

January 5, 2011
Volume 1, Issue 1



St. James Epistle

St. James Episcopal Church
is a part of the
**Episcopal Diocese
of West Texas**

Bishop The Rt. Rev.
Gary R. Lillibridge
Bishop Suffragan
The Rt. Rev.
David Reed
Interim Rector
The Rev.
Doug Hutchings
Secretary Liz Miller
Bookkeeper Sherrie Martin
Epistle Editor Cheri Green
Sunday School Lisa Romero

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Ann Beitel – Jr. Warden
Bill Fritsch – Treasurer
Ed Sewell – Clerk
Bill Dutcher
Cheri Green
Jon Miller
Edrie Newberry
Sara Winters

St. James Trustees

Warren Beitel
Margo Rosenow

If you have information you'd like to share about things happening at St. James please let us know! Submit your article to Cheri Green. Deadline for articles to be published in the next epistle:

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011

You may submit your article in writing, on disk (MS Word), or by email to Cheri Green before this date or call her at 774-0704.

Email Addresses:

Parish:
office@stjamesdrtx.org
Cheri:
drvunitedway@stx.rr.com
Fr. Doug:
dhutch6341@aol.com

Bishop Lillibridge to Visit St. James

Bishop's Visitation
Sunday, January 16
One Service
9:00 AM

Once a year we receive a visit from Bishop Gary Lillibridge or Bishop David Reed. These are alternating visits and this year it is Bishop Lillibridge's turn to celebrate the Eucharist with our parish. Talk with Fr. Doug if you would like to be confirmed in the Episcopal faith.

We will have one service at 9:00 am – please note the time. When we have one service, the time is usually 9:30, but in order to allow enough time for the bishop to travel to the Brackettville service, we have scheduled our service a little earlier.

A reception of finger foods will be held in the parish hall immediately following the service. Sara Winters and Ann Beitel have graciously offered to organize the reception.

Contact them to bring one of the food items on their list. Ann's phone number is 775-4998 and Sara's number is 775-6977.

Please join us in welcoming Bishop Lillibridge to St. James.



Annual Parish Meeting on the 23rd

Sunday, January 23
One Service
9:30 AM

Our Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for communication between vestry, church and school administration and the congregation.

Reports from various ministries will be presented, as well as the 2011 budget.

We will elect three new vestry members. If you are interested in serving on the Vestry/ School Board, please call the office, 775-7292 or talk with Todd Felton.

In order to run, you should be a member in good standing and regular contributor. Keep in mind you serve in two capacities - Vestry (Church business) and School Board (St. James School business) with

expected attendance at two separate meetings each month. Vestry members also serve as the "vestry of the day" on at least one Sunday each month. This job includes responsibilities concerning the church building and counting and recording the offering.

A potluck lunch will be served in the parish hall after the service. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details.



How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts, to me! My thirsty soul desires and longs within thy courts to be; my very heart and flesh cry out, O living God for thee. Psalms of David (paraphrased from Psalm 84)

The candle holders placed in the windows at Christmas were given to celebrate the life of Katy Morgan. Katy was a beloved member of St. James. She was active in Bible study, Meals on Wheels and loved taking photos at Vacation Bible School and organizing a slide show that was shown at the end of VBS each summer.



Editor's Corner

Happy New Year – Blessed Future

David and I do not have a tradition for celebrating the New Year because he spent so many years working at the Port of Entry on this holiday. We sort of became used to the idea of keeping it quiet. This year because it is her senior year we decided to let Jessi invite some of her friends over for a party. These are the same kids who are often at our house, so other than some added food, it really wasn't going to be different than many of the weekends they visit on Friday or Saturday night. By the way, the boys often outnumber the girls, they call themselves "nerds" and their form of entertainment is to freeze frame a Disney movie to analyze things most of us don't notice when we watch one of these animated films. Did I mention they are self-proclaimed nerds?

As I washed dishes in the kitchen, they sat around the dining room table eating and talking. I feigned disinterest, but smiled to myself as I overheard their conversation. I'm not sure how it began, but they were going around the table talking about

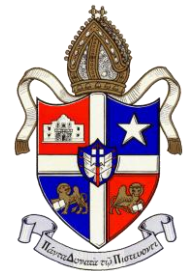
what they planned to be when they "grew up." These are all seniors in high school with great aspirations and believe me, the intelligence and motivation to be successful with their goals. As they went around the circle it went something like this: First boy-"I'll look at your x-rays and tell you when your leg is broken." Second boy-"I'll design the hospital building where you work." First girl-"I'll teach your kids who have special needs." It went on from there, and these young, smart (sometimes brilliant) minds offered me a positive outlook on the world and 2011.

