



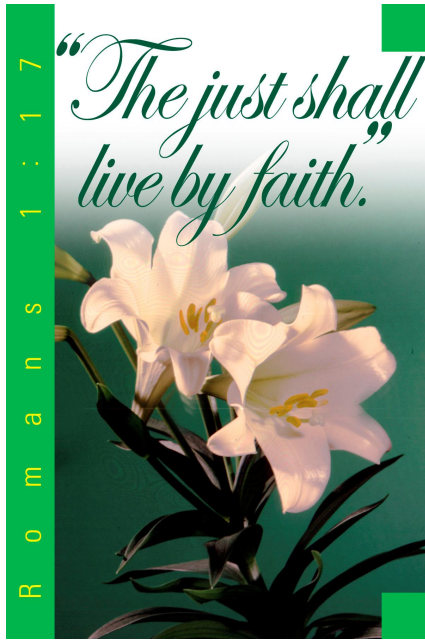
St. James Episcopal Church

Restoring people to God & each other in Christ

THE EPISTLE

La Grange, Texas

May, 2007



From the Rector

As a congregation, we have accomplished much this year. We have worshipped together through Epiphany, Lent and Easter. Through it all, the Altar Guild and choir were outstanding. We are averaging 85 people worshipping at St. James' each Sunday this year. This time last year the average Sunday attendance was 74. Beyond our worship the Men's Club installed the columbarium in the courtyard. We have had wonderful Supper Clubs with many people bringing friends and neighbors. The Men's Club has cooked chickens and sausage and given the money to local organizations like the Schulenburg Library. Thanks to the hard work of many people the ECW's Trinkets and Treasure sale was a great success. Many of St. James' members welcomed MS 150 riders into their homes. Others helped put up the tents and welcomed the riders as they came into La Grange. Financially the church is good shape. Our pledge income is right on target and the plate income is up. St. James' is an energetic and dynamic congregation. We have many great things to celebrate and for which to thank God.

St. James' Episcopal Church has had a long history and is right now experiencing great vitality, but how will we shape our future? What is God calling this congregation to do and become? Where do we go from here? A nation wide study sponsored by The Episcopal Church USA found that approximately 2600 people living in the 78945 zip code are uninvolved with a church. The Texas State Data Center projects that the population of Fayette County will grow from an estimated 23,019 in 2005 to 28,604 in 2020. That is 24 percent growth in 14 years. The Texas State Data Center also projects that the population of Fayette County will be 27 percent Hispanic by 2020. What do these things mean for the future of St. James' Episcopal Church? How can we better reach out to those who are uninvolved with a church? How should we prepare for the changes that will come with growth in this county?

Over the next several months, we will enter a period of discernment. We will define our core values, the things about St. James' that are most important to us. We will define our mission, our reason for existing. We will prayerfully set a vision for our future of what we discern God is calling us to do and become. From these basic statements, we will set some goals for the future of St. James'. Please see page two for more details about Core Values, Mission and Vision.

In the Confirmation service when a person who has already been confirmed, but would like to reaffirm his or her baptismal promises, the bishop greets the person with the words, "May the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his Kingdom." The Holy Spirit has already begun a good work in the congregation of St. James' Episcopal Church. May the Holy Spirit direct and uphold us as we seek to continue in the service of Christ and his Kingdom.

Looking Ahead

- May 1 Daughters of the King Meeting
- May 5 Safeguarding God's Children
- May 8 St. James' week @
- 14 Second Chance
- May 8 Preschool Craft Sale
- 9
- May 12 Men's Club BBQ
- May 14 ECW Meeting
- May 14 Men's Club Meeting
- May 15 Preschool Closed
- May 15 June/July Epistle Deadline
- May 17 Ascension Day Service
- May 17 Preschool Cell Phone
- 18 Drive
- May 19 Supper Club
- May 20 UTO Ingathering
- May 25 Preschool Graduation
- May 28 Parish Office Closed

—Daryl Hay

La Grange Lunch Bag Project



Volunteers are needed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from May 28 to August 24, 2007 to prepare and serve lunches to students currently enrolled in the subsidized lunch program in the La Grange schools.

