



THE CHIMES

December 2008 & January 2009

More Advent than We Asked For

By Dr. Randal Gardner, Rector of St. James by-the-Sea

O come, O come, Emmanuel

In the swirling turbulence of the day, as we know the anxiety and worry about our income and jobs and recession, we remember that our salvation is from God, not from human institutions or from our own strength. This has always been true for faithful people, but it is a kind of truth that makes the greatest sense in times of trouble.

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.*

There is ordering in God's wisdom, and there is knowledge in the teaching of Christ. Because of this we read the scripture and follow the example of Christ — we pray and we gather together for reflection and study and worship. In the Hebrew scriptures the sages teach us to pray for the greatest gift of all: Wisdom. In the Christian scriptures we learn that this gift of wisdom comes to us in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the mind of Christ.

O Come to us, Holy Spirit, and give us that mind of Christ. Teach us to order our lives that we may do what is right and trust in you for all good things.

*O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

I lived through Seattle's great depression of the 1970's, when a team of disenchanted business owners bought a billboard above Seattle's busiest intersection asking, "Will the last person to leave Seattle please turn out the lights?" The sign loomed over that city as its unemployment headed toward 17-20% out of work, a condition that lasted nearly five years.

What happened in that city, largely through the leadership of the churches, were all kinds of innovations in caring for each other. Food banks opened. Networking communities were forged and formed. New businesses launched with the support and advice of neighbors, friends, and generous advisors who donated their time and skill. People often turned from their lost jobs to their first love — art, cooking, crafts, photography, music, poetry — and churches sponsored bazaars and art shows and concerts where members and neighbors could offer their goods.

Questions of ministry and purpose are often forged in the crucible of challenge. Our church faces these now, but we can remain confident and sure that God is with us. In fact, we might be so bold as to say that God has been preparing us for this very day over the years of the past. We have a gift for the world — our mutual affection, our trust in God, our ready - built community, out of which many hands can make great things possible.

The gloomy clouds of the day are brightened by our faith that God is engaged with our world to bring all things to good and to right. Our challenge is to have faith in that and to remember that the whole reason for our advent need is that we cannot save ourselves. Christ comes to us precisely because we are broken. Christ heals us because we are sick. Christ redeems us because we are slaves to the wrong things.

And so our prayer this season may be all the more earnest —

*O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Important News

Please be sure to read the article inside: The Vestry plans for keeping a balanced budget, page 3.

Our Annual Meeting is January 25th

Sri Lanka's Tea Estates Program Continues

Kumari Kulatunga continues her wonderful mission with the children of the Tea Estates.

Kumari briefly visited St. James a few weeks ago when she came to visit her ailing mother, bringing items to sell on behalf of the Tea Estates Program. Jane Gary, a new member of St. James, set up a table to sell the items.

The Forgotten Families of the Tea Estates project focuses on providing educational and nutritional

opportunities to the children of the families working on unregulated tea estates in Sri Lanka. Kumari is developing another school, and welcomes any contributions for the vital work. Last summer, Grace and Sawyer Daly held a successful fundraiser/birthday party. *(Please see the letter below).*

If you wish to make a contri-

bution to this vital work, please make out your check to St. James and include "Tea Estates" on the memo line. If you would like to make a gift and make it in honor of another person, please include a note with your check including the name of the person honored, the occasion, and the address to which to send the announcement of the gift. *The Rev. Eleanor Ellsworth*

Dear Grace & Sawyer Daly,

Thank you for your kind donation for the forgotten families fund. This money will help to support two families in the tea Estates. They get a food bag whenever they come to school for 18 days.

These two girls have to bring their siblings if they want to come to school, as otherwise they have to stay in their line rooms to care for the siblings until their parents come after work. Their parents go to work at 6.30 am to pluck tea in the fields making less than \$3 per day. They have never gone to school either, so they don't value education. With your support we are helping these families by giving them incentives they need to come to school.

We also give them clothes, shoes, breakfast, lunch, milk, and tea. They walk more than 2 kilometers to come to school. They have been coming to school for more than two years.

Once again I want to thank you for your kind donation. I hope you will be able to continue supporting these children.

Here is also a picture of children receiving the goody bags that your children made for them and I collected when I was there. Please share this with them. May God Bless You.

