or active layperson.



This extraordinary collection celebrates the gifts of GLBT persons who serve God in countless ways, while also lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The collection is displayed in hundreds of locations each year as a witness to the Shower of Stoles mission: **“To end ecclesiastical discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of faith.”** ”

artwork and text from www.showerofstoles.com

St. James Events Calendar

January 2005

S U N

M O N

T U E

W E D

T H U

F R I

S A T

1
10 am O.A.

2
Communion
Dick Madden,
Guest Preacher

3
12:45 Cub
Scouts
6:30 pm Boy
Scouts

4
6:30 am Prayer
Gr.
5:30 pm Al Anon
7 pm Gender Gr.

5
Annual Reports
due!
6:45 pm Wed.
Night Dessert &
Study
7 pm AA Men

6
5 pm Worship
comm.
6:30 pm Bell Ch.
7:30 Chancel Ch.
7:30 AA

7
8
9 am – 1 pm
Church Work
Party
10 am O.A.

9
9 am College
Breakfast &
Bible Study

10
6:30 pm Boy
Scouts

11
6:30 am Prayer
Gr.
5 pm Stewardship
5:30 pm Al Anon
7 pm Personnel
7 pm Gender Gr.

12
5 pm Mission &
Soc. Act. Comm.
7 pm AA Men

13
2 pm Membership
3 pm Staff
6:30 pm Bell Ch.
7:30 Chancel Ch.
7:30 AA

14
6 pm Prime
Timers

15
9 am – 3 pm
Deacon & Elder
meeting
10 am O.A.

16
Healing Service
11:35 am Annual
Congregational
meeting

17
**Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day**
6:30 pm Boy
Scouts

18
6:30am Prayer Gr.
5:30 pm Prayer
Vigil at First
Congregational
5:30 pm Al Anon
7 pm Gender Gr.

19
Pulse items due!
7 pm AA Men

20
6:30 pm Bell Ch.
7:30 Chancel Ch.
7:30 AA

21
6:30 pm Ladies
Night Out

22
9 - 10 am
Saturday
Morning Live
10 am O.A.

23
11:30 am Mission
& Social Action
program:
Christian Zion-
ism

24
6:30 pm Boy
Scouts

25
6:30 am Prayer
Gr.
10:30 Bible Study
12 Women's
luncheon
5:30 pm Al Anon
7 pm Gender Gr.

26
5:30 pm
U.M.H.E.
7 pm AA Men

27
10 am *Pulse* Crew
3 pm Staff
6:30 pm Bell Ch.
7:30 Chancel Ch.
7:30 AA

28

29
10 am O.A.

30

31
6:30 pm Boy
Scouts

Every Sunday

9:00 am Adult class
10:30 am **Worship**
10:45 am Church School for children
12:30 pm Korean worship
4:30 – 6 pm Youth Group
7:00 pm AA

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Women's Group Bible Study
 "Quotable Women in Scripture"
 (before the Women's Luncheon)
 10:30 am January 25

* * *

Women's Association Luncheon

Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share. All women are invited for food, fun and fellowship, at 12 pm!
 January 25

Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504

The St. James Chancel Choir

invites you to join them in singing the



Fauré "Requiem".

Rehearsals will begin Thursday January 27, 8 pm in the Choir loft.

We will perform the Requiem on Good Friday, March 25, at a special 7:30 pm worship service.

Tapes and cd's of the music are available to familiarize yourself with the music.

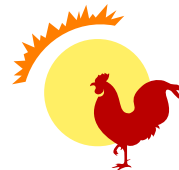
Questions?
 Please contact Music Director Carolyn Mullen at 595-0934 or e-mail to BCCSing4fun@aol.com.

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE AT ST. JAMES!!!

Come join us for a new study and fellowship group meeting over doughnuts and coffee. The Christian Education Committee is excited about this new offering, which will meet one Saturday morning each month, from 9 until 10.

The first topic will be "**Truth and Fiction in the DaVinci Code,**" led by Randy Mohr (the talented and handsome spouse of our pastor – this part added by our pastor!). Come to the church for this fascinating conversation on

January 22 and on February 19.
 See you there!



