

The Messenger...December 2022

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

The Rev. Canon Jerry D. Morriss, Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Nathan Webb, Deacon

10707 CR 4022, Kemp, Texas 75143 (903) 498-8080

stjameskemp@gmail.com

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

On December 7th, the bishop will place his hands on our deacon's head and later in the service introduce Fr. Webb to his new congregation. I will be watching from the sidelines offering my prayers and support; and I know that each of you will be doing the same thing. St. James is about to enter into a new era. Shortly after the publication of this month's newsletter, you will begin to move forward under the leadership of a new priest. The positive aspect of this change is that everyone already knows who that person is. You've had several months now to get to know him and his family and I'm getting the impression that everyone is so enamored with Theo that they are very happy to welcome your new priest and his wife to their new church home.

I have discovered in recent weeks just how aware and knowledgeable our deacon is and I am looking forward to his ordination and watching him as he takes on his new responsibilities. He has shared some of his hopes and visions for the future with the vestry and I suspect that the coming months will see him eagerly taking on the task of priest-in-charge. The soon to be, Fr. Webb will still be serving as a curate for another year and a half and the two of us will be meeting together on a weekly basis. However, I will be back on the road for the near future, visiting the various rural churches again. I have told the vestry that, in the words of MacArthur, "I shall return." Once your new priest has settled in and I decide that maybe it is time to retire, I hope to become St. James' first Rector Emeritus.

I have been assured that there won't be a bunch of terrible changes taking place in the immediate future, however I suspect that Fr. Webb will put his stamp on things as time goes by. In the meantime, I look forward to working and mentoring him as

he continues to grow into his new ministry. It will be a joy to see the leadership that will now come from a younger generation. Lord knows this old leader has been doing this long enough. So, for one last time, let say what a joy it is to be a part of St. James Church and again to remind you that God loves you and so do I.

JDM+

FROM THE WEBB-SITE

The new year is always a time of great hope. As the clock winds down, the anticipation builds. What will the new year hold? Promise? Change? Love? A promotion? The possibilities are endless.

For St. James, this new year will definitely bring about one change. I am excited to be taking on new roles and responsibilities. But I am not the only one who will be taking on new challenges. This upcoming year holds great promise and possibility. It may bring us to try new things or adjust some old things. It may require us to take stock of who we are and why we do what we do. But one thing is certain. We are not doing this alone. We are all in this together.

When I first arrived at St. James, I was repeatedly told that it is “the plucky little church on the lake.” In its rather short history, St. James has accomplished many great things that churches twice its size would only dream about. That tenacity runs deep through the veins of St. James. This is the church that God has used to change not just the area, but the world. I am asking us all to be open to what God might have in store for our future.

Deacon Webb

SIMPLY JESUS

Jesus is fascinating. You can see images of Jesus on billboards and murals. Political parties of all stripes try to claim that Jesus would vote for them. Everyone has an opinion on Jesus. But who is Jesus? Who was he? Who did he say that he was? Who do we say he is? Why does he matter?

Join us on Wednesdays as we read “Simply Jesus” by Bishop N.T. Wright. Bishop Wright is one of the world’s foremost Anglican theologians and scholars. His book is an accessible look at the historical, Biblical Jesus, who meets the needs of our complex world.

MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS

Saturday, December 3rd, we are honored to have Sandra Wakefield present our Christmas program. She will be giving us a new perspective on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. This is a can't miss opportunity. Lunch will be provided. RSVP is required. Please call the church or a member of DOK to RSVP.

HUNGRY BUNCH

The Hungry Bunch had to change its plans last month because of some turn over at the Country Club. Last month we made a quick change to Hector's and enjoyed a good turnout as is usually the case when we go to Hector's. This month we are going to the club on the 1st which is only days away so make sure that you have signed up although late sign ups won't be a problem at the club. Then mark your calendar for August 5th when we are planning to go to Wells Point for dinner at the Four Winds. Here we will need an accurate head count so mark your calendar and come be a part of another fun evening.

T.E.A.C.H.

We have recently begun a new study based on Jesus' second coming. Each week a list with a few Bible readings and some questions will be sent out so that you can be prepared for our time of sharing. Everyone is encouraged to stay for a few minutes following coffee hour each week for a brief time of discussion and fellowship.

EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

- 2nd Hungry Bunch...6:00 at
3rd Mary, The Mother of Jesus – D.O.K. Christmas Event at 11:00 am
5th MAGS Meeting at noon
7th Deacon Webb Ordination into the Priesthood – 7:00 pm
14th Wednesday Study – 11:00 am, Eucharist – noon
17th Christmas Food and Angel Food Pickup – 9:00 am
21st Wednesday Study – 11:00 am, Eucharist – noon
24th Christmas Eve Service 6PM
25th Christmas Day Service 9AM
28th Wednesday Study – 11:00 am, Eucharist – noon
31st New Years Eve.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 st Kitty Whitted | 20 th Terry Dahlman |
| 2 nd Linda Shehee | 27 th Michelle Anderson |
| 6 th Mike Horton | 30 th Canon & Carroll Morriss |
| 12 th Charlie & Rita Davis | |
| 12 th Bob & Annette Jenkins | |
| 13 th Carol Mayo | |
| 15 th Jim & Ann Cavan | |
| 18 th Rita Davis | |
| 18 th Marshall Barton | |

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DOK</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>ALTER GUILD</u>	<u>ACOLYTE</u>	<u>LESSON</u>
12/4	Willene	Ray and Marian	Sandy & Tina	Carol	Sunny
12/11	Tina	Deanna and Gail	DeLois & Claire	Kelley	Tina
12/18	Annette	Bob & Annette	Susan D & Kitty	Carol	Terry D.
12/25	Carol Mayo	Jeff and Kitty	Linda & Deanna	Sandy	John A.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COFFEE</u>	<u>CHALICE</u>	<u>ORGAN</u>	<u>VESTRY</u>
12/4	Susan D & Kitty	Gail	Bonnie	Peggy
12/11	Peggy & Ann	Kelley & Canon	Linda	Paul-Prayers of People
12/18	Barbara & Lorna	Tina & Paul	Bonnie	Mike-Prayers of People
12/25	Annette & Sunny	Mike	Linda	Tina

Please remember that if you cannot serve on your scheduled date, you need to make sure you have a replacement.