

Saint James' Episcopal Church

"Enter as strangers, leave as friends."

THE EPISTLE

One of the complaints about a vision, mission, and core values process is that the results usually end up in a file or a notebook never to be seen again. That is not the case at Saint James' Episcopal Church. We are living the vision, mission, and core values we discerned in 2008.

I believe we have a vision of becoming a community where people enter as strangers and leave as friends with God and one another. In this issue of *The Epistle* Linda and Terry Eastin, graciously share their experience of visiting Saint James' and how they became part of this church family. Their story highlights and celebrates that those words we have above the entrance to the church, make a difference. Those words, "Enter as strangers, leave as friends," have been given life.

Not only are we living our vision, we are making progress towards our goals. They are becoming a reality. We are very near to meeting our \$200,000 goal in pledges to pay off the debt owed for the lumberyard property and improving the parking area. I thank everyone who has made a pledge to the campaign, and I invite those who have not, to consider making a pledge to meet our goal.

One of the goals that we discerned in 2008 was to engage in more hands on outreach. As a congregation we continue to support AMEN, The Second Chance Emporium, and Saint James' Episcopal Preschool financially and/or with volunteers. We also have the great work of our Men's Club, and members of Saint James' volunteer their time in other organizations in La Grange and Fayette County. The time has come to discern what else God may be calling us to do as a congregation. This month the Outreach Committee will gather to discuss outreach and how we can accomplish the goal of engaging in more hands on outreach. Outreach is about creating relationships in the community with the people around us without any expectation that they will join our congregation. Outreach is done with the sole purpose of offering grace to others out of the grace God has so freely bestowed upon us.

The Outreach Committee, chaired by Dianna Berg, will not only discuss new opportunities for us to reach out and create new, deeper relationships with people in the wider community, but also how we can strengthen our involvement and support of AMEN, Second Chance, and the Preschool.

Our vision, our goals, mission, and core values are not just words on a page. With the help of the Holy Spirit the people of Saint James' are giving them life. It is an exciting time to be a part of Saint James' Episcopal Church and I give thanks for everyone who supports Saint James' and the work of God by giving so much of themselves.

Daryl T. Hay +

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

“Enter as strangers, leave as friends.”

by Linda and Terry Eastin

Wafting across Hwy 71 into the parking lot of HEB on a Saturday morning was the smell of chicken and sausage. A back sliding Episcopalian and a lifetime noncommittal took notice and followed the enticing aroma, which led to St. James Episcopal Church and the Holy Smokers. In the truck on the way home while eating our sausage, we decided to give St. James a try the next morning. After all, a group with the name Holy Smokers had to have a sense of humor. We were new to the area and had been searching for a place to worship. Upon entering the sanctuary, I knew I had found a church home. It just felt right. Every person greeted us with a “Good Morning” and/or a handshake. And, this is the important part, after church everyone said they hoped we would come back. Why one couple even walked us to the edge of the sidewalk. The smiles were so warm and genuine. The next Sunday we returned and a luncheon invitation was extended for that day!! The hand of friendship was extended in many different ways. An invitation to lunch, coffee after church in the Parish Hall, ECW, Men’s Club, Holy Smokers and, oh, don’t forget Supper Club on Saturday night – maps are in the office!! Always with a smile and a glimmer of hope they would see you again. We are grateful the wind was blowing our way on that Saturday morning and lead us to our St. James family.

Meetings

Daughters of the King will meet on Thursday, March 4th at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Join us for an Outreach meeting on Thursday, March 4th in the Parish Hall, beginning at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and share ideas.

Men’s Club will meet on Monday, March 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Swiss Alp Hall.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be making a field trip in lieu of the regular monthly meeting. On Friday March 12, we will travel to Houston to tour Bayou Bend, with lunch to follow at Susie Glasscock's home. We will meet in the church parking lot at 7:15 a.m., and leave promptly at 7:30 a.m. Members planning to make the trip should RSVP to Jerri Frenzel by February 26.

The Altar Guild will be making palm crosses in the parish hall on from 10-12 on the morning of Saturday, March 27th. All parishioners are welcome to come learn how and help. Anyone who is willing to donate a frond or two from a palm in their garden is asked to let Suzanne Batchelder know.

Vision Goals

<p>Pay off the Lumberyard debt Improve and expand church facilities Increase number of young families Increase Christian education opportunities Engage in more hands on ministry</p>
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Children & Youth Ministry

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! Tuesday, March 9th we will have a VBS Organizational Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please join us to learn how you can be a part of St. James' / First Presbyterian VBS 2010 - *"Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace."*

Saint James' Episcopal Preschool

March winds will blow in a lot of activities for our preschoolers. Themes: Good Health, Rainbows, Windy Weather, and Easter. Bible Stories: Prodigal's Son, Good Samaritan, Last Supper, & The First Easter, and Mary Goes to the Tomb. During our week of Good Health the preschool class will be having the "Tooth Fairy" in for a visit. The Tooth Fairy will be in costume and use puppets on promoting good dental hygiene. This will be a non sweet treat for the children. Our school pictures are scheduled for March and we will have our Spring/Easter break at the end of the month. Pre-registration is in full swing now, I still have some openings...please pass on to family and friends about our preschool. We wish everyone a Blessed Easter!

Lana Swearingen, Preschool Director

Special Worship Services

Evening Prayer Service and Bible Study - on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:15 p.m. during Lent - March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th.

World Day of Prayer - Friday, March 5th.

Healing Service - Wednesday, March 31st beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Holy Week

April 1st - Maundy Thursday - Rite One with Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

April 2nd - Good Friday Service at 12:00 noon

April 4th - Easter Sunday Services: Rite One: 8:00 a.m. & Rite Two: 10:30 a.m.

Our Core Values

Worship...creating a prayerful environment that touches every heart and enriches every soul.

Fellowship...providing social and spiritual interactivity, sharing the peace and love of Jesus Christ beyond the doors of our church.

Service...doing God's work in our community and the world.

Historical Presence...celebrating over 150 years of the Anglican tradition in our community and creating the spiritual foundation and means to ensure the future of our parish family.

Church Family...sharing a place where each individual's thread of life is welcomed to be woven into His Tapestry.

Happy Birthday

03/01	Karen Gordon	03/18	Jim Holmes
03/02	Daryl Hay	03/20	Hans Zwar
03/06	Greg Northrup	03/21	Bill Rogers
03/10	Tom Jones	03/24	Grover Hillbolt
03/10	Bill McInturff	03/24	Brenda McCullough
03/12	Larry Kahanek	03/26	Susannah Schorlemer
03/14	Erica Brandt	03/26	Robin Sengler
03/15	John Zeuner	03/28	Peter Sengler
03/16	Sandy Edwards	03/31	Carolyn Bailey
03/17	Cara Kahanek		

Happy Anniversary

03/17 Karen and Leo Gordon

Upcoming Events

Supper Club - will be a **Southern Potluck Dinner** to take place on Friday, March 19th beginning at 6:00 p.m., hosted by the Hay Family - Terri, Daryl, Martin, Spencer and Stuart. The event will take place at the Rectory, located at 708 North Washington Street in La Grange. Bring your favorite Southern dish (main dish, side dish or dessert). Children welcome! Please RSVP to your host - there is also a sign up sheet posted in the Parish Hall.

Capital Campaign

Parishioners will recall, at the Planning meeting last spring, the Parish decided to set priorities to enhance the growth of the Parish. The Vestry decided the best way to facilitate these goals was to have a capital campaign, and establish a goal of raising \$200,000 over 3 years. The Campaign officially started on January 15, 2010 with the kickoff party. To date, we have received pledges of over \$190,000, including cash of almost \$100,000 which has been used to reduce the Quin Foundation debt. The Vestry has additional priorities, such as painting the Church, that can be fulfilled if we exceed the original goal of \$200,000. We hope to have 100% participation from the Parishioners, at what ever amount is appropriate for each family. If you have not made a pledge, please consider making a pledge now with an amount that is appropriate for you. Pledge cards are available at the Parish office if you do not have one. Joe Bailey, Capital Campaign Committee

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to be a welcoming worship community where God's presence is felt and from which we are sent to proclaim Christ's love and serve others.

Outreach

Men's Cook - Saturday, March 13th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Half chicken is \$3 and sausage link is \$4. Drive thru only.

ECW Members are asked to participate in World Day of Prayer at the First Baptist Church on March 5th, 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring canned goods for AMEN to the gathering. Just a reminder, the ECW bake sale will be March 13. Anyone with questions regarding the bake sale are asked to contact Lil Landry, Vera Zitterich or Betty Cook.

Second Chance Emporium - volunteers from Saint James' are asked to work beginning March 23rd through March 27th with clean up on Monday, April 5th. More St. James' volunteers are needed & would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Vera Zitterich or Carol Crain for more information.

A.M.E.N. Sunday - is March 7th. Suggestions for the month: Fish: Canned Tuna (oil and / or water packed) and Canned Salmon.

United Thank Offering - is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of the Episcopal Church. Each household in the congregation is encouraged to have and use a UTO blue box throughout the whole year. Money placed in these boxes becomes an outward and visible sign of thanks to God. The UTO blue boxes and blue envelopes are in the church office for your convenience, so please feel free to pick up either or both. The mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. The next UTO Ingathering is Sunday, May 16 2010.

FYI

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14th at 2:00 a.m. - Don't forget to set your clocks UP one hour on Saturday night.

The St. James' Vestry Minutes and Financial Summary - will be posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board each month for your review.

Church Office Hours are Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Closed Fridays)

St. James' Preschool Spring Break - Monday, March 29 - Friday, April 2