At this time, the program anticipates serving 100 lunches each Monday, Wednesday and Friday and has based their work projections on this number. Menus are preplanned and all food will be at the preparation site.

Personnel needs:

- Assembly team – 6-8 people to set up a preparation assembly line preparing sandwiches, assembling lunches (9am-11am)
- Servers – 8-10 people to pick up the assembled lunches, go to their designated distribution center and hand out lunches (10:45 am-1 pm)
- Distribution Coordinator(s) – pick up excess lunches at one site and deliver to site which needs additional
- Publicity Chairperson – prepare and execute publicity for this effort

Michelle Lott and Chip Rayburn are in charge of this effort – the brainchild of La Grange 8th grader, Cameron Lott – and can provide additional information.

Churches and civic groups who are interested in participating can sign up for a week (or more) throughout the summer. Volunteer calendars will be maintained on the website.

If you are interested in participating as part of St. James, please contact Dianna Berg at 242.4012.

Core Values, Mission, and Vision

Iona Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Core Values

- * Core values define your identity.
- * Core values are what make you different from the others around you.
- * Good core values touch the heart, elicit strong emotions, and are the passion and glue that hold a congregation together.
- * Core values express who you are *today*.

Mission

- * The mission of the church is our reason for being, our God-given purpose as a congregation.
- * What is this congregation *called* to do that has *eternal significance*?

Vision

- * A vision is a desired condition that doesn't presently exist.
- * A vision for a congregation lays the blueprint for the future.
- * A vision answers the question...what are we going to do?

Birthdays

May 6	Molly Gray
May 6	Elva Ulbrich
May 10	Bella Flake
May 12	Ann Brown
May 13	Carol Crain
May 14	David Allen, Jr.
May 16	Eric Batchelder



Anniversaries

May 11	Diana & Sam Kuninger
May 23	Phyllis & Lyn Reavis
May 26	Dianne & Terry James
May 28	Lil & Ray Landry
May 30	Ann & Bill Rogers

If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, please contact the Parish Office.

May Supper Club

The St. James monthly Supper Club provides a monthly opportunity for members to share good food and interesting conversation with fellow parishioners and guests. Please RSVP with the number attending and the dish you will provide. Make plans to join us this month!

Date: Saturday, May 19

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Hosts: Daryl & Terri Hay
Jean Zavoda

Theme: Spring Salad Bar

Location: The Rectory

RSVP: Sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall
Children are invited

Special Thanks

St. James would like to thank the following for their contribution of time and talent to the church:

- Ray Landry for painting the porch and steps of the church;
- Paul & Carol Crain and Gerald & Anne Campbell for re-doing the flower beds;
- Jimmy & Carol Helms and Weldon & Nancy Koenig for hosting such a great supper club in April; and
- Everyone that helped with the MS 150!



Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers and grandmothers.
We appreciate you!



“God has gone up with a shout... Sing praises to God, sing praises...” (Psalm 47:5, 6)

**Ascension Day Service
Noon
Thursday, May 17**

This service commemorates the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ to glory. This Feast is forty days after Easter and always occurs on a Thursday.

Vestry Notes from April

- Daryl discussed the possibility of having an intern that is currently a seminary student. The seminarian would occasionally preach and perhaps teach a class or two.
- Daryl is serving on a committee to restore the old firehouse.
- The Senior Warden suggested vestry members tell anyone that has a complaint or comment to go to our Rector directly.
- St. James' participation in the Summer Lunch Program, a program to feed hungry children in our community, was discussed.
- Ray Landry painted the front steps.
- Paul Crain reported the Campbell family and the Crain family rebuilt the flower bed under the big tree at the side of the church.
- The Treasurer reported that the financial situation at St. James is good.
- We will hire someone to come help us in the process developing a Vision, Mission, and Core Values statement.

June/July Epistle Reminder

We will once again have one issue of the Epistle for June and July. Please submit all articles and calendar events for these two months by **May 15**. Thank you!

