

Saint James’ Episcopal Church

“Enter as strangers, leave as friends.”

La Grange, Texas

THE EPISTLE

As you know we have a sign above the entrance to the church that says, “Enter as strangers, leave as friends.” I have said that I take that sign to mean that we may enter the church as strangers, but we leave as friends, friends with one another, and friends with God. In *The Gospel according to John* Jesus told the disciples, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you...I do not call you servants any longer...but I have called you friends...” Friendship is part of Christian discipleship. Part of our spiritual journey is to befriend one another as God, through Christ, has befriended us.

Our Lenten program this year will help us grow in friendship with God. On Wednesday nights during Lent we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 5:15 p.m., share a soup and salad supper, and then enjoy a program about different ways we may grow in friendship with God. Topics will include worship, study, prayer, giving, and service.

Lent is an appropriate time for us to reflect on our relationship with God. According to *The Book of Common Prayer*, “The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.”

We are invited, therefore, to observe a holy Lent, “by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.” Through God’s Son we have been called into fellowship with God. As we think about how we will observe a holy Lent I hope everyone will consider growing in their friendship with God and participate in our Lenten offering.

Daryl T. Hay +

Saint James’ Episcopal Church

156 N. Monroe St., P.O. Box 507
La Grange, Texas 78945
Church Office: 979.968.3910
Fax: 979.968.1557
Preschool: 979.968.9501
Email: st-james@cmaccess.com

Parish Staff

The Rev. Daryl T. Hay, Rector
Lana Swearingen, Preschool Director
Connie Janda, Parish Administrator
Evelyn Grant, Financial Administrator
Elva Ulbrich, Music Director
Julie and Jim Holmes, Organists
Judy Jacobs & Lana Swearingen, Childcare

Vestry and Officers

Terry Eastin
Dick Frenzel
Pete Hamel
Bob Hays, Senior Warden
James Helms
David Laigle, Junior Warden
Guy Mason
Ursula Stephens
Pinky Wilson
Eric Batchelder, Treasurer

Worship Schedule

Sundays: The Holy Eucharist: Rite One
8:00 a.m.
8:45 a.m. Coffee / Fellowship
10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
11:45 a.m. Coffee / Fellowship

Child care is provided on Sundays from 9:15 to 12:00 for children ages two to five years. The nursery is located in the Preschool Building.

Ministry Chairs

Acolytes, LEMs & Ushers: Danny Zitterich
Altar Guild: Suzanne Batchelder
AMEN: Suzanne and Alfred Artz
Christian Ed.: Susannah Schorlemer
Daughters of the King: Charlotte Hillbolt
ECW: Vera Zitterich
Endowment: Joe Bailey
Finance: Eric Batchelder
Kitchen: Helen & Bob Hays
Men’s Club: Terry Eastin
Outreach:
Pastoral Care: Vera Zitterich
Second Chance: Vera Zitterich & Jerri Frenzel
Supper Club: Tomi Laigle

Vestry

February 10, 2011

Draft

The January minutes were approved as written.

New Business:

The Parochial Report was reviewed. The report includes data on Membership, Attendance and Services of the Congregation as well as Stewardship and Financial Information of the Congregation. Jimmy Helms expressed a concern about members who have not attended services for some time. It was decided that the Ministry Committee would take up this issue. Pinky Wilson moved that we submit the Parochial Report. It was adopted for submission.

Endowment Resolution – the Endowment Committee has requested a policy on what to do with assets, particularly stock, given to the Endowment Fund. A resolution was presented generally recommending that the stock should be sold and the funds placed in the Endowment Fund. Jimmy Helms moved that the Resolution be approved. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

Vestry Retreat:

Fr. Hay expressed regret that the Vestry was unable to meet at Camp Allen for the planned Retreat. It was voiced that a Retreat could be held at a home in the La Grange area rather than spending time and money going to Camp Allen. The benefits of being cloistered were discussed. There is no other Retreat planned for this year.

Vestry Committees:

Fr. Hay presented the power point information that he planned to use at the Retreat. The information included Vestry Organization and other topics. The main focus discussed was committee formation to handle the many tasks that need to be done for the church. There was much discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of forming committees. Fr. Hay recommended that the Vestry try the committee organization for one year and then assess the effectiveness of this type of organization. It was recommended that all Vestry members be notified when any committee planned to meet so that any Vestry member interested in a particular topic would be able to attend. Bob Hays moved that when committees make a recommendation to the Vestry that it be tabled to the following month so that Vestry members would fully understand the recommendation and form an opinion prior to voting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed. The committee assignments include: Administration – David Laigle, Dick Frenzel, Guy Mason; Property – Pete Hamel, Pinky Wilson, Jimmy Helms; Ministry – Terry Eastin, Bob Hays, Ursula Stephens. Projects for each committee were briefly discussed. Each committee needs to prioritize the projects. Each committee will meet prior to the next Vestry meeting at 5:30PM.

Treasurer’s Report:

Eric Batchelder presented the Treasurer’s Report.

Lumberyard Property Project:

Bob Hays presented the Preliminary Site Plan. He suggested that a committee meet to work on this project and to make arrangements to locate drainage problems. The goal is to complete the project this year, hopefully, this summer.

Announcements:

- Fr. Hay has been asked to serve on the Bishop’s Address Committee of the Diocesan Council. He is also running for the Diocesan Executive Board.
- Ursula Stephens will be attending the Safeguarding God’s People – Preventing Exploitation training in May. Training of church members will follow.
Fr. Hay presented information on the Wardens and Vestry Conference and the Stewardship Conference. He encouraged Vestry members to attend.

