

The Messenger...March, 2022

*A publication of St. James on the Lake Episcopal Church
in Covenant with the Anglican Communion*

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LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

I continue to be amazed at how the time passes so quickly. Maybe it has something to do with getting older but I hope not. Be that as it may, here I am sitting down to pound out another newsletter which means another month has slipped away.

We have just ended the Sundays after the Epiphany and are looking at observing another Season of Lent. By the time you read this we may have celebrated another Mardi Gras with all the trimming and once again enjoyed the fellowship with our friends and neighbors that has been so much a part of what St. James is all about.

Hopefully, you also will have participated in Ash Wednesday which is one of the several Days of Obligation on the Church calendar. While there are a number of these special days listed in the Book of Common Prayer, we have unfortunately not observed all of them in the past. However, Lent is one of the seasons on the calendar that most people, even non-Christians are familiar with. For followers of Christ, Lent is meant to be a time for fasting and reflection. It is meant to be a time when we can take a long hard look at how we live out our daily lives and seek to seriously attempt to change those things in our lives that are displeasing to God.

While it has been a practice for some to “give up” something for Lent to symbolize their desire to sacrifice something to God during these 40 days, I have always suggested that people consider “doing” something special during the coming days rather than giving up something. Spend extra time in prayer. Find a good book that will speak to your spirit. Take time to visit with those who would benefit from your shared time. Rather than “giving up chocolate” for example for Lent, consider performing an act of kindness for someone each week during this meaningful season.

We will experience a number of changes in our worship service each week during Lent. We will use Rite I which represents the older more traditional Prayer Book service. The language is just different enough that we will have to pay more attention to what we are saying. We will go back and use the blue Hymnal again singing hymns that may be less familiar, but hopefully edifying. There will be no flowers on the altar during Lent and vestments will be minimal. All that is done has a purpose which is to help us to look forward and focus on the events of Holy Week and ultimately the glorious celebration on Easter morning.

I will be starting a new series on the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church during T.E.A.C.H. and I encourage everyone to plan to take part as it should be a study that we will all enjoy and benefit from.

Finally, we have a several people who are experiencing a number of medical issues. While our prayer team prays for each of these people by name when they meet each Tuesday, I encourage each of you to join with them in praying for one another in your daily prayers. Be reminded that your vestry members are also praying for each of you each day as well. Your ongoing commitment to pray for one another and for the mission of your church is what has allowed St. James Church to continue to move forward through the good times and the bad. As Bishop Stanton used to acknowledge, prayer has been one of the things that has set our congregation apart; and God has blessed us in a mighty way because of your faithfulness in lifting one another up in prayer. Rooted in scripture and grounded in prayer...may these things always be the foundation of St. James Church.

Remember that God loves you and so do I,

JDM+

OFFICE HOURS

Remember that Canon Morriss+ is scheduled to be in the office Tuesday through Thursday and would enjoy visiting with anyone that might drop by for a cup of coffee. The Canon's email address is canonjmorris@aol.com

THE PANTHER FUND

We were fortunate to have Chief Joey Rich from the Mabank High School several weeks ago. The Chief described his dream of being able to help those students who are need of many of the simple basic things as clothing, food and personal hygiene items. Most of us were amazed to learn of the large number of teenagers who live from day to day and who are constantly in need the basic essentials that

the rest of us take for granted. We have been given the opportunity to join in lending a helping hand. A list has been posted of the items that are needed on an ongoing basis. Several of you have already begun to add these items to your weekly shopping list and are bringing them to church on Sunday. Others have chosen to simply make a monthly contribution to the church marked "Panther Fund" and place in the weekly offering. This will be credited as a charitable contribution. If you have questions about our newest outreach project, don't hesitate to see me.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2 nd	Stephanie O'Connor	8 th	Marian Flowers
10 th	Glen Stout	11 th	James Mashburn
16 th	Jim Cavan	24 th	Martha Sawyer
26 th	Rita Files.....Claire Stout....Wendy Horton		
27 th	Ken Vieux		

EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

1st Mardi Garas at 6:00

2nd Ash Wednesday...services at noon and 6:00

3rd Commission on Ministry...9:00 at Church of the Incarnation

6th Coffee Hour followed by new series ..."Beliefs and Practices of the Church"

9th Study Group at 11:00 followed by Noon Mass

11th Hungry Bunch at 600 (place TBA)

13th Coffee Hour followed by new series ..."Beliefs and Practices of the Church"

16th Study Group at 11:00 followed by Noon Mass...
Evening Prayer at 6:00 followed by F.E.A.S.T.

20th Coffee Hour followed by new series ..."Beliefs and Practices of the Church"

27th Coffee Hour followed by new series ..."Beliefs and Practices of the Church"

T.E.A.C.H.

Our new study series During T.E.A.C.H. will begin on the 6th and will be a look at the Episcopal Church, its beliefs and practices. What do we believe and why do we do some of the things we do? We will look at the Prayer Book, the sacraments, our history and traditions along with other things that are unique to the Anglican way of worship. There will be a lesson available on line each week as well as hard copy each week in advance.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

Date	DOK	Greeter	Altar	Acolyte	Prayer
6 th	Gail	Bob & Annette	Barbara & Sunny	Carol	Mike
13 th	Marian	Tina & James	Deanna & Linda	Kelley	Marian
20 th	Sunny	Terry & Susan	Kelley & Carol	Sandy	Tina
27 th	Willene	Marian & Ray	Sandy & Tina	Mike	Carol

MINISTRIES, cont.

Date	Lessons	Coffee	Chalice	Organ
6 th	Marian	Peggy & Ann	Gail & Kelley	Linda
13 th	Ray	Barbara & Lorna	Gail & Mike	Bonnie
20 th	Claire	Gail & Deanna	Kelley & Mike	Linda
27 th	Sunny	Nancy & Carol	Tina & Paul	Bonnie

Please remember that if you cannot serve on your scheduled date, you need to make sure you have a replacement and mark the change on the bulletin board schedule