From the Preschool



Our preschool is winding up its school year; it seems almost like yesterday that we started. As teachers, it warms our hearts to see how our children have grown and matured over the past school year.

In May, we will have two more simple fundraisers for our school. Mark your calendars for May 17-18 for our final cell phone and ink cartridge drive. Our last collection brought in \$160. More information will follow....please continue to collect these throughout the summer. Please place them into the collection containers in the fellowship hall.

On May 8-9, we will have Summer Craft Sale. This will be set up in the fellowship hall and we will have items that parents/grandparents can use for summer art projects. We will also provide suggestions on what you can make with the items. This event will be a free will donation. More information will follow on this too.

There is also the summer mini-session in the month of July for the ages 2-4. If you know of someone interested, please contact the preschool and talk to Mrs. Lana.

As we begin to wrap up our school year we want you to know that we feel so blessed to have such a supportive church family from St. James Episcopal Church. As teachers we want our "little lambs" to know that Jesus loves them and will always take care of them. We feel we are making that happen here at St. James Preschool!

—Lana Swearingen



**MORE From the Preschool
A Note from "Mrs. Heather"**

I can hardly believe our wonderful school year is already drawing to a close. I would like to thank Ms. Heidi, Mrs. Judy and Mrs. Lana for making sure everything ran so smoothly during my maternity leave!

Before we bid each other farewell, we will be learning about "Wonderful Water" and "The Earth." Then we will celebrate graduation at 10:15 a.m. on Friday, May 26. Congratulations to our 2007 graduates: Laney, Lauren, Luke, Noah, Sarah and Spencer. We will miss you, but we know you will continue learning God's way next year in Kindergarten!

—Heather Herschell

Worship Schedule

Sundays:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite One
 8:45 a.m. Breakfast/Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Church School
 Bible Study
 Choir Rehearsal
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite Two
 11:30 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.



Parish Staff

The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, Bishop
 The Rev. Daryl T. Hay, Rector
 Heather Herschell, Head of St. James Episcopal Preschool
 Heidi Ullrich, Parish Administrator & *Epistle* Editor
 Evelyn Grant, Financial Administrator
 Elva Ulbrich, Music Director
 Jim & Julie Holmes, Organists
 Penny Sengler, Church School Teacher

Vestry and Officers

Helen Hays, Senior Warden
 Greg Northrup, Junior Warden
 Dianna Berg
 Paul Crain
 Gene Holt
 Matt Herschell
 Lil Landry
 Bill Rogers
 Penny Sengler
 Sue Holt, Treasurer

Ministry Chairs

Acolytes & LEMs: TBD
 Altar Guild: Suzanne Batchelder
 AMEN: Alfred & Suzanne Artz
 Building & Grounds: Greg Northrup
 Christian Education: Penny Sengler
 Daughters of the King: Charlotte Hillbolt
 ECW: Ann Rogers
 Endowment: Joe Bailey
 Finance: Sue Holt
 Invite a Friend: Gene Holt & Justa Helm
 Kitchen: Helen Hays & Dianna Berg
 Men's Club: Ken Berg & Gerald Campbell
 Outreach: Dianna Berg
 Pastoral Care: Vera Zitterich
 Second Chance: Frances Stepchinski
 Stewardship: TBD
 Supper Club: Ann Campbell
 Ushers: TBD

St. James Episcopal Church

156 N Monroe St., PO Box 507
 La Grange TX 78945
 Church Office: 979.968.3910
 Fax: 979.968.1557
 Preschool: 979.968.9501
 Email: st-james@cmaaccess.com

St. James' Mission

Our mission is to restore people to God and each other in Christ.

Our Core Values

Christ-centered worship in the Episcopal Church tradition
 Our caring relationships and fellowship
 Our historical presence in the community
 Our involvement in community outreach
 Our growth in spirituality, service and size

DEADLINE

Deadline for articles for the June/July Epistle is 5/15.

If possible, please submit your article via email to st-james@cmaaccess.com. Please report errors and omissions.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

PLEASE DELIVER TO: