

# ST. JAMES Good News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10

December 2008

## ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Taos, New Mexico



### ST. JAMES MISSION

*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.*

## Celebrating Advent Together

*from* FATHER ROCKY SCHUSTER

Wikipedia defines Advent: From the Latin *adventus*, “arrival” or “coming,” the first season of the liturgical year begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Its purpose focuses on preparation for the coming Christ. Although often conceived as awaiting the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas, the modern Lectionary points the season more toward eschatological themes—awaiting the final coming of Christ, when “the wolf shall live with the lamb” (Isaiah 11:6) and when God will have “brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly” (The Magnificat, Luke 1:52)—particularly in the earlier half of the season.

Let us celebrate Advent and Christmas traditions together at St. James.

**The Advent Wreath:** The Advent wreath has its origins in winter solstice observances of Northern Europe. Originally used only in the home, the custom has made its way into the church’s public observance of Advent, and its annual appearance is welcomed fondly. No special prayers or ceremony are necessary for the lighting of the wreath at the Sunday Eucharist. However, a celebration of the Order of Worship for the Evening (BCP 109) offers rich opportunities to use the wreath in experiencing the season’s natural symbols of light and darkness (at least in the northern hemisphere!). You can gather in your home in semi-darkness and the wreath could be lighted while an anthem is sung (see S 309 in The Hymnal 1982). In place of “O Gracious Light”

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### Rector's Reflections

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**Rector's Reflections***Continued from previous page*

could be sung the ancient Advent hymn, *Conditor alme siderum* (60 in *The Hymnal 1982*). While purple candles are widely promoted (sometimes with a pink candle for the Third Sunday of Advent), any color candle may be used. White candles look fine against a variety of greens.

**Lessons and Carols:** Both Advent and Christmas are blessed with an abundance of good music. Over the years Christians' desire to hear and sing these traditional hymns more often than on the four Sundays of Advent and the three Sundays of the Christmas season has resulted in the service of Lessons and Carols, with which we commence the Advent season this year (Nov. 30). On the Second Sunday of Christmas (Jan. 4) we will get our final chance to sing favorite Christmas music.

**Christmas Pageant:** This year our Christmas pageant will be the majority of the service of the word in our first Christmas Eve service at 4:30 p.m. The pageant will be followed by Holy Communion.

**Christmas Eve:** In addition to the pageant we will have our traditional two services at 7:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. The full choir will fill the nave with beautiful sound at the later service.

## Advent Makes Christmas Even Better

*from* FATHER ROCKY SCHUSTER

The best Christmases that I remember were preceded by good Advents. Taking the time to repeat old family traditions and to start new ones added to the sense of anticipation and expectation of the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord.

Taking the time to light the Advent wreath each Sunday, opening each successive window on the Advent calendar, and using any of a number of different devotional practices,\* gave the shopping and decorating and the parties a much-needed context. The sense of frantic preparations, the overcrowding of the calendar and the stores, the writing and addressing of Christmas cards all built the expectancy that finds its fulfillment on Christmas morning. And having taken the time to really participate in the season of Advent it was easier to let Christmas last its full 12 days.

I recommend to you a good Advent. Take the time to prepare for the celebration of Christmas by keeping old traditions and starting new ones.

\* This year our adult education group is recommending *From Holidays to Holy Days*. We have a few extra copies available in the office.

## Holiday Bazaar Success! More Craft Sessions Planned

*from* JOELLA KNAPP

During our preparation sessions for the 2008 Holiday Bazaar, we found out what fun it is to get together and let imagination and creativity run wild. The fellowship wasn't bad, either!

Two scheduled sessions turned into a half dozen, and sometime during our get-togethers, someone suggested making our creativity sessions a regular event. What a great idea for getting ready for bazaar all year!

We have tentatively agreed to make this a once-a-month meeting, with a different project planned for each session.

This is not an invitational event! All are welcome, even if you don't feel particularly creative, as there is always cutting, ironing, glueing, and so on, with plenty of direction and support. The important feature is fellowship, and we need YOU!

Further information about days and times will be announced when plans are firmed up.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our "Bazaar get-ready" sessions this time around; we created some wonderful handcrafted items for sale during this important annual fundraiser.

Oh yes, this year's Holiday Bazaar was a huge success—again. Our handcrafted gift items and gourmet delights went like proverbial hotcakes, and the new Boutique, with party

clothes and winter wear was packed with buyers all day long.

The café served up a wonderful lunch for shoppers—green chile stew was the specialty this year, with the éclairs that people look for every year.

The event earned nearly \$5,000, which will be donated by the Episcopal Church Women, as we do each year, to the outreach programs of St. James and other community services.

