



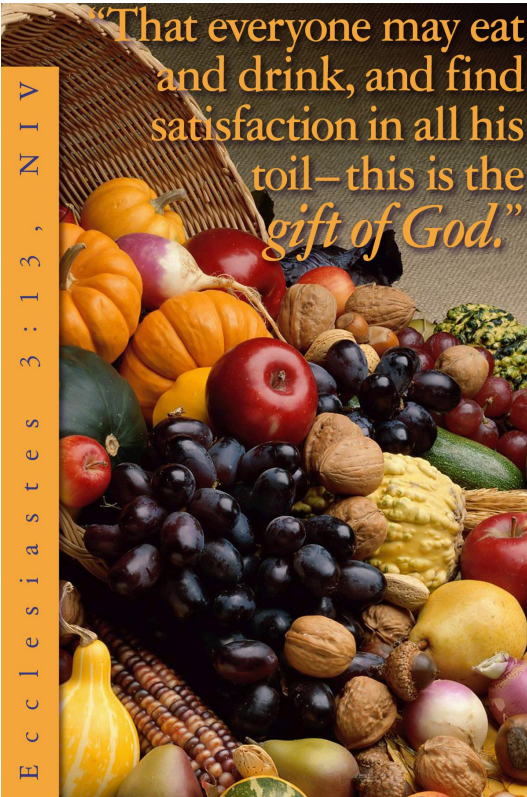
St. James Episcopal Church

Restoring people to God & each other in Christ

THE EPISTLE

La Grange, Texas

November, 2007



From the Rector

There is a part of the service of the Holy Eucharist called the Offertory when the bread and wine are brought to the altar and the collection is taken up and placed on the altar along side the bread and wine. Usually, during this time the choir sings an anthem and then the congregation sings the Doxology.

We offer to God bread, wine and money as our response to what has occurred before this part of the service. In the Holy Eucharist, we read and interpret Scripture, we offer to God our petitions and intercessions, we ask for and receive forgiveness of our sins, and we offer and receive the peace of the Lord. Our response to what God has done for us is to offer back to God tokens or symbols of our lives: wine, bread, money. It does not have to be money. The Book of Common Prayer says that other gifts can be offered as well. We offer to God wine, bread, money and other gifts as our sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. It is in response to what has God has done for us in death, resurrection and the ascension of Jesus Christ that we offer to God these gifts.

We can say that the bread, wine and money are symbols. The bread is not bread that we would eat at home. The wine is not a merlot or zinfandel. The money is not our labor. We offer these things back to God not only that they may be blessed and transformed but so that all things may be blessed and transformed. We bless these things so that all our meals may be blessed and all that we are and all that we have may be blessed. As we enter November, may we think of how God has blessed our lives and consider what we can offer back to God in praise and thanksgiving.

—*Daryl Hay*

Looking Ahead

Nov 1	All Saints Day Noon Service
Nov 4	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Nov 4	UTO Fall Ingathering
Nov 6	Daughters of the King Meeting
Nov 10	Men's Club BBQ
Nov 10	Supper Club @ Dana White's
Nov 12	Preschool Closed
Nov 12	ECW Meeting
Nov 12	Men's Club Meeting
Nov 13-17	St. James' Week @ Second Chance
Nov 17	St. Mark's Happening
Nov 18	Community Thanksgiving Service-St. Paul's @ 6:30 pm
Nov 21-23	Preschool Closed
Nov 22-23	Parish Office Closed
Nov 26	Second Chance Clean Up
Dec 16	Lessons & Carols Service

Vestry Nominations

The Nominating Committee of Saint James' Vestry is considering candidates to serve on the Vestry from 2008 through 2010. The election will be held during the Parish Meeting on November 11 after the 10:30 a.m. service. Candidates must be communicants of the church in good standing meaning that they have worked, prayed and given for the spreading of God's kingdom. To be nominated one must also be at least 18 years of age. The Nominating Committee is comprised of those Vestry members whose terms expire at the end of this calendar year. This year's committee is Dianna Berg, Lil Landry and Gene Holt. We thank each of these for devoting their time, energy, and leadership to this ministry of the church. Paul Crain, Helen Hays, Larry Kahanek, Greg Northrup, Bill Rogers and Penny Sengler will continue to serve next year.

