

ST. JAMES Good News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

January 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.*

New Life for the New Year

from FATHER ROCKY SCHUSTER

I hope you had a joyous Christmas! Christmas is about something new. On the first Christmas, God started something new. While clearly rooted in the work God had begun with Abraham, the Incarnation was definitely different from everything that had come before.

On Christmas we anticipate the new life God has already begun in us and that will find its completion in the “fullness of time.” In the meantime we are called to live with the conviction and hope that comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. We are called daily to find new ways to love one another.

St. James has its fair share of new as we enter 2008. The nave, sanctuary, and parish hall still smell new. Your rector is still new after seven months (but we won’t talk about how he smells, although wet dog comes to mind). We have a new one-page website and a comprehensive version under development, and will soon have a new e-mail news flash letter. We have new programs, new services, and new ways to serve. We are discovering new opportunities to serve our community and new possibilities of working with others who are trying to make Taos an even better place to live for everyone.

I believe that God is always doing something new in each life. Prayer, fellowship, service, and study are the ways we discover and live into the newness of God’s love. It is St. James’ mission to support, encourage, and challenge each of us to gratefully accept the unique opportunities that await us each new day. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities already present here and challenge each of you to discover what new things God is offering.

Lenten Devotionals Needed

from FATHER ROCKY SCHUSTER

Can you believe it's already time to start thinking about Lent? Ash Wednesday is Feb. 6.

One time-tested way to enhance your Lent is with a daily devotional. A wide variety of books and pamphlets contain readings for each day of Lent and I would be happy to help you find one to your liking.

But, in my short time at St. James, I have discovered that there are a good many insightful and inspired people within the congregation. I would like to invite you to help develop our own book of meditations. There are Bible readings appointed for each day in Lent, along with a Psalm, an Old Testament reading, and a Gospel reading.

We will provide a sign-up sheet in the parish hall so that parishioners can choose a day and its readings, and then offer a meditation, prayer, story, or anything else that your reading brings to mind.

Give us your meditations by Jan. 20 if a hard copy, or Jan. 27 if electronic, so that we can gather them together and distribute as a printed booklet or a printable PDF file, or daily by e-mail.

Keep your meditation to about 300 words—we will try to get everything in but may have to do some editing. If you are one of our part-time members and would like to participate you can

find the readings listed in Lesser Feasts and Fasts under the heading The Weekdays of Lent (check at your local Episcopal church). E-mail or call the church to find out what readings are available. Drop off your copy at the church office, or e-mail your meditation to stjamestaos@qwest.net.

Outreach Update

from KAREN ASHTON

During January St. James will begin collaborating with community agencies, other churches, the Holy Cross Hospital wellness center, and local health-care services to develop coordinated emergency assistance.

We will begin by developing a contact list for emergency services including, but not limited to, prescription drug assistance, emergency housing, and crisis counseling.

Look for later updates as the collaborative effort makes progress.

Food Ingatherings

Food banks around the state are running out of food, so we may experience uneven supplies of food from the Food Depot for our weekly Food Pantry distribution.

Parishioners can help by bringing in staples on the second Sunday of

each month to support our Food Pantry's important ministry in this community.

The Food Pantry can always use canned meats, tuna, stews, soup, macaroni and cheese, beans, peanut butter, canned fruit and vegetables, ramen, tomatoes, toilet paper, cereal, and jelly.

No perishable items, please.

Place your contributions in the bin by the stained glass window in the narthex.

Of course, we can use the food anytime you bring it, but on second Sundays we will present the food as part of our offering.

St. James and Santiago de Compostela

from HEATHER LIEBMAN

The Way of St. James, often known as El Camino de Santiago, is the pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, where, according to legend, the remains of the apostle Saint James the Great are buried.

From the early Middle Ages, Compostela has been an important pilgrimage. In fact, it is still the second most visited Christian site—the first being Rome.

Two or three different legends explain how St. James ended up at Compostela; the following is one rather brief story.

James was killed in Jerusalem for his convictions about his brother, Jesus. At the time, it was believed that James had spent time preaching on the Iberian Peninsula. After his death, the body was shipped for burial in an area that is Galicia in northwestern Spain. Off the coast of Spain a huge storm hit the ship and James' body was lost at sea. After some time had passed, James' body washed ashore, remarkably showing no physical deterioration, but covered in sea scallop shells. (Sea scallops are abundant off the coast of Galicia.) This was, of course, considered a miracle and resulted in the body being interred at Compostela and the scallop shell becoming closely identified with St. James. In addition, the shell has taken on metaphorical and practical meaning for Christians. (I'll talk about the scallop shell in next month's GOOD NEWS.)

