

The Spirit of St. James

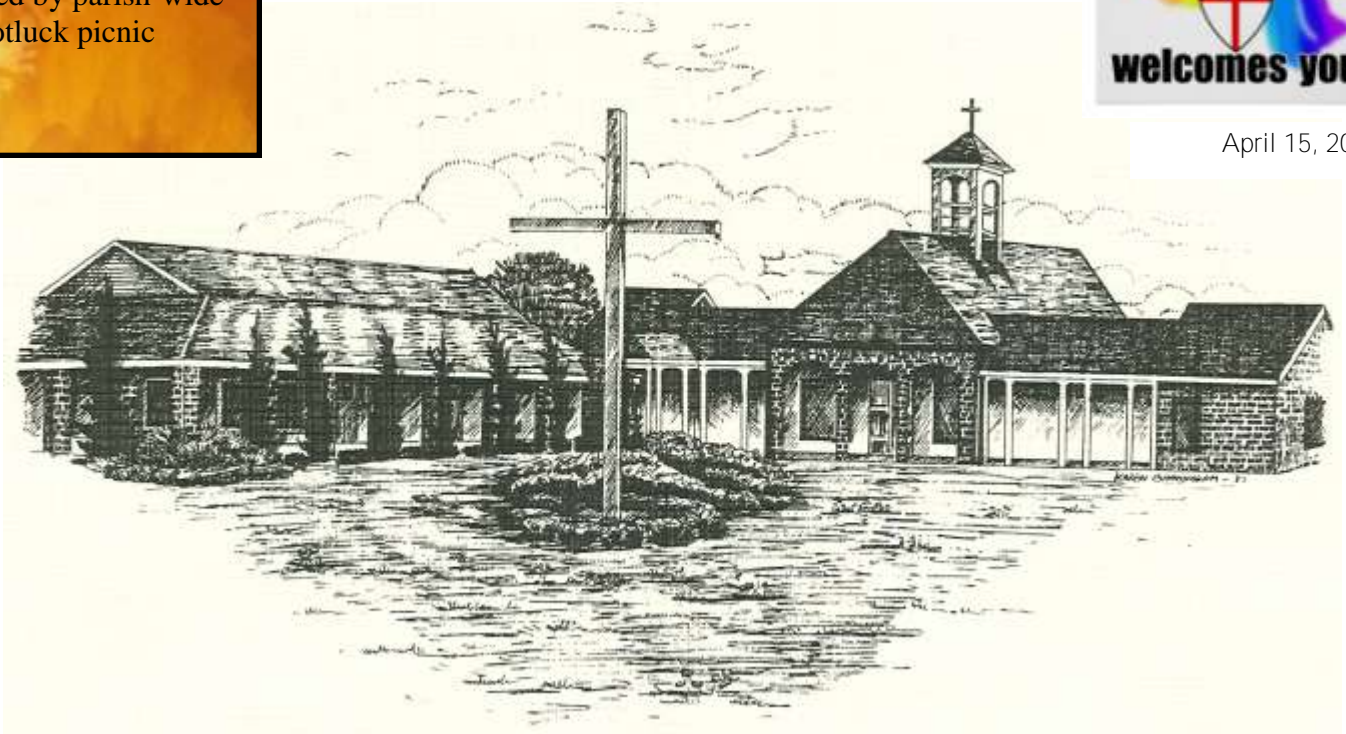
The Newsletter from St. James Episcopal Church

2050 Bert Kouns
Shreveport, Louisiana, 71118
318-686-1261



April 15, 2018

May 20
The Day of Pentecost:
Whitsunday
10am service
Followed by parish-wide
potluck picnic



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2050 Bert Kouns Industrial Loop
Shreveport, LA 71118
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Presiding Bishop,
The Episcopal Church:
The Most Rev'd
Michael Curry

