

THE EPISTLE

**THE MISSION OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, A CENTRAL CITY CHURCH,
IS TO WELCOME ALL PEOPLE INTO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST AND TO SERVE IN HIS NAME**

*Make a joyful noise
to the LORD, all the
earth.
Worship the LORD
with gladness;
come into his pres-
ence with singing.*

*Know that the LORD
is God.
It is he that made
us, and we are his;
we are his people,
and the sheep of his
pasture.*

*Enter his gates with
thanksgiving,
and his courts with
praise.
Give thanks to him,
bless his name.*

*For the LORD is
good;
his steadfast love
endures for ever,
and his faithfulness
to all generations.*

Psalms 100

Dear Ones,

As a young girl, I sang with the Junior Choir of Grace Church in Madison. One of the first anthems we memorized, and later sang at the Offertory, was a setting of Psalm 100. In the years since, this psalm of thanksgiving has been my background music at times. The words and tune (though I am quite sure I've changed the tune over the years) are on my lips and in my heart in moments of great gratitude. Psalm 100 was my background music for the entire month of October! I experienced such bittersweet farewells in Washington D.C., all filled with God's blessing. I received such a warm welcome from all of you and the Diocese of Milwaukee, more of God's blessings. And so, I have been singing to God joyfully, and in thanksgiving. As we move into the month of November, I offer for your consideration the call to act as given by the psalmist. The psalmist calls us to worship, survey, thank, and remember.

WORSHIP: The psalmist sings of worshiping with a joyful noise. The psalmist also writes of joining our voices with the voice of the entire earth, of all that God has created. Worship. Know that your presence is important in worshiping God at St. James Church and everywhere you live and move and have your being.

SURVEY: The psalmist sings of knowing that the Lord is God, and seeing that everything created is of God's creation. Do you remember the first chapter of the book of Genesis? We read there that after creating for six days, God surveyed all that he had created and saw that it was very good. Throughout scripture we hear of the beauty and interconnectedness of all that God has created. The psalmist invites us to survey all that is in our lives. Survey the beauty of all that has been given. Know that you, created in God's image, are wonderfully made and beautiful.

THANK: The psalmist sings of giving thanks to God after seeing all we have been given. Write out your thanks, voice your thanks in prayer, tell out your thanks to the ends of the earth. Consider the power that your witness to all you have been given, your thanking and blessing God for all you have been given, might give to another person. Know that your witness to all that has been given to you, is valuable and necessary in our broken world.

REMEMBER: At the end of Psalm 100, we say or sing a remembrance. Remember that the Lord is good. Remember that the Lord's love for us is steadfast, and will last forever. Remember that the Lord is faithful, and will be faithful to us for all generations.

As we get to know one another in November and beyond, I look forward to participating with you in worshiping, surveying, thanking and remembering!

May God continue to bless you richly this month of November,
Lisa+

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deaconspeak

Change. CHANGE... CHANGE! CHANGE!

As we at St. James are experiencing a higher rate of change than usual, perhaps we need also to be asking a very basic, fundamental question: How can I love you? We should be asking Jesus, "How can I love you?" We should be asking each other, "How can I love you?" We should be asking people all around us, "How can I love you?" Of course, we should also be asking ourselves: "How can I love you?"

Isn't this why we come together for worship, for service, and for fellowship – based at 9th and Wisconsin? We strive to follow Jesus' response when asked which is the greatest commandment:

Love God, Love one another, Love self

While we have varying degrees of success – as individuals as well as in Community – it seems to me that the more change that we face, the more important it is to solidify our foundation.

But this is not easy. It means facing our innermost self and admitting that we are not in control. It means facing one another and admitting that we may not have been what we really wanted to be or do or say. It means continually working to turn our love and focus away from the close and personal and turn toward God, others, as well as self.

We are exceedingly blessed to have the example of Jesus to show us how this might work in our lives. After all, He has shown us that as human beings we can, indeed, love – even if/when we may be hurting inside. Because when we turn our love to God and others, that is when the Spirit moves through us and we become more whole with God. The more we give away is the more we grow into the people that God calls us to be.

When we are together again, be asking in your heart and in your words and in your actions: How can I love you?

your servant in Christ, dcn terry

Stewardship Reflection

On November 20, we will conclude our Stewardship Campaign for this year. This will be our In-Gathering Sunday, a day when members of the parish will offer their pledges for the upcoming year and we will place them before God during our worship that day. It has been a year of focusing on Giving and Growing. It has been a pleasure to share this walk with members of the Stewardship Committee this year. It is ever a pleasure to share the walk of faith that the community of St. James takes each and every day.

When Jesus was in the Upper Room at the Last Supper and heard the disciples discussing who would be regarded as the greatest among them, Jesus said, "...let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is great, one who sits at the table or one who serves? But I am among you as one who serves." Following His example, St. James Episcopal Church is a parish that serves.

As a church we are committed to worship and serve as Lectors, Ministers of Hospitality, Fellowship Hosts, Crucifers, Acolytes, and Sub-deacons.

We are committed to sharing in the leadership of our worship as leaders of the Prayers of the People, hymns and as musicians through Joyful Noise. We are committed to the care of our worship space and instruments through our Altar Guild. We are committed to the care of our building through our Building and Grounds volunteers.

We are committed to expanding our understanding of God's Word for ourselves and serve as Sunday School Teachers, Adult Education Facilitators, and Evening Prayer Leaders.

We are committed to Outreach and we serve our brothers and sisters outside our Sunday parish community through Red Door Clothes, Indigent Burial ministry, Sundries from the Avenue, and Common Ground.

We are committed to many other tasks about our communal life as we decorate, care for our grounds, assist in fellowship, write for grants, prepare budgets, serve on the vestry, and serve and pray as Daughters of the King.

Through our sincere, regular, and generous commitment of our financial resources to God through St. James, whenever someone from our parish does any of these things, we are there, too. When our church ministers in God's name, it is your hand that God uses, for through your stewardship gift, you are there, too. *(continued on page 5)*

From the Deacon's Bench

New Beginnings

As I write this, I am looking out my living room window, where I can see the changing colors in the trees along the Milwaukee River and Oak Leaf Trail. Summer is over. Fall has begun. While I know what the season forbodes, I also know the beauty it brings into my life. The glorious golds and oranges and reds are taking over the stubborn greens. I choose to absorb this scene so that I can sustain myself through the grays and cold of winter because this beauty will soon fade and bare branches will be my view. Yet even in them there is beauty in the shapes and fine lattice formed by the young twigs that grow during the spring and summer.

We all have new beginnings occurring constantly in our lives. Do you remember your first day of school? I do, because we had moved to Waukesha the day before my sixth birthday: a new age, a new town, a new school, all those faces sizing up the new kid in first grade! Sweet old Miss McCabe must have seen the quiver in my lips and the tear in my eyes and suggested after all the paperwork was done, that I start school the next day. I came to school the next day just like everyone else and my education began. The understanding of Miss McCabe smoothed that new beginning and allowed me to take the next steps with confidence.

We have new beginnings that may become life formational. For example, we may get married or enter into a committed relationship. We start a new job, we have children or adopt children. We may break off a relationship. All of these events require us to adjust our lives or to accept changes we may not have been prepared for. Some of these events add to our responsibilities or change our responsibilities. We often must change the way we have been doing things. That may be difficult!

Not all of the new beginnings we experience in our lifetimes are major events. For example, each morning when we get out of bed we are beginning a new day. We are getting a new opportunity to make choices. We can choose to make it a day of accomplishment at work, or in dealing with family or friends. Or, we can choose just to go about an ordinary day of existence on planet earth.

Sometimes, new beginnings give us an opportunity to prepare for the changes that will be wrought. We can look at the changes that may be forthcoming with a willingness to accept them and an eagerness to step out to this new beginning.

If we are realistic, we can come to an early understanding that we will need to make adjustments in our lives and that we can, in fact, compromise. We can learn that change that throws out the "me" and incorporates the "we" is really better.

You would think that of the seventy-plus years of new beginnings, I would have it all figured out. Not so! And I dare to say you all are no different. We didn't have Miss McCabe around to smooth the way. We learned and relearned and unlearned. Sometimes we even listened to that still, small voice inside and found out that "I" can use a helping hand.

As we think about new beginnings and all that they involve in our lives, there is one constant that doesn't change and is always there to listen to us and hold us up: that is Jesus Christ. We can offer up our doubts, our question marks, our need for guidance, our need to be able to change. The ultimate question becomes: what would Jesus have me do, not what would "I" do? In this way we can open our minds and hearts to each new beginning.

We will soon have a new beginning at St. James. At a recent vestry meeting our check in question asked us what we looked forward to with the coming of our new rector, Mother Lisa. My closing sentence was: I look forward to seeing Mother Lisa coming down the aisle, knowing that Jesus is at her side and in her heart.

Let us with open hearts and open minds enter this new beginning at St. James with Mother Lisa, because we know that is what Jesus would have us do!

Deacon Ned

DIO CON

Our Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee held the 164th Annual Convention in Racine on October 14 and 15, filling the days and evenings with formal and informal events. Some 58 parishes were represented! Attending the convention as deputies for St. James were Bob Heindl, Gust Olson, Sheryl Slocum, and Robert Wilson. Deacon Terry Garner, Deacon Ned Howe, Katie Weidinger, and Parliamentarian John Washbush were also present for the great gathering.

On Friday afternoon, there were a series of workshops designed to inform attendees on the various programs and ministries that are currently at work in varying parishes. Of note was the Bread of Life Hospitality Center at St. Luke's, Racine, where a new daytime ministry to the homeless of that community is beginning under the direction of Deacon Kevin Stewart. At 5:30PM, there was an uplifting Eucharist with everyone communing and praising God with one voice! Afterwards, the convention banquet allowed for members of different parishes to intermingle and socialize with dear friends and gracious strangers.

Saturday's schedule was much more formal, starting with a Morning Prayer service at 8:15AM and then a short breakfast. Bishop Steven Miller presided over the meeting and opened with a meaningful prayer and speech. The business section of the convention focused on passing a 2012 budget, voting on important nominations, presenting informative committee reports, and debating and voting on various resolutions. By the end of the day, John Washbush had been unanimously elected as a four-year member of the Standing Committee, a new calculation method had been passed as a minimum for clergy compensation, new guidelines had been passed for health insurance for parish employees, and a recommendation had been made on how parishes could respond to the new Concealed Weapons Law. Both Deacon Terry and Gust proposed amendments that positively affected the results of two resolutions!

All the while, the side hall was filled with tables, booths, vendors, and ministry displays. Bob Heindl coordinated all of the tables and helped to collect sundries and blue jeans for our Sundries and Red Door Clothes ministries!

Robert Wilson

Save the date

Bishop Miller will visit St. James on Sunday, November 13. He will preside at the Eucharist service. You are invited to join us for the worship, as well as for the hospitality hour following the service. Please plan to attend, and extend a warm welcome to our Bishop.

Vestry Notes

The Vestry members met in the evening of October 19 and after beginning with prayer, we had a check-in question of "What are you most enjoying or celebrating about this fall/autumn?" As is common, there was a wide range of answers.

Time was then spent discussing the recent Diocesan Convention held in Racine, the upcoming indoor clean-up day, the various preparations for the arrival of Mother Lisa, the Bishop's visit, Vanda Healy Day, and the Mother Anita Appreciation Day.

After a break, we also talked about the Stewardship season with the theme of "Growing and Giving," as well as updates on various parish ministries.

At the conclusion of the parish's business for the evening, we prayed and ventured out into the night to return to our homes. As usual, it was a productive meeting.

Leanne Mittelstadt

A letter from Dorota

Well, I'm 5/12 of the way through seminary, unofficially. Technically I have two papers left to write, but I'm basically 41.6667% of the way there. Maybe more like 40% really, if you factor in those two papers. Either way, the journey continues, and I continue to love it.

This year, my middler year, brought with it many of the comforts that come with being a returning student: I already know the faculty, staff, and the other returning students; I know what I want to be involved in on campus; and I already know how to get lost in DC. So I'm set!

There are also many new things to take in this year. We have a new (interim) chapel, for example. The ruins of the old chapel remain, but we now have a beautiful space, formerly the auditorium, that has been converted into a chapel for use for the next three to five years, until a new chapel is built. Also new to campus this year is a group of almost 50 incoming students! To put this in perspective, my class has 26 people. The addition of these students has been wonderful, actually, and very refreshing.

Perhaps the biggest "new thing" for me this year has been the beginning of Field Education. I am working at Christ Church, Georgetown. The church is almost 200 years old, and the first rector there was one of the founders of Virginia Theological Seminary. Apparently Francis Scott Key was one of the early members of the church as well. (As an aside, I think this is one of the coolest things about going to church in the DC region: virtually every church around here has incredible history. For example, a friend of mine works in the parish where George Washington and Robert E. Lee worshipped regularly.)

Christ Church, Georgetown has approximately 1300 members and a clergy team of four priests, so it's rather large for an Episcopal Church. What this means for me is that I have the opportunity to learn from four different and uniquely gifted priests over the next two years. It also means that I am learning *lots* of names each Sunday! I have already had one opportunity to preach there, and I will be preaching twice a semester moving forward. Everyone has been extremely welcoming and gracious so far, and I look forward to the time we will spend together.

Finally, I would simply like to add that I am so excited for the possibilities that lie ahead for St. James with the calling of the Rev. Lisa Saunders as rector. I will not have a chance to visit until the spring or summer, but I will be cheering and praying for you all from afar until then!

With love,
Dorota

(continued from page 2) St. James represents Christ Who is the Light in a world of need. Through your generous financial stewardship as well as your gifts of service, this parish can continue to be Christ's light in this place. Through your generous financial stewardship, we can take St. James Episcopal Church into the future. Thank you for all you have done to support the ministry of St. James. Thank you for joining together on November 20th for the In-Gathering Sunday. Thank you for Growing in your Giving to the community of St. James.

John Washbush, Senior Warden
Stewardship Committee



The 25th Anniversary Of Deacon Terry's Ordination

Advent 2011 at St. James

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27, 2011. Advent is a season of expectation, hope and preparation for the birth of Christ into our world once again. We have the opportunity to prepare for the birth of Christ in our homes and in our common life together at church. At St. James, you will see a variety of changes to the church and way we worship during the season of Advent. Below, please read about the changes and how they might help us prepare with joy to welcome the Son of God into our common lives this year.

Lighting of the Advent wreath: There are five candles on the Advent wreath: lighting one for each of the four weeks of Advent and one for Christmas. Each Sunday we begin our service of the Holy Eucharist with the lighting of the Advent wreath while reading the collect of the day. Because we light an additional candle each week we see the power that extra light adds to the wreath, and remember that the Light of our world is coming.

Singing a Kyrie (Lord have mercy) instead of a