

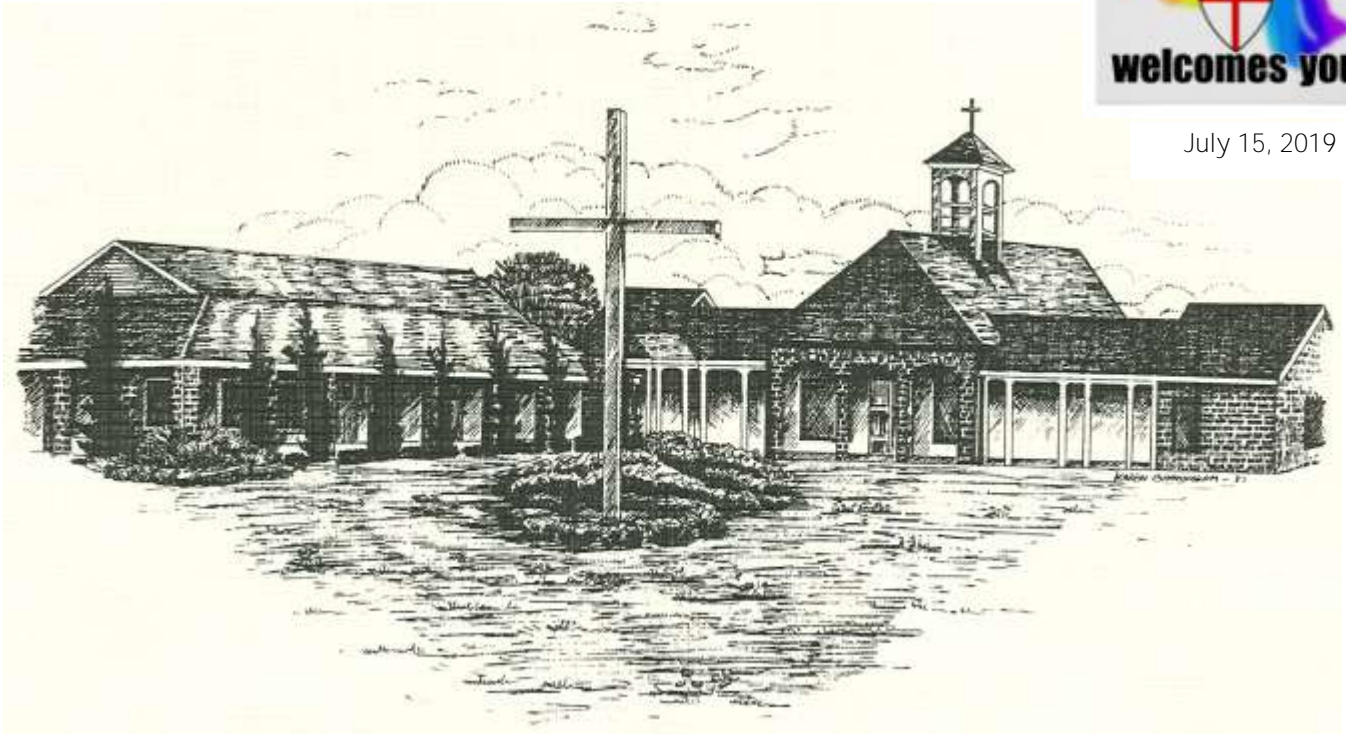
The Spirit of St. James

The Newsletter from St. James Episcopal Church

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



July 15, 2019



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The Episcopal Church:
The Most Rev'd
Michael Curry

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

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The Rev James Yazell

Organist/Choir Director:
Kaye Owen

Nursery:
Rhonda Robertson

Administrative Assistant:
Cortni Turner

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



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



A Message from our Deacon

Since we are doing Morning Prayer on Sundays during my transitional diaconate I thought it might be enriching to talk about the history of Morning Prayer.

Humans have been marking time ritually across many different ages and cultures. In a time before clocks the rising of the sun was a significant event each morning and people would offer prayers of thanksgiving for the new day. This pattern of daily prayer each morning was inherited by Christians from Judaism.

Once Christianity became an independent religious movement from Judaism there were two different forms of daily prayer that developed: cathedral and monastic. Cathedral style prayers were done in city churches and were very simple in form so that the laity could easily come and participate each day before and after work. Fixed psalms were read, incense was often used, there would be a song, some short bible readings, and lots of prayers of intercession. The monastic model, on the other hand, developed in the deserts of Egypt. It was much more elaborate and built around the entire psalter, this meant the monks had to memorize all of the psalms and prayers so they could recite them without any books!

