

the st. james



March 2009

Volume 9 Number 3

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00 am Adult Education
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Coffee & Fellowship
11:45 am Children's Choir

Wednesdays in Lent

3:30 p.m. Lenten Book Study
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Newcomers' Luncheon

March 22 after coffee hour

St. James Episcopal Church
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Rector's Message

Dear Saints of James,

In our atrium of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the prayer table is now covered with a purple cloth, and discussion at our prayer time begins with wondering why we have a different color prayer cloth. The conversation moves on to a review that "purple is for preparation" and a wondering of what Church season we are now in, (that would be Lent), and what feast we are preparing for (that would be Easter). This is a reminder for some children and new information for others, but regardless they seem excited about a new liturgical season and what is to come.

The first week of Lent, our prayer is always verse 11 from Psalm 51, "*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*" Together with the children, we do a theological reflection of our Psalm, and seek to connect the children's understanding of the Scripture with their lives. Several years ago, a four year old summarized her understanding of this psalm by saying, "when our heart is dirty, it blocks God's love so it can not flow through us." Seems to me she really "got" the need for Lent!

Psalm 51 is prayed in our Ash Wednesday liturgy as we begin the season of Lent. It sets the tone of this penitential season, when we are to examine our life, choices, seek forgiveness, and recommit ourselves to living as the redeemed person we are.

In order to take seriously the spiritual tasks of Lent, we must be intentional about finding time to be quiet, thoughtful, prayerful, listening, and allow enough time to be deeply honest about our relationships with God, ourselves and others. It is a hard task in our fast paced, instant everything, quick fix, culture to be disciplined in our self examination. If we do not make a plan for this, then chances are that the five weeks of Lent will slip right by with us doing business as usual. I challenge you to make a thoughtful plan that might allow God to create in you a clean heart, during this time of Lent, as we prepare ourselves to live as redeemed people of God. Build in some accountability for yourself; if you want to write down your Lenten disciplines and share that with someone who can check in on how you are doing, that might help you stay on task. I'd be glad to work with anyone who wishes a spiritual companion this Lent. Lent is a gift of time from the Church to you, Receive the gift, dust off and clean up the parts of your heart/life that have become soiled, mend broken relationships, seek forgiveness and know that God is with you on this Lenten journey.

Lenten Blessings, SEB+

St. James Episcopal Church

Clergy:

The Rev. Susan E. Bentley, Rector
seb@rev.net

Staff:

Mrs. Connie Bierly, Secretary
Mrs. Sharon Capps, Choir Director
and Organist
Mrs. Donna Park & Mr. Marshall Hudson,
Sextons

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The St. James Vestry:

Senior Warden, Donna Frost,
Junior Warden, Tim Buchholtz
† Clerk, Sam Campbell, 489-4536
† Treasurer, Matt Cordani, 362-3016,
† Ass't. Treasurer, Avis Aheron, 774-0010
† Rec. Treasurer, Bob Bird, 366-0996
Helen Campbell, 489-4536, Jed Doak, 354-4164,
Maile Armstrong, 947-5016
Chuck Cohen, 366-3178,
Tricia Champion, 563-9554
Michael Kennedy, 389-1003,
Peter Hannon, 986-0778
(† - Not Vestry members)

Standing Committees

Christian Education:

Liturgy: Helen Campbell, 489-4536
Membership: Pat Ball, 725-8730
Outreach: Ray Kasey, 562-1956
Parish Life: Tricia Champion, 563-9554
Property: Maile Armstrong, 947-5016
Stewardship: Avis Aheron, 774-0010
Finance: Glen Lake, 345-7550
& Gail Fields, 265-0786

Episcopal Church Women:

Pam Reilly, 362-9742

Daughters of the King:

Esther Williamson, 366-3177

Evening Prayer During Lent

During the coming Lenten season, we shall be reading the office of Evening Prayer on each Wednesday at 5:30 PM beginning March 4, with the last service on Wednesday, April 1. This is a said service to be led by lay persons. While the service is lesser known and not used as often as some other services, it is a simple, brief, and beautiful service.

While we often think of Lent as a season to give up something, this service can be an eloquent extension of our worship experience. We encourage all St. Jimmies to take time from busy, stressful activities and join in a quiet, meditative encounter with God.

In your private time, we extend the theme of taking on more to enhance one's spiritual life. We strongly recommend the collects in our Book of Common Prayer, which include almost any topic about which we might pray. Found on pages 814-841, these prayers can help us articulate our needs and requests, bringing us to a closer relationship with our God.

