

the Pulse

APRIL 2024



CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

Submitted by Tracy Caruso, Children & Family Ministry Director,

Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries!

Spring has sprung! What an amazing month March was! A huge Thank You to Randy Pries for leading such an amazing adult education class during Lent! We look forward to more classes from Randy in the future. We also held our annual BINGO night and had a lot of yummy food, fellowship, and fun. The youth group met for our monthly meeting and had a fun evening of pizza and games. Our Godly Play students heard both our Faces of Easter and the Greatest Parable series during Lent.



Our Godly Play classroom

continues to grow, and we would love anyone interested in volunteering to let Tracy know. We capped off March with an amazing Easter service and super fun Easter egg hunt following the service. It was so great to see not just St. James kiddos but also lots of kiddos from the community and Toddler Time.

With all that happened in March it is hard to believe we have so much coming up in the next couple of months.

We will once again be partnering with First Presbyterian Church to offer a four-day Vacation Bible School for children entering Kindergarten thru 5th grade. Registration opens April 1st, and we hope you will join us as we Find God in the peaks and valleys at Alpine Ascent. Volunteers are also needed, please talk to Tracy if you can help, or just register as a volunteer.



Our All Church Retreat planning committee is working hard and we have an incredible fundraiser planned for May 11th. We hope you will join us for **SUNSHINE THROUGH THE RAIN: An afternoon of St. James art**. We are looking for St. James artists of all kinds! On May 11th we will be holding a fundraising performance of St. James participants along with an art auction to help offset the cost of the retreat. We are looking for anyone who would like to donate a piece of artwork or perform a piece of music, poetry, reading, etc. If you have a performance piece you would like to contribute please email Tracy (tracy@saintjamespres.org) with the type and approximate length of what you would like to contribute. If you have a physical piece of art you would like to donate please fill out the form here <https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/signups/2248745>, or fill out a paper form found in the Horizon room on Sunday's. Submissions are due by April 14th! If you would like to join the retreat planning committee please let Tracy know.

We have an amazing spring coming up! If you have any questions or want to know how to get involved please contact Tracy (tracy@saintjamespres.org)

Godly Play schedule for April

April 7th Easter Eggs

April 14th Work Day

April 21st St Francis

April 28th Jesus & the Twelve

register: tinyurl.com/AlpineVBS2024

VBS 2024

ALPINE

ASCEND

Save the Date!

June 24-27

finding God in the peaks and valleys

The graphic features a blue sky with white clouds and purple mountains. A silhouette of a person is climbing a mountain peak. The text 'ALPINE ASCEND' is prominently displayed in large, white, bold letters. The tagline 'finding God in the peaks and valleys' is written in a smaller font at the bottom.

Register here: tinyurl.com/AlpineVBS2024

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

submitted by Pastor Seth Thomas

Highlights from the March 10, 2024 Session meeting

- This was the first gathering with the new Session, including Elders Ralph Buchan and Casey Morriss. We had a productive meeting and look forward to working with this group!
- The Session nominated and voted in Casey Morriss as our new Clerk of Session. Thank you, Casey!
- Personnel Committee Chair, Ralph Buchan, and Pastor Seth outlined the following Sabbatical staffing plan for July, August, and September:
 - Janice Smith will serve as Head of Staff
 - Randy Pries will be available for Pastoral Care and Support coverage
 - Kyle Anderson will serve as Session Moderator
 - A team of St. James members and friends of the congregation will rotate Sunday preaching duties, including our annual 3-church Pulpit Swap in August.
- We received a proposal from Christian Faith Formation to support Tracy Caruso as she pursues training to become a licensed Godly Play Trainer. Funds were allocated for registration and travel costs from the Youth Endowment.
- The session discussed the newly revitalized Health and Wellness Committee and processes for managing its income and disbursing funds to our mission's projects.
- Ralph Buchan was elected as a new church Trustee, joining Aaron Caruso and Teresa Bowers.



FINANCE UPDATE

submitted by Andrew McLaurin, Chair of Finance

As we settle into 2024, I'm pleased to report that we are in a sound financial position. We are blessed to be able to continue our ministries with healthy finances.

A few things to note about our finances:

- As you will note in the grid below, our income is tracking well ahead of the budget. Several of our parishioners have paid their annual pledges in one lump sum. This is resulting in higher than budgeted income. The committee is aware of this and will be tracking contributions closely to ensure we are meeting budgeted goals.
- Our expenses are tracking as anticipated.
- Facilities Endowment funds have been used to pay for the new windows in the Horizon Room.
- Tenant use is consistent with the potential for additional tenants.
- First quarter mission disbursements have been made.

We paid our per capita payment to the Presbytery. The per capita is based on our membership roll two years prior to this year. This year we paid \$55.05 for each person on our membership roll in 2022. If you would like to offset your share of the per capita please do so using one of the payment methods listed below. Be sure to note that your payment is for your per capita.

as of 3/28/24	February Actual	February budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$44,779.00	\$22,542.00	\$72,655.44	\$48,750.00
Expenses	\$24,636.73	\$24,855.15	\$54,501.89	\$55,294.00

If you have any questions regarding the finances of Saint James Presbyterian Church please feel free to contact me or Katie Dunne at Stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com.

Aside from utilizing contact-free offering on Sunday morning, you can give in TWO primary ways:

1. **Online Giving:** You can give a one-time gift or create a recurring monthly pledge. Please visit this webpage to set up or update your online giving: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>
If you are new to online giving we've got a handy video to show you how, here:
<https://www.loom.com/share/5aea350026204a9cb3c955029dafbdd3>
2. **Mail-In Donations or Pledges:** You can mail your pledges and gifts to the church.
 Saint James Presbyterian Church
 910 14th Street
 Bellingham, WA 98225



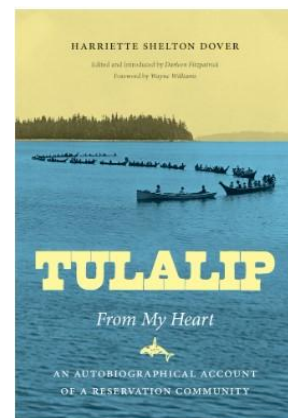
Teach of Faith, Yonggang Kuo

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Sacred Encounters lesson is scheduled for April 30th, 10:30 in the Lounge. The title is "An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus".

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

The St. James book club is currently reading *Tulalip, From My Heart: An Autobiographical Account of a Reservation Community*. We will meet the third Monday in April, April 15th, at 7pm on Zoom. Email tracy@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link. Books are available in the church office.



LUKE ARNOLD PIANO RECITAL

Watch Luke Arnold's final master's recital – Saturday, 4/6, at 1pm PDT. He'll be playing Schubert, Brahms, Janáček, and Albéniz. Follow this link for the livestream - <https://music.rice.edu/events/lukes-arnold-0>

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

Submitted by Maureen Kosa, Mission and Social Action chair

"The church doesn't do mission; the church is mission," says Chuck Van Engen, a missionary who served in Mexico for many years. Paul started his missionary work right in his own "backyard" building relationships, teaching, and practicing discipleship. What are some ways we can minister to those in our backyard or neighborhoods? How can serving in our neighborhoods shape our engagement with mission globally?

Grace Ruitter writes, "Ultimately each of us is just a small part of the mission of the church. And just like Jesus planted seeds that he relied on his followers to water, we need to work together across both cultures and generations to fulfill the mission of the church. (Above material taken from Richard Rohr Daily Meditations) Thank you to The Table and Aaron Walters and members of their congregation for planning and cooking the meal at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Southside on March 17. Thank you to St. James' members who helped set up, serve, and clean up.

Consider attending the Sacred Earth Fair Urban Edition on April 20 (1-4 pm) at the First Congregational Church in Bellingham sponsored by Multifaith Network for Climate Justice. Learn more about this affiliate of Earth Ministry in our next issue of The Pulse.

Sacred Earth Fair Urban Edition



Saturday
April 20, 2024

1:00 - 4:00

Admission free

*Replenish our spirits
Build knowledge
Inspire action*



First Congregational Church of Bellingham, 2401 Cornwall Ave.

Opening ceremony at 1:00 - Tables, Sessions & Panel follow

	Backyard Pollinators	Salish Current
Tables:	Whatcom Million Trees	Community Energy Challenge
	Whatcom Transportation Authority	Multifaith Network for Climate Justice
	League of Women Voters / Zero Plastic	Whatcom Conservation District
	Whatcom Land Trust	Urban Composting
	And more!	

Sessions:	Backyard Habitats - Audubon	Children's Mason Bee Houses
	Labyrinth / Poetry	COB Climate and Energy

Panel Discussion: State Sen. Sharon Shewmake; Seth Vidaña, City of Bellingham Climate Energy Manager; Michael Feerer, Whatcom Million Trees; Mark Schofield, Community Energy Challenge; Jonna Gilham, student activist; facilitator Alex Harris, RE Sources

Calling together diverse environmental voices of our community that have shared common interests and concerns for creation care and environmental activism.

We encourage using WTA buses, biking, or walking. Parking will be available.

For further information contact Nancy Fayram, First Congregational Green Team member -- nancyfayram@icloud.com

ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, pastor@saintjamespres.org
 Children & Family Ministry Director: Tracy Caruso, tracy@saintjamespres.org
 Music Director: Ta Wei Tsai, music@saintjamespres.org
 Treasurer: Katie Dunne, stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com
 Administrative Ministry Assistant: Sharon King, office@saintjamespres.org

SESSION OF ST. JAMES

Tess Bowers
 Ralph Buchan
 Aaron Caruso
 Sarah Condreay
 Maureen Kosa
 Andrew McLaurin
 Casey Morriss
 Jimmy Parks
 Nebiyu Tesfa
 Pastor Seth Thomas, Moderator

DEACONS

Deacons Parish 1 – Merry Thomas*, Alice Bailey
 Deacons Parish 2 – Judy Buchan, Gena Gustafson
 Deacons Parish 3 – Buzz & Holly Hagshenas,
 Carla Shafer
 Deacons Parish 4 – Valerie McBeth, Claudia Allan
 Deacons Parish 5 – Pam Gibson, Julie Keyes
 Deacons Parish 6 – Kirsten Oliver, Amy Morriss*

* Deacon Co-Moderators

Worship Schedule - Online and In-Person, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Live streaming at:

<https://saintjamespres.org/live>
<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/>

Church Office Hours:

9:00am - 2:00pm, Monday - Thursday



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4/12	Sally Crandall	
4/16	Erin Keyes	
4/17	Bruce Kraig	
4/18	Zach Mullen	
4/20	Sally Albers	
4/23	Mark Beaty	
4/25	Valerie McBeth	
4/29	Cheryl McGregor	
4/30	Annah Baker	

PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group
 AA Grateful Hearts Women's Group
 AA Men's Book Study Group
 AA SOS Men's Group
 Bayside Co-op Preschool
 Bellingham Community Chorus
 Bellingham Ukulele Group
 Boy Scouts Troop 7
 Happy Hour Al-Anon
 Liberation Yoga
 Linda's Tai Chi
 Little Sapling Music
 Overeaters Anonymous
 St. James Fitness
 The Table Church
 Whatcom Weavers Guild

Add your request to the St. James Prayer Chain
Contact your Deacon or St. James at:
360-733-1325 | office@saintjamespres.org



Deadlines for church publications
Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm
Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm
Monthly "the Pulse": the 25th, 2:00pm



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