



St. James Episcopal Church

Restoring people to God & each other in Christ

THE EPISTLE

La Grange, Texas

October, 2007

From the Rector

This year at Saint James we have experienced the extraordinary generosity of people giving money to the ministry we exercise in Fayette County on behalf of Jesus Christ. I hope the source of giving has been in gratitude to the Spirit that pervades our life together. One of the high points of my ministry here was just the other evening at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. After the opening ceremony was completed and before the other activities began, over thirty people from the Saint James' team gathered under one of the tents and celebrated Holy Communion using a simple plastic table as God's altar. The Spirit was among us as we gathered in Christ to remember his death and resurrection and to honor and remember people had have struggled with cancer. That simple communion service symbolized to me the strength and vitality of this congregation and the Spirit that is present among us.

The fall stewardship campaign will begin the week of October 7 and ends on All Saints' Sunday, November 5. All the families of the church will receive Saint James stewardship materials in the mail.

We approach giving to the church in different ways. Some people have the goal of giving the standard biblical tithe of 10 percent of their income. Others aim to give some proportion of their income. Some people take a very practical view and try to give to the church as much as they think the church gives back to them. Still others may think of giving to the church as one gives dues to any other organization of which they are a member. For other people, we are a charity among many that they support and so give to the church as they would to the Red Cross. My ultimate hope is that all of us give out of gratitude for the blessings we have received from God as participants in the life of this great church.

I give thanks for everyone who gives so much of themselves for the sake of Saint James' ministry. We can truly go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

—Daryl Hay



Looking Ahead

Oct 2-8	Second Chance
Oct 2	Daughters of the King
Oct 8	Church & Preschool Closed for Columbus Day
Oct 8	ECW Meeting
Oct 8	Men's Club Meeting
Oct 9	AMEN
Oct 11	AMEN
Oct 13	ECW Retreat
Oct 13	Men's Club BBQ
Oct 15	Deadline for Epistle
Oct 24-25	Preschool Cell Phone & Ink Cartridge Drive
Oct 26-27	Diocesan Conference
Oct 28	Preschool Sunday & Autumn Blessings Celebration
Nov 1	All Saints Day Service

UPDATES



St. James' Pre-school Sunday & Autumn Blessings Celebration

10:30 a.m. Service
Sunday, October 28

Join us for
pumpkin carving in the
Parish Hall
following the service!

New Church Directory

We will print new Church Directories this month. A draft directory printed on bright orange paper will be available for your review on Sunday, September 30 in the Parish Hall. Please review your contact information cell phone number, email address and your mailing address. You can contact the church office at 968.3910 or st-james@cmaaccess.com with any changes by October 15. Thank you in advance for helping us to provide accurate information!

Christmas Flowers and Greenery

It is not too soon to sign up and pay for Christmas Flowers and Greenery. 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 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.

Birthdays

Oct. 2	Joy Adkins
Oct. 4	Heidi Ullrich
Oct. 17	Charlotte Hillbolt
Oct. 19	Mel Glasscock
Oct. 21	Paul Crain
Oct. 21	Gaye Evans
Oct. 31	Ursula Stephens



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

Vestry Notes for September

Attendees: Helen Hays, Penny Sengler, Paul Crain, Eric Batchelder, Daryl Hay, Bill Rogers, Lil Landry, Greg Northrup and Dianna Berg.

Rector's Report: The average daily attendance indicates a 17percent growth rate. Daryl appreciated the two weeks vacation in August.

Rectory Repairs: Options for replacing the cook top at the Rectory were discussed and funds were approved for the purchase. Bids for a new fence at the Rectory are being gathered, and a decision will be made next month. Further repairs are needed at the Rectory, and it was suggested the Men's Club have an organized work day in October.

Treasurer's Report: Pledge income is down for the number that is reflected in the budget, however, this is not unusual after the summer months. The insurance for the organ has been paid.

The Vestry approved setting aside money in the 2008 budget to hire a facilitator for working on vision and mission core values.

A stipend was approved for our new seminarian's gas expenses.

Daryl Hay closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. Complete minutes are posted in the Parish Hall.

October 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, October 20

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Hosts: Gary & Betty Cook
Ray & Lil Landry

Theme: Oktoberfest/
German food

Location: Maps will be available in the Parish Office.

RSVP: A sign up sheet will be posted in the Parish Hall.

Participating in Worship

The church has inherited customs about the appropriate time to sit, kneel and bow during worship. The physical actions we perform in church increase our participation in the liturgy and our reverence for God. We stand, sit and kneel, but also bow and cross ourselves.

It is customary after arriving inside the church to reverence the altar with a solemn bow and kneel for private prayers before taking one's seat. Some people genuflect when consecrated wine and bread are kept in the sanctuary. In our sanctuary, the red candle means that consecrated bread and wine are present.

When the procession begins it is customary to reverence the processional cross with a simple bow as it passes. At the opening acclamation, "Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit..." it is customary to cross oneself. We remain standing for the Collect for Purity, the Gloria and the Collect of the Day. We sit to hear the lessons and sing or say the psalm. We stand for the sequence hymn and remain standing for the Gospel. At the reading of the Gospel when the celebrant says, "The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to __," some people use their thumb to make a small cross on their forehead, their lips and then their heart meaning, "May the Word of God be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart." We sit for the sermon and stand for the Nicene Creed. During the creed at the mention of the name of Jesus, we may do a simple bow, and solemnly bow at the words "by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man."

We continue to stand for the Prayers of the People and kneel for the confession. It is customary to make the sign of the cross when the priest pronounces absolution. We stand to exchange the peace. For the Eucharistic Prayer at St. James' the Rite One service generally kneels and the Rite Two service stands for the Eucharistic prayer.

Some people reverence the sacrament with a low bow or genuflection before going to receive communion. It is customary to receive the bread in the palm of the right hand, the left hand supporting it with the arms slightly raised off the altar rail. When drinking the wine it is appropriate to guide the chalice with to one's lips. Some people do not touch the chalice as the lay Eucharistic minister serves them, but it is entirely proper to hold the base of the chalice to guide it. Some people cross themselves before and after receiving communion. We kneel for the postcommunion prayer and the blessing. Some people cross themselves during the blessing. We stand for the closing hymn and dismissal. Some people reverence the altar with a bow before leaving the church or genuflect if the consecrated bread and wine are reserved.

All these actions may be performed to increase our participation in the church's worship and to increase our devotion and reverence. We may do some of them, all of them or none of them. In regards to these things may we always remember the admonition, "In essentials unity; in inessentials liberty; and in all things charity."

Church Office Hours

The Rector is generally in the office between 8:30—5:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday. The Parish Administrator works from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The church office is closed on Fridays. It is best to make an appointment if you would like to meet with the Rector or call before stopping by the office.

From the Preschool



School is back in session and in full swing. Our enrollment looks great at this point. We have 12 children in the pre-school class (at capacity) and eight in the Parent's Day Out (PDO) class (10 capacity). Hopefully, we will get the PDO class filled soon.

Thanks to an anonymous donor from St. James, our children are enjoying new tricycles. The smiles on the children's faces say it all! Thank you, thank you!


Just a reminder to all – we are still collecting old cell phones and empty ink cartridges. Our school will also be collecting Campbell Soup labels – more information to follow on this endeavor.

The teachers on board form this year are Judy Jurk, Melanie Rauch Strickland and I. We look forward to this school year and want our children to know that Jesus loves them.

Lana Swearingen
Interim Preschool Director



All women of St. James and their guests are invited to attend the ECW Fall Retreat at Charlotte Hillbolt's home in Round Top. The Rev. Sharon Turner will lead the retreat from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 13. Those attending should bring a sack lunch.

<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 Penny Sengler, Church School Teacher</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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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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PLEASE DELIVER TO:

Deadline for articles for the November Epistle is 10/15.
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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