

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

News Features:

- Personnel Changes
- Fall Classes and Small Groups
- Conversations About Racial Justice

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The SEASONS Of St. James

THE WHOLE WORLD IS IN GOD'S HANDS

By the Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

Hello to the beloved community of St. James Church. You are dearly missed – and probably thought of more often now than before the COVID-19 experience. Oh how we desire to be together again and to share in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood. If you are like me, you long to be fed by the Savior who nourishes our hearts and spirits with the grace we are so hungry for.

Going without Communion with you leads me to faith alone (instead glancing back in still tactile memory to the last time we looked at each other eye-to-eye in church) that when you read something I have written, it does not have a political agenda. You may have a good idea of what some of my political beliefs are, but when I am acting in the sacred role of your priest, it would not occur to me to engage with you in any way other than the way that leads us to Christ. This is a sacred responsibility.

I pray you will also read anything that reaches you from St. James Church in the same spirit, in faith that our community is seeking God with loving intention.

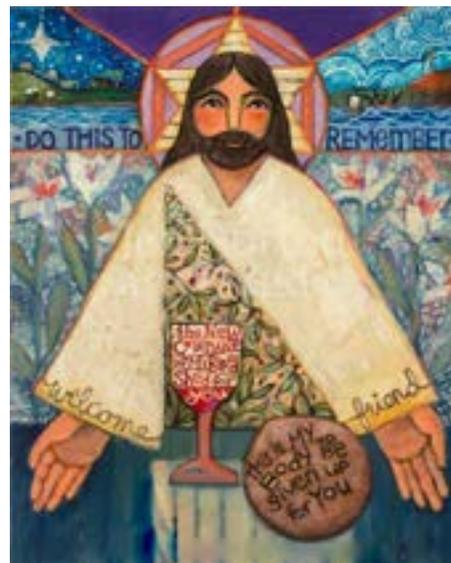
The most common feelings shared with me in response to the pandemic have been:

- Grief and numbness
- Frenzied discombobulation
- Surreal satisfaction at home with family

I've felt all of these at one time or another, but mostly I stay frenzied. Each day the way we do something has to be re-invented, the schedule is changed again, and everything takes much longer to do than it used to. This is frustration I am sure you have felt to one extent or another and I have not escaped.

COVID UPDATE

Three of the areas most impacted by the pandemic have been our anniversary celebration, our community worship, and life in the online realm.



100th Anniversary Celebration Message



It has been such a disappointment that after waiting 100 years, and with so much anticipation, the celebration of our anniversary has, out of necessity, have been put on “indefinite hold.” Annual events like the Oyster Dinner and the Olde English Tea have suffered the same fate. At first we thought we would be able to re-schedule the anniversary events for this Fall, but that didn’t turn out to be possible. The more time that passes, the more we are starting to understand that we can’t even try to predict the situation six months in advance.

I would love to say that when 2021 begins we will pick right back up where we left off and have the rest of our celebration just like we planned with a big reunion event in the summer and smaller commemorating events throughout the year. Even the capital campaign is waiting for 2021.

What I haven’t wanted to think about is the possibility that 2021 will be very similar to 2020. If that happens, then we will probably have to get creative in a whole new way and develop an enjoyable way to celebrate our 100th anniversary in an entirely different way.

WORSHIP SERVICES

I began this article talking about how much I know we all miss being together and we miss the sacrament. It is astonishing that we haven’t really functioned as a worshipping community for half a year. We never dreamed this was possible. Is this something like what persecuted communities experience when they are prevented from gathering for worship and prayer? Being away from you, and the joy of worshipping corporately, really has been a learning experience – and one I am sure is not over yet. Because I will be so happily reunited with you when the time comes, will I remember to socially distance? Will I remember not to hug you?



For now, we continue with no corporate worship services – except online. The city news is that “the numbers are going in the right direction.” So if we don’t get lax too soon, we have a chance at really getting our community back into a more functional state. Pray, wear your masks, wash your hands. Keep up the good work.

Here is what we are going to try. **At 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 20**, we are going to hold a drive-in service in the parking lot. We now have the equipment to broadcast to your car radios. The idea is that you can stay in your cars safely distanced and we can still have in-person church. I’m going to get up on a flat bed truck or something (OMGosh!) so that everybody will be able to see from their cars. There will also be an outdoor PA system in use. For those who promise to wear masks and keep appropriately distanced, you can bring chairs and sit in the churchyard for the service, but who knows how well you will be able to see from the “nosebleed” section. The service will be recorded and posted later that day on our YouTube channel. Our YouTube channel is: www.youtube.com/c/st-jameswichita. We will see how the drive-in service goes and remain hopeful!

