

The Messenger...

November-December, 2019

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 / stjamesonthelake.org

Fr. Randy's Rambling Ruminations:



LETTERS OF GOD

"Do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You know that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the Living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." (2 Corinthians 3:1-3)

In a very short time now, we'll celebrate the arrival of God's ultimate love letter to us, the Incarnation of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14). That letter provides us with a message of hope and assurance that no other Christmas gift or card can. Yet we find that we do receive different expressions of that same letter through the lives of various people, don't we? Sometimes it's a loved one, sometimes a stranger, and sometimes a casual acquaintance. But the Lord definitely uses folks just like you and me to send clear messages about his love for us through our personal encounters. His love is made evident in very *"incarnational"* ways.

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

When a person is baptized into Jesus Christ, that person becomes a new letter of God. The Holy Spirit writes this letter on our hearts. Each of us is a unique & personalized letter, yet each reveals the same consistent message of truth and love describing the nature of the letter's author. We are letters that are addressed to everyone everywhere. We are not to be sealed so that it is difficult for others to read us. We are not to be confidential letters that are only to be read in secret by a select few or ourselves alone.

We are to be **BOLD** letters that proclaim the message written on our hearts clearly by what is seen in our lives. A Christian's life is one that's intended to be an **OPEN** letter that says, *Read me! I'm a love letter from God to you!* Does that sound arrogant? The power of the Holy Spirit resides in of us to reflect the Risen Christ through our words and actions. It's humbling to think that Jesus uses us this way, but he does. It's nothing to brag about because it's **about** God and **from** God, not us. It's simply the way grace works.

But there is also such a thing as "responsible grace." We must remember to never leave our letter behind, but carry it with us wherever we go. It means never forgetting that what's in our possession is a gift of love to be shared with others. Perhaps this Christmas, we'll take another look at God's love letter lying in a crèche surrounded by animals & hay, angels & shepherds. That same letter lives in of each one of us in a timeless fashion. May we be "responsive" to that "grace" by our intentional efforts to live according to the message written on our hearts so that the letter of our life, written by God's hand, may be clearly seen and read by all who meet us.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy Name"
(Psalm 103:1)



Did You Know 2021 will be
St. James' 50th Anniversary?
Put on your Thinking Caps and
Share Your IDEAS with the Rector
About How we might CELEBRATE !!!
No suggestions received yet!!!

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

ADVENT QUIET DAY COMING SOON:

“Inviting Jesus In”

An Advent Quiet Day will be offered on **Saturday, December 7 from 10 AM to 1 PM**. This is an opportunity to slow down and center yourselves in spiritual preparation for the feast of the Incarnation. **Fr. Jonathan Melton**, associate rector of Holy Trinity by the Lake Episcopal Church in Rockwall, will lead our Quiet Day Retreat. Fr. Jonathan comes highly recommended from those who know him best. He is a priest with deep and abiding faith whose life is immersed in prayer and humility. We will be spiritually well fed.

Bring a Bible, a pen and a notebook so you can jot down your personal reflections & insights. The 3 meditations will each include some extended time for contemplative prayer. Once we formally begin, there is no talking. Enjoy the sacred silence by listening attentively for the Lord’s voice. We break our quiet time at lunch when you’ll be free to share insights or ask questions of our leader. We will conclude at 1 PM after closing prayers.
Fr. Randy+



T.E.A.C.H. (Theological Education After Coffee Hour)

T.E.A.C.H. meets on Sunday mornings after Church during food & fellowship, starting around 10:30 and lasting till about 11. The exceptions are the ALPHA tapes, which last 40+ minutes, followed by a discussion. All other classes will end around 11. Fr. Randy will lead the classes in November and December. Topics are as follows:

November 3: ALPHA (Resisting Evil)	December 1: Bp. Sumner
November 10: NO CLASS (Kairos)	December 8: Making a Confession
November 17: ALPHA (God’s Healing)	December 15: The Jesus Prayer
November 24: ALPHA (Life’s Meaning)	December 22: Mary the Theotokos
	December 29: NO CLASS



*If you have the opportunity to befriend non-Christians,
Focus on things that will draw them close,
Not the things that will drive them away.
Make sure that when you leave a person,
That he or she is closer to Jesus than when you first met them.*

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

All Saints' Sunday Celebration

Sunday, November 3 (Honoring our Dead who Live in Christ!)

All Saints' Day is November 1, and falls on Friday this year. This celebration is so important that the Church allows it to be transferred to the Sunday after. It is one of 4 liturgical feasts highlighted for Holy Baptism since we're made saints and children of God through baptism. The Greek word "Hagios" means both "saint" and "holy" signifying one who is set aside for the service of God's glory. The Communion of Saints is the great celebration of God's holy Church here in this life, in our death & in the next life. What better time to remember those who have died in the Faith. For Christians, death means that life is changed, not ended!

November 1, All Saints, is traditionally the commemoration of capital "S" saints of the Church calendar. November 2 (All Souls) commemorates the lesser known lower case "s" saints who make up the bulk of the church and are no less holy than the better known Saints. On All Saints' Sunday, our St. James tradition is to pray by name for the continued growth in God's love and service of our faithful departed loved ones, along with the vast Communion of Saints, both living and dead, all of whom are alive in Jesus.

JULIO'S Committal, Sunday, Nov. 3, after Worship

Julio, a homeless man who rode a bicycle and was well known in the area near the church for some 30 years, died last year. Judge Adams gave St. James permission to receive Julio's ashes since Julio had no family or friends to claim his body. It's not right that a person created in God's Image should be denied a proper burial, so we gave him one at the Sunday service. Julio's ashes have been in my office ever since. But we now have a plaque on our memorial wall by the Columbarium and on All Saints Sunday, after our worship, we will go immediately to the columbarium and commit Julio's ashes to the earth under his name plate. Julio was a baptized child of God who is enjoying a completed life in glory! May Julio and all the faithful departed we remember that day, rest in peace, and may Light perpetual shine upon them. And though Julio has no one left here but us to remember him, his memory is eternal with God.

Canon Jerry Morriss to Visit on November 3

Canon Jerry Morriss, former rector of St. James & currently Canon for Rural Ministry in the diocese, will be in the congregation on November 3 as part of his visiting rotation of rural churches. Although he knows this parish very well, this visit gives him a chance to get a feel of where we are today and in what capacity he might be of service to help us grow and develop in the future. This is a busy day, but he and his wife Carroll will be available for conversation during fellowship after worship and before TEACH. Please welcome Canon Morriss on this occasion

!

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The November and December DOK meetings are being combined and will take place on Saturday, November 16, with a brass rubbing activity. Details will be updated at the October 30th meeting. If the slate of new officers is not presented at the October 30th meeting, there will be a special meeting scheduled to elect officers.

*"Evangelism is to so present Jesus Christ
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
that all people shall come to put their trust
in God through Him,
to accept Him as their Savior
and serve Him as their King
in the fellowship of the Church."
-William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44)*

BLOOD DRIVE December 15!

The annual Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, December 15 this year, from 10AM to 1:30 PM. The bus will be parked in front of the church entrance for your convenience, so that you're able to give right after church. Please let your friends and neighbors know of this opportunity!

Bishop Sumner to Visit on Sunday, December 1

BISHOP GEORGE SUMNER will be here on **Sunday, December 1** for his annual visitation and **will celebrate, preach, confirm, receive new members, and reaffirm the baptismal vows** of several current members. It's always an exciting day to have our bishop with us. **JAMES MASHBURN**, in particular, is really stoked about being confirmed and added to our membership rolls. I'm going to ask the bishop to speak at **T.E.A.C.H.** on a topic of his choosing and/or take questions from members of the parish.

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

ADVENT begins December 1

ADVENT is the beginning of the new liturgical Church year, actually means "coming," as in the "coming of Jesus." Advent season is made up of the 4 Sundays before Christmas. The air is filled with expectancy and anticipation. It's a strange mixture of solemnity and joy as we prepare and wait for the arrival of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, when we celebrate the "Word becoming flesh among us," while also anticipating Jesus' 2nd coming for the final judgment and the establishment of God's Kingdom in its fullness.

The color blue signifies the expectant nature of Advent as it prepares us for Jesus by self-examination, reflection, prayer and study. Blue is also the traditional color for Mary, who is the means used by God to bring about the sacred enfleshment of our Lord. She's the Theotokos, meaning "mother of God" or "God-bearer". Our Advent & Christmas Eucharistic Prayer shifts from A to B, with its more explicit incarnational emphasis. Advent presents a season of mixed emotions: fear, anxiety, expectation, hope, joy, penitence and celebration. **This year Christmas Eve is a Tuesday, when we will celebrate the Christmas (Christ Mass) Eucharist at 6 p.m.**

+++++

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Liturgically, the color is festive white to celebrate the Holy Nativity, the birth of Jesus. The Song of Praise is "Gloria in Excelsis," and Eucharistic Prayer B is used, with its more explicit incarnational emphasis.

HANGING OF THE GREENS normally occurs on Advent 4, the Sunday prior to Christmas, which is December 22 this year. But it might be the week before. Watch for the announcement of the exact day and time to decorate the church for Christmas.

Tuesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: 6PM FESTIVAL CHRIST MASS

There is NO Eucharist on Wednesday, December 25.

Sunday, Dec. 29: 1st Sunday of Christmas, 9AM Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 5: 2nd Sunday of Christmas, 9AM Holy Eucharist

+++++

Speaking the Truth in Love? WATCH YOUR WORDS!

Here are 3 easy pointers to always consider before speaking:

1. Is it kind?
2. Is it true?
3. Is it necessary?

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

VESTRY Nominations: Deadline December 15

Time to begin thinking about Vestry nominations, which will be accepted from Sunday, December 1 through December 15. Bill Shehee and Paul Lasiter rotate off at the Annual Parish Meeting in January 26, 2020, leaving two vacancies for 3-year terms. In order to nominate and vote for someone, you yourself must be a member in good standing in this parish for the past year, at least 18 years of age, and you must be known to the parish treasurer as a giver of record. **It is wise to check with Fr. Randy first before talking to someone about a nomination to ensure that he/she is a qualified candidate as specified by canon law.**

Brief biographical sketches are made available to parishioners at least 2 weeks prior to the parish meeting. Since there is ample time for submitting names to the Rector, no nominations will be made from the floor. If more nominations are needed, the remaining Vestry members will serve as a nominating committee to ensure there are enough candidates.

Canonical Vestry Qualifications: Vestry members shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of St. James for the past year, a giver of record known to the Treasurer, and be at least 18 years old.

Communicant in good standing is defined as: Any member confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, has been faithful in attending worship, and working, praying and giving for the "spread of the Kingdom of God."

The following "spiritual" qualities, while not canonically required, offer a standard that befits the position and serves the Church well:

- *Worships regularly and has a prayer life.
- *Involved and familiar with overall parish life.
- *Demonstrates leadership qualities; comfortable making decisions
- *Able to work with others who may have differing opinions
- *Able to express convictions, gently challenge and be challenged
- *Tactful and respectful of others and is a team player
- *Open minded and a good listener
- *Positive attitude about the life of the parish
- *Able to work in a positive manner with the Rector
- *A person of high moral integrity, fair-minded and honest
- *Currently involved in a parish ministry
- *Dependable, reliable and responsible
- *Wants to be part of a solution, not a problem
- *Does not bring a special interest agenda to the vestry
- *Able and willing to give time and energy required of Vestry ministry
- *Model of Christian stewardship (pledging of time, talent and money)

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

TIME CHANGE November 2: Fall Back one hour!

Turn your clock back one hour on Saturday night, November 2! If you forget, you'll get to church an hour early (better than being late I guess)!! I love the fall change because we gain an hour of sleep!! The delegates to Diocesan Convention that weekend are definitely happy about this!



+++++

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE AWESOME UPCOMING EVENTS!

November 3, Sunday—ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, a major baptismal feast celebrating the Communion of Saints. Necrology of faithful departed is remembered at the altar!

November 10, Sunday—KAIROS CLOSING. Paul Lasiter is heading this one up and many St. James folks will be participating.

December 1, Sunday—BISHOP SUMNER'S ANNUAL VISITATION at St. James!

December 7, Saturday, Fr. Jonathan Melton leads Advent Quiet Day (10 to 1)

+++++

UPCOMING REGULAR EVENTS TO MARK ON THE CALENDAR!

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

Men's Group Reunion, 8 AM Tuesday

Women's Group Reunion, 9 AM, 1st & 3rd Tuesday

Weekly Intercessory Prayer Group, 4 PM, Tuesday

Vestry Meeting, 6PM, 3rd Tuesday, November 19 & December 17

Healing Eucharist, Noon Wednesdays

Daughters of the King, Saturday, November 16 Brass Rubbing

Evening Prayer and Fellowship: Canceled for November and December

Women's Group Reunion, 11 AM Thursday at Melton's house

Men's Bible Study, 6PM Thursdays

Angel Food, 7:45 AM, 3rd Saturday

Advent Begins December 1, Bishop Sumner's Visit with Confirmations etc.

Advent Quiet Day, December 7, 10AM-1PM, Fr. Jonathan Melton

Blood Drive, Sunday, December 15, 10 AM-1:30 PM

Christmas Eve Christ Mass, Tuesday, December 24, 6 PM

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday: Fr. Randy's Day off
Tuesday-Friday: 10 AM - 1 PM
Saturday: Office Closed
Sunday: 8 AM-11:30 AM

NOTE: Fr. Randy is in the church at many other times as well, but these are simply scheduled times he plans to be in the office, though there may be exceptions due to outside appointments or pastoral needs. If you don't see his car, it's because he often parks in the back near the shade. Appointments may certainly be made at other times as necessary.

FR. RANDY'S EMAIL: soulman4jc@gmail.com; **FR. RANDY'S CELL:** (830) 481-8290
CHURCH PHONE: (903) 498-8080; **CHURCH WEBSITE:** www.stjamesonthelake.org

+++++

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS...

3	Clayton Sawyers	17	Linda Bishop
6	Mary Ann Gowan	23	Cindy Puckett
14	Rita Brezniak		

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES...

21	Ben & Isabelle Edens	23	Don & Mary Lynn Loomis
----	----------------------	----	------------------------

NOVEMBER MEMORIALS...

4	Larry Trotter	17	Fred Fuston	26	Fletcher Horton
7	Kenneth McDaniel	18	Bill Brimer	27	Linda Gallatin
8	Mary Jane Richardson	19	Bertha Clendenen Pipes	28	Becky Margaristis
10	Everett Ricks	22	Hal Collins	29	Martin Richardson
11	Robert Clements	22	Jerry Hess		
11	Jacob Antoiine	25	Irene McGlothlin		

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS...

1	Kitty Whitted	13	Carol Mayo	19	Leo Longoria
2	Linda Shehee	14	Bill Shehee	20	Terry Dahlman
6	Mike Horton	14	Bill Riggs	21	Maggie Williams
8	Rita Davis	19	Marshall Barton		

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES...

12	Bob & Annette Jenkins	15	Jim and Ann Cavan
12	Charlie & Rita Davis	29	Canon Jerry & Carroll Morriss

DECEMBER MEMORIALS...

3	Kay Clendenen	12	Jackie Mize	23	Anna Nellinger
4	Emily Tuttle	14	Virgil Holt	25	Grace Reagan
4	Buford Roy Williams	16	Al Waldrep	26	Jean Sauer
6	Tim Miller	21	Emily Bradley	30	Lorene Ayers
9	Robin Wilson	22	Doyle Files, Sr.	31	David Flowers

Please forgive any deletions. Let me know if I missed someone and I will make sure they're on the list.

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP MINISTERS ARE SCHEDULED BELOW

DOK PRAYER: DeLois

GREETER: Paul & Sunny

ALTAR GUILD: Linda & Peggy

ACOLYTE: A1 Mike / A2 Kelley

PRAYERS: Carol

LECTOR: Karen

LEM: Paul & Bill

FRED: Bonnie

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES NOVEMBER...

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

Date	Greeters	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Prayers	Lesson Reader	Chalice	Coffee Hour	DOK Prayers with priest	Fred
3	Charlie & Rita	Sandy & Tina	1. Carol 2. Art	Kelley	Bob	Bill & DeLois	Gail Deanna Barbara	Bonnie	Paul
10 kairos	Phillip & Kelley	DeLois & Claire	1. Tissy 2. Mike	Marian	Marvin	DeLois & Gail	Susan D. Patsy M. Rita D.	Linda	Vicki
17	Mike & Wendy	DeLois & Claire	1. Kelley 2. Paul	Bill	Karen	Bill & Tina	Gloria C. Marian F. Judy E.	DeLois	Carol
24	Tissy & Gloria	Karen & Deanna	1. Carol 2. Art	Paul	Sunny	Paul & Gail	Dot O'Connors Isabelle Claire	Kelley	Vicki

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES DECEMBER

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

Date	Greeters	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Prayers	Lesson Reader	Chalice	Coffee Hour	DOK Prayer with Priest	Fred
1	Gail & Kitty	Karen & Deanna	1. Tissy 2. Sandy	Carol	Jeff	Paul & Tina	Nancy B. Marilyn Shirley G	Tina	Bonnie
8	Paul & Sunny	Susan D. & Kitty	1. Kelley 2. Mike	Art	Claire	Bill & DeLois	Annette Karen Lorna	Carol	Carol
15	DeLois & Karen	Susan D. & Kitty	1. Sandy 2. Paul	Kelley	Tina	Bill & Tina	Gail Deanna Barbara	Gloria	Linda
22	Ray & Marian	Linda & Peggy	1. Carol 2. Art	Bill	DeLois	Bill & Gail	Sunny, Kitty, Meridel	Gail	Paul
29	Bob & Annette	Linda & Peggy	1. Tissy 2. Mike	Paul	Ray	DeLois & Bill	Gloria C. Marian F. Judy E.	Karen	Bonnie

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

*A Dabba,
Dabba,
Dabba...*



LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN