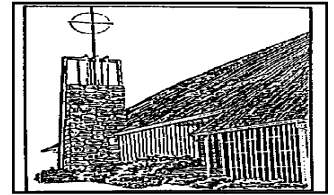


The Pulse



Volume 37, Issue 7
July & August 2005

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Summer is certainly flying by quickly! I assume that you will receive this summer issue of The Pulse as you are celebrating the Fourth of July holiday. It is my hope that the following thoughts will deepen your appreciation of Independence Day, and underscore your sense of discipleship and Christian calling in our world. The first section below comes from an article written by Arun Gandhi, founder of MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, and a grandchild of MK Gandhi. It appears in the 2004 Interfaith Alliance Foundation's "Guide for Religious Leaders on Civic Participation."

The prayer at the end is taken from [Peacemaking Through Worship](#), a resource from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

"At the site of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's cremation in New Delhi there stands a plaque containing what Gandhi referred to as the "Seven Sins" of the world that contribute to much of the violence that we experience. The Seven Sins are:

Wealth without Work;
Pleasure without Conscience;
Knowledge without Character;
Commerce without Morality;
Science without Humanity;
Worship without Sacrifice; and,
Politics without Principles.

"While this is a comprehensive list condemning modern society I am sure there are many more newly invented sins that generate an equal amount of anger and violence. One additional "sin" that I was compelled to add in 1987 was "Rights without Responsibilities."

"We are extremely concerned about our "rights" but not enough about our "responsibilities." I grew up in a prejudiced South African society where non-whites were treated

as less than human and not deserving of the rights and privileges that are normally guaranteed in other democratic societies. Later, as an adult I moved to India and joyfully renounced my South African citizenship to enjoy for the first time at the age of 30-plus the right to vote and participate in the democratic process.

"Of course, the abuse of my "rights" made me value democratic privileges more than other people do but I also learned from Grandfather's writings that ignoring our "responsibilities" in a democracy is tantamount to doing violence against society. Grandfather believed there is a direct association between "rights" and "responsibilities" as there is between a seed and a tree.

"For a democracy to function well a society needs to be cohesive, healthy and responsible. It must be the responsibility of every individual, Gandhi said, to build communities, not neighborhoods. The difference between the two, he explained, is that in a neighborhood people live together without any relationship while in a community the people recognize that they are inter-related, inter-dependent and inter-connected. A community, Gandhi says, is guided by positive principles like love, respect, understanding, acceptance and appreciation while a neighborhood is based on such negativity as selfishness and self-interest. A nation is only as healthy as the communities it is made up of.

"Gandhi evolved the concept of 'Trusteeship' as an integral part of his philosophy of nonviolence to empower individuals to contribute towards building viable communities. Individuals generally acquire talents and exploit them for their own personal and, as Gandhi would put it, 'selfish' gains. Gandhi believed that we don't 'own' the talents but are 'trustees' of the talent and should use it for others as much as for ourselves thus constructively helping others rebuild their lives and their self-respect and self-confidence.

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He emphasized 'constructive action' because the idea is not to give someone alms but to help rehabilitate the person so that they can stand on their own two feet. It is like the ancient Chinese saying: 'Give a person a fish and they will eat one meal. Teach a person to fish and they will eat for life.' If members of a community are economically, socially, spiritually and otherwise happy, the nation will be happy too."

PRAYER for INDEPENDENCE DAY 2005

We are not called to be fearful,
We are called to love;
We are not called to be perfect,
We are called to be faithful;
We are not called to be fearless,
We are called to be obedient;
We are not called to be all-knowing,
We are called to believe;

