

ST. JAMES Good News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

May 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.*

Planning for Our Kids' Playground

from STACY QUINN

Our Elementary Education ministry has drawn up a plan for the playground.

Parents and teachers decided to make the playground yard an inviting place for children, parents, adults without children, and teenagers.

The layout includes playground equipment for babies on up and a handicapped-friendly swing; a picnic area by the existing lilac bushes with a shade tree, tables, and a gas grill; and a badminton-volleyball sand pit for teenagers. There will be a xeriscaped slope down to the classrooms and two fruit trees. Our vision is to have a safe place for the children to play while the adults are sharing God's graces together.

Some very generous parishioners have donated money toward the playground area. We will also be having fundraisers. If you would like to donate toward this important space, please contact me or take a check into the office. Designate your check to the playground. The equipment is going to cost about \$6,500, and the materials for the space will take the bill close to \$10,000.

We have divided the installation and landscaping work into four phases, to be completed as funding is received. The Building Committee has approved the plans, so the only thing holding us up is money!

We ask for your generosity and your prayers!

Also, if you would like to donate your muscles, we will be in need of those, too! For muscle donations, please contact Jack Nottingham.

With your help, we will have a wonderful playground for our growing population of youngsters.

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

from JANELLE SPEROW PALMA

Here is the Episcopal Peace Fellowship commitment statement:

“In loyalty to the person, teaching, and Lordship of Jesus Christ, my conscience commits me to his way of redemptive love: to pray, study and work for peace, and to renounce, as far as possible, participation in war, militarism, and all other forms of violence.”

In fellowship with others, I invite St. James parishioners to discover and create alternatives to violence and to build a culture of peace. In accordance with our baptismal vows, I urge all “to renounce the evil powers of the world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God,” and to “wage peace across all boundaries, calling upon people everywhere to repent, to forgive, and to love.”

An active EPF group at St. James would help each member as we explore our behavior personally and collectively when confronted with conflict; and how conflict within communities and nations can be affected by prayer, intention, and our active involvement in the process of peace.

Remember these important words:

“Beat your swords into ploughshares.”
“They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain.” (Isaiah 11:9)
“... from end to end of the earth he stamps out war: he breaks the bow, he

snaps the spear and burns the shield in the fire.” (Psalm 46:9)

“... prince of peace ...” (Isaiah 9:7)
“How blest are the peacemakers; God shall call them his children.” (Matthew 5:9)

I would like to begin with a discussion and informational meeting in May. If interested, please see me after Sunday service or contact me at 751-9317 or janelle@taosnet.com.

Watch St. James Go Green!

from JESS HEALD

The new Ecological Stewardship Committee (known among its members as the St. James Green Machine) is up and running, with loads of energy. The committee has begun meeting regularly and is formulating immediate and longer-term plans.

The initial focus will be on what we can do at St. James, including:

- ✓ Completing an energy audit
- ✓ Selling reusable shopping bags
- ✓ Using energy-efficient light bulbs throughout the church
- ✓ Recycling all our paper, and using recycled paper products
- ✓ Reducing use of plastics

We are also looking at other church initiatives to see what would work in Taos and developing plans for

longer-term projects, such as:

- ✓ A community garden and composting pile
 - ✓ Applying the EPA’s energy program for churches
 - ✓ Local recycling program, in coordination with other churches and organizations
 - ✓ A children’s program about being good environmental citizens
- New members are welcome, but

come prepared to be involved in a fast-paced energetic bunch or get run over. Current members are Winn Kalmon, Janelle and Tony Palma, TJ Patton, Bette Myerson, Lana Green, Bill Dedmon, and Jack Nottingham. I am the vestry liaison member.

■ Information: Jess Heald, 758-8125 or healdoftaos@msn.com

Good Stewards of God’s Creation

from FATHER ROCKY SCHUSTER

On April 20, we observed Earth Day at the church. Our celebration included a special “green” Prayers of the People, along with informational materials and sales of organic coffee and reusable shopping bags.