The Liturgy Committee

Lent as a Time of Self Examination

Lent is one of the times of the Church year when it is particularly appropriate to make a private confession. Anyone who would like to make their confession, using the form for the Reconciliation of a Penitent in our Book of Common Prayer, pages 447 may contact the Rector, to schedule an appointment.

Invitation

Donna and Arby Frost invite all parishioners who have not been able to attend a "Conversation and Community" gathering thus far to come to their house on Saturday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. We will enjoy a light supper and fellowship, including the Reverend Susan Bentley leading us in a discussion concerning our goals and mission at St. James'. The directions to the Frost residence and sign-up sheet are on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

Lenten Mite Boxes

Remember to add your daily change to the Episcopal Relief and Development mite boxes that were distributed on Ash Wednesday. They will be collected on Easter Sunday and used to address the needs of the world identified in the Millennium Development Goals, through the Heifer Project. The Heifer project provides livestock and training to struggling people around the world so they can become self-reliant for food and income.

The Stewardship Corner

All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own have we given you.

+
+ +
Time + + Talent
+ +
+ + + + +
Treasure

Pledged and Unpledged Support: In January and February, St. James received \$18,090.09 and \$7,346.50, respectively, in pledged and unpledged support. The monthly budgeted income amount was \$20,004.44 and \$10,743.23, respectively, creating a two-month shortfall of \$5,311.08. We already find ourselves in a “catch-up” mode this early in the year. Please try to get your January and February pledges in if you have missed fulfilling your commitment, and try to keep current this month and in the coming months.

St. James Cycle of Prayer: In March, we recognize and give thanks for the ministry of the Caregivers Group, the Rector, and all who provide pastoral care. May they, through the power of the Holy Spirit, bring comfort and support to all whom they serve.

Kroger Gift Cards: In February, your Kroger purchases netted St. James a rebate check of \$392.17. This program has proven to be an easy and simple way to contribute to St. James. Thank you for using your Kroger cards so faithfully. Kroger cards make great gifts. If you would like to purchase a gift card for \$5, please see Mother Sue, Dorothy Herndon or Connie Bierly.

Adopt-a-Day: In 2009, you can Adopt-a-Day for \$60.00 or Adopt-a-Half Day for \$30.00. You can celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one on their special day (birthday, anniversary, retirement, etc.). Forms can be found on the table outside the secretary’s office. Forms will also be e-mailed during the first week of each month and can be filled out and returned to the parish secretary via e-mail. Please consider “adopting” a day or a half day in 2009. All Adopt-a-Day contributions will be published in the monthly Connection.

Treat of the Week: Each Sunday, we will be “giving away” a treat during coffee hour following the 10 o’clock service. Donations will be accepted for each treat. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund. Don’t miss an opportunity to receive a treat and contribute to the Building Fund.

A Stewardship Minute

The beloved UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, now in his nineties, began each basketball season by sitting his players on a bench and demonstrating the proper way to put on their socks before putting on their basketball shoes! Coach Wooden knew that if the socks were smooth and tight on their feet it would prevent them from getting blisters and probably not be able to play as they became worse.

One of Coach Wooden’s mottos was: “Little things make big things happen.” Another of his quotes is “Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.” He believed that being disciplined in one’s life, habits and daily practices is the key to living a successful and worthy life. Is it any wonder that his UCLA teams won National Championships 10 times? What the coach was teaching was that to be a good steward of the life God has given us, one must be disciplined in all things: one’s body, mind, spirit, talents, resources, even the use of our time. If we are not so disciplined, we will not fulfill the plans God has for each of us. The last five verses of the 24th chapter of the book of Proverbs makes a similar point:

“I passed by the field of one who was lazy ... and it was all overgrown with thorns ... covered with nettles. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed warrior.” (Proverb 24:30-34)

Such is the life of one who fails to apply their God-given gifts in a consistent, disciplined manner.

Prayer: Teach us, dear Lord, to make our lives fruitful so that we become good and faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

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**When was the last time your will had a
checkup? Does it include a gift for the
furtherance of the Gospel?**

Benevolence Sunday is March 15, 2009

The Benevolence Sunday offering received on March 15 will go to **Episcopal Relief & Development**. Please give generously.

Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States, guided by the Episcopal Church's principles of compassion, dignity and generosity as we work to heal a hurting world.

Episcopal Relief & Development is the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

Episcopal Relief & Development faithfully administers the funds that are received from the Church and raised from other sources. It provides relief in times of disaster and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering.

