

The Spirit of St. James

The Newsletter from St. James Episcopal Church

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



November 15, 2016



December 15

6:00pm

Installation of Rev'd Margaret Ayers at St. James
Followed by reception



December 24

5:30pm

Family worship
Rite 2 service with Eucharist

10:30pm

Christmas Eve worship
Rite 2 service with Eucharist



December 25

10am

Christmas Day Worship
Rite 2 service with Eucharist

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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 S.
Ayers

Organist/Choir Director:
Kaye Crichlow

Nursery:
Rhonda Robertson

Parish Administrator:
Jnanne Zepeda

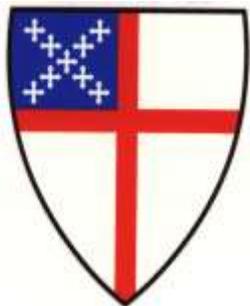
2015 Vestry:
Brian Whatley (17)— Sr.
Warden
Mike Endicott (19)— Jr.
Warden

Members:

(17)
Sissy Brown (18)
Kathy Deal (17)
(17)
Karen McDonald (18)
Ken Murphy (19)
Pat Parker (18)
David Scott (19)

Ex Officio:

Thomas Mosley—Treasurer
Janie Parker—Clerk



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



A MESSAGE FROM MARGARET

A memory indelibly etched in my mind occurred when I was refereeing a youth football game. When it became clear one team was losing to the other team, some parents started calling for their twelve- and thirteen-year-old children to injure the players on the winning team. In sheer horror, I stopped the game. Unfortunately, this seems to have become our worldview; conservatives-versus-liberals, white-versus-any minority, cop-versus-young black men and women, Sunni-versus-Shiites, and Christian-versus-non-Christian. The value of the person other than ourselves is lessened, perhaps to make us feel more valuable.

Juxtaposed against this hate/anger mentality will forever be Jesus. We remember Jesus bursting upon the scene with his famous synagogue speech in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 4:16-21).

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."^[1]

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

As the lectionary brings us to the end of Jesus' ministry, this year according to Luke, we remember those who are marginalized in our world and Jesus' call to bring them back from the margins into community. Our baptism demands we love our neighbors (including our enemies) and to share with others the grace of love and unconditional forgiveness Jesus pours out on us every moment of every day. As Christians, we are bound together by God's love for us and that love is to flow from us to those who cross our paths in everyday life. As the world tries to teach us to hate others or push them into the margins of society, let us remember our God so loved us that he came to live among us in order to teach us his ways. I wish I could tell you it will be an easy path but there will always be voices of hatred and division. Jesus did not die of old age in a mansion (hmmm, wasn't that a temptation in the wilderness?), Jesus died on the hard wood of a cross.

My prayer is for us not to be divided by artificial or self-made divisions but let us all be united as God's beloved children.

Blessings,
Margaret+



Outreach News

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we will be preparing and delivering Thanksgiving meals to our neighbors again this year. If you know of someone in the Southern Hills area who would benefit from a meal, please notify the parish office. Lorain has checked with the regular recipients of the Meals on Wheels program to be sure those without prior plans get a great holiday meal for the household. Any parishioners in need who are unable to attend the communal dinner in the Parish Hall may also receive meals for their households—just let us know!

Thanks to all who have participated in the Filling in the Gaps ministry so far in 2016. This is a very important ministry at St. James and the main impetus for upgrading our kitchen. What began as a couple of parishioners providing meals on holidays for a handful of folk has grown into a thriving service that benefits many people throughout the year.

This past week we gave away the last of the meals in our freezer. Once again the cupboards are bare and we are asking parishioners to place nutritious, home-made meals in the Parish Hall freezer for the Filling in the Gaps ministry. With cooler weather upon us we have a greater number of people coming to our door seeking food, so please take the time to help us keep the freezer stocked.



The Rt. Rev'd Jacob W. Owensby,
IV Bishop of the Diocese of Western Louisiana
And the Vestry, Wardens, and People of
St. James Episcopal Church
Request your prayers and presence at the
*Celebration of New Ministry
and Installation of
The Rev'd Margaret S. Ayers*

Thursday, December 15, 2016

At Six O'clock in the evening

2050 Bert Kouns

Shreveport, Louisiana

Reception to follow

Clergy: red stoles

If you have any questions about what meals work well, Lorain Thrash and Pat & Janie Parker have lots of experience in putting together these meals and should be able to answer any of your questions.