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

Rector:
The Rev'd Margaret Ayers

Organist/Choir Director:
Kaye Crichlow

Nursery:
Rhonda Robertson

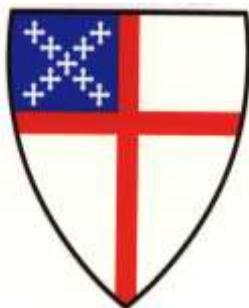
Parish Administrator:
Jnanne Zepeda

2018 Vestry:
David Scott (19)— Sr.

Warden
Ken Murphy (19)— Jr.
Warden

Members:
David Caporossi (20)
Krystal Eason (20)
Mike Endicott (19)
Debbie Fitzpatrick (21)
Mason Garner (19)
Lauren Ocmand (20)
Mat Parker (21)
Curtis Shelton (21)

Ex Officio:
Thomas Mosley—Treasurer
Julie Eason—Deputy
Treasurer
Janie Parker—Clerk



Church phone: 318-686-1261
Church fax: 318-686-4527
Church E-mail address:
stjames_sport@att.net
Church website:
www.stjames-shreveport.org



Margaret's Musings



In Jesus' time and language, what would sound like Avra Kehdabra would translate as "I will create as I speak." John 1:1-5 reads "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." **Jesus was the Word and He spoke things into being.** In Hebrew the word for words and the word for things is the same – "davar". **Words become concrete things (slight pun)** and we are reminded that words have implications.

I also remember Avada Kedavra as the Killing Curse in the Harry Potter series of books written by J.K. Rowling. The curse was a tool of the Dark Arts and one of the three Unforgivable Curses. It is one of the most powerful and sinister spells known to wizards and witches. When cast successfully on a living person or creature the curse causes instantaneous death, without any signs of violence on the body. The only known counter-spell is sacrificial protection, which uses the power of love.

Both would be right, Jesus speaks life/creation into being and we speak life or death with our words. We have all seen or experienced the use of life-giving words and life-robbing words in action and we have probably been the apparatus of life-affirming and life-denying words; it is part of being human. Words of kindness speak life into those whose ears they fall upon while **words of anger and hate kill a person's soul whether spoken by Pope, Bishop, Priest, or lay person.**

A.J. Jacobs in his book, "The Year of Living Biblically," speaks of the effects of praying, especially prayers of thanksgiving. His perspective changed as he became more aware of all the things for which he was thankful. Small things, often overlooked, were noted instead of being taken for granted. He found saying thank-you actually deepened his sense of gratitude. To him, the voicing of thanks reframed his perspective on his life and problems; he was humbled by the many blessing of his life and more apt to voice gratitude to others. It can do the same for us.

A year ago, the word was St. James would be paid over one-million dollars for mineral rights and delight filled the spirits of St. James. The exuberance was short lived when the movement of a decimal place reversed the number to over ten-thousand dollars. Delight turned sour and we began to see scarcity where there had once been abundance. Yes, we need to be careful, but we also need to be the place to raise up disciples or we do not walk in the ways of the disciples; we do not witness to the victory of Jesus and how that impacts us today.

When Jesus was with the disciples all things seemed possible but when he was gone, all bets were off. Fear gripped the disciples and the memory of the things they accomplished in His name were erased. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples would unlock the doors of fear and go out into the world proclaiming Christ crucified and risen. They had not been made perfect, they were simply emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Personalities and theological differences would continue to percolate among the disciples, as they do in any church today, but **they put the call to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the**

Outreach News

Just a reminder that we are approaching the summer when we will be picking up school supplies to fill backpacks (possibly at full-price). If you see school supplies that you know are on the list every year and they are on sale at a great price, go ahead and pick them up! You can drop them in the empty bins in the Outreach area in the Parish Hall. We will inventory those before we fill out the tags for the Angel Tree, so there won't be a duplication of purchases. If we get supplies when they are on sale we can maximize what we are able to donate to the students at Forest Hill Elementary. For those new to the program, we fill five backpacks per grades K-5 with all the supplies on the list, for a total of thirty. We also get additional supplies for the special education classes that are distributed to students who need them. The students taking the special ed classes may or may not be recipients of the individual backpacks. We trust the school administration to pass the backpacks out to the students most in need.

Thank-you to everyone who supplied socks for the Maundy Thursday Foot-Washing service sponsored by the St. Luke's Mobile Medical Ministry. It was held in the undercroft of the Church of the Holy Cross this year and was quite successful. Thanks also to those who came and volunteered during the service, washing feet or serving food, setting up for the service or cleaning up afterward. Each task was a labor of love and greatly appreciated.

