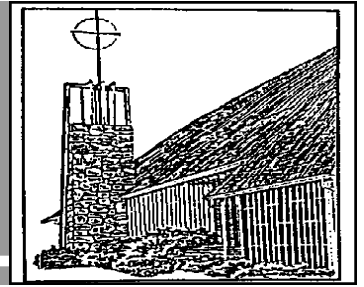


# The Pulse



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARY ROBINSON-MOHR

Volume 40, Issue 1  
January 2008

I love mysteries. I have a shelf full of old paperback copies of Agatha Christie books, along with a sampling of P.D. James and Dorothy Sayers. I have a small collection of the “Brother Cadfael” mysteries, and even a couple of old hardbound Erle Stanley Gardner’s Perry Mason books. I still have my long shelf full of Nancy Drew books, a happy memory of my childhood.

These are all mysteries that fascinate in an entertaining way. But there are mysteries of greater magnitude and significance. There are the mysteries of how flowers grow, or how people fall in love, or how the stars came into being. There are so many mysteries of faith, as well.

Do we need to understand the mechanics of every mystery that touches us? Well, yes, to some degree. It is good to pursue knowledge and understanding, to know why things happen the way they do. But some mysteries will never be known. A homing pigeon does not need to explain to me how it knows to find its way home. Somebody knows, I’m sure, but neither the bird nor I need to know the scientific explanation for this phenomenon in order to appreciate it. Some mysteries are left in the realm of mystery, and these will always have an air of wonder and even beauty about them.

One of my favorite theologians, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote the following:

No priest, no theologian stood at the cradle in Bethlehem. And yet all Christian theology has its origin in the wonder of all wonders, that God became human.... What a mistake to think that it is the task of theology to unravel God’s mystery, to bring it down to the flat, ordinary human wisdom of experience and reason! It is the task of theology solely to preserve God’s wonder as wonder, to understand, to defend, to glorify God’s mystery as mystery.... Surely Christmas Eve can kindle in us again something like a love of sacred theology, so that, seized and compelled by the wonder of the cradle of the Son of God, we are moved to consider again, reverently, the mysteries of God. (*-from A Testament to Freedom*)

Do we need to unravel the mystery of God’s love shown to us in the trappings of a tiny, vulnerable baby born on the road in a barn? There might be a good time to analyze the incarnation of God, but this is the Christmas season. This is the time to set aside all the questions, all the chasing of minutiae, and simply bow our heads before the wonder and the mystery of God coming to walk along-

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**PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONT.**

side of us.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

**-John 1:1-5**

With the Peace and Joy of Christmas,  
Pastor Mary

**PASTOR MARY'S LATEST ADVENTURE IN THE HEALTH SAGA...**

Friends, your loving concern for me is so overwhelming! I appreciate your prayers and words of support so much as I search for ways to live with frequent migraines and the “stuff” that comes with them. I still need to manage migraine pain 25 or 26 days each month. Some days are more successful than others, and I must admit I'm tired of being tired most of the time.

I will be having surgery on January 17, which will effectively “unpinch” the pinched nerves in my neck. The surgery will include a bone graft and then allow for a vertebrae fusion over the three months following. I will be in the hospital in Seattle for three days, and then recovering for three weeks before returning to work. I know this will help a lot of the numbness and pain that has been increasing due to the pinched nerves. Without the surgery, that will only get worse, regardless of the migraines. It remains to be seen how much this surgery will help with the migraines, however. The neurosurgeon says that there is a 70 to 80 % chance that it will significantly help with the migraines that are triggered by turning my head or the migraines that begin in the base of my skull. It is doubtful that it will help with the others that classically start on the side of my head, or because of my other triggers. At least “partial help” is on the way!

My thanks to each and every one of you for the love and prayers you offer on my behalf. I sense the presence of prayer around me each day, and it makes so much difference!