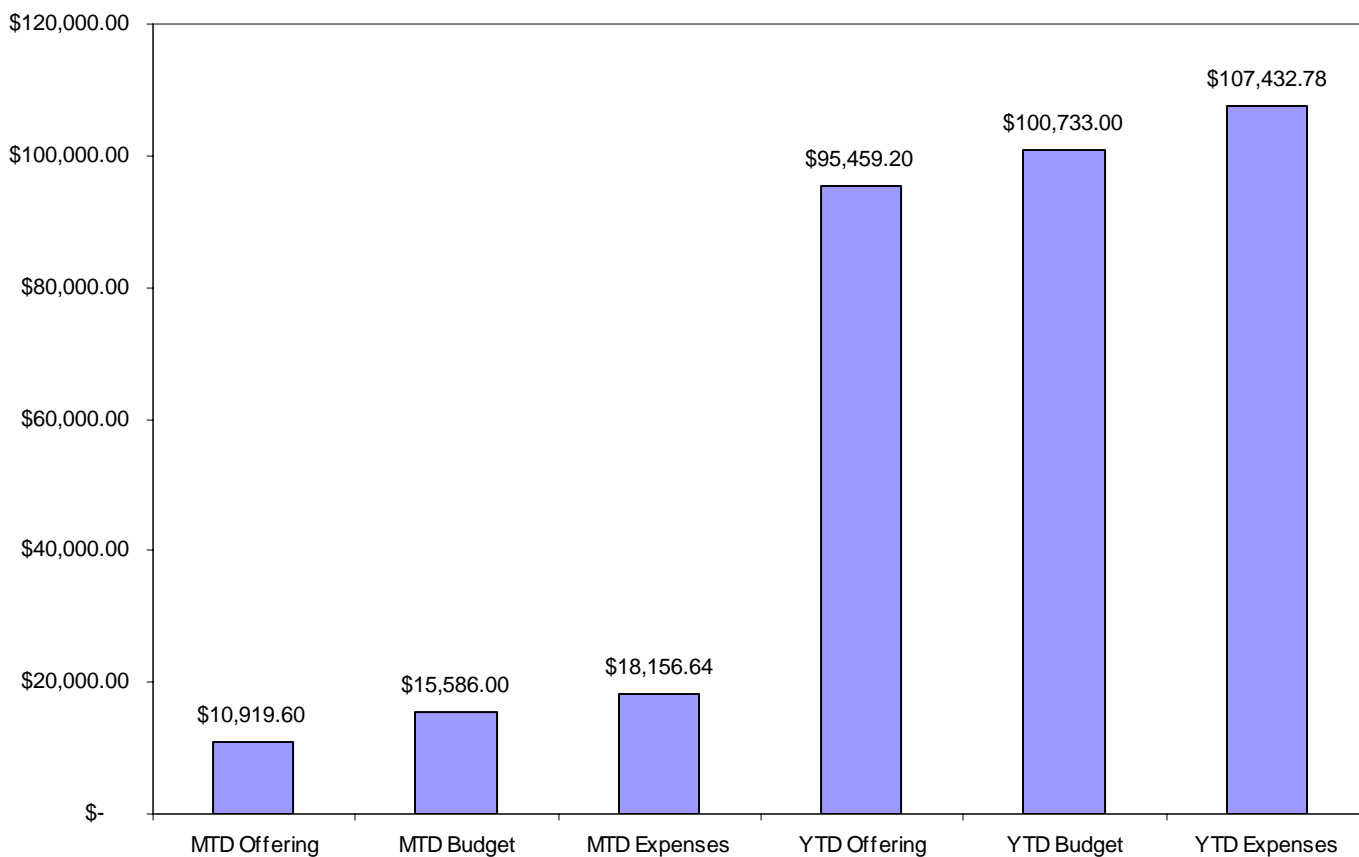
We are not called to claim,
We are called to give;
We are not called to be victorious,
We are called to be courageous;
We are not called to lord it over others,
We are called to serve others.

For it is in serving that we shall reign;
It is through courage that we shall find victory;
It is in giving all that we shall gain all;
It is in believing that we shall find certainty;
It is in obedience that we shall overcome;
It is in faithfulness that we shall find perfection;
It is in loving that we shall dispel fear;
It is in slavery to Christ and His justice
That we shall find freedom, now and forever,
For ourselves and for the world. Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary

TREASURER'S REPORT FROM WENDY CRANDALL

June 2004 Treasurer's Report



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATED MEETING JUNE 12, 2005
FROM CARLA SHAFER, CLERK

Clerk's report. Session's annual planning retreat is scheduled for November 18 and 19, 2005. The Auditor indicates that St. James will no longer be needed as a polling place since Whatcom County residents will be voting by mail in future elections.

