



Presiding Bishop,
The Episcopal Church:
The Most Rev'd
Michael Curry

Bishop, Diocese of Western
Louisiana:
The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Jacob
Owensby

Rector:

Organist/Choir Director:
Kaye Owen

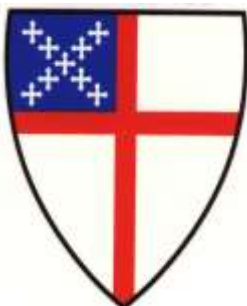
Nursery:
Rhonda Robertson

Parish Administrator:

2019 Vestry:
David Scott— Sr. Warden
Curtis Shelton (21)—Jr.
Warden

Members:
Dave Caporossi (20)
Krystal Eason (20)
Debbie Fitzpatrick (21)
Lisa Lewis (22)
Lauren Ocmant (20)
Matt Parker (21)

Ex Officio:
Julie Eason—Treasurer
Tommy Mosley—Treasurer
Emeritus
Janie Parker—Clerk



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Church fax: 318-686-4527
Church E-mail address:
stjames_sport@att.net
Church website:
www.stjames-shreveport.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN



As we approach the season of Lent, we prepare ourselves with the time-worn rituals of prayer, doing without so others can have, and taking on a new challenge to better ourselves, if only for a short while. Lent is also a time to reflect upon the many pathways and ministries where God has led us and walked with us, and one that I will be working on this year is my works of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is an overriding Lenten theme. It invites us to reflect on our own willingness to forgive people who have wronged us, intentionally or unintentionally.

It's easy to say to one another, "forgive and forget," but sometimes we can't forgive wrongs done to us; a once happy relationship that turns into a shattered one from a wrong done; a person injured in an accident due to the carelessness of another; it is at these times, however, we have to forgive ourselves as well as others so that we can move forward with life.

Of course, we can always look to the Bible to show the greatest example of forgiveness, with Jesus begging His Father to forgive the very men ruthlessly taking his life as he lay dying on the cross. When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, he also gives us the grace to love, to forgive. To forgive as He forgives is sometimes impossible to do on our own. But Jesus doesn't ask us to forgive on our own. He simply asks that we participate in his gift of forgiveness.

So, for the next few weeks, I would encourage each of you to try to release the anger and frustration you might have towards another, and trust in the forgiveness of Christ, so that we can be at peace with ourselves and one another. Forgiveness can be a long journey, but at the end lies freedom and new life.

—David Scott

Outreach News

Did you read all about what the Outreach Committee accomplished in the 2018 Annual Report? If you haven't done that, yet, please get a copy from the Parish Hall and check it out. We were really busy last year, and we plan to keep up the good work in 2019.

For our next endeavor we will be collecting socks for the Maundy Thursday service in downtown Shreveport. At that service the local Episcopal parishes minister to the individuals in our community who are currently without stable residences. We will need white athletic socks for the men and a bit wider variety of color for the women. If you bring in socks that are made specifically for those with diabetes, please be sure to add an eye-catching label so they are given to those who would benefit from them the most. Deacon Lois Maberry is coordinating this effort through St. Luke's Mobile Medical Ministry and Holy Cross. Please contact her if you wish to volunteer at the Maundy Thursday service.

Details about the time and location of the service will be available in the March issue of the *Spirit of St. James*.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE UPDATE

As of this printing St. James has received twenty-six commitment cards pledging \$123,220.00 toward the general fund in 2019. Money in the general fund goes toward Outreach, ministries, salaries, and everyday expenses such as utilities and supplies. Some parishioners choose to pledge a little extra each month, designating those additional funds be placed in the Building Fund which is used only for building projects, maintenance, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds. For 2019 a total of \$1,880.00 has been committed toward this.

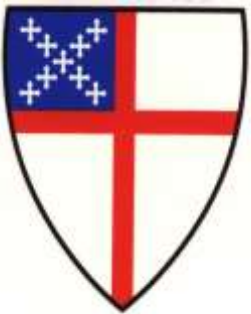
Last year we received 34 pledge cards totaling \$129,090.00.