**JANUARY  
WORSHIP  
TOPICS****January 6**

Epiphany of the Lord  
Communion  
Pastor Tamalyn Kralman,  
guest preacher

**January 13**

Baptism of the Lord  
Service of Wholeness  
Isaiah 42:1-9  
Matthew 3:13-17  
“A Light to the Nations”

**January 20**

Guest Preacher

**January 27**

Guest Preacher



What a wonderful event we just had. If you were not able to be a part of our Alternative Christmas Faire, you need to mark your calendars for next year, because this is an event you'll want to attend. Each of our vendors made a point of coming to me and saying, "Count us in for next year." And, the donations raised for the nonprofit organizations? Thanks to your generosity over \$1600 were sent to Bellingham Food Bank, Bread for the World, Church World Service, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, Whatcom County Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Project International, Lighthouse Mission, Opportunity Council and Maple Alley Inn, PC(USA) Disaster Assistance), Mt Baker Red Cross, Southern Poverty Law Center, and UNICEF. We also sold 6 of the Maple Alley Inn's cookbooks. When Sheri Emerson, Opportunity Council's Public Relations Director found out, she e-mailed this message: "That's fabulous... I don't think we've ever sold that many cookbooks at any one weekend event. Thank you again for displaying and selling the books at this Faire... this support truly helps and we appreciate it!"

All in all, that's not bad for a snowy day in Whatcom County when most folks just wanted to curl up by the fire with a mug of cocoa! Thank you to the many, many people who worked so very hard to make this all possible. It was a monumental task and it could not have happened without so many of you and your willingness to say, "Yes, I want to be a part of that."

May each of you have a Christmas full of God's peace and a New Year full of God's joy.

♥ Pastor Tam



## CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH!



Calling all High School and Middle School Youth: Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 20, 2008, 1-4 p.m. Dr. Vincent Harding, a friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, will be at Faith Lutheran Church for the Youth of Faith: Peace and Justice Retreat. Watch the youth bulletin board or talk to Pastor Tam for more details.

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

Come one, come all, to a potluck supper at 6:30 on Friday, January 4, 2008, and for the study following until 8:30. Children's activities are available as the adults study the next segment of the Old Testament in our yearlong survey of the entire Old Testament. This time we will see the rise of a king and then kingdoms in the history of God's work with Israel and Judah, and with the community of faith. I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, and Ruth will be surveyed, with passing remarks about I and II Chronicles. What a surprise to find what is waiting in the Old Testament for you to discover! Come and find out!

Upcoming dates:

- **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)

## MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF ST. JAMES

Thank you, St. James community, for your generosity in supporting several special offerings:

- ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, during Lent of 2007: \$ 2180. Part of this denomination-wide offering goes to Presbyterian disaster assistance, and we just learned that funds from this program are being used to assist victims of the floods in the Olympia Presbytery area.
- PENTECOST OFFERING to support youth work. The Session approved the use of the 40% share to be designated locally as follows: Broadway Youth Center \$ 250, Homeport learning Center \$ 250, Atfaluna Center for Deaf Children in Gaza \$ 252.40. Total offering was \$1881 with \$1129 going to Presbytery and up from there.
- SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE in August: A total value of \$ 230 of school supplies were provided by St. James members to help needy children in our community.
- CROP WALK for Church World Service, together with other Bellingham Churches, had a good participation and response; St. James walkers raised \$ 1205 of the total \$ 7,369 raised by the 7 local participating Churches. 25% of the proceeds went to the Ferndale and Bellingham Food banks and Maple Alley Inn Hot Meal Program.
- PEACEMAKING OFFERING on Worldwide Communion Sunday: \$ 2242; the Mission Committee proposed to Session that \$ 300 of the 25% share for local designation would go to the Ministry of Doug Dicks, Presbyterian Liaison with Christian Communities in Israel, Palestine and Jordan; the allocation of the other \$ 300 to be decided early next year.
- BLANKET/WARM COAT SUNDAY. A large number of warm coats provided by our members were delivered to Assumption Catholic Church for distribution. \$ 1243 were received through the offering for the blanket and small tools program of Church World Service.
- THE LIVING STONES. Christian Communities in the Middle East: Churches of different denominations in the North West, and particularly the Greater Seattle area, are preparing a conference on Christian Communities in Israel, Palestine and the wider Middle East. Several speakers from Bethlehem and Jerusalem have agreed to speak at the conference, to be held on April 18 and 19 at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle. Our mission and Social Action Committee will keep you informed of more details as they become available.

## WASHINGTON FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

A letter from **Lynn Longfield**, General Presbyter of Olympia Presbytery, provides us with the latest information on relief efforts:

Friends,

As you are well aware, the human suffering in Lewis and Grays Harbor Counties is profound following last week's storm and resulting flooding. Community, federal, state and church agencies are mobilizing to provide immediate and long term aid to those who have lost homes, possessions, and in some instances, hope.

