

ST. JAMES Good News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

April 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, educa-
tion, outreach and
stewardship for
the purpose of
restoring all people
to unity with God
and each other.*

Holy Moments in Our Lives

from FATHER ROCKY

The commemorations of the Passion and Resurrection were the first holy days for the Christian Church. Before long, a season of preparation for those celebrations developed into the season of Lent.

Over succeeding centuries, other holy days and seasons were added to the church calendar.

The church calendar begins with the first Sunday of Advent and moves through Christmas into Epiphany, which lasts until Ash Wednesday. The forty days of Lent, not including Sundays, bring us to that original celebration of the Passion and Resurrection. The season of Easter lasts fifty days and ends on the Feast of Pentecost. The season after Pentecost completes the calendar.

One of the functions of the seasons in the church calendar, one of the reasons we have a calendar at all, is to help us realize that all time, every year, every month, every day, each moment, is God's. By filling the calendar with special commemorations, feasts, holy days, and fast days, we are encouraged to understand that each moment of our lives is a gift from God and an opportunity to grow closer to God.

The Episcopal Church also recognizes that many of the most holy moments in our lives don't happen according to any calendar. In the *Prayer Book* and *Book of Occasional Services* are prayers and services that celebrate and bless many of the special moments of our lives — from blessing a home to prayers for the dying.

■ To help you become more familiar with the many beautiful and meaningful facets of the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*, we are beginning a class to explore its contents. For more information on this class, see page 8.

Episcopal Church Women of St. James

from JUNE G. FANCHER

St. James has a long and busy history of women taking a vital role in our ministry. At times when the parish membership ebbed, few participated; nevertheless, due to the commitment of the members, outreach continued.

The Food Pantry, made possible by church women, provides basic food each week to more than 200 families, with additional food baskets distributed at Easter and Thanksgiving.

Male parishioners assist the women, particularly in the heavy lifting and loading required.

Episcopal Church Women organize two rummage sales a year, events that are heavily attended and beneficial to many in our area; through these events, we provide inexpensive household items and used clothing to all age groups, male and female. Again, men provide welcome assistance.

The yearly Holiday Bazaar—offering handmade articles, home-baked goods, gift items, jewelry, and holiday items—is a major fundraiser. A majority of women in the parish contribute time and talent. The café, part of the bazaar, features the cooking of our excellent chefs.

The funds raised by these events make it possible for our group to support local nonprofit organizations and St. James outreach programs. This year, our members voted to con-

Episcopal Church Women's Mission Statement:

We are a missionary people and will honor our love of God by reaching out to those in need and by providing assistance wherever and whenever possible, serving the needs of this community through funds raised for that purpose.

tribute to the Coalition to End Homelessness, the Holy Cross Hospital Foundation Kids in Need program, and our own Food Pantry.

We welcome the time and talent of all the women of St. James in support of our events and programs.

Welcoming Newcomers

The Newcomers Committee is hosting a brunch on Sunday, April 27, following the 9:15 a.m. service.

We will try to gather the folks who have visited St. James since late October last year to welcome them and share information about St. James.

Remember, St. James has to continue to earn its reputation as a friendly and welcoming church.

Watch for new folks in our midst.

Wear your name tag each week and, if you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself.

Building Stewardship Day

from BAMBI STURBOIS

As we begin to realize the wonderful gift the newly expanded worship space and parish hall have been to St. James, we understand that there goes along with that blessing the responsibility to be good stewards of our property.

The spaces are almost totally booked with community and St. James activities. Our housekeeping staff do routine cleaning, which leaves undone things like windows to be washed, yards to be raked, and furniture to be waxed. We need to do these and many other non-routine jobs.

On Saturday, May 3, there will be a Spring Clean-Up Day for our church building. This will be a one-day activity, and, much like the rectory blitz, you will be able to volunteer for the activity that best suits you. With your volunteer efforts, we can promise lots of fellowship, fun, and the satisfaction of being a good steward.

Watch for a sign-up poster in the parish hall. Mark your calendar for May 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., so you can join in this important stewardship activity.

Take Note: Two Musical Events in May

May 10-11: The Taos Community Chorus, with many St. James members, will perform at St. James on Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., with a reception following. Featured will be Brahms' Requiem, in English—an exquisitely moving work. Mark your calendar!

May 17: Following its last week of classes, the Taos Youth Music School—sponsored by St. James—will perform its spring concert, with students showing off what they've learned this semester.

■ Look for more detail on both concerts in the May GOOD NEWS.

Volunteers Needed

from COLIN NICHOLLS

The new Leadership & Volunteer Committee now consists of Wes Patterson (interim chair) and myself as vestry liaison. We are recruiting members, and have received interest from parishioners who share the vestry's commitment to matching the talents of our people to the volunteer activities they are interested in.

The committee will help to broaden the range of volunteerism by St. James members, giving more people the opportunity to support the important missions of our parish.

■ For more information or to volunteer: Colin, 758-9035, and Wes, 758-1370.

Early Financial Returns: 2008 Begins Strong

from MIKE DOBBS

Our first report of the year includes some pretty good news. We are running ahead of our expected pledge levels and staying close to our expenses. One cautionary note: Our first two months of results include annual pledges paid all at once, so our income numbers are positively influenced by early contributions. We can all be grateful for the overwhelming support received in our stewardship campaign last year and for parishioners honoring their pledges as we move into 2008.

We have generated enough pledge support to eliminate the debt on the construction loan. With pledge payments that have come in, we have paid down the debt to just over \$100,000 and will continue to chip away as we receive more pledge payments. We have a commitment to cover the interest expense for the remaining loan, but I would urge everyone with an outstanding pledge to the building fund to consider making your payment at the earliest time possible to completely eliminate our debt obligation. *(Continued next page)*

There are also additional giving opportunities to fund a variety of exterior landscape and construction projects, as well as developing a parking lot lighting system that will provide much needed night lighting while respecting the dark skies ordinances. More on these opportunities will be forthcoming.

Again, thanks to everyone for your support of this incredible parish and its efforts to make a difference in Taos and the world by doing God's work. May God continue to bless St. James.

Financial Status—Feb. 29, 2008

Operating Fund	2008 Budget	YTD (02/29)
INCOME		
Pledges	\$285,000	\$65,920
Donations	36,000	7,047
Plate	8,500	1,144
Fundraising	7,500	100
Facilities Use/Rental	21,700	1,000
Other Sources	750	43
Total Income	\$359,450	\$75,254
EXPENSES		
Staff	\$91,208	\$16,031
Music Ministry	3,336	100
Education	6,000	0
Programs	1,300	43
Building and Grounds	26,525	7,362
Insurance	18,500	6,564
Communications	8,680	1,835
Office/Operations	27,850	3,969
Diocese Fair Share	46,700	7,274
National Fair Share	10,800	1,678
Total Expenses	\$358,829	\$63,347
NET OUTCOME	\$621	\$11,907

Fill an Empty Bowl for the Food Pantry

from SUZY HEALD

The St. James Food Pantry is planning a first annual fundraiser, Empty Bowls. Mark your calendars for April 26, noon to 2 p.m., and come to the parish hall for what is sure to become an annual tradition.

Potters in the parish, or friends of the parish, are donating handmade bowls 4 to 6 inches in diameter (soup-bowl size), for selection by people who come to share a meal and help fund the good work of the Food Pantry in feeding the hungry in our community.

Some 200 bowls are expected to be donated.

Tickets, at \$15 per person and available at the church office, will buy soup, bread, a handmade bowl of the person's choice, drink, and dessert. There will also be a raffle, and selected bowls will be available for purchase.

All proceeds will go to our Food Pantry.

■ For information or to donate bowls: Suzy Heald, 758-8125 or healdoftaas@msn.com; Ruth Hand, 776-1073 or ruthhand@gmail.com; Sylvia Dobbs, 758-9825 or planoslim@aol.com; Marilyn Farrow, 758-7276 or mbfarrow@qwest.net; or Janet Scott, 776-3374 or jmcscoott@aol.com

Library Needs Books

We're beginning to rebuild the church library, which is located on the shelves in the parish hall. Look over the collection on the shelves and consider donating books to enrich the reading resources for parishioners. *To find out more about library needs and how you can help, contact Gwenneth Glenn, 776-8835.*

APRIL

St. James Calendar of Events

* = Items described in articles.
Bold = New or monthly activities.

• • •

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

SUNDAY

Good News for Readers: Good News Books will be selling religious and other books in the parish hall on **April 13** after the 8 and 9:15 worship services. If you want a particular book, e-mail or call Rickie Sherrill and she'll try to bring your selection(s): rickie@goodbooksnewmexico.com or 505 955-8550.

06

- Worship & Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II)
- Sunday School: 9 AM

13

Worship & Sunday School same, plus
• **Food Ingathering:** 9:15 AM service
• **Second-Sunday Brunch:** 9:30 AM

20

Worship & Sunday School same, plus
• **Vestry Meeting:** 10:45 AM
• **Book Sale:** AFTER EACH WORSHIP SERVICE
• **Pets and People Service:** 5 PM
• **Passover Seder:** 5 PM (*story at right*)

27

Worship & Sunday School same, plus
• **Newcomers' Brunch:** 10:45 AM (*see p. 2*)

MONDAY

07

- **Book of Common Prayer Class:** 10 AM (*see p. 8*)
- Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM
- TYMS: 3:30 PM

14

Monday schedule unchanged

21

Monday schedule unchanged

28

Monday schedule unchanged

TUESDAY

01

- Taos Youth Music School (TYMS): 3:30 PM
- Women's Bible Study: 6:30 PM
- Youth Theatre Group (YTG): 6:30 PM

08

Tuesday schedule unchanged

15

Tuesday schedule unchanged

22

Tuesday schedule unchanged

29

Tuesday schedule unchanged, plus
• **Women's Agape Luncheon:** 12:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

02

- **Brown Bag Theology:** 12:30 PM (*see p. 9*)
- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM

09

Wednesday schedule unchanged

16

Wednesday schedule unchanged, plus
• Finance Committee: 9 AM

23

Wednesday schedule unchanged, plus
• **Red River Fishing:** 8 AM (*see p. 12*)

30

• **Brown Bag Theology:** 12:30 PM

- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM

THURSDAY

03

- **Pastoral Care Committee:** 9:15 AM
- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM
- Bldg. Com: 4 PM
- YTG: 6:30 PM

10

- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM
- YTG: 6:30 PM

17

Thursday schedule unchanged, plus
• Bldg. Com: 4 PM

24

• **Novel Theology:** 1 PM (*see p. 9*)

- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM
- YTG: 6:30 PM

FRIDAY

04

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- Church closed; rector's day off*

11

Friday schedule unchanged

18

Friday schedule unchanged, plus
• **Divisadero Hike:** 8 AM (*see p. 12*)

25

Friday schedule unchanged, plus
• **South Boundary Hike:** 8 AM (*see p. 12*)
• **Synoptic Gospels Study:** 9:30 AM

SATURDAY

05

No events, church closed; rector's day off

12

No events, church closed; rector's day off

19

No events, church closed; rector's day off

26

• **Empty Bowls fundraiser:** NOON (*see p. 4*)
Rector's day off

St. James to Host Passover Seder

On Sunday, April 20, St. James and the Taos Jewish Center will co-host a community Passover Seder. The seder, in our parish hall at 5 p.m., will be an organized potluck dinner. Reservations are required, to know how many people to expect. Cost for St. James members is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

■ To sign up or for information, call Bette Myerson, 758-3376

Education Ministry Update

from STACY QUINN

It is hard to believe that one-quarter of the year has already passed.