The Pastoral Care committee from time to time will recognize church or community members who are quietly going about the business of caring for others. We will present each person with a small silver scallop-shell pin, as well as entering his or her name in the special book of "St James Angels."

Rector's Warden: *Don't Miss the Annual Meeting*

from KATE YOST

The annual meeting of St. James will be held after the 9:15 a.m. service on Sunday, Jan. 20. Please plan to attend.

We will elect four new vestry members and one delegate to our diocese convocation. The vestry has approved the candidacy of Mary Ann Boughton, Dick Frankel, Jess Heald, and Angela Pacheco. Nominations do not close until just before voting takes place, so if you wish to nominate someone, call the office to be sure they are qualified members and ask their consent. Then see Karen Ashton, Barbara Stillwell, or me. Nominations can be made from the floor.

At the annual meeting, we will also have reports on the various programs of the parish, and on the financial status. This is a chance for you to learn more about the "state of the parish."

May thy will be done.

• • •

People's Warden: *Our Financial Status*

from MIKE DOBBS

November 2007 was another month with expenses significantly exceeding income (over \$18,000). Our single \$30,000 unpledged gift has now been completely depleted and December cash flow had to be closely monitored on a weekly basis.

Stewardship Update: On the good-news side, pledges for 2008 now stand at over \$275,000, from almost 80 pledgers. Some people who pledged last year have not yet returned a pledge card, so if you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so as soon as possible. You can return your pledge card to the box in the parish hall, by mail or in person to the office, or give it to me personally.

If you don't have a pledge card, they are available in the narthex. Thanks to all who have pledged (or will pledge)—you make St. James' works possible.

Capital Campaign Update: Most of you should have received a letter from Ron Larimore with your third-quarter giving statement about our efforts to pay off the remaining debt on our beautiful new building, complete the landscaping and additional exterior work, and provide for additional interior furnishings.

We have now raised more than \$500,000 in pledged donations, and enough actual money has come in that we have begun making payments against the

principal of the construction loan. As Ron points out, it is critical that we get as much as possible of the money in by the end of January so we can eliminate our debt before the loan matures. Once again I ask that each of you ask for the Lord's direction in how you might be able to help support this effort. Please let Ron, Kate Yost, Dick Frankel, Wes Patterson, or me know if you can make a contribution, or if you have any questions.

We are a blessed congregation and our works in Taos and beyond are very visible and critically important. Thank you all for your incredible support.

May God continue to bless St. James.

Financial Status—Nov. 30, 2007

Operating Fund	2007 Budget	YTD (10/31)	YTD (11/30)
INCOME			
Pledges	\$220,000	\$182,564	\$193,440
Unpledged Donations	0	30,000	30,000
Donations	35,000	18,254	20,715
Plate Offerings	7,000	7,419	7,966
Specific Gifts	14,000	10,000	10,000
Other Sources	3,350	2,184	2,709
Total Income	\$279,350	\$250,421	\$264,860
2007 Surplus Carryover	\$17,774		
Adjusted Total Income	\$297,124	\$250,421	\$264,860
EXPENSES			
Staff (incl. Rector Search)	\$187,061	\$152,373	\$173,661
Music Ministry	6,050	4,062	4,062
Education	4,850	4,763	4,763
Meetings	500	615	615
Mission/Seminary/Rector's	2,000	2,000	2,000
Utilities	13,600	14,171	15,954
Equipment	3,000	0	0
Insurance	14,000	12,234	15,139
Worship Supplies	3,700	2,962	4,458
Office/Operations	20,850	21,275	23,001
Diocese Fair Share	36,200	29,310	32,825
National Fair Share	5,600	6,135	6,946
Total Expenses	\$297,411	\$249,900	\$282,948
NET OUTCOME	-\$287	\$521	-\$18,088

JANUARY

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

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** (see p. 2)
*** Second-Sunday Brunch:** 9:30 AM

20

- Worship & Holy Eucharist: 9:15 AM (Rite II)
- Sunday School: 9 AM
- * Annual Meeting** (following service)
- * Passion and Beauty:** 2:30 PM (see p. 8)
- * Pets and People Service:** 5 PM

27

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

MONDAY

07

- Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM

14

- Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM
- TYMS: 3:30 PM

21

Monday schedule unchanged

28

Monday schedule unchanged

TUESDAY

01

Church closed for New Year's Holiday

08

- Women's Bible Study, 6:30 PM

15

- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Women's Bible Study, 6:30 PM

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. 10)

09

Wednesday schedule unchanged, plus

- Rector's Study Group resumes: 7 PM

16

Wednesday schedule unchanged, plus

- TYMS: 3:30 PM

23

Wednesday schedule unchanged

30

Wednesday schedule unchanged

THURSDAY

03

- Bldg. Com: 8:30 AM
- * Pastoral Care Com:** 9:15 AM
- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM

10

- Bldg. Com: 8:30 AM
- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM
- * Evening Prayer:** 6:15 PM

17

Thursday schedule unchanged

24

Thursday schedule unchanged

31

- Thursday schedule unchanged, plus
- * Novel Theology Planning:** 1 PM (see p. 10)

FRIDAY

04

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
 - Synoptic Gospels Study: 9 AM
 - Choir Practice: 5 PM
- Church closed

11

Friday schedule unchanged

18

Friday schedule unchanged

25

Friday schedule unchanged

SATURDAY

05

No events, church closed

12

- * Taos Youth Music School registration:** 1-5 PM
- Church closed

19

No events, church closed

26

No events, church closed

SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!

This month's annual meeting, scheduled to follow the 9:15 a.m. service on Sunday, Jan. 20, is very important for all parishioners. Please try to attend. And remember, there will be no 8 a.m. service that day. (For more on the annual meeting, see Kate Yost's article on page 4.)

TYMS Gets Ready for 2008

from CAROL HUFFMAN

As the Taos Youth Music School gets ready for spring semester, we express our joy at settling into new facilities in the St. James parish hall.

All of the classes were maxed out, with 69 students enrolled in six classes. Only the choir had room for more student voices.

We are still fine-tuning class scheduling. We learned, for example, that it's not a good idea to have classes the same day as food pantry distribution, so this semester we have scheduled classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, leaving Thursdays and Fridays for St. James activities.

We again are offering classes for grades K-1, 2-3, and 4-6, along with Choir, Garage Band 101, and Garage Band 102.

“Passion and Beauty” at St. James

An Opera Tazza benefit performance, with all proceeds going to support the Taos Community Chorus, will be held Jan. 20, at 2:30 p.m. at St. James. Tickets are \$10.

Songs will be by Bach, Mozart, Donizetti, Rachmaninoff, Verdi, Gounod, Richard and Johann Strauss, and others.

■ For information: 751-3349.

Spring term begins Jan. 14, with registration Jan. 12, Saturday, from 1 to 5 p.m.

As noted in last month's GOOD NEWS, the school has incorporated and filed for 501(c) 3 status, which is expected to be approved early in 2008. Starting in January, we will publish a monthly newsletter about our activities and offerings.

Thank you, St. James, for your continuing support.

A Resounding Success

from PENNY VOSS

On Dec. 15 the Taos Youth Music School filled the parish hall with an open house for families and friends.

Each class showcased its musical talents and skills that had been learned during the fall semester. At the end of the program, Carol Huffman, TYMS administrator, along with TYMS board members Val Davis, Connie Long, and Penny Voss, were presented a gift by Don Simanton of \$5,000 from the James and Donna Simanton Foundation.

The hall was filled with joyous applause and gratitude. Generosity such as this is what is needed so that this wonderful program will continue to thrive and grow. Thanks to the Simanton family and to St. James for your continued support.

Theatre Arts Program

from JEAN-SCOTT BENSON

Tuesday evenings are full of fun at St. James, with the new theatre arts program. With this intervention program, we are attempting to turn young Christians into disciples and share our faith with others in the community through activity and theatre.

To bring vulnerable and underserved populations to God, we are employing gymnastics, as well as circus arts, music and voice, and modern dance.

Further, our program is transgenerational, with participants ranging in age from 6 to well over 60. We have a place for anyone who wishes to be involved.

All are welcome to come and train with us in any of the disciplines, whether or not they wish to perform in the show we are planning for debut in March 2008. The “Sentimental, Southwest, God-Sent Medicine Show” will be based upon the patent-medicine doctors who toured the American frontier preaching a little gospel and selling a little snake oil. We will portray the medicine show as it has emerged in the new millennium.

■ For questions, contact me: 758-7047 or jeanscottbenison@yahoo.com.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF STEWARDSHIP

■ **Food Pantry Bags:** In an effort to be “green,” the Food Pantry will be using returnable cloth bags for food. Jonnie Sargent is gathering denim and other heavy cloth to sew the tote bags—four hundred of them! She would like to organize a sewing party, with people cutting cloth, sewing, and stenciling an identifying logo onto the finished bags.

Anybody interested in contributing fabric or support (of the work or the money kind), call Jonnie, 737-5420.

■ **The Giving Tree:** This annual project was a big success for 2007. Coordinator Winn Kalmon reported that we provided gifts and holiday cheer for nearly 80 foster kids. Delivery of the colorful, festive bags of presents required six vehicles! Helping to check in, organize, and deliver the gifts were Beth Watt, Heather Liebman, Cynthia Bay, Patti Frankel, and Maureen Weber. A generous donation of \$1,000 by Susan Streeper made it possible to purchase gifts for kids whose ornament-tags were not selected, whose gifts never were turned in, or whose gift bags were a bit “thin.” Thank you for these bountiful offerings of time, talent, and treasure.

Volunteers Make the Difference

from STACY QUINN

The new year begins with change. Marcie Sweet is retiring as chair of elementary education. She has devoted many years to building up the Sunday School and welcoming new families into our community. She started quarterly family events—sledding, summer picnics, and so on—that morphed into the Second Sunday brunches, and she created lesson-based craft projects.

Marcie stated, “My charge was to keep a cohesive program and families connected in a safe and loving environment through the transition of creating our new space.”

She did that exceptionally well, and we will miss her. Please voice your praise to Ms. Sweet.

Monica Corral will take over elementary education; she has countless skills to fit the job and a wonderful love of children. Please welcome her with open arms.

Her husband, Ray Corral, is in charge of youth education. He’s been a member of St. James for a year and brings great enthusiasm to the work.

Brown Bag Theology

In January we will continue discussing *Buddhism Without Beliefs* by Stephen Batchelor, and then will begin a new book, which will be selected by group consensus. Please check the Sunday

bulletin for an update about the next book we will be reading.

This discussion is held Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Santiago Room.

Novel Theology

from GLORIA BJERK

The Jan. 31 meeting of the Novel Theology group will be devoted to selecting books for 2008.

Everyone interested in joining the book club is welcome to come and vote on the books to be read, but only those who have attended at least two meetings in the previous year can nominate books.

People can suggest two books that they have read, and should provide a brief verbal description of their suggestions. Something to keep in mind when selecting books is how well they lend themselves to discussion.

The meeting will be at 1 p.m. at my home, 57 Alta Vista in Des Montes.

■ For directions: Gloria, 776-8503.

Rector’s Study Update

In mid-December we finished the Anglican Vision class from The New Church’s Teaching Series. In January we’ll continue this series with *Opening the Bible*.

Milestones

Birthdays

- 4 Chris Martinez
- 6 Isabella Draper
- 9 Luke Norbeck
- 10 Everett Hullum
- 11 Bill Zorumski
- 20 Betty Simanton, Ann Wyndham
- 22 Rebecca Hullum
- 24 Susan Blevins
- 25 Sam Bates
- 28 Sally Bachman
- 29 Roberta Billingsley
- 30 Sandra Hulse

Anniversaries

- 1 Everett & Rebecca Hullum
- 8 Bill & Lorry Waugh
- 14 Dan & Karen Ashton
- 22 Don & Wynona Baucum
- 30 Norm Ferguson & Ann Marie Petrokubi

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.
(Closed Fridays; Father Rocky’s days off are 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 Summers, 758-9035, or the Rev. Walter Allen, 758-1043. The Rev. Arthur Sargent, 737-5420, is available to administer the Church’s rites for the dying.

ST. JAMES VESTRY

Rector’s Warden: Kate Yost

People’s Warden: Mike Dobbs

Membership: Heather Liebman

Communications: Winn Kalmon

Outreach: Karen Ashton

Rector Transition: Barbara Stillwell, Colin Nicholls

Stewardship: Mike Dobbs

Education: Stacy Quinn

DIocese/DEANERY

DELEGATES: Wes Patterson, Caryle Zorumski

ALTERNATES: Dick Frankel, Tom Knapp, Marcia Oliver

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: Marcie Sweet

TYMS: Carol Huffman

Women of St. James: Lorry Waugh

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

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Steenson,
Bishop of the Rio Grande

New Committees—New Leaders

Two new committees—Communications and Leadership and Volunteers—have been established to aid us as we move toward a more member-directed approach to church structure.

The Communications Committee will keep our website, once it is fully developed, updated with current information, as well as communicating with the Taos community and our own internal fellowship about all the exciting things going on at St. James.

The mission of the Leadership and Volunteers Committee will be to help parishioners find a place to participate in the life of the church, through contribution of their time and talents. This “human resources” group will be involved with the care and feeding of our own prospective leaders and volunteers—finding out what people are interested in doing and matching them up with opportunities to serve.

When our vestry’s deliberations over the overall organization and the specific groups that function within it are a bit further along, we’ll publish more details.

GOOD NEWS
is published monthly by

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

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAOS, NEW MEXICO
PERMIT #7

*Please submit articles
for the next issue
to the church office
or by e-mail to
Winn Kalmon,
winn@kalmon.com
by the 15th of the month.
Submissions may be
edited for content,
length, and clarity.*