Episcopal Relief & Development cherishes its partnerships within the Anglican Communion, with ecumenical bodies and with others who share a common vision for justice and peace among all people.

Episcopal Relief & Development is currently a presence in 41 countries worldwide, working to eradicate poverty, hunger and disease, improve economic development and respond to disaster where the need is greatest.

Adopt-a-Day 2009

Jan. 12 adopted by Denise & Randy Smerecki in memory of Casimer Smerecki

Jan. 30 adopted by Mimi & Bob Copenhaver in celebration of their wedding anniversary

Feb. 13 adopted by Larry & Doris Mattox in celebration of Joyce Brown on her 83rd birthday.

March 17 adopted by Doris and James Champion, Sr. In memory of our beloved son, James R. Champion, Jr.

May 8 adopted by the EfM class in celebration of Tim Buchholtz' birthday and to thank him for his consistent preparation of coffee and snacks for our weekly meetings.

July 8 adopted by Brian & Jeanne Counihan in celebration of our 20th wedding anniversary.

Aug. 15 adopted by Robert & Carol Killinger in celebration of Lonnie Bower's birthday.

New listings are bolded.

Music in Lent

The season of Lent is penitential, and our music will reflect this. Mother Sue has encouraged us to take on a spiritual discipline during lent, and our corporal music will do this. We will be singing an Antiphon before, during, and after the psalm that reflects the theme of the psalm. We will begin this on Ash Wednesday. This music should help us remember "that we are but dust, and to dust we shall return." We will sing a different antiphon each week, that will reflect the psalm's meaning.

Our hymns will also be more solemn as we try to reflect the essence of the lessons each Sunday. We will use a new Kyrie beginning the second Sunday in Lent.

We will put away all our Alleluias until the Great Vigil of Easter, when we shall again sing "Alleluia".

The Junior choir will continue meeting on Sunday after Church School, and will be preparing to sing once during Lent, and again on Palm Sunday. The Junior choir will also sing when the Bishop visits in April, and again at Pentecost.

The Senior choir will sing some of our favorites during Lent, and will continue to meet on Wednesday evening to practice for Sunday as well as Maundy Thursday, The Great Vigil of Easter, and Easter Day.

May the Lord continue to bless you and all that you do.

Peace,
Sharon

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Amazing Grace: Christians and the Global Slave Trade

We are inspired by the story of those who struggled to end slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries, and by God's deliverance of an entire people from slavery in

the biblical book of Exodus. But how aware are we of the millions of people who live in slavery today - and what can we do to reach out to them? This study series uses a collection of articles from Sojourners magazine and other sources, to spark discussion, thought, and action about how to live out God's call for justice.

March 1st, 9:00 am: "Prince Among Slaves-Part II", a PBS DVD tells the amazing true story of Abdul Rahman Ibrahima Sori, an African prince enslaved in the American South. In 1788, the slave ship *Africa* set sail from the Gambia River, its hold laden with a profitable but highly perishable cargo-hundreds of men, women, and children bound in chains, headed for American shores. Eight months later, a handful of survivors found themselves for sale in Natchez, Mississippi. One of them, a 26 year old African prince, endured the humiliation of slavery without ever losing his dignity or hope for freedom.

March 8th, 9:00 am: Historical Movements to "free the captives."

March 15th, 9:00 am: Modern Slavery & Sex Trafficking

March 22nd, 9:00 am: Exodus & Liberation

March 29th: 9:00 am: Slavery & the Global Economy

ECW Report

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) met on Tuesday, February 3rd at the home of Jackie Leonard (who prepared an elegant luncheon). A Coordinating Committee was elected: Pam Reilly Convener, Pat Ball Co-convener, Jean Schaefer Recorder, Ann Bird Treasurer, and Doris Mattox Reporter. Please mark your calendars for upcoming events: March 22: Newcomers' Spaghetti Luncheon after the 10 am service, cosponsored by The Membership Committee, June 1st: Ladies' Night Out. More detailed information to come. Doris Mattox, Reporter

The Rector's Discretionary Fund

St. James, like most Episcopal Churches, provides a Discretionary Fund for the rector to oversee. This fund is intended to provide for emergency financial help for those outside the parish as well as parishioners who have an unexpected financial need. The fund is also available for minor expenses that are not provided for in the annual budget. Each second Sunday of the month, the cash in the offering plate is designated for the Discretionary Fund and the Rector puts all honorariums from weddings, and

funerals in the Fund; donations are the only source of income for this fund. The Rector appreciates all contributions to the Discretionary Fund.

Youth update:

St James had a whopping 12 youth and 4 adults participate in Youth @ Council at the end of January. Many of our Youth (and some adults too) are on the design team for diocesan events and their dedication and planning certainly showed with the events of the weekend. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this intentional Christian community of youth and adults and am glad to have the support of St James as we continue to build a faith based environment for our youth in our cave here at church.

Perhaps my highlight for the weekend was seeing participants of the story telling workshop take part in the Saturday evening worship with the Adults at Council prior to our Stop Hunger Now event. Their production was a testament to their creativity and focus since the earlier workshops were very short! It was one of the many ways YMT tried to make more connections between the Youth and Adults at Council this year.

Check out our picture board in the Parish Hall for a slice of the fabulous weekend together with 175 Diocesan Youth, and spend some time talking to the youth about their experience! - You can also check out the Stop Hunger Now site for some of Alex Bentley's pictures of the Council event!

Peace,
Beth

Youth reminders:

Many Diocesan events are ready for YOU to apply and register! All forms can be found on the youth web site at www.youth.dioswva.org/ . Here is the run down!

YMT applications are due NOW - grades 8-11 eligible to apply and become the designers for our next Diocesan youth event.

Middle School Mission Trip: Current Grades 5-7. A trip to the Eastern Shore to spend a weekend gleaning for the Food Banks with Harvest of Hope.

Senior High Mission Trip: Current grades 8-12. Back to New Orleans for continued help in recovery and rebuilding from Katrina's destruction.

Bradford Youth Exchange: Ages 16-20. Our turn to send youth to England to strengthen ties to our companion Diocese.

If these sound intriguing to you, then get on the web site NOW and download your application.

Keep the Date! Spring Youth Event for grades 5-8 is coming to Phoebe Needles May 1-3. More details soon.

Summer Camp Opportunities also abound and you can look for literature on camps available in the Parish Hall and outside the Church Office as well.

The Rector's Lenten Book Study

The land of Israel is located at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea and serves as a bridge between Africa and Asia. Old Testament scholar, W. Eugene March has written *God's Land On Loan, Israel, Palestine, and the World*, which develops a theology of land, contending that since the world belongs to God, we do not "own" land. Rather, land is a loan from God, and we must use it responsibly and justly. This book examines the relationship between Israel and the Palestinian people, rehearsing both the history of that relationship and its influence on today's conflict.

This book will be on sale in the Parish Hall for \$15.00. The discussion group for those who can attend, will meet on Wednesdays in Lent, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, at 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Reminder for Easter flowers

It is time to think about flowers for the church Easter Sunday. If you wish to contribute to the flowering of the church please speak to Lynn Wright. More information will be in the next issue of the *Connection*.

SHARE Dates

Share orders will be taken at the church Saturday, March 7 from 12 p.m. To 1 p.m. and after church Sunday, March 8. The distribution date is Saturday, March 21 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

JUST SAY OY

No Internet today, either in the Church or at home. Will the man come to fix it today? I ask. It seems a reasonable question.

Maybe, is the answer. Oh.

I have a hard time managing my work without Internet access, I start to say, but the words die on my lips. In Italy, your hard times are more or less your own, at least insofar as precision and promptness are needed for their healing. I don't know when the Internet man will come. Maybe today. Maybe not.

I have taken to saying something Jesus, a Jew, must have said a lot -- Oy, I say to myself when I get another maybe about the Internet man. Oy. It is a Yiddish syllable as replete with rueful meaning as its Asian cousin OM is empty of it. Oy, you say when your husband and your toddler are both up all night with the stomach flu, and you're feeling a little queasy yourself.

Oy, you say when your portfolio shrinks to half its former size.

Oy, when you realize that you're out of cash and don't remember your new PIN number.

Oy, you say, instead of 'Well, what do you expect?' or 'Now I've seen everything' or 'Can anybody really be that dumb?'

I have come to love 'oy.' I have come to need it. It has become essential in developing the fatalism necessary to life in Italy, where a person really cannot allow her mental health to stand or fall on things happening as expected. They don't here, and they're not going to anytime soon. So you need to stop fuming early on. Just say Oy and move on to something else.

Maybe today. Maybe tomorrow. Maybe never.