After touring the hardest hit areas yesterday, two national Presbyterian Disaster Relief specialists, Bob Barnes and Morella Larsen, met with staff members here in the Presbytery office today. They will be with us for several days to help coordinate response efforts. In addition PDA has granted us \$10,000 in emergency aid, for which we are immensely grateful. We will be working with our brothers and sisters in the most devastated areas to determine how those funds can best be used to get people back on their feet.

The United Way (360-740-7744) is doing marvelous work in the Chehalis/Centralia area to address immediate needs. If your church would like to send a work crew ASAP to help clear debris from homes, they are the ones to contact. Joyce Carr (360-748-7298) would be happy to help you make that connection in order to set up a time and place to work.

Washington Interfaith Disaster Recovery Organization (WIDRO) is also hard at work in the ecumenical community mobilizing workers and resources. Here is a notice sent out from Associated Ministries this morning:

If you would like to make a contribution to the disaster recovery effort, you may either send checks directly to the Presbytery office designated for WA Disaster Recovery, or to PDA, designated to Account Number DR000015, specified to Washington flood relief.

## 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. Questions, call Phyllis Jones, 734-4504.

**Tuesday, January 29**

### 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.

The next prayer vigil will be at 5:30 pm on Friday, January 18, 2008: Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

All are welcome!



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

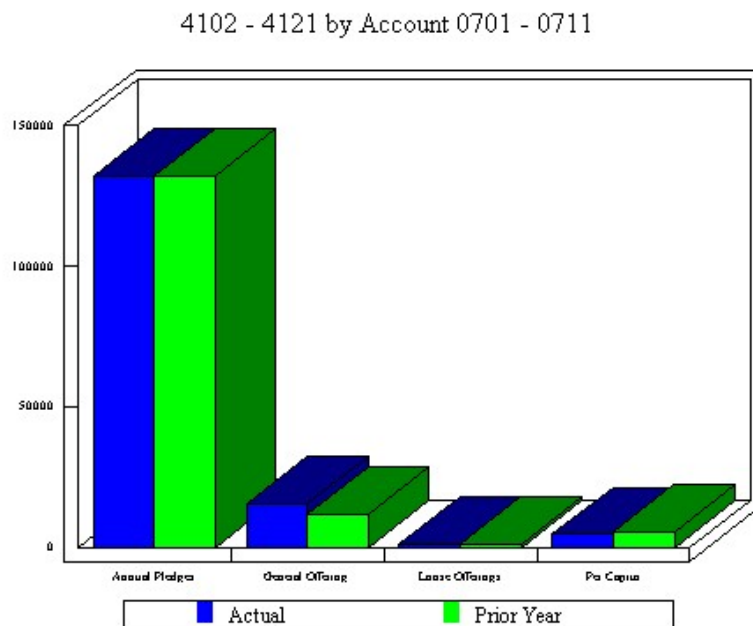
Please join us for the monthly all-church clean-up ~ landscaping ~ fix-it ~ workday: **Saturday, January 12: 9 am—12 pm.** Bring your favorite tools, and join us in maintaining our lovely church!

### TREASURER'S REPORT SALLY ALBERS

At the end of November, we continue to have a positive balance in the General Fund. We appreciate the efforts of the staff and committees to keep costs under control. We also acknowledge the cheerful giving of our congregation and those organizations who pay to use our church facilities. Several of our regular space users have made donations in addition to their building use agreements, out of appreciation for our beautiful, well-maintained building.

The Stewardship campaign for 2008 has pledges in hand that total \$127,827.50. The full cost of a paid custodian will be met by the custodial pledges already in hand. Session intends to provide a 2008 budget that also supports increased commitment to Mission, Christian Ed activities and modest raises for our hard-working staff. In addition we are allowing for 9% expected inflation of normal building operating expenses. To meet this vision, Jack Drury plans a special appeal to raise an additional \$23,750 – an increase of 11% over 2007 income.

Those of you who are interested in financial matters are invited to pick up copies of the November financials and/or our dream 2008 budget from the office during normal office hours.



