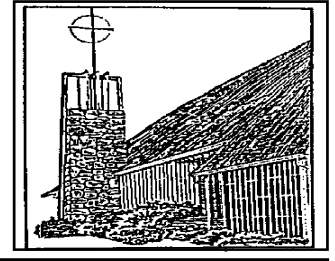


The Pulse



Volume 38, Issue 1
January 2006

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

“O Lord, You Were Born!”

A poem from *Reaching for Rainbows*, Ann Weems

Each year about this time I try to be sophisticated
And pretend I understand the bored expressions
Relating to the “Christmas spirit.”
I nod when they say “Put the Christ back in Christmas.”
I say yes, yes, yes, when they shout “Commercial” and
“Hectic, hectic, hectic.”
After all, I’m getting older,
And I’ve heard it said “Christmas is for children.”
But somehow a fa-la-la keeps creeping out. . .
So I’ll say it:
I love Christmas tinsel
And angel voices that come from the beds upstairs
And I say three cheers for Santa Claus
And the Salvation Army bucket
And all the wrappings and festivities and special warm feelings.
I say it is good

Giving,
Praising,
Celebrating.

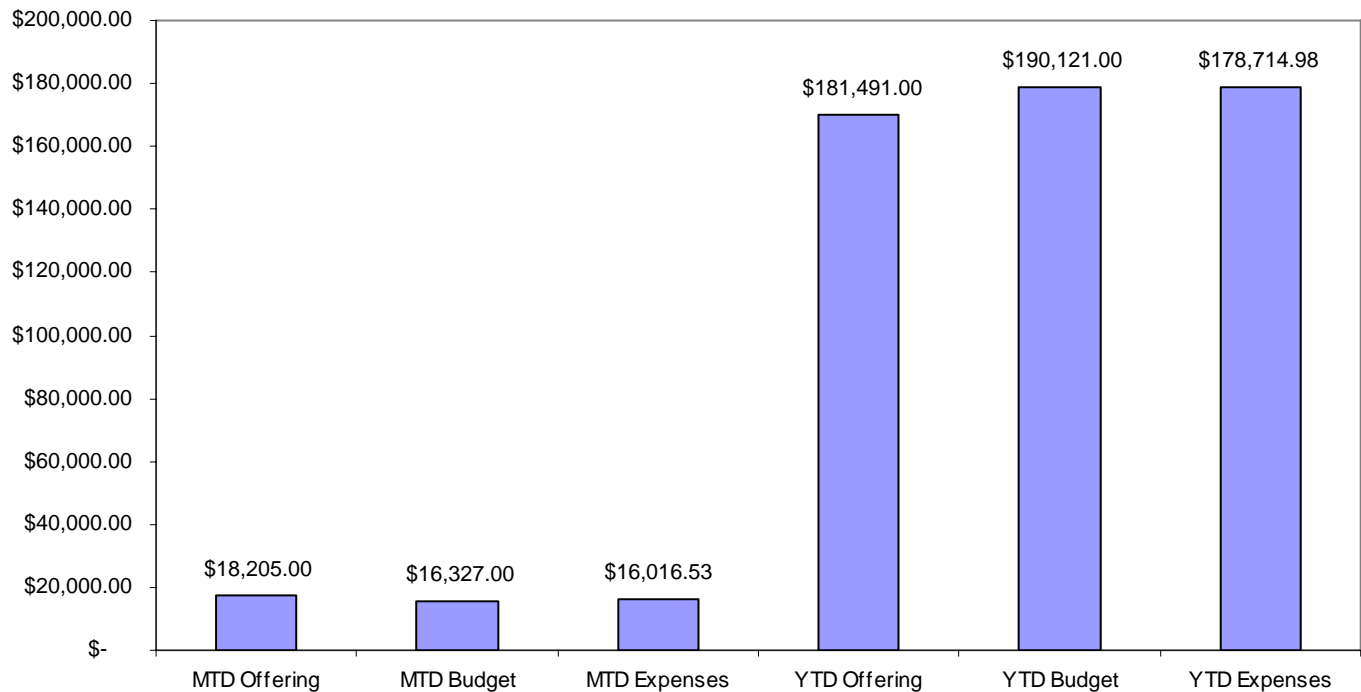
So hooray for Christmas trees
And candlelight
And the good old church pageant.
Hooray for the shepherd boys who forget their lines
And wise men whose beards fall off
And a Mary who giggles.
O Lord, you were born!
O Lord, you were born!
And that breaks in upon my ordered life like bugles blaring,
And I sing “Hark, the Herald Angels” in the most unlikely
places.
You were born
And I will celebrate!