Olivia Zepeda wishes to thank those who donated non-perishable items for the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana food drive at Caddo Magnet High School. With your help they collected 7,777 pounds of food in this drive!

THE FULLER CENTER CHRISTMAS STORE

The Angel Tree will soon be sporting red and green tags with items for the Fuller Center Christmas Store. On December 17 the store will be open for fixed income families to purchase reduced price items for those on their holiday list.

You can help in the following ways:

- Pluck tags from the trees and return the items on the tags to St. James before December 14 so they can be used to stock the shelves of the Christmas Store
- Help arrange the shelves on December 16 at 4221 Linwood Ave
- Help set up the wrapping stations on December 16 at 4221 Linwood Ave
- Work as elves in the store on December 17, 9am-2pm, assisting shoppers and wrapping gifts

Contact Deacon Lois Maberry at 286-5414 or lois@stmarkscathedral.net to volunteer or to get more information.

THE GOOD STEWARDS

We don't often think about all the work that goes into preparing the worship space for each service. In addition to getting the bulletins ready and cleaning the floors, tasks performed by our parish administrator and sexton each week (plus the office volunteers),



there are the myriad tasks that go into caring for the linens, setting out the wine and host, ordering and placing the flowers, and maintaining the brass and silver.

Thanks to the Altar Guild, headed by Kelly Parker, for the work done on behalf of the parish each week. They work behind the scenes to make certain the altar is set for each service, using the appropriate liturgical colors. They polish the brass and silver, clean the linens and vestments, put out the wine and bread, place the candles, and position the flowers. The members of the Altar Guild work in teams that rotate duties, sharing their skills and filling in for each other as needed. While currently all members of the Altar Guild are female, there is no written rule requiring this. Anyone who feels the call to serve in this manner is welcome to do so, and we at St. James appreciate their tireless work tremendously.

This is one 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.



Photos courtesy
Kathy Deal



A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

It's already mid-November and Advent is almost upon us. Personally, I have always liked the fact that in the liturgical denominations, Advent is the start of the Church's new year so we get a four or five week jump on New Year's over the secular world. This year, we have the added joy of beginning a new church year with our new Rector, the Reverend Margaret Ayers. Wow, that felt so good to say, that I'm going to repeat it, "... *our new Rector.*" Margaret+ will actually start on November 20, one week before the start of Advent. Please join me in welcoming Margaret+ to St. James! I also am pleased to announce that the Service of *Celebration of a New Ministry*, in which Margaret+ will be formally installed as Rector, will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 6:00 PM.

Looking ahead into next year, the St. James Annual Meeting will be held on January 29, 2017. At that meeting, our parish will look back over this past year and into the upcoming year, which will no doubt be very bright for our Parish. We will also elect delegates to the Diocesan Convention and elect new Vestry members to fill the three-year positions of those who are rotating off the Vestry after their faithful service. The three positions to be filled are those of Kathy Deal, myself, and the position left open after Chris Bienvenu moved to Lafayette earlier this year. It is not too soon to begin thinking of nominations for the Vestry and for delegates to the Convention. According to our Parish By-laws, qualifications to serve on the Vestry are:

- Be a communicant in good-standing
- Be a member of St. James for at least 6 months
- Be at least 16 years old
- Be a contributing member of record
- Be a regular attendee of worship and other parish events
- Be available to attend Vestry meetings and perform vestry duties, and
- Be committed to the spiritual growth of St. James.

Nominations are accepted until two-weeks before the annual meeting, and may be submitted to the Parish office.

Please keep our Rector and Vestry in your prayers as you remain in ours.

In Christ,
Brian Whatley

WE SHOULD ALL BE COMMITTED

As of this publication date, St. James has received twenty commitment cards totaling \$94,894.00 in pledges toward the 2017 income of the parish. (The 2015 budget was approximately \$196,000.00). We request completed commitment cards in order for our Budget Committee to have solid information available to them when they compile the budget for the following year. The committee will meet in late November to begin their work—and plan to have everything completed and ready for the Annual Meeting in January. If you have not yet submitted your commitment card, please do so by mailing it to the parish office, placing it in the offering plate at any service, or giving it to a member of the Vestry or the Stewardship Committee. Pledge information is kept confidential and only the Parish Administrator and the Treasurer ever see any of the numbers. Our target for collecting cards this year is November 27, **but if circumstances don't allow you to meet that goal, we will accept pledges later than that!** You may also change your pledge at any time by notifying the parish office. Nothing is set in stone.