YOUTH NEWS

BY MEGAN STAMPFLI

Happy New Year! And thank you to everyone who supported our cookie fundraiser last month. This month the youth will be beginning another fundraiser. We will be making and selling sub sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday. Since the Super Bowl will be the first weekend in February we will be taking orders during January. Ordering a sub only costs five dollars and includes a drink and chips. So, keep an eye out for a sub sandwich form in your bulletin. Also this month the youth will have a lock in. It will start on Sunday the 16th at 8:00pm and will end on the 17th at 10:30am. On the 9th, 23rd, and 30th we will have youth group from 4:30 to 6:00. And on the 9th and 23rd we will be having Sunday school during church. Hope you all have a great January!

GOD'S WORLD: SOME FACTS FROM THE MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION COMM.

- The wealthiest 20% of the world consume 86% of all goods and services
- The wealthiest 20% own 87% of all vehicles and consume 84% of all paper
- The 3 wealthiest persons have assets that exceed the combined domestic gross product (GDP) of the 48 least developed countries
- The wealthiest 1% of the world have an income equal to that of 57% of the world population with the lowest income
- The world's 225 richest persons have total assets of 1 trillion \$, equal to the annual income of the poorest 47% of the world's population
- Of 4.4 billion people in the developing countries, 1/3 have no access to safe drinking water, 3/5 have no access to sewers, 1/4 have no access to adequate housing, 1/5 no health service of any kind
- Of every 100 people in the world, 70 are unable to read, 50 are malnourished, 80 live in substandard housing
- In 2050, 8 billion of the world's projected 9.5 billion people will be living in developing countries
- The average African household consumes 20% less than 25 years ago
- Annually 2.2 million people die from indoor pollution: smoke from dung and wood for cooking and heating
- Europeans spend \$ 11 billion per year on ice cream; \$ 2 billion more than additional funds needed to provide basic health care and nutrition around the world
- North Americans consume 260 pounds of meat per year, people of Bangladesh 6.5 pounds
- Americans spend \$ 8 billion a year on cosmetics; the annual additional amount needed to provide basic education around the world is \$ 6 billion per year
- More than 110 million land mines lie scattered in 68 countries, 110 million more are stockpiled, 2000 people are killed or maimed every month; the US is boycotting the land mine treaty implementation conference.
- US expenditures for the Iraq war and occupation are \$ 1.4 million per hour
- 47 million Americans work for less than \$ 10 an hour; the minimum wage today is less than in 1979 corrected for inflation
- 20% of American children live in poverty, 3% of children in the Netherlands
- Of the 100 largest economies of the world, only 49 are countries (the others corporations)
- Currently 700 million people are expected to die from starvation and 500 million children are expected to develop impaired eyesight
- Since 1970, world forests declined from 4.4 square miles per 1000 people to 2.8 square miles.

Church Family News

⇒ From a recent letter from Laura Cheifetz, dated Nov. 15, 2004: "A big thank you [for the monetary gift from St. James]! This will help with everything, especially the Egypt trip. Lately I've been looking forward to the end of classes this semester...and to Egypt and my spring semester... I went to a PC (USA) conference last month in Atlanta (the Racial Ethnic Women's Consultation) to preach at the closing worship... I was invited to preach at next summer's Peacemaking Conference at Ghost Ranch... The Moderator of the PC (USA) came to McCormick for a committee meeting last week, and wanted to hang out with students. Since I'm the Resident Assistant and have a huge apartment, he came over to my place, which he dubbed the Taj Mahal. It was a good conversation – he talked with all of us, and was really honest. All that...to say I'm having fun, enjoying this last year of seminary, and as always, think of you all at St. James often. Love, Laura"

January Birthdays

- 1 Janis Tremaine
- 1 Teresa Bowers
- 2 Jim Casey
- 2 Bob Raudebaugh
- 2 Phil Jones
- 8 Marty Haines
- 9 Dorothy Melland
- 9 Beverly Sherman
- 12 Karen Dolphin
- 13 Nancy Pace
- 13 Megan Stampfli
- 14 John Oakley
- 15 Les Belrose
- 15 Steve Inge
- 15 Karen Summers
- 16 Joan Elsethagen
- 17 Dwayne Rogers
- 18 Genevie Pfueller Roguski



- 20 Wayne Landis
- 21 Peg Wilke
- 21 Holly Swanson
- 22 Michael Hoffman
- 23 Fred McCormick
- 24 Irwin LeCocq
- 26 David Meyer
- 26 Betty Miller
- 26 Marianne Thomas
- 28 Kris Baker-Selvy
- 28 Mark Danielson
- 31 Marlene Amman

January Anniversaries

- 2 Ed Simmers & Jane Madden
- 26 Rex & Ann Lary

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Come to the Annual Meeting of the congregation on

Sunday, January 16

immediately following worship. Business scheduled for this meeting includes review of the Annual Report and review of the terms of the pastor's call for the coming year.



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

For a number of years, members and friends of St. James have contributed to a building endowment fund the income of which is used for maintaining and improving the church building. At its November meeting the St. James session voted to create two new endowments. Income from these perpetual funds will support Christian Education and Music programs, as follows:

Christian Education /Youth Endowment Fund

To provide resources and opportunities for education, enrichment and empowerment for persons in the St. James Presbyterian church community on their faith journey.

Music Endowment Fund

For purchase, replacement and maintenance of musical equipment (i.e. handbell tables, mallets). For purchase of reference materials and large musical works (cantatas, scores) for the music library.

To contribute to any of the three endowment funds, simply mark your check or envelope "Christian Education Endowment", "Music Endowment" or "Building Endowment". For more information about giving at St. James including giving through estate planning, contact Treasurer Wendy Crandall at the office (733-1325 extension 22).

WORSHIP TAPES AVAILABLE FOR LOAN.

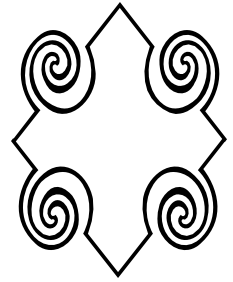
Our morning worship service is audio-taped each Sunday. If you know of anyone who would like a copy of any recent service, please check one out in the church library.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING

Four reserved (handicapped) parking spaces are designated in our front, 14th Street parking area. In addition to these designated spaces, we would like to save all of the 14th Street parking on Sunday mornings during the Worship Service for those who need level access and our first-time visitors. If you have no difficulty climbing stairs, please use the lower parking area or the Lowell playground lot. The Lowell lot is accessed off of Taylor between 14th and 15th. There is a stairway down to 14th at the south end of the area.

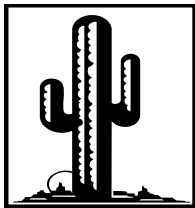
AN INVITATION TO TAKE A BORDERLINKS TRIP

The Christian Education Committee is arranging a study tour that offers a unique face-to-face opportunity to learn from some of our international neighbors. It is available to us through the BorderLinks program.



The primary focus for BorderLinks is to provide participants with the opportunity to meet and talk with people holding differing perspectives and viewpoints on the wide variety of social, economic, faith and political issues at play in the border region. It is based in Tucson, Arizona, and describes its program this way:

“Although we’ll spend some time in the US, much of the time we will be on the Mexican side of the border. Activities there will include tours of maquiladoras and discussions with factory managers, meetings with workers and families in their communities, and talks with activists and organizers who are working to bring about social change. You may spend one or more nights in a homestay with a family in a Mexican community.”



Interested? Please contact Jan Resick or Renée Meyer through the church office, 733-1325.

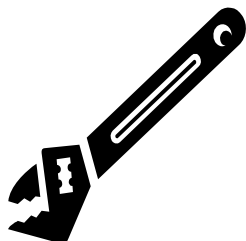
LADIES NIGHT OUT!!!

Women, does it seem like you can’t find time to visit enough with friends new and old at Saint James? The Congregational Life Committee can solve that problem for you!

LADIES NIGHT OUT begins on
January 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Come to the church that evening. **Dinner will be provided.**

Watch the bulletins for more information.



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

Saturday
January 8
9am - 1pm

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



Maverette Butler
 Margaret de Maine
 Marion Dobbie
 Pat Nelson
 Helen Paulsen
 Mel Reasoner
 Margaret Rice
 Inge Thurston

The Pulse is published once per month, with the exception of the combined July/August issue.

Articles and announcements for the next issue must be **received** in the church office no later than **Wednesday, January 19, 2005**. That issue will be mailed Thursday, **January 27**. If you have something that you would like considered for publication, call the church office at 360-733-1325, e-mail stjpres@msn.com, put it in *The Pulse* box near the church office or mail it to St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

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