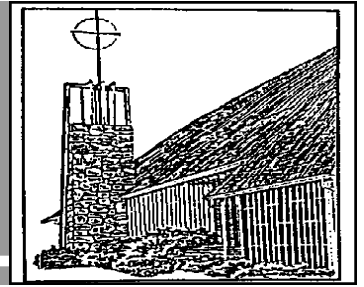


The Pulse



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Volume 39, Issue 11
December 2007

Waiting. I don't know about you, but waiting is not my favorite thing to do. It is one of those unavoidable things in life, at least on occasion. I happen to be waiting right now, as I write this. I'm waiting in the San Diego Airport, at the end of my participation in a conference. I have four hours to wait until I board an airplane headed for Salt Lake City, where I will get the opportunity to wait again for a couple of hours before boarding a plane for Bellingham.

We say Advent is a season of waiting. There is a difference between ordinary waiting and Advent waiting, however. As I wait here for my flight, I know that I will shuffle down a jetway, squeeze into a seat made for a sardine, politely sort out all the seat belt straps with the other passengers seated in my row, and fly off to a place where I will get to do it all over again. It's all rather tedious. The good thing is I will get to see Randy and Susannah when I get home, a happy conclusion to my waiting.

Waiting can be filled with dread. Waiting for the results of a biopsy seems to take a year, though it is usually only about a week. Waiting can also be filled with excitement, such as waiting for a special wedding day, or a family gathering. Even so, much of our waiting has nothing special about it. It is just a part of life that many of us find to be a bit like being stuck.

Advent waiting is an opportunity for us to reflect upon how we welcome Christ's presence with us in the world. Yes, we are preparing for the busyness of Christmas. Yes, we remember how wonderful that heaven intervened in our world by sending us a humble little baby. But we can also use this time to prepare for the presence of Jesus Christ in our world here and now. And, we are waiting for something we cannot entirely predict. Instead of a waiting that is at times akin to thumb-twiddling, there is excitement, surprise, and hope in Advent waiting.

The life of a Christian is lived as if something amazing has happened, something that is still happening. Immanuel, "God with Us," has come to earth, and the earth has not been the same ever since! Better yet, that God has remained Immanuel, with us, ever since. And even better yet, that God will continue to remain with us. Advent can help us take note of this. Advent keeps us from taking God's presence with us for granted, and it rekindles our excitement over the presence and loving involvement of our Creator God in our lives.

Advent waiting is full of hope and expectation. We are filled with hope, because God is still up to things. God refuses to give up on our world, and upon us. God means very seriously and intentionally to

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONT.

bring about our healing and wholeness, to establish the justice and peace of heaven here on earth.

God's work is afoot! Let's use Advent as a time to reflect upon how God is present in our world today, and upon how God intends to work through our hands and feet to bring about the healing and reconciliation of the world.

*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79)*

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary

**DECEMBER
WORSHIP
TOPICS**

December 2, 2007

First Sunday of Advent
Communion
Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44
"Let Us Walk in the Light of God!"

December 9, 2007

Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 3:1-12
"Things Will Be Different Now"

December 16, 2007

Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11
Sunday School Program

December 23, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Music Sunday
Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25
"God Is With Us!"

December 24, 2007

Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2:1-20
5 p.m. Candlelight Service

December 30, 2007

Guest Preacher

PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE!



Pastor Mary, Randy, and Susannah are throwing a party to celebrate the Christmas season! Please come to their Open House on Sunday, December 23, from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. Their home is located at 231 Milton Street, which is near the Park & Ride on Lincoln Street, and NOT at the Milton Street near Lake Whatcom. Come join the fun and have some Christmas treats!

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION

Would you like to explore membership in St. James Presbyterian Church? A New Members Orientation will be held on Sunday, December 2, at 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be an opportunity following the orientation to meet with the Session to request membership, and then stay on for the fun and supper of the Advent Festival. Childcare is available upon request. Questions? Need more information? Call the church office at 733-1325, or talk with Pastor Mary.

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BABY"



Children's Christmas Pageant
by St. Luke
(with the assistance of Pastor Tam!)