Treasurer's report. The amended 2005 Budget that shows the updated pledges was distributed. The Financial statement was reviewed and accepted.

Deacons report. The church picnic will be Sunday, July 24, 2005.

Committee reports and related actions:

Mission and Social Action. Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, Alaska is to be given \$400 from Local Benevolence. They have a volunteer building program each summer which members may be interested in. Palestinian crafts will be for sale in the fall. We will host the Middle East Peace Vigil June 18, 2005.

Personnel: The committee updates the organist job description on June 23rd and will begin the search soon after.

Stewardship and Budget: Gifts from members that are designated for the per capita are being tallied and will be an update on giving in the "Pulse."

Nominating: Elders and Deacons are being called for 2006. So far half of the open positions have been filled. We will increase the number back up to 15 so one deacon can be the chair only, instead of chairing and caring for a parish too.

Worship Committee: Hymn sings will be added to summer worship. Renee Meyer and Laura Crandall will investigate putting the sermons and worship service information on the Internet as a resource to the congregation. We need a volunteer to fill the communion table candles with oil.

Building and Grounds: *Approved building uses:* A meeting of ministers to discuss the topic of same sex marriages on Saturday June 18, 2005, 1-3 PM; A summer enrichment program for children to learn Mandarin as a second language through Whatcom Community College. It begins June 28 and is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:30 and noon; A community blood drive coordinated with Sacred Heart and Lowell School on Friday, Sept 23, 2005 from 10 AM to 8 PM. *Remodeling:* We received three bids with the lowest from Lyn-dale glass who will install new insulated windows in late August. We were reminded to leave the orange stickers on the windows as they indicate windows for repair. The upstairs bathrooms are being remodeled, the carpets cleaned, and chancel storage added.

Christian Education: Having raised \$3100 in the auction, ten youths and three adults will go on the mission trip. Kid's Friday night is scheduled for June 24th with an Irish theme.

Congregational Life: Session approved a fund raising appeal for Tall Timber as soon as possible. Jim Calkins, the Tall Timbers cabin contractor, welcomes skilled help every Thursday through Saturday during the summer. A Back-to-School church fair named "Pathways of Discipleship" is proposed. It supports discipleship program initiated by the youth.

Membership: New members' classes are scheduled for September 11 at 3:00 PM and Session is asked to meet with new members at 5 PM. The Parade of Stoles is rescheduled for September 29 to October 9, 2005.

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The parade of stoles honors gay, lesbian and transgendered people who have been ordained but are no longer able to continue in ministry due to their sexual orientation. Some stoles also represent people who gave up ordination because of others are being denied their calling.

A new pictorial directory by Olin Mills was approved and scheduled for October 5-8, 2005.

Presbytery report: Laura Crandall, Barb Kilpatrick and Carla Shafer served as commissioners to Presbytery meeting. The issue of Presbytery's vision for the future was approved. Per capita will be going up \$10 per person to cover the cost of the Executive Presbyter, and will no longer be taken out of the mission budget. Synod is accepting nominations for a peacemaking award.

Under discussion: Session reviewed where the Presbyterian Church, USA is with gays, lesbians, bi-sexual and transgendered people. Pastor Mary explained that church membership is inclusive; however, pastoral ordination is not allowed constitutionally. At the last General Assembly (216th) action to allow it failed by 4 votes.

FROM THE INTERFAITH COALITION

New partnership house for homeless families needs volunteer help

Interfaith Coalition, in partnership with First Christian Church, is planning to move a home that will be used for interim shelter for local homeless families. The single family home, where families may live for 30 to 60 days while seeking long-term housing, will be moved the end of July to property adjacent to First Christian Church. Adult volunteers are needed in July to prepare the house for the move by detaching decks, removing doors and basement walls, and excavating the church site for the foundation. Additional volunteers are needed in early fall to paint and refurbish the home. If you wish to be part of this exciting, ecumenical project, please call Interfaith Coalition at 734-3983.

Summertime volunteer trainings for Friendly Visitors

Individuals who wish to make a difference in a senior neighbor's life may attend one of the following upcoming training sessions for the Faith in Action Friendly Visitors program: Saturday, July 16, from 9 a.m. to noon at United Church of Ferndale or Wednesday, August 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Bellingham. The Interfaith Coalition program offers trained volunteers the opportunity to work one-on-one with seniors in need of caring human connection. The program matches compassionate volunteers with older members of the community whose health and well-being may improve with increased social contact. Please call Faith in Action Friendly Visitors at 756-5179 to reserve a space at either session.

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We need YOU!

The Worship Committee at St. James is putting out an all points bulletin for volunteers to fill the oil candles and/or to run the audio system for our services.

Training for the candles and/or audio system is available!
Please consider volunteering for these important jobs!

For more information, please contact David Meyer (752-2217),
or Pastor Mary at the church office.

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Save the date for the annual
All-Church picnic!

Sunday, July 24, 11 am—2 pm.

Bring your favorite potluck dish to the
Fairhaven Park Pavilion and enjoy the
fun and fellowship.

The Deacons will provide drinks, hot
dogs and ice cream.

See you there!

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*

A BOOK REVIEW, BY RANDY MOHR

Is God in *The Lord of the Rings*? Is Christ? According to Fleming Rutledge, author of “The Battle for Middle-Earth”, the answers are not so much between the Lines as below the Surface!

J.R.R. Tolkien did a remarkable thing. In wanting to give Britain its own indigenous mythology he not only did just that but also succeeded in giving the world his vision of the Gospel. Episcopalian author Fleming Rutledge has done a marvelous job in analyzing the story of *The Lord of the Rings* in order to extract and reveal the theology that is contained in what he calls “the deeper narrative”.

The story of Middle-Earth is not an allegory of Good vs. Evil, a parable, or (most importantly) a fairy tale in the sense of “make believe fantasy” for children. Tolkien was a firm believer in *story* as a vehicle for truth. Combining his desire to write an entertaining story, give England its own mythology, and include his own faith’s Truth, Rutledge praises Tolkien for his integrity and sense that his readers would be more deeply rewarded without being whacked upside the head with Christian language and imagery. And rightly so, since *LOTR* is set in a pre-Historic and pre-Christian time.

Rutledge points out many times that certain characters and their actions are not to be taken as visions of Christ, but rather as Christ-like or examples of discipleship. Gandalf (though having an apparent Death and Resurrection) is not Christ. Aragorn (the “returning King”) is not Christ. Frodo is not Christ. These are just a few examples of Rutledge’s insight into the Deeper Narrative. Fortunately for me his writing style and method dispelled any academic dryness and Ivory Tower analysis! He proclaims at the beginning that he is not a Tolkien scholar, which he feels gives him an “opportune glimpse” into the story. He intently follows Tolkien’s own formula of unfolding plot so as to preserve Tolkien’s own faith in revelatory truth. So, for me the more I read the more I wanted to read in order to find out “what happens!” And even more insightful are Rutledge’s footnotes in which he states how he feels the recent movie adaptations by Peter Jackson got the story right — and how they missed the mark.

If you’ve read *LOTR* and always wondered where God was (or even if you thought you knew, this may prompt you to new insights) or if you’ve never read it thinking it was just fairy tale fantasy stuff, you’re in for a pleasant surprise. As Rutledge shows, Tolkien wrote a story of great depth and an understanding of the human condition, even if it was through the likes of Humans, Hobbits, Elves and Dwarves.

This is a wonderful addition to the church library and I highly recommend it!



THANK YOU, ANONYMOUS...

A sincere “thank you” to the anonymous donor of funds towards a new church office fax machine. We were able to purchase a high-quality machine that should meet our current needs, and then some. Many thanks!

- The St. James Office Staff

ST. JAMES PRAYER CHAIN

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**.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Women's Group Bible Study
No Bible Study in July or August!
* * *

Women's Association Luncheon
The luncheons will continue through the summer!
Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share.
All women are invited for food, fun and fellowship,
at 12 pm!

July 26 & August 30

Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504

HOW TO REACH YOUR PASTOR

The Rev. Mary Robinson-Mohr

910 14th St. Bellingham, WA 98225
(360)-733-1325 church
stjmary@msn.com

(360) 715-3157 home

PRIME TIMERS!