Children's Education: In our elementary program, we have a new curriculum for our youngest Episcopalians. We've mapped out plans for teaching the Godly Play curriculum, for both elementary and youth classes, and the kids are responding with great enthusiasm.

We are beginning to develop a music program and are in need of musicians to play the piano or guitar from 9 to 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We'd like to find five talented volunteers, child or adult, so that each person would play once every five weeks. If you are available, please call Monica Corral at 751-4538.

Adult Education: Our adult program continues the success of Brown Bag Theology, Centering Prayer, Women's Bible Study, and Synoptic Gospels

Study. Everyone is welcome at these groups (*see the calendar, pages 6-7, for meeting days and times*). Gloria Bjerk organized a stellar Lenten lecture series featuring Fathers Rocky, Walter, and Arthur, Mother Christina, and Dr. Marty Hewlett. All spoke with knowledge and passion on the theme "What it means to be human in this scientific age."

Library Update: Gwenneth Glenn, with a committee, has written policies and procedures for our library.

Playground Equipment: Our next challenge will be raising money for playground equipment. We'll keep you informed about equipment needs.

Volunteer Support: When you see Monica, Gloria, and Gwenn, please thank them for the great work they're doing for us all. God's work keeps us moving.

New Class on BCP

Our Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer* is certainly among the most beautiful and profound — and diverse — spiritual documents ever written.

In addition to instructions for worship, from morning prayer to the ordination of a bishop, the BCP and *Book of Occasional Services* contain prayers and services for daily devotion for individuals or families, prayers for use by the sick, and prayers for the dying. There is a blessing for a pregnant woman and a celebration of the birth or adoption of a child. There is a service for the blessing of a home as well as special blessing for the anniversary of a marriage.

■ To learn more about the *Book of Common Prayer*, come to the new class being taught by Father Rocky on Mondays at 10 a.m. The class will begin on April 7.

Novel Theology

On April 24, at 1 p.m., at the home of Gloria Bjerk, we will discuss *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* by Jean-Dominique Bauby and *Two Old Women, An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival* by Velma Wallis.

Bauby, the author of *Bell*, suffered a massive stroke that left him completely and permanently paralyzed, a victim of "locked-in syndrome"; in his book Bauby gives us "a celebration of the liberating power of consciousness . . . , a wistful, poetic, ironic, and whimsically affirmative statement by a man who refused to die in spirit."

Wallis's book is based on an Alaskan Indian legend that tells the story of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine. Her writing "depicts a landscape and way of life that are at once merciless and starkly beautiful." The tale is "suspenseful, shocking and ultimately inspirational."

■ For directions, call Gloria, 776-8503.

Brown Bag Theology

from NORM FERGUSON

Our next book will be *You Don't Have to Be Wrong for Me to Be Right: Finding Faith Without Fanaticism* by Brad Hirschfield.

From the jacket cover of the book: "In the 1980s Hirschfield joined a

group of settlers committed to reconstituting the Jewish state within its biblical borders, and he carried a gun, which he used more than once. Now, he has renounced all such rigid delineations of people into categories of totally right and totally wrong. In his book he addresses the ways faith has many faces, how justice can co-exist with forgiveness and mercy, how unity does not necessitate uniformity, and the ways we can learn to disagree without disconnecting."

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

■ For more information: Norm, 751-0049.

Synoptic Gospels Study

This study group meets the last Friday of the month; this month's session will be April 25 in the Santiago Room at 9:30 a.m.

At each meeting one member of the group volunteers to lead the discussion for the next month and picks out the chapter and sections from the book *Records of Jesus* to be discussed. You don't have to have a book or have been to previous meetings to join us.

■ For more information, call Gloria Bjerk, 776-8503.

Our Building Wins Award for Contractor

The Associated General Contractors New Mexico Building Branch named Wayne Rutherford General Contractor, Inc. its 2007 Best Buildings award winner for buildings under \$2.5 million that underwent renovations and additions completed in 2007 for St. James Episcopal Church.