Closing Prayer:

Fr. Hay led the Vestry in the Lord’s Prayer.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13th

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

(Closed Fridays)

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
La Grange, TX
Permit No. 95

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Meetings and Events

The Daughters of the King - will not meet in March.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) - will not meet in March.

The Men's Club - will meet on Monday, March 14th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Weldon Koenig.

Outreach

Second Chance - volunteers from St. James' are asked to work from Tuesday, March 1st—Saturday, March 5th with Clean-Up Day on Monday, February 7th. Clean-up day will be a "Purge Day" so volunteers are reminded to come in at 10:00 am on that day. Thank you in advance for offering your time to this very worthwhile cause.

A.M.E.N. Sunday - is March 6th. Suggestions for the month include: Fish—canned tuna (oil and / or water packed) and canned salmon. You may also drop off donations during the week at the Parish Hall.

Men's Club Cook - Saturday, March 12th from 11am - 1 pm with drive thru only. Proceeds will benefit the Schulenburg / Weimar Area Parent's as Teachers.

Happy Birthday

Daryl Hay	3/2	Sandy Edwards	3/16	Brenda McCullough	3/24
Greg Northrup	3/6	Cara Janecka	3/17	Susannah Schorlemer	3/26
Tom Jones	3/10	Julie Holmes	3/18	Robin Sengler	3/26
Larry Kahane	3/12	Hans Zwar	3/20	Peter Sengler	3/28
Erica Brandt	3/14	Bill Rogers	3/21	Carol Smythe	3/30
John Zeuner	3/15	Grove Hillbolt	3/24	Carolyn Bailey	3/31

Altar Flowers - a sign up sheet is posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board for those families that would like to donate flowers for Easter Sunday. Dedications may be made for anniversaries, birthdays, and memorials. Contributions in any amount are appreciated. You may also honor loved ones throughout the year by dedicating the weekly altar flowers for a cost of \$50.

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.

St. James' Preschool

Hello everyone, the preschool is ready for Spring!! How about you? The preschool class has an outing planned for the Jersey Barnyard....taking in the farm animals and a tractor ride are favorites. Themes for March are: Farm Animals, Windy Weather, Rainbows and the Bible stories will be: Noah's Ark, Jesus and the Fisherman, and Ash Wednesday. Pre-registration has started for our preschool and we will have some openings....please spread the word about our preschool! I will keep you posted to our enrollment numbers as they start to come in. Also, thank you to everyone who helped with our Spaghetti Supper. Your help makes this annual event possible. Blessings to everyone!

Lana Swearingen, Preschool Director

Supper Club



A **Mardi Gras party** and burning of the palms is the theme of our March Supper Club, hosted by Terri and Daryl Hay. The event will be held on Tuesday, March 8th beginning at 6:00 pm, in the Parish Hall. Guests are invited to bring gumbo, dirty rice or jambalaya. Tea and lemonade will be provided. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Children are welcome!

MS150 Hospitality

The MS150 is quickly approaching! This year the event will fall on April 16th & 17th—Palm Sunday. Please step forward and help by offering rooms for MS150 riders. We need at least three more rooms just to accommodate the groups we have agreed to keep. We greatly appreciate the families that have already volunteered to provide rooms, but we find ourselves in a position where we may have to tell this group that St. James' will no longer be able to participate in the future. Each year, the Jabbourary Foundation contributes \$5,000 to the St. James' Men's Club for our participation. By hosting this event, we are also able to reach out to many visitors that might not otherwise have the opportunity to "Enter as strangers, leave as friends." Please note, this year we will have a 6:00 am Prayer Service on Sunday morning in the courtyard to send the riders on their way. Please contact Jim Holmes **TODAY** if you would like to volunteer to provide a space.

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.

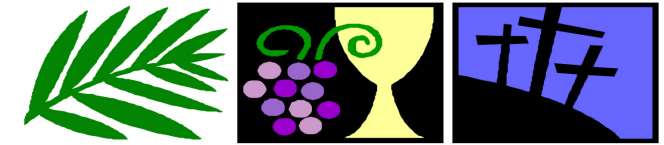
Historical Presence...celebrating over 150 years of the Anglican tradition in our community and creating the spiritual foundation and means to ensure the future of our parish family.

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

Special Services

Ash Wednesday Services - will be at 12:00 Noon and 5:15 pm on February 9th.

Lenten Services - Wednesday evenings beginning March 6th through April 13th. The services begin at 5:15 pm with a program and light meal following.



Lenten Program

Growing in Friendship with God

St. James' will have a Lenten Service, meal and program each Wednesday night during Lent. The special Wednesday night services and programs will start on March 16th and run through April 13th. The service will begin at 5:15 p.m.; a light meal will be served at 5:45 p.m.; and the Lenten program will begin at 6:00 p.m. A variety of topics will be presented with the first week's program entitled "Worship." A sign up sheet is posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board for anyone that would like to provide soup and / or bread & crackers for the meal. Childcare will be provided. Everyone is invited to make this part of their Lenten devotion.

The World Day of Prayer service will be held at noon on Friday, March 4th, at the Second Baptist Church of La Grange, located at 1010 Von Minden Rd. This year the women of Chile invite us to join them and take to heart the question Jesus posed to his disciples when confronted by thousands who were hungry, "How Many Loaves Have You?" World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement begun by Christian women of many traditions who come together each year to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the WDP worship service. Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. WDP collects offerings at the many services held around the world on that day. WDP's USA committee allocates grants from the U.S. offerings as they relate to the theme and as they address women's and children's needs. World Day of Prayer's motto, "Informed prayer leads us to prayerful action," continues to be lived out as we act on our faith.

Our next UTO Ingathering will be on June 5th so please pick up a box or envelope today!

Vision Goals

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.