

The Messenger...

March/April 2018

*A publication of St. James on the Lake Episcopal Church
An orthodox parish that welcomes everyone!*

Rector: Fr. Randy Melton

10707 CR 4022, Kemp, Texas 75143

(903) 498-8080 / www.stjamesonthelake.org

FR. MELTON'S MYSTICAL MUSINGS:



Holy Land Pilgrimage Coming February 4-13, 2019!!

What an opportunity this will be to take your faith to a new level!! The cost is an incredible price of \$3695 for a 10-day trip to Israel (3 days traveling and 7 full days as pilgrims). AND, for an extra \$1047, you have an option to extend your pilgrimage 3 more days in Jordan if you choose, although we must have at least 15 people to do the extension. This includes airfare, transportation, 4 star hotels, tips, entry fees, guide and meals (except lunch). You pay for lunch (usually \$20 or less), camel rides, souvenirs, and things like freshly squeezed pomegranate juice on street corners (around \$4—must get at least one!).

A \$500 deposit is required to hold your spot, and the sooner you sign up, you get a slight discount, which gets incrementally smaller as the months go by. You must have a passport that has an expiration date at least 6 months AFTER we return from the trip. No shots or vaccinations are required. American money is accepted, as are credit cards in most places (although you can save some money on some purchases if you use cash).

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

This is going to be an absolutely amazing, life-changing experience to make the Bible come alive in a profound way as you visit the very places where so much of what we read about in scripture happens...you will touch, taste, smell, hear and see it all in live 3-D color! You will stand in the same places Jesus once stood as you easily imagine him teaching, healing and casting out demons in the same air space where you are standing. There are places where you will walk on the same steps Jesus walked. My favorite site is Jacob's well in Samaria, where Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well at noontime. This is one of many undeniably authentic sites.

Believe me, you don't want to miss this if at all possible. I'll be talking more about what's required in terms of physical stamina. To maximize the benefit, you ought to be able to walk at least 2 miles in a day. We will be riding from place to place on a bus, and the terrain is sometimes uneven and elevated. You don't need to be in tiptop shape, but you do need to be able to exert some degree of physical exercise. The physical challenges are minimal for the most part, and you can always stay on the bus if it looks like it will be too much for you. On my last trip, I had 4 ladies in their 80's and they all did fine. One had a cane and stayed on the bus a couple of times. If you have concerns, talk to me and I'll let you know if it's too much.

I will soon begin teaching a series of classes to prepare those who are going, and anyone else who is just interested. Invite your friends, relatives and neighbors to consider coming too! I can't wait until next February! The Holy Land is a special place on God's earth because it's the heart of the biblical story and the path where the footsteps of the Word made Flesh, Jesus Christ, were trod. Come retrace those very steps with me! You'll never be quite the same.

I am asking those who can afford it, to consider offering some scholarship help to those who can't afford the entire cost. In my last parish, one lady, who was unable to travel, gave \$4,000 that helped two people go. Consider that type of generosity if you are able.

I have included the entire itinerary at the end of this newsletter just before the birthdays and ministry schedules. I will have brochures for anyone interested on Sunday!

Blessings,
Fr. Randy+

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

YOUTH GROUP BLESSING BAG MINISTRY

Dear Saints of St. James,

Your Youth Group has started a mission project to help the less fortunate, especially homeless and hungry people. However we cannot do this alone. We would be honored to partner with y'all, our parish.

We have decided to assemble one gallon blessing bags filled with non-perishable food items and healthcare products. These bags will be available for you to keep in your vehicles, so that you will have something to offer those in need when you see someone with a sign or in obvious distress.

There will be two ways for you to support our efforts. First, there will be a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board with a list of items we need you to bring. Just \$10 fills a bag with over 20 items. Financial donations are also welcome. The youth group will assemble them at our next meeting on March 21, if you will please respond in either of these ways by Sunday, March 18.