The St. James project was selected from among 33 entries submitted by New Mexico builders and from among 71 entries submitted by builders nationwide. One of the judges wrote: “[We] were especially impressed with how the new spaces blend in with the original church.”

Built primarily of double-thick adobe, the original St. James church building dates back to 1960, with modest additions completed in 1967 and 1975. The award-winning expansion and renovation project completed in 2007 features expanded worship space, offices, classrooms, and nursery, and a new kitchen and dedicated

spaces for the Food Pantry.

Of primary importance was the continuity of design and preservation of historically significant religious artifacts, including the fourteen Stations of the Cross panels carved by renowned Taos santero Patrocinio Barela that were removed from the original nave and then reinstalled in the expanded worship area.

The contractor, working with architect Jack Nottingham of our parish, also focused on best use of new stained glass windows and French altar panels dating back to the 16th century.

Wayne Rutherford, in accepting the award, acknowledge the significant efforts of and cooperation among the architect and the church’s Building Expansion Committee, headed by Wes Patterson, along with outstanding local subcontractors and suppliers and the steadfast adaptability of the parishioners during the construction period.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF STEWARDSHIP

■ **Powerful Prayer:** Long-time parishioner Elizabeth Merritt, who died last month, for years exercised a special gift—the gift of prayer. As Father Rocky said at her funeral, it’s comforting to know that her prayers are now being presented more directly to the Lord since she was born into eternal life with Him. Let us all remember Elizabeth with our own commitment to pray for others with the same passion that she did.

Milestones

Birthdays

- 6 Tucker Heitman
- 7 Bill Yost
- 8 Morika Hensley
- 11 Barbara Dolbey,
Anne Marie Petrokubi
- 12 Patricia Rogers
- 13 Ray Billingsley
- 17 Dee Fleming,
Stacy Quinn
- 19 Heather Liebman
- 20 Patti Frankel
- 23 Martha Reed
- 24 Chris Dunbar
- 25 Gary Busick,
Stephen Fletcher,
Bette Myerson
- 27 Francis Scott Brown,
Jock Fleming
- 28 Whya Spencer-Nowak
- 29 Lily Compton,
Mary Rose Neeley

Anniversaries

- 4 Steve and Cheri Fletcher
- 13 Newell and Mary Ann Boughton
- 15 Jack and Shirley Ellingboe
- 20 Bill and Kate Yost
- 22 Mike and Jane Compton
Tony and Janelle Sperow
Palma

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

Mary Ann Boughton,

Outreach

Jesse Heald,

Stewardship

Winn Kalmon,

Communications

Heather Liebman,

Membership

Colin Nicholls, Leadership

and Volunteers

Angela Pacheco,

Outreach

Stacy Quinn, Education

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: Wes Patterson

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 Outdoors

In April, we reinstitute our weekly outdoor schedule. Everyone is welcome, and the wide range of activities are planned for people of many interests and levels of physical condition. Here are the month's events:

April 18 – Divisadero Hike. This is a moderate to strenuous hike, rising several hundred feet in elevation. Meet at the Divisadero trailhead at 8 a.m.

April 23 – Fishing at the Red River Fish Hatchery. To carpool, meet at St. James at 8 a.m.

April 25 – South Boundary Hike. Moderate. Meet at 8 a.m. at the water tank on Hwy. 585.

In May, we'll be even more active, with events ranging from hikes to fishing to mountain bike riding. Here's a preview of May's activities:

May 2 – We begin with an easy mountain bike ride along the West Rim Trail. Meet at the Gorge Bridge Rest Area at 9 a.m.

May 6 – Easy hike at Wild Rivers. Meet at KTAO lot at 8 a.m.

May 7 – Fishing on the Cimarron River. Meet at St. James at 8 a.m.

May 9 – Moderate hike at Flechalo. Meet at St. James at 8 a.m.

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5794 NDCBU
Taos, NM 87571
(505) 758-2790
stjamestaos@qwest.net

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