THE MISSION CONTINUES...

Scheduled missions for December included the following:

Dec 1: 3p-5p Hope Connection, 2350 Levy, Shreveport—Philadelphia Center will be there to provide free HIV screenings

Dec 2: 8a-11a Higher Ground, 6480 Hwy 509, Mansfield

Dec 3: 9a-noon Sav-A-Lot parking lot, Minden

Dec 7: noon-2p Love Well, 605 Cotton Street, Shreveport

Dec 8: 9a-noon Homer, Susan G. Komen pop-up **breast screening (contact St. Luke's for exact location)**

Dec 8: 4:30p-6p Highland Center, 520 Olive Street, Shreveport

Dec 11: 4p-6p Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, 425 McCormick, Bossier City—Spanish interpreter available

Dec 14: 10a-noon Hope House, 762 Austin Place, Shreveport

Dec 17: 7a-9a Vivian Food Bank

Dec 17: 9:30a-11a Oil City Food Bank

Dec 18: 10a-noon Hope House, 762 Austin Place, Shreveport

Dec 21: 3:30p-5p Hope Connection, 2350 Levy, Shreveport—Philadelphia Center will be there to provide free HIV screenings

If you would like to volunteer with St. Luke's, please contact Betty Johnson at (318) 424-0156 or office@stlukesmedicalministry.org . Several St. James parishioners can tell you how fulfilling this ministry is. Current volunteers include Lois & Ron Maberry, Wain Thompson, and Kathy & Jimmy Deal. Over the years we have had others, such as Fr. Bill Bryant and Debbie Knight, the Rev'd Morgan MacIntire, Kathy Watkins, Jnanne Zepeda, and Olivia Zepeda. There may be other current volunteers of whom I am unaware, and if so I ask that you make yourselves known. St. Luke's is an Episcopal ministry that depends upon the helping hands of Episcopal stewardship. Aside from the physicians and nurses, most of the tasks don't required specialized training and almost anyone can be of assistance. Please, seriously consider becoming a St. Luke's volunteer. Contact Betty Johnson to find out how.

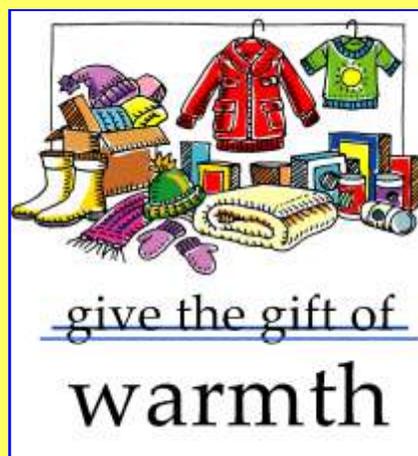
—*Jnanne Zepeda*



<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>
<i>December 24</i>	<i>December 25</i>
<i>Isaiah 9: 2-7</i> <i>Psalms 96</i> <i>Titus 2: 11-14</i> <i>Luke 2: 1-14</i>	<i>Isaiah 62:6-12</i> <i>Psalms 97</i> <i>Titus 3:4-7</i> <i>Luke 2:8- 20</i>
	DAVID SCOTT
5:30 Janie Parker 10:30 Ken Murphy	
10:30 Brody Fitzpatrick	
5:30 Lynette van Heerden 10:30 Debbie Fitzpatrick	Janet Moore
5:30 Kelly Parker 10:30 Mason Garner	
Janie Parker Linda Endicott	Janie Parker Linda Endicott
5:30 Pat Parker 10:30 Sissy Brown Denise Shelton	Sissy Brown
10:30 Mike Endicott	Mike Endicott
5:30 Janie Parker	

IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

We are asking that St. James parishioners give the **Gift of Warmth** when we gather for our communal Thanksgiving Day celebration. Boxes will be set up in the Parish Hall throughout the months of October and November, so anyone who wishes to donate warm coats, hats, scarves, mittens, boots, and blankets may do so. You don't have to take part in the dinner to help another person stay warm during the cold months. Let's continue to support this ministry as faithfully as we have the last several winters!



GIVE THANKS AS A FAMILY...