Once we get to the Middle Ages the monastic model moves from the desert into the city churches and they become much more complex. The prayers also become more frequent with eight different times throughout the day to gather in prayer: Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sexte, Nones, Vespers, and Compline. This essentially becomes a full time job for monks and clergy and the laity have little opportunity to participate.

Which brings us to Anglicanism and the English Reformation. One of the really significant developments in the creation of the Book of Common Prayer is the simplification of the monastic hours into just two: Morning and Evening Prayer. This was done so that the laity could again be included in the daily office without it taking up their whole day. This becomes a fundamental aspect of Anglican spirituality.

What was so important about this? Well, the "office" in daily office comes from "officium" which means duty. The Daily Office, then, is our daily duty to God. Making the office accessible to everyone means that the laity can again participate in this work of the Church. It is an opportunity for everyone within the Church to *sanctify the time* in their day with prayer. Now, sometimes the office really does just feel like a duty, but when people keep it they often find that by entering into this daily rhythm of prayer that over time their days become more centered on the graces that God gives them each day.

Our practice of saying Morning Prayer on Sundays for the next few months seems like a great opportunity to become more familiar with this ancient model of prayer and to reflect on how we might sanctify each day of the week in our offering of praise and thanksgiving to God for the opportunities of a new day!

If you would like to learn more about how to incorporate a practice of daily prayer in your life please reach out to me.



-Fr. James

There is a spiritual “high” that is often experienced toward the end of a church camp, retreat, or conference. A few days of solid Bible teaching, intentional fellowship, and extended personal time with the Lord has a way of making a believer’s heart full. “I wish I felt like this all of the time!” the Christian might even say. But you won’t. You’re soon back home experiencing life as it was before you left. Work. House maintenance. Parenting. Appointments. Bills. Difficult decisions. It’s “back to reality.” And that’s actually the way it should be. It’s impossible to replicate, day after day, the camp/retreat/conference high. However, you didn’t have that experience for no reason. Those few days were meant to encourage you on for the Lord in the months and years ahead. But you’ll have to be intentional or you’ll lose the momentum quickly. What can you do to make the most of your experience after it’s all over?

Have a thought out answer for, “How was it?”

You know the drill—you arrive home, and someone says, “How was the conference?” It was “good” you say. And that’s it. That’s it? No! Tell the person more. Encourage the person’s heart with how God worked in your heart. This will not only encourage the one asking, but it will help you as you relive the experience. Talking about our experiences with the Lord has a way of maintaining and even sometimes enflaming zeal. So perhaps on the final day, or on the car ride home, think about how you will respond to the “How was it?” question. Did the Lord do something in your life? Was there a message that was particularly moving? Did you see God do something powerful in someone else’s life? These are the kinds of things we should talk about once home.

Talk to your leaders about what the Lord did.

Pastors want to know how their sheep are doing so that they can more carefully and helpfully watch over their souls (Acts 20:28; Heb 13:17). So if something significant transpired in your life, or among the group, tell them! Perhaps you were converted (how wonderful!). Maybe you are now thinking about a major change to your life in light of something you learned. It could be that you now believe the Lord wants you to serve in a new area of the church, or even the world. Take advantage of the pastor (or pastors) the Lord has given you. They will be delighted to talk and pray with you about these matters.

Beware of distractions.

I’ll only mention the most obvious “distraction” that most of us carry around in our pockets—a smart phone. I’m not about to tell you to get a flip phone, though maybe that would be an immeasurable blessing for some of us. I’m more concerned with what we do with our smart phone. We are a culture engrossed in irrelevant pictures, posts, conversations, and stories on our multiple screens. It’s hard to imagine a better way for Satan to get your mind off of spiritual glories burning in your heart than by wooing you back to that world of trivialities. Isn’t it worth quitting something that, for you, is basically worthless and deadening? The devil hates what happened to you at camp. He despises the great teaching you heard at the conference. He’s on the prowl, seeking to devour you before that experience with God at the retreat turns into a lifelong pattern of grace-fueled obedience. And he might just be using that social media platform to destroy you. Get out before it’s too late, and fill in the time you’ll gain with life-giving habits like meditating on and memorizing Scripture.

Listen to a message again.

Was one of the sessions of teaching especially helpful for you? If it was recorded, go back and listen to it again. Better yet, listen with someone else (spouse? sibling? friend? someone who was there?). If you took notes, pull them out and follow along. Maybe just listen this time. Beforehand, ask the Lord to solidify the truth in your thinking. Afterwards, pray similarly, and if listening with someone else, talk about what you learned and what was most inspiring and clarifying.