I rejoice for the carnival of Christmas!
I clap for the pajama-clad cherubs
And the Christmas cards jammed in the mail slot.
I o-o-o-oh for the turkey
And ah-h-h-h for the Christmas pudding
And thank God for the alleluias I see in the faces of people
I don’t know
And yet know very well.

O Lord, there just aren’t enough choir boys to sing what I feel.
There aren’t enough trumpets to blow.
O Lord, I want bells to peal!
I want to dance in the streets of Bethlehem!
I want to sing with the heavenly host!
For unto us a Son was given
And he was called *God With Us*.
For those of us who believe,
The whole world is decorated in love!



St James Presbyterian Church
910 14th Street ~ Bellingham, Washington 98225
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TREASURER'S REPORT WENDY CRANDALL**November 2005 Treasurer's Report**

Spending has been kept in check partly by deferring local and denominational mission giving. St. James support for mission giving continues to depend on pledge and other congregational giving. St. James is still about \$1200 short on its pledge to the Tall Timber cabin rebuilding fund. Donations are still being accepted, and should be marked "Tall Timber Fund" on the check or envelope.

For your consideration....

YOUTH NEWS MEGAN STAMPFLI, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Whoop diddy whoop whoop 2006! We will start off the new year with youth group on the 1st from 4:30-6:00. Sunday school on the first will be canceled because I have a feeling that most people will be sleeping in due to their late night on New Year's Eve. On the 8th we will have youth group at 4:30 and a Mission Trip interest meeting/ youth group planning meeting at 6:00. On the 15th there will be regular youth group and Sunday school and on the 22nd there will be regular youth group. Get ready for Friday the 27th! We will be attending the Friday Night Social at 6:00 for dinner and fun, and we will be staying for a lock in that night. The lock in will end on Saturday morning at 10:00am. On Sunday the 29th there will be Sunday school, but no youth group due to the lock in. Also in January the youth will be helping the Mission and Social Action committee by bringing any gently used books to church, to help the Interfaith Community Health Center. I hope all of you, youth or not will be able to help with this project. Thanks! Have a great January!

FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Church office staff respectfully request that they not be approached with church business on Sundays, as they wish to enjoy the worship service in peace. Messages can be left for them on voice mail, e-mail, or a written message in their box outside the office.