Sunday, December 16
10:30 a.m.
(during worship)

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIRE

Sunday, Dec. 9
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Please join us for a wonderful celebration, as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child by caring for God's creation WHILE doing our holiday shopping. Sound mysterious? You'll just have to come check it out.



Suddenly, Rod Serling's voice has popped into my head. He's saying, "Imagine, if you will. . ." I'm sure you can hear his voice, even as you read this. So, for this moment in time, imagine, if you will Mr. Serling's invitation to enter the world of imagination. This time, there will be no monsters outside of airplanes, the last man on earth will not smash his glasses, the scary invaders to the planet will not be astronauts from earth, and Talking Tina will not scare the life out of you. (Does she still give you the willies? She does me!)

Instead, imagine a more John Lennon kind of universe. A place where there is no want or need. A place of peace and plenty. A truly godly place. A place that I firmly believe we human beings have the ability to create. If only we would reach within ourselves and grasp that which is strong and good and beautiful and cast out that which is not. Of course, we are human. And we get sucked under by that which is not. We are all too often consumed by it. We allow that to happen. We sometimes choose for that to happen.

This holiday season, I invite all of you to consciously make the good choice. Reach for the good and the beautiful. Reach for the positive. Come to our Alternative Christmas Faire on Sunday, December 9, and help bring about that better world. The world that God created. The good one. You can still shop from your loved one's wish lists. You can still keep your family traditions. You can just add to them. Imagine, if you will, a world without want or need.

♥ Pastor Tam

CALLING ALL TECHIES!

We need your assistance for two upcoming events:

A media room at the Alternative Christmas Faire Sunday, Dec. 9
and
sound and light technicians for our Christmas Pageant on Sunday,
Dec., 16.



If you are interested in helping, your assistance will be MOST appreciated by the slightly technically challenged Pastor Tamalyn and you just need to contact her (733.1325 or 738.9417) to let her know of your interest and abilities!

ADULT STUDIES: LET'S GET TO KNOW THE OLD TESTAMENT!

Come join this year-long survey of the entire Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament. Come for potluck supper at 6:30 on the first Friday of each month, starting on October 5. Children's activity and the adult study begin at 7 and end at 8. The Church library has two loan-able copies of books by Walter Brueggemann and John Collins that will be the basis of our study. An abridged version of the book by John Collins also will be available in the library or for purchase for \$21.50. Come join us for fellowship and for learning all about the Old Testament!

Upcoming dates:

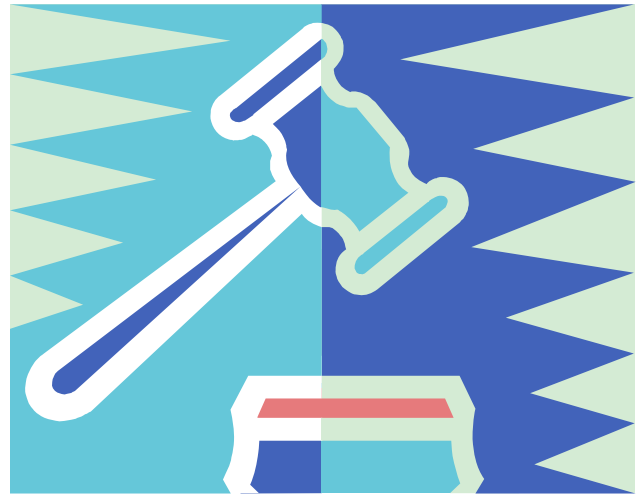
- **Dec. 7:** Joshua/Judges
- **Jan. 4:** I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, Ruth (I and II Chronicles)
- **March 7:** Psalms, Wisdom Literature (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Job)
- **April 4:** Pre-exilic Prophets (Amos, Hosea, Isaiah I, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah)
- **May 2:** Exilic and Post-exilic Prophets (Isaiah II and III, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Habakkuk, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE CPNGREGATION

Annual meetings of the St. James congregation have been scheduled for immediately after worship on Sunday December 2 and Sunday January 27.

The purpose of the December 2 meeting is to elect new officers.