The promise and hope offered by these young people is sometimes forgotten as we listen to the news or read the paper. As Fr. Doug reminded us on Sunday, God's promise began in manifestation at the manger and continues in the lives we live today. He reminded us of one of my favorite Bible verses from Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before others so that they might see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." No matter our age, we all have the opportunity to glorify Christ in everything we

do, say and yes, even think.

I was proud as I listened to Jessi's friends talk about their future. I often pray that God direct them to use their talents wisely and to glorify Him. While they can be silly and typical, their conversations are certainly more brilliant than anything I ever discussed with my friends when I was their age. As I was awakened at one o'clock in the morning with the sound of fireworks in my backyard, I remembered that yes, they are seventeen. Happy New Year and Blessed Future!

Cheri Green



Want to hear it straight from the horse's mouth? Check out our diocesan web page. It is an excellent source for news, inspiration and information. Diocese of West Texas Website Address: <http://dwtx.org/>

A Message from the Sr. Warden...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas season. We all definitely appreciated Fr. Max Reynolds leading us in worship during Christmas Eve service. If you did not get one of his hand-made creations which he graciously gave away, let me know and we'll probably be able to find a few around the parish!

Our interim priest, Fr. Doug Hutchings, arrives tomorrow, December 30th, to begin his ministry to St. James while we search for a new, full-time priest. We're very blessed that Fr. Doug does not view his ministry here as merely "maintenance" until the new priest shows up; rather, he views this as a vital, active, energetic and spirit-filled time in our parish life. Fr. Doug has many great ideas and I'm looking forward to working with him as St. James moves into our next chapter.

As I write this, the Fritsch family is grieving the loss of Nan's father, Harry Rountree. He was a blessing to all of us who knew him and he was blessed to have had his family with him this Christmas season before he went to be with our Lord. Please keep the Fritschs in your prayers; they have done so much for this parish, it's now our time to

care for them as they say good bye to their father and grandfather.

2011 is right around the corner! Many thanks to Bill and Nan Fritsch (see above!) for their leadership of our stewardship campaign. If you have not turned in a pledge card yet, please do so. It is extremely helpful to your vestry so that we may plan an accurate budget. Please pray about your pledge this year and give whatever amount God leads you to give. I've often said, if Congress could see what St. James does with a budget of less than \$250,000, they'd have renewed respect for the millions and billions they spend each year. Our parish does amazing things, from the Bethel Center and Meals on Wheels to mission trips and the rector's discretionary fund, which provides real financial help to people who need it desperately. We count on every penny of every pledge, so be prayerful and faithful once you decide to pledge.

Please return your parish profile, if you haven't already! The Diocese will use those as they help choose a new priest. Many blessings to you in 2011!

Todd Felton
Sr. Warden



To: Ginny Cordell
For: Hosting a lovely Christmas party for the Women of St. James

To: Liz Miller and Contributors
For: Organizing the Giving Tree Gifts, Wrapping Party and Delivery and for the generous gifts everyone gave to our families

To: Lisa Romero and Liz Miller, Parents and Kids
For: A fabulous and entertaining Christmas pageant depicting the birth of our Lord and Savior

To: St. James Altar Guild and friends who helped and gave money for flowers and candles
For: Adorning our beautiful sanctuary for Christmas

To: Larry O'Brien, Jonathan Rought and Choir members
For: Glorious organ music and wonderful voices during the Christmas Eve service

To: Fr. Craig Pooser and Fr. Max Reynolds
For: Celebrating the Eucharist with our family during the months of November and December (and Christmas)



The grounds at St. James offer great beauty, some treasures are in plain sight and others require a closer look.



This fall with brief cool winds blowing, Monarch butterflies graced the yard at the Edna house. If you were not paying attention, they might have been mistaken as leaves, but a keen eye revealed awesome wonders hanging from the branches of trees and bushes.



For several years the students at St. James School have taken advantage of the butterflies' visit to our sanctuary and tag them for the tracking of their migratory pattern to Mexico.