AMEN Sunday

St. James has designated the first Sunday of each month as AMEN Sunday. We would like to ask everyone to bring food donations to place in the AMEN basket in the Parish Hall on that Sunday. This month AMEN Sunday will take place on November 4. The food of the month for November is canned fruit (regular and/or reduced sugar).

Your participation in this ministry is greatly appreciated by those in need from our community!

Vestry Notes

- Bob Hays introduced the Heart Start AED Defibrillator, a gift of the Men's Club, and explained its purpose and general use.
- Daryl reported on Clergy Conference. The state of the Episcopal Church was discussed. The Episcopal Diocese of Texas is doing well. Next year, an election will be held to elect a new Diocesan Bishop to take over in the following year.
- St. James average Sunday attendance is 88.
- Carol Helms will chair of the stewardship committee.
- Greg Northrup and Paul Crain discussed the Rectory fence improvements which are pending.
- St. James continues to be blessed with generosity and is in fine financial shape.
- Helen Hays discussed mission funding opportunities. The Vestry voted to fund the entire Diocesan request for mission funding, and will decide on how to distribute our portion of mission funding of approximately \$17,000.
- The Vestry reviewed and discussed a draft budget prepared by Treasurer, Eric Batchelder.



Christmas Flowers and Greenery

The deadline to sign up and pay for Christmas Flowers and Greenery is just around the corner. Donations of any amount are welcome for the decoration of the church for the Christmas season. Please indicate "Christmas Flowers" in the memo section of your check when making your donation.

A Christmas Flower sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall; please include your name and dedication. Christmas Eve leaflets will contain an insert listing the Christmas flower dedications. Please sign up and submit payment to the Parish Office by December 12.

Birthdays

- 11/01 Virginia Schroeder
- 11/05 Elizabeth Amoss
- 11/07 Piers Leighton
- 11/08 Stuart Hay
- 11/09 Leo Gordon
- 11/10 Henry Withers
- 11/16 Ann Rogers
- 11/23 Alfred Artz
- 11/26 Jane Pardo
- 11/26 Dana White
- 11/30 Dan Gordon



Anniversaries

- 11/7 Arie & Mary de Kok
If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank You to our St. James' Family

Many thanks to the Men's Club and the ECW and all those who gave us gifts and cards of encouragement on Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

—Daryl, Terri, Martin, Spencer, and Stuart

St. James' Seminarian, Doug Lasiter

St. James Episcopal Church now participates in the field education program of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest (ETSS) in Austin. This means that a seminary student will work in and with our congregation as part of his seminary education in preparation for ordination. Our seminarian is Doug Lasiter.

Doug is a second year student at ETSS. Before attending seminary, Doug served in the United States Air Force and worked for the United States Postal Service. He was baptized as an adult and attended church at Saint John's Episcopal Church in La Porte, Texas. He has been married to Robi for nineteen years, and they have two children Craig and Emily.

Doug will serve in a variety of capacities in our worship services and participate in other activities of the congregation.

St. James' has had an ongoing relationship with ETSS over the years. We have contributed money to the seminary as part of our support of seminary education. The last four rectors of St. James, including our current rector Daryl, were all graduates of ETSS. St. James has previously participated in the field education program. The Rev. Stephanie Linscott and the Rev. Margaret "Tudy" Waters did their field education work at St. James. We are very glad to have Doug and his family with us.

ECW News

Once again, the members ECW are reaching out to the community in many ways. We delivered sacks of candy to area nursing homes for residents to distribute to trick-or-treating children on Halloween. We are preparing to bake more than 75 dozen cookies to include with the Thanksgiving turkeys cooked by the Men's Club, as a part of their annual project to help families in need in Bastrop.

On November 17, ECW will have a booth at the St. Mark's Holiday Happening, where we will sell Soul Seasoning, our savory spice mixture, our St. James notecards, as well as several Christian-themed items. We invite all of you to come out to St. Mark's between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Happening offers a great opportunity to buy gifts, holiday decorations, baked goods, and to mingle with friends.

Congratulations to the new slate of officers for 2008, elected at the October meeting! Ursula Stephens will be the new president. Judy Balch, the current vice-president; Suzanne Artz, current secretary; and Vera Zitterich, current treasurer, have all graciously agreed to continue in their offices. We appreciate the willingness to serve and offer prayers of support and praise for these four women.

—Ann Rogers



November 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.

Date: Saturday, November 10

Hosts: Dana White, John & Deborah Bradley and Jeannette Burger

Theme: Cajun Comfort Food

Location: Dana White's home near Bastrop
Maps will be available in the Parish Office

RSVP: Dana White @ 512.461.4318

The theme of November's Supper Club is Cajun comfort food. Adults and children are invited to attend.

Activities for the kids will include a piñata and a moonwalk starting around 4:00 p.m. Attendees can look forward to two different types of gumbo, and everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite side dishes. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Parish Hall.

From the Preschool



Our little people at the preschool have been having a busy month. On the first Friday of each month Annette Ruckert, from the library, will be visiting the preschoolers and sharing story time with them. The enjoyed her first visit tremendously! The preschoolers will also be taking their first field trip to the fire station. The PDO class is getting adjusted, there is less separation anxiety, and we have one little one that jumps through the door most mornings yelling "surprise!" The younger ones have adapted to attending school now....it is truly rewarding to see them happy to come to school. As teachers, we feel so blessed to be a part of their lives, to open up the world to them and to continually let them know that we are all God's children and that he loves us so much.

On another note, I have passed my credentialing to be interim Director of the preschool and I look forward to serving you in this capacity. I have been busy getting files in order and cleaning and organizing the office and storage area. I am in need of a couple of things for the office area to make it more professional looking....if you could help me I would appreciate it so much. I am looking for two reception type chairs and a computer desk. These items will have to fit up the narrow stairway to the office area. If you have these items and need a home for them, please let me know. You can reach me on the school phone 968-9501, or let Father Hay know.

—Lana Swearingen
Interim Preschool Director

UTO Fall Ingathering

The 2007 Fall Ingathering will take place on Sunday, November 4, 2007.


The Mission of the United Thank Offering is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission, we encourage daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. Please remember to bring your blue boxes and envelopes to church on Sunday, November 4.

—Vera Zitterich

Community Thanksgiving Service

The LaGrange Area Ministerial Alliance will hold its annual Community Thanksgiving Service at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 18 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 110 W. Walnut Street in La Grange.

This is an interdenominational service with many churches from the La Grange area participating.

<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Schedule</p> <p><u>Sundays:</u> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite One 8:45 a.m. Breakfast/Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Church School Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite Two 11:30 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>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.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Staff</p> <p>The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, Bishop The Rev. Daryl T. Hay, Rector Heidi Ullrich, Parish Administrator & <i>Epistle</i> Editor Evelyn Grant, Financial Administrator Elva Ulbrich, Music Director Jim & Julie Holmes, Organists Doug Lasiter, Seminarian Penny Sengler, Church School Teacher Lana Swearingen, Interim Head of St. James Preschool</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vestry and Officers</p> <p>Helen Hays, Senior Warden Greg Northrup, Junior Warden Eric Batchelder, Treasurer Dianna Berg Paul Crain Gene Holt Larry Kahanek Lil Landry Bill Rogers Penny Sengler</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ministry Chairs</p> <p>Acolytes & LEMs: Daryl Hay 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 Kitchen: Carol Crain & Dianna Berg Men's Club: Ken Berg & Gerald Campbell Outreach: Dianna Berg Pastoral Care: Vera Zitterich Second Chance: Vera Zitterich Stewardship: Carol Helms Supper Club: Ann Campbell Ushers: Joe Bailey</p>
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MEMORANDUM

Deadline for articles for the December Epistle is 11/15.
If possible, please submit your article via email to st-james@cmaccess.com. Please report errors and omissions.

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

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