



The Messenger

Shelton Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jeffrey W. Bursch, Pastor
1430 Shelton Springs Road / PO Box 2510
Shelton, Washington 98584
360-432-8696

January 2025

OUTREACH/MISSIONS MINISTRY

The Outreach/Missions Ministry meets in the choir room the first Sunday of each month following worship. Our first meeting is **January 5, 2025**. The team is gearing up for its 2025 calendar of service projects. Anyone is welcome to join this team.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Our first **membership luncheon and class** takes place on Sunday, **March 9, 2025** following worship. Please mark your interest on the yellow Welcome Card.



We're updating our **Church Directory**. Please stop by the table in the lobby on one of these Sundays - **January 12, 19 or 26** - to update or confirm your information and to have your photo taken if you wish.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting on January 19th, following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to review the Annual Report and the Budget and to vote on the pastor's terms of call for 2025.

OUTREACH MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Outreach Missions Committee would like to thank you for your generous support of the *Karen Bowen Aging Angels Project*. We were able to give Fir Lane Rehab and Nursing Center 16 Christmas Gift Bags for their transient residents containing much needed undershirts, socks, polar fleece lap blankets plus a personal items kit plus a Christmas card! You gave so generously that after meeting our commitment to FLR&NC, the surplus was given to Crazy Love Ministries. *Thank you for remembering these neighbors of ours.*

From Matthew 25:40-45 *"The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* For Him who gave us all at Christmas, it is gratifying to give to those whose need is great.



This last Sunday the sermon notes didn't get placed into the video software we use on Sunday mornings. I forgot to load it into the playlist for the day. It was on the computer. I just didn't load it into the playlist. Our faithful volunteer, sitting at the computer that morning, took the initiative and searched the program for the sermon. It should have been an easy task. I label them "sermon" followed by the date. She searched, but there was no sermon labeled "sermon 1.5.25." There was however a sermon labeled "sermon 1.5.24." I guess I haven't adjusted yet to the change in date.

Time flies, to be sure. I feel this more and more the older I get. It seems like only yesterday that my boys were just babies, but when I looked around the room this Christmas there were no boys left, only men, beautiful, loving, and responsible me. Sometimes I feel like Mary Magdalene at the end of the Gospel of John. She's with Jesus, after the resurrection, and she wants to hold onto him, but Jesus tells her not to. He still needs to ascend to the Father. He cannot stay with her. He has work to do that he can only do seated at the right hand of the father.

Like Mary, I want to hold onto things. I want to hit "pause" and just stop the wheels from turning, especially when things are good. I'm like a five-year-old at the zoo. "Can't we just stay a little longer, Daddy?" In the Gospels, Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a mountain top. There he was transfigured and his face shone like the sun. The prophet Elijah and Moses also appeared. Peter suggested building tents for each of them and staying for a while. He didn't want to go home. He just wanted to stay in the moment, but Jesus still had a mission to complete. The moment was profoundly good, but it was still just a moment and, by definition, transitory.

Wherever you are on this journey of life (and we never truly know, do we?), a good life is still before you. There is still a blessing to be found, just around the corner. God's mercies are new every morning. Whether 2024 was good or bad, it's now over, and as you look toward the coming year, I hope you will embrace it with faith and hope, that you will see each day as an opportunity to experience and share the love of God. Appreciate the past, yes, but don't get stuck in the past. Faith is lived in the present. I pray that this year will be full of blessing and meaning, and purpose. I pray as I have heard pastor Rick Warren often pray, "May the rest of your life be the best of your life." May it be so. To the glory of God!

Pastor Jeff

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study

Men meet Thursday mornings at 9:00 AM at the church. This study is led by different men in the church. Please join us.

Soup & Bible Study

This study is *usually* held every other Thursday at 7:00 pm. Dessert will be served. The study is led by Pastor Jeff and is open to everyone. It is held in the lobby of the church. Please join us. *Watch the bulletin for when this is scheduled.*

Women's Bible Study

Women meet Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM at the church. The study is led by Lori Matlock.



