

The Messenger...August, 2022

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in Covenant with the Anglican Communion*

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LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The Lambeth Conference has just begun in Canterbury, England under the leadership of Archbishop Welby. The conference is held every ten years and it is meant to be a gathering of bishops from around the world in order to discuss issues that are important to all Christians everywhere. The current gathering was postponed for two years because of Covid and so this year 42 provinces are being represented by 650 bishops who will meet together in an attempt to “listen together, walk together, and witness together.” We will have to wait and see how well they achieve their goals.

For years now the Episcopal Church in the United States has been out of step with much of the Anglican Communion and I don't see that situation changing in the near future. While the Episcopal Church may differ from many of the global Anglican churches, St. James remains in covenant with the Communion as does our diocese. If you are interested on keeping up with the activities of the conference, you can go on line to the Lambeth Conference and receive daily reports.

On the home front, we continue as always in our attempt to remain faithful to the teaching of the apostles and to scripture. I am always pleased to see those of you who stay for T.E.A.C.H. or participate in our Wednesday study group as it is our ongoing study that helps us know and practice what it is that we profess to believe. Now a few nuts and bolts and housekeeping notes. We are in the process of replacing some of our A/C units and I would ask that folks not mess with the thermostats. If you feel it is necessary to change the temperature or turn lights on

for your meeting or gathering, please change them back and turn them off when you leave. During the summer months we are attempting to keep the settings at 76 degrees when no one is here. Last month we experienced our highest utility bill ever. I know that it has been hot, but the problem was that too often thermostats were being set on 70 degrees or lower and left there when no one was here. A vestry person is responsible for opening closing the church for all gatherings. It is their responsibility to see that the air is properly set.

I have recently asked that those who are serving as acolyte or DOK prayer partner wait for me in the library prior to the service on Sunday morning. This is designed to take a few of the folks out of the narthex. I continue to ask our greeters to help in keeping the noise down each Sunday as there are those who are attempting to say their prayers and prepare for the service each week. Coffee hour is our time for visiting and fellowship, NOT in the narthex prior to the service. As you know this has always been one of my concerning and it will continue to be. This goes along with my feelings about passing the peace. This is a time for greeting those around you, NOT wondering around the nave chatting with one another. Sorry, I'm just a scrooge that has certain hang ups and I'm attempting to pass on those concerns to our deacon for the future.

Other than that, God is good all the time; and I remain thankful for the wonderful people that God has brought together here at St. James. We are being blessed daily and we give thanks to God for those blessings. **JDM+**

FROM THE WEBB SITE...

If you watch the news for more than just a few minutes, it's not hard to get the feeling that there is not much good in the world. No matter what issue is concerning to you, it is as if it is only getting worse. It could be the economy that has you worried. It might be the climate and the "exceptional drought" that we currently find ourselves in. You may be worried that the Cowboys are probably going to lose in the first round of the playoffs. (If they make the playoffs at all.) It is as if there is always some reason to give up hope.

Don't fear. If there is always a reason to give up hope, there's also someone who is willing to sell you some hope. Just vote for them, and they will fix the economy just for you. Scared about the weather? Buy their special package, and then you'll

be prepared for when the weather gets even worse. The world is geared to package hope. It is there waiting so that for a small price; you can have something to look forward to. This is no more evident than in the baby goods market. As we wait for the birth of our new child, I have been inundated with more ads than I could have ever imagined. Each one promises that their product will give my baby the best chance, the brightest future, or the most sleep. Products that I had never heard of a year ago are now part of my everyday life. They prey off the common fears of first time parents, offering them some hope and solace that it will be ok.

As Christians, we live in this weird tension. We see the world around us. We see its shortcomings and failures. Yet we know that one day it will be “on earth as it is in heaven.” We have hope in what we know the world will be. This isn’t the kind of hope that comes in a box or is provided by a politician. True hope passes all understanding. It may even seem foolish to some. Our hope comes from the one who defeated death. Our hope comes from the one who hung the stars in the sky and yet holds us in his hand. God is still in the business of creation. He is still working for our good. Though the world may seem dark and grim at times, he is shining through and his light can never be stopped. Our hope comes from knowing that in the end, God is in control. He is in control, and it’s all going to be ok.