St. James Events Calendar

Sunday schedule

9 am Adult class

10:30 Worship

12:30 pm Korean Worship

4:30-6 pm Youth Group

7 pm AA

January 2006

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
1 The Rev. Karen Summers, Guest Preacher	2 6 pm Girl Scouts	3 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	4 Annual Reports duel! 7 pm AA Men	5 5:30 pm Worship comm. 6:30 Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	6 2:30 pm Girl Scouts	7 10 am OA
8 Communion Genesis 1:1-5 Mark 1:4-11 "Back to the Beginning" 12 pm College Bible Study	9 12:45 pm Cub Scouts 6 pm Girl Scouts	10 6:30 am Prayer Group 5 pm Stewardship 6 Personnel 5:30 Al Anon 6 Girl Scouts 7 Gender Group	11 5:30 pm Weaver's Guild 7 AA Men	12 2 pm Membership comm. 4 Staff 5 Christian Ed. 6:30 Congregational Life comm. 6:30 Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch.	13 6 pm Prime Timers	14 9 am ~ 3 pm Joint meeting of Deacons & Session 10 am OA
15 Ordination & Installation of Officers I Samuel 3:1-10 John 1:43-51 "God's Unlikely Ones" 10:45 am Youth Sunday school 11:30 Congregational meeting	16 Martin Luther King Day	17 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 Gender Group	18 <i>Pulse</i> items duel! 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil for Middle East Peace @ Unity Church 7 AA Men	19 6:30 pm Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	20 2:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Women's Agapé Night	21 10 am OA
22 Jonah 3:1-10 Mark 1:14-20 "A Change of Plans"	23 6 pm Girl Scouts	24 6:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 6 Girl Scouts 7 Gender Group	25 5:30 pm UMHE 7 AA Men	26 10 am <i>Pulse</i> Crew 4 pm Staff 6:30 Bell Ch. 7:30 Chancel Ch. 7:30 AA	27 6 pm Friday Night Social 6 Youth Group lock-in starts	28 10 am Youth Group lock-in ends 10 am OA
29 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Mark 1:21-28 "Like a Breath of Fresh Air!" 10:45 am Youth Sunday school	30 6 pm Girl Scouts	31 6:30 am Prayer Gr. 10:30 Bible Study 12 pm Women's Assoc. luncheon 5:30 Al Anon 7 Gender Group				

AIDS IN AFRICA: IT'S A MATTER OF FAITH

HANDS OF COMPASSION (PART II OF VI)

Owen is thin, though not emaciated. He is too weak to do much work. When he is having a good day he can do some cooking for himself.

Owen, who lives in a village near Enukwani, Malawi, tested positive for AIDS in 2000 after his wife died from the disease. He depends on home-based care volunteers to help with the necessities of life.

Thousands of Christians across Africa serve AIDS patients as home-based care volunteers. They administer pain medications, change bandages, apply ointments, clean houses, gather firewood, and cook meals. They also make sure that relatives or neighbors are looking out for the patients' needs in between their weekly visits.

Owen, 44, is the father of seven children ranging in age from 9 to 24. He worries about the education of his younger children. There are no tuition-free secondary schools and he has no money to pay tuition. His older children are now taking care of the younger ones. He knows that one day soon his children will become orphans.

He is also concerned about having enough food for his family and himself.

"Food is what I need the most," he says. AIDS ministry leaders say inadequate nutrition is a pervasive problem for AIDS patients in Africa.

The volunteers who visit Owen and other AIDS patients work through programs established by African churches. They serve both the physical and spiritual needs of patients.

"When we reach a patient's home, we pray with them and their guardians and see what a patient needs," says volunteer Bentry Hara, a Malawian who works in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian's Livingstonia Synod. "We also see if the guardian is following instructions regarding proper patient care."



*Owen and one of his seven children.
Photo: Bob Ellis.*



Charity Nyirenda, coordinator of home-based and orphan care in Livingstonia Synod in northern Malawi. Photo: Bob Ellis.

Charity Nyirenda, coordinator of home-based and orphan care in Livingstonia, says the spiritual care that volunteers provide is crucial. "We help AIDS patients know the hope of Christ," she says.

The volunteers' commitment to Christian neighborliness is not a casual one. They attend a two-week training course where they learn the basics of AIDS patient care. Some walk 20 miles round trip to make their visits. A few lucky ones have bicycles that they ride on rutted dirt roads, but most lack the \$60 needed to purchase a two-wheeler.

In Livingstonia Synod the number of home-based care volunteers has increased tenfold during the past six years. Once volunteers are trained, part of their responsibility is to train more volunteers.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has provided vital funds for volunteer training and supplies, says Dr. Andy Gaston, a Church of Scotland mission worker who directs Livingstonia's AIDS ministry. "In the past several years," he says, "the PC(USA) has

been our greatest supporter."

This is the second part in a series of articles from the publication "AIDS in Africa: It's a Matter of Faith". The next article will be "Partnership Personified: Mission workers help churches face the AIDS crisis" in the February issue.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

January 31

Women's Group Bible Study 10:30 am

2005-2006 Horizons Bible Study

"For Everything, A Season: A Study of the Liturgical Calendar" by Kathleen Long Bostrom, Lesson 5

Women's Association Luncheon 12 pm

Bring a friend if you like, and a salad to share.