WITH YOUR ST. JAMES FAMILY

What do you prepare for Thanksgiving? Turkey? Ham? Sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad, stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, cake, veggie tray, fresh rolls... Instead of doing it all this year, join the St. James community for a covered dish family-style feast. Sign up to bring your favorite and taste everyone else's favorites, too. Join us for Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 24, at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall.



Due to generous donations by parishioners and local businesses, the turkeys are already provided. (Special thanks to Matt Parker for cooking them for us). Please bring a dish to share—dressing, bread, gravy, vegetable, salad, or dessert—you decide. Make your reservations by signing up on the sheet in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please call Tina Caporossi (318) 683-4002. Your presence will make Thanksgiving a true celebration of all the many things we at St. James have for which to be thankful.

St. James Episcopal Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	
<p>4</p> <p>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15AM Breakfast 11:00 Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Bill Adcock</p>	<p>5</p> <p>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Gary & Susan Bryant HAPPY BIRTHDAY Lori Kendrick Chris Laws</p>	<p>6</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Kandi Moore Nikki Lydick</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10 a</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15AM Coffee 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Teresa Mormino</p>	<p>12</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Janie Parker</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>70 a</p> <p>HAP I</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><i>Greening of the Church After 11AM service</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Ruby Betterton Jack Perkins Chaile Allen</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10 a</p> <p>HAP Ch</p>
<p>25 10AM Service Rite II</p>  <p>Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>26</p> <p>←HAPPY BIRTHDAY Erika Perkins</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Richard Butler</p>	<p>27</p> <p>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY James & Lisa Lewis</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10 a</p> <p>HAP I</p>

	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>
	<i>December 4</i>	<i>December 11</i>	<i>December 18</i>
LECTIONARY	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 35:1-10 Canticle 15 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11</i>	<i>Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25</i>
VESTRY PERSON	BRIAN WHATLEY	KATHY DEAL	MIKE ENDICOTT
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER 8:30 11:00	Janie Parker Brian Whatley	Lynette van Heerden Ken Murphy	Brody Fitzpatrick Brian Whatley
LAY READER 11:00	Ron Maberry	David Scott	Dan Bennett
LECTORS 8:30 11:00	Debbie Fitzpatrick Sissy Brown	Pat Parker Kathy Calhoun	Chelsea Maielli Julie Eason
ACOLYTES 8:30 11:00	Kelly Parker Austin Shelton	Melanie Winkler Mason Garner	Kelly Parker Austin Shelton
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy Watkins Faye Wynn	Debbie Fitzpatrick Holly Johnson	Debbie Fitzpatrick Holly Johnson
USHERS 8:30 11:00	Debbie Fitzpatrick Mike Kendrick Denise Shelton	Pat Parker Sissy Brown Mary Taylor	Pat Parker Mike Kendrick Denise Shelton
MASTER OF CEREMONIES	Mike Endicott	Mike Endicott	Mike Endicott
VERGER			

Please join us for the

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 29, 2017

10am WORSHIP SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY
PARISH-WIDE LUNCHEON
and BUSINESS MEETING

Make parish plans for 2017
Elect vestry members
Elect delegates to the diocesan convention
Eat great food & enjoy great company



FOUND

This key was found in the Parish Hall after the ECW dance on Saturday, November 19. If it is yours, please contact the parish office at 686-1261 during business hours Mon-Thurs 9a-2p.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please add the following new information to your directory:

Daniel & Jan Jones
146 E Topeka Street
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 507-8889
and (318) 787-1155
francesjones777@gmail.com

"The Episcopal Church Welcomes You," is not just a slogan, it's who we seek to be and the witness we seek to make, following the way of Jesus.

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry has issued the following statement:

Last week I shared what I pray was a reconciling post-election message to our church, reminding us that 'we will all live together as fellow Americans, as citizens.' Today I want to remind us that during moments of transition, during moments of tension, it is important to affirm our core identity and values as followers of Jesus in the Episcopal Anglican way.

Jesus once declared, in the language of the Hebrew prophets, that God's "house shall be a house of prayer for all nations" (Mk 11:17). He invited and welcomed all who would follow saying, "come to me all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens" (Mt. 11:28).



We therefore assert and we believe that "the Episcopal Church welcomes you" – all of you, not as merely a church slogan, but as a reflection of what we believe Jesus teaches us and at the core of the movement he began in the first century. The Episcopal Church welcomes all. All of us!