PARISH LIFE ONLINE

By the Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

Who knew that we would end up spending so much time in front of our computers – for a whole new reason? Many of the things we used to do on the computer are still necessary, so the added screen time has been hard for many of us to adjust to. We are proving that doing things online (like going to church) is just not the same as doing it in person. We are also learning that just because someone has a computer and an email address, it does not mean that they do access St. James communications.



The **eTower** is a weekly email which goes out on Friday afternoons. (If you don’t get it and would like to sign-up for it, go to www.stjameswichita.org, and click on the black button on our homepage which says: **E-Tower Sign Up**). It contains the most up-to-the-minute information from the parish and it is updated weekly. We can tell that this email is opened by about fifty-percent of the people who receive it each week and we know that we don’t have email addresses for everyone in the congregation. This is on our minds because we want to be in touch with you. During the suspension of in-person worship services, the **eTower** is the best way to stay in touch with what’s going on at St. James. If you’re missing out, start reading. If you don’t use a computer, please call us at 683-5686 if you would like to have the **eTower** mailed to you. We do this for about ten people, so we would be happy to add your name to the list.

Online groups have been a special experience during this time of staying apart. Lots of groups which used to meet in person on a regular basis are now meeting online (mostly on **Zoom**) on their regular schedule. Committees have their meetings, Adult Forum and Coffee Hour still happen on Sunday morning, and we are hosting groups and classes this way, too. I say that this has been a “special experience” because at first it was simply fantastic just to be able to connect with people from church when we were all holed up at home. It still has that community feeling for a lot of us. **Zoom** has proven to be easy to manage for some, and more of a challenge for others, while another group has so far decided not to try.

If getting on **Zoom** is something you thought you would never do, please let the length of this on-going situation inform your thinking. Your friends at church really miss you and this is one way to get connected. Your participation this way is a gift to everybody. Unlike YouTube, **Zoom** is interactive. Once you’re on, we can see and hear you. You get to take part in the conversation. My best advice is to try **Zooming** on a computer that is actually plugged into the internet with a wire (not *wi-fi*), or second best, try it on your mobile phone. These two methods seem to provide the most reliable connection. Go to www.zoom.com to download the app whether you plan to use it on your phone or your computer (on any device).

IN CLOSING, A PRAYER

In this season of Fall, and in this Fall issue of The Seasons, as we look a few months into the future. You can read about what the parish is planning in these pages. We all know there will be a presidential election and we hope for an effective way to deal with this virus as soon as possible. We need to pray.

We always have something to learn from The Book of Common Prayer if we are willing to let it instruct us. Beginning on page 814 of the BCP, we learn how to order our prayers: for the life of the world, for the church, and for our national life. In every instance of prayer we desire to be mindful of the needs of others before we think of ourselves. In times of uncertainty, loss, separation, and upheaval, prayer is valuable for the sake of the world, the church and our nation. When feeling isolated and at the same time treading new ground, turning to God is also our greatest personal resource. I encourage you to plumb the depths of that resource and for your use to that end I commend the following. It is found on page 820 of the BCP:

“Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Every blessing,

Mother Dawn

PERSONNEL UPDATES

By the Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

BOOKKEEPER AND TREASURER

I have so much to tell you. First, let's start with family news. Paul Clark, who stepped in as Bookkeeper and spent more than a year bailing us out of what he calls (politely), "A mess," is happily going back into retirement. We can't thank Paul enough (although we will try) for what he has done for St. James. Thank you, Paul! He is lovingly known around the office as the hermit with a serious sweet tooth. Paul retires just in time to spend a few months getting ready to become a Granddad. Anne and Bert Clark have announced that they expect the arrival of their son in another month or so. As we have all had a wonderful time sincerely celebrating their good news, there has been reality to face as well. Bert has a demanding job and he poured many hours into his second job as Treasurer for St. James. The Treasurer serves in a volunteer capacity for our congregation and Bert did so sacrificially. He is smart, and he also knows it will be impossible to keep up the pace he's set for himself once the baby is here and he is deliriously happy and sleep deprived. Bert's last day serving as Treasurer will be October 15. Thank you, Bert!



Stepping into the position of Treasurer will be Woody Swain. Woody recently served three years as our Jr. Warden and on the Executive Committee. He is very well acquainted with the details of our church finances, has a lifetime of business experience, and the trust of our congregation as he undertakes this responsibility. Woody has already begun working with Bert and the Bookkeeper as they anticipate the October 15 transition. Thank you, Woody!

Since you usually see her running instead of walking, I won't say that she is "stepping" into the position of Bookkeeper at St. James, but I will say that we are delighted to announce that Susie Stallings, is our new Bookkeeper. Susie served as Assistant Treasurer with Bert Clark and worked hand-in-hand with Paul Clark every step of the way through the process of undoing our mess. We never imagined that we were preparing to hire Susie for this position, but when Paul spoke of his retirement, it was an opportunity which really appealed to her. Susie has extensive experience getting things done. She served as Treasurer and Bookkeeper at St. Stephens Episcopal Church here in Wichita for years. She also volunteered as bookkeeper with Episcopal Wichita Area Refugee Ministry (EWARM). She has worked for a long time in her son's business office and has served as president, and many other capacities in the Jr. League of Wichita. We are delighted to have her on our team. Thank you, Susie!

PART-TIME IN, PART-TIME OUT

The virus keeps providing us with opportunities to find new ways to do old things. Our Program Director, Chelsea Whipple, now has young boys at home during the day and some trying to do online learning. This is a big task for families, especially when both parents work in demanding full-time positions. When Chelsea elected to become our full-time Program Director, she didn't know the pandemic was going to turn her into one who educates at home. It has, and until the situation changes, Chelsea will be working half-time with St. James with our gratitude. She is doing a wonderful job in the creation of all of our Christian Formation programs as well as coordinating ministries for outreach, newcomers, and fellowship. Thank you, Chelsea.

Mother Dawn has learned lots of new things: how to put different pieces of a video together and edit it, how to create and maintain a YouTube channel, how to upload content, promote it on social media, and communicate about it through Constant Contact. With that afoot, she hasn't learned how to run the website. That's not her job anyway! We are looking to hire someone to do these technological tasks on a part-time basis. This is real work that has to be done well and reliably on schedule (often on Saturday night). While we will be conducting a formal hiring process through the help of Dottie Evans, you may know of someone who has lost employment along these lines during the changes in our economy. If you know someone you think would be well qualified, please have them send their resume to: dottieevans6@gmail.com. Thank you very much.

YOUTH MENTORS

As previously mentioned, Anne Clark is having a baby. As the Clark family grows, our youth family at St. James gives a gigantic Thank You to Anne for parenting the Youth Group for the last ten years! Lately, Youth Group, like everything else, has really been morphing. The groups finished the school year meeting online. We observed that this may have worked best for the Mid-High Youth Group and less well for the High School Youth. This school year many of the students will be spending lots of time online just going to school, so there is a question about how much more they would like to be online for Youth Group. Racine Zackula has been mentoring the youth groups with Anne. Racine loves having time with the youth and she has her hands full with some other things right now. They might demand more of her attention in the future. We don't know for sure. This means leadership is in a bit of flux. Anne hopes to stay in the mix, Deacon Jeff and Chelsea Whipple are in the conversation with Anne and Racine. They are working to provide engaging reasons for the youth to gather, the right amount of adult involvement, and the right way (online?) to do it for the most people. We truly want and need input from students and parents. If someone wants to work (for limited pay) with the Youth, please contact Mother Dawn at motherdawn@stjameswichita.org. Good luck, Anne!

FAREWELL TO THE FLYNNS

By The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

This is usually the time when we are announcing a party or a big reception to celebrate the ministries of two people who gave their all to the life of St. James Church for many years. Unfortunately, as we have said throughout this newsletter, the virus has changed everything for us and right now it is making us less appreciative and less demonstrative of our affection than we usually are. This is about the time of year when we would have been expecting Deacon Peggy Flynn to return from her year of sabbatical. However, consistent with the time in which we live, Deacon Peg and Verger Tim Flynn have decided to make some changes in their ministry. Deacon Peggy has felt a call to ministry with the people at Breakthrough-ESS. Bishop Bascom has assigned her to that location as the place where she will currently live out her diaconal ministry. Over the same course of time, Tim Flynn has chosen not to go on serving us in worship as the lead verger at St. James. Once we reconvene, our community will really notice their absence and we will miss them a great deal. Deacon Peggy was a loving presence for absolutely everyone who stepped into St. James Church. She faithfully served at the altar and was relied upon as a strong preacher from our pulpit. As our original verger, Tim helped us get all of our liturgies running smoothly and consistently. He wrote a number of helpful reference materials for our parish; trained many years worth of acolytes, lectors, and chalice bearers; and established an online scheduling system for all service volunteers. There will be very noticeable changes with the Flynns no longer in our midst, and as we go into a future which has such an unclear definition, I hope you won't miss your chance to reach out to them and thank them for what they have done for St. James. They are listed in our member directory and their information remains the same. Farewell and God bless the Flynns.



