

# ST. JAMES Good News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

February-March 2008

ST. JAMES  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Taos, New Mexico



## ST. JAMES VISION

*Sharing ourselves and our faith with others ... St. James is a Christian community which welcomes all with respect for the inherent dignity and value of every person. We strive to enable spiritual growth through worship, education, outreach and stewardship for the purpose of restoring all people to unity with God and each other.*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

*This issue combines two months of church life — the entire Lenten and Easter seasons. Check its content for news of upcoming events, and watch Sunday's bulletins for updates.*

- 2 Summary of the Past Year's Accomplishments
- 5 Our Warden's Write
- 7 Church Financial Status
- 8 Musings of a Newcomer
- 9 Stained-Glass Windows
- 10 St. James Symbols
- 11 Holy Week Schedule
- 12 News & Announcements
- 13 Calendars

## Look at This Last Year

from FATHER ROCKY SCHUSTER

*Here is our rector's address to our annual meeting.*

I am excited to stand in front of my first annual meeting at St. James, and that is somewhat unusual. Annual meetings have sparked all kinds of emotions over the years but rarely an eager excitement.

During this meeting, you will see a long list of accomplishments. A lot of good work has been done here in the past twelve months. But what really strikes me is not what you've done but who you are.

In my article for the November GOOD NEWS, I listed ten high-stress circumstances that have inundated St. James—the list could have been even longer. The grace and determination with which you have not just survived but actually thrived is what makes my job so exciting. There have been some bumps and bruises along the way. But you have managed to make your way through them and accomplished, in this year alone, things that are truly remarkable. It has required perseverance, determination, tolerance, inspiration, grace, and a fair amount of charity to achieve these goals.

*The challenge isn't over*

Many of those stress factors still exist and exert themselves today. But your willingness to keep on going, as evidenced by your presence here and by the commitments you have made to our future life together, is what keeps me saying "I'm loving it" to those who ask how the job's going. It amazes me how people who seem to completely disagree with each other on most everything can nevertheless come together for worship, work, and fellowship. Serious disagreements still exist on any number of issues facing

*Continued on next page*

## Worship Schedule for Lent

### Feb. 6 **Ash Wednesday**

- Noon & 7 PM – Worship with imposition of ashes (7 PM service with music)

### Feb. 8 **Friday** (Schedule continues on Fridays through March 14)

- 7 PM – Way of the Cross

### Feb. 10 **First Sunday of Lent** (Schedule continues on Sundays through March 9)

- 8 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I with Great Litany
- 9:15 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II with Great Litany

### Feb. 13 **Wednesday** (Schedule continues on Wednesdays through March 12)

- 6 PM – Holy Eucharist with Healing

*For the Easter Week worship schedule, see page 11*

*“I hope that in the coming months we will continue to express our gratitude for the incredible number of gifts with which God has blessed this congregation, opening ourselves to each other and to all with whom we share this amazing community ...”*

## Look at This Last Year *Continued from previous page*

this congregation but it is the willingness of individuals to stay engaged rather than giving up and going away that promises that those disagreements can lead to growth and greater strength. I can't say that we've always handled conflict with the greatest of decorum but we can learn from all those experiences to better make our way through the new ones that will inevitably come.

What does the coming year have in store for us? I can't really say. But it will include greater involvement in the welfare of our community, growing opportunities for spiritual and intellectual development, an increased variety of forms of worship offered to us and to the community, plenty of occasions for fellowship and making new friends, and more opportunities for you to discover God's call to you and to find the support you need to answer that call.

### *Gratitude and hospitality*

I told you, on my first Sunday in Taos, about two streams running most deeply through my life and work: gratitude and hospitality. I believe the first leads to the second.

As I continually discover the generosity with which God fills my life with good things, I am freed to open myself and make room for the people I encounter on my journey. God is constantly pouring more grace into this congregation for us to share with the rest of God's world.

I hope that in the coming months we will continue to express our gratitude for the incredible number of gifts with which God has blessed this congregation, opening ourselves to each other and to all with whom we share this amazing community, and discovering together what new things God has waiting for us. I am excited to see what 2008 has in store.

## A Celebration of God's Blessings

*During the annual meeting on Jan.20, Mike Dobbs delivered a comprehensive presentation of accomplishments during 2007. Here are the main points.*

### **Construction Milestones**

- Landscaping parking lot and building
- Sunday School playground fence
- Food Pantry move-in and distribution facility
- Rectory and casita repair and cleanup to prepare for rental of property

### **Congregational Milestones**

- Father Rocky called in May
- Parish hall completed and occupied in August
- Communitywide concerts held at St. James
- Parishwide projects, with nearly 100 people participating:

- Blitz to prepare rectory and casita for rental
- Building coyote fence around Sunday School playground
- Landscaping to obtain Certificate of Occupancy
- Long-term planning process initiated, including:
  - Small focus groups for developing priorities and strategies
  - Town Hall meeting summarizing focus group results and seeking feedback
  - Congregational voting on priorities
  - Recommendations to rector and vestry, including short-term and long-

*“St. James spent nearly \$92,000 on outreach programs in 2007. This amount accounts for nearly one-third of total operating expenditures. Key recipients were the Food Pantry, the Rector’s Fund, the Taos Youth Music School, and the Prescription Assistance program.”*

term strategic priorities and actions

**Progress on Long-term Strategies**

- Debt elimination—very close
- Develop community partnerships—meetings with Governor’s task force on the hungry and other local food banks and agencies; cooperation with Taos Jewish Center on concerts and space sharing
- Decision made to rent both casita and rectory—repair and cleanup blitz to prepare both for occupancy
- Begin transformation from parish to program church—see the parish hall wall for structural changes at vestry level
- New committees—Leadership and Volunteers, and Communications (both in need of chairperson and members)
- Master plan for entire property and buildings—modest progress

**Rector’s Transition Committee**

To welcome Father Rocky and TJ, the committee:

- Gathered maps and information on local businesses
- Created pictorial directory of parish members
- Provided move-in food and assistance
- Gathered a “Welcome Basket” full of parishioner contributions
- Coordinated installation service and reception
- Arranged invitations to Agape dinners

While the committee no longer exists, these activities, begun in 2007, will continue:

- Feedback—periodic informal, small-group feedback meetings with Rocky on life at St. James under his leadership
- Non-Agape dinners—informal “one-off” dinners with Rocky and TJ for St. James members who are not in Agape groups

**Membership**

- The church had 220 visitors, resulting in 26 new members
- Agape groups flourish—11 groups and nearly 100 people involved
- Average Sunday attendance increasing since Father Rocky’s arrival
- Successful July 4th and Labor Day picnics, and “Orphan’s Thanksgiving” get-togethers
- Activities group expanded with nearly 50 events: hikes, ski trips, fly fishing, kayaking, rafting, horseback riding; more planned in 2008

**Outreach**

St. James spent nearly \$92,000 on outreach programs in 2007. This amount accounts for nearly one-third of total operating expenditures for the year. Key recipients were the Food Pantry, the Rector’s Fund, the Taos Youth Music School, and the Prescription Assistance program.

- Distributed 100 complete meal baskets plus additional hams for Easter
- Food Pantry served more than 500 people in one week in October
- Nearly 400 turkeys and cooked chickens distributed and more than 1,000 people received complete meal baskets for Thanksgiving
- Prescription Assistance program implemented
- Record enrollment in Taos Youth Music School, with waiting lists for all programs
- Rummage sale proceeds went to Food Pantry and Taos Coalition to End Homelessness
- Giving Tree provided Christmas gifts to 80 foster children
- Holiday bazaar raised over \$4,500 for St. James programs

**Communications**

- Reformatted and updated our Welcome booklet for newcomers
- One-page website developed and a

## Good News

February-March 2008

*“Pledged dollars for 2008 increased by 30% over the previous year (\$220,000 to \$285,000), while the number of pledge units rose modestly. During 2007, we saw significant changes as returns on our investment.”*

new website task force began development of a comprehensive, informative, and useful site, to be up and running in 2008

- Expanded GOOD NEWS monthly newsletter, highlighting activities and events at St. James and including a comprehensive monthly calendar and financial status reports
- Coverage in *Taos News* of Father Rocky’s arrival and installation ceremony, Parenting Skills workshop, and the Pets and People service
- Public TV coverage of Parenting Skills workshop and Pets and People service
- Public service announcements on KTAO and KRZA
- Charter and structure for new Communications Committee developed (in search of a chairperson and members)

For 2008, will complete a communications audit of all publications and increase St. James’ public profile in the Taos community.

### Pastoral Care Committee

- Delivered altar flowers to hospitalized or homebound parishioners
- Provided meals for the sick and families in times of loss or convalescence
- Visited and brought the Holy Eucharist to parishioners unable to attend St. James
- Maintained the Prayer List, published in the weekly bulletin

In 2008, will begin recognizing members of St. James or the Taos community for their work of quietly helping others.

### Music

Beyond providing a superb weekly complement to the worship experience, St. James’ music program has expanded greatly. During 2007, we were treated to:

- Five significant concerts by Taos and other New Mexico choruses
- Two organ recitals and presentations

- Multiple seasonal and special-occasion performances by the St. James choir and the bell choir

Much more is planned for 2008 from the singers and ringers, and in using our new spaces for performances by choral and instrumental groups.

### Stewardship

Pledged dollars for 2008 increased by 30% over 2007 (\$220,000 to \$285,000). The number of pledge units rose modestly over 2007. During 2007, we saw the following significant changes as returns on our investment:

- New offices and meeting spaces in the expanded building
- Freed up rectory and casita spaces, to allow rental that should generate around \$18,000 to support St. James programs.
- Great increase in use by community and parish groups of new facilities:
  - **Internal**—Synoptic Gospels Study, Women’s Bible Study, Brown Bag Theology, Centering Prayer, The New Church’s Teaching Series, Lenten Series, expanded Sunday School program, Youth Theatre program, Pets and People Service, Wednesday evening Holy Eucharist
  - **Single Events**—UNM Chorus, Highlands University Choir, Third Order Society of St. Francis induction, Lions’s Club auction, Passover Seder, three wedding ceremonies
  - **Ongoing**—CAV Changes program, Taos Community Chorus, Taos Youth Music School, Girl Scouts, Taos Municipal Schools, Taos Awareness Project, Tai Chi classes
- New Food Pantry facility, occupied in August, increased our ability to meet this critical outreach need in Taos—the number of people fed increased 54% from 2nd to 4th quarter, to more than 6,000 people over the year

*Plans presented by various committees and ministries include such diverse activities as a communications audit — to improve our messages to you; more music performances, both by our own choir/ringers and outside groups; new education certificate programs; and strengthened emphases in special church year seasons.*

### **Education**

- The Elementary Education ministry:
  - Increased the number of Sunday School teachers
  - Increased the number of students who attend Sunday School regularly— in 2007, 364 children in classes, for an average of 7 each week (with July and September being the largest months)
  - Completed acquisition of the Godly Play curriculum
  - Presented the Christmas Pageant (elementary, youth, parents) to the largest Sunday-morning congregation
  - For 2008, the committee will add certificate programs (Attendance, Ten Commandments, etc.)
- The Youth Education ministry:
  - Created a separate Sunday School class from elementary
  - Provided outreach to youth in the community with discussions of teen issues and the gospel
- Implemented a fun-filled Youth Theatre program, with plans for a performance in spring 2008
- For 2008, the ministry will add Brown Bag Theology 4 Kids
- The Adult Education ministry:
  - Coordinated a broad range of classes and discussion groups, including: Brown Bag Theology, Novel Theology, Centering Prayer, The New Church's Teaching Series, Women's Bible Study, and Synoptic Gospels Study
  - Served 1,924 adults during 2007, for an average of 37 in attendance each week across the six study groups
  - Conducted the Lenten Series of lectures

---

## **OUR WARDENS WRITE**

---

### *Rector's Warden: Reflections on a Year of Growth*

*from* KATE YOST

This has been a year of transition. It has been very exciting and action packed! Last year at this time, we had a hole in the pulpit. Father Rocky Schuster is now our rector! We welcomed him and TJ in May, and his formal installation service was held on July 29.

Last year at this time, we had a hole in the ground. We were meeting in the nave, as our parish hall was under construction. The kitchen was being expanded; the Food Pantry, lavatories, and three Sunday School rooms were being built. On Aug. 17, our expansion was completed.

Let's look at how this and much more have happened. The Search Committee, led by Wes Patterson, spent innumerable hours reading applications, telephoning, and visiting candidates. They brought three qualified candidates to the vestry. They did an excellent job and the vestry called Father Rocky.

The Building and Grounds committee coordinated filling the hole in the ground. Initial landscaping has been completed and we now have a Certificate of Occupancy! Phyllis and Jack Nottingham oversaw the construction and interior design. Bambi Sturbois developed a building use policy. Lou and Bambi Sturbois organized a "blitz" to repair, clean, and paint the rectory, and it is now ready to rent. The casita is rented to three women artists.

Last year at this time we had a big hole in the pocketbook. Ron Larimore has tire-

*“There is an increased sense of energy, vitality, and community at St. James. While working on the various projects and activities, parishioners are getting to know one another better. Without the help and support of so many of you, we couldn’t have accomplished all that we did.”*

lessly led the capital campaign throughout the construction phases. To date, we have a relatively small balance on our construction loan.

Peter Butcher, acting treasurer, with Mike Dobbs assisting, filled a vacancy in the treasurer position. Our finances are the clearest ever! Peter insists on “transparency.” The treasurer’s reports are now a regular item in the GOOD NEWS.

There has been a lot of activity and progress this past year. Areas of significant achievement I’d like to highlight are:

The Long-Term Planning Committee, chaired by Bob Aubrecht, worked very hard to help us see what St. James might look like in the future. They held focus groups and two Town Hall Meetings to hear what our parishioners envision. The vestry is working to implement these priorities.

The Audit Committee made recommendations, some of which have been acted upon. We now have a cadre of depositors, authorized by the vestry.

The following committees now have charter and mission statements: Building and Grounds, Communications, Education, Finance, Leadership and Volunteers, Outreach, and Stewardship.

A St. James website is now being developed.

These milestones didn’t just happen. Vestry, committee chairs, and parishioners have done an outstanding job in transitioning our growth into a larger church community. We must continue to go forward and do the work God has given us to do. “To those to whom much has been given, much will be asked.”

There is an increased sense of energy, vitality, and community at St. James. While working on the various projects and activities, parishioners are getting to know one another better. When I asked some new members to do a specific job, they later said “Thank you. We really enjoyed it.” Without the help and support of so many of you, we couldn’t have accomplished all that we did.

Mike Dobbs has been an exceptional People’s Warden, Stewardship chair, and assisting treasurer. I have appreciated his advice and counsel. I would like to thank Karen Ashton, who headed our Outreach program, and Barbara Stillwell, who was co-chair of the Rector’s Transition Committee. Karen, Barbara, and I are departing the vestry. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

On behalf of the parish, I want to thank the following: Phyllis Johnson, our long-time housekeeper, and welcome Gary Parmalee, our new helper. Penny Voss, director of music and mistress of our choir and bell choir, has done a wonderful job. Marcia Shultis, office manager, has kept us functioning during all our dislocation, construction, and move into new facilities, and Father Rocky Schuster, who accepted our call and now leads us in our spiritual lives. We feel so blessed to have him.

May God and his church and the work he has given us to do be at the center of our lives and the larger community.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Rector’s Warden. Thank you.

• • •

## People’s Warden: *2007 Financial Results*

*from* MIKE DOBBS

**Monthly results:** With fairly strong December income, we came out of 2007 with enough money to cover our expenses. We did have to use most of the surplus from 2006, but we entered 2008 with a small carry-forward. Our 2008 budget is balanced.

*With pledges showing a 30 percent increase over 2007, and our capital campaign reducing our indebtedness by nearly two-thirds, we've balanced our 2008 budget and move into the new year with financial strength, able to do the work God has for us in reaching out to our community and our world. How blessed we are! How many opportunities we now have to serve!*

**Stewardship update:** The stewardship campaign has now generated \$285,000 in pledges—a 30 percent increase over 2007. Given all the financial commitments you have been asked to make with the capital campaign, outreach efforts, and funding our operations budget, this is nothing short of incredible. St. James is blessed with enormously generous parishioners. Thank you for your remarkable support.

**Capital campaign update:** We have raised enough funds from the capital campaign to reduce the outstanding construction loan to around \$180,000 and have an offer to match any contribution raised before Feb. 1, dollar for dollar. We are hopeful that we will be able to eliminate the debt and focus all our efforts on completing the final touches on our facility (landscaping, parking lot lighting, playground equipment, additional furnishings) and increasing our outreach programs. Please pray for our efforts.

May God continue to bless St. James.

## Financial Status—Dec. 31, 2007

Operating Fund	Full-Year Budget	2007 Results
<b>INCOME</b>		
Pledges .....	\$220,000	\$215,739
Unpledged Donations .....	0	30,000
Donations .....	35,000	24,476
Plate .....	7,000	9,690
Specific Gifts .....	14,000	10,000
Other Sources .....	3,350	3,644
<b>Total Income</b> .....	<b>\$279,350</b>	<b>\$293,549</b>
2007 Surplus Carryover .....	\$17,774	0
<b>Adjusted Total Income</b> .....	<b>\$297,124</b>	<b>\$293,549</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Staff (including Rector Search) .....	\$189,379	\$190,011
Music Ministry .....	6,050	4,366
Education .....	4,850	4,763
Meetings .....	500	139
Mission/Seminary/Rector's Fund .....	2,000	2,000
Utilities .....	13,600	16,956
Equipment .....	3,000	0
Insurance .....	14,000	15,139
Worship Supplies .....	3,700	4,835
Office/Operations .....	24,850	25,864
Diocese Fair Share .....	36,200	35,679
National Fair Share .....	5,600	7,604
<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	<b>\$303,729</b>	<b>\$307,356</b>
<b>NET OUTCOME</b> .....	<b>-\$6,605</b>	<b>-\$13,807</b>

---

---

*Walter Allen, a retired priest from Colorado, moved to our community last year. In this article, he describes his welcome at St. James and looks to the future. Already involved in many aspects of our church, Walter will be one of our Lenten series presenters.*

## The Musings of a Newcomer

*from* WALTER ALLEN

Although we have owned our house in Taos for a few years, we made the big move here in December 2006.

My wife Elaine came with the moving van in a blinding snowstorm, while I stayed in Vail to close the sale of my home and assist with Christmas eve services. As I drove through the sparkling snow-covered terrain to Taos on Christmas day, tired from the services and saying goodbye to many friends, I was feeling a deep sadness at leaving the church in Vail and giving up my ministry and great friends. Little did I know that I would be able to keep those friends in Vail and add many more here in Taos.

I arrived mid-afternoon to a bright sky and snow. Entering the house, I found a huge pile of boxes and a pensive Elaine contemplating the job ahead. The unpacking process was more difficult than we had imagined, and with it came the reality that we had made a big life shift.

### *New activities*

I had been unable to pass the test of retirement, and enjoyed the busy life in Vail. I worried how I would fill my days in Taos. We had attended St. James during visits, and I felt comfortable worshipping here. But now it was different—we were permanent residents, and St. James would be our church family.

When we attended our first Sunday as residents, it was comforting to find the same friendly members who once again made us feel welcome. We decided to join the choir, and at our first practice found a group of great people possessing awesome talents. Elaine and I had anchored the choir at Transfiguration Vail, but this experience took us to a brand new level. Choir master Penny Voss does a great job as teacher and leader, and she made us feel comfortable.

### *Beyond conflicts and controversy*

With my first-hand experience of the troubles in the national Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of Colorado, I prayed that we had found a church in which people have differences, but somehow get beyond them, to experience the joy of living together for the glory of God. I found even more than my prayers had asked for. Yes, people have differences at St. James, and yes they seem to somehow get beyond them to develop friendships that truly glorify God.

Even though the parish had experienced an extended period without a rector, the church was flourishing. I was impressed with the lay leadership at St. James, seeing proof of my often voiced statement that “priests lead worship, but congregations are the church.”

I know from experience that it is difficult to grow a church without full-time clergy. St. James was not only growing, even during its interim while the search for a new rector continued, but undertaking an ambitious building program.

I also saw the efforts being made to move the church from a small local parish to a program church. We had done a pretty good job in Vail of making the same shift, but at St. James many of the key steps have already been taken.

Elaine and I were overjoyed to find our ways to the amazing food pantry, the Agape supper groups, the pastoral care committee, the building committee, Bible study groups, and book clubs.

### *An unusual church*

I am not sure that you understand how unique you are in the reality of today's church families. While most mainstream churches struggle to stay alive, St. James is growing and meeting the challenges of doing God's work together.

I had the joy of laboring with the work crews that showed talent and determination in making the rectory look almost new. It is now ready for occupancy, to generate rental income that can help support the work of the church. During the project, I was happy to be part of a merry band of workers who gave generously of their time and talents, with grace and joy.

In an amazingly short period of time, the job was accomplished. The property is now a real asset for the church and we all are very proud of it.

I want to thank all of you for easing our transition to Taos. We now have a wonderful church family, and that has

made a tough transition much easier. I offer my deep appreciation and love, and pray that God will continue to bless St. James in the coming years.

### Casita Now an Art Studio

Three local artists have signed a one-year lease to rent the church's casita, as a shared art studio. And two of those artists are our very own Elaine French (Mrs. Walter Allen) and Bethel Daniel. Elaine is a painter. Bethel is a weaver. And their friend Joyce Wimer is a printmaker.

---

## Stained-Glass Windows, One Year Later

from MARCIA "MUFFIN" OLIVER

---

---

*Artist Muffin Oliver, a longtime member of St. James, talks about the labor-of-love process of creating the magnificent stained-glass windows that adorn our new sanctuary.*

Just before Christmas day in 2006, Phyllis Nottingham and I watched, standing outside in the snow under a bright-blue sky, as the four new stained-glass windows were installed in St. James' new sanctuary.

These windows, depicting four events in the life of Jesus, had taken one year to complete, instead of the few months we had anticipated.

Because we needed to be at St. James early that morning, and with the threat of more snow, I checked into a motel the night before. Penny Voss had allowed us to use the choir room so we could finish up last details, and Jack Nottingham, the architect in charge and Phyllis's husband, had provided pizza for us that last work day, to celebrate "closure" on the stained-glass project.

As a graduate student in the late 1960s, I had a classmate who was doing her graduate thesis on stained glass. As a painter and printmaker, I found her enthusiasm for stained glass puzzling. But the more she spoke, the more I appreciated her commitment to colored glass. So, my interest in stained glass had begun long before Bambi Sturbois approached me in October 2005 to ask if I knew of any artists in Taos who might do the stained-glass windows for our expanded church sanctuary.

My response was that I thought I could do it. When Bambi asked about cost, I responded that I'd donate my time and talent.

My observation of the original windows, crafted by Eric Gibberd, convinced me that his method could be replicated successfully. It was the application of many small glass pieces adhered to a clear sheet of plate glass. I envisioned depictions of Jesus not often seen—his boyhood and adolescence, perhaps, focusing on his humanity, as well as his divinity, showing him in his father's carpentry shop or tending sheep on a hillside or as a student in the temple.

The church committee decided, however, to consider only New Testament images,

*From the beginning, the stained glass windows were a cooperative adventure: adapting an earlier style, agreeing on subject matter, pulling together sketches and suggestions and other aides. "It was a creative and rewarding project."*

and emphasized the importance of the new windows being consistent in style, technique, and materials with those already in place.

In January 2006, the process of collecting pictorial imagery in Bible stories illustrated for children took me to the Santa Fe and Taos libraries, where I found a variety of useful images for adaptation. In February, the committee selected four topics from sketches that Phyllis and I provided:

- The baptism of Jesus
- Jesus' Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem
- The Last Supper
- Jesus, the Good Shepherd

A fifth window, the largest of our designs, would face and reflect the altar cross. This window, in the west façade at the site of the original entry to the church nave, would be crafted at the Nottinghams' residence. The four illustrative windows would be produced at my studio-residence in Des Montes.

Longtime member John Cain provided a rotary glass grinder for the meticulous cutting and fitting of the many small pieces of colored glass. A generous supply of Band-Aids was kept nearby.

Our small sketches, approximately 3 x 4 inches, were enlarged to 36 inches by 48 inches, and placed under the plate glass as a guide for setting the mosaic pattern. Once composed, a clear glue secured the pieces of glass into place on the plate glass base within the window frames.

Phyllis and I worked together and separately in our studios, and Jack was always close by throughout the project.

For all of us, I believe, it was a creative and rewarding, not to mention exhausting, project.

## The Scallop Shell: Symbol of St. James

from HEATHER LIEBMAN

Many mythical accounts report how St. James became associated with sea shells.

One holds that St. James was lost at sea, then washed ashore covered in sea scallop shells. *Wikipedia* says the association can be traced to the legend that the apostle once rescued a knight covered in scallops. Another version of the legend holds that while the remains of St. James were being transported to Spain from Jerusalem, the horse of a knight fell into the water, and emerged covered in the shells.

Whatever the origin of the symbol, the scallop shell is also a metaphor. The grooves in the shell, which come together at a single point, represent the different routes pilgrims traveled to reach the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela. It is also a metaphor for the pilgrim; as the waves washed the shell onto the shores of Galicia, God's hand guided the pilgrims to Santiago.

The scallop shell also served practical purposes for the pilgrims. It was the right size for gathering water to drink

or for eating out of a bowl. And, important to the pilgrims, because the scallop shell is native to the shores of Galicia it served as proof of completion of the pilgrimage and having been to the "end of the world," which in Medieval times was the western coast of Spain.

When these Medieval Christians made the pilgrimage to Compostela, they often wore a scallop shell symbol on their hats or clothes, or carried a scallop shell that could be presented at churches, castles, abbeys, or even private homes along the way, where the pilgrim could expect to be given as much sustenance as could be scooped up with a single shell.

Today's modern pilgrims often return from Compostela with a scallop shell.

At the annual meeting, Su Small was presented with a scallop shell pin (which came from Santiago de Compostela) as the first recipient of our Compostela recognition of people in our congregation who do so much for others.

## Lenten Lectures

from GLORIA BJERK

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, a Lenten series of lectures exploring the relationship of science and spirituality will begin with a soup-and-bread supper at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall with the program following at 7 p.m. Father Rocky will kick off the series with a lecture entitled "How Should We Live?"

On Feb. 20, Dr. Marty Hewlett will explain science's role in describing what makes us human, while building a larger picture of humankind from a philosophical and theological base.

Dr. Hewlett, now of Taos, is professor emeritus in biology, University of Arizona at Tucson, and an adjunct professor at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif. He has written numerous books and articles on science and religion.

On the next three Wednesdays, retired priests in our parish will speak on related subjects. Walter Allen will lecture Feb. 27, Cristina Sumners on March 5, and Arthur Sargent on March 12.

## Holy Week Explained (continued from front cover)

### Maundy Thursday ♦ March 20

This is the first of the three most important days of the Christian year. Its name comes from the Latin *mandatum*, referring to Jesus mandating celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the caring for the poor and marginalized by the washing of feet. Following the Holy Eucharist we remember, "they divided my garments among them, they cast lots for my clothing" (Luke 23:34), as the altar is stripped bare.

### Good Friday ♦ March 21

This is a day of prayer and fasting; the mood is quiet and reflective. Beginning in silence, the ministers and people kneeling, the worship will focus on the Lord's Passion and prayer for the world's needs.

### The Great Vigil of Easter ♦ Saturday of Holy Week, March 22

The Great Vigil of Easter is the first Celebration of Easter. In a darkened nave the service begins with the lighting of a new fire, the Paschal Candle, a distinct feature of the Easter Liturgy that goes back to the time when Christians blessed a light on the eve of holy days. The Paschal Candle symbolizes God's creation of light, the pillar of fire of the Exodus, the light of Christ, and the Holy Spirit. It is a very important light indeed! As the Paschal Candle is borne into the church, the light is shared among members of the congregation, and the Exsultet is sung: "This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and restored to grace and holiness of life." We then hear our story as told in the Scripture, the story of God's saving acts in history, with themes of creation, preservation, and redemption. Priest and people renew baptismal vows and rededicate ourselves to the life of faith and service. The priest acclaim, "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" and the people respond, "The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!" The altar candles are lighted, bells are rung, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper is begun. The Great Vigil sums up the mystery of God's saving acts, beginning with darkness, death, and a stone cold tomb and sweeping forth into the light and a new age of freedom in Jesus Christ.

### Easter Sunday: Holy Eucharist ♦ March 23

The celebration continues!

## Holy Week Worship

### March 16 **Palm Sunday**

8 AM – Liturgy of the Palms and Passion of Our Lord Rite I

9:15 AM – Liturgy of the Palms and Passion of Our Lord Rite II with music

### March 17 **Monday of Holy Week**

8 AM – Morning Prayer (*Schedule continues through Friday*)

7 PM – Way of the Cross

### March 18 **Tuesday of Holy Week**

7 PM – Holy Eucharist

### March 19 **Wednesday of Holy Week**

7 PM – Tenebrae

### March 20 **Maundy Thursday**

7 PM – Maundy Thursday liturgy with music, stripping of the altar

### March 21 **Good Friday**

Noon & 7 PM – Good Friday Liturgy

### March 22 **Holy Saturday**

7 PM – Great Vigil of Easter with music

### March 23 **Easter**

8 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:15 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II with music

## Good News

February-March 2008

### Outside Use of St. James Facilities

from THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Our expansion has provided valuable space, both for St. James members, and for other local nonprofit organizations. We're using what we've learned over the last few months to revise our fee schedule so that our space is well-utilized.

We expect everyone who uses our facilities, both St. James members and guests, to leave the space as they found it—or even cleaner! We've heard rumors about outside groups who have not cleaned up after themselves, but our investigations indicate that these are not well-founded.

While there have been a few instances in which a space was not cleaned, these were approved in advance, based on activities and schedules.

Our primary goal in making space available to other organizations is to help our community and bring them to St. James. If you meet a member of an outside group using our church space, please help them to feel welcome in our parish home!

### Music for Lovers of Music

On Saturday, Feb. 16, at 4 p.m. at St. James, Penny Voss and Chris Wyndham will treat us to a vocal recital, accompanied by Martha Grossman, with narration by Anna Mae Patterson. Music by Brahms, Debussy, Schubert, and Schumann will be featured.

Weg der Liebe (Path of Love)

*Over the mountains, over the waves,*

*Under the graves, under the springs,*

*Over the floods and seas, into the abyss,*

*Over rocky and heights, love will find the way.*

— From "Voices of the People" by G. J. Herder

To find out how this sounds when sung by folks with voices like those of Penny and Chris, plan to attend the performance. Admission is free, but donations will be gladly accepted at the door. All proceeds will support the St. James music program.

### Therapy Dogs to Receive Blessing

from TJ PATTON

We will have special visitors at our Pets and People service Feb. 17. Goldstar Animals Helping People, Inc. will honor us with a visit from their dogs.

A nonprofit corporation, Goldstar's mission is to

improve the quality of life for residents of northern New Mexico through a therapeutic program that includes services and activities promoting human-animal interaction.

Handlers take their Delta Society registered dogs to nursing homes, hospice settings, family and children counseling offices, and court interviews with children, and hope to extend to include visits to Holy Cross Hospital.

The dogs and handlers also visit schools and libraries, participating in the READ (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) program to improve the literacy skills of children with the assistance of Pet Partner therapy teams as literacy mentors.

Join us at 5 p.m. to see these wonderful dogs and support their work.

### Back-Country Skiing

With the abundant snowfall, back-country skiing is a real pleasure this season. Saturday outings to the Brazos start off by meeting at the KTAO parking lot at 9 a.m. If you'd like to join the group, call Dick Frankel, 776-1552.

### Novel Theology

The group met Jan. 31, to choose the books to read and discuss during 2008. Discussions are held the last Thursday of each month, at 1 p.m.

Typically, the discussions are hosted by the person who recommended the book selected for that month.

The Sunday bulletin announces the books to be read each month and the location of the discussion.

For the selections and locations of discussions, contact Gloria Bjerck, 776-8503, or kenbjerck@taosnet.com.

### Brown Bag Theology

The group will finish its discussion of *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Thich Nhat Hanh during February. Then, with recommendations of books and a vote among members, the discussion group will move on to a new selection.

The group meets every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Santiago Room.

For information, contact Norm Ferguson, 751-0049, or fergus@taosnet.com.

# FEBRUARY

## St. James Calendar of Events

\* = Described in articles.  
**Bold** = New or monthly activities.

This calendar carries listings of all known parish-related events; if your event is missing, contact the church office.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>03</b> • Worship & Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II) • Sunday School: 9 AM	<b>04</b> • Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM • Taos Youth Music School (TYMS): 3:30 PM	<b>05</b> • TYMS: 3:30 PM • Women's Study Group: 6 PM • Youth Theatre Group (YTG): 6:30 PM	<b>06</b> • <b>Brown Bag Theology</b> : 12:30 PM (see p. 12) • TYMS: 3:30 PM • <b>Lenten Eucharist</b> : 6 PM • Rector's Study Group: 7 pm	<b>07</b> • Bldg. Com: 8:30 AM • <b>Pastoral Care Com</b> : 9:15 AM • TYMS: 3:30 PM • Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM • YTG: 6:30 PM	<b>08</b> Friday schedule unchanged	<b>09</b> No events, church closed; rector's day off
<b>10</b> Worship & Sunday School same, plus • <b>Food Ingathering</b> : 9:15 AM service • <b>Second-Sunday Brunch</b> : 9:30 AM	<b>11</b> Monday schedule unchanged	<b>12</b> Tuesday schedule unchanged	<b>13</b> • Brown Bag: 12:30 PM • TYMS: 3:30 PM • <b>Lenten Eucharist</b> : 6 PM • <b>Lenten Supper and Lecture</b> : 6:30 PM (see p. 11)	<b>14</b> Thursday schedule unchanged	<b>15</b> Friday schedule unchanged	<b>16</b> • <b>Musical Valentine's Day</b> : 4 PM (see p. 12) Church closed; rector's day off
<b>17</b> • Worship & Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II) • Sunday School: 9 AM • <b>Pets and People Service</b> : 5 PM	<b>18</b> Monday schedule unchanged	<b>19</b> Tuesday schedule unchanged	<b>20</b> Wednesday schedule unchanged	<b>21</b> Thursday schedule unchanged	<b>22</b> Friday schedule unchanged	<b>23</b> No events, church closed; rector's day off
<b>24</b> • Worship & Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II) • Sunday School: 9 AM	<b>25</b> Monday schedule unchanged	<b>26</b> Tuesday schedule unchanged, plus • <b>Women's Agape Luncheon</b> : 12:30 PM	<b>27</b> Wednesday schedule unchanged	<b>28</b> Thursday schedule unchanged, plus • <b>Novel Theology</b> : 1 PM (see p. 12)	<b>29</b> Friday schedule unchanged, plus • <b>Synoptic Gospels Study</b> : 9:30 AM	

# MARCH

## St. James Calendar of Events

\* = Described in articles.  
**Bold** = New or monthly activities.

This calendar carries listings of all known parish-related events; if your event is missing, contact the church office.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Holy Week Services:</b> The week between the 16th and 23rd is perhaps the busiest in the Christian calendar. A complete summary of events and times is included in this issue on pages 1 and 11.</p>						
<p><b>02</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship &amp; Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II)</li> <li>• Sunday School: 9 AM</li> </ul>	<p><b>03</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM</li> <li>• Taos Youth Music School (TYMS): 3:30 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>04</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TYMS: 3:30 PM</li> <li>• Women's Study Group: 6 PM</li> <li>• Youth Theatre Group (YTG): 6:30 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>05</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brown Bag Theology:</b> 12:30 PM (see p. 12)</li> <li>• TYMS: 3:30 PM</li> <li>• <b>Lenten Eucharist:</b> 6 PM, followed by Supper and Lecture: 6:30 PM (see p. 11)</li> </ul>	<p><b>06</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bldg. Com: 8:30 AM</li> <li>• <b>Pastoral Care Com:</b> 9:15 AM</li> <li>• TYMS: 3:30 PM</li> <li>• Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM</li> <li>• YTG: 6:30 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>07</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centering Prayer: 8 AM</li> <li>Church closed; rector's day off</li> </ul>	<p><b>08</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church closed; rector's day off</li> </ul>
<p><b>09</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship &amp; Sunday School same, plus</li> <li>• <b>Food Ingathering:</b> 9:15 AM service</li> <li>• <b>Second-Sunday Brunch:</b> 9:30 AM</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday schedule unchanged</li> </ul>	<p><b>11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday schedule unchanged</li> </ul>	<p><b>12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday schedule unchanged</li> </ul>	<p><b>13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday schedule unchanged</li> </ul>	<p><b>14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friday schedule unchanged</li> </ul>	<p><b>15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church closed; rector's day off</li> </ul>
<p><b>16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Palm Sunday:</b> Worship &amp; Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II)</li> <li>• Sunday School: 9 AM</li> <li>• <b>Pets and People Service:</b> 5 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday schedule unchanged, plus</li> <li>• <b>Morning Prayer:</b> 8 AM</li> <li>• <b>Way of the Cross:</b> 7 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday schedule unchanged, plus</li> <li>• <b>Morning Prayer:</b> 8 AM</li> <li>• <b>Holy Eucharist:</b> 7 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brown Bag Theology:</b> 12:30 PM</li> <li>• TYMS: 3:30 PM</li> <li>• <b>Morning Prayer:</b> 8 AM</li> <li>• <b>Tenebrae:</b> 7 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday schedule unchanged, plus</li> <li>• <b>Morning Prayer:</b> 8 AM</li> <li>• <b>Maundy Thursday:</b> 7 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Great Vigil of Easter:</b> 7 PM</li> </ul>	
<p><b>23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Easter Sunday:</b> Worship &amp; Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II)</li> <li>• Sunday School: 9 AM</li> </ul>	<p><b>24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM</li> <li>• TYMS: 3:30 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday schedule unchanged, plus</li> <li>• <b>Women's Agape Luncheon:</b> 12:30 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown Bag Theology: 12:30 PM</li> <li>• TYMS: 3:30 PM</li> </ul>	<p><b>27</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday schedule unchanged, plus</li> <li>• <b>Novel Theology:</b> 1 PM (see p. 12)</li> </ul>	<p><b>28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friday schedule unchanged, plus</li> <li>• <b>Synoptic Gospels Study:</b> 9:30 AM</li> </ul>	<p><b>29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church closed; rector's day off</li> </ul>
<p><b>30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See March 2 schedule</li> <li>Schedule unchanged</li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedule unchanged</li> </ul>					

**February Milestones**

*Birthdays*

- 6 Jeremiah Buchanan, Ernest Fernandez
- 10 Terry Yoder
- 13 Mary Bissell, Bill Waugh
- 15 Marcie Sweet, Mary Burns
- 18 Zachary Ashton
- 20 Caryle Zorumski

*Anniversaries*

- 21 Hope and Gary Parmelee
- 22 Mary Lane and Doug Leslie
- 28 Barbara and Bob Stillwell

**March Milestones**

*Birthdays*

- 1 J. B. Fooshee
- 5 Norm Ferguson
- 7 Dutch Shultis
- 8 Robert Stillwell
- 9 Wilma Bates, Christine Beheler-Romero
- 10 Chilton Anderson
- 16 Frances Chandler, Lauren Davidian
- 17 Emily Compton
- 19 Ed Bale
- 21 Cynthia Bilyeu, Dick Frankel
- 23 David Donaldson
- 24 Geoffrey Butler
- 30 Brad Dunbar, Josie Marie Heino
- 31 Carol Larimore

*Anniversaries*

- 25 Dick & Patti Frankel

*If your birthday or anniversary does not appear, call the office, 758-2790, and have us add you to the celebration list. Thanks!*

*St. James Office Hours*

Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
(Father Rocky's days off: Friday and Saturday.)

*Pastoral Care Emergency Numbers*

For emergencies after office hours: the Rev. Rocky Schuster, 776-8581. In extreme emergency, call the Rev. Cristina Sumners, 758-9035, or the Rev. Walter Allen, 758-1043.

**ST. JAMES VESTRY**

*Rector's Warden:* Dick Frankel  
*People's Warden:* Mike Dobbs  
Jesse Heald  
Winn Kalmon  
Heather Liebman  
Colin Nicholls  
Angela Pacheco  
Stacy Quinn

**DIOCESE/DEANERY**

**DELEGATES:**  
Marcia Oliver  
Barbara Stillwell  
Caryle Zorumski

**ALTERNATE:** Tom Knapp

**COMMITTEES**

*Agape Groups:* Heather Liebman  
*Altar Guild:* Karen Ashton  
*Building:* Wes Patterson  
*Columbarium:* John Cain  
*Finance:* Peter Butcher  
*Food Pantry:* Marilyn Farrow, Jane Compton  
*Memorial Fund:* Dee Fleming  
*Pastoral Care:* Mary Burns  
*Sunday School:* Monica Corral  
*Women of St. James:* Joella Knapp  
*Treasurer:* Wes Patterson

**The Rev. Rocky Schuster, Rector**  
**Penny Voss, Minister of Music**  
**Marcia Shultis, Office Manager**

**St. James ... By the Numbers**

**62**

Tons of non-perishable food, bread, and produce distributed by our Food Pantry in 2007

**3,400**

Volunteer hours spent in 2007 preparing and distributing Food Pantry bags

**\$5.03**

Cost per bag of food in 2007

**200**

Number of bags prepared for distribution each week thus far this year

**Do you know "numerical facts" about St. James?**

How many communion wafers are consumed by parishioners each Sunday, the number of coffee cups used during fellowship hour, the average amount of money given to people seeking emergency assistance, the average financial gift per member per week? If you've got answers to these questions, or other "by the numbers" information about St. James, e-mail Winn Kalmon, winn@kalmon.com.

# ST. JAMES Good News

---

February-March 2008

---

## Looking Toward Lent and Holy Week

from SHIRLEY ELLINGBOE

Holy Week is an opportunity for Christian people to relive in solemn worship the last week of Jesus' life. Each service recalls the events surrounding our Lord's sacrifice. For those who observe the rigors of the full week, Easter's Alleluias come as both release and triumph.

### **Palm Sunday: Liturgy of the Palms** ♦ March 16

The beginning of Holy Week is a celebration of contrasts—from the sounds of "Hosanna" greeting Jesus at his triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the shouts of betrayal and calls for his crucifixion from the crowd at the reading of the Passion story. The mood changes to one of solemnity as Jesus is arrested.

### **The Way of the Cross** ♦ Monday of Holy Week, March 17

This service recreates the path of our Lord from his condemnation by Pilate to Golgotha. These traditional devotions mark the fourteen stations of the Cross through prayer, readings, and periods of silence.

### **Eucharist and Holy Unction** ♦ March 18

We celebrate Holy Communion and offer Holy Unction and the laying on of hands at this service, as we pray for health, not only of body and soul, but also of the world for which Christ died.

### **Tenebrae** ♦ March 19

Tenebrae is a service of lessons, psalms, and prayers taken from the monastic offices of Matins and Lauds. This is a time for meditation on the events of Jesus' life between the Last Supper and the Resurrection. As the lessons are read there is a gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, a symbol of our Lord, remains. *Tenebrae* is from the Latin for "darkness" or "shadows."

*Continued on page 11*