Working with our Green Committee to plan for that day and beyond, it became increasingly clear to me what an opportunity we have to make a difference in the community where we live, in the congregation to which we belong, and in the quality of our lives both physically and spiritually.

The ultimate goal is to become more aware and intentional about the way we live our lives. It is clear to me that the very nature of creation and certainly the teaching and example of Jesus tell us that we are all interconnected. Sometimes the connection is close and clear; sometimes it seems remote and tenuous. Either way, the truth is inescapable that what we do makes a difference not just in our own lives but in the lives of others. That truth is at the very heart of what we call stewardship.

My shorthand definition is that stewardship is what we do with what we have. What we have certainly has to do with time, talent, and treasure, but most important it has to do with the way we treat each other. What damages one damages all. What heals one strengthens the whole body.

I encourage you to increase your awareness of your impact on the earth and all its life, and to be more intentional with your purchases, your use of resources, and your relationship with all of God’s creation.

Get Ready for the Rummage Sale

from JOELLA KNAPP

The Episcopal Church Women of St. James is looking forward to the rummage sale, one of the church's main fundraising events. This season's sale will be the first weekend in June, opening at 9 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7.

Transporting of stored items and delivery of donated items will occur on June 4, and setup will be on Thursday, June 5. As usual, we will need our guys to help with the transport and moving, and our gals to help during setup and monitoring the sale.

If needed, the Women of St James will meet in mid-May to get organized for the sale. Watch for announcement of this "maybe" meeting. Closer to the event, sign-up sheets will appear in the parish hall.

We need all hands to make it spe-

cial and successful. There is quite a collection in the storage space already, but we still need your good used or no-longer-needed items.

A Boutique room will be added this year, with new, unusual, and quality items for sale at attractive (but not give-away) prices. No need to dig through the stacks for those special finds!

Your donations are tax-deductible. Please bring your items for donation to the church on June 4 or 5. Or call to arrange to store them at the warehouse. Please do not take anything to the church before the morning of June 4, as there is no room to store items.

■ Contact: Joella Knapp, 751-3059; Jonnie Sargent, 737-5420; or Dee Fleming, 758-8417.

Saying Goodbye to the Ashtons

We are sad to see them leaving, but the Ashton family—Dan, Karen, and their wonderful kids Don, Tasheena, Zachary, and Cheyenne, whom we have watched grow and blossom—is moving to Silver City.

On Sunday, May 25th, after the Sunday service, we will host a going-away pot luck luncheon for them. Sign-up sheets for offering food, drink, and help will be available in the parish hall beginning May 4th. A little help setting up and cleaning up will be most appreciated.

■ Information: Barbara Stillwell, 377-6833, or Cathy Guynes, 776-0068

First-Quarter Finances

from MIKE DOBBS

The Spring thaw has arrived and it showed up in the March financial results. Our expenses exceeded our income by more than \$8,500, and our March pledge income, if annualized, would leave us several thousand dollars below our budget. As always, we thank you for your incredible generosity to St. James with your time and talents, in addition to your financial support. We would ask that you consider advancing your pledge donations to assist with a likely cash flow shortage in the next couple of months.

On the Designated Funds front, from where our outreach programs are supported, we have taken in more than \$41,000 in new funds and spent almost \$24,400 year-to-date. The major recipients continue to be the Food Pantry, Rector's Discretionary Fund, and the Taos Youth Music School. We will include a full accounting of all Designated Funds in next month's financial report.

May God continue to bless St. James.

Financial Status—March 31, 2008

Operating Fund	2008 Budget	YTD (03/31)	March 2008
INCOME			
Pledges	\$285,000	\$86,348	\$20,428
Donations	36,000	10,220	3,173
Plate	8,500	2,306	1,250
Fundraising	7,500	100	0
Facilities Use/Rental	21,700	2,795	1,795
Other Sources	750	59	17
Total Income	\$359,450	\$101,828	\$26,663
EXPENSES			
Staff	\$209,108	\$51,666	\$17,133
Music Ministry	3,336	200	100
Education	6,000	180	193
Programs	1,300	43	0
Building and Grounds	26,525	9,618	2,256
Insurance	18,500	12,276	5,712
Communications	8,680	3,175	1,340
Office/Operations	27,850	5,538	1,569
Diocese Fair Share	46,700	12,909	5,635
National Fare Share	10,800	2,978	1,300
Total Expense	\$358,799	\$98,583	\$35,238
OUTCOME	\$621	\$3,245	-\$8,575

MAY

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.

For space considerations, we have abbreviated Taos Youth Music School (TYMS) and Youth Theatre Group (YTG) in the listings.

SUNDAY

Rummage Sale: You can finally clear those closets and shelves of the items you've been saving up for the rummage sale! Items may be delivered to the church on June 4 and 5, and the sale will take place June 6 and 7. *See story on page 4.*

04

- Worship & Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II)
- Sunday School: 9 AM
- Training for servers and acolytes: 10:45 AM

11

- Worship & Sunday School same, plus*
- **Food Ingathering:** 9:15 AM service
 - **Second-Sunday Brunch:** 9:30 AM
 - TCC Concert: 3 PM

18

- Worship & Sunday School same, plus*
- **Vestry Meeting:** 10:45 AM
 - **Pets and People Service:** 5 PM

25

- Worship & Sunday School same, plus*
- **Luncheon for Ashtons:** 11 AM (see p. 4)

MONDAY

05

- Book of Common Prayer Class: 10 AM
- Food Pantry
- Preparation: 11:30 AM
- TYMS: 3:30 PM

12

Monday schedule unchanged

19

- Book of Common Prayer Class: 10 AM
- Food Pantry
- Preparation: 11:30 AM

26

Church closed for Memorial Day Holiday.

TUESDAY

06

- **Wild Rivers Hike:** 8 AM (see p. 8)
- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Women's Bible Study: 6 PM
- YTG: 6:30 PM

13

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

20

- Women's Bible Study: 6 PM
- YTG: 6:30 PM

27

- Tuesday schedule unchanged, plus*
- **Wild Rivers Hike:** 8 AM (see p. 8)
 - **Women's Agape Luncheon:** 12:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

07

- **Cimarron River Fishing:** 8 AM (see p. 8)
- **Brown Bag Theology:** 12:30 PM (see p. 10)
- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM

14

- Brown Bag Theology: 12:30 PM
- TYMS: 3:30 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM

21

- **Rio Los Pinos Fishing:** 8 AM (see p. 8)
- Brown Bag Theology: 12:30 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM

28

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

THURSDAY

01

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

08

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

15

Thursday schedule unchanged, plus

- Bldg. Com: 4 PM

22

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

29

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

FRIDAY

02

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- **Mt. Bike West Rim Trail:** 9 AM (see p. 8)
Church office closed; rector's day off

09

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- **Flechal Trail Hike:** 8 AM (see p. 8)
Church office closed; rector's day off

16

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- **Mt. Bike Bernadin Lake:** 8 AM (see p. 8)
Church office closed; rector's day off

23

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- **Gallegos Canyon Hike:** 8 AM (see p. 8)
Church office closed; rector's day off

30

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- **Raft Trip:** 7:30 AM (see p. 8)
- **Synoptic Gospels Study:** 9:30 AM
Rector's day off

SATURDAY

03

- **Building Stewardship:** 9 AM
Rector's day off

10

- **Taos Community Chorus (TCC):** 7 PM (see p. 12)
Rector's day off

17

- **TYMS Spring Concert:** 2 PM (see p. 12)
Rector's day off

24

No events; church office closed. Rector's day off

31

No events; church office closed. Rector's day off

Summer Invites Outdoor Challenges

With spring already feeling like summer, we've planned many activities to draw you into Taos' wonderful wilderness areas. The degree of difficulty for hikes is based on elevation and miles traveled. It is possible to divide the Friday hikes into two groups, one group for slower hikers and the other for faster hikers.

For your safety, helmets are required on all bike rides.

As always, friends of St. James are welcome, too.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	START LOCATION
5/2	Mt. Bike (easy) West Rim Trail	9 AM	Gorge Bridge Rest Area
5/6	Hike (easy) Wild Rivers	8 AM	KTAO Lot
5/7	Fishing Cimarron River	8 AM	St. James to carpool
5/9	Hike (moderate) Flechalo Trail	8 AM	St. James
5/16	Mt. Bike (moderate) Bernadin Lake	8 AM	FR 438 access of 518
5/21	Fishing Rio Los Pinos	8 AM	St. James
5/23	Hike (moderate) Gallegos Canyon	8 AM	St. James
5/27	Hike (easy) Wild Rivers	8 AM	KTAO Lot
5/30	Raft Trip, Los Rios Guides	7:30 AM	St. James
<i>This is a reservation trip; cost will be about \$50</i>			
6/6	Hike(advanced) Yerba to Lobo Peak	7:30 AM	Yerba Trailhead
6/10	Hike (easy) Amole Canyon	8 AM	St. James
6/11	Fishing Cruces Basin Wilderness	8 AM	St. James
6/13	Kayak (introductory) Eagle Nest Lake	8 AM	St. James
6/17	Hike (easy) Williams Lake	8 AM	Williams Lake Trailhead
6/20	Hike (advanced) Goose Lake Trail	7:30 AM	KTAO Lot
6/27	Mt. Bike (moderate) Amole Canyon	8 AM	St. James
7/2	Fishing Conejos River	7 AM	St. James
7/9	Fishing Valle Vidal Costilla	7 AM	St. James
7/11	Hike (advanced) Gold Hill via Long Canyon	7:30 AM	TSV Parking Lot
7/15	Hike (easy) Agua Sarca Trail	7:30 AM	St. James
7/18	Kayak Rio Grande, Co. Line/Embudo	8 AM	St. James
7/23	Fishing Valle Vidal-Shuree Pond	7 AM	St. James
7/25	Mt. Bike Brazos	8 AM	KTAO Lot
8/1	Hike (advanced) Jicarita Peak via Serpent Lake	7 AM	St. James
8/6	Fishing Cimarron River	8 AM	St. James
8/8	Hike (advanced) Italianos to Gavilan	7:30 AM	Italianos Trailhead
8/15	Mt. Bike Brazos	8 AM	KTAO Lot
8/22	Hike (advanced) Gavilan via Columbine	7:30 AM	KTAO Lot
8/27	Fishing Rio Chama	7 AM	St. James
8/29	Mt. Bike Garcia Park to Black Lake	7 AM	St. James

■ Questions or more info: Bruce Marier, 751-7458.

Canvas Bag Crew Helping All of Us

from JONNIE SARGENT

Thank you so much to the women who have been helping to sew the canvas totebags for Food Pantry distribution during the past couple of months.

The nimble fingers of Joella Knapp, June Fancher, Winn Kalmon, Rebecca Hullum, Caryle Zorumski, and myself have produced 150 bags, and still counting. We plan to do 400. It's a bit of work, but the process is fun when we do it together, and the results are very handsome, sturdy canvas totebags.

Some of the bags will go on sale to parishioners soon, to raise funds for the Food Pantry. We will offer these environmentally friendly bags at reasonable prices.

Also a big thanks for the donations of materials and funds to buy materials for the bags. We are again asking for your help, not only to sew but for funds to buy additional materials. We

work on Tuesdays, from 12:30 p.m. until about 3:00 p.m.. Joella and I furnish the sewing equipment.

■ Information: Jonnie Sargent, 737-5420.

Filling the Empty Bowls

Our first annual Empty Bowls fundraiser was a big success. The hard work of Suzy Heald and her committee—Sylvia Dobbs, Janet Scott, Ruth Hand, and Marilyn Farrow—really paid off, figuratively and literally.

Nearly 300 handmade bowls were donated for the event, to be sold with lunch or individual purchase, and we thank the many artists who contributed the artful and distinctive bowls.

All proceeds—\$6,000—have been designated to support our Food Pantry in its good work of feeding the hungry in our community.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF STEWARDSHIP

■ **The Power of Friendship** During the past year, a group of women referring to themselves as Friends of Barbara have scheduled time to help Barbara Dolbey in many small ways as she endured a rigorous regime of chemotherapy. She and her husband Steve have expressed appreciation many times for this steadfast support team.

Now a new team is forming. The Friends of Heather are offering similar support to Heather Liebman during the months of regular trips to Albuquerque for reconstructive follow-up to the surgery she had in April.

Novel Theology

On May 29, at 1 p.m., at the home of Carol Larimore, a discussion on *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen will be held.

Ninety-year-old Jacob Jankowski lives in a world of memories — a circus world, the world of his youth ... the world that was both salvation and hell.

Surprising, poignant, and funny, *Water for Elephants* is that rare novel with a story so engrossing, one is reluctant to put it down; with characters so engaging, they continue to live long after the last page has been turned; with a world built of wonder, a world so real, one starts to breathe its air.

■ For directions: Carol, 776-4515.

Brown Bag Theology

During May we continue our discussion of *You Don't Have to Be Wrong for Me to Be Right: Finding Faith Without Fanaticism* by Brad Hirschfield. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the group's choice of the next book.

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

■ More information: Norm Ferguson, 751-0049

Prayers for Global Restoration

During the Sunday morning services on Earth Day, a special Prayers of the People, developed by Lana Green, focused our thoughts on God's creation, Earth. Here is an excerpt.

*All creation—each star and every flower, each drop of water
and every person ... explodes with the revelation of your Sacred Mystery. ...*

*We pray you, in your infinite mercy, to help us in our sincere efforts
to begin Global Restoration here in the St. James community. ...*

*May we always walk gently upon this earth, in right relationship,
nurtured by your love, taking only what we need,
giving back to the earth in gratitude,*

*sharing what we have, honoring all with reverence,
reconciling and healing, mindful of those who will come after,
recognizing our proper place as part of, not apart from, your creation.*

*Grant us the strength and courage, we pray,
to bring such radical transformation into your world.*

Then we too, with the very stones, will shout, "Hosanna."

Milestones

Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Eckert, Anne Franklin, Suzanne Marier, Nancy Nesbit
- 2 Richard Nichols
- 3 Margaret A. Davis, Bill Voss
- 4 Jack Ellingboe, Judy Miller, Angela Pacheco, Jim Weatherstone
- 5 Allison Guynes
- 6 Winn Kalmon
- 7 Sybil Bale, Amber Phelps
- 8 Boden Franklin, Jean Pittman, Cristina Sumners
- 14 Don Baucum
- 15 Sharon Chafin
- 16 Jeremiah Buchanan
- 17 Maya Olonia
- 18 Summer Huetner
- 22 Barbara Martinez
- 23 Charles Clamurro, Gretchen Rockenfield
- 26 Bonnie Ann Gilchrist
- 28 Herbert Schrader
- 29 Catherine Guynes
- 30 Marilyn Rogers, Marcia Shultis

Anniversaries

- 13 Stephen & Barbara Dolbey
- 23 Brad & Chris Dunbar

Condolences

We mourn the sudden and tragic death of Larry Salmon in mid-April. Please keep his wife Sandy in your prayers.

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

Community Chorus Voices Will Soar

Mother's Day weekend is the perfect time for music, and St. James has the perfect setting for a musical event that will uplift all hearts.

The Taos Community Chorus will perform two concerts in our nave: Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, May 11, at 3 p.m. A reception will follow the Sunday concert. The chorus will sing Brahms's *Requiem*, a beautiful work of consolation and hope.

Tickets available at the door: \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students, under 12 free.

Music School Spring Concert

Taos Youth Music School is winding down its school year. The focus now is on the Spring Concert, May 17 in the St. James sanctuary at 2 p.m. Students will show off what they've been learning in the many classes.

A reception will follow in the parish hall along with a 50-50 raffle to raise money for the school.

Tickets are available from Anna Mae Patterson and Penny Voss, who serve on the TYMS board of directors.

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