

News Features:

- Holy Week and Easter message from Mother Christine
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- Profile of Dillon Green



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The SEASONS of St. James Church

HOPE AND HOLY WEEK

By The Rev. Christine Gilson, Priest-in-Charge

First of all, let me say what a privilege it is to be your “temporary priest in charge” for four months. I am truly grateful to Mother Dawn for asking me to care for you in her absence, and for your acceptance of my presence. It is an increasing pleasure to become acquainted with you and to help all of you serve God and God’s Church.



We are about to enter into Holy Week with its own very short season of the Triduum — Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. We will walk the way of Jesus in his passion and terrible death. But, as always, especially this year, we look to the hope given us in the Resurrection of our Lord. The schedule for Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday is found elsewhere in this issue of Seasons. I want to encourage you to participate fully in all the worship opportunities, that the eternal news of the risen Christ may be more meaningful to you than ever.

For St. James, Holy Week begins this year, unusually, with a service of Confirmation on Palm Sunday. My first thought when this was planned, and perhaps yours as well, was “what a strange time.” But then I remembered the Lutheran Church of my childhood in which Palm Sunday was the traditional day for Confirmation. It was a true rite of passage for pre-teens, initiating us into adult life in the Church. I seem to remember that I found the whole season more serious to my young mind than it had been. Confirmation also meant that we could take communion, something reserved to “grown-ups” in the church.

While no longer a requirement for taking communion, Confirmation is a rite, as the Book of Common Prayer says, “for those ... who have been duly prepared to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.” The service includes a renewal of the Baptismal Covenant for everyone present. All of us “renew our commitment to Christ.” In a way, then, Palm Sunday may be a very good day for Confirmation. As we join with the newly confirmed in

renewing our commitment to Christ, all of us can go through Holy Week with a fresh understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus the Christ – in his passion, death, and Resurrection.

Of course, we often seek practical means to help us in our understanding. I have a suggestion. Some of you may already be saying the Daily Office, either from the prayer book or using the Mission St. Clare website that provides the offices on line. If you are not, I encourage you, during Holy Week, to commit yourselves to doing the Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families, found in the Book of Common Prayer from p. 136-140 Each devotion—morning, noon, evening, and close of day—is one page and “doable” in five to ten minutes. Along with that, I would suggest reading the Gospel lessons from the Daily Office for Holy Week. If you find this a helpful way to structure your prayer life, you might continue it throughout the fifty days of Easter. (You might even feel called to say regular morning and evening prayer). By then, who knows, it might become a life-long habit.

Finally, a small word of prudence. We all may feel as if we are emerging from a year-long Lenten fast. We have fasted from gathering, from eating out, from seeing friends and family, from exposing our faces to others. The pandemic has thrown all of us for a loop and shown us how vulnerable and fragile our lives are. Now we are approaching Easter in liturgical time. In chronological time we are coming upon another kind of Easter – readily-available vaccinations, the easing of restrictions, the lessening of the numbers of people who have become ill. For all this, and for those who have made it possible, we thank God. However, we cannot throw all caution to the winds and act as if everything were the “same” as before. It is not – and we must continue to exercise the precautions we have gotten used to.

That said, I want to remind you that this year is a “Sabbath year for St. James. Although we might want to return to things “as usual,” let me remind you what Mother Dawn said at Advent. “A Sabbath year is for you to be renewed and restored, You are not asked to plow, or haul, or build. You are allowed to be silent, pray, appreciate, and hold in reverence the abundance God has given each and every one of us.” May we all remember that, and be grateful.

Faithfully,

Mother Christine Gilson+

PARISH NOTES

Deacon Deedee Evans is now Deacon Emerita.

We need volunteers to be lay Eucharistic visitors and to serve as ushers.

If you would like a copy of our annual report, please call the office at 316-683-5686 or email office@stjameswichita.org.

Please consider making a contribution for Easter.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday with Confirmation with Bishop Cathleen Bascom preaching and presiding

April 4 Resurrection Sunday and Holy Eucharist with Canon Patrick Funston preaching and presiding

April 11 Holy Eucharist with Mother Christine preaching and presiding

April 18 Morning Prayer with Deacon Jeff Roper preaching and officiating

April 25 Holy Eucharist with Mother Christine preaching and presiding

May 2 Holy Eucharist with Canon Patrick preaching and presiding

May 9 Holy Eucharist with Mother Christine preaching and presiding

May 16 Morning Prayer with Deacon Jeff Roper preaching and officiating

May 23 (Pentecost) Holy Eucharist with Mother Christine preaching and presiding

May 30 (Trinity Sunday) Holy Eucharist with Canon Patrick preaching and presiding

June 6 Morning Prayer with Deacon Jeff preaching and officiating

June 13 Holy Eucharist with Mother Christine preaching and presiding

June 20 Holy Eucharist with Canon Patrick preaching and presiding

June 26 Holy Eucharist with Mother Dawn preaching and presiding

ELECTIONS

We held elections at our annual meeting Feb. 14, 2021.

Everyone on the ballot agreed to extend their terms by one year.

Joan Moore was elected senior warden. Danny Blair was elected our junior warden. Delmar Klocke, Cheryl Schmeidler and Mary Sloan were elected to the vestry.

Adrienne Edwards and Tristan Holmberg were elected as delegate and alternate.

Hew Goodpasture and Paul McCausland were elected to the Endowment Funds Board.

Deb Hager, Phil Speary, Jane Spurrier, Susie Stallings and Gary Thudium were elected to the nominating committee.

Thank you to everyone who serves our parish. We know that your work is time-consuming, and we value your dedication to St. James. If anyone would like a copy of the annual report, please call the office at 316-683-5686 or email office@stjameswichita.org.

BUDGET

The budget also was approved at the Feb. 14 meeting.

MEET DILLON GREEN

Dillon Green, who will join us July 1 as the minster's curate, grew up in Alabama. Dillon expects to receive his master of divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary later this spring. He has served as a youth ministry intern and a campus ministry intern, both in Manhattan for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas.

Dillon earned his bachelor of arts degree in foreign languages from the University of North Alabama with a minor in international studies.

He was drawn to the Episcopal church partly because of “my journey with my own sexuality as a queer person. But it wasn’t just that.”

Dillon said he appreciates the church’s “commitment to living in a Christian community even when you disagree with each other and the knowledge that that commitment is what brings us together.”

Dillon enjoys reading and watching movies and TV and describes himself as an “award shows geek.”

“I’m excited to meet everybody at St. James and find out what they love about worshiping there, what they love about Jesus and what they enjoy,” Dillon said.



FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

By Marlene Hallstrom, Director of Music

Three years ago I included this message in the Lent and Easter edition of Seasons, and I am amazed at how it still speaks to us in this time of pandemic, social unrest and fear. While the ways in which we have worshiped and studied are profoundly different than three years ago, we were still able to take part in the Lenten journey and the hope of the resurrection through the written word, telephone conversations and technology related to the internet.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;

And in your weariness lay down your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;

I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

This first verse of a hauntingly beautiful hymn text by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889), paired with a melody by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) set the tone for the season of Lent. As we entered the Lenten journey, we were looking for a place of comfort, rest, and forgiveness. Throughout Holy Week, we will hear scripture readings, prayers and music which remind us of our sin and brokenness as well as the gracious gift of Jesus' sacrifice for all. Corporate worship, Bible study, private devotion, and acts of charity may intensify the Lenten experience for each of us in our own ways. And as we

come to the end of the Lenten season, may we rejoice in the final verse of the hymn:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;

Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun;

And in that light of life I'll walk till pilgrim days are done.

(Lent and Easter Seasons 2018)

May we find comfort in these words as we look forward to coming together again in person to celebrate during the Easter season and beyond.

Hymn Study on Zoom – During the month of March 15 members and friends of St. James have joined together on Zoom to learn about what's inside the Hymnal 1982 and some history of the texts, tunes, authors and composers who wrote the hymns that we sing (or may have never sung!).

We sing along even though we have to mute ourselves. It will be wonderful when we can all join together in worship and song once more!



UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Children's Sunday school and Children's Chapel has been on either St. James YouTube channel or through Zoom for this program year. We have had lots of fun playing with our Seasonal Kits and currently have one for Lent and Easter. We will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10am on Easter Sunday, pending the Church is open for services. Yay!!!

If St. James remains open for worship services, the Children will return for Children's Chapel on Sunday, May 2nd at 10:45 a.m. for the service. We typically join our families during the Peace but for this time we will remain upstairs. Family members are welcome to get their kids during Communion if they'd like. Instead, we will continue the fun upstairs and families will pick up kids outside the Church doors once church is over. All these instructions will be in the eTower and Children's Ministry email before the May 2nd meeting. Kids must wear a mask, pass the temperature check, and will be spaced 6' apart. For safety reasons we will not have snacks or drinks. Since this is the first time we are meeting for the year, families must sign in their kids before dropping off. If this goes well, we will have a summer plan moving forward.

We miss you all and can't wait to gather. With this in mind, please only attend if you feel comfortable. Your family is important to us!

VBS: KNIGHTS OF THE NORTH CASTLE!

Planning is underway for an exciting adventure coming this summer! Our hope and prayer is that VBS will happen in person.

North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The King's valiant Knights are on a quest in search of the King's Armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is. *Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor* invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor — the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation — at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God. Help kids take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to "armor up" and be strong by remaining with God.

Details: 6 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. June 21-24. Ages three to incoming sixth grade. Free. Register at www.myvbs.org/stjameswichita or email Chelsea at formation@stjameswichita.org.

ADULT FORUM

By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Adult Forum is finishing up a five-week series on Eastern Christianity's View of Resurrection. We will decide on a new topic after Easter. We meet via Zoom from 9 a.m. -10 a.m. every Sunday, rain or shine, and love to have new people join us.

Everyone is welcome! We will continue to meet on Zoom until after May. Our desire is to have all people be eligible for a vaccine before we gather in person.

CONGREGATIONAL BOOK READ

By Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Our two groups have met all year studying racism, checking our biases, and envisioning a world where all people experience liberty and justice for all. We've read "White Fragility," "Biased," and "So You Want To Talk About Race?". Right now we are currently watching the six-part series "African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross." These videos cover the African American experience from the start of the slave trade to today. This historical viewpoint will help us to try to see another's experience through their lens. Our next stop is a call to action. How can we make this world feel equal to all, and what is our role as Christians to society to progress to an anti-racist society? Anyone is welcome to join. We meet on Thursdays at 11 a.m. or 7 p.m. Please email Chelsea at formation@stjameswichita.org if you are interested.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

By Tristan Holmberg

We have good news to share: The Youth Group can return to in-person meetings! The Youth Group will continue to meet on Zoom until we return to in-person meetings. When we meet outside, we will wear masks, keep to a safe distance, avoid situations where we may come closer to each other than advisable, and generally follow best practices. Our first meeting in person will be on the first Wednesday of Easter, April 7th. We will celebrate Easter with the Stations of the Resurrection. Journeying the Resurrection will be the theme of the final months of the spring semester for Youth Group. Among other things, we will spend time looking at some of the saints we celebrate in April and May and their journeys in the Resurrection. Come and join us on the journey!

The Youth Group is planning the summer rummage sale for July 8-10, 2021. Please begin to collect items from your home and arrange a time to take them to church with Anne Clark 816-797-6177 or aws1155@yahoo.com.

We need lots of help setting up the weekend before and people to help work the sale on the 8-11th. Please let Anne know if you can help at 816-797-6177 or aws1155@yahoo.com.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS BOARD

By Hew Goodpasture, President

The Endowment Funds Board (EFB) has continued to meet monthly via Zoom. At the January Annual meeting of the parish via Zoom, EFB members Tom Gossen and Paul McCausland were elected to serve for 2021.

As per EFB/Vestry policies the Endowment Fund Board made a distribution to St. James Church for 2021 that totaled \$29,118 distributed as EFB operations \$2,500, Outreach \$3,422, and 2021 Capital expenses of \$16,696. \$11,603 was retained for the Vestry's future Capital Expense Fund.

Total invested Endowment funds are now above \$1,000,000 which should reduce management fees for the coming year. Because of the pandemic, the EFB is not planning any large gatherings or face to face personal contact to solicit membership in the Legacy Society this year. Instead, we are sending personal letters from members of the EFB to parish members who pledge annually or are givers of record to request their participation in the Legacy Society. Please give Legacy Society membership your prayerful consideration.

All parish members are invited to join the Endowment Fund Board members in welcoming newly enrolled members of the Legacy Society: Joan Moore and Woody and Barbara Swain. If you have not already done so, please formulate your plans for joining these faithful members in supporting the future ministries of St. James Church.



Photo by Sharon McCutcheon on Unsplash

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 a portion of the 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

New Living Endowments from November 1, 2020 thru March 12, 2021

Marjorie Williams \$ 500

In thanksgiving for all that Marj has done for St. James.

Bert Clark's Direct Reports @ CCH, Inc \$ 100

In gratitude and thanksgiving for being valued employees and enjoyable to work with.

Denise Evans Gorney \$ 100

In honor of our sister in Christ and our sister by choice.

Dillons Community Rewards Program \$ 330

Endowment Fund Support from enrollees in Dillons Community Rewards Program.*

New Memorial Enrollments from November 1, 2020 thru March 12, 2021

Richard Kelse Williams \$ 2,000

In memory of Richard Kelse Williams.

*To make "no cost" contributions to the PMEF thru the Dillons Community Rewards Program enroll online at www.dillons.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/

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.

FROM THE TREASURER

By Woody Swain

As I write this, we just had our first in-person communion service a few days ago, the virus statistics for Sedgwick County continue to look favorable, and we are starting to get tastes of Spring after enduring the week of strong cold weather. Assuming we are able to continue with weekly in-person services, some of our expenses will increase, such as those for utilities, janitorial services and building upkeep. But that's okay ... we're ready and prepared!

In January, we applied for and received a second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan from the federal government. It was for \$74,517 and can be used toward staff and utility expenses. Our first PPP loan was forgiven, thus making it a "grant" instead of a "loan," and we expect the same to be true for this second loan. Through February, your giving has been strong and steady, and our expenses have been well-managed, which puts us in great shape, so far, relative to our 2021 budget.

I hope that circumstances allow this trend to continue.



OUTREACH AT ST. JAMES

By Judy Goodpasture, Outreach Committee Chair

After a year of COVID-19 restrictions and harsh winter weather, spring is most welcome. We look forward to worshipping together again- whether in the parking lot or in our beautiful church. This spring our Outreach Committee plans to direct a number of projects and keep educating ourselves with speakers from social service agencies. Recently we have heard speakers from CASA, Partners for Wichita, the Pando Initiative, and Breakthrough ESS. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month via Zoom, and we welcome visitors. If you would like to Zoom with us, just email jgoodpasture@cox.net, and we will send you a Zoom invitation.

Each spring ,our Endowment Fund gives a percentage of earnings to a community charity, and our committee recommends the recipient. This spring we were most pleased to recommend sending our check for \$3422 to Breakthrough/ESS. In spite of COVID-19, Breakthrough has continued to offer an impressive range of vital services to clients.

Because of COVID-19, we have not been able to hold our American Red Cross Blood Drives at St. James. However, we encourage you to give blood at the Red Cross office. They truly need and appreciate our blood donations. Chair Dottie Evans Clark

The Sunday after Easter we will begin our annual Undies Sundays Drive for the Wichita **Children's Home**. Please bring diapers and new undies in all sizes, and we will deliver them to the **Wichita Children's Home**. Our collection basket will be placed beside our red door entry. Chair Mary Klocke

Our Pocket Change Ministry continues in 2021. Our year's first gift of \$500 will go to Breakthrough/ESS. To contribute, please send a check to the church and write "Pocket Change" on the memo line. Chair Gary Thudium

Once each month, St. James joins with the other churches in our Diocesan Minster to provide Sack Lunch Saturday food at St. John's. This spring we are also collecting new or serviceable backpacks to give to those who are unhoused. A collection box for backpacks is located near the entry desk. Chair Joan Bledsoe

Several volunteer opportunities we usually offer, like Reality U and Read-to-Succeed school tutoring, have been discontinued during the pandemic, but we will re-start these activities as soon as we can. Chair Hew Goodpasture

A number of St. James parishioners have continued to work at Breakthrough/ESS. We appreciate the commitment to service at ESS of Mary Druding, Marilyn Taylor, Deacon Peg Flynn, and others.

Our Outreach Committee continues to support these year-round projects:

Greeting Cards for Winfield Correction Facility. Chair Deacon Jeff Roper

Pop Can Pull-Tabs for Africa. Chair Adrienne Edwards

Paperbacks for Prisoners. Chair Beth CrissCard Ministry to the ill and grieving in our parish. Chair Judy Goodpasture

Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Holy Week and Easter 2021

The SEASONS

of St. James Episcopal Church

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UPCOMING SERVICES

- † 10:45 a.m. March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday including Service of Confirmation
- † 4:30 p.m. March 31 Stations of the Cross. Verger David Johnson will lead.
- † 7 p.m. April 1 Maundy Thursday service with Canon Patrick Funston presiding and Deacon Jeff Roper preaching. No foot-washing but stripping of the altar. The overnight vigil on Maundy Thursday through Good Friday will not be held this year, but you are welcome to spend some time in the chapel after the Maundy Thursday service or on Good Friday morning.
- † 11 a.m. April 2 Good Friday Stations of the Cross. Canon Patrick Funston will lead.
- † 8:30 a.m. outside (weather permitting) and 10:45 a.m. inside April 4 Resurrection Sunday, Canon Patrick Funston presiding.