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 6 Bette Block | 28 Don Hanselman |
| 8 Cindy Allegra | 31 Jill Hartman |
| 9 Tyler Bradshaw | 31 Tracy McCracken |
| 12 Cameron Castillo | |
| 12 Robert Robles | |
| 15 Trinity McCracken | |
| 17 Glo | |
| 22 Jorge Sanchez | |
| 25 Jennifer Day | |
| 25 Jacques De La Mota | |
| 27 Makayla Davis | |
| 27 Sandy Sanders | |



Epiphany

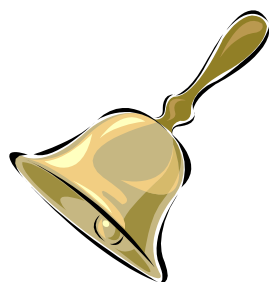
Epiphany is a word derived from a Greek word meaning, "showing forth," "revelation," "appearance," "manifestation". Jesus is the manifestation of God for all people. Beginning with January 6th and continuing until Ash Wednesday, the length of the season depends on the date of Easter.

Suggestions for living the Epiphany at home:

- Keep your Nativity up through January 6, and move the Wise Men closer until they arrive on the Feast of Epiphany (Jan. 6).
- Tell stories of your children's and your own baptism.
- Celebration of Gifts – Remember our own and the communities gifts and talents for mission and ministry.
- Serve "King Cake" – Usually a coffee cake type pastry with a small plastic baby baked inside. Whoever gets the baby can either be king or queen for the day.
- Celebrate the many ways in which Christ has been made manifest. Include world mission work, local mission work, Christian education, those who care for invalids at home, the work of the altar guild, the work of our police and fire fighters, people who work hard to keep gardens beautiful. Use your Imagination. The list is endless. Just making the list is a practice of Christian mission.

Prayers for Epiphany can be found in the Book of Common Prayer, pages 214-217.

This information is available on the drtx.org website.



Sunday School at St. James begins every Sunday at 9:20 AM. Don't forget to join us for breakfast in the parish hall at 9:00 AM!

January Anniversaries

- 12 Wayne & Martha Cave
19 Arnoldo & Lisa Romero



Elections for Diocesan Council to be held Jan. 9th

Council for the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas will be held on February 16-19, 2011 in San Marcos, Texas. St. James will elect 3 delegates and 2 alternates to represent our parish. Election for these positions will be held during both services on January 9. If you would like to represent St. James, please talk with Todd Felton for details about eligibility.



We love to share! If you would like someone you know to receive the St. James Epistle, email Liz Miller with their email address. Be sure you have their permission to be added to our list.



Question:
Do you know why three shells are used as the symbol for St. James?

Look in February's Epistle to find the answer!



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 2011

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please make arrangements for your replacement AND notify the parish office.

JANUARY 2		
	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Vestry	Sara Winters	Bill Fritsch
Lector	Jessi Green	Cathy Day
Chalice Bearer	Doris Dyer	Bill Fritsch
Altar Guild	Doris Dyer, Linda Henderson	
Acolyte		
Ushers		
Breakfast Team	Liz Miller, Debbie Sanders	
JANUARY 9		
	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Vestry	Cheri Green	Todd Felton
Lector	Ronnie Osteen	Michaelanna Hunter
Chalice Bearer	Margo Rosenow	Jon Miller
Altar Guild	Ann Beitel, Jackie Gurley	
Acolyte		Robert & Rosalind Moreman
Ushers		West family
Breakfast Team	S. Winters, M. Hunter, L. Henderson	
JANUARY 16 Bishop's Visitation 9:00 AM One Service		
Vestry	Edrie Newberry, Jon Miller	
Lector	Cheri Green	
Chalice Bearer	Jon Miller, Doris Dyer	
Altar Guild	Margo Rosenow	
Acolyte	Ian Maxwell	
Ushers	Maxwell, Davis	
JANUARY 23 Annual Meeting 9:30 AM One Service		
Vestry	Ann Beitel, Bill Dutcher	
Lector	Ana Romero	
Chalice Bearer	Arnoldo Romero	
Altar Guild	Romero family	
Acolyte	Abby Romero	
Ushers	Lisa Romero	
JANUARY 30		
	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Vestry	Ed Sewell	New Vestry member
Lector	Jessi Green	Sara Winters
Chalice Minister	Ken Amlung	Michaelanna Hunter
Altar Guild	Cindy Allegra, Debbie Sanders	
Acolyte		Miriam & Jonathan Rought
Ushers		Finley family
Breakfast Team	Warren Beitel, David Green	

We welcome members to assist with our worship ministries. If you feel called to participate, please call the office, 775-7292.

Prayer List from January 2: Dot, Annie Gwen, Martha, Sarah, Irene, Jack, Earl, Larry, Brylee, Martha Ann, Emma Grace, Pat, Jose, Martha Clay, Dakota, Abiel, Stan, Maria, Dorothy Nell, Rex, Terri, David, Elmer, Edie, Ginny & Joan, Jim, Ron, Micky, Agnes, Chris, Amelia, Gary, Kathy, Tony, Myrtle, Shohrae, Mary Ann, Carolyn, Jeff, Lisa, Ben, Michael, Maydelle, Odelia, Ninfa, Fred & Micky, Jannette, Frank, Richard & Gina, S.R., Wendy, Wayne, Addison, Tully, Lawrence, Bill, Mary, Emilio, Pat, Willie, Kelly's family, Branson, JoBeth, Katherine, Alvin, Mathew & Min, Bobby, Katherine, Leigh, Ethan, Asa, Richard, Melissa, Rountree/Fritsch families



The Chrismon Tree

The Chrismon tree of St. James began as a project of JoBeth Fawcett. The jewel encrusted ornaments were hand beaded and sewn by JoBeth and several members of our parish. If you are handy with a needle and would like a project to work on during the year, talk with Cheri Green about getting a pattern for a Chrismon ornament.

"The light of Christ has come into the world. The light of God has come to us so that we might have salvation; from the darkness of our sins we walk into glory with Christ Jesus."
Don Fishel

St. James Episcopal Church & School

206 W. Greenwood
Del Rio, TX 78840

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 1129
Del Rio, TX 78841-1129

PHONE:

Church (830) 775-7292
School (830) 775-9911

E-MAIL:
office@stjamesdrtx.org

St. James School Administration

Head of School
Sarah D. Maxwell
Admissions Director
Susan Osteen
Secretary
Jessi Chavez



We're working on a website!
Look for the address in
upcoming newsletters.

Welcome to our Interim Rector – Fr. Doug Hutchings

January 6, 2011
The Feast of the Epiphany

FROM THE HEART

Dear People of Saint James Church:

The Collect for the Feast of the Epiphany, BCP 214

“O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

I feel privileged and blessed that Bishop Lillibridge has appointed, and the Vestry has accepted, me to be your Interim Rector during this “in between time” as you prepare yourselves to welcome a new Rector for this parish. It comes at an opportune time, not only being the beginning of a “New Year,” but also the time that the Church celebrates one of the oldest and most important periods in its yearly cycle of life in Christ – The Epiphany Season!

Since the Third Century, the Christian Church has observed January 6 as the Epiphany, which commemorates God’s revelation through Christ to the “Magi” or “Wise Men.” In Egypt, it was celebrated as the winter solstice when the sun god made his appearance (epiphany) and was honored with light, water, and wine. The Coptic Christians of the time chose to make the Baptism of Jesus its primary event.

Since these “strangers from the east” were not Jews, they stand as powerful symbols that Christ was to be the Redeemer of ALL people EVERYWHERE: Jews and Greeks, cultured Romans and plundering barbarians; ancients and moderns; you and me.

The message of Epiphany is that Christ is Lord of ALL. It took some time for the early Church to accept this fact. But once the Church, at St. Paul’s urging, understood the universal intention of God, it set into motion a mighty missionary effort that reached throughout the known world and has continued across the centuries.

In the midst of this Epiphany Season, let us be more aware that the mission of the Church, and this Parish, is unfinished. Every one of us, child or adult, because of our Baptism, is called to share the Bright Light of Christ with those in every corner of the earth who live their lives in darkness.

In the Name of Christ, Father Doug



Our beautiful tree in the hallway outside the school office is our **Prayer Tree**. Students have added their prayers on snow globes to our tree for the Winter season. Our military prayers are written on patriotic leaves. If you have any prayers that you would like added to our tree, please let us know!