The Almost-Daily eMo from the [Geranium Farm](#)
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SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Mar 1			
8 AM	<i>Lector – Susan Tolliver, Chalicist – Tim Buchholtz</i>		
10 AM	Crucifer	Aaron Taylor	Ushers
	Acolyte	Marjorie Price	Coffee
	T Bearer	Ian Johnstone	Nursery
		Kirin Johnstone	Tellers
	Chalicist	Butch Eanes	Altar Guild
	Lector 1	Michael Repa	
	Lector 2	Bob Ostrom	
	Prayers	Ron Taylor	
Mar 8			
8 AM	<i>Lector – Susan Tolliver, Chalicist – Tim Buchholtz</i>		
10 AM	Crucifer	Thomas Williamson	Ushers
	Acolyte	Ben Clouser	Coffee
	T Bearer	Ashley Nelson	Nursery
		Sarah Perry	Tellers
	Chalicist	Matt Cordani	Altar Guild
	Lector 1	Donna Frost	
	Lector 2	Lynn Wright	
	Prayers	Chuck Cohen	
Mar 15			
8 AM	<i>Lector – Tim Buchholtz, Chalicist – Jo Schultz</i>		
10 AM	Crucifer	Grace Aheron	Ushers
	Acolyte	Taylor Flynt	Coffee
	T Bearer	Marjorie Price	Nursery
		Josie Wiegandt	Tellers
	Chalicist	Donna Repa	Altar Guild
	Lector 1	Michael Bentley	
	Lector 2	Laura Anderson	
	Prayers	Butch Eanes	
Mar 22			
8 AM	<i>Lector – Tom Orville, Chalicist – James Kyle</i>		
10 AM	Crucifer	Alex Bentley	Ushers
	Acolyte	Dustin Hassell	Coffee
	T Bearer	Ben Clouser	Nursery
		Felix Counihan	Tellers
	Chalicist	Avis Aheron	Altar Guild
	Lector 1	Betsy Briggs	
	Lector 2	Jackie Leonard	
	Prayers	Sam Campbell	
Mar 29			
8 AM	<i>Lector and Chalicist – Tim Buchholtz</i>		
10 AM	Crucifer	Rachel Ostrom	Ushers
	Acolyte	Kirin Johnstone	Coffee
	T Bearer	Mark Curley	Nursery
		Taylor Flynt	Tellers
	Chalicist	Matt Cordani	Altar Guild
	Lector 1	Helen Campbell	
	Lector 2	Kate Perry	
	Prayers	Bob Ostrom	
Apr 5 Palm Sunday			
8 AM	<i>Lector – Susan Tolliver, Chalicist – Tim Buchholtz</i>		
10 AM	Crucifer	Grace Aheron	Ushers
	Acolyte	Ryan Kovac	Coffee
	T Bearer	Molly Hassell	Nursery
		Ian Johnstone	Tellers
	Chalicist	Butch Eanes	Altar Guild
	Lector 1	Grace Aheron	
	Lector 2	Chuck Cohen	
	Prayers	Sandy Maxwell	

DOK Gift Bag Preparation: Pat Ball & Mary Davis

Note: If you can't meet your scheduled time please find a substitute and let the Office know.

Kanuga

February 17, 2009

Contact: Jonathan Rich, Communications Project Manager

jonathan.rich@kanuga.org

828-692-0077, ext. 224

Registration open for Kanuga Women's Hiking Retreat

Explore a spiritual side of Western North Carolina April 26-29

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. — Experience the beauty and peace of God's creation while hiking trails at Kanuga Conferences and nearby DuPont State Forest during the inaugural [Womens Hiking Retreat](#) April 26-29.

To inspire listening to God in the midst of daily life, this retreat combines day hikes, light yoga, meditation and short evening programs.

"Hiking in the mountains around Kanuga is wonderful," said **Linda Murchison**, a hiking guide who lives in Wilmington, N.C., and is coordinating the event. "The Holy Spirit is present offering us an invitation to listen and experience grace and love in our surroundings in the time away from our day-to-day lives."

Participants must be able to comfortably walk seven miles on uneven mountain terrain, as well as be ready to nourish their minds and spirits during this unique adventure.

"God resides in nature," Murchison said, "Sunlight shining through the trees, in sparkling mountain streams, in gentle rain, in the sound of leaves crunching under feet, in the fragile growth of early spring flowers and in each of us as we walk along the trails."

The Rev. Betsy Roadman, a spiritual director from Ossining, N.Y., will serve as chaplain during the retreat.

Affiliated with the Episcopal Church since 1928, Kanuga is a 1,400-acre camp and conference center in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Hendersonville, N.C. For more information, visit www.kanuga.org or call 828-692-9136.

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