

The Spirit of St. James

The Newsletter from St. James Episcopal Church



February 15, 2020

2050 Bert Kouns

Shreveport, Louisiana, 71118

Lent begins
February 26.

March 4
Ecumenical Lunch and
Service at noon at
St. James.

Service for Annunciation
of our Lord Jesus Christ
to the
Blessed Virgin Mary
10 a.m., Wednesday,
March 25



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A Message from our Priest



Lent fast approaches and with it a turning of our attention towards themes of penance. Of taking **account of the ways we've fallen short of what God desires for us and of looking for ways to amend our lives in the light of Jesus's resurrection.** In connection with these themes Lent was a time in the early Church when those baptized Christians who had committed notorious sins would do public acts of penance so that they could be restored into the body of Christ.

Moving into the Middle Ages this practice transformed into the rite of Confession, a means for **anyone whose sinned to hear assurances of God's forgiveness from their priest.** During this time the laity would often only receive communion once a year, usually on Easter, and so making a confession during Lent served as a preparation for that communion service.

With the Reformation many of those practices around confession were done away with as they had moved away from their original intention of offering assurance of forgiveness and became tied up in money making schemes as penances for the sins that were confessed. But both Martin Luther and the Church of England maintained confession as important rites of pastoral care within the Church even if not required of Christians in the same way as Baptism and the Eucharist.

In every Book of Common Prayer (BCP) there was a private confession contained within the service of Last Rites for the gravely ill. It was offered to those on their deathbed who may want to unburden themselves of any sins they committed that continue to weigh on their conscience. But this confession service could also be used outside of the context of last rites, as can be seen in the exhortation to **prepare the congregation for communion that's been included in some form in every BCP. This can be seen in our 1979 BCP on pages 316-317.** An excerpt from it states:

"Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed.

And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith."

The '79 BCP has also taken the confession rite and made it into a separate rite for **The Reconciliation of a Penitent** which begins on page 446. As the exhortation states, this service is available for anyone who feels the weight of their sins even after the general confession or for anyone who would like to feel the comfort of hearing the words of absolution applied to their specific sins. As someone who regularly makes use of this rite I can say there is something really powerful in naming out loud your wrongdoings and hearing from a priest that God really does forgive you.

Often people are unaware that the Episcopal Church even offers confession because we don't require it of communicants like the Roman Catholic Church does. Rather, we believe that the general confession made during the Eucharist service is itself an assurance of our forgiveness. But a private confession is often particularly helpful as we seek to enter ever deeper into relationship with God. There is a helpful guideline often said in the Episcopal Church about private confession that **"all may, none must, some should."** What this is saying is that Reconciliation of a Penitent is available to all Christians but never required of any. And yet, for some it serves as a particularly helpful way to experience God's grace.

Now, sometimes people worry that the priest will judge them for their sins but the truth is that most of our sins are really rather mundane and common and there is very little the Confessor has not already heard before. Beyond that the seal of the confession is morally absolute and the priest can never bring up anything said within the rite of confession and most typically they quickly forget the specifics anyway.

If you have questions about Confession I would be happy to discuss them with you and am willing to share my own experience as a penitent making use of the rite. If you would like to make a confession feel free to reach out to me about preparing for and scheduling a **time for it.** I can also recommend Martin Smith's *Reconciliation: Preparing for Confession in the Episcopal Church* if you would like to further explore this topic.

*In Christ,
-Fr. James*

The Southern Hills Ecumenical Noonday Service and Luncheon

will be at St. James, sponsored by the ECW, on March 4.

The sign-up sheet for bringing food items, setting up and cleaning up the Parish Hall, and serving the meal is located on a table in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and assist with the luncheon. You do not need to be a member of ECW to participate.

If you would like to attend the services at other area churches the dates and locations are:

March 11, St. Mary of the Pines Catholic Church, 1050 Bert Kouns

March 18, Summer Grove United Methodist Church, 9119 Dean Road

March 25, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 8400 Kingston Road

April 1, Christ United Methodist Church, 1204 Crabapple Drive

All services are at noon followed by a luncheon.

For Income Tax Assistance at no charge, please see the following locations, dates and times. For more information contact Tricia James at butterflytpj@yahoo.com

2020 VITA SITES PREPARING CURRENT YEAR RETURNS ONLY FOR 2019
ONLY 2019 WITH INCOME UNDER \$56,000 WILL BE PREPARED AT VITA SITES. BRING PICTURE IDS & SSN CARDS, ALL TAX DOCS,
1095-As FOR INS., COPIES OF LAST YEAR TAX RETURN, AND A DEPOSIT SLIP FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT **REMEMBER NO PRIOR YEARS WILL BE PREPARED.**

NW Louisiana 2019 VITA Sites	Site Address / Location	DATES AND TIMES LISTED BELOW ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	DATES AND TIMES LISTED BELOW ARE WALKINS AS TIME PERMITS
Caddo Comm. Action Agency David Raines	1625 David Raines Road Shreveport, LA 71107	318-425-2401	MONDAY - FRIDAY 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM
Caddo Comm. Action Agency St. Vincent	4055 St. Vincent Shreveport, LA 71108	318-861-4808 CLOSED ON MONDAYS & FRIDAYS	Tues, Wed, & Thurs - 9:00 to 12:00 First 12 people to sign in will be seen
Carter Federal Credit Union Community Center Opens 2/5 to 4/5/19	203 South Main Street Springhill, LA 71075	CLOSED ON MONDAYS & FRIDAYS	Tue, Wed, & Thur. 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm Saturday 9:00 to 11:30 am
Creighton Hill VITA Site Great St. Paul Baptist Church	510 High Street Minden, LA 71055	318-949-5768 SAT APPT. ONLY Must call prior to appt. 10 - 2pm	Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri. 3:00 to 7:00 # TO SCHED. APPT. 913-269-5493
Highland Center Ministries VITA Site Highland Center OPENS 2/3/20 CLOSES 4/15/20	520 Olive Street Shreveport, LA 71104	318-673-8440 SUPER SATURDAY FEB. 8, 2020 9 - 12 pm Last person taken at noon Saturdays ONLY 2/29, 3/7 & 3/28/20	PM ONLY - Mon., Wed. and Thurs. 5-8:00 pm FIRST COME FIRST SERVED # SEEN BASED ON AVAILABLE PREPARERS
Housing Authority City of Natchitoches	732 Abbie Drive Natchitoches, LA 71457	318-779-8251 Appts. After hrs. and Sat 9 to 1 pm on 2/8, 3/7, 3/21 & 4/4/2020	Mon, Tue, & Thur. 9:00 to 3:00 pm Appts available and given priority
Morning Star Baptist Church VITA Site Operated by Sadie's Arms Inc.	5340 Jewella Ave. Shreveport, LA 71109	318-426-7382 APPOINTMENT ONLY Mon - Fri 9:00 to 3:00	Mon, Tue & Thur 5:00 to 8:00 Must schedule appt. in advance
New Horizons Independent Living Center VITA - Shreveport	1701 North Market Street Shreveport, LA 71107	318-671-8131 APPOINTMENT ONLY	Closed Good Friday 4/10/20 Must schedule appt. in advance
Southern Hills Rec. Center - AARP Association of Retired Persons/Tax Aide MILITARY - PRIORITY FOR ACTIVE DUTY USAF BARKSDALE AFB	1002 W. Bert Kouns Ind. Loop Shreveport, LA 71118 2ND Bomb Wing - Tax Center Barksdale AFB, Bossier City, LA	318-456-4765 APPOINTMENT ONLY Mon - Wed - Fri	Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Tuesday & Thursday Walk Ins 8:00 to 11:00 & 1:00 to 4:00
For sites listed below YOU prepare your federal & state return. Gross income must be under \$69,000 if you need to file Sch. C, D or E. You can go to www.myfreetaxes.com sponsored by United Way WW - Computer, Printer, WI-FI & Tax Coach are provided free of charge.			
Shreve Memorial Library Hamilton/South Caddo Branch OPENS 2/3/20 CLOSES 4/6/20	2111 W. Bert Kouns Ind. Loop Shreveport, LA 71118	SELF PREP ONLY - FREE E-FILE YOU MUST PAY FOR YOUR COPIES EITC TAX DAY FRI. 1/31/20 9-1 ONLY	MONDAYS ONLY 2/3 TO 4/6/20 5:00 TO 7:00 pm SELF PREP - TAX COACH TO ASSIST
St Rest Baptist Church OPENS 2/17/2020 CLOSES 4/9/2020	1864 Garden Street Shreveport, La 71101	318-221-3178 APPOINTMENT ONLY Mon & Thur 12 to 3pm	SELF PREP ONLY-TAX COACH TO ASSIST Must schedule appt. in advance
Red River Council on Aging OPENS 2/4/2020	1825 Front Street Coushatta, LA 71019	SELF PREP ONLY - FREE E-FILE	Tue., Wed., & Thursday 1:00 to 3 pm SELF PREP - TAX COACH TO ASSIST
Baptist Bible Fellowship OPEN 2/1 TO 2/15/2020	8900 Kingston Road Shreveport, LA 71118	SELF PREP ONLY - FREE E-FILE	Feb. 1st, 8th, & 15th, 2020 - 9 am to 1 pm SELF PREP - TAX COACH TO ASSIST



Kairos Outside

I want to thank everyone who participated in the February breakfast in support of Kairos Outside. We raised \$210 for this ministry that has been close to my heart since I served on the first Louisiana team in 1999. At that time, St. James was well represented on each team because one of our communicants had traveled to another state to receive the training to bring this vital retreat to our state. Currently Kairos Outside serves in over 500 communities in 10 different countries.

Kairos Outside is a 2 ½ day program designed specifically for women who have relatives or friends who are or have been incarcerated. It offers a comfortable, non-judging retreat for women to support each other as they make this journey.

The weekend is provided at no cost to the participants. The purpose of Kairos Outside is to address the pain of enduring separation from the one inside and the judgment of others from their community. Guests hear the talks in small family groups. The staff volunteers demonstrate God's grace and love through Christian support.

The structure of the weekend proper is intended to pamper these women, show them **unconditional love in action, give them some useful information while sharing other's** experiences, provide them an opportunity for a long-term support system and even some nice surprises.

Kairos Prison Ministry is a Christian program, although no religious affiliation is necessary to be a Guest. Any adult female 20 years old, or older, whose life has been impacted by the incarceration of relatives or friends, is eligible to attend a Kairos Outside Weekend.

The next weekend dates are: April 17th – 19th

The retreat will be held at Camp Caney outside of Minden.

If you are interested in helping with this retreat, we could use Angels for the weekend who come to the camp and help behind the scenes for several hours. Financial donations are also necessary to continue to provide these experiences for our guests. Prayers are greatly coveted, so we ask you to sign up for a day during the weekend to cover the guests and staff. And, of course, we need guests! So if you know anyone who may be interested in attending, please let me know so we can send them an application.

I can be reached at 318-207-2505 for further discussion.
I look forward to hearing from you!

Karen McDonald





St. James Mardi Gras Ball drew a nice crowd and raised money for ECW programs throughout the year.

St. James Big Game Party

A good-sized crowd gathered on February 2nd to cheer on the Kansas City Chiefs. Several families chose to leave when the 49ers pulled ahead. Little did they know how the game would turn around!

The event raised \$226 for the St. James Discretionary Fund.



Annual Meeting



*Our Mission Statement: A COMMUNITY CALLED BY GOD TO WORSHIP,
LOVE, AND SERVE.*

Our Schedule of Services:

Sunday—Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 8:30am

followed by Coffee Hour and donuts in the Parish Hall

Sunday School, 9:45am

Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 with music 11:00am



2020 Summer Camp Schedule

Registration opens in January!

First Camp <small>Grades 2, 3, and 4 with parent/guardian*</small>	May 29 - 31	\$200
Primary Camp <small>Grades 4, 5, and 6*</small>	June 13 - 18	\$475
Jr. High Camp <small>Grades 6, 7, and 8*</small>	June 21 - 27	\$575
Mid. High Camp <small>Grades 9, 10, and 11*</small>	July 2 - 8	\$575
Sr. High Camp <small>Grades 11, 12*, and recent graduates</small>	June 3 - 10	\$675
Camp Able <small>Ages 9 and up with special needs</small>	July 12 - 16	\$400

www.camphardtner.org
X 318.765.3794 X

   

*Grade based on 2020-2021 school year

Camp Hardtner

Registration is now open for all the camps.

Attending Camp Hardtner is a memorable event that makes lifetime friendships. If your children or grandchildren are interested in attending, the ECW has scholarships available for half the camp fee.

Contact the church office for more information.

Vision Statement of St. James Episcopal Church: We see St. James as a spirit-led congregation that is a beacon of God's love shining in the community, welcoming all by reaching out through worship, service, mission, and programming to bring peace and healing to all of God's children. We strive to serve our members by nourishing our faith, giving support in times of need, and becoming a congregation from which community-based outreach programs have their genesis.