As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement today, we Episcopalians are committed, as our Prayer Book teaches to honor the covenant and promises we made in Holy Baptism: *To proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ; To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves; to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.*

As Christians, we believe that all humans are created in God's image and equal before God – those who may be rejoicing as well as those who may be in sorrow.

As a Church, seeking to follow the way of Jesus, who taught us, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself," (Mt. 22:39) and to "do to others as you would have them do to you" (Mt. 7:12), we maintain our long-standing commitment to support and welcome refugees and immigrants, and to stand with those who live in our midst without documentation. We reaffirm that like all people LGBT persons are entitled to full civil rights and protection under the law. We reaffirm and renew the principles of inclusion and the protection of the civil rights of all persons with disabilities. We commit to the honor and dignity of women and speak out against sexual or gender-based violence. We express solidarity with and honor the Indigenous Peoples of the world. We affirm the right to freedom of religious expression and vibrant presence of different religious communities, especially our Muslim sisters and brothers. We acknowledge our responsibility in stewardship of creation and all that God has given into our hands. We do so because God is the Creator. We are all God's children, created equally in God's image. And if we are God's children we are all brothers and sisters.

"The Episcopal Church Welcomes You," is not just a slogan, it's who we seek to be and the witness we seek to make, following the way of Jesus.

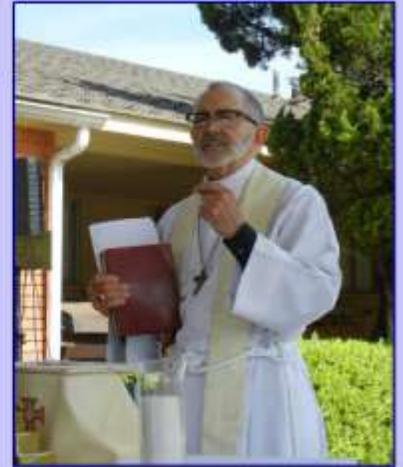
Michael B. Curry

Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Giving Thanks to all the Clergy who Filled in at St. James During Our Search for a Rector



Rev'd Rowena White



Rev'd Andrew Comeaux



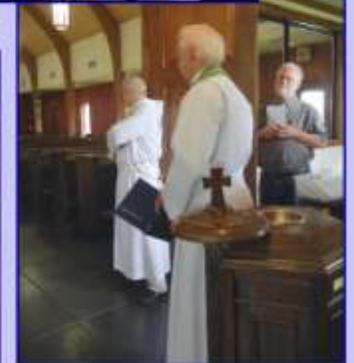
Rev'd Paula Clair Hall



Rev'd Guido Verbeck



Rev'd Bill Bryant



Rev'd Richard Taylor



Reverends Sally Fox
and Mary Richard



Karen McDonald did a fantastic job procuring supply priests this year. We were rarely without a priest. Sally Fox, from Holy Cross, faithfully celebrated the Healing Mass every Wednesday. I loved the way she made each anointing personal and relevant. The few times she was unable to come, Mary Richard took her place. St. James was blessed to have supply clergy who were willing to serve. They were gracious, and very accommodating, working with us during special services, such as Youth Sunday, the Easter Vigil, and our "Mass in the Grass". Thank you so much.

~Kathy Deal

Barry Taylor wishes to share a favorite quote with the parish:

“Only a life lived for others is worth living.”

—Albert Einstein



Photos courtesy Debbie Fitzpatrick

JUST KEEP SWIMMING!

St. James feels blessed to have Emilie Gibson back home with us again. She completed 28 radiation treatments at St. Jude's Children's hospital in Memphis, TN, and is taking a well-deserved break by enjoying a return to normality. Emilie is especially happy to be back in school with her friends and to be home with her brother, Alex.



Special thanks go to Alex and to Chelsea Maielli for organizing a painting tutorial in the Parish Hall as a fundraiser for Emilie. Using his sister's favorite theme, Alex designed a picture of fish swimming in the ocean for participants to paint. Stop by the nursery to see

some of the finished paintings which were donated as permanent decorations in the newly renovated space. Thanks to everyone who helped to raise \$1020 for Emilie!

Photo courtesy Debbie Fitzpatrick

If you are unable to come to St. James to drop your commitment card into the offering plate, you may mail the one below to St. James Episcopal Church, 2050 Bert Kouns, Shreveport, 71118.