Filling in the Gaps continues to provide snacks twice a week to student athletes at Green Oaks High School via the Harvest Program and Pizza Hut. Thanks to the volunteers who pick up, heat up, and deliver the pizzas. For some of these kids the only meals they can be certain of each week are those they eat at school, whether it is a school-provided breakfast or lunch or a church-provided snack at ball practice. Thanks for helping keep these kids healthy.



Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20a) ahead of their differences. Gratitude and remembrance of Jesus' teachings paved the way out of fear.

St. James will do the same as we discern our call to carry out the Great Commission in the Southern Hills of Shreveport in 2018. Will we be using the newly remodeled kitchen to show our hospitality to the community or will we be doing something else? How can St. James encourage people to come to our church in order to discover a warm and inviting worship community? What other activities would offer people a chance to see our facilities without the pressure of coming to a worship service? Can we use the internet to encourage people to donate to St. James' many ministries when they are on our social media sites? We can address people through technology who are tech savvy while continuing to keep people informed who do not use a computer.

If we speak fear we will live in fear, if we speak our belief in the assurance of the risen Lord we will live in that assurance. St. James has so much to offer but people outside our walls are not seeing us. I see the delight in the faces of newcomers as they find a home at St. James and I am sure there are plenty more people searching for what we have to offer. Words matter, the Word (Jesus) matters and we are called to use words to share the story of God's presence in our lives. Fear and death or love and life; we speak to the ending of the Great Commission Jesus reminds those transformed by his working in our lives: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Amen, let us speak His truth, life, and love.

Blessings—
Margaret+



THE GOOD STEWARDS

Lorain Thrash wishes to thank everyone who has sent her cards and letters during her recuperation from back surgery. She has appreciated the phone calls and well-wishes and wants the parish to know that she is on the way to a complete recovery. She is able to begin resuming her regular activities, and actually made it in to the office to help fold this newsletter so it could be mailed out, but is not yet up for driving the Meals on Wheels route. She hopes to be back to her full schedule soon, however. Thank-you to all who have given her support and shown love and caring as she has worked toward regaining full mobility.

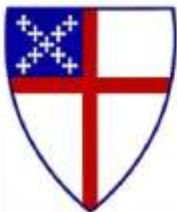
We made it through Holy Week with the help of many people who proofed or folded bulletins, set up the altar, prepared and led music, served at the altar, filled or hid Easter eggs, spruced up the grounds, and completed the myriad other tasks that went into the bustle of activities that make up the most busy week of our liturgical year. Thank-you to each member of the St. James family who participated in contributing to making this special time of year successful for all involved.

These are some of the ways that St. James makes use of the time and talents of our parishioners as we strive to be good stewards toward each other and our community.



*St. James,
 Thank you all for
 all your generous
 donations, prayers, and
 support. Thank you to
 the ECW for the
 beautiful breakfast.
 I am so blessed
 to have such a
 supportive church
 family. Mommy thanks
 and much love.
 Love, Alyssa
 Marie*





Maundy Thursday Service at Holy Cross Episcopal Church

A Foot Washing Service was held in the undercroft of Holy Cross, Thursday March 29, 2018.



Ella and Mabry were hardworking volunteers, getting pans of water to the tables and passing out pairs of new socks.



Foot care professionals were on hand to minister to those in need of more extensive care.



St. Luke's Medical Ministry provided blood pressure and blood glucose screening.



Every person served; they washed each others feet and applied cream, before the recipient put on a new pair of socks. Everything went very smoothly. Deacon Lois and Bishop Jake should be pleased.



~Kathy Deal



THE MISSION CONTINUES...

St. Luke's participates in the first **SPRING FLING** ON THE BAYOU HEALTHY COMMUNITIES Event



Others participating at this event held at Dorcheat Park at Dixie Inn on March 24, 2018, was law enforcement advocating bike safety and child identification.



LSU Ag Center had a table with healthy food, including snacks. A Jump House provided the kids with plenty of healthy exercise.