WELCOME 2025

January Birthdays



- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Eileen Bailey | 11 Katie Johnson |
| 2 Rachel Darch | 14 Justin Holzgrove |
| 5 Jubilee Whitman | 17 Brooklyn McMullin |
| 8 Sharon Johnston | 18 Caleb Johnson |
| 10 Larry Walker | 21 Robin Pizanti |
| 11 Erin Clifton | 26 Jim McElroy |

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26	
Lay Leader	Mary May	Harris Haertel	Arline Fullerton	Melissa Casey	



Above is a photo of the Ordination/Installation of our 2025 Elders and Deacons.

We thank God for the faithfulness of these men and women who give of their time and resources to bless our many beloved church family members and attenders.

Elders:

Lyn Baker, Will Chisholm, Dan Dickey, Karen Hilburn, Dewayne Matlock, Dale Ritter, Terri Saylor, Mark Schlauderaff, Lynn Wilson.

Deacons:

George Bowen, Janna Johnsen, Jean Williams, Betty Helm, Teresa Sanders, Harris & Jeanne Haertel, Joe Everett, Leslie Burkhalter, Jubilee Whitman. Co-Moderators for the Deacons are Tina VanderWal and Eileen Bailey.

SPC Youth News

Dinner & Auction Fundraiser for Belize Youth Service Trip

Saturday, March 22, 5:30PM--8:30PM
Price: \$20

Location: Shelton Presbyterian Church

Admission includes: Salad, Beverage, and BBQ Dinner with great side dishes, as well as Dessert Auction, Silent Auction, and Live Auction.

Quote from last year: "This is the most fun I've had in a very long time!"



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Tina VanderWal

A quick recap in case you hadn't read my last article in the Messenger. On the way to the airport for our cruise to the Panama Canal we had some serious issues arise. First, I forgot an important prescription at home, but fortunately the pharmacy was able to override the system and get a new prescription for me. The next obstacle was that on the way to board the ship a Carnival Representative (CR) informed us that our passport was less than six months from expiring and therefore we could not board the ship. They told us to take a seat while they made calls that would decide our fate. Now for the rest of the story (like Paul Harvey would say).

So, as we're sitting there waiting and praying to be able to board the ship two other women came up to us. The same thing had happened to them. I told them that our son was the Cruise Director, and they were making calls to see what they could do. I texted my son to let him know what was going on. He couldn't believe it and hadn't ever heard about this rule. He said, "I'll make some calls, Mom." But I told him that the CR was just then calling us back and I would let him know what she said. As we walked back up to the counter, the CR said, "Congratulations, welcome on Board!" Thank you, Lord!

As we were boarding the ship, the two ladies came up and hugged me, telling me, "They let us on, too!" They were ecstatic. I think it was a blessing that our son Paul was the Cruise Director because it allowed all four of us to board the ship. The final incident was that I lost my mother's ring. It's very special to me because it has both my Dad's wedding ring and my mom's soldered together. So, when I found out it was missing, I was devastated. I went to Guest Services and reported that it was missing and I described my ring. I checked in the next day, and the next but nothing had been returned. Facing the reality of the situation I realized that on a huge cruise ship like this with over 2000 passengers it was probably gone forever. But three days later, I received an amazing call. An anonymous person had returned my ring. Hallelujah!

Was it just coincidental that these three events happened to me. No, I think God was sharing important lessons for me that I could share with you. No matter how bleak things may seem, there is always hope. In all three instances, I had no power to solve the problems myself, all I could do was pray. There are going to be times in our lives that do look bleak, where we have no real power to change things. In those times, when it feels like life is stacked against us, we have to remember to always put our trust in God. And remember that if there is nothing we can do to change a bad situation – we can still pray and those prayers are powerful.

"Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him for God is our refuge." Psalm 62:8