OUR INCOME TO DATE

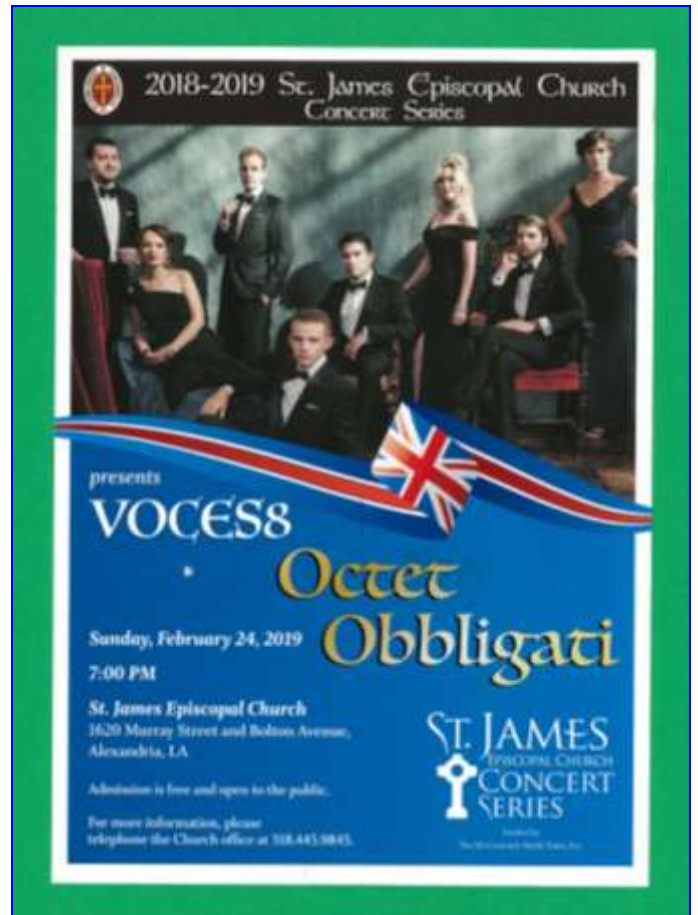
deposits through Feb 10, 2019, include the following:

pledges	\$14,572.00	11.83% of total amount pledged;
		11.23% of the year has passed
loose plate	185.00	
contributions	5,205.00	
subtotal	\$19,962.00	
miscellaneous		
mid-week	22.00	
dividends	58.23	
subtotal	\$ 80.23	
total	\$20,042.23	12.82% of anticipated income;
		14.53% of anticipated expenses





St. James in Alexandria invites us
to enjoy the following:



Any time you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a replacement or advise the Vestry Person of the Day.

*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
6:00pm
March 5*

*Ash Wednesday
Service
10:00am
6:00pm
March 6*

Please help
Renzi Education & Art Center
fund their
After-School Program.



Renzi will be hosting a rummage sale in May. Drop-off boxes will be located in various churches and businesses in Shreveport. If you have items you wish to donate for sale, please leave them in a Renzi box. Proceeds will go toward the general fund for operating expenses.

Locations of the boxes will be made available soon. Collections will run through the month of April. Sale date and details will be available soon.

St. James Episcopal Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<p><i>Remember March 10</i></p> 			
<p>3 <i>The Rev'd Mitzi George</i> 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Parish Breakfast 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Bob Shane III David Calhoun</p>	<p>4</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY John Alex Kellogg Brittany Kellogg Andrew Jacobs</p>	<p>5  SHROVE TUESDAY 6PM</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Lois Maberry Olivia Zepeda</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 AM The R</p>
<p>10 </p> <p><i>The Rev'd Guido Verbeck</i> 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Mike Kendrick</p>	<p>11</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY David Haldeman Fr. William Bryant</p>	<p>12</p> <p>KAIROS Cookie Baking 5PM Parish Hall</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</p>	<p>13</p> <p>The R</p>
<p>17 <i>The Rev'd Guido Verbeck</i> 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Gregory Kirkland</p>	<p>18</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Christine Philipbar</p>	<p>19</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jan Jones</p>	<p>20</p> <p>The R</p>
<p>24 <i>The Rev'd Andrew Comeaux</i> 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Kendall Parker</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>The R</p>
<p>31 <i>The Rev'd Andrew Comeaux</i> 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>	<p>Happy Birthday Brandi Liles HAPPY ANNIVERSARY James & Kathleen Calhoun</p>		

	<i>The Last Sunday Of The Epiphany</i>	<i>The 1st Sunday Of Lent</i>	<i>The 2nd Sunday Of Lent</i>
	<i>The Rev'd Mitzi George</i>	<i>The Rev'd Guido Verbeck</i>	<i>The Rev'd Guido Verbeck</i>
	<i>MARCH 3</i>	<i>MARCH 10</i>	<i>MARCH 17</i>
LECTIONARY	Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35
VESTRY PERSON	LISA LEWIS	CURTIS SHELTON	MATT PARKER
EUCCHARISTIC 8:30 MINISTER 11:00	Lynette van Heerden Ron Maberry	Lynette van Heerden Ken Murphy	Lynette van Heerden Ken Murphy
LAY READER 11:00	Ken Murphy	Julie Eason	Dan Bennett
LECTORS 8:30 11:00	Debbie Fitzpatrick Sissy Brown	Chelsea Fitzpatrick Kathleen Calhoun	Pat Parker Julie Eason
ACOLYTES 8:30 11:00	Melanie Winkler David Scott	Kelly Parker David Scott	Melanie Winkler David Scott
ALTAR GUILD	Debbie Fitzpatrick Holly Johnson	Debbie Fitzpatrick Holly Johnson	Janie Parker Linda Endicott Chelsea Fitzpatrick
USHERS 8:30 11:00	Pat Parker Mike Kendrick Denise Shelton	Pat Parker Betty McDonald Mary Taylor	Pat Parker Mike Kendrick Denise Shelton
<i>The Rev'd Robert Dandridge will officiate on Wednesday March 6, 13, 20, and 27</i>			

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LOOKING AHEAD

Palm Sunday	April 14	8:30am & 11:00am
Tenebrae	April 17	6:00pm
Maundy Thursday	April 18	6:00pm
Good Friday	April 19	6:00pm
Easter Vigil	April 20	6:00pm
Easter Sunday	April 21	10:00am

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please add the following new information to your directory:

Cathy Walker
115 Lucia Lane
Shreveport, LA 71106
(318) 934-2421
catwalk48@yahoo.com

ST. JAMES HAS BEEN BLESSED

We at St. James have been blessed with a priest at our worship services almost every Sunday, and we are very thankful to all the clergy who have made the time to come and the effort to prepare sermons. Among the many wonderful messages was one in particular that has stayed with some parishioners: The Rev. Guido Verbeck spoke to us about becoming our best versions of ourselves with God's help, and he used the Velveteen Rabbit to illustrate the homily.

Kathy Deal had the following to say: "I...remember the rabbit desiring to become real and achieving that goal through the faithful love of someone (resulting also in the rubbing off of hair). In our case, our becoming leads us to what God envisions for us."



ECW NEWS

The ECW hosted the Mardi Gras Ball on February 2, 2019. Windstorm performed, supplying lively music for dancing and putting on a wonderful show, with guest drummer, Austin Shelton. Their high spirits and warmth really made the music come alive and encouraged everyone in attendance to feel uplifted and dance the night away.

The Mardi Gras Ball is currently the only fundraiser that the ECW holds that is strictly for their annual budget. All other fundraising efforts are on behalf of specific causes, such as camp scholarships for our youth and donations to specific charities.

Figures are not currently available for the total amount of money raised by the Mardi Bras Ball. Please continue to support the good works of the ECW and stay tuned for a report of how much money was recently raised through your generosity.

I'm a Little Too Fat, a Little Too Giving. I Think I Know Why.

Using the hunger I experienced as a kid to teach mine the power of generosity

I was five years old when my mom took off with me to the coast. She said she needed a do-over. We were starting fresh, with no belongings, no toys, no furniture. She said we had empty hands so that we could catch new blessings.

We also had empty pockets, and she had no job. She'd drunk our whole life away, and the booze had left us washed up in a tiny beach town called Rockaway, Oregon. She was hoping the ocean would catch her tears and loosen her chains.

My mother loves the ocean. She is more herself when it is nearby. She believes that it sees and knows, that it moves and feels. It inspires her wonder and fear. She revels in the uncertainty that it could become angry at any moment and take lives at its will. To my mother, the ocean is God.

"Don't you ever take it for granted, Krissy," she would say to me. **"When you look at that ocean, remember there's always something bigger than you. Respect her."**

Summer had just ended, and the quaint coastal town had begun to fold up. We found a small cottage—really a motel room with a kitchenette. We never said it was our home; to us, it was just "Number Six." My mother paid the first month's rent, enrolled me in kindergarten a block away, and bought us a sack of potatoes and some ketchup. And we began our new life.

I don't remember being excited about school. It seemed so frivolous, and I thought I should be getting a job. "I could get a paper route," I told my mother one night as we walked back to Number Six from the pay phone, where she'd called my dad, begging him to send the \$75 child support check. He promised he'd send it as soon as possible, but I knew the potatoes were running low.

My mother looked for work, but the car we'd used to get to the town had broken down, and there were only two or three restaurants within walking distance of Number Six. She didn't want to get a job in a bar because she was trying earnestly to stop drinking.

"If I were a thief, I would go over there and steal those rotten cabbages for you. But I am not a thief."

Maybe two weeks passed and still no child support check—no money at all. I sat at the kitchen table one night, watching Walter Cronkite deliver the evening news with his objectivity and journalistic integrity. He said something like, **"Here is the news at this supertime."** I remember this because I was so surprised by it. His words were otherwise so dry, so metered, but his mention of it being dinnertime was almost friendly. I wondered if he could see us; how did he know it was time to eat?

My mother was staring out the window with her back to me. I said to her, "Well? He's right. It is dinnertime. Right, Mom?" I thought I was being clever in catching Cronkite's sincerity.

She let out a sigh. Without turning around she said, "Do you see that out there? Those people have let their garden grow over. The cabbages have gone to seed now. They'd never know or care if I just snuck over and took one for you."

The quivering in her voice scared me. She turned to me and wiped her eyes. With a look so cool I thought she might have been mad at me, she said, **"If I were a thief, I would go over there and steal those rotten cabbages for you. But I am not a thief."**

Without another word, she passed me and walked out the front door of Number Six. She left it open, and I followed her. She walked down five cottages and knocked on the door to Number One—a larger cottage, where an old man and woman lived. Even though they were our neighbors, we had no idea who they were. The old lady opened the door, and I wove around my mother so I could see inside.

When you give the best you have to someone in need, it translates into something much deeper to the receiver. It means that they are worthy.

March 15, 2019

This is my daughter, Kristine,” my mother stated. “We have no food. She’s had nothing to eat but potatoes for a month, and now we don’t even have any of those left. I don’t care about myself, but could you please give her something to eat?”

The old woman was short and fat with dark skin and black hair twisting around her head. Her name was Anita Vanover. Her husband was a tall white man who was just called Van. I could see into their cottage; the table was set, and Anita and Van were obviously just sitting down to eat. The smells coming from inside made me drool.

I don’t remember Anita saying anything to my mother or even asking her husband first if she could give us something, but I remember her packing up her table: the pot roast, the carrots, the gravy, the potatoes. She handed it all to my mother.

It turned out that the couple had friends who owned one of the restaurants where my mom had tried to get a job. Anita talked to them, and they hired her. Anita and Van became my caretakers in the evening.

They saved my mother and me.

At that moment, though, I don’t think Anita and Van thought they were saving lives or forever changing the path of a child. I think they thought they were doing what they were supposed to do when a woman with a little girl comes to the door and says she needs to eat. What more needs to be said or done? They probably figured that it’s just food.

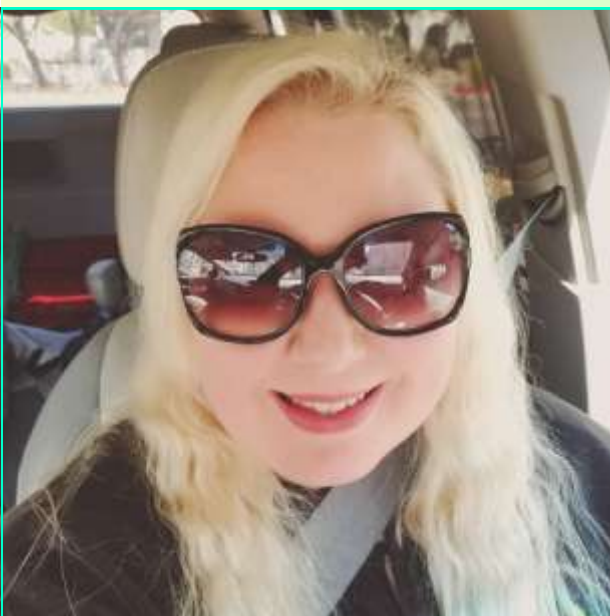
Anita gave so effortlessly and so quickly that I doubt she ever thought about it again. But that one moment taught me a lesson about giving that I have never forgotten. There came a day 30 years later, when I passed that lesson on to my own children.

My daughter’s school had a food drive, and she was excited to collect food for it. Even at 10 years old, she had a strong sense of community. She wanted to be either a police officer so she could help people or an astronaut so she could protect the planet from wayward asteroids. We had to keep her from watching the news because it moved her to the point of tears. Her heart would break for the human condition.

She went to our pantry and started bagging up the canned and dry goods. All the while, she talked. “Oh, I’ll put in the green beans, I don’t like those... I’ll save the Kraft macaroni and cheese. We can give them some no-name brand.” And I realized that my daughter—as generous and good as she already was—knew nothing about giving. I felt like I had taught her nothing.

She didn’t know about Anita and Van. She didn’t know about Number Six. She didn’t know that she could see the face of a hungry child if she looked long enough at her own mother.

So I told her. I told her that my kindergarten teacher thought I was “retarded” because I was so hungry that I didn’t perform well in school and was always slower than the rest of the class. I told her that Anita could have just gone to her cupboard and made me a peanut butter sandwich, and my mother and I would have been so grateful. But she didn’t. She gave the best she had.



The biggest problem with poverty is the shame that comes with it. When you give the best you have to someone in need, it translates into something much deeper to the receiver. It means they are worthy.

If it’s not good enough for you, it’s not good enough for those in need either. Giving the best you have does more than feed an empty belly—it feeds the soul.

This article was reprinted with permission from the author, Kristine Levine—comedian, actress, writer

*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

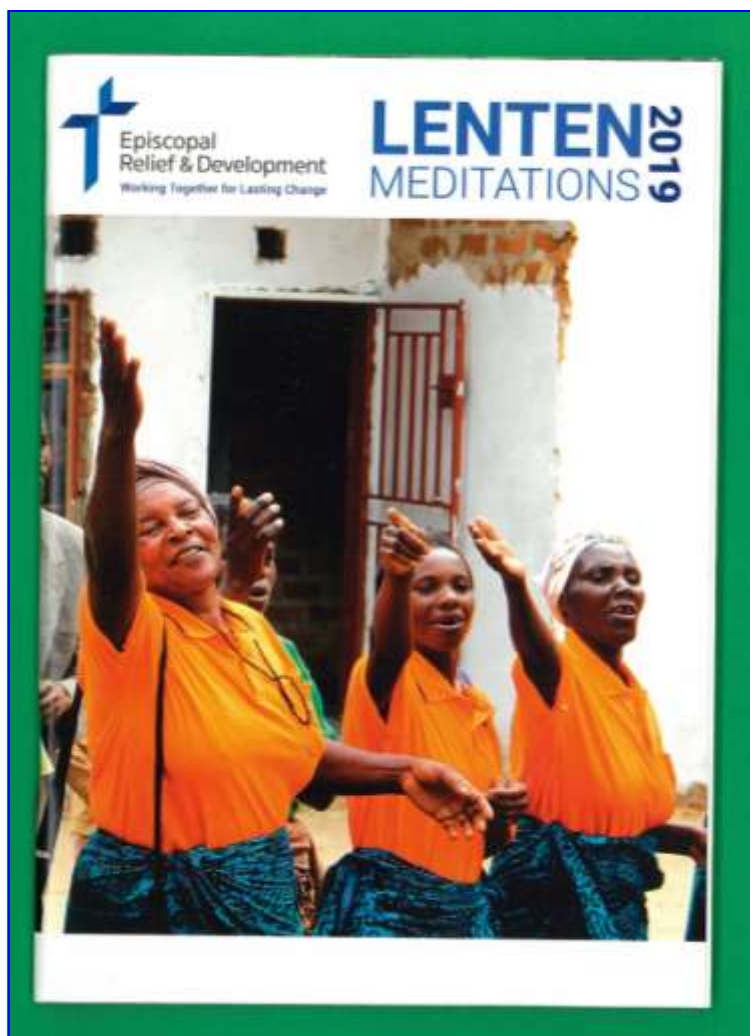
Sunday School, 9:45am

Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 with music 11:00am

Wednesday—Holy Eucharist Rite 2, 10am

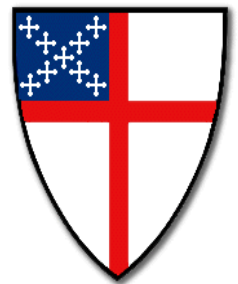


LENTEN MEDITATIONS COMING TO A NARTHEX NEAR YOU!



St. James has ordered 75 copies of the Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten Meditations 2019. As soon as they arrive they will be placed in the Narthex to be picked up by each person who is interested. This has become a long-standing tradition at St. James and we hope you continue to enjoy the daily meditations they provide to assist us throughout Lent as we prepare to commemorate the sacrifice Jesus gave for us and celebrate his resurrection at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Day.

Don't forget to pick up your copy!



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.