**Sunday schedule**

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

# January

**SUN**

**MON**

**TUE**

**W**

1

8 am Prayer Group  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

6 pm

6

**Holy Communion**  
**The Rev. Tamalyn Kralman,**  
**Guest Preacher**

7

6 pm Boy Scouts  
 7 pm Co-op Preschool Board

8

8 am Prayer Group  
 5 pm Stewardship committee  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 6 pm Membership committee  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance  
 7 pm Co-op Preschool Parents

5 pm Mission

5:30 pm

6 pm

7 pm What

C

13

**Service of Wholeness**

14

6 pm Boy Scouts

15

8 am Prayer Group  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

6 pm

20

21

6 pm Boy Scouts

22

*Pulse* Items Duel!  
 8 am Prayer Group  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

6 pm

27

**11:30 am Annual**  
**Congregational Meeting**

28

5:30 Girl Scouts  
 6 pm Boy Scouts

29

8 am Prayer Group  
 5:30 pm Al Anon  
 7:30 pm WA Gender Alliance

10 am

6 pm

# July 2008

**Church office**  
 Open Tuesday ~ Friday,  
 9-12, 1-4  
 733-1325  
[office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)

## WED

## THU

## FRI

## SAT

2 AA Men	3 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Whatcom Weaver's Guild—HR 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	4 6 pm Native American AA 6:30 pm "Get to Know the Old Testament" Study & Potluck	5 10 am OA
9 AA & Social Action Personnel AA Men Whatcom Weaver's Guild	10 Annual Reports due 11 am Staff 5 pm Christian Ed. comm. 6:30 pm Congregational Life 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	11 1:30 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm Native American AA	12 9-12 Church Work Party 10 am OA
16 AA Men	17 5:30 pm Sunday School Teachers' meeting 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	18 5:30 pm Prayer Vigil for Middle East Peace @ Sacred Heart 6 pm Native American AA 6:30 pm Women's Agape Night	19 10 am OA
23 AA Men	24 11 am Staff 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	25 6 pm Native American AA 6 pm Friday Night Social	26 10 am OA
30 Pulse Crew AA Men	31 6:30 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir		

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation is set for January 27, 2008 immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to review the annual reports, to act on the terms of the Pastor's call, and to consider any other business pertinent to the congregation as set by the Session. This is a great opportunity to review how much our congregation has accomplished in the name of Jesus Christ over the year 2007, and to look forward to the work ahead in 2008. All active members of Saint James are encouraged to attend.

---

**January Birthdays**

\* \* \*

1 Teresa Bowers  
 2 Phil Jones  
 3 Susan Burkland  
 8 Marty Haines  
 9 Beverly (Sherman) Werschkul  
 9 Charles Snyder  
 13 Nancy Pace  
 15 Steve Inge  
 15 Karen Summers  
 16 Joan Elsethagen  
 17 Dwayne Rogers  
 18 Genevie Pfueller Roguski  
 20 Wayne Landis  
 21 Peg Wilke  
 22 Michael Hoffman  
 23 Fred McCormick

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

---

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

**Sean Baird**, a former Western student who attended St. James, is now pursuing a degree in public health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. His wife, **Gina**, works for United Way. They plan to return to Africa in the future. All the best, Sean and Gina!

**Linda and Dale Monroe** will be rejoining the Ashland Methodist Church on December 23, 2007. This is the church where Linda was baptized as an infant and where they grew up and were married 47 years ago. They miss their St. James Family very much and they will always hold a special place in their hearts. You are invited to stop by when you are in the Southern Oregon neighborhood! Dale and Linda Monroe, 2986 Seckel Street, Medford, OR 97504-8168.

**Fern Wibbens'** grandson, Brennen Chamberlain, wrote an article for his school newspaper titled, "The War on Christmas." You can see why Fern is proud of him by reading a copy of the article on the bulletin board in the narthex.

*If you have news you would like to share with the St. James family, please submit it to the church office by the next newsletter deadline, January 22.....*

## UPDATE ON IRAQI CHILDREN'S KITS

The good news continues regarding the Presbytery wide drive for the School and Health Kits for children of Iraqi refugees! The Camano Island Fellowship, a tiny group of Presbyterians meeting on Camano Island, has put together four complete kits for our drive! The Session of First Presbyterian Church in Port Angeles has voted to send \$1600 to the cause, which will allow participants of The Inn Campus Ministry in Bellingham to purchase and put together 40 complete kits! First Presbyterian Church of Bellingham has taken 20 empty tote bags to fill with complete kits! Saint James Presbyterian has collected 36 complete kits to date, plus two school kits (does that count as two halves making one whole?)!



Friends, that is 100 complete kits from four churches in our Presbytery! The goal of the drive is to send 250 kits from our Presbytery to Damascus, and the other 32 churches in our Presbytery are in various stages of work on this project. We are well on our way to meet this goal, and perhaps even exceed it! Way to go, Saint James, for giving a great kick off to this important outreach to children!