Sincerely,

Dru, Jacob, Maggie, Alex and Nut

NEW!! CREATIVE ARTS MINISTRY (CAM) presents:

Creative HeArts and Prayer (CHAP) Gathering

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 1:00 pm. (Light snacks provided)

Discover your creative passion and experience God's love in a fun-loving environment with good friends, food and fellowship! Karen Melton will be leading us in reflection and prayer as we explore the role of creativity in prayer and how this can open our hearts to experience God's presence in unique ways. Do you need to be an artist to join us? No! Do you even need to be able to draw a straight line? No! Though we'll be using artistic mediums, this isn't about making art per se. It's about using art as a means to connect our inner most self with the Creative God, letting him speak to us and inspire us. To refresh us! This in turn, can enhance our prayer lives and our outreach ministries. Please just come as you are!

Materials such as paper, marker pens, crayons, colored pencils and magazines will be provided. However, if you have some art supplies of your own that you would prefer to use, please don't hesitate to bring them. If anyone is interested in providing some of the above listed supplies (so that we have enough for everyone) or helping with the food please let Karen know. RSVP to Karen (karenmelton36@gmail.com) if you are coming so that we can ensure that we have enough supplies and food for everyone. Looking forward to seeing you there!

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

TIME CHANGE March 10: Spring Forward 1 hour!

Set your clock FORWARD one hour on THIS Saturday night, MARCH 10!
If you forget, you'll get to church an hour LATE!! Yep, we lose an hour! Sigh.

WHAT IS HOLY WEEK? (March 25-April 1)

Holy Week is the Church's way to help us participate in the last week of Jesus' life, from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the last supper with his disciples, his agony in the garden and ultimate betrayal, his unjust trial, and subsequent suffering, torture and crucifixion, all of which prepare us for the Day of the Empty Tomb. Following Jesus' footsteps throughout this week promises a profound impact on our Easter experience. The opportunity to be formed in the shape of Jesus' cross allows us to celebrate a deeper and more powerful resurrection.

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION (March 25)

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. Since ancient times, it has been devoted to special events of our Lord's Passion (suffering). The principal focus of the liturgy on this day has been the Gospel lesson; this year the Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark. During the 4th century, however, the Church in Jerusalem instituted on this Sunday, a solemn procession from the Mount of Olives to the principal church of the city, in commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry. The custom of such a procession of palms soon spread to other churches in Christendom, and became a regular preface to the Eucharistic Liturgy of the Day.

Liturgy of the Palms: Weather permitting, we will gather prior to the Eucharist by the picnic tables, where palms are blessed and distributed. We then process around the outside of the church to our pews. . If it is raining, we will meet in the parish hall. Once inside the church, the altar party continues the procession as the congregation sings "All Glory, Laud, and Honor, to Thee Redeemer King!" This procession symbolizes the aforementioned Jerusalem procession in that it is a joyful one! THEN, the mood changes abruptly as we're quickly snatched from that ever so short-lived glory of Our Lord. We're now drawn to hear again in detail those events summarized in the middle of the Creeds, and the words, "crucified, suffered, buried," creating a cruel contrast with that exaltation so recently expressed. The congregation is asked to read the Gospel in parts with the priest.

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

Passion Gospel: The Gospel is read in parts at this service to allow the congregation to participate more fully in this drama of redemption. We are both the cheerers and the crucifiers of our Lord at different times, which reflects our inner nature that Jesus came to redeem.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 29, 6 PM

Seder, Foot-washing, Communion, Stripping, Watch and More

Seder and Foot Washing (Part 1):

The name "maundy" comes from "mandate" or "commandment" Thursday due to its emphasis on Jesus' mandates to his disciples. Maundy Thursday is the day before Jesus' crucifixion. On the night before he was betrayed, he shared a last supper with his disciples, thought to be a Passover meal. We will share a Seder meal (the sacred Jewish Passover) and show how the meaning of Passover meal is fulfilled in Jesus. During this meal, Jesus **washed the disciples' feet**. For those who wish to do likewise, an opportunity will be offered after the meal in the church just prior to Holy Communion. Foot-washing is a powerful symbol of the servanthood Jesus demands of each disciple at the last supper. After he washes their feet, he says, "*As I have done to you, so you are to do to one another.*" **NOTE: Anyone wishing to help with the Seder Meal preparations, contact Bonnie Dill.**

Followed by Institution of Holy Communion (Part 2)

The Institution of the Holy Eucharist is then observed. It is "on the night in which he is betrayed," that Jesus identifies the bread and wine of the Passover meal with his body and blood signifying a reinterpretation of the Passover lamb and unleavened bread, as he commands his disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me." The Holy Eucharist is the most identifiably Christian form of sacramental worship from the time of the first apostolic Church through today. Since that first Maundy Thursday, there has never been a time that it was not the primary means of worship for Christians who follow the apostolic tradition. St. Paul refers to it in his first letter to the Corinthians 11:23-25.

The Stripping of the Altar (Part 3)

Following Communion, Psalm 22 is said with the congregation as the altar is stripped of all its appointments. Our joyful recollection of the institution of the Lord's Supper gives way to prayerful meditation on the events of the next day, Good Friday. The priest leaves the sanctuary with the Sacramental Body of Christ and processes to the Altar of Repose (the Garden of Gethsemane) from the main altar

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

in silence. The persons who have signed up for the first time on the "watch" join the procession, and as soon as the Blessed Sacrament has been placed on the Garden (or altar) of Repose, take up their vigil. Everyone then leaves the church in silence---PLEASE---in silence.

Regarding the Vigil at the Garden of Repose (Part 4)

Before the Last Supper was over, Judas Iscariot left to betray Jesus. And from this last meal with his friends, Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray in anguish about what is to soon happen. He takes his disciples and asks them to pray. Jesus' sacramental presence, usually reserved in the sanctuary, is removed to the Garden (or altar) of Repose, symbolizing the Garden of Gethsemane. The garden is set up in the parish hall, where a vigil is kept until midnight. Parishioners are asked to consider taking an hour of the vigil, in response to Jesus' words to his disciples, "Could you not stay awake with me for one hour?" Any number of people may sign up for any given time or times. Fr. Randy will be in his office until the end of the vigil. A schedule of hours will be posted at the entrance of the church on Palm Sunday.

Please do not leave the Sacrament unattended during the Vigil. If you must leave and the next person has not arrived, please get Fr. Randy to take your place. Also, keep in mind during your time at the watch that you are spending this time with the Lord. **So please observe silence and do not visit!** At midnight, the Blessed Sacrament will be taken away as Jesus' betrayer is upon him. Jesus is arrested, taken to the religious and secular authorities, where he is given an illegal trial, scourged, mocked and beaten. We are left with a very empty and lonely feeling, making us aware of how his disciples must have felt, in a sense, "*the Real Absence*," ...a time of confusion and fearfulness. The next day, Good Friday, Jesus will carry his own cross to the site of his crucifixion. This promises to be a deeply emotional and moving experience. Please make every effort to be a part of it.

GOOD FRIDAY (God's Friday), March 30

This day is called "Good" in spite of the crime perpetrated and the suffering endured on the original day, because the redemption of all humankind was brought about as the Divine Life of Jesus is offered for all people forever. "Good" Friday is, in fact, a derivative of "God's" Friday, the Christian Day of Atonement, our Day of reconciliation with God. This is a day of strict fasting (page 17 of the BCP). In fact, all Fridays in Lent are traditionally fasting days in remembrance of Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified for our sins.

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

The Noon Hour: (Traditionally, the hour Jesus was hung on the cross)... We will pray the "Stations of the Cross," following Jesus' walk to the cross from judgment by Pilate to his crucifixion on Golgotha.

Sacramental Absolution: This is an especially appropriate time to examine one's conscience and make one's confession in anticipation of Easter. Fr. Randy will be available in the church to hear confessions from 4:30-5:15 PM on Good Friday or at other times by appointment. If you need assistance in preparing a confession, contact Fr. Randy.

Good Friday Liturgy. March 30, 6 PM: We participate in that event that expresses both the ultimate powers of chaos and evil and the ultimate expression of God's love for us. The church is empty of all the usual symbolism as we begin our worship with a long period of silence. The powerful solemn collects are prayed and the cross is venerated as the means used for our salvation, and we're given an opportunity to lay our burdens with grateful hearts at the foot of the cross.

The Holy Eucharist is never celebrated on this day. Consecrated bread only from the Maundy Thursday celebration is brought to the altar and consumed by the faithful. It's an odd and incomplete sort of communion because it's an odd and incomplete kind of day.

With the consumption of the Lord's sacramental body in the pre-sanctified bread, the church building is again left without the sacramental presence of Christ. It seems strangely empty and hollow, and we're able to share some of the emptiness of the apostles who knew that Christ was dead and buried. Prior to the 33 bell tolls commemorating the years of Jesus' life, the priest announces, "Jesus is dead." After the bell tolls, we leave the church in absolute silence - **PLEASE - in silence.**

EASTER VIGIL AND BAPTISM, March 31 @ 6 PM

(The Queen of Feasts in Ancient Church Practice)

The Easter Vigil is the most appropriate feast of the Church year for Holy Baptism because Christian Baptism is directly linked to the Resurrection of Jesus and the spiritual rebirth of the individual at the font. In the ancient Church, this was the preferred feast when almost all baptisms were performed, normally after a 3 year preparation of instruction, exorcisms and prayers. A service of great antiquity in the Christian tradition, we often refer to it as the Queen of all Christian feasts.

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

In the early apostolic Church, it originally began at sundown on Saturday, when the Liturgy began with the lighting of lamps and proceeded to a long vigil service of scripture lessons, canticles and prayers lasting most of the night. Before dawn, the candidates, prepared during Lent, were baptized and confirmed, and at daybreak, worship concluded with the first Easter Eucharist. This is the first festival celebration of the Resurrection as Lent officially ends.

In like manner, we will begin by experiencing the full power of the darkness being overcome by the Light of Christ. Our worship consists of lighting the Paschal Candle, chanting the ancient Exultet, recalling our salvation history, renewing our baptismal covenant, celebrating a Baptism (the making of a new saint and child of God) and being blessed with a generous sprinkling of the refreshing waters of baptism. Don't worry, we won't pray through the night, but it will likely last about an hour and half. Don't miss this powerful and beautiful ancient, liturgical feast.

RESURRECTION SUNDAY, April 1, 9AM

The Easter Day Festival Eucharist is celebrated at 9 AM. This is the apex of all Christian feasts because without the resurrection, our faith is futile and our hope is in vain. Without the resurrection, we're still in our sins. Resurrection truth is the foundation upon which the Christian faith stands or falls. God has overcome the last enemy, death, and won the final battle over Sin and evil. This is the day when the "Alleluias" reappear, which means "Praise to the Lord!" Christ is Risen! God's victory dance over sin, evil, death and Satan! As the powerful Burial Office anthem says, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb!" **Traditionally, members of the congregations bring small bells (or keys) to ring after the Easter acclamation (Alleluia, Christ is Risen!) during the singing of the Gloria!**

Flowering of the Resurrection Cross: Everyone is invited to bring flowers on Easter Day to decorate the Resurrection Cross prior to the worship service.

Easter Egg Hunt will take place during Sunday School time at 9AM.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO PAUL LASITER FOR
MAKING THE GOOD FRIDAY CROSS AND THE
EASTER FLOWER CROSS!!**

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

UPCOMING EVENTS TO CALENDAR!

Sunday Morning Healing Prayers (8:30-8:45 AM Sundays)

T.E.A.C.H., Sundays at 10:30AM

180 Day Bible Study, Sundays at 6PM or Thursdays at 1PM

Daughters of the King, 2nd Sunday, 4:30 PM

Praise & Worship, 2nd Sunday, 6 PM (followed by Bible study at 6:30 PM)

Men's Group Reunion, Tuesday, 8 AM

Women's Group Reunion, Tuesday, 9 AM (1st and 3rd)

Weekly Prayer Group, Tuesdays, 4:00 PM

Vestry Meeting, 2nd Tuesday 6 PM (March 13 and April 10)

Noon Healing Eucharist each Wednesday

Teen Youth Ministry, Mar 7 & 21, April 4 & 18, Wednesday 6-7:30 PM

Evening Prayer & Dinner Fellowship (Last Wednesday, 6 PM)

New Women's Group Reunion, Thursday, Noon

Men's Bible Study, Thursday, 6 PM

NEW!!! C.A.M. (Creative Arts Ministry), Wednesday, 1 PM, April 11

Office Hours

Monday: Fr. Randy's Day off

Tuesday: 9:30 AM - 1 PM

Wednesday: 9:30 AM - 1 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM - 1 PM

Friday: 9:30 AM - 1 PM

Saturday: Office Closed

NOTE: *There may be exceptions to those posted hours due to outside appointments, errands, pastoral needs or evening activities. If you don't see Fr. Randy's car, it's because he often parks in the back near the shade. Appointments may always be made at other times if necessary.*

Holy Land Itinerary Coming....

Wait for it....Wait for it....

Go to the next page!! There it is!!!

(WAIT: Ministry schedules follow itinerary at the end)

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY

DAY 1 - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4: DEPART U.S.A.

Tour members meet at DFW Airport for our flight to Israel. After dinner is served, sit back, relax, and enjoy the on-board entertainment to prepare for this exciting adventure of a lifetime.

DAY 2 - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5: ARRIVE IN TEL AVIV

Once we land in Tel Aviv, we proceed through customs and security and meet our agent who will assist us to our motor coach. We have a short drive to our hotel in the Tel Aviv area in me for our Welcome Dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6: CAESAREA, AQUADUCT, MEGIDDO, MT. CARMEL, SEPPHORIS, NAZARETH, CANA, GALILEE This morning we depart for the Galilee to visit Biblical sites at Caesarea Mari ma where Herod built the first man-made harbor, and where Peter proclaimed the Gospel to Cornelius, the Centurion (Acts 10). We continue to Mt. Carmel (where Elijah debated 450 prophets of Baal - 1 Kings 18). From here, we enjoy a breathtaking view over the whole valley of Jezreel, better known as the Valley of Armageddon. We stop at the Druze Village for a short lunch break (not included). Then we visit Sepphoris, the Roman capital of Galilee, where we explore the excavation of the gorgeous “Mona Lisa of Galilee” mosaic, a theater, market streets and other finds that showcase daily life in Roman times. This town was under construction when Jesus was growing up, so Joseph, and even Jesus himself, could have worked here as carpenters. We continue on to Nazareth (Jesus' childhood home) to visit the Sisters of Nazareth Convent (Church of the Nutrition), and the Church of the Annunciation. If me permits, we will then visit Cana (location of Jesus' first miracle - John 2) where couples have an opportunity to renew their marriage vows. We then arrive in Tiberias for dinner and overnight at our hotel on the Sea of Galilee.

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

DAY 4 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7: GALILEE, MT. OF BEATITUDES, PRIMACY OF PETER, CAPERNAUM, BOAT RIDE ON SEA OF GALILEE, MT. TABOR

Early risers can wake up to a beautiful morning and watch the sun rise over the Sea of Galilee, in the area where Jesus spent three years of his ministry. After breakfast, we spend me reflecting on the picturesque Mt. of Beatitudes, from which we'll walk down to the Sea of Galilee (Matt . 5-7). Then we head to Tabgha (the traditional site of the feeding of the 5,000) and the Church of the Primacy of Peter, where the risen Jesus exhorted Peter to “feed my sheep.” We then head to Capernaum, the home base of Jesus’ early ministry, where we see the Synagogue where Jesus taught and cast out a demon, and the house of Peter's mother-in-law. Our lunch stop includes the option of ordering the special St. Peter's fish (not included). After lunch, we will board a replica wooden “Jesus Boat” to set sail on the Sea of Galilee, from which we can view the coastline of those places we've just visited. Then we visit the Jesus Boat Museum and other sites along the way, such as Gadara (where Jesus cast out demons from a man and sent them into a herd of swine). If me permits, we will drive to Mt. Tabor and taxi up to the Church of Transfiguration before returning to our hotel in Tiberias for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8: MOUNT ARBEL, MAGDALA, BEIT SHEAN, SAMARIA, NABLUS, ST. PHOTINI CHURCH, JACOB'S WELL, JERICHO, MOUNT OF TEMPTION, ST. GEORGE'S MONASTERY

After breakfast we take the bus to the top of Mount Arbel and watch the sunrise from this beautiful summit. After driving down, we stop at Magdala and visit the first century synagogue before leaving the Galilee. Next we drive to Beit Shean, one of Israel's most ancient cities with impressive Roman ruins. This is where King Saul and his sons’ bodies were hung from the city walls after being defeated by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:10-12). We then travel south through Samaria to Nablus, the site of Jacob's Well at St. Photini Church (this is where Jesus encountered the woman at the well), followed by a special lunch (not included) at a local restaurant. We continue south to Jericho to visit the Mt. of Temptation where we take a cable car up to the Monastery.

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

Camel rides will also be available. We will then stop on a lookout in the wilderness to see St. George's Monastery, which is situated next to the "Valley of the Shadow" (Psalm 23). Finally, we ascend to the majestic city of Jerusalem in me for dinner and overnight. "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:1-2 NASB).

DAY 6 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9: QASR EL-YAHUD, QUMRAN, EIN GEDI, MASADA, DEAD SEA FOR SWIM/FLOAT After breakfast, we renew our baptismal vows in the Jordan River at Qasr El-Yahud, the newly excavated site where tradition holds that Jesus was bap zed by John the Baptist. Next, we will drive to Qumran, the settlement of the Essenes. They were the first century sect who authored the Dead Sea Scrolls. From here we head to Ein Gedi where David hid from King Saul. We then go south along the western shore of the Dead Sea toward Masada, where we travel by cable car up to King Herod's astonishing fortress. Afterwards, we make a special stop at the Dead Sea (the lowest spot on earth) for a short swim or oat. Time permitting, we will visit the Monastery of St. Gerassimo. Dinner and overnight are again in Jerusalem.

DAY 7 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10: MT. OF OLIVES, PALM SUNDAY ROAD, GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE, ST. PETER GALLICANTU, POOL OF SILOAM, BETHLEHEM, CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, SHEPHERDS' FIELD

Today will be a spiritually uplifting day! We'll begin today on the beautiful Mt. of Olives to behold the famous, breathtaking panorama of the Holy City. Our pilgrimage proceeds down the Old Palm Sunday Road to the ancient olive grove at the Garden of Gethsemane, where we celebrate Holy Communion in a private part of the garden where the olive trees date back to ancient times. Then we continue on to the Basilica of the Agony (Church of All Nations) where tradition says Jesus prayed before his arrest. We then go to Church of St. Peter Gallicantu (Caiphas' house) where Peter denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed, and see the dungeon where Jesus

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

spent the night before being taken to Pilate. We then visit the newly excavated Pool of Siloam, where Jesus put mud on the eyes of the man born blind. We finish off our sightseeing with a visit to Bethlehem as we pass by Rachel's tomb on the outskirts and then visit the Church of the Nativity and Shepherds' Field. We have dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

DAY 8 - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11: HOLY SEPULCHER, TEMPLE MOUNT, VIA DOLOROSA, ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, POOL OF BETHESDA, THE PAVEMENT, ECCE HOMO ARCH, CARDO, WAILING WALL, WESTERN WALL TUNNEL

The day begins with a pre-dawn visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the most popular site in Jerusalem for Christians. We are able to beat the crowds and take time to pray and reflect at the site of Jesus' crucifixion and the tomb of his Resurrection. After breakfast, we spend the early morning (since only Muslims are allowed after 10:30 a.m.) visiting the 35-acre temple area purchased by King David (2 Samuel 24:18-25), which is called the Temple Mount. This area houses the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the magnificent Dome of the Rock, the third holiest shrine in Islam. From the temple area we make our way to St. Stephen's Gate to walk the Via Dolorosa, which ends at the place we started, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where we take a short walk to the original steps that Jesus walked as he entered the Temple area. Other sites include St. Anne's Crusader Church (the home of Mary's parents), Pool of Bethesda (where Jesus healed the man who had been lame for 38 years), the Pavement (where Jesus stood before Pilate), Ecce Homo Arch (Behold the Man), and the ancient Cardo. Then we enter Jerusalem through the Zion Gate and proceed to the Western (Wailing) Wall, the holiest site in Judaism, and a very powerful place of prayer. If time permits, we'll walk the newly excavated tunnel beneath the Western Wall. Dinner and overnight are in Jerusalem.

DAY 9 - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12: JERUSALEM, SHRINE OF THE BOOK, MODEL CITY ELAH VALLEY, JAFFA, FAREWELL DINNER, TEL AVIV After breakfast, we will visit the Shrine of the Book Museum to see the Dead Sea

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

Scrolls and the fascinating 1:50 scale model of Jerusalem as it would have appeared in Jesus' time. If permitted, we may see the Upper Room (where the last supper happened) and/or we will stop by Emmaus, where the risen Jesus made himself known in the breaking of bread, and celebrate Holy Communion. We then leave Jerusalem for the Elah Valley to see the brook where David slew Goliath. From here we continue our drive to Jaffa for a walking tour of Old Jaffa and then onto our special Farewell Dinner. We stay the night in the Tel Aviv area.

DAY 10 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13: BEN GURION AIRPORT, RETURN FLIGHT HOME, ARRIVE IN U.S.A. This morning we transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our flight back to the USA. At the close of an unforgettable tour, we take home wonderful memories of the Old and New Testament, a renewal of our faith, and a greater understanding of the life of our Lord.

OPTIONAL JORDAN EXTENSION \$1047.00 per person Price is based on minimum of 15 travelers for price to be valid (Includes: Visa & Border taxes of \$77 & Gratuities of \$55)

DAY 10 - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13: ALLENBY BRIDGE, JORDAN: MADABA, MACHAERUS, PETRA This morning we depart Israel for Jordan via the Allenby Bridge, where we meet our agent and are assisted through security and customs. We board our motor coach to Madaba, the Moabite town of the Bible to see the Ancient Holy Land Map. Next, we travel to Machaerus (Mukawir). Perched on a 700-meter-high hill southwest of Madaba are the ruins of the fortress of Herod the Great. Machaerus is where John the Baptist was beheaded by Herod Antipas. We continue south to Petra, "the Red Rose City." Dinner and overnight are in Petra.

DAY 11 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14: PETRA, AMMAN After breakfast, we visit Petra, a 2000-year-old Nabatean city. We'll walk about a half-mile through the narrow passageway with cliffs on either side (called the "Siq"). At the end of the Siq appears Petra's Treasury, a massive royal tomb carved out of the solid mountain rock. Time permitting, we will see Jabal Harun - the

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

place where Aaron is buried. We then leave in the afternoon for Amman. Dinner and overnight are in Amman.

DAY 12 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15: AMMAN, MT. NEBO, ALLENBY BRIDGE, ISRAEL: JAFFA, TEL AVIV AIRPORT This morning we travel to Mt. Nebo to view the Holy Land from where Moses stood (Deuteronomy 34:1), a breathtaking view across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea to the Mt. of Olives and the roof tops of Jerusalem. We then return to the Allenby Bridge for our return to Israel. After our border formalities, we arrive back in Israel and continue with a visit to Jaffa. Then we have dinner and an evening transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our return flight back to the U.S.A.

DAY 13 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16: ARRIVE BACK IN U.S.A. We arrive home in the U.S.A. At the close of an unforgettable tour, we take home wonderful memories of the Old and New Testament, a renewal of our faith, and a greater understanding of the life of our Lord.

MARCH

& APRIL

BIRTHDAYS,

ANNIVERSARIES,

& MEMORIALS:

MARCH BIRTHDAYS...

2	Stephanie O'Connor	24	Jacob Morgason
7	Patsy Miller	24	Martha Sawyer
8	Marian Flowers	26	Rita Files
8	Tom Smith	26	Claire Stout
10	Glen Stout	26	Wendy Horton
16	Jim Cavan	27	Ken Vieux
19	Carroll Bradley	30	Jerry Jost

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES...