LIFE TOGETHER

Later in August we will begin our next Wednesday study group. Deacon Webb, sometime after the birth of their new baby will begin our next study based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book *Live Together*. We have a few copies of the book in the office for those that need to purchase one.

HUNGRY BUNCH

This coming Friday evening we will be going to the Four Winds for dinner at 6:00. If you have been there before, you know that this will be a treat as the food and service is always good. Be sure to sign up so that we will know how many to plan for. Also let someone know if you would like to car pool to Wills Point that evening.

T.E.A.C.H.

We have just completed our study on the Practices and Beliefs of the Church and each week's lesson was followed by some good discussion and sharing. I am currently looking at beginning a study on the history of the Church. Before we begin, I will attempt to send out a statement asking the question, "Why study history?" Hopefully, it will give us a springboard for our coming study time together. In my current preparation, I want to look at the history of the Church going back to the very beginning and then view that in relationship to an Anglican perspective. I'm not sure at the moment, but I can see this study taking us up to the Season of Advent when our deacon will lead our next study. Plan to continue to join us each week following coffee hour for a time of study and fellowship.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

I will be away for three days beginning on the 11th as I will be attending this year's Discernment Retreat. This is a gathering hosted by the Commission on Ministry for anyone considering entering the process toward ordination as priest or deacon. As many of you know, I have served on the COM for many years and have been mentor to several of the seminarians as they began the process and have followed them through graduation and later ordination. I have notified the COM that this will be my last year to serve as it is a three year commitment and I will be completing my fifth consecutive term to serve.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 st	John & Beth Antonisse	15 th	Barbara Austin
2 nd	Marshall & Nancy Barton	17 th	Richard Anderson
3 rd	Lorna Rudd	29 th	Denise Waldrep
9 th	Tina Wage		Rose Mary Blasse
10 th	Jim Dill		Canon Morriss+
11 th	Phillip & Kelley Boughton	31 st	Richard & Michelle Anderson

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

Date	DOK	Greeter	Alter Guild	Acolyte	Lessons
7 th	Carol	Jeff & Kitty	Sandy & Tina	Mike	Tina
14 th	DeLois	Gail & Deanna	DeLois & Claire	Sandy	Terry
21 st	Gail	Bob & Annette	Susan & Kitty	Kelley	John
28 th	Marian	Tine & James	Barbara & Sunny	Carol	Bob

MINISTRIES, cont.

Date	Coffee	Chalice	Organ	Vestry
7 th	Gail & Deanna	Gail	Linda	Marian
14 th	Nancy & Carol	Kelley	Bonnie	Kelley
21 st	Annette & Sunny	Tina	Linda	Tina
28 th	Carroll & Bonnie	Paul	Bonnie	Peggy

REPORT FROM THE VESTRY

While our treasure reported that offerings had fallen off a bit in June, we are still in good shape financially and the current P&L is posted on the bulletin board. We are in the process of replacing or repairing three of our A/C units which is costly, but within our budget. We were reminded that we are returning our support of Carter Blood Bank and will be hosting them here on September 3rd. The water leak that we recently experienced in the new building has been repaired and painting in the men's room will be completed shortly. Finally, we are looking into updating our phone and internet service in an attempt to replace equipment that is nearly 20 years old.

SECURITY ISSUES

A reminder that we will be locking the doors into the parish hall prior to the morning service each week. This will be the responsibility of whoever is hosting coffee hour each Sunday. The doors into the narthex will also be locked 5 minutes after the beginning of the service. This is a practice the vestry thought was wise as a simple precautionary step considering the current problems faced in our schools and churches today. While we don't consider that we are in any threat, it is a small prudent act that is worth doing.