

The Tower

St. James Episcopal Church
1410 NE Stadium Way, Pullman, WA 99163
509-332-1742 stjamespullman@verizon.net
www.stjamespullman.org

February 2009

Beloved friends,

The season of light is another term for the Epiphany season. Beginning with the guiding light of the star of Bethlehem and concluding with the dazzling display of glory as Jesus ascends the mountain to be transfigured by unearthly light, we celebrate in story the revealing of Jesus through his life and ministry, through miracles of healing and abundance, as his friends and family, strangers and even the demonic spirits come to recognize that he is the Holy One of God. Who is Jesus revealed as in your life? How do we come to recognize the Holy One of God, the Savior of the world? And how do we respond to that awareness?

We have some great opportunities here and throughout the community to explore that question. The group of adults who meet Sundays at 9am in the Canterbury Room have been reading Marcus Borg's *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*. They're taking a break this month so that Jean Wardwell can go back east to help her sister, whose husband died unexpectedly. But the February break will give you a chance to catch up on the reading, and there are extra copies available on the table just outside the parish office.

On the Wednesdays of March, The Rev. Susan Cleveley will facilitate a Lenten study session on the discernment of spiritual gifts. Discernment isn't just for those who are exploring the possibility of ordained ministry; it is an opportunity for each of us to examine our response to the gifts we have been given. Also on Wednesdays, the *Inspire* group hosted by Methodists and Episcopalians at the K-House continues to explore Images of God. Both of these Wednesday gatherings begin with a meal. More details on each of these activities are included inside this edition of the Tower.

In these days of Ordinary Time (named from the Latin *ordinarius* meaning "counted" as in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. Sundays after the Epiphany) we get settled back in to the school year; we resume our activities interrupted by holidays and tremendous snowstorms. The new vestry meets to elect wardens, and begin their new tenure. We have much to do, and you gave us food for the journey in your discussion during the annual meeting. We need your prayers as we continue on our exploration of how we will faithfully respond to Christ's call to each of us to serve, and how we will present the vision for St. James' Episcopal Church before this congregation to live out in our worship and in our daily work well done.

The days grow longer, promising the return of spring, and with it, getting ready for the season of Lent. Beginning with our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at 5pm on February 24, and Ash Wednesday services the following day at 7am, noon, and 7pm, we will have an opportunity to begin the season of Lent ready to make that exploration of Who this is who comes to us with healing and abundance, and how we are called to respond in joy and hope.

In peace,

The people of St. James are a community of faith rooted in God's unconditional love, seeking to express that love to one another, our neighbors and the world.

Deadline for
March issue
February 15th

Rector
Mary Beth Rivetti 432-1807

Deacons
Theodore Nitz 334-1755
Wilhelmina "Toni" Sarai-Clark 882-9255

Senior Warden
Sharon Nitz 334-1755

Junior Warden

Vestry Members
*3-year terms
*Fritz Hughes '12 332-4487
*Elsa K Peters '11 595-3511
Dianne Lowe '10 592-0349
Eric Pratt '10 592-5167
Margaret Rehberg '10 872- 0104
*Stephan Flores '10 882-6508
Sharon Nitz '10 334-1755
David Seamans '09 332-1292
Sara Schofield '10 315-382-1129
John Brewer '10 332-3788

Clerk:
Stephan Flores

Treasurer
Dean Ritchie 334-3132

Nursery Coordinators
Joe & Tina Vona-Pergola 883-0734

Christian Education
Tina Vona-Pergola 883-0734

Senior High
Dan Mistak 339-3725
Rex Burns 332-4704

Altar Guild Director
Linda Adams 882-0989

ECW Co-Chairs
Sue Johnson 332-1375
Margaret Rehberg 872-0104

Men's Breakfast
Dean Ritchie 334-3132
Phil Mixter 334-5384

Building & Grounds
David Seamans 332-1292

Outreach/Social Justice
Joe Pergola 883-0734
Todd Butler 332-5594

Pastoral Care
Carol Porter 334-7458

Parish Assistant
Carol Porter 332-1742
stjamespullman@verizon.net

VESTRY DIGEST January 13, 2009

At its meeting of January 13, the vestry

- Approved the November and December Treasurer's Reports
 - Designated fund transfers for the College Fund, the Major Repairs Special Fund, gifts to Episcopal Relief and Development and the Heifer Project
 - Approved a budget for 2009 to present to the annual meeting
 - Appointed Sharon Nitz to fill the unexpired term of Rob McCoy
- Agreed to meet for vestry retreat on February 7 prior to the next meeting of the vestry on February 10.
The minutes of vestry meetings and treasurer's reports are posted in the office.

Annual Meeting Report

At its annual meeting on January 25, the congregation

- Provided a wonderful selection of food to welcome our guests from the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity
 - Elected Fritz Hughes to serve a three-year term on the vestry
 - Elected Dianne Lowe, Eric Pratt, and Margaret Rehberg to serve two-year terms on the vestry
 - Elected Sara Schofield, Phil Mixter and Sharon Nitz as delegates to diocesan convention, Claudia Wohlfeil, Jennifer Hammond and Rex Burns were elected as alternates.
 - Passed the budget for 2009 presented by the vestry
- Elected Stephan Flores to serve as vestry secretary; Dean Ritchie as treasurer, and Jan Brandt as assistant treasurer.
Minutes of the annual meeting will be presented to the vestry and when approved will be posted in the parish office.

Parish Office Hours

Carol: Tues-Fri 9am- 3pm

Lunch from 1-2

Mary Beth: Tues- Thurs 9am - 3 p.m.

Lunch from 12 - 1

Belize Mission 2009

2009 marked ten years for the mission trip to Belize and included the largest group ever at 49. We rented five vans plus a pick up truck to manage the group, luggage, medical supplies and vitamins. I purchased \$1400.00 worth of vitamins at cost with the help of the HWS Pharmacy at WSU. A Millennium Development Grant made this possible from the Diocese, funds from St. James Outreach committee, plus some private donations. When I went to pick them up I was astonished to discover how many and how heavy they were. It took four extra suitcases at 50 pounds each to transport them. These vitamins will be a year's supply for 250 children at Saint Mathew's Anglican School in Belize. It was a real treat to deliver them and have the principal bring the classes in to meet us and receive their vitamins. The principal is hopeful that these vitamins will improve the health of these delightful children.

The medical team, which consisted of the majority of the mission team, spent a week treating patients, doing surgery, dispensing medication to those who can't afford to pay for health care. The construction project (which ECW contributed funds to help) began the foundation for an Anglican Church building near Saint Matthew's School

I thank you all for your continued support for this mission work in Belize with a special gratitude to ECW and the Outreach Committee for helping with funds.

Kay Surles

Christian Education

The adult group meeting on Sundays at 9am in Canterbury Room has been reading Marcus Borg's book *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*. While they're taking the month of February off from reading to allow Jean Wardwell to visit her sister, the following is a reflection written by Dean Ritchie after the group began (following some false starts due to snow!) Extra copies of the book are still available on the table outside the parish office. You can use February to catch up!

We finally met for the first time on Sunday.

Early in the morning, I woke up and got to thinking about the topic-- why is it important to read and study this book? I concluded that the reason I find it very important is that there are forces or social tendencies in our culture, both civil and religious, that tend to "water down" and try to tame the full impact of the Good News. On reflection, it's clear why that would be: a thoroughly forgiven, morally independent and spiritually mature person is an incredible hazard to any form of social order. Such a person must appear to be ungovernable to anybody who has leadership ambitions, in either church or state.

To the extent that we can be successful in retrieving Jesus' message and comprehend the reasons for the spin the early church put on its teachings, we can set our spiritual course to actually follow his life and example, and maybe teach our findings to some around us, and overcome the taming influences of Popes, Bishops, Televangelists, Presidents, Congressmen, and doting mothers (to name just a few of the Powers and Principalities that beset us).

Although most of the people present hadn't actually read the introduction and first chapter, we had a lively and interesting few minutes. I'm not going to try to reconstruct it all; I probably haven't written very accurately what I said because what I think about it has already been influenced by what others said there.

Prayer list

Fighting Cancer:

Robert
Edwin
Ellen
Jenni
Anthony Dee
Mary
Marion

Fighting other Illnesses:

Christian– Perthes Disease
Bill B.
Lorri P.– MS
George– Corticobasal Degeneration
Janine– Mental illness
Jeri-MS
Nicholas– Mental Illness
Sean– Mental Illness
Daniel & Parents– Schizophrenia
Robbie– MS
Bradley– Healing
Bruce– Healing
Anne

Special prayers:

Henry & Claire– Life transition
Gerrit– Life transition
Catherine & Dean– Healing
Eric– Healing
Mary H.– Healing
Collin & Family-Life transition

For those who have died

Tom



From the Senior Warden

February is a month with many focuses. The month begins at our house with a swarm of birthdays plus there is Lincoln's birthday and Washington's Birthday which Americans have cleverly consolidated into President's Day, plus Valentine's Day. But when I consider February, I always think that Lent will start soon and that is true for February 2009. Ash Wednesday comes late in the month this year – on February 25th.

Lent is labeled as a penitential season in the Christian faith. It is also a time for introspection, sacrifice and focus on God. I would like to ask that this year you include as a Lenten discipline an offering of daily prayer. The Christian monastic life is built around the prayer hours of Vigils, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, Nones, Vespers, and Compline so we have an example of prayers 8 times a day. Muslims stop for prayer or are "called" to prayer 5 times a day. To match either of those disciplines would be an aggressive challenge, so let's take the approach of a fitness workout and begin gently. If you want a guide (trainer), the *Book of Common Prayer* includes forms for morning and evening prayer, noonday prayer, and compline which are based on the ancient monastic tradition. The BCP also has shorter, adaptable forms for personal prayer which can help us get started. It is not about how often we pray or how we pray but that it becomes a habit in our lives. Whether you are someone who already prays daily or one who could add it to your daily routine, I ask that you join me this February and March to pray for the church, especially St James, Pullman, on a daily basis. And as long as I am asking, let us pray

As we enter the discipline of daily prayer, we are joining with all Christians who offer their prayers to God and that includes the long succession of saints who have gone before us.

for the vestry including Stephan Flores, Sara Schofield, John Brewer, Elsa Kirsten Peters, Sharon Nitz, Fritz Hughes, Dianne Lowe, Eric Pratt and Margaret Rehberg and for the vestry retreat on February 7th.

For Mary Beth Rivetti, our priest, that she finds a week in February to rest and revive while a care giver provides for George.

for Carol Porter as she oversees the daily organization of the church office for those who are ill including those we list in our Sunday bulletin each week for those who are having financial challenges

for our children

for our spring Sunday School teachers who instruct our children

for those who work tirelessly behind the scenes at St James

As Saint Paul reminds us in Thessalonians 5:17 : "pray without ceasing"

In Christ
Sharon Nitz

Worship

Morning Prayer Wednesdays 8:30am

Ash Wednesday services

February 25—7am, noon, 7pm

Worship opportunities in Lent

Weekdays of Lent at 8:30am

Wednesdays in March 6-7:30pm

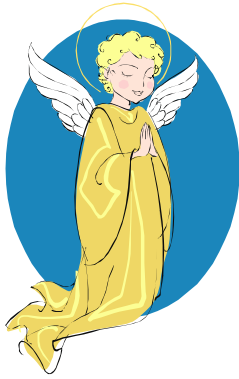
Fridays at noon in Lent

Morning Prayer

Supper + Class

Stations of the
Cross

Sign-up sheets will be in the parish office for those wishing to take on the leadership of any of these offices



Christian Education

February 1 Joseph and the many colored coat
Carolyn

February 8 Jonah and the whale
Nancy

February 15 Daniel in the Lion's Den
Jason

February 22 Baby Moses
Jason

March 1 Loaves and Fishes
Joe

March 8 The Lost Sheep
Carolyn

March 15 SPRING BREAK—NO STORY TIME

March 22 The Last Supper
Joe

March 29 Easter (focus on the Easter Story)
Tina

April 5 Easter (focus on spring time/renewal)
Tina

April 12 EASTER—NO STORY TIME

The People of St. James

The St. James Moms' Group :

would like to invite the women of St. James to a baby shower for Cherish Visger. The shower will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 2:00-4:00 in the Canterbury Room. We'll have some cake, punch and fun games to celebrate with Cherish!

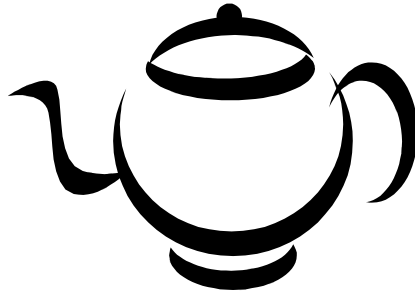
If you are interested in contributing toward the purchase of a new stroller for Visger IV, please contact Carolyn Ross (cfross@wsu.edu, 332-5545) or the church office. Extra funds collected for the stroller will go toward a gift basket.

We hope you can join us for the fun!

Carolyn Ross

Mark your Calendar Ladies

The Ladies of St. James are hosting our second annual Tea on April 25. It will be an opportunity to dress up, show off your fine china and your elegant hats, sip fine teas and share excellent food. There will be a silent auction fund-raiser and if we get them put together there will be recipe books for you to purchase with many of the recipes that were used at last years tea. Most of all, we expect it will be fun! Women, girls, mothers and daughters, sisters and friends—this event is for you. Sign-up sheet will be in parish hall .



Shrove Tuesday: The Pancake Fest is February 24 starting at 5 pm

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and recieved forgiveness before the Lenten season began.

As far back as 1000 AD, "to shrive" meant to hear confessions. (Trivia note: the term survives today in the expression "short shrift" or giving little attention to anyone's explanations or excuses).

Historically, Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden by the church to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they all would go bad by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday. What to do?

Solution: use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. And so, with the addition of a little flour, the solution quickly presented itself in... pancakes. And lots of 'em.

Today, the Shrove Tuesday pancake tradition lives on throughout Western Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia, but is most associated with the UK where it is simply known as Pancake Day with a traditional recipe, although these can be as varied in the UK as there are British households.

In France, (as well as here in the US - or more famously - in New Orleans) it's known as *Fat Tuesday* which kicks off the Mardi Gras festival with wild celebrations just before the austere Lenten season.

In Sweden, Fat Tuesday translates to *Fettisdagen*, and in Lithuania it's *Uzgavens*. In Poland, traditional celebrations take place on a Thursday a week before Ash Wednesday and so it's *Tlusty Czwartek*, or Fat Thursday.





I had an amazing trip to Washington DC to see the inauguration of our 44th President. My friend Karin and I flew in the day before but didn't arrive in DC until 11pm. We quickly got our car rental and hit the local Safeway for provisions arriving in Fairfax VA at midnight. We were staying with a friend of Karin's. She thought we were crazy when we said we were getting up at 3:00 so we could be on the 4:00 metro train. Crazy or not, we got up at 3:00, left her house for the metro station at 3:30 and then spent the next 45 minutes trying to get into the metro parking lot! Good thing we planned to leave early. We finally got on the train and headed into downtown. The excitement was palpable even at 4:15 in the morning!

We got off the train close to 5am and made our way to the mall. Once we were on the mall we tried to move as far forward as we could. There were volunteers who kept telling us to move up towards 4th St so we did. The only problem is that 4th St. was barricaded and guarded by the National Guard. The crowd behind us could not see the barricades (or the National Guard for that matter) and kept trying to push forward. We found ourselves up against the barrier for about 30-45 minutes.

It became readily apparent that the Guard was not going to let us through to cross the street. We found out later that the real hold-up was the 3rd St. tunnel, otherwise known as the "purple tunnel of doom". People who had tickets were being herded through the tunnel but the security lines were up to 5 hours long! We decided to move back towards one of the jumbo-trons and stake out a vantage point where we would not be squished to death.

It was cold but at about 8am they started showing the concert from Sunday. People began to sing/dance around which helped to warm us all up! The time managed to fly by and at about 11am the VIP's began to process in. The guy standing behind us knew every single Senator and Congressperson on the screen! He was a hoot: "Hey that's Frankie Lautenberg from New Jersey...hey, hey...big Frankie-styles".

And then suddenly everything went really fast. Joe Biden is sworn in. John Roberts bobbles administering the oath of office (a groan went out in our section). President-elect Obama officially becomes our 44th President. As he was giving his speech there were tears. And at least one unintentional laugh from me when he said "On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord." And the camera panned over to George Bush. I'm sure it was a timing issue. Change from camera one to camera two kind of thing, but I did let out a chortle. And then all of us were hugging. Random strangers from the four corners of the earth were hugging and jumping up and down and letting out whoops of joy. Simply one of the most amazing events I've ever witnessed. I'm so glad I went.

I know this is running long. I'll be happy to share other stories at coffee hour if people are interested.

Claudia Wohlfeil



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St. James Episcopal Church
 1410 NE Stadium Way
 Pullman, WA 99163

*“We are no longer strangers and sojourners but fellow citizens
 with the saints and members of the household of God.”*

Feb. 1	Outreach/Social Justice after 10am service
Feb. 4	Women of St. James Fellowship 10:30am Lunch 12pm
Feb. 8	Buildings & Grounds after 10am service
Feb. 10	Vestry 7pm
Feb. 21	Baby Shower 2pm-4pm
Feb. 24	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5pm
Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday Service 7am, 12pm and 7pm
March 1	Outreach/Social Justice after 10am service
March 4	Women of St. James Fellowship 10:30am Lunch 12pm
March 8	Buildings & Grounds after 10am service
March 10	Vestry 7pm
March 21	Mom’s Group 10am to 12pm
March 28	Women of St. James Business meeting 10am
April 1	Women of St. James Fellowship 10:30am Lunch 12pm
April 5	Outreach/Social Justice after 10am service
April 12	Buildings & Grounds after 10am service
April 18	Mom’s Group 10am to 12pm
April 19	K-house auction 4pm
April 25	St. James Ladies Tea 2pm-4pm