July 8 & August 12 at 6 pm

Join the sexagenarian –centenarian St. James-ers for a long-standing event!
Bring your favorite potluck dish, and a wrapped white elephant.

Questions? Please call Ann Lary, 734-7534

WOMEN'S AGAPÉ NIGHT

Women's Agape' Friday = Christian women fellowship.
Put **July 15 & August 19 at 6:30 pm** on your calendars.

Each month will be hosted by different women. The evening includes food, conversation, games and friendship building. Hope to see you!

MONTHLY CHURCH WORK PARTY

The monthly all church clean-up landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday will be Saturday **July 9 & August 13, 9 am – 12 noon**. Bring your favorite tools, and join us in maintaining our lovely church!

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.

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL (AND KIDS' GROUP)

Join us for an evening potluck with time afterwards for visiting with our St. James family. If you like, bring games, cards, sewing/knitting projects, music, books, or anything else that would be fun. Kids through fifth grade can participate in organized (and probably some unorganized!) games.

WHEN: July 22 & August 26

WHERE: Fellowship Hall (please come to the downstairs door)

WHAT: Potluck dinner starting at 6; please bring a dish to share. Kids' group to start around 6:30.

Questions? Contact Patti Cromarty at 595-2639

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- * From **Dr. Les Belrose**: “Dear Friends, by mutual agreement between the Personnel committee and myself, I shall retire as your organist / pianist the first of September. I have been blessed to serve the Lord and you with over 500 services, 400 rehearsals and 12,000 miles of travel. I also have served with three different pastors and three music directors. I shall always be grateful for your support and encouragement. It has been a wonderful ten years. Sincerely and God bless, Les Belrose, Doctor of Humanities.” We will miss you, Dr. Les!
- * From **Sean Baird** (excerpted): “I began attending St. James in the beginning of March and I would have to say that I have one regret during thy three years in WA which is that I didn't find you all sooner... From the moment I walked in the door I have been challenged and encouraged by your teaching, inspired by the community's commitment and love for social justice, and touched by the overall commitment to loving all people regardless of political stance, sexual orientation, scientific beliefs, etc. ... Basically, I wanted to write you this letter to tell that God changed my life through St. James. I am forever changed as I realize how important community is for Christians. I have rediscovered great hope through the people at St. James, that in fact many Christians do care deeply about things other than themselves. Mostly, I think I have learned from St. James that I need to love churches like the one I left in December, I need to love Christians that I may not agree with—which is truly great wisdom that I hope I can live out. I thank you and the entire congregation for welcoming a young, distraught, confused college student with open arms... Know that my simple words and thought cannot truly communicate the ways that I have been changed since attending St. James. Words simply will not do it justice, but I thank you for your teaching and heart and I thank the entire congregation for the love, support, and hope I have felt since I walked through the doors in March... Shalom, Sean Baird.” Sean graduated from Western in June, and will be traveling to Africa to help with AIDS victims.
- * **Peter Burkland** was named “Volunteer of the Quarter” for Habitat for Humanity! From their Spring 2005 newsletter: “Peter's generosity, unwavering dedication and enthusiasm for Habitat for Humanity is displayed in his contribution to our strategic planning for affiliate growth and inspiration of his fellow board members, our volunteers and the office staff. Peter's huge contribution of time toward our “Raising the Roof” auction this past March weighed heavily in the event, surpassing our fundraising goal and bringing in more than \$70,000!” Way to go, Peter!

If you have news you would like to share with the church family, please contact the office at 733-1325, stjpres@msn.com We would love to hear from you!

YOUTH NEWS BY MEGAN STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR

In July and August the youth group will be having lots of exciting summer meetings. Most will be from 4:30- 6:00 on Sundays during the regular time, however occasionally we may switch to a Friday or Saturday. (Youth: keep checking your email to hear more about them.) We kick off July with by returning from our mission trip, I'm sure it will be an awesome experience. Thank you again for supporting us spiritually and financially for this event, we couldn't have done it without you!! On July 24th we plan to share in worship more about how our trip went and all of the exciting things that happened. We hope you will be able to attend and hear more about it.

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

St. James will be having a new church pictorial directory, published by the Olan Mills Company. Sittings will be scheduled for October 5, 6, 7, and 8, here at the church. Appointments will be made closer to the actual dates, but please make plans to be available during that time to have your family portrait taken. The more pictures we have, the better our new directory can be! There's no cost to the congregation for the directory, and one 8x10 portrait is free, if you choose not to buy any of the packages.

Volunteers will be needed to assist the Membership committee in coordinating this project, so if you're available, please contact Ann Lary (734-7534) or the church office (733-1325).

| July Birthdays | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----|--------------------------|
| * * * | | | |
| 1 | Milt Schayes | 21 | Linda Raudebaugh |
| 1 | Jan Templeton | 23 | Dave Bader |
| 2 | Jo McLeod | 23 | Anne LaShell |
| 3 | Parker DeWilde | 25 | Betsy Freeman |
| 3 | Doris Wade | 25 | Ed Simmers |
| 4 | Ingrid McGarry | 26 | Bob Monahan |
| 4 | Carolyn Mullen | 26 | Jean Richardson |
| 5 | Pat Nelson | 27 | Steve Bader |
| 7 | Barbara Chalice | 31 | Brian Seater |
| 7 | Inge Thurston | | |
| 8 | Helen Hartford | | |
| 10 | Bill Butler | | |
| 10 | Kari Todd | 9 | Jim & Jody DeWilde |
| 13 | Dick Albers | 10 | Frances & Irwin LeCocq |
| 14 | Maverette Butler | 16 | Dave & Pat Nelson |
| 15 | Vanessa Hellinga | 20 | Gale & Gretchen Pfueller |
| 16 | Karen Rogers | 20 | Glenn & Fran Titus |
| 17 | Mary Jo Case | | |
| 17 | Karen Harnden Haggen | | |
| 18 | Charlotte Burkland | | |
| 18 | Clyde Rice | | |
| 20 | Fran Titus | | |
| 21 | Gretchen Pfueller | | |

July Anniversaries

* * *

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 9 | Jim & Jody DeWilde |
| 10 | Frances & Irwin LeCocq |
| 16 | Dave & Pat Nelson |
| 20 | Gale & Gretchen Pfueller |
| 20 | Glenn & Fran Titus |

**August Birthdays**

* * *

| | |
|----|------------------------|
| 2 | Cathy Casey |
| 5 | Ev Bell |
| 7 | Sarah Haggen |
| 7 | Jeanne Uhles |
| 8 | Bernice Pritchett |
| 11 | Tony Griffith |
| 12 | Wilma French |
| 12 | Ben Templeton |
| 14 | Jill McLeod |
| 16 | Megan Pfueller Melrose |
| 19 | Bill Read |
| 23 | Keena Mullen |
| 24 | Rick Seater |
| 25 | Mary van der Veen |
| 27 | Shirley Nelson |
| 28 | Marilyn Monahan |

August Anniversaries

* * *

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 2 | Richard & Carmen Hellinga |
| 4 | Kari & Terry Todd |
| 6 | Tim & Wendy Crandall |
| 9 | Jeff & Karen Haggen |
| 13 | Rick & Jean Seater |
| 21 | Dwayne & Karen Rogers |
| 21 | Jim & Carolyn Mullen |
| 23 | Gil & Inge Thurston |
| 24 | Gragg & Betty Miller |
| 26 | Mike & Akiko Anderson |
| 26 | Mark Danielson & Patty Cromarty |
| 26 | Dick & Kay Carr |
| 27 | Gus & Nancy Wagar |
| 28 | Dale & Linda Monroe |

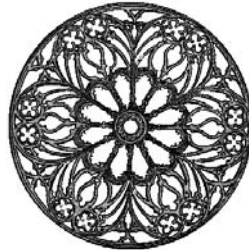


Maverette Butler
 Margaret de Maine
 Marion Dobbie
 Pat Nelson
 Mel Reasoner
 Margaret Rice

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, August 17, 2005**. That issue will be mailed Thursday, **August 25**. 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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**If you wish to be added to or deleted from the church mailing list, please contact the church office:
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