## The Donor Board Needs Your Attention

*from* PHYLLIS NOTTINGHAM

A draft design for the donor board is on display in the narthex. All who made specific donations and contributions to the building fund—whether for pews, windows, furnishings, landscaping, or overall construction costs—are indicated on this board. Please review your information, and check for those who are not here, and report anything we may have missed or misspelled.

The final board will be produced in mid-December.

If you have corrections or questions, contact me at 575-751-7323 or [nda@taosnet.com](mailto:nda@taosnet.com).

## October Financials Reflect National Economy

from MIKE DOBBS

Well, it looks like the economic downturn may be affecting St. James. During October, we ended up with a deficit of almost \$16,000, driven primarily by a drop in pledge income to only \$12,500 compared to our monthly average of over \$22,500. It now appears that we may end the year in the red to the tune of around \$12,000.

As we enter the budgeting process, this could create some real issues for us, and I ask that as you consider your pledge for 2009, you also look at the status of your 2008 pledge and do anything you can to help close the gap for this year. We are doing some wonderful work at St. James with almost \$70,000 in direct outreach spending thus far this year. Our operating budget allows us to support these outreach programs and I ask for your continued giving to keep the lights on and the doors open.

May God continue to bless St. James.

### Financial Status—October 31, 2008

Operating Fund	2008 Budget	YTD 10/31/08	October '08
<b>INCOME</b>			
Pledges	\$285,000	\$225,116	\$12,771
Donations	36,000	46,204	3,225
Plate Offerings	8,500	5,945	196
Fundraising	7,500	7,924	1,710
Facilities use/Rental	21,700	18,750	2,825
Other Sources	750	434	261
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$359,450</b>	<b>\$304,373</b>	<b>\$20,988</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Staff	\$209,108	\$180,582	\$19,075
Music Ministry	3,336	2,729	200
Education	6,000	1,185	64
Programs	1,300	366	0
Building and Grounds	26,525	25,667	4,068
Insurance	18,500	20,381	3,880
Communications	8,680	9,348	230
Office/Operations	27,850	20,921	908
Total Fair Share	46,700	49,935	7,736
Other Expenses		6,034	702
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$347,999</b>	<b>\$317,148</b>	<b>\$36,863</b>
<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>\$11,451</b>	<b>(\$12,775)</b>	<b>(\$15,872)</b>

## Stewardship Update

from JESS HEALD

**Campaign Reminder:** If you have not turned in your annual pledge form, please do so as soon as possible.

The Finance Committee has begun the budgeting process for next year and needs all the pledge forms to determine our operating budget limits. Please take the time to get this done. You may drop the form at the office. Call me if have questions.

**Fundraising Activities:** Our St. James Christmas cards have arrived and can be picked up after each Sunday service or at the office. We purchased 350 more than the early commitments, so we have a good supply for those who did not sign up.

Our sale of the Chico Bags continues in the parish hall following each

Sunday service. These would make great Christmas gifts!

## New Study Group

After completing its synoptic gospel study, the monthly Friday group has changed its focus to “Examination of Evolution of Faith.” Using the Bible and other materials, the group will examine doctrines of our Christian faith. The group will meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first Friday of the month in the Santiago Room. Dec. 5 will be our first meeting, and our topic will be “Atonement.”

We welcome new participants, so please join us. Bring a Bible and any thoughts that might be pertinent to the discussion.

Information: Gloria Bjerk, 776-8503.

## Enjoy the NM Brass Quintet

from PENNY VOSS

On Dec. 21, at 4 p.m., the St. James nave walls will tremble with pleasure at the festive Christmas music played by five brass instruments.

The New Mexico Brass Quintet, founded in the late 1970s, has been tooting its horns through many international tours, music festivals, radio and TV performances, and workshops across three decades, and a few changes in personnel. The itineraries of their performing schedule read like a geography class! And their reputation as one of the finest brass ensembles in the world is well established.

Admission for the St. James performance will be \$10 suggested donation, and tickets may be obtained from me or at the door.

Ring in the Christmas week with spirit and pizzazz. This concert will definitely put you in a joyful mood to keep all through the season.

# DECEMBER

## St. James Calendar of Events

\* = Items described in articles.