18 Mike and Pam Roach

MARCH MEMORIAL...

2	Dee Hale	16`	Elizabeth Campbell
4	Ted Nellinger	17	Leta Brooks
5	Evelyn Gallatin	21	Jim Clendenon
5	Justin Smith	22	Eris Allsup
7	Bob Blackman	22	Bob Richards
7	Frances Reeves	24	Hugo Krenek
9	Francis Beaupré	24	Martha Golden
12	Gilbert Drab	28	Alva Lee Campbell
15	Bette Mae Simmons		

APRIL BIRTHDAYS...

1	Cathy Russo	17	Susan Huffman
2	Elex Evans	17	Mark Russo
2	Sharon Perkins	19	Sunny Lasiter
4	Kelly Boughton	22	Meridel Clement
4	Nancy Barton	25	Adriana Gowan
6	Deanna Drab	26	Rebecca Williams
13	Susan Dahlman		

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES...

18 Mike and Wendy Horton 24 Clayton and Martha Sawyers

APRIL MEMORIAL...

1	Gloria Shackelford	16	Shirley Brown
4	Nick Lasiter	22	Charlene Wingate
8	Thomas Ralph Tunnell	24	C. P. Shelton
11	Lois Fyke		

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

Daughters of the King Prayers with Priest:

March 4: Gloria Crenshaw
 March 11: Karen Melton
 March 18: Kelley Boughton
 March 25: Linda Shehee
 April 1: Marian Flowers
 April 8: Rose Mary Blaase
 April 15: Sharon McGlothlin
 April 22: Sunny Lasiter
 April 29: Tina Wage

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES MARCH...

Remember, it will be up to you to get a replacement if you cannot fulfill your obligation.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Crucifer</i>	<i>Lesson Reader</i>	<i>Chalice</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>Fred</i>
4	Philip and Kelly Boughton	Nancy and Willene	Louis	Bill	Marian	Paul Sharon	Susan D. Patsy and Linda S.	<i>Young kids:</i> Clare <i>Older kids:</i> Linda	Phil
11	Mike and Wendy Horton	Nancy and Willene	Gloria	DeLois	Claire	Bill Sharon	Sunny, Kitty, Meridel	<i>Young kids:</i> Kelley <i>Older kids:</i> In church	Paul
18	Ray and Marian	Susan D. and Kitty	Phil	Carol	Ray	Bill Paul	Rita D. Bari and Claire	<i>Young kids:</i> Martha <i>Older kids:</i> Linda	Gloria
25	Bob and Annette	Susan D. and Kitty	Carol	Paul	Kelly	Sharon Bill	Gail, Deanna, Gloria, Barbara	<i>Young kids:</i> Claire <i>Older kids</i> in church	Bonnie

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES APRIL...

Remember, it will be up to you to get a replacement if you cannot fulfill your obligation.

Date	Greeters	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Crucifer	Lesson Reader	Chalice	Coffee Hour	Sunday School	Fred
1	Paul and Sunny	DeLois and Claire	Art	Phil	Karen	Gail Sharon	Nancy Marilyn Shirley	Young kids: Martha Older kids: Linda	Carol
8	Marvin and Stephanie	DeLois and Claire	Kelly	Carol	Tina	Bill Paul	Annette Karen Lorna	Young kids: Gail Older kids: In church	Vicki
15	Charlie and Rita	Denise and Linda S	Terry	Phil	Annette	Gail Bill	Sharon, Marian, Judy	Young kids: Kelly Older kids: Bob	Dru
22	Terry and Susan D.	Denise and Linda S	Jacob	Bill	Bob	Sharon Paul	Annette Karen Lorna	Young kids: Kelly Older kids: in church	Gloria
29	Tissy and Gloria	Susan H. and Kelly	Tissy	Art	Marvin	Paul and Gail	Sunny, Kitty, Meridel	Young kids: Claire Older kids: Linda S	Phil

**A Dabba, Dabba, Dabba,
That's All Folks!**

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN