

The Messenger...September, 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

FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Will it ever rain again? I grew up with water cooler fans in the bedroom windows and slept like a baby at night. We had numerous 100 degree days and just accepted that's what summers were all about. Through the years we've all become soft and are sure that we can't live without air conditioning in our homes, at work and even in our cars. Well, I too buy into that concept today. I eagerly await the cooler days of fall and the opportunity to be outside again without fear of heat stroke.

I also await the time when we will be able to put all of the illnesses and grief of recent days behind us. This summer has been as frustrating as the days of quarantine and shut downs. Covid continues to raise its ugly head, multiple folks have undergone various surgeries, and we've experienced at least one car accident. Through it all the people at St. James have been faithful and resilient. Our weekly attendance has grown bit by bit, and on those Sundays when most everyone is here, we have a full house and our worship together is truly special.

With the coming month we will continue to move even more closely to normalcy as we host another of our wonderful fish fries. This, as always, is a perfect opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to come and enjoy our fellowship. Later our Blood Drive will give us that visible presence in the community and offer another opportunity to continue another of our outreach ministries.

Finally, we have added one new member to our worshipping congregation. Theo Webb has joined our church family and is the first of many other babies and children that we hope may become a part of our church family in the years to come. Kristine and the baby are doing well and we are pleased to have our deacon back on board after his paternity leave.

JDM+

p.s. it rained this week! Praise God.

FROM THE WEBB SITE...

These past few weeks since the birth of baby Theo have been some of the most revealing weeks of my life. He is a wonderful baby (not that I'm partial.) However, as I sit and watch him learn about the world, I can't help but see myself in him.

This isn't that he looks like me (thank God he looks like his mom.) Rather, I have quickly learned that newborns are bent on self-destruction. He will begin to cry, and as I try to comfort him, he will flail about, as if hitting his head on my chin will immediately solve whatever problem he has. He will try to dive backwards out of my arms. He will reach out to grab whatever object has tickled his fancy, be it a pacifier, stuffed animal, or the decorative cactus on the bookcase. Each time he does so, either Kristiane or I am there, to gently guide him back to safety. To sit with him and soothe him as he recovers from his bumped head. To love and support him in his moment of need, even if it seems as if there is nothing we can do for him.

I too have a self-destructive bent. I too am drawn to things that are not the best for me. Things that I know will be detrimental to me. At least Theo is ignorant of these dangers. I am well aware of their pitfalls, yet I continue anyway. Thankfully, I am not alone in this. Even St. Paul tells us that he does "the things that I do not wish to do and I do not do the things I wish to do."

Even with our self-destructive tendencies, God does not bemoan us or abandon us. He is there, gently guiding us back to safety. Even in the moments of need, where it seems as though nothing can be done, he is there, loving and supporting us. He is there holding us as we thrash against him. Singing sweetly to us even as we are crying too loud to hear anything else. He is there embracing us with his nail-scarred hands telling us that even though the world is large, scary and doesn't make sense, that it will all be ok, because he is there for us. He is there with us.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1st Bill & Jo Miniati

3rd Bruce Irwin

4th Judy Evans

17th Doyal Files

20th Judy Nevins

THE PANTHER STORE

I met with Chief Rich a few weeks ago and we are looking ways to extend our aid the students in need, not only at the high school, but at all of the Mabank schools. If you noticed this past month everyone in the world was collecting back-to-school supplies. This is wonderful for the start of the year, but as we are learning there are ongoing needs throughout the year and we are going to attempt to work with the various school to address these basis needs throughout the year. We were able to donate a refrigerator to the Panther Store this summer along with numerous food items. In the days to come, we will post specific needs as they arise. In the mean time, we can always us cash donations. Your support of this new ministry is greatly appreciated.

EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

- 2nd Hungry Bunch...**5:30**, Val's Italian Restaurant in Canton
- 3rd Carter Blood Drive...10:00 to 2:00
- 4th Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by T.E.A.C.H. History of the Church study
- 6th MAGS lunch at the Methodist Church...noon
- 7th Study Group...11:00 Living Together followed by Noon Mass
- 11th Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by T.E.A.C.H. History of the Church study
- 14th Study Group...11:00 Living Together followed by Noon Mass
- 18th Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by T.E.A.C.H. History of the Church study
- 21st Study Group...11:00 Living Together followed by Noon Mass
- 21st Vestry meeting ...5:00 followed by Evening Prayer and F.E.A.S.T.
- 23rd Fish fry...6:00 in the pavilion
- 24th Angel Food
- 25th Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by T.E.A.C.H. History of the Church study
- 25th D.O.K meeting following T.E.A.C.H.

T.E.A.C.H.

A few weeks ago we began a new study on the history of the Church. Beginning in the 1st century with the apostles and the early New Testament Church, we are attempting to follow the life of the Church down through the years. We are beginning to better understand our roots and to see that we are truly a part of the Catholic church begun nearly 2000 years ago. In the weeks to come, we will begin to look at the Church of England and the spread of Anglicanism throughout the world and the place that the Episcopal Church plays in all of this. Plan to spend a few minutes following coffee hour each week for our time of learning and sharing.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

Date	DOK	Greeter	Altar	Acolyte	Vestry
4th	Sunny	Terry & Susan	Linda & Deanna	Carol	Paul
11th	Willene	Ray & Marian	Kelley & Carol	Mike	Mike
18th	Annette	Jeff & Kitty	Tine & Sandy	Kelley	Marian
25th	Tina	Gail & Deanna	DeLois & Claire	Sandy	Tina

MINISTRIES, cont.

Date	Lessons	Coffee	Chalice	Organ
4th	Annette	Peggy & Ann	Kelley	Linda
11th	Ray	Barbara & Lorna	Tina	Bonnie
18th	Marian	Gail & Deanna	Paul	Linda
25th	Claire	Nancy & Carol	Mike	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