CONGREGATIONAL BOOK READ AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

We have started the Fall with two excellent groups ready to discuss books, racial justice, and Christian responsibility. One group meets during the day (11:00 a.m.) and the other meets in the evening (7:00 p.m.). Both groups meet on Zoom and are hosted by Mother Dawn and Chelsea Whipple. The groups have engaged each other honestly and openly as we have considered race and our role in the way society works. We have had some very moving conversations. The discussion about “White Fragility” is expected to go into the first of October. We will begin our investigation of “Biased” following that, and that part of our conversation will last until we break for Thanksgiving. We want to respond to the desire to discuss, so if joining a group appeals to you, please contact Mother Dawn or Chelsea Whipple. If there is enough interest, we will start a new group at a time which suits the most people. The next portion of the racial justice and Christian responsibility conversation will begin again in January 2021 when we will read “The Color of Compromise” together.



LENDING LIBRARY

If you would like to learn on your own schedule, the church is making a lending library available to its members. We are collecting a number of titles in our library. The latest to be added are the books which were read and discussed by a small group led by professor Robin Henry in the spring of 2019. The library is located in the main office of the church (where the mailboxes are and where Jinger’s desk is). Come in during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday) to see what we have and to check out what interests you. We are asking that you check out one book at a time and that you keep it for no more than two weeks so we can share with as many people as possible.



BASIC A - ADULT CONFIRMATION



This is an announcement aimed especially for those who have been newcomers to St. James Church or who have been attending for a while and would now like to be confirmed. Basic A (A stands for Anglican) is a course open to anyone who would like to learn more about the Episcopal Church. It is especially good for people who are new to St. James and would like to know more about what we believe and what our history is. This course should make you able to discern if this is the church you should join and in which you should become an active part. Basic A will be offered

on Zoom on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. beginning on September 15 and going through October 27. Please call the church 683-5686 to let us know you’d like to be in the group, or email Mother Dawn at motherdawn@stjameswichita.org. We have to hear from you because we will need to provide you with information needed to get into our Zoom groups online. Anyone who completes this course becomes eligible to be confirmed (or received)* in the Episcopal Church at St. James. When we are scheduling visits from the Bishop again, we will set a date, and the next time Bishop Bascom is at St. James, you can be confirmed at a Sunday morning worship service if you so desire. In our tradition, the sacrament of baptism comes before confirmation (often when children are very young). Later, confirmation is considered the adult affirmation of faith.

**(If you are already confirmed in a church in the apostolic succession, you will be received, instead of confirmed.)*

ST. JAMES MUSIC NOTES

By Marlene Hallstrom, Music Director

TWO HYMNS FOR REFLECTION DURING THIS TIME

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

As Edward Mote was walking to work one day in 1834, the thought popped into his head to write a hymn on the “Gracious Experience of a Christian.” As he walked up the road, he had the chorus, “On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.” By the end of the day, he had the first four verses written out and safely tucked away in his pocket. Later that week, he visited his friend whose wife was very ill, and as they couldn’t find a hymnal to sing from, he dug up his newly written verses and sang those with the couple. The wife enjoyed them so much she asked for a copy, and Mote went home to finish the last two verses and sent it off to a publisher, saying, “As these verses so met the dying woman’s case, my attention to them was the more arrested, and I had a thousand printed for distribution.” Almost two centuries later, we continue to sing these words of hope and assurance, our declaration that in the midst of all trials and storms, we will cling to the rock that is our Savior. Edward Mote was born in Upper Thames Street, London, Jan. 21, 1797. Through the preaching of the Rev. J. Hyatt, of Tottenham Court Road Chapel, he underwent a great spiritual change; and ultimately he became a Baptist minister. For the last 26 years of his life he was pastor at Horsham, Sussex, where he died Nov. 13, 1874.

1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

Refrain:
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

Source: Trinity Psalter Hymnal #459

ST. JAMES MUSIC NOTES

By Marlene Hallstrom, Music Director

The music life, along with everything else, has been different at St. James during the past few months. The choirs and handbell choir have missed singing and ringing together, and we have tried to be creative in the way we make music for worship. I want to thank those who have provided music for worship so far: Vocalists: Jennifer King, Joan Moore, Adrienne Edwards, Andy Aitken, Rick Milhon, Tim Garrels, Cheryl Schmeidler, Randy Harrison, Erin, Kennedy, Rob and William Compton
Rick Milhon, clarinet; Pamela Young, flute; Olivia Laycock, cello; Peggy Johnson, handbell solo

As we continue to record music for worship, I look forward to more creative ways for our members and friends to share music with our congregation as we look forward to the time when we will all be together again!

With hope for the future, Marlene Hallstrom

**LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

Composer: J. Rosamond Johnson

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

3 God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
You who have brought us thus far on the way;
You who have by your might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met you;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine
of the world, we forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Source: One in Faith #847

2 Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way
that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is
cast.

Continued

Two Hymns Continued

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Composer: J. Rosamond Johnson

John Rosamund Johnson (b. Jacksonville, Florida, August 11, 1873; d. New York, New York, November 11, 1954) was one of the more important figures in black music in the first part of the 20th century, usually in partnership with Bob Cole or with his brother James Weldon Johnson. While he is chiefly remembered today as the composer of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," he had a varied career as a pianist, songwriter, producer, soldier, singer, and actor. J. Rosamond Johnson began playing the piano at age four, studied at the New England Conservatory and with Samuel Coleridge-Taylor in London. He may have performed in 1896 with Isham Jones' Oriental America show in New York. By the end of the 19th century, Johnson was teaching schoolchildren in the Jacksonville region. Around 1900 Johnson wrote and taught these schoolchildren "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." Its popularity caused it to spread until it became the unofficial, then official, Black National Anthem. Johnson moved to New York City in 1900 and plunged into its musical life. After contributing a song to Williams and Walker's Sons of Ham (1900), Johnson teamed up with Robert Cole with whom he began creating a vaudeville act and writing songs, occasionally assisted by his brother James Weldon Johnson. This partnership lasted until Cole's death in 1911. Besides crafting a sophisticated vaudeville style, Cole and Johnson produced two musicals, The Shoo-Fly Regiment (1907) and The Red Moon (1909). While these shows were successful, they lost money and Cole and Johnson returned to vaudeville performance. Johnson's compositions skills were the strongpoints of his musicals and vaudeville performances. Musicologist Thomas Riis considers Johnson's harmonic language to be the richest of all the other black theater composers of his time save for Will Marion Cook. Shortly after Cole's death, Johnson performed as a pianist in "A Concert of Negro Music" the great Carnegie Hall concert of May 2, 1912. When World War I broke out, Johnson received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 15th Regiment. After the war, he toured with his own groups, and even sang and played the part of a lawyer in the original production of Porgy and Bess in 1935. Library of Congress (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/loc.natlib.ihas.200038845/default.html>)

Author: James Weldon Johnson

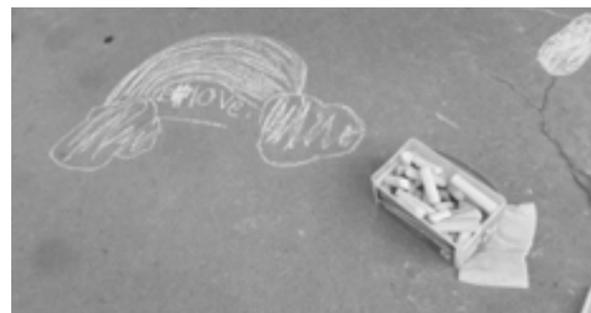
James was the brother of composer John Johnson. He studied literature at Atlanta University (graduated 1894, MA 1904), and went on to become a song writer, anthologist, teacher, and lawyer. He was the first African-American to pass the bar in the state of Florida. In 1906 he became the American consul in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, and in 1909, consul in Corinto, Nicaragua. In 1920, he was appointed Executive Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. His works include: The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, 1920; The Book of American Negro Poetry, 1922; God's Trombones, 1927; Along This Way, 1933.

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WALK THE WAY OF LOVE VBS*By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs*

The month of July was filled with VBS fun for the kids at St. James! Each week was filled with activities including bible stories, science, art, movement, mindfulness, and group activities; all centered around the 7 practices for a Jesus filled life. They learned how to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus by TURNing towards God's love, by LEARNing about God's love, by PRAYing with God, by WORSHIPing together, by BLESSing others, by GOing out to share about God's love, and by RESTing in God's eternal love for each one of them. We had mission activities to help gather items for the Kansas Children Service League's programs involving kids. The kids met via Zoom weekly to show off their creations, play games, sing songs, and read *The Very Best Day: The Way of Love for Children* by Roger Hutchison. We kicked off VBS with an opening celebration and ended VBS with a closing celebration.

Check out our bulletin board of activities and pictures at St. James, when we gather back in-person.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CHAPEL***By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs*

As with most planned activities this Fall, Children's Sunday school and Children's Chapel will look different than the typical year. Last spring, Mission Commander Chelsea and later on Conductor C.W. recorded videos for the kids to watch and activities to participate in (all those videos are on our Youtube channel and you can watch anytime). But this Fall we are planning on a more interactive experience. We will concentrate on the story of Jonah and how Jonah's experience is similar to the situation we currently live in, related to the pandemic. The set-up will be similar to VBS with a Google Classroom, material lists, and Zoom meetings for interactions and activities to do beforehand or during the Zoom meet-ups.

With that in mind, we don't want to forget about Children's Chapel! The goal of Children's Chapel is to experience Church together where we can ask questions, create activities, and worship together; sometimes loudly with dancing involved. Chelsea will be creating monthly videos for Children's Chapel so kids can go to church at home. These videos will be on the 2nd Sunday of the Month. Information will be sent in our Children's Ministry Email. If you are not signed up for the St. James Children's Ministry email please let Chelsea know at formation@stjameswichita.org

BACKPACK BLESSING PARADE*By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs*

On **September 13th**, we will have a drive-thru backpack blessing parade in the St. James parking lot starting at **11:00 am** and going until all backpacks are blessed. Mother Dawn will be there as we kick off the start of the school year. Good luck and special prayers to all our students and teachers this year for what we will be a memorable one. The car line will begin underneath the covered area of the parking lot by the Red doors. Please stay in your car.

YOUTH*By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs*

Youth ministry sent out a survey to parents and youth to find out the best possible meeting times. With the fluidity of the school year, we want to be conscious of kids that are having to be online all day long. Our goal with Youth Ministry is and continues to be is to engage our youth in their life-long formation of Christ. Youth group needs to be a place of refreshment, fellowship, and ways to connect real-life situations to their Christian life and identity. Our plan is to meet virtually, via Zoom, and possibly have gatherings in an outdoor, social distance environment. If you received the survey via email please reply as soon as you can. Definitive plans and times will be sent out via eTower and an email to youth parents. If you are interested in your youth being involved and are not receiving emails from Anne Clark or Chelsea Whipple about youth group please let Chelsea Whipple know at formation@stjameswichita.org.

Due to the covid status in the area, we have decided to postpone the garage sale until spring. We have also decided to put a hold on selling bricks for the 100th anniversary labyrinth project until we are meeting regularly at church again. We hope to install it next summer.

ADULT CLASSES & SMALL GROUPS**ADULT FORUM: THROUGH THE LENS OF CHRISTIANITY**

By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Adult Forum spent this summer discussing the idea of radical love according to Jesus. We looked at specific people who displayed different types of radical love like Rumi, Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero, and the prophet Hosea. We learned Radical love can be defined as revolutionary, reckless, contemplative, redemptive, and compassionate. But most of all that radical love isn't so radical but it is part of our everyday life. We just have to open our eyes and live in the love of God.

Now, Adult Forum is discussing how Christianity is viewed through the lens of different traditions. We will learn about Romans, Missionaries, the Church in England, the Middle East, Latin America, Asia, and even American christianity. Each week will be a different lens with several speakers lending their expertise. We meet via Zoom every Sunday from 9:30-10:30am. The Zoom link is posted in the E-tower. Questions? Contact Chelsea at formation@stjameswichita.org

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

By Mary Kay Chavez

The Contemplative Prayer Group continues to meet on Monday evenings via Zoom. We start at 5:30 p.m. for a book discussion, which is presently Cynthia Bourgeault's *The Wisdom Way of Knowing: Reclaiming an Ancient Tradition to Awaken the Heart*. You do not need to have read the book to benefit from a rich discussion. You are welcome to jump in and join us at any time. From 6:10-6:30 p.m. we have a silent period of contemplation or "centering prayer." Please call 316-210-5699 or email marykay.chavez@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to join. I am happy to walk you through the mechanics of Zoom and Centering Prayer ahead of time.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

By Phil Speary

Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets, well you guessed it, on Wednesday evening starting at 6:00 pm. It will begin on September 16 via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted in the eTower. We will discuss the topic at our first meeting. Everyone is welcome to join this enriching discussion. The Wednesday evening Bible study is a relaxed discussion of the relevance of Biblical topics to our contemporary lives.

INVITATION TO JOIN EFM FOR THE 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR

"And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord." The Book of Common Prayer

St. James is fortunate to offer the seminar Education for Ministry which offers laypersons the opportunity to learn the Bible, the history of Christianity and the Church. Through a program developed by the University of the South, we follow a curriculum, developed over many years, which is rich in readings, thought and reflection.

We meet once a week during the academic year. Until further notice, we meet virtually, through ZOOM, 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, starting September 10. If you are interested or have questions about joining us, please contact Paul Rillema - paul.rillema@gmail.com - by email or phone 316-634-6945, or Deb Bagby - debagby@gmail.com by email or 316-612-0628.

The program helps to develop an informed and knowledgeable laity. We, as baptized Christians, are called to be participants in the church's total ministry: worship, service to others and the proclamation of God's Word to all people. In coming to terms with the notion that everything we do has potential for manifesting the love of Christ, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we turn.

EFM FINE PRINT

EfM covers Old and New Testaments, 2000 years of church history, and the thoughts of religious scholars. We meet as a "one room school house" with Year 1 focusing on OT readings, Year 2 on NT readings, Year 3 on Church history readings and Year 4 on theology understandings of our interactions in the world. This program is administered by the University of the South, and you receive a certificate upon completion of the program. The cost is \$350 per year which includes books of study for each year enrolled in the program. "Scholarships" and other financial support is available.

GRADUATE EFM

If you have finished the standard EfM course and want to continue in study and fellowship please consider Graduate EfM. Each year we pick a course of study, usually using a series of taped lectures from The Teaching Company. We augment this with reading, discussion, guest speakers and field trips. The EfM pattern of learning, praying, and sharing treats and the joys and cares of our lives is continued in our group. We meet on Mondays @7pm via Zoom

LEGACY SOCIETY NEWS

By Tom Gossen and Hew Goodpasture

The Endowment Fund Board has been working to enroll new members in the Saint James Church Legacy Society. During the process a few questions have come up frequently. Some answers are provided below:

1. Although there are many ways the estate of an individual or couple can provide a financial gift, in most instances there is no need to alter a Will or Trust to leave a bequest for the church. You can simply leave a percentage or specific dollar amount of a life insurance policy, an IRA, or a 401K by listing Saint James Church as a secondary or contingent beneficiary on the document. Your financial advisor or brokerage company can provide a form for your signature in the event an IRA, 401K (or similar) is to be used.
2. Unlike gifts made to the Endowment Memorial Fund, the amount of a Legacy society bequest is not reported to the Endowment Fund Board or Saint James Church and will not be specified in the annual publication of the Endowment Fund Board Report until after the Estate of the bequeathing member or members is closed.
3. What monetary amount should be made as a financial bequest? A suggested guideline is that a bequest amount could reflect the member's intent to continue a Church pledge for a certain number of years after death. However, no specific bequest amount is required to join the Legacy Society and members can join anonymously if they so choose. Membership in the Legacy Society only represents a public commitment to the legacy of Saint James Church and only requires that the individual or couple specify in writing that they have made a bequest to Saint James Church in their estate documents.
4. Don't hesitate to contact a member of the Endowment Funds Board to answer your specific questions. Access an enrollment form online: <https://www.stjameswichita.org/st-james-church-perpetual-memorial-endowment-fund/>

Please give your Legacy Society membership and gift designation serious and prayerful consideration!

PMEF ~ WHAT'S THAT?

Each edition of Seasons includes news about the **Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Fund** (PMEF) of St. James Church. **Are you aware of the opportunities and benefits of the PMEF?**

Gifts to the PMEF grow in perpetuity – that is, the gift is never depleted. Only income generated by the gift is disbursed annually and spent as directed by the vestry per the spending rules adopted for the administration of the fund. Your gift will continue to grow and to empower the ministries of St. James long into the future.

Give thanks to God for a significant event in your life, or for a loved one (or someone else) who has influenced your life by making a gift to the PMEF. **There are two categories of tributes: (1) Living Tributes for those who are still living; and (2) Memorials in remembrance of the deceased.**

Enrolled Gifts are reported in perpetuity in the Annual Report of the PMEF. New - and additions to previously enrolled gifts - are announced in each edition of SEASONS.

Create an Enrolled Gift by completing an enrollment form available on St. James website (or contact the parish office.) Initial gifts to the PMEF can be as small as \$100 (multiple smaller gifts can be combined.)

~ MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS ~

New Enrollments and Additions to the St. James Perpetual Memorial & Endowment Fund

<u>New Living Tribute Endowment from February 1 through July 31, 2020</u>	
Dillons Community Rewards Program	\$ 1,111
Endowment Fund Support from enrollees in Dillons Community Rewards Program.	
St. James Church	\$ 1,000
In recognition of celebrating the 100th Anniversary	
The Rev. Dawn M. Frankfurt	\$ 500
In honor of her ministry and thanksgiving for her birthday	
<u>New Memorial Enrollments from February 1 thru July 31, 2020</u>	
Myia S. Williams	\$ 345
In celebration of my daughter's life	
<u>Additions to Memorial Enrollments from February 1 thru January 31, 2020</u>	
Patricia W. Bayles (1940-2016) & the Rev. Joseph A. Bayles (1934-)	\$ 100
In recognition of Patricia's dedication to children as a pediatrics nurse, to education as a Dean of Nursing and of Joseph as a correctional chaplain	

To honor a loved one by making a gift, visit the Endowment page at the St. James website: stjameswichita.org for the Enrollment Forms (Living Tribute and Memorial). OR, Contact the Church office 316-683-5686. *To make "no cost" contributions to the PMEF thru the Dillons Community Rewards Program enroll online at www.dillons.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/

ST. JAMES OUTREACH MINISTRY*By Judy Goodpasture, Chair*

Our St. James Outreach Ministry Committee has been struggling to stay in touch through Zoom and email. We are thinking and working creatively to accomplish our usual tasks.

- We are continuing our parishioner card ministry to the ill and bereaved.
- We were not able to hold our Water Bottles for Breakthrough ESS in the usual manner, but we have encouraged people to deliver water bottles to the 1010 N. Main facility. We hope you will continue to do this through the hot weather.
- Thankfully, Dottie Evans recruited a group of seamstresses and provided the church with at least 80 masks for parishioners.
- We plan to hold our annual Fall Blanket Drive, but we will do it differently. Details will be publicized in the church newsletter.
- Several of our committee volunteers have returned to their work at Breakthrough ESS. Special thanks to Deacon Peg Flynn, Mary Druding, and Marilyn Taylor.
- Because of the covid 19 virus, our Pocket Change Ministry will be late this year collecting and distributing funds to our four charities.
- We are following the work of Wichita's new Child Advocacy Center. During April and May, they provided support to 152 new clients, while maintaining on-going caseloads. They also provided therapy through telehealth to 102 clients. Once our society reopens, our committee will sponsor a field trip to this agency.

We ask that those who can spare funds for charity give to their favorite community charities. Most of our social service agencies are hard-pressed with service requests and lack adequate funds.

And we sincerely hope that all our parish families are staying safe.

ST. JAMES CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY IN THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET*By Chelsea Whipple, Program Director*

In November and December the Children of St. James will be raising money for Alternative Gifts International. Please consider donating to any cause sponsored by AGI! You can go directly to their website, alternativegifts.org to donate or request a catalog. This is a great way to give gifts for others on birthdays or special occasions. Contact Suzi Miner for more information.

SAINT FRANCIS MINISTRIES UPDATE*By Sarah Robinson*

Saint Francis Ministries continues to provide healing and hope to children and families during this challenging time. Being an essential service, as many staff as possible worked from home, however we did rotate child management teams into the office for face to face contact. Following the CDC protocols, we had gallons of sanitizer and lots of gloves, thermometers, and thanks in part to Dottie Evans, many face masks. Case managers maintained regular contact with children and families, including monitoring visits through virtual ways. Clinicians provided telehealth. Staff did go see a child or family when if they were in crisis or when a child went into DCF custody was placed in a foster home. Now we are supervising in person visits in the office or community if the foster parent and biological parents agree and everyone has been screened. There are more than 1,100 children and youth in out of home care as of June 30, 2020.

Court was interesting in that sometimes it was virtual and other times some folks were in the court room and others on the screen. In order to meet the court orders, some days had double dockets. Our staff kept contact with all parties and submitted all required reports to keep the opportunities for reintegration moving.

One of our dads had been reunited with three of his four children while worked two jobs. He pushed through the pandemic to find a house with four bedrooms and a big backyard so he could do what is needed to bring his fourth child, who is medically challenged, home.

In June, 37 families were involved in foster parent training, some in person and some virtually. There are 44 families engaged in Family Centered Treatment, an evidence-based intensive in-home program and nine families in Seeking Safety, an evidence-based intensive in-home program for parents with substance abuse issues. Both programs were developed to keep families united.

Saint Francis Ministries would like to develop a Friends of Saint Francis Ministries group to learn more about what we do and provide us with your insight. If you are interested or have questions, please let me know Sarah Robinson at sarah.robinson@st-francis.org or call me at 316-677-7493. Thank you!

We are grateful to you for your gifts of time and treasures. We pray for you and ask for your prayers for God to keep these children safe in their homes and healthy in their schools.

The
SEASONS
of St. James Episcopal Church

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KEEP HOPE ALIVE

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:1-2*

Currently Worship Services Are Online

<http://www.youtube.com/c/stjameswichita>

www.facebook.com/stjameswichita

New services available Wednesdays and Sundays

Bulletins and sermons: www.stjameswichita.org

WE WILL WORSHIP TOGETHER AGAIN

I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' *Psalms 122:1*

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe. *Hebrews 12:28*