

ST. JAMES Good News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

September 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.

Caring for Others

from ANNE MARIE PETROKUBI

On Friday mornings, after checking my calendar for the color of the day, I start preparing for Sunday services.

The altar hangings correspond to the color of the day. Green is the most frequent and is used from Pentecost until Advent. The symbolism of violet, white, green, red, gold, black, rose, and other colors serve to underline moods appropriate to a season of the liturgical year or may highlight a special occasion. When appropriate, I will change the color of the altar hangings.

I set up the altar so that the service will flow easily and beautifully. The candles are placed symmetrically on each side of the altar; the missal stand is positioned for the celebrant to read; the corporal is unfolded in the middle to catch any bits of the Eucharistic bread. I enjoy

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Labor Day Picnic

We will gather Sept. 1, starting at 1 p.m., at the Taos Junction Campground, on the Rio Grande near the bridge that crosses the river to go up to Carson. Picnickers can enjoy the river to wade in, an easy hiking trail (Orilla Verde), and grills for our burgers and brats on this great afternoon together.

A sign-up sheet in the parish hall records attendance and covered dish offerings. The committee will bring paper goods and cold drinks.

■ For information or directions: Patti Frankel, 776-1152; Maureen Weber, 377-3275; or Joella Knapp, 751-3059.

Fall Fund(and Fun!)Raising

from JESS HEALD

☞ Frito Pie and Bingo Bash

We will fill the parish hall with fun on Saturday, Sept. 27. This church-community event is certainly one to invite your friends to. For only \$20, attendees will get a frito pie dinner and 12 Bingo cards. Winners will get prizes. You'll want to reserve your spot early as participation will be limited to 200 people (parish hall capacity). Tickets will go on sale Sunday, Sept 7. To reserve your tickets, call Jess Heald at

758-8125 or Angela Pacheco at 737-0714. We need some volunteers to supply food items and to work the kitchen that evening. Also, if you have a suitable prize (\$25-\$30 value) to donate, please call.

☞ Wine Tasting Party

Bruce Marier, our resident sommelier, will host this exciting event at a date and cost to be announced later, probably in early November. Participation will be limited to 40. To make

Caring for Others

From page 1

having each element in its place on the altar. I know that I am contributing to the prayer community by my involvement in the service.

Next, I set up the credence table (the little table to the side of the altar). I place on it a chalice for each server to give to the communicants, a ciborium to hold the bread, water for the washing of hands, and wine and communion bread for the feast. If I forget anything the server will have to go into the sacristy to find the missing item and the service will be interrupted. I take pride in having everything convenient and ready for the priest.

Finally, I refill the oil in the sanctuary lamp, which hangs from the ceiling. This lamp proclaims to all the presence of consecrated bread and wine in the aumbrey (the cabinet in the wall above the credence table). If there is not enough bread or wine for the communicants, then the priest will use the bread and wine in the aumbrey.

When I was a child, my mother always chastised me about cleaning my room and keeping things neat. Consequently, I was surprised at how satisfying caring for the altar has been for me. Because I am naturally quiet, I feel that caring for the altar is a way for me to care for others.

Brown Bag Theology

The group meets every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Santiago Room to discuss a book selected by the group. See the Sunday bulletin for the current book. People are encouraged to bring their lunches.

■ For information: Norm Ferguson, 751-0049.

advance reservations, call Jess Heald at 758-8125.

☞ Chico Bag Sales

In late October or early November, we'll sell these popular nylon shopping bags — important recycling aids (no more paper or plastic bags) that also make great Christmas gifts. Only \$5 each, they will be on sale in the parish hall following Sunday services and in the church office during the week.

☞ Pet Flagstone Sponsorships

For \$20 for each flagstone, you can help support the project to build the back patio this fall. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to cover all materials. A work party (some party!!) of church members will then lay down a beautiful flagstone patio. Sponsor a flagstone of your own. You'll find a sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

☞ St. James Christmas Cards

Featuring our stained glass cross, these individually created cards will go on sale this fall for \$2 each. Each card tells the St. James story on the back. A sample is on display in the parish hall. We will order in early October, and must have your estimated quantities so we can order the proper amount. Sign the sheet in the parish hall, or call the office or Jess Heald at 758-8125.

Fall Music School Classes

On Sept. 2, fall classes begin for the Taos Youth Music School. This free after-school community program is co-sponsored by St. James and the Taos Community Chorus. All classes are held in the parish hall, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

On Mondays, the Gospel Youth Choir (7th to 12th graders) will fill the hall with voices of celebration.

Two Garage Band classes will be held: one for 7th and 8th graders on Mondays and the other for 9th to 12th graders on Wednesdays.

General Music instruction for various instruments will be offered on Tuesdays for 4th to 6th graders and on Wednesdays for 2nd and 3rd graders.

■ For more information: Tim Long, 586-0112, or Kim Covington, 758-5052.

Rector's Reflections

New Life: Looking at the Big Picture

from FATHER ROCKY SCHUSTER

During the election season there is a tendency to point to differences between people. Of course, the candidates are trying to differentiate themselves while defining their opponent in contrast. The pundits and pollsters are busy carving up the population by every imaginable demographic category, looking for ways to improve their readership or ratings.

There is certainly some value in understanding the variety of parts that make up the whole. Sometimes, however, we get so caught up in the details we lose sight of the complete picture. It happens in the church as easily as anyplace else. We can make quick work of dividing ourselves—north/south, east/west, left/right, up/down. It happens at just about every level, from the parish congregation to the global communion.

An important time for us to pay attention to the details so that we can better understand the big picture is when we are in transition. St. James just went through a transition, centering on the call to a new rector. Our diocese is now preparing to call a new bishop. Information-gathering will use a number of different methods to collect the details and varied components of our life in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. One part of the process is already underway: the New Life Healing and Reconciliation process.

As we know, many in the diocese feel polarized, disenfranchised, or otherwise injured by the contentiousness during the past few years. The New Life process is designed to honor the difference and disagreements and yet help to find a way for us to come together around a common life. Some of what we learn from the process will inform our search for a new bishop.

The search committee that participated in my call to St. James told me that parishioners wanted a rector who would keep this diverse congregation together and as part of the Episcopal Church. You have done an extraordinary job of finding that bigger picture here. I believe that you have some experience that would be valuable to the diocese as a whole.

Part of our Diocesan Convocation will focus on the New Life process. There are also retreats offered around the diocese—in El Paso on Sept. 12-13 and in Los Alamos Oct. 3-4. If you would like to share the St. James experience at any of these events or would like more information about them, please ask me.

Financial Results Through July

from MIKE DOBBS

In September we will catch up on our Fair Share contributions to both the diocese and the national church; this will affect our overall budget outlook for the year. So, as we enter the fall, with school beginning and activities picking up, please remember St. James, as we all work to make ends meet and manage our commitments to our families, our church, and our community.

Thank you all again for all your support and may God continue to bless St. James.

Financial Status—July 31, 2008

Operating Fund	2008 Budget	YTD
INCOME		
Pledges	\$285,000	\$170,976
Donations	36,000	45,057
Plate	8,500	4,144
Fundraising	7,500	5,219
Facilities Use/Rental	21,700	9,990
Other Sources	750	126
Total Income	\$359,450	\$235,512
EXPENSES		
Staff	\$209,108	\$113,102
Music Ministry	3,336	2,287
Education	6,000	733
Programs	1,300	366
Building and Grounds	26,525	18,965
Insurance	18,500	16,501
Communications	8,680	7,797
Office/Operations	27,850	15,058
Diocese Fair Share	46,700	16,142
National Fare Share	10,800	7,047
Other Expenses*		3,517
Total Expense	\$358,799	\$215,346
OUTCOME	\$621	\$20,166

*Cost of fundraising dinner in May

SEPTEMBER

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

Holiday Bazaar Workshop

Elves, take notice! We'll plan and start our handwork together for the sale in November.

07

- Worship & Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II)
- Sunday School: 9 AM
- **Bell Choir Practice:** 10:45 AM

14

Sunday schedule unchanged, plus

- **Food Ingathering:** 9:15 AM service
- **Green Com.:** 11 AM
- **Pets and People Service:** 5 PM

21

Worship, Sunday School, and Bell Choir as scheduled, plus

- **Vestry Meeting:** 10:45 AM

28

- Worship & Holy Eucharist: 8 AM (Rite I), 9:15 AM (Rite II)
- Sunday School: 9 AM
- Bell Choir Practice: 10:45 AM

MONDAY

01

- *** Labor Day Picnic:** 1 PM (see p. 1)
- Church closed

08

- Book of Common Prayer Class: 10 AM
- Food Pantry Preparation: 11:30 AM
- TYMS: 4 PM
- Taos Com. Chorus rehearsal: 6:30 PM

15

Monday schedule unchanged

22

Monday schedule unchanged

29

Monday schedule unchanged

TUESDAY

02

- Taos Youth Music School fall term: 4 PM (see p. 3)