Blessed to Be a Blessing Pledge Commitment for Year 2017

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Accept this pledge as an expression of gratitude for all the blessings of this life and for the blessing God calls me to be. I pray for the grace to honor the practice of proportional giving by:

- Pledging to God's purpose through my faith community for the first time
- Increasing my financial pledge
- Increasing my pledge by 1%, 3%, or 5% of my annual income
- Tithing 10% of my annual income to carry out God's purpose through my faith community

Given () Weekly () Monthly () Quarterly () Annually

Total Pledge for this Year to the Episcopal Church of _____

EMBRACE SERENITY

*Dear Lord, please grant us the strength to change the things we can,
the courage to accept the things we cannot change,
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

Our country has seen a large amount of change in the past year. We've also seen a lot of things not change. As Christians we need to work to change those things that need to be fixed—and we need to dig in our heels and adamantly stand up for those things that are good and right and shouldn't be changed.

For example, how long has it been since the nation was made aware that the water in Flint, Michigan was poisoned? We are all aware that lead in drinking water causes irreparable damage to brain cells, changing intelligent children into adults who cannot care for themselves. As a result, the water coming out of the pipes in the kitchens in the city of Flint is not safe for drinking or cooking. Still. That is why we continue to pray for the people of Flint, MI, each Sunday. Despite the extended amount of time that has passed since the revelation was made concerning their plight, the government wheels are moving slowly and help has not yet arrived. Lead cannot be boiled out of the water, so the residents of Flint must still rely on bottled water for daily living.

Another example: When our country was born, it started out in desperation, bloodshed, and war. People killed and enslaved others who did not look like them, who had different values, different customs, different beliefs. As the country matured the laws changed, making it safer for everyone. Laws were passed protecting religious freedom, protecting against racial prejudice, ensuring fundamental rights to all citizens. As Christians it is our duty to uphold those rights for all humankind.



We can't go back in time and change the injustices of the past, but we can work to keep from repeating them. We can protect others now and in the future. We can stand up for what Jesus taught—that we are to love one another, even our enemies. We can teach our children to accept others, to embrace diversity and recognize that it gives us strength, to respect the dignity of all people, to love others, and to welcome all.

Because, isn't that what the Episcopal Church is all about? Always remember, the Episcopal Church welcomes you...no matter who you are, without reservations...because that is what we do.

—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@comcast.net, or dropped at the parish office.

Newsletter deadline: December 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@comcast.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, 8:30am

followed by Coffee Hour and donuts in the Parish Hall

Sunday School, 9:45am

Holy Eucharist, 11:00am

Wednesday—Holy Eucharist with Unction, 10am



WE'LL WORSHIP TOGETHER CHRISTMAS EVE

This year's Christmas Eve Services are scheduled at 5:30pm and 10:30pm. The earlier service is scheduled to accommodate those families who need to have children in bed earlier than midnight. It will be the full Christmas Eve Eucharist, complete with music. The later service will be the traditional Christmas Eve Eucharistic service with organ and hymns. No matter which one you choose, remember that you are welcome to bring family members who may be visiting, friends, neighbors, etc. As with all of our services and events, everyone is welcome at St.

James. Let's fill the church with people, as well as praise.

A TASK OF LOVE

You are invited to help green the church after the 11am service on December 18. Gather your family, gloves, work clothes, and bring them all with you when you come for worship that day. Workers will enjoy a hearty stew to give them the energy for the task and everyone will be rewarded with the satisfaction of a job well-done!

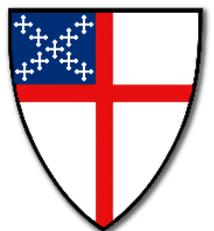
For those new to the job, garlands will be strung around the worship area, the crèche will be set up, the Chrismon tree will be erected in the narthex, and the EYC poinsettias will be set around the altar.

The more who help, the faster and easier the task! Please join us.

GRACE THE CHRISTMAS ALTAR WITH EYC POINSETTIAS

Throughout the year the altar at St. James is adorned with flowers, given to the glory of God and in honor of our loved ones. We generally have two lovely arrangements, but during the Christmas season we invite everyone to make a dedication to fill the space with poinsettias.

A fifteen dollar donation will help offset the cost of the flowers. Dedication forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins and the Parish Hall through the Advent season. Should there be any extra money collected, the proceeds will be placed into the EYC fund, which is used for service projects.



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.