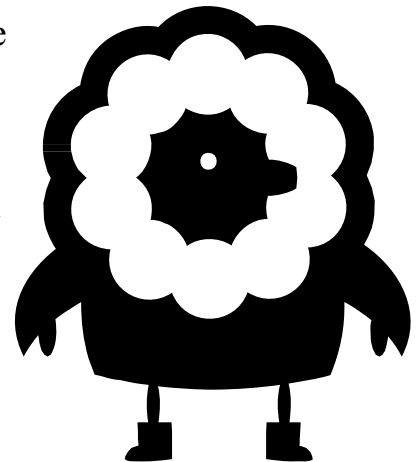
The purpose of the January 27 meeting is to review the Annual Reports and to review the terms of the pastor's call for the coming year.



THANK YOU FROM THE INTERFAITH COALITION

This year we provided winter coats to a greater number of people in need in Whatcom County through the Interfaith Coalition Winter Coat Drive. Thank you for collecting coats from your congregation and bringing them to our distribution site. We appreciate your commitment to this program and are humbled to experience the gratitude in words or expressions of those who benefit from your efforts.

For example, this year a gentleman in Bellingham selected a coat on Saturday and came back on Sunday to say thank you and to tell us how warm the coat is. He knew it would get him through the winter, no problem. Another example was the trot of a preschooler and his expression of glee that told us how proud he is of his new puffy red parka.



It is so heart-warming to witness coats no longer needed by members of your congregation benefiting people who are delighted to receive them.

Thank you and warm wishes through the year,

Laura DeRose, Executive Director

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF ST. JAMES

The last Tuesday of each month, the Presbyterian Women of St. James gather for Bible Study at 10:30 am, and a potluck salad luncheon at 12 noon. This month, bring a small gift for our gift exchange. Questions, call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504.

Tuesday, December 18 Luncheon Speaker: Barbara Cragie, Master Storyteller

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Bellingham faith communities continue the monthly prayer vigils for peace in the Middle East, which were started in December 2000 at the initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and organized nationally by Churches for Middle East Peace.

Participating congregations thereby can incorporate the welfare of the people of the Middle East into their Church life and advocacy.

In the next months, the following Churches will host the prayer vigil (always at 5.30 p.m.).

Tuesday, December 18: Hope Lutheran Church, Lynden

Friday, January 18, 2008: Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

All are welcome!



MONTHLY CHURCH WORK PARTY ~ WINTER IS COMING....

Please join us for the monthly all-church clean-up ~ landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday: **Saturday, December 10: 9 am—12 pm.** Bring your favorite tools, and join us in maintaining our lovely church!

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF ST. JAMES

Upcoming trips to the Holy Land by Middle East Fellowship: e-mail: travel@mef-la.org or call (714) 529-1926.

- Northwest Churches EASTER JOURNEY departing from Seattle, March 14-29: "discover the living Church ... respond as Jesus would to the needs of people and build relationships of encouragement and support ... meeting with Palestinian and Israeli Jewish organizations that are working for peace with justice... stay with local families in their homes..."
 - Palestine Summer Encounter- Serve in Bethlehem: May 24-June 21; June 21-July 19; July 19-Aug. 16. One month \$1580; 2 months \$2615; 3 months \$3225; exclusive of airfare.
 - In the steps of the magi: December 14-28. Damascus summer encounter 2008, in partnership with Middle east Council of Churches. Live with a Christian family; participate in local church services, serve through volunteer efforts.
-

WHEN YOU ARE SENDING OUT CHRISTMAS CARDS THIS YEAR,
CONSIDER SENDING ONE TO THIS ADDRESS:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001



Sunday schedule

9 am Adult Class
10:30 am Worship
 7 pm AA

December

SUN

MON

TUE

W

<p>2 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent 3:30 pm Advent Festival</p>	<p>3 7 pm Boy Scouts Troop 7</p>	<p>4 8 am Prayer Group 5 pm Stewardship comm. 5:30 pm Al Anon 6 pm Membership committee 7 pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>5 pm Mission 5:30 Person 6 A</p>
<p>9 Alternative Christmas Faire 12 pm Deacons 7 pm Session</p>	<p>10 7 pm Boy Scouts Troop 7</p>	<p>11 Pulse Items Due! 8 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>6 pm 7 pm What C</p>
<p>16 Christmas Pageant during 10:30 worship</p>	<p>17 7 pm Boy Scouts Troop 7</p>	<p>18 8 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>10 am 6 pm</p>
<p>23 Christmas Joy Offering Christmas Music Sunday 3-6 pm Pastor's Open House</p>	<p>24 5 pm Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25 Christmas 5:30 pm Al Anon 7 pm WA Gender Alliance</p>	<p>6 pm Chu</p>
<p>30 Guest Preacher</p>	<p>31 7 pm Boy Scouts Troop 7</p>		