Right away, come out strong for Jesus.

Perhaps this is the overarching idea that all of the previous strategies fall under. I actually heard something like this recently from a camp speaker in his final message to over 200 youth. He was urging them not to delay when they got home from camp. Did you come to Christ? Then follow him right away by being baptized and joining the church. Did you recommit yourself to a particular spiritual discipline? Then don’t hesitate—pray for God’s help, and get going immediately. When we ponder God’s love for us in his Son, how foolish and illogical it would be to delay coming out strong for Jesus, whether we are feeling a spiritual “high” or not.

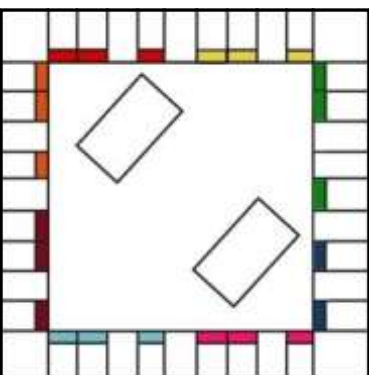
JUNE 2019



A big thank you to the McDonalds and Parkers for their contribution to our monthly Hope House meals, and to all the servers who come out to help.

We couldn't do it
without you!

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



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us August 9th for some quality time and friendly competition! Food will be provided.

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.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<p>4</p> <p>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Parish breakfast 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Rhyson Carroway Les Cruse</p>	<p>5</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Daniel Jackson Benton Ocmand</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10 a</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>	<p>12</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Tommy Mosley</p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Andrew Thrash Kira Welch</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10 a</p> <p style="color: green;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Bill HA</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p>	<p>19</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Amber Garner</p>	<p>20</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Connor Matlock Ken Murphy</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10</p> <p style="color: green;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Ada HA</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 AM Coffee 11:00AM Holy Eucharist Rite II 12:30 Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Krystal Eason</p>	<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY Scott Brown</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10</p>



	<i>8th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>9th Sunday</i>
	<i>AUGUST 4</i>	<i>AUGUST 11</i>
LECTIONARY	Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-11 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21	Genesis 15: 1-6 Psalm 33:12-22 Hebrews 11:1-12 Luke 12:32-40
VESTRY PERSON	David Scott	Krystal Eason
EUCCHARISTIC 8:30 MINISTER 11:00	Janie Parker Ken Murphy	Lynette van H David Scott
LAY READER 11:00	David Scott	Julie Eason
LECTORS 8:30 11:00	Pat Parker Sissy Brown	Debbie Fitzpa Karen McDon
ACOLYTES 8:30 11:00	Kelly Parker Ken Murphy	Melanie Winkl Julie Eason
ALTAR GUILD	Linda Endicott Chelsea Fitzpatrick Janie Parker	Linda Endico Chelsea Fitzp Janie Parker
USHERS 8:30 11:00	Debbie Fitzpatrick Betty McDonald Mary Taylor	Kelly Parker Sissy Brown Mike Kendric

Estate Sale for Alice Thompson

Dates: August 9th and 10th

Time: 8:00 AM– 2:00 PM

Location: 2512 Lakecrest Drive Shreveport, LA

Contact Wain or Debbie Thompson for information regarding accepted payment methods and items available. They can be reached at (318) 347-1989 or (318) 347-4505.

August Breakfast

This month's breakfast is sponsored by James and Lisa Lewis. Proceeds will go towards our new cross fund.



OUTREACH

FILL THE BACKPACK



The Outreach Committee , along with the teachers and students of Forest Hill Elementary School would like to thank you for your contributions and your help assembling backpacks!

Thanks to your donations, we were able to help over 30 students and their teachers be better prepared for the upcoming school year.

Kathy Watkins, Lauren Ocmand, Debbie Fitzpatrick, Chelsea Fitzpatrick, Karen Waguespack and Mike and Linda Endicott are due a special thanks for their time and dedication to the children of our community.



*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



Fundraiser Update



Playground Fund

Goal: \$20,000

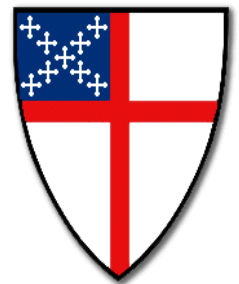
Amount Raised: \$14,287.11

Dear Saint James Family,

I want to thank everyone who sent me get well cards. They really helped to cheer me up.

Plus, thanks for the prayers. Prayers work and I got better so fast! I had so many people praying for me that I did not know. I take all prayers!

*Love,
Betty Langhorst*



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.