

**St. James on the Lake Episcopal Church  
Kemp, TX**

**Annual Meeting and Reports  
February 28, 2021**

**Priest-in-Charge Report**  
Submitted by The Rev. Samuel Adams

Greetings, St. James, and welcome to this year's Annual Parish Meeting...in a format that we would have never imagined we'd be meeting in a year ago. But here we are, and God is faithful. Needless to say, 2020 was a year like no other! The pandemic turned our lives and world upside down, and it continues to be a dominant orienting reality for us day by day. While many of the incredible social events and ministry activities of St. James had to be put on hold this last year, life continued, and you all figured out ways to gather together for worship and other activities, which kept the fire of faith alive and well in this place.

Perhaps the biggest change from last year to this year was the end of Fr. Randy's tenure as Rector of St. James. He retired at the end of this year, and his ministry was rightfully honored and celebrated on his last Sunday, December 27. I know you all join me in giving great thanks to God for Fr. Randy's ministry among you the last four years. His faithful and passionate service of Christ and you all as his flock leaves St. James in a stable and robust position, poised for what God has for you all in this next season.

A few encouraging highlights from last year that are worth naming:

- In the face of the incredible challenges, this parish that has been so committed to outreach did not let the difficulties of the pandemic dampen your outreaching spirit, but you adjusted where you could to continue providing meals to those in need, clothing to those being released from prison, and school supplies to kids that might otherwise go without. It is incredibly inspiring and encouraging to see you all continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in this season. Well done, good and faithful servants!
- For every church in the country, typical metrics used to gauge congregational health, like average Sunday attendance and regular tithes and offerings, became completely irrelevant last year. With the upheaval of our typical rhythms of life and community, many churches worried about how they would keep things going financially. But thanks be to God that throughout last year, your faithfulness in giving, which is really an outflow of your faithfulness to Christ and to his Body, the Church, remained consistent and so allowed St. James to be in a great position to continue life and ministry throughout the pandemic in augmented ways, and we're poised to re-emerge from the pandemic with strength and stability that many churches won't have. That is a testament to your faithfulness, to your responsiveness to God's work in and through St. James. I want to encourage you to continue giving

I'm grateful for the ways St. James and Fr. Randy prepared for and thought through how we can gather together safely as a church community as the pandemic continued and various necessary protocols were put into place by the diocese. While I know we all are eager for the day when things will be back to "normal," we are also grateful for the protocols that allow us to gather together safely and regularly in the meantime. I'm also grateful that we have been able to restart a few activities that had been on pause, like our Wednesday Noon Eucharist, our Stations of the Cross during Lent, and a book study during Lent.

As we continue into 2021, St. James is in a season of transition as you search for a new rector. Seasons of transition can be difficult, but they are also filled with opportunity. Particularly, there

is an opportunity in this season to spend time reflecting as a parish on big questions, like who is St. James as a parish? Where is God leading us in this next season of life and ministry? This involves looking back at what God has done in and among you in the past, reflecting on what gifts God has blessed St. James with that might be offered to God for the sake of his kingdom, and patiently listening and looking for where God is breathing new life into St. James today. I know the questionnaire Carol and the vestry have put together will help in this process. Let me encourage you to engage it with deep prayer and reflection, knowing that God has great plans for St. James, and they involve leading you all deeper into the risen life of his Son so that you may be more faithful servants in his world.

As I mentioned in previous announcements, this year's Annual Meeting does not involve any decisions needing to be voted on as a congregation. Normally there would be two things to vote on: new vestry members, and delegates to Diocesan Convention. The bishop has agreed to freeze the vestry in order to provide greater stability and continuity as you search for a new rector. And we had two people volunteer for the two delegate spots for convention, which worked out great. We're grateful to Tina Wage and Annette Jenkins who have agreed to serve as Diocesan Convention delegates this year. And we're also grateful to Marian Flowers and Kelly Boughton, who are on the vestry, have agreed to serve as alternates.

In the reports to come, you will be encouraged as you hear about the various ways God has continued to work in and through St. James over this past year, and about the opportunities that lie before us as we move forward in faith in 2021. As we "look up" to experience the majesty of God in worship, as we "reach out" to be the hands and feet of Christ through ministering to those in need, and as we "gather in" to share life together and grow as followers of Jesus, we are living into who God is calling us to be, and we experience his life among us even now. May God continue to bless and keep us as we seek to follow in him.

**Senior Warden Report**  
Submitted by Carol Mayo

Needless to say, this has been an interesting year to become your Senior Warden. We started our year out as a typical year until the rug was pulled out from under our feet. The challenges of trying to keep our community together has been daunting. I know we all miss not being able to worship together at one service, coming together for coffee hour and bible study, our many group meetings, Hungry Bunch, and Evening Prayer and potluck dinners. With the resignation of Fr. Randy, we are now moving forward with the search process of a new rector to shepherd our congregation. Through it all I feel that we doing as well as can be expected. I thank Fr. Sam for his guidance and trying to make different opportunities for us to worship and study together. I do look forward to the day when we can all be back as one.

**Junior Warden Report**  
Submitted by Mike Horton

Hi, this is Mike Horton, your Junior Warden at St. James. I first must tell you how honored I am to be the Junior Warden at St. James. It's been kind of a crazy year for 2020. We held everything together as far as building and repairs. We had to do a little light repair on our freezer in the kitchen, but other than that it's been kind of a trying year. We haven't had very many meetings in the building, so we haven't used much in the building. We have a great vestry right now, we're looking forward to 2021, getting a new rector, and we need your prayers and thoughts. If you have any ideas or ways to make things better, please give me a call. God bless and pray for us all. Thank you.

**2020 Financial Statement and 2021 Budget**  
Submitted by Carol Mayo, Senior Warden

We are very pleased to announce that even with the multiple changes that occurred this past year that we ended with a net income of \$22,787.42. I know that we did not have some of the expenses that we might have had during the year, but still we ended on a good note.

We have based our 2021 budget on a combination of what we budgeted for 2020 and what we actually spent in 2020. We made some adjustments, but not many. We left the figures for Clergy Pension and Clergy Health Insurance the same as what we spent in 2020 since we do not know demographics of our new rector at this time.

See budget on next page.

St. James on the Lake Episcopal Church 2021 Operating Budget

	2021 Budget	2020 Actual	2020 Budget
<b>Operating Income</b>			
Income from Offerings	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 145,794.70	\$ 150,000.00
Interest Income (CD)	\$ 400.00	\$ 530.31	\$ 1,034.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Accounting	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -
Clergy Supply Priest	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 2,200.00
Clergy Stipend and Housing	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Clergy Pension	\$ 9,818.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 10,800.00
Clergy Health Insurance	\$ 20,900.00	\$ 20,584.34	\$ 18,000.00
Life Insurance/Workman's Comp	\$ 490.00	\$ 487.02	\$ 250.00
Clergy Continuing Education	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Mileage/Expense Reimbursement	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,056.34	\$ 4,500.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 14,135.00	\$ 11,914.94	\$ 17,114.00
Diocesan Assessment Rebate			\$ -
Liability Insurance	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,439.25	\$ 3,600.00
Dues, Memberships, & Fees	\$ 150.00	\$ 143.00	\$ -
Janitorial Services	\$ 7,650.00	\$ 7,270.00	\$ 6,780.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,263.38	\$ 3,000.00
Building Reserve			\$ 1,200.00
Landscape Maintenance	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,833.13	\$ 4,500.00
Postage	\$ 100.00	\$ 68.67	\$ 110.00
Church Supplies	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 2,276.99	\$ 2,400.00
Sacristy Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 177.81	
Office Supplies	\$ 200.00	\$ 74.36	\$ 175.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 750.00	\$ 380.59	\$ 1,500.00
Electric	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,304.00	\$ 5,220.00
Water	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,462.27	\$ 1,770.00
Phone	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,420.75	\$ 1,500.00
Internet Domain	\$ 20.17	\$ -	
Website	\$ 65.00		\$ 85.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 142,728.17	\$ 134,256.84	\$ 145,204.00
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	\$ 145,400.00	\$ 146,325.01	\$ 151,034.00
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ 2,671.83	\$ 12,068.17	\$ 5,830.00

## **Search Committee Report**

Submitted by Carol Mayo

We are starting the process of searching for our new rector. Bishop Sumner has given us permission to freeze the vestry for 2021. The vestry has asked Paul Lasiter to be our liaison between the search committee and the congregation. This weekend the survey of what each of you would like to see in our next rector has been sent out to be completed online. If you are unable to complete online there are paper copies at the church that you can complete. As soon as we have the results the search committee will discuss and talk with Fr. Rob about our needs so he can start looking at interested parties. As we move forward with this process, Paul will keep all of you updated on where we are in the process. We ask each and every one of you to keep this process in your prayers.

## **Outreach Reports**

### **Kairos Report**

Submitted by Carol Mayo

Unfortunately, because of restrictions put into place because of CoVid19, we have not been able to host a weekend at the Beto unit since November 2019. We have asked volunteers to try to write more letters than they might normally during these months of not allowing visitors into the prison. We are waiting for our next Advisory Council meeting to discuss the possibility of a May #62 weekend. Thank you to all who keep our men and women in white and their families in your prayers. This has been a stressful time for all at Beto and other facilities within the Texas prison system as they have had to deal with CoVid outbreaks within a very confined area and then on top of that not been able to have visits from family. We look forward to when we can hold our next Kairos weekend as well as Prayer and Share Saturdays.

### **Helping Hands Report**

Submitted by Carol Mayo

Thank you to all who support the Helping Hands ministry which funds the back-to-school supplies for all of our Angel Food Families and Forever Families. For those who are new to St. James we collect mason jars twice a year (January and June). The original idea was that you would put your loose change in the jar. Now we prefer that you change your loose change to paper or a check for the sake of the person counting the funds. This past year we are happy to report that St. James supplied 30 Angel Food children and 9 Forever Families children with the requested school supplies.

## **Celebrate Forever Families Report**

Submitted by Gail Beaupre

Celebrate Forever Families is one of our outreach programs. It is a faith-based ministry committed to reaching mothers and their children in crises.

At the moment they have 6 mothers and eight children. Our Executive Director Melanie Shakelford hopes that by the end of 2021 Forever Families will be able to serve up to 14 families full time residential program and also provide temporary shelter for women and children needing a safe place to go. They will be referred by local law enforcement.

Melanie has recently accepted the Direction position after the founder June Groom retired. During her two or three months the job has been very challenging. Just recently during our stormy snow days they had a burst water pipe causing flooding. All was handled with love and prayer.

The total estimated expenses for 2021 is \$247,270.00. It is the hope and prayer of Melanie and the Board of Directors that in the year 2021 St. James and the parishioners will continue to support our ministry with your gifts of donations. We also thank you for your generous support by attending our fund raisers which we hope will continue later in the year.

There is always a need for volunteers to help with various classes for the mothers, be with children when mothers go to classes, teach a class such as gardening, cooking, crafting, building a resume & interview skills.

We have a website if interested in helping this ministry financially or skillfully: [www.foreverfamiliesprogram.org](http://www.foreverfamiliesprogram.org). The telephone number is 903-498-1076. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 216, Kaufman, TX 75143.

Thank you again, St. James on the Lake for being a part of this life-changing ministry.

## **Angel Food Ministry and One Man's Treasure Reports**

Submitted by Annette Jenkins

See pages below

Just as 2020 was a challenging year for all of us individually as we faced a terrible pandemic, it was a challenge for all charities, including our St James ministries, to figure out a way to continue to serve the many individuals and families who were in need of our services more than ever.

We give thanks to God for His guidance to show us how to modify our programs to fit within health guidelines and government mandates created by COVID and for His provision shown through your support that allowed us to continue to serve.

I have been tasked with sharing an overview of our Angel Food Ministry and One Man's Treasure.

### St James on the Lake 2020 Angel Food Ministry

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" Matthew 25:35*

The Angel Food ministry is an outreach to families in need in Henderson and Kaufman Counties that was started in 2009. Over 2,380 boxes of food have been delivered to families since the founding of the program, including 180 in 2020. The number of boxes was down from last year due to two reasons: there were several families who received additional food stamps from the COVID Cares Act to assist families impacted by the pandemic and they told us they didn't need food for several months and there were also three families who moved from the area. We are currently providing food boxes to 19 families per month.

The Angel Food boxes focus on providing a large amount of meat and some staple items and produce to supplement the boxes they receive from MAGS. A meaningful part of the ministry is that Susan Dahlman is our monthly contact with each family and is able to find out an update on their situation and their prayer requests. So many of them face health issues, employment needs, and personal situations that are impacting their families and we feel blessed that we can provide them with spiritual support as well as food.

COVID could have shut down this program in 2020 if it was not for the dedication of our own Kelly Boughton and Chris at MAGS. Since having our volunteers make the deliveries was out of the question, MAGS allowed us to distribute the boxes to the families from their location. Kelly and Chris pack most of the boxes for us. Tissy, Susan and Terry, and Bob came on Friday and/or Saturday to help pack the meat and produce and load the cars. We are grateful to them for their dedication.

A heartfelt "thank you" to all who have supported this ministry with your volunteer service, gifts and your prayers for the families we are serving. Without a doubt, the heart of Christ is reflected in the hearts of the people of St James and through this ministry you have become His hands and feet also.

For those who are not familiar with the program here is a little information:

- Families in need are placed on the list through recommendations of school personnel, church members, and other reliable sources. Some families are recipients for a short period of time as they are able to lift themselves out of their circumstance; others have not been that fortunate and have remained one of our Angel Food families for years.
- The cost of a box of food per month is approximately \$25-35 per month
- The program is funded in two ways:
  - 8 families are provided food boxes each month through the St James outreach funds received through St James golf tournament (\$3600 per year )
  - Remaining 10+/- families receive food boxes purchased with special donations made to the church's Angel Food fund by members of the congregation.
- Before COVID, the boxes of food were put together on the Friday before the Saturday that the St James volunteers delivered the boxes to the families at their homes
- At Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving dinner is included with the regular boxes and at Christmas, these families are blessed to receive St James' Adopt a Family food boxes and Christmas presents for the children who are part of these families.

If you would like to support the Angel Food ministry with a one time or recurring donation, you can give a check made out to St James on the Lake and in the memo line put "Angel Food".

One Man's Treasure...*"I needed clothes and you clothed me" Matthew 25:36*

Since 2008, St James on the Lake has played an invaluable role in the ministry of One Man's Treasure, a faith based ministry serving men returning to eight North and East Texas counties seeking to change the direction of their lives after their release from prison. In recognition of its financial support, clothing donations, volunteer service, and prayer, St James has been designated a Covenant Church of One Man's Treasure. One Man's Treasure began 2020 with plans to celebrate 15 years of service with a special gala that would raise funds for its program and a service of thanksgiving for God's presence in the ministry that allowed us to serve over 13,500 men in need. COVID dramatically changed those plans on March 15 as shelter in place mandates were issued and the virus began its tragic sweep through our nation and our communities. Both events were cancelled and decisions were made as to how we could continue our program in the midst of all of this, especially since a key component of our ministry is the personal delivery of the set of clothing to the client by a male volunteer (called a shepherd) and the visit that provides encouragement and time of prayer.

Over the years that I have been part of this ministry, I have witnessed His continued provision for the needs of these returning men, as shown in a bathrobe requested by a 72 year old man who had spent 40 years in prison that appeared in a clothing donation the day we needed it to fulfill that unique request and size 18 shoes (which we had never had) that appeared the day we received an application from a man who wore that size. When COVID hit, His guidance was evident in our ability to quickly modify the program so it could continue. As part of our walk in faith, we implemented a plan to ship the clothing to the men via UPS despite the additional expense and have our shepherds continue to provide spiritual support with a visit by phone. While we miss the opportunity to make that face to face connection the shepherd visit provides, we are blessed to be able to supply these men with the clothes they need to begin their job search and a sense of hope.

We were able to meet our budget and the additional shipping expenses despite being unable to have any in person fundraisers thanks to the to the generosity of individuals, foundations and churches like St James who stepped in to provide the funding that we needed. Despite those COVID related challenges, we were able to serve a record 1477 men last year. We also implemented a new collaboration with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Reentry Division that calls for the distribution of our application for clothing to men prior to release from prison by its Case Managers which we hope will provide more of the returning men with access to this assistance. We give thanks to God for St James for the years it has walked with us in service to Him and the men we serve.

One Man's Treasure's Mission...The men we serve are released from prison and return to our communities with \$100 and the clothes on their back. Most return to families who cannot financially assist them with even the basic necessities, including decent clothing. Our ministry is centered on the belief that if these men can find employment, they can lift themselves out of poverty and provide economic security for themselves and their families. The clothing they receive from One Man's Treasure can help in that process by providing them with job interview appropriate and employment required clothing. Studies show a recidivism rate (return to prison) among our clients three years after their release from prison remains at an average 13.8% which is lower than the national rate (over 60%) and Texas state rate (21.4%-44.1% depending on type of facility they were released from.) It is our belief that the boost of confidence and renewed sense of trust felt by our clients when they receive their personalized set of clothing has played a strong role in their lives and the success of our program. We ask that you join us in prayer for all of these returning men.

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40*

**Golf Committee Report**  
Submitted by Marshall Barton

Because of covid 19 we were unable to hold the annual St James Golf Tournament in 2020. The committee decided to contact church members, past players, corporate sponsors, and donors to ask them to make a donation to the Adopt a Family program. We had a great response and received around \$11,000. We were able to provide Christmas food for twenty two families and gifts for fourteen families with forty four children. The food expense was only \$622 because our friends at Brookshire's in Kaufman paid for the balance of the cost from their Spirit of Texas project. At this time we are not sure about the tournament for 2021.

Thank you for your support of this ministry, and please pray that God will continue to use it to his honor and glory.

## **ST. JAMES VESTRY PRAYERS**

**(Please say together at meeting / privately daily)**

Almighty and everlasting God, hear our prayers and grant to this parish all things necessary for its spiritual wellbeing.

Enlighten and guide this vestry, strengthen and increase the faithful, visit and relieve the sick, turn and renew the hard-hearted or careless, bring again those who have wandered.

Remove from us anything that resists your grace or hinders your purposes; make all of us one united voice to sing your praise and to give witness to your goodness.

Lord Jesus, continue to bless the many St. James outreach ministries that reveal your love to others in the community and beyond.

Bless also the ministries that feed our souls and bring spiritual renewal. Energize and sustain those who give of themselves with the passion and stamina to serve you.

Loving Father, we pray your blessing upon each member and friend of our parish family that they may always be aware of your presence and be drawn ever closer to you. Bless and guide our efforts to become better evangelists and witnesses to your gospel.

Inspire and empower us with your Holy Spirit to become by grace what Jesus is by nature and to do what our Lord commands of us, to love one another in the same way that he loves us.

Give us the grace to avoid strife and contentious behavior, to not compare or judge but to forgive as many times as is necessary.

Convict our hearts to repent daily and to show mercy and loving kindness to others as we grow in our ability to better reflect your Image that lives in us, and your love that flows through us.

***(Together): In the Name of the Holy and Blessed Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

***Now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say: OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

***Let us Pray together: Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us now in this vestry meeting as we take counsel for the renewal and mission of St. James Episcopal Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***