All women are invited for food, fun and fellowship!








Questions? Please call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504

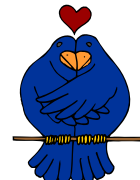
MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

St. James has been selected to supply books for children coming to the Inter-faith Family Health Center for the month of February. Please examine your shelves for gently used books (all reading levels) and leave them in the Book Box in the narthex. Research tells us that reading is the key to academic success and many of these children have limited access to books. We will collect books through February. Please help!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January Birthdays		January Anniversaries	
* * *		* * *	
1 	Teresa Bowers	16	Joan Elsethagen
2	Bob Raudebaugh	17	Dwayne Rogers
2	Phil Jones	18	Genevie Pfueller Roguski
6	Bob Rice	20	Wayne Landis
7	Stacey Miller 	21	Peg Wilke 
8	Marty Haines	22	Michael Hoffman
9	Beverly Sherman 	23	Fred McCormick
13	Nancy Pace	24	Irwin LeCocq
13	Megan Stampfli 	26	David Meyer
15	Les Belrose	26	Betty Miller 
15	Steve Inge 	26	Marianne Thomas
15	Karen Summers	28	Kris Baker-Selvy
		28	Mark Danielson
		31	Marlene Amman
			2 Ed Simmers & Jane Madden
			26 Rex & Ann Lary



UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

An annual meeting of the St. James congregation has been scheduled for immediately after worship on Sunday January 15. The purpose of this meeting is to review the Annual Report and to review the terms of the pastor's call for the coming year.

JOB OPENING

Do you have financial skills? St. James will be looking for a new treasurer at the end of January. Please contact Pastor Mary or Linda Raudebaugh, Personnel committee chair.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Please join in an ecumenical prayer vigil for the Christian communities in Jerusalem, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East. All are welcome.

Wednesday, January 18, 5:30 pm
Unity Church of Bellingham, 1095 Telegraph Road,
Tel. 733-2270



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**.

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.

WOMEN'S AGAPÉ NIGHT

Women's Agapé Friday
=
Christian women fellowship.

Put **January 20 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!

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.

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

MONTHLY CHURCH WORK PARTY

The monthly all-church clean-up landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday will be Saturday **January 14, 9 am – 12 noon.**

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

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- * Memorials and cards for **Edna Zoet** can be sent her daughter, Marjory Zoet Bankson, 525 Tennessee Ave., Alexandria VA 22305-1336. Edna was a long time member and friend of St. James; she passed away December 1.
- * **Miranda Keefe** graduated from WWU last June with a Master of Science in Psychology ~ Mental Health Counselor. In November she started working for the Lummi Nation YESS department as a mental health counselor for kindergarten through 3rd grade tribal children.
- * **David & Renée Meyer** wish to thank all the generous St. James-ers who have donated egg cartons! They have a good supply of cartons at this time, so please recycle! The 'Meyer Ladies' are happily laying an average of 3 eggs a day in the winter time. The latest addition to the Meyer pack is Newton, a tuxedo kitten rescued from the Whatcom Humane Society. He is eight months old and already over 12 lbs.! The vet reported that he should grow up to be a very happy and healthy 20-pounder. David and Renée are very proud.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the generosity of the St. James' members and friends, plus others in Bellingham and Blaine \$1170 worth of Pal Craft Aid items were sold in November. The money has been sent to Rev. Elizabeth Knott who will get it to the groups of Christian "craft people" in Bethlehem (Palestinian territories.)

TALL TIMBER HOLIDAY DEC. 27-30

Tall Timber Ranch is ideally situated for an exceptional winter experience. There will be great food! Holidays are known as the time for extra-special meals, and Snow Camp is no exception. Check out:
www.talltimber.org
for more information!



Maverette Butler
Margaret de Maine
Marion Dobbie
Pat Nelson
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 18, 2005.**

That issue will be mailed Thursday, **Jan. 26.** 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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