Regards,

Kumari

Healing Hands

(healinghandsmatara@gmail.com)



Kalaiwanim 9 years old & Thamilwani, 2 years old



Sundararaj, 2-1/2 years old & Aravindaraj, 8 years old



A little boy with the gift bag from our St. James Sunday School children.

If you would like more information on this program or Church and the World Ministries, please contact The Rev. Eleanor Ellsworth at 858 459-3421 ext. 105.

Vestry and Staff Confront Economic Crisis

Midge Coburn, Senior Warden and Randal Gardner, Rector

As we all know, the world is suffering a financial crisis. St. James is no exception. Our current giving and estimated income has dropped by about 15%, and we find that many of our most reliable givers are cutting back in the New Year. Adding to that difficulty is the recent drop in the value of our investment income on which we heavily depend. This creates a double crisis for the vestry and our congregation to solve. This article addresses the problem and the beginning steps the vestry and the Rector are taking.


The investment income on which we have depended over the years has made it possible for us to develop programs and ministries our regular giving has not supported. Even with our conservative investment strategies, our holdings have dropped as the market has declined. The Vestry's major concern is that the core value of the investments has dropped. With that reduction in value a continuation of our recent pace of withdrawal would deplete these funds in just five to seven years. We do not believe this would be wise or faithful to so inhibit the future of St. James when this economy does recover.

This means that the vestry must take dramatic actions to balance our budget while continuing the purposeful and important programs and ministries of St. James. We must cut spending significantly, monitor our investments, appeal for funds throughout the year, and launch new fundraising efforts to increase our income. We are also looking into the possibility that key assets— St. James Hall, the St. James Gift Shop, and residential property— can be used to generate new sources of income for the church.

We have moved to cut spending through a consolidation and restructuring of church operations. This has included laying-off some of our staff members, discontinuing outside maintenance services on our buildings and grounds, and closing our offices on Fridays (Friday church events will not be affected by this). Our support for the diocesan ministry will

be pared to the canonical minimum, and the staff members who keep their jobs will feel the pinch in a reduction in salary and compensation.

Even as we trim spending, though, we do not want to diminish the significance of what it means for us to be the church. This is a time for us to increase our mutual commitment and support. Those of us who continue to enjoy sufficient income need to continue to be generous, or even to increase our generosity. Those of us who lose our income or our jobs must resist the temptation to turn away from the church out of shame or embarrassment. Perhaps the period between jobs will inspire some to apply their gifts to the mission of the church as a way to work through the spiritual and emotional discouragement of job hunting. Those of us who can hire someone and so give a job do good not only for that person but for the community as a whole.

This economic crisis will test us, and we are confident that this test will prove us to be a community of love and support rather than of blame and disappointment. As your Rector I can tell you that there is no other time I would rather be your priest than right now. As your Senior Warden I can offer thanks to God for calling us into his service for St. James at the very time we have the greatest gift of hope and love to offer the world. By God's grace may all of us be worthy of this calling. 

**Please come to the
St. James Annual
Meeting,
St. James Hall,
January 25th,
after the 10 am Service.**

We are Grateful to Those Who Have Gone Before Us

By Garth Howe, Pastor for Development

You may have noticed a good amount of changes to the physical appearance of the church grounds and facilities lately. You also may be asking yourself how or why, with these troubled economic times, the church is moving forward with these changes.

The answer is in gratefulness to faithful parishioners who have remembered St. James in their estate planning and left substantial bequests to our mission and ministry.

Lydia Steinert left St. James a sizeable amount of cash, proceeds from an estate sale, and a condominium. The provision in her estate documents asked that the income from the gift be restricted for major improvements to the church facilities. Over the years there has been substantial income from the fund, arising from the way the funds were invested and the sale of the condo in 2003.

This bequest funded many improvements through the years, such as carpet for the main floors of Glazebrook Hall, a re-model of the Gift Shop, partial funding of the new restrooms, and many other capital improvements.

Some of the capital expenditures currently in the approval and bid process are:

- 1) replacement of the flat roof over Glazebrook Hall,
- 2) new carpet for the Sunday

School rooms and second floor offices in Glazebrook Hall, and

- 3) new landscape and security lighting on the grounds.

Lydia Steinert was not the only parishioner from whom we have received a generous bequest. *The Keefer Fund for Human Needs*, was created from a gift from Janet Keefer. It was designated by the Vestry to help parishioners in need.

Marjorie Fay Brown's bequest (2004) supports our Stephen Ministry program and others.

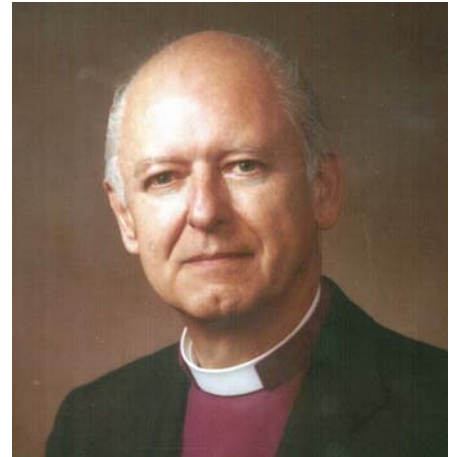
Helen Siegener's generous bequest in 2006 was restricted for support of the Altar Guild.

Recently we received notice that the late Juanita Dahlstrom Miller left St. James a substantial bequest.


The late Bishop Robert Woltstorff (*pictured here*) left an unrestricted bequest in 2007, which is invested in short-term, interest-bearing accounts while the vestry prayerfully deliberates on the best use of the funds.

These bequests total more than one million dollars. The recent bequests, and others through the years, continue to support the ministries and programs of St. James. They provide a vital source of income, keeping our ministry strong.

We thank these faithful parishioners and those of you who



have informed us of your provisions to St. James in your estate planning.

If you would like to discuss a bequest in your name or in honor of a loved one, please contact Garth Howe at 858 459-3421 x103. 

(Continued from page 5)

Vestry Report, continued

spent approximately \$206,000 of the \$209,000 restroom budget.

Mary Kay Chandler, Chair of Stewardship, reported the "mean" pledge is up from last year.

Charleen Boyd, Chair of the Hospitality Committee, reported the next all-Parish function will be an Epiphany party.

Senior Warden Midge Coburn thanked the Rector for sending 170 personalized Stewardship letters. Also, she complimented Chris Bernard, Pastor for Youth and Family, and Amanda Davis for their fine work with the youth and children of the Parish.



Vestry Actions in October 2008

By Cindy Trowbridge, Jr. Warden

Members of the Health Ministry Outreach Committee (HMOC), formerly the St. James Memorial Fund, reported they served 11 people in need this year at a cost of approximately \$42,000. Further questions were asked and discussion ensued regarding the need for confidentiality of the names of persons receiving assistance. Per the Gift Agreement between the Memorial Fund and the Parish, a separate budget line item for HMOC's budget is maintained, thus there is not a separate checking account.

Karen Fast explained the Gift Shop's cash flow issue is a combination of decreased revenue due to having to close during the restroom construction, as well as the changing economy. Estimated decrease in revenue during the construction period was \$12,656. During the ensuing discussion, the Vestry reconfirmed the Parish's responsibility to pay the expenses.

Howard Young, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported funds to cover the October cash shortfall of \$35,000 (including Gift Shop expenses) and the Tower Restroom obligations of \$45,000 were transferred from invested assets consistent with prior Vestry policy. Further, Vestry participation in the upcoming special working Finance Committee meetings was encouraged. Changes to the accounting system due to the Parish's recent 2006 financial audit permit the designation of an additional \$226,944 from the Steinert Fund to be used for capital purposes.

Rector Randal Gardner explained the series of fortunate events leading to accepting a proposal from Betty Vale for landscaping work at the Church and apologized for not seeking prior Vestry approval.

Cindy Trowbridge lead a discussion on how the Parish can best provide oversight and assistance for next year's Golden Elephant Sale.

Audit Committee Chair Pete Davis reported the financial audit of the Parish for 2006 from Deborah Brennan & Associates was complete. The auditors gave the Parish a "clean report." The big change the auditors implemented was changing the Parish's accounting



Thank you to all who responded to our 2009 Stewardship Campaign

St. James by-the-Sea 2009 Stewardship Report

Date of Report: Wednesday, November 26, 2008

	#	2008	#	% of Pop	2009	%
Total Estimates	294	804,456				
Possible Households	571		598			
Received to Date (compared to 2008)		576,212	171	29%	449,607	
Goal					670,000	
Shortage from Goal					220,393	32.9%

Other Data:

Mean Estimate		2,430			2,629.28	
Mean Estimate (remove top 10 and bottom 10)		1,977			2,201	
Median Estimate		1,200			1,820	
Mean New Estimate		1,340			932	
Range of Estimates		\$50 - \$100,000			\$80 - \$24,000	

standards from "modified cash" to an "accrual basis". Questions were asked and discussion ensued, including how to better value and track the Gift Shop's inventory. The 2006 Audit Activity Report handout dated October 28, 2008, from Pete Davis, was discussed and revised to remove any suggestion that the Parish was not using GAAP standards at all times. The Vestry unanimously received the 2006 Audit of the Parish.

Garth Howe reported the Tower Restroom construction was almost complete and the Parish had

(Continued on page 4)

**Women's Dinner Group:
Orma's Fund:
Swaziland's Hope
Tuesday, Dec. 9**

The Rev. Cindy Evans Voorhees, founder of Orma's Fund, is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Los Angeles.

A licensed general contractor and liturgical designer, Cindy has been working with Rev. Orma for over three years.



The Reverend Orma Mavimbela, the first female Anglican priest to be ordained in Swaziland, Africa, is the inspiration behind Orma's Fund. She began helping starving AIDS orphans with money from her pension fund. She now has four care points, feeding over 250 orphans each day.



Our social time begins at 6 pm, program at 7 pm. *RESERVATIONS are requested.* Dinner is \$15. Call the Office at 858 459-3421 by Monday Dec.1.

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Daughters of the King



meet after the 10 am service on the 3rd Sunday of the month. You can join the **Quilting Ministry** any time. It is in the VS room on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 9:15-12:30.



**2008
Christmas
Schedule**

3 pm—The Family Service

5 pm— Christmas Music

5:30 Choral Service

10 pm Music

10:30 Choral Service

***Quiet your Sunday at
Evensong
Sunday, December 21,
5 pm***

Sunday evening is a time when even the busiest of us may pause, take a breath, and collect our thoughts for the coming week. Time to pray, time to listen, time to think— these are some of the many gifts offered by Evensong. All are welcome to this beautiful service.

Evensong continues on **December 21st** at 5PM on the campus of The Bishop's School in St. Mary's Chapel. The Rev. Ron Jaynes will officiate. Our first Evensong in the New Year will be on **January 11**, The Rev. Lawrence Waddy, officiant.

Evensong dates in 2009 are February 15, & March 15.

**Lunch Bunch
Presents
Christmas Music
with
Steve Townsend
Noon, Dec. 17, 2008**

Joy! The Lunch Bunch is happy to once again welcome Steven Townsend, St. James Pastor for Music Ministries, and soloist, Martha Jane Weaver, to our December 17th meeting.

All members of the parish and guests are invited to join the Lunch Bunch at noon in the Van Schaick Room on December 17th where lunch will be catered by the Girard Gourmet (cost \$7.00). Reservations are required. Please call the church office at 858-459-3421 by noon, Monday, December 15th.

This is a very joy-filled, fun-filled occasion and the Lunch Bunch is very grateful to Steve and Martha for bringing their special Christmas spirit to brighten our meeting. Ask anyone who has been to a Lunch Bunch Christmas Special before and they will smile and may light up like a Christmas tree.

**December 28th is
Banquet Sunday!**

Come for a little breakfast and some nice conversation between services—8:30 am until 10 am. VS Room

January 4th is also a Banquet Sunday—same hours, 8:30 am to 10 am in the VS room.

And "Thanks" to the volunteers who are helping out!

“Bridges to Contemplative Living”

an Epiphany Experience

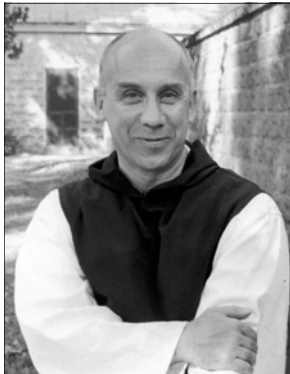
Jan. 11 at 8:45-9:45 am

This six-Sunday workshop led by The Rev. Eleanor Ellsworth, begins January 11 and ends on February 14. It is a follow-up to our Thomas Merton Retreat in December,

offering study and reflection for spiritual growth.

“Bridges” is a program of the Thomas Merton Institute

for Contemplative Living. \$15 includes all materials. **Register by Jan. 3.** (858 459-3421)



Photograph of Thomas Merton by Sibylle Akers. the Merton Legacy Trust and the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University.

Companions in Christ begins January 14th

Join The Rev. Dr. Randal Gardner for five Wednesday evenings at 7 pm for a wonderful course from “Companions in Christ” entitled “Feeding on the Word: reading scripture to enlighten the soul.”

This is a great time to develop relationships with fellow Christians— learning together, and deepening your spiritual life.

Call the office to register. The book cost is \$10, or \$20 for the entire 5 series in one book.

Women’s Dinner Group brings us— Dr. Midge Coburn Sr. Warden

Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6pm

After one year as the Senior Warden at St. James, Dr. Coburn will share and reflect on her time as the leader of the Vestry—the challenges, joys, and impact on her life and her future.

Please make your reservations by noon, Monday, Jan. 12th through the office or sign up after Church.

All women are invited to join us—men too! We begin at 6 pm with a social time, with our program beginning about 7 pm. Dinner is catered by Girard Gourmet, for \$15. You are welcome to come for the program only.

Sunday, January 4th Epiphany Fiesta!

5 – 7 PM

Suggested donation \$5.00 per person

Come celebrate the season with your friends at St. James at an all-parish Epiphany Fiesta. We will have a visit from the wise ones, dinner, cake, and activities for all ages. **Please RSVP** to the church office so we have enough food. If you would like to help with cooking, set-up or entertainment, please contact Rebecca Williamson at 858-538-8619 or rlwilliamson@san.rr.com.

An Important LUNCH BUNCH MEETING on GUARDING AGAINST FRAUD!

Wed., January 21

The Lunch Bunch begins the new year with a focus on fraud prevention. Our speaker is Midge Constanza, a Public Affairs Officer from the DA's office. Ms. Constanza was the first woman Assistant to the President, hired by Jimmy Carter. She served as liaison between the President and groups previously given limited access to the Executive Branch. This included youth, women, veterans, seniors, minorities and the handicapped.

We are fortunate to have Ms. Constanza help us become more aware of fraudulent activities that could impact us. Reservations for lunch should be made by noon on Monday, January 19th by calling the church office at 858-459-3421. Cost of the lunch is \$7.00.

St. James Music Series
Presents

Rod Gilfry, baritone
www.rodgilfry.com
Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 4:00 pm

Vienna Boys Choir
www.wsk.at
Sunday, March 8th, 2009 at 4:00 pm

Australian Chamber Orchestra
www.aco.com.au
Sunday, April 19th, 2009 at 4:00 pm

For tickets: please call
(858) 459-3421, ext. 109

Youth Notes:

By Chris Bernard, Pastor for Youth & Families



By now, many have heard that the trip to Mexico was postponed because of the increase in violence in Tijuana and other coastal towns. It was a difficult decision, but as a team, we prayed and discerned that the timing simply was not right. So we called Camp Stevens and asked if there was any room for a group of 24 to help the relief effort there.

It turned out they were glad for the help and asked us to re-cut a 2 mile trail through a burned area using logs and stones to line the path. They thought

this would be a great *weekend* project. However, by 11:00 AM Saturday morning, the trail was cut and our team leader, "Mags," scratched her head as she tried to figure out what else she wanted us to do.

When lunch rolled around, we were covered with charcoal and eager to see what was next. Mags walked us to a pile of rubble—the remnants of two foundations. She asked us to sort through it, choose suitable pieces to construct a retaining wall, load it up into a pick-up truck, unload it, carry the pieces down a hill, and then construct a retaining wall. A couple of hours later, that task was finished. The next morning, we were assigned several smaller tasks: repainting a sign, staining the chapel benches, and putting the finishing touches on the previous projects.

Needless to say, we were there to work and we worked hard. What struck me was the overwhelming and joyful spirit of committed service. Not once did I hear anyone complain about anything.

At the end of our work trip, each of us picked up a leaf and a rock and gathered together to reflect on the weekend with the staff at Camp Stevens. One symbol represented something we were going to take with us, and the other represented something we were going to leave behind. Most of us spoke about the relationships we formed or the work we did. One dad turned to the group and began to choke up as he said, "Seeing my son have so much joy... that's what I am going to take with me." It was just a rock. It was just a leaf. But our trip up to Julian was so much more. 🌿



Christmas Pageant

Remember when you were one of the sheep in the Christmas Pageant? Remember when you were a star or a Mary or a Joseph? Well, the time has come again and we will start getting ready to tell the story of Jesus being born. If you are interested in participating, please talk to Chris Bernard or Mandy Davis.

Calendar for December and January:

- December 5– 7: Thomas Merton Weekend
- December 20: Youth Christmas Party (more information coming)
- December 21: Christmas Pageant
- December 25: Christmas
- January 4: Epiphany Fiesta from 5-7 pm
- January 16-17: Diocesan Youth Winter Retreat @ St. James Hall
- January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day—NO SCHOOL

Parent Notes

Confirmation:

Beginning February 1, St. James will be offering a 16 week Confirmation Course taught by Chris Bernard, Pastor For Youth and Families. If you would like more information, please contact him at chris.bernard@sjbts.org

"The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children."

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to thee, O Israel!

**'Twas a week before Advent, and in Sunday school,
Miss Mandy was pondering what might be cool.
"That's it!," she exclaimed, as she wrote down this list,
"See a show with your family—that's really the gist."**

(With apologies to Moore and Livingston.) A wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior is to enjoy San Diego's many Christmas performances with your loved ones. Here's a partial list to get you started on what could be a delightful family tradition!



A Christmas Carol (Cygnet Theatre at The Old Town Theatre, www.cygnettheatre.com)

Editors' Note: Mandy Davis makes a wonderful "Spirit of Christmas Past" in this play!

It's a Wonderful Life, A Radio

Play (Cygnet Theatre Company, www.cygnettheatre.com)

Traditions of Christmas (Christian Community Theatre, www.cyt.org)

The Nutcracker (San Diego Civic Youth Ballet, <http://sdcyb.org/>)

A Christmas Carol (North Coast Repertory Theatre, www.northcoastrep.org)

The Nutcracker (City Ballet, www.cityballet.org)

Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas, Angel's Arms (Lamb's Players)

An American Christmas (Lamb's Players at the Hotel del Coronado)

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (The Old Globe Theatre, <http://theoldglobe.org>)

Children's Ministries Calendar

for December, 2008 through January, 2009

December 7

The Second Sunday of Advent. Children will begin to prepare for the Christmas Pageant during Sunday School.

December 14

The Third Sunday of Advent. K-5th will continue preparing for the Christmas Pageant during Sunday School. Our Pre-K class will have a special Advent Drama lesson with Father Waddy.

December 20

MANDATORY REHEARSAL for the Christmas Pageant. All children participating in the December 21 performance MUST meet in the VS room at 9:00am on Saturday, December 20.

December 21

The Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will present our Annual Christmas Pageant during the 10am service in lieu of regular classes. ALL KIDS REPORT TO THEIR CLASSROOMS UPSTAIRS AT 9AM!!!

December 24

Come celebrate Christmas Eve with the whole family at our joyous and child-friendly 3pm service!

December 28

Baptism Sunday! No Sunday school today.

January 4

Regular Sunday school classes resume. Epiphany Fiesta from 5 to 7 pm!

January 11

We celebrate Epiphany!

January 25

Special KIDS ONLY event in the VS room after church (during the Annual Meeting.) Don't miss it! Lunch, entertainment, learning, and fun!!



Our Retreat—a time of Joy and a time of Memories

By Pat Franco

This morning my phone rang very early. It was one of those calls that leaves your world irreversibly changed. My friend related that the fires in Santa Barbara had consumed the Benedictine Monastery at Mount Calvary.



This beautiful and serene place had been the site of Daughters of the King retreats for the past several years and was on the schedule for our retreat in January, 2009.

Mount Calvary and its environs were too beautiful to adequately describe. Surely, it could compete with almost anyplace on the planet. However, it was the quiet, thoughtful and gentle spirit

of the Brothers that touched us all. They were a real life example of the "the fruits of the spirit"—something we could aspire to.

We're grateful for the treasured memories of this beautiful place and for the Brothers who inspired us in our spiritual journey.

DOK Postulancy classes begin in January. We invite anyone who is interested to contact Pat Franco (858 456-2226) or Sharon Demery (619 448-1565)

Our Christmas festivities will take place on December 18, at 6 pm at the home of Maria Sayles, 1101 Genter #3, I. Please call Maria to get directions or assistance on what to bring.

Our retreat will take place from Jan. 21-23, at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino. Sharon Demery is taking reservations.

As we enter this majestic holiday season that celebrates the birth of the Savior, may His spirit of love, joy, and peace embrace us all. 🕯️

Greetings!

Karen Fast, Gift Shop Manager

Thanks to all of you who attended the Art of the Icon weekend. We hope you learned something and enjoyed our speaker, Nick Roberts.



The mission of St. James Gift Shop has always been outreach. We recognize that this year in particular there are many charities who are more in need than ever before. In that spirit, for the remainder of the year, 20% of your purchases will go to the charity of your choice.

For your shopping convenience the Gift Shop will be open 9 AM to 6 PM. Join us for "Shop late Tuesdays" until 8 PM ... wine and cheese and fun! 🍷

Would you like to honor someone with Christmas Flowers or for another event?

St. James by-the-Sea is blessed with an extraordinary Flower Guild who purchase and arrange our altar flowers each week. If you would like to have your memorial printed in the Christmas program, please bring the enclosed envelope by December 16th.

If you would like to contribute funds for the altar flowers a different Sunday as a memorial to someone special or in thanksgiving of a special event, please contact the office. We suggest a gift of \$50-\$150, but gifts of any amount are gratefully received.

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants

The Rev. Randal Gardner

Chris McCormack and Catherine Shaw have been our bright and shining faces greeting members and seekers as they called or visited our church offices, as well as managing the flow of services to members and visitors. I am sad to share the news that the current economic pinch has required us to end their employment with the church. Chris has worked through the end of November for St. James. Catherine's employment will conclude at the end of December. We have tried to be as caring and generous as possible in the course of laying off these valued and loved members of our staff.



Catherine Shaw

since he was 14. Luis has enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and will be heading to boot camp in January. We also want to have the chance for a cheerful send-off for Luis as he leaves St. James for a higher calling.



Chris McCormack

Chris, Catherine and Luis have been not only productive workers but friends to many. We are sorry to lose them from our ministry.

Luis Martinez has grown up at St. James, helping out his Grandfather Jose in the cleaning and maintenance work our sextons do



Luis Martinez

Michael Bourgeois will take over most of the housekeeping duties we have hired others to do, and he will help us hire another part-time replacement for Luis to help him manage the fourteen hour, seven-day-per-week use of our campus and buildings. 🏠

Sunday Readings

December 7 Advent 2

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 14 Advent 3

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Canticle 3 or 15 [*The Magnificat*]
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21 Advent 4

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Canticle 3 or 15 [*The Magnificat*] or
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

December 25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

December 28 Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10—62:3
Psalm 147 or 147:13-24
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 7:30 am** Traditional Eucharist
- 8:45 am** Childcare, 2nd floor
- 9 am** Bible Study; Adult Forum
- 10 am** Choral Eucharist, Children & Youth Programs

Children are escorted to Sunday School after the "Blessing for the Children," at the beginning of the 10 am service.

Noon Worship Schedule

Wednesday Healing Eucharist
The last Friday of the month is a Requiem Eucharist

Monday Evening Prayer

5:30 pm In the Chapel



St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church
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Called to Serve!

Thank you for all your work at Camp Stevens!



Mark Albers, Morgan Albers, Garret Albers, Marion Beacham, Ariel Bernard, Bridget Breitenberg, Molly Davis, Matt Davis, Sarah Davis, Pete Davis, Scott Goryl, Clark Guest, Kelcy Guest, Robert Jones, James Lajiness, Keily Martinez, Conner McKellar, Krista Niswander, Andres Scavuzzo, Marco Scavuzzo, Max Webb, and Saskia Webb. *(article inside)*