ber 2007

Church office
Open Tuesday ~ Friday,
9-12, 1-4

733-1325
office@saintjamespres.org

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

10 am OA

5
n & Social Action
nnel committee
A Men

6
5 pm Christian Ed. committee
6 pm Worship comm.
6:30 pm Bell Choir
6:30 pm Congregational Life comm.
7:30 Chancel Choir
7:30 AA

7
6:30 pm Old Testament Adult
Study & Potluck
7 pm Native American AA

8
10 am OA
9 am - 12 pm Church Work
Party

12
AA Men
com Weaver's
Guild

13
10 am Staff
6:30 pm Bell Choir
7:30 Chancel Choir
7:30 AA

14
12 pm Prime Timers
1:30 pm Girl Scout Daisies
7 pm Native American AA

15
10 am OA

19
Pulse Crew
AA Men

20
6:30 pm Bell Choir
7:30 Chancel Choir
7:30 AA

21
6:30 pm Women's Agape
Night
7 pm Native American AA

22
10 am OA

26
AA Men

27
7:30 AA

28
7 pm Native American AA

29
10 am OA

Church Office Closed

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

- **Still available! Great gift idea!** Through December, our old Navy dishes, for purchase by members of the congregation. Remaining dishes to be sold after the 1st of 2008 to an outside buyer. Call Barb Kilpatrick (714-8165) or Nancy Pace for more information. Prices: Dinner plate, \$20. Salad plate, \$17. Cup & Saucer, \$20.
- **Advent Festival:** Come celebrate Advent at St. James! Sunday, December 2, 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Make a wreath! Build a gingerbread house! Share a delicious spaghetti dinner! Participate in a caroling service! Don't miss it!!!!
- **The Hoe Down & Halloween Kid's Party** were loads of fun and lots of laughs. If you weren't there, you missed a great time! So don't miss the Advent Festival on Dec. 2. Sure to be a creative, delicious and song-filled celebration!
- **We are looking for helpful members** to form a kitchen clean-up crew. This would involve the responsibility of setting everything in order after Congregational Life activities involving kitchen use. Call Barb Kilpatrick (*714-8165) if interested!
- **Save these dates:**
 - January 9, Wednesday at 10am: St. James Quilting Group meets again! Also, the Prayer Shawl ministry will be presented. Join us in the Horizon Room.
 - March 15th: Women's Luncheon Retreat. Details to follow...

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOMINATIONS

Are you interested in being nominated for a General Assembly committee? Many vacancies are available, and anyone who is interested may apply. One does not need to be an elder or minister! Visit www.pcusa.org/nominations/ for more information.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Megan Stampfli, former St. James Youth Director, got married on August 26, 2007 to Javier Womeldorff. Congratulations! Pictures from the wedding can be found on the bulletin board in the office hallway.



*If you have news you would like to share
the church office by the next newsletter deadline, December 11.....*

with the St. James family, please submit it to

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

* * *

1	Bart Griffith
2	Walt Bayless
2	Analee Brethour
2	Gus Wagar
2	Elizabeth Snyder
4	Kevin Terpstra
5	Les Galley
6	Sharon Schayes
7	Gale Pfueller
12	Christopher Anderson
12	John Humble
14	Barbara Kilpatrick
17	Frank Brown
18	Scott Wenger
20	Jan Resick
21	Rex Lary

23	Cheryl Terpstra
26	Jackie Cochinos
27	Richard Elmslie
27	Aundrea McBride
31	Katy Read

December Anniversaries

* * *

4	Bill & Evelyn Hatch
5	Wayne & Linda Landis
22	Fred & Jean Richardson
28	Jim & Mary Hawk
28	John & Marion Dobbie
31	Richard & Mary Elmslie

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT ST. JAMES

The St. James Sinfonietta will rehearse Thursday evenings Dec. 13 & 20, 6:00 – 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary. All band and orchestra students age middle school and older are invited to join us (adults too!) We'll play on Dec. 23, Christmas Music Sunday, at 10:30am worship.

Music rehearsal schedules for Dec. 13 & 20th will be:

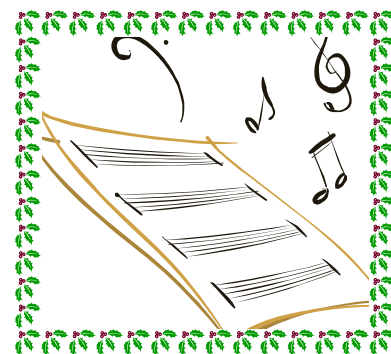
Sinfonietta: 6:00pm – 6:40pm

Bells: 6:45pm – 7:25pm

Chancel Choir: 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Christmas Eve worship will feature our Bell Choir and Chancel Choir.

The Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 30, we will have special music provided by our Bell Choir, welcoming those Bell alumna who are home from college for break. We'll rehearse Friday, Dec. 28, time TBA. Please call Music Director Carolyn Mullen @ 595-0934 if you have questions about the above musical activities.



EXTRA: The Bellingham Community Chorus, directed by Carolyn and including some of our St, James' Chancel Choir members, presents their annual Christmas Concert Sunday, December 9, 3pm in the sanctuary with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall. Admission is free – bring a friend!

Meeting, October 13, 2007

The Session Retreat was held in the morning at the First Congregational Church. The meeting began after lunch. Marion Dobbie gave the Treasure's report, while Sally was in Italy. The September income exceeded expenses. It was agreed that Facilities dollars will cover a new office chair (\$440). We will do a "Bread for the Church" on Bread for the World Sunday. Session reviewed the pledge packets to be handed out at the luncheon and at church. It was agreed to include the custodian pledge card in the Stewardship drive.

The youth leader position is still open. Pastor Tam's 90 day review was completed. Everyone is very satisfied. She was offered and accepted the Director of Christian Education Ministeries as a permanent position. The Personnel committee recommends a 5% cost of living raise for all staff (last raise was five years ago) and to pay a custodian for a combined total of \$10,251. The treasurer's position will still be voluntary. Thank you Sally!

Building use requests were approved as follows: 1) Girl Scouts, Horizon Room, 4th Monday 5:30-8:30 PM and cleaning services on the second Saturday in lieu of payment. 2) Girl Scouts of Western Washington, Tuesay, Oct 16, 6-10 PM, Horizon Room, Fellowship Hall and Nursery. Includes a fee waiver as training for adult advisors. 3) Daisy Troop, Horizon Room, Fridays, 1:30-2:30 Fee waived. 4) Music Teachers Association use on December 9, 2007. 5) Narcotics Anonymous, Saturday, November 24, 2007 10 AM – 10 PM Kitchen and Fellowship Hall. They will pay fees. They will be reminded to read the Kitchen use book. 6) The Native American AA group for Fridays 6:30-9 PM. Horizon Room. Native American AA group for November 16, 2007, Fellowship Hall and Kitchen, Dinner (50+) 5 PM – 10 PM with fees to be paid.

Christian Ed. Supplies funds of an additional \$345.00 was approved. The Navy dish sale has started.

The membership committee has received the books on how to relate to new visitors. Some will go to ushers, committee members and growth planning task force. Jack brought an article from the following website. www.pcusa.org/uscongregations/growth.htm

\$325 was approved out of the local Mission Committee Named Activity fund for Church nurse training of Barb Kilpatrick. The Health Committee will hold workshops on October 28th about immunizations and on November 18th another promotion about Recognizing Symptoms in the Lounge after worship. The Crop Walk was completed successfully.

Baptism was approve for Anna Deya Stipe to be held on 11/4/07 during worship.

Meeting, November 11, 2007

The following meeting schedule was discussed and approved. December 2, 2007 1) Special meeting of the Session at 9:45 AM to interview nominees. 2) Congregation meeting after worship to nominate new members to the Session, the Deacons and the Nominating Committee. 3) New members class at 2 PM 4) Special Session meeting to consider new members at 3:30 PM to be followed by dinner together at the Advent Festival. December 9, 2007 Stated meeting of the Session at 7 PM.

December 16, 2007 Ordination and installation of new Elders and Deacons. January 16, 2008 1) Stated meeting of the Session at 7 PM (incoming and outgoing members) Incoming vote. 2) Deacons meeting after worship (Incoming and outgoing members). Incoming vote. January 27, 2008 Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Congregation for Annual Report, Terms of Call and Financial report. February 9, 2008 Joint meeting of the Session and Deacons 9 AM to 3 PM

Session was asked to reviewed the membership rolls and make recommendations. Members who have been on inactive status for two years or more and could be removed were considered. Session will ask the Deacons review the list prior to their being taken off the Inactive list.

Susan Burkland reported for the Deacons. She advised that Barbara Chalice has moved to Seattle, but that's all we can find out due to privacy laws. We are looking into locating her. Deacons will continue to buy equal exchange coffee which allows PCUSA to support additional self-help economic projects. Session took time to appreciate that the Deacons are very caring and engaged in their work.

The financial statements were reviewed. Our November Mission payments were made for the 4th quarter to Synod, GA and Presbytery. \$2242 came in for the Peacemaking Offering with \$610 available for the local 25%. \$ 1145 came in for blankets and tools. With regard to Stewardship and the 2008 budget, as of this Sunday 54 pledges have come in with gifts of \$81,000 with \$4600 specified for custodians. Added costs for Insurance and the Pension fund (under \$800) were approved. Facilities budget requests for up to \$1000 were approved to cover the audio visual cart for CE, color printer cable and wireless router, and a lateral file for the CE office.

The Nominating Committee has nominees for all positions, except we need 7 Elders for Session vacancies and so far 5 have accepted the call. The Youth leader search is underway with candidates being interviewed later this month. The committee would like to start the Custodian search. The position will be advertised in November for interviews in December.

Communion will be served on the first Sunday of each month in 2008, including Maundy Thursday on March 20. The Christmas Eve Service will be on Monday December 24th. The time was discussed and 6 PM would allow for working people to make it to the Service. The Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service offering taken at the Disciples of Christ - First Christian Church was approved to go to the food bank.

The Charter for Troup 7 scout group was renewed for them to meet Mondays 6-9 PM, using the Fellowship hall, scout room, youth room and Horizon room on first Monday of the month. A policy may be needed related to political groups' use of our building. The question was raised about whether use was seen by others as an endorsement of the group.

We have all of our new banners, including one for Advent. We have been placed on the WWU map of Bellingham and we have an ad in the Western Front.

Growth Planning Task Force representative Randy Bowers, said their recent meeting was good for orienting them to the business of the Task Force. Corey Schlosser-Hall, Executive Presbyter, gave valuable presentations. They will meet soon with a consultancy team from Presbytery when they will get more information about resources. A handout on Appreciative Inquiry was given to Session members.



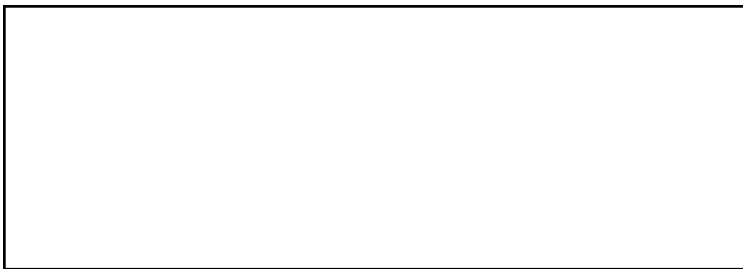
Maverette Butler
 Marion Dobbie
 Mary Elmslie
 Dottie Hager
 Pat Nelson
 Mel Reasoner
 Margaret Rice
 Inge Thurston

*Deadline for the December issue:
 December 11*

St. James Presbyterian Church
 910 14th Street
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 (360) 733-1325
 office@saintjamespres.org

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<i>Church Family News</i>	8
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<i>Christmas Joy Offering</i>	insert
<i>Christmas Poinsettia</i>	insert



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