09

Tuesday schedule unchanged

16

Tuesday schedule unchanged

23

Tuesday schedule unchanged

30

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

WEDNESDAY

03

- *** Brown Bag Theology:** 12:30 PM (see p. 3)
- TYMS: 4 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM
- Women's Study Group: 6:30 PM

10

- *Wednesday schedule unchanged, plus*
- *** Fishing Rio Grande/Red River:** 8 AM

17

- Brown Bag Theology: 12:30 PM
- Holy Eucharist with Healing: 6 PM
- TYMS: 4 PM
- Women's Study Group: 6:30 PM

24

Wednesday schedule unchanged

THURSDAY

04

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

11

- Bldg. Com.: 9:30 AM
- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM

18

- Food Pantry Distribution: 3:30 PM

25

- *Thursday schedule unchanged, plus*
- **Holiday Bazaar Workshop:** 9:30 AM
- Bldg. Com: 9:30 AM
- *** Novel Theology:** 1 PM (see p. 10)

FRIDAY

05

- **Hike Wheeler Peak:** 7 AM
- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- Choir Practice: 7 PM
- *Church office closed; rector's day off*

12

- **Bike Costilla Pass:** 7:30 AM
- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- Choir Practice: 7 PM
- *Church office closed; rector's day off*

19

- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- Choir Practice: 7 PM
- *Church office closed; rector's day off*

26

- **Hike Trampas Lakes:** 7:30 AM
- Centering Prayer: 8 AM
- **Synoptic Gospels Study:** 9:30 AM
- *Church office closed; rector's day off*

SATURDAY

06

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

13

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

20

- **Hike Lake Fork:** 7:30 AM
- *Church office closed. Rector's day off*

27

- *** Frito Pie & Bingo Bash:** 6 PM (see p. 2)
- *Church office closed. Rector's day off*

Taos Community Chorus Rehearsals On Sept. 8 in our parish hall, the TCC will begin weekly rehearsals for its 2008 winter concerts. No auditions are required—just a love of singing. *For more information:* 758-6966 or 751-5811.

Vestry Stewardship

At the July vestry meeting, each vestry members submitted an individual stewardship statement; these, along with an introductory statement, below, were designated for distribution to all parishoners.

• • •

The St. James vestry acknowledges that all we have is by the grace of God. We pledge our time, talent, and financial support in gratitude for God's gifts. We commit to use these resources responsibly, keeping in mind not only the needs of our parish, but the concerns and needs of the community and the world.

Stewardship is necessary for the support of St. James and its many outreach programs and it is ennobling for the people involved. "We do better in our lives, when we give," David Ramsey, financial advisor. —Mary Ann Boughton

I acknowledge that all I have comes from our generous and gracious God who asks that it be used to the glory of God and the welfare of his people. I commit to make a pledge of my time, talent, and finances to St. James for its ongoing life and ministry. I pledge to give in proportion to what I have received and to work toward the standard of the tithe. —Mike Dobbs

I am in complete accord with our vestry stewardship statement. I do consider my stewardship to be a personal concern that has changed over the years. I best recognize the grace of God in the out of doors—my spirituality seems to be the strongest there. St James enables me to interact and care for our neighbors. The food pantry has become a major measure of my stewardship as it enables me to share my abundance with those less fortunate. —Dick Frankel

Stewardship is an integral part of my worship. It gives me the opportunity to work toward fulfilling our Lord's wishes through commitments of time, talent, and treasure including our church's standard of the tithe as a personal goal. —Jess Heald

To serve with an open heart, an open hand, and a closed mouth. —Heather Liebman

I used to think that the Christian Imperative was "Justice, Stewardship, and Love." But I now see stewardship as a manifestation of both justice and love. In that light, my whole life is about stewardship. I have an adopted son at least in part because Cristina and I had resources we needed to share with someone who needed them. I chose the job I have because I have skills and knowledge I need to share with others. I try to avoid using Styrofoam because it's wasteful of natural resources. To me, stewardship is not only about contributing my income, it's about sharing all the

resources God entrusted to us (financial, abilities, time, and natural resources) with those who need them. —Colin Nicholls

Stewardship to me means taking action to serve God. This means serving in the church and in our greater community. Stepping up and saying I'll help when needed. Sharing the wealth and gifts that God has given us with a happy heart. —Angela Pacheco

With God's Grace I pledge my time, talent, and financial support in working on the vestry, chairing Education Ministry, and tithing. I want St. James to offer quality educational programs, which will be measured by attendance. I want to start an educational outreach program for the Taos community. —Stacy A. Quinn

Who Is a Greeter?

from BAMBI STURBOIS

The answer is "All of us"! We are all called to be hosts in the Lord's House for those who come to St. James on a Sunday, even if we are not the designated greeter wearing a red Welcome ribbon.

Ideally the welcome comes in the parking lot, as we see new folks walk up to the church. A warm smile and "Good Morning" set the tone. For those with children, they need to be shown to a Sunday School room and introduced to the staff.

Do tell anyone you greet on your way into church that you hope to visit with them during coffee hour. If they are not Episcopalians, consider sitting beside them to help them through the service.

If visitors sit by you in church and you notice them having trouble

with the service books, offer assistance and make a point of inviting them to join us for coffee following the service.

We all share responsibility to show hospitality to the stranger. If you are wearing your nametag, this helps them get to know you. Remember, a church becomes truly welcoming when everybody is the "greeter."

The Newcomers Committee has just welcomed some new members. Wearing the red Welcome ribbons now are Walter Allen, Elaine French, Sylvia Dobbs, Charlene Cain, Todd de Burlo, Cynthia Bay, and Ralph Sweet.

Also thanks to Newell and Mary Ann Boughton for their past service as they move on to other positions in the church.

Resolving Rummage Sale Storage Problems

from JOELLA KNAPP

In a previous GOOD NEWS, you learned that our organization, the Episcopal Women of St. James, no longer has use of the storage facility we have enjoyed for many years. Available storage, however, is necessary to support any rummage sale on the scale we wish to have, so that we can continue to provide funding to our church outreach programs.

As nothing else has materialized, the executive committee of the ECW has decided to rent a storage space from Taos Vacation Rentals. They have given us a 20 percent reduction on the usual rental fee. We realize that this will eat into our outreach endeavors, but also hope that it will be a

temporary measure. We offer this as a best option for solving the storage problem.

To make good use of this space, we'll implement new "rules" for rummage donations. On Sunday and Monday mornings, parishioners can bring donations, in bags or boxes, to the food pantry rooms of the parish hall. We will then take the bundles to the storage space. We cannot accept furniture or other large items until the week of the rummage sale.

Our rent of the space begins Sept. 1. Please call me (751-3059) with ideas or offers of support—we need all the help we can get!

Siddhartha's Journey for September

Novel Theology participants will gather Thursday, Sept. 25, to discuss *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse. We meet Siddhartha as a young man starting on a lifelong journey to find and experience God. Along the way he encounters amazing people who help him in his quest for self-knowledge and wisdom.

The session begins at 1 p.m. at the home of Elaine French and Walter Allen, 1420 Berninghaus.

■ For directions: Elaine, 758-1043.

Milestones

Birthdays

- 1 Patricia Fooshee, Sylvia Hollen, Don Pennington
- 4 Alena Sweet
- 5 Melinda Bedell
- 6 Colin Nicholls
- 8 Sarah Backus
- 10 Craig Heino
- 11 Debbie Jagers, Marcia Weatherstone
- 12 Terry Pennington
- 13 Bob Draper
- 16 Wes Patterson
- 17 Linda Aubrecht, John Bailey, Esther Bass
- 21 Kay Fancher, Ron Larimore
- 22 Janelle Sperow Palma
- 24 Mary Ann Boughton, Larry Friday
- 27 Jordan Chafin, Tony Palma
- 30 Klaus Penzel

Anniversaries

- 1 James & Elisabeth Watt
- 11 John & Rosemary Cain
- 17 Kay & June Fancher

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

Jess 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

CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF STEWARDSHIP

New Prayer Books

Due to recent growth in the number of Sunday worshipers, some of our pews suffered a shortage of copies of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

One of our parishioners solved this problem by buying 50 new copies. Since there was no budget for this expense, this generous donation is especially appreciated.

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

Thanks for Supporting Our Sales

from JOELLA KNAPP

While considering options for the future of St James' rummage sales (*see page 10*), it is important to acknowledge a major source of support for past sales. For many years, Edd Mitchell (and then Kathy Mitchell) generously gave us the use of storage space in their warehouse. This space was convenient and cost us nothing. We got used to it, and operated as if its availability would go on forever.

Nothing stays the same, however; now we realize what a good thing we had at "Edd's Place." Since Edd's passing, Kathy has been an invaluable help, sorting through the donations and organizing things for us. She made the work of the actual rummage sale immeasurably easier and far more pleasant.

So now, as we move on to other, hopefully satisfactory, storage arrangements and a new "look" for our rummage sales, we'll always remember both Edd and Kathy for their gracious contributions to the life of St. James. *Many thanks!*

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