## LENT?! DIDN'T WE JUST FINISH ADVENT?

Yes, Lent comes early in 2008! Plans are already in the works for a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper and Disposition of Lenten Ashes on February 5. The first of five Lenten Soup Meal and Study gatherings will be on Thursday, February 14, from 12 noon until 1 p.m. Watch the next Pulse and the Sunday bulletins for details. In the meantime, enjoy the Christmas and Epiphany Season for now!

## TALL TIMBER FAMILY SNOW RETREAT...

Keep your calendars clear from February 21—24 for the 13th Annual Tall Timber Congregational Winter Retreat. Activities include cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, hiking, snow games, crafts, quiet time for reading and contemplation, good music, meaningful devotions and worship. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter!

If you are interested in helping to coordinate this event, please contact the Congregational Life committee for more information!



## 2007 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Dick Albers & Daughters	In memory of Joyce Albers
Marlene Amman	In memory of my mom, Vi Gerry, whom I miss very much
John & Bea Aubert	In appreciation for our music program
The Beaty Family	In memory of Ralph & Patricia Stamm
Randy & Teresa Bowers	In memory of Grandma Marian Cram
Peter & Susan Burkland	In memory of Reynolds Burkland
Bill & Maverette Butler	In appreciation for Pastor Mary; Carolyn & Choir; Renee
Margaret deMaine	In appreciation for adult Bible study opportunities In celebration of Sunday School for children
Jack & Shirley Drury	In appreciation for Bill Read's dedicated service to St. James
Gladys Eckhart	In memory of all my dear ones in life eternal
Dottie Hagar	In memory of mother and father
Bob & Barbara Harnden	In appreciation for Sally & Bill for volunteering their time and talent!
Claude & Faye Hill	In appreciation for Pastor Tam
Margaret Humble	In appreciation for those from St. James families in the armed services
Frank Jenkinson	In memory of Coralinn Jenkinson, wife
Julie & Craig Keyes	In memory of Don & Sarah Calmus
Tom & Barb Kilpatrick	In memory of Judy Mattheisen and James Kilpatrick
The Rev. Tamalyn Kralman	In memory of Aunt Fern in celebration of Tabasco Bock

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Tom & Margaret McVie	In appreciation for Pastor Mary and all the staff of St. James
Helen Oliver-Leen	In memory of my parents, Mr. & Mrs. Esker Fitzwater
Bob & Nancy Pace	In memory of Edmund Downing, Samantha Downing
Bob & Lillian Pejsa	In memory of parents Margorie & Otto Pejsa and Alta & Sam Richards
Jan Resick	
Ralph H. Rinne	In memory of Eleanor W. Rinne
Dwayne & Karen Rogers	In memory of our parents
Irene Rome	In memory of my son Jason
Robert & Madeleine Smith	In memory of our parents, and Sam Lance
Martha Speer	In loving memory of Leslie Speer, faithful servant and loving father, whom we miss very much
Sandie Starr	In memory of John Starr & Flora Fairlie As an expression of love for my family
Bill & Karen Summers	In memory of Godfrey & Louise Schilling, Bill's great- grandparents In appreciation for Kirsten & Robin, and Ingrid & Jean François, our children
Cheryl Terpstra	In memory of my mom, Effie Bode
Don & Marjorie Thorson	In memory of John & Myrtle Denny
Glenn Titus	In memory of my wife, Fran
Peg Wilke	In appreciation for St. James leaders & services
Gus & Nancy Wagar	In memory of Dorothy VanderWerff In memory of Irene Delahoyde



*Thanks to  
the Pulse  
Mailing Crew*

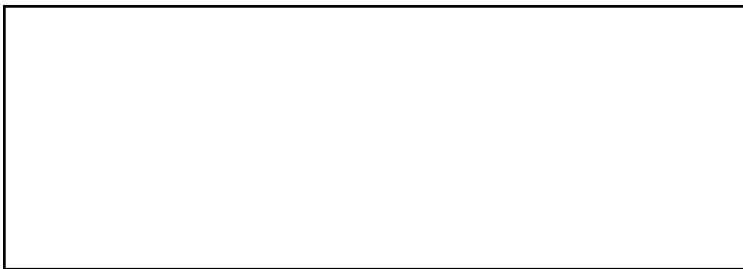
Maverette Butler  
Margaret deMaine  
Mary Elmslie  
Dorothy Herrmann  
Mel Reasoner

*Deadline for the February issue:  
January 22*

St. James Presbyterian Church  
910 14th Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
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office@saintjamespres.org

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