**Bold** = New or monthly activities.

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

### SUNDAY

07

- Worship & Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II)
- Sunday School: 9 AM
- Bell Choir: 10:45 AM
- \* **Taos Community Chorus Concert:** 4 PM

14

- Sunday schedule unchanged, plus*
- **Food Ingathering:** 9:15 AM service
  - Bell Choir: 10:45 AM
  - **Green Com:** 11 AM
  - **Pets and People Service:** 5 PM

21

- Worship, Sunday School, & Bell choir same, plus*
- **Vestry Meeting:** 10:45 AM
  - \* **NM Brass Concert:** 4 PM (see p. 5)

28

- Worship and Sunday School same as Dec. 7*

### MONDAY

01

- Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM
- Taos Youth Music School (TYMS): 4 PM
- Taos Com. Chorus Rehearsal: 6:30 PM

08

- Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM
- Healthy Cooking Class: 11 AM

15

- Monday schedule unchanged*

22

- Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM

29

- Monday schedule unchanged*

### TUESDAY

02

- TYMS: 4 PM

09

- No events scheduled*

16

- No events scheduled*

23

- No events scheduled*

30

- No events scheduled*

### WEDNESDAY

03

- \* **Brown Bag Theology:** 12:30 PM (see p. 9)
- TYMS: 4 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM

10

- \* Brown Bag Theology: 12:30 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM

17

- Wednesday schedule unchanged*

24

- Brown Bag Theology: 12:30 PM
- \* **Christmas Eve Services:** Pageant, 4:30 PM; Worship: 7 & 10:30 PM (see p. 1)

31

- Brown Bag Theology: 12:30 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM

### THURSDAY

04

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

11

- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM

18

- Bldg. Com: 9:30 AM
- \* **Novel Theology:** 1 PM (see p. 9)
- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM

25

- Christmas Day; office closed*
- **Christmas Day Worship:** 8 AM

### FRIDAY

05

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- \* **Evolution of Faith Study Group:** 9:30 AM (see p. 5)
- Choir Practice: 7 PM

12

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- Healthy Cooking Class: 11 AM
- Choir Practice: 7 PM

19

- Friday schedule unchanged*

26

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM

### SATURDAY

06

- \* **Taos Community Chorus Concert:** 7 PM (see p. 10)

13

- No events.*


20

- No events.*

27

- No events.*

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 **On Fridays and Saturdays the church office is closed and the rector is off.**

## News from the Pastoral Care Group

from HEATHER LIEBMAN

We are happy to announce that the Pastoral Care Committee recently presented the Santiago shell pin to Linda Aubrecht in recognition of her truly outstanding work in helping others—especially for her dedication to making sure that Barbara Dolbey was taken care of by the “Friends of Barbara,” ensuring that someone was always scheduled to be with her or available to her for any needs.

Pastoral Care is branching out with a new ministry. Our prayer shawl ministry involves knitting shawls for people in need in the congregation or our larger Taos community. The shawls could be for the homebound, ill or ailing, grieving, or anyone who needs physical and spiritual comfort. Prayers are said either silently or aloud as the mantle is being knitted. Then it is blessed before being presented to the recipient.

If you would like to join us in this ministry, contact Mary Burns, 776-8728 or mhburns@newmex.com. No great knitting skills are necessary!

## Fill an Empty Bowl for the Food Pantry

from SUZY HEALD

The St. James Food Pantry is planning a second Empty Bowls fundraiser. Mark your calendars for April 18, noon to 2 p.m., and come to the parish hall for what will no doubt become an annual tradition.

Potters in the parish, or friends of the parish, will donate handmade bowls 4 to 6 inches in diameter (soup bowl size), for selection by people who come to eat together and help fund the good work of the Food Pantry in feeding the hungry in our community.

Some 300 bowls are expected to be donated.

Tickets, at \$20 per person, will buy a handmade bowl of your choice and a meal of soup, bread, drink, and dessert. There will also be a raffle and silent auction. All proceeds will go to our Food Pantry. Last year we raised more than \$6,000.

Our goal for the 2009 event is \$10,000.

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

## Brown Bag Theology

On Dec. 10, the group will begin discussing a new book: *The Transcended Christian* by Daniel Helminiak.

The author provides readers with a good start on answering the questions of what to do when one feels needs not being met by the church, feels like an outcast within one's own church, or that the church itself is out of touch with today's realities.

The group meets Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Santiago Room. Bring your lunch and enjoy it with food for thought.

■ Information: Norm Ferguson, 751-0049 or fergus@taosnet.com.

## Novel Theology Features New Mexico Theme

Edith Warner lived in a small house beside the Rio Grande between the peaceful San Ildefonso pueblo and the Los Alamos community, where the Manhattan Project was secretly underway. While one was deeply rooted in a mysterious harmony with its own history and the surrounding earth, the other was birthing a new era of fearsome power.

Edith's home and tea room at Otowi Crossing became a source of hospitality for both of those worlds, and Edith became the central consciousness of Frank Waters's fictional account of that momentous and

extraordinary period in history.

While the Waters book, *The Woman at Otowi Crossing*, is a novel, Peggy Pond Church recorded the same tale in her book, *The House at Otowi Bridge*, recounting her days at Los Alamos and her friendship with this remarkable woman.

The Novel Theology group will discuss both of these short books at its meeting on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m. at the El Salto home of Catherine Guynes. All are invited to join in on the interesting discussion.

■ For directions: Catherine, 776-0068.

## January Choir Concert

from PENNY VOSS

The nationally recognized Millikin University Choir will present a concert at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, at St. James.

The performance will be part of the Decatur, Illinois choir's annual winter tour, showcasing its reputation for innovative programming and tonal variety with a repertoire spanning five centuries. The choir has an extensive touring history and several CDs to its credit.

More information will be forthcoming. You won't want to miss this excellent choral ensemble.

## The Vestry: Not Just Another Committee

from HEATHER LIEBMAN

Three members of the vestry retire in January. As you are probably aware, the congregation will elect three new members at our general meeting in January. If you are interested in serving in this important capacity the following information may help you decide.

The vestry of an Episcopal Church has clear responsibilities, determined by the church canons. It is the business arm of the church, or the governing board. Our vestry has nine members, including a senior (rector's) warden and a junior (people's) warden. The wardens are so named because the rector chooses one, and the people (represented by the vestry) choose the other.

The first duty of the vestry is overseeing the church finances, hopefully ensuring that we stay in the black. The budget and all expenditures have to be approved by the vestry. The second is oversight of the buildings and grounds; again, all decisions concerning facilities must be approved by the vestry.

A third duty is ensuring that the rector has everything he needs to fulfill his many duties. And finally, we have a duty to advise the rector when necessary. Most important, foremost in all vestry discussions and decision making is doing what is best for St. James and the parishioners as a whole. Not what is best the rector or any individual's personal agenda, but for St. James.

While we hope we have some divine guidance in our decision making, we do not have any responsibilities relating to theology or worship. Everything to do with worship is in the sole charge of the rector.

## Taos Community Chorus Graces Our Nave

Taos Community Chorus will appear at St. James as part of its annual winter program. Directed by Erick Brunner, the chorus will sing *A Day for Dancing* by Lloyd Pfautsch, *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint-Saëns and the cantata *Vom Himmel Hoch* by Felix Mendelssohn.

The St. James performances will be Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m., and

Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m., with a reception following.

The other TCC performance is Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church in Arroyo Seco.

Taos Youth Ballet will be featured at the TCC's St. James concerts.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children.

■ Information: 575-751-5811.

## Milestones

### Birthdays

- 1 Joanne Delange
- 2 Karen Ashton
- 3 Lou Sturbois
- 10 Bob Franklin
- 12 Jane Compton
- 13 Christina Noelle Campbell
- 14 Judi Friday
- 15 Barbara DuBois, John Spencer-Nowak
- 16 LeAn Clamurro
- 17 Carol De Marinis, Shirley Gish
- 18 Cheyenne Ashton, Ryan Bilyeu
- 19 Don Simanton, Grace Rogers
- 21 Kate Lymon
- 24 John Cain, Nancy Stiles
- 25 Amy Franklin
- 26 Julia Beheler-Romero
- 27 Theresa Bradley, Doug Leslie
- 28 Stefan Chacon
- 31 Joan Barton

### Anniversaries

- 20 Larry & Judi Friday
- 29 Colin Nicholls & Cristina Sumners
- 31 Jim & Karen Burr

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

People's Warden: Mike Dobbs  
Mary Ann Boughton, Outreach  
Marilyn Farrow  
Jesse Heald, Stewardship  
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: Anne Marie Petrokubi  
Building: Jack Nottingham  
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**

## *Theos Ein Agape (God Is Love)*

from HEATHER LIEBMAN

At St. James, we use the Greek word “agape” to denote “loving fellowship,” and put this into practice by our agape groups.

Participants are randomly placed in a group of about 12 and usually meet once a month to share a meal. Group members take turns as hosts, and the meals are organized potlucks.

Each January, the groups are reshuffled and we begin again with new members and new coordinators. This is a wonderful way to better know members of the congregation in a purely social way, and many lasting friendships have grown from this experience.

If you are presently in an agape group and wish to continue in 2009, you don’t have to do anything. If you no longer wish to participate, please let me know as soon as possible.

■ If you are not in a group and would like to be in one during 2009, contact Heather at 751-7419 or [hlieb35@taosnet.com](mailto:hlieb35@taosnet.com).

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