~Kathy Deal



Toby, the unofficial St. Luke's mascot and goodwill ambassador, with Jimmy and Gina at registration.



St. James Episcopal Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	
		1  HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Paul & Janet Moore HAPPY BIRTHDAY Bob Shane, Jr. Paul Moore	2 10 a HAPPY Bryn &
6 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 Parish Breakfast 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II	7 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Johnny Salter	8 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Bob & Yoshie Shane	9 10 a
13 Mother's Day 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II HAPPY BIRTHDAY Rhonda Robertson Matthew Taylor	14 Happy Mothers' Day! 	15 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Mike Endicott	16 10 a
20 Pentecost 9:15 AM Coffee 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II Pentecost Potluck  HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jennifer Kirkland	21 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Layton Porter	22 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Nick & Tammy Parker	23 10 a
27 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:30 PM Vestry Meeting HAPPY BIRTHDAY Michelle Matlock	28 Memorial Day HAPPY BIRTHDAY Linda Polly Fain	29 HAPPY BIRTHDAY Kathy Deal	30 10 a

	6th Sunday of Easter: Rogation Sunday May 6	7th Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension May 13	The Do W ONES
LECTIONARY	<i>Acts 10:44-48</i> <i>Psalm 98</i> <i>1 John 5:1-6</i> <i>John 15:9-17</i>	<i>Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</i> <i>Psalm 1</i> <i>1 John 5:9-13</i> <i>John 17:6-19</i>	<i>Acts 2:1-2</i> <i>Psalm 104</i> <i>Romans 8</i> <i>John 15:2</i>
VESTRY PERSON	CURTIS SHELTON	DEBBIE FITZPATRICK	LAUREN
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	8:30 Brody Fitzpatrick 11:00 Ron Maberry	Janie Parker Dan Bennett	Brian Wh
LAY READER	11:00 Ken Murphy	Bert Babington	Ken Murp
LECTORS	8:30 Chelsea Maielli 11:00 Sissy Brown	Janie Parker Julie Eason	David Sco
ACOLYTES	8:30 Melanie Winkler 11:00 Austin Shelton	Kelly Parker Jan Jones	Austin Sh
ALTAR GUILD	Debbie Fitzpatrick Holly Johnson	Janie Parker Linda Endicott Chelsea Maielli	Janie Park Linda End Chelsea M
USHERS	8:30 volunteer 11:00 Mike Kendrick Mary Taylor	volunteer Mike Kendrick Betty McDonald	Mike Ken Mary Tay
MASTER OF CEREMONIES	Mike Endicott	Mike Endicott	Mike End



We all have "Detours" in our lives! Come join us for a Bible Study that deals with biblical detours.

The ladies of Central Christian Church, "DoC", are hosting a four-week Bible study.

Betty Webster will be our facilitator for the study. Betty is a Southern Hills resident, and long-time student of the Bible. We will use our Bibles and enjoy a video.

Join us Thursday, April 19th at 1:00 P.M. and the following three Thursdays. There is no charge for the Study, and everyone is welcome.

2010 W Bert Kouns

Shreveport, LA 686-3060

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please add the following new information to your directory:

Salvadore Marzula
 9105 Baird Road #506
 Shreveport, LA 71118
 (318) 207-5759

PENTECOST POTLUCK MAY 20

In celebration of spring and Pentecost St. James will enjoy a combined service at 10am on May 20 followed by a parish-wide potluck luncheon. Bring your favorite RED dish to share and enjoy the company of your St. James family as we revel in the beauty of the season.

RESPONDING TO AN UNPRECEDENTED SEASON OF DISASTER

Last year's Atlantic hurricane season proved exceptionally destructive, with three Category 4 hurricanes making landfall in the United States: Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The loss of life and property damage made these disasters catastrophic by any measure.

Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program equips Episcopal dioceses throughout the United States to prepare for and respond to disasters like these. With our partners, we provide emergency assistance and help with long-term recovery, staying active in communities after the TV cameras and many other aid agencies have left.

TEXAS: Hurricane Harvey was the most powerful storm to hit Texas in more than 50 years, bringing punishing rains and unprecedented flooding to the state. But before Harvey was even on the radar, Episcopal Relief & Development had provided disaster preparedness training and resources for volunteer leaders in Episcopal Dioceses of Texas and West Texas, giving them tools and resources they would need to respond quickly and ably.

In the storm's aftermath, dioceses around the state began extensive relief and recovery efforts, and seven months later, they're still hard at work. In the sprawling greater Houston area Episcopal Churches and Episcopal Relief & Development partners are working every day to get people like Norma back on their feet.

Norma, a single mother who supports her family on a fast food worker's wage, saw her house lose its roof, floors, and several feet of walls. "I worked very hard to provide the necessities of life," she said. "We lost all of it."

But women and men from MOSAIC, the outreach arm of St. Andrew's Church in nearby Pearland, are helping her get back some of what was lost. They're pounding nails and putting up sheetrock to rebuild Norma's house.

"The children lost all the belongings, and their toys," Norma said. "But now the kids are happy because it is starting to come together and I'm happy. Very thankful."

FLORIDA: Less than two weeks after Harvey, Hurricane Irma, a ferocious 400-mile-wide storm, raged up the Caribbean, and crashed down on Florida, turning the streets of Miami and other cities into rivers. Episcopal Relief & Development's focus in Florida has been both on immediate relief and long-term rebuilding.

In Southeast Florida we worked with the Episcopal Diocese to provide critical assistance to those who were hardest hit: migrant workers, seniors, children, and the homeless, who already lacked a roof over their heads.

As part of the long-term recovery plans, the diocese has provided temporary trailers for those whose homes were damaged or destroyed. The diocese is planning to hire a part-time recovery coordinator to manage ongoing response efforts in the months ahead.

A bit north in Central Florida, our team provided emergency support, helping the diocese coordinate its initial relief efforts there, delivering food and water, bedding, and personal hygiene necessities. Because church partners are deeply embedded in these communities, they were able to identify and serve those in the greatest need.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND PUERTO RICO: **And Mother Nature wasn't finished yet.** Two weeks after Irma, Hurricane Maria unleashed its destructive force on Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, parts of which had already been pummeled by Hurricane Irma. In advance of Maria, Episcopal Relief & Development sent emergency support, partnering with the Episcopal Dioceses of the Virgin Islands and of Puerto Rico as well as with Convoy of Hope. In the immediate aftermath, we were able to work with these partners to distribute critical supplies, ensuring that necessary items were shared with vulnerable families, especially those in isolated communities.

In Puerto Rico, the emergency support we were able to send helped the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico provide food, water, and medical supplies to approximately 70,000 people in key areas outside of San Juan. Emergency support was also provided to approximately 600 people on the islands of Tortola and Virgin Gorda, which were devastated by Irma.

Today Episcopal Relief & Development remains active in both regions. A representative in the Virgin Islands is coordinating ongoing relief and recovery efforts with the diocese there. He's working closely with clergy and lay leaders to mobilize churches for long-term recovery and reconstruction. A component of this rebuilding effort will include preparedness measures for future disasters. And in Puerto Rico our representative is working closely with the diocese to strategize the next phases of the response.



PALM SUNDAY



SEDER



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Photos courtesy
Kathy Deal

HOLY WEEK



GOOD FRIDAY



EASTER VIGIL



EASTER DAY

Hello St. James family -

Six students from Fair Park High School have the opportunity for a trip to New York City but have no luggage.

If you have any used luggage you would like to donate, please bring it to church next Sunday (April 15). Julie Eason will make the delivery to the students.

As always, thank you for your support.

Agape,
Tina Caporassi



FIGHT CANCER WITH A GIFT CARD

SUPPORT SARAH LOLLAR AND BRYAN DAY (PARKWAY TEENS) BY GIVING AMAZON, KROGER, STARBUCKS, ETC, GIFT CARDS (NO CREDIT OR DEBIT GIFT CARDS, PLEASE). ALL CARDS CAN BE EITHER DROPPED OFF WITH JNANNE IN THE OFFICE OR PUT IN THE OFFERING PLATE BY APRIL 22nd!

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

We've all heard the saying, "Put your money where your mouth is." We all know it basically means that if you claim to believe in something you will work toward what you believe by investing in it financially, as well as putting forth physical, mental, and spiritual effort. As Christians we believe in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, and helping the poor.

What that means for us specifically as members of St. James is we are committed to the success of the many ministries we have created. For example, we put effort and funding toward the St. Luke's Mobile Medical Ministry and have several volunteers in the parish who regularly go on missions with the van. We also have parishioners who pick up food from Pizza Hut and deliver it to St. James for storage in the freezer until others come and heat up the pizzas for delivery to intended recipients, whether they are hungry athletes in one of the poorest school districts in Shreveport or homeless individuals who gather monthly for Bingo Night downtown. We purchase t-shirts to help a young teen in the parish recover from major surgery with his family close by—not just to provide them with financial help, but to let him know that he is important to us as a member of our church family.

We recognize that the money we give to St. James, whether by pledge or contribution, whether in a service offering plate or a check in the mail, is money that is going to further the ministry of the Church. We give because we believe it is the right thing to do—not because someone told us we have to or because we are required to pay membership dues. There is no requirement beyond that we give as our hearts dictate. We recognize that the church building and grounds need to be kept up for worship, but that the Church is not the property. The Church is composed of the many people who make up our St. James family. We are not perfect, but we are family, and we are committed to the Christian ideals of helping others, loving others, and spreading God's love to others.

We recognize that the time we spend in service to others is time spent in service to God. When we feed the hungry, Jesus tells us we are feeding him. We don't have a minimum number of service hours required for membership. We each choose which ministries touch our hearts most deeply, and we dedicate our time and energy to those, branching out as we grow and as the ministries grow.

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana recently posted the following on Facebook: "We aren't called to fill the pews with members; we are called to fill the world with disciples." —Stacy L. Sanchez They also posted, "Too many churches die of small thinking: We don't have enough...It can't happen here...Stop dreaming...Who will pay for it...We've never done it that way before. Leaders who serve an infinite God should never have their imaginations deadened by small thinking."—Carey Nieuwhof

I believe those two quotes perfectly sum up what has happened at St. James over the years and what I pray continues to happen. This parish's greatest strength is a commitment to helping others; even when it seems we are few in number, together we accomplish a lot. Let's put our money—and our effort—where our mouths are. Let's work together to make our community know, without a doubt, that the Episcopal Church welcomes them all.

—Jnanne Zepeda

ANNOUNCEMENTS SUBMISSION DEADLINE

If you would like an announcement placed in the Sunday bulletin, please submit it by 10:00 am on the previous Wednesday. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am until 2:00 pm. Announcements that are in printed form may be mailed, sent through e-mail to stjames_sport@att.net, or dropped at the parish office.

Newsletter deadline: May 1st

SPREAD THE WORD

Would you like to brag on your family's achievements, share family milestones with friends, or invite the parish to an upcoming event? You can do so easily by submitting articles to the parish office for publication in the Spirit. There is always room for news of a baptism, wedding, or school achievement. Photographs and stories can be sent via e-mail to stjames_sport@att.net or dropped off at the parish office. And if you are shy about doing the writing, just telephone the information to 686-1261 and the writing will take care of itself.

*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

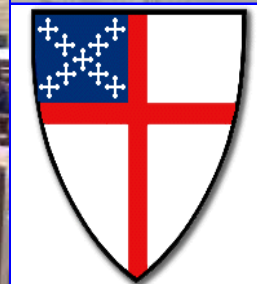


ST. JAMES IN THE COMMUNITY

St. James parishioners fully participated in the Southern Hills Ecumenical Lenten Services and Luncheon series this year, as every year for the past several decades. Pictured here several of our parishioners are taking part in the final 2018 service and luncheon at St. Mary of the Pines on March 21. We are pleased that this tradition has continued for such a long time and hope that it continues to serve as a reminder that even though we choose to worship God in different manners, all Christians are members of the same body of Christ. We all have the same core beliefs and are much more alike than we are different. We rejoice in those things which make us unique and find strength in our diversity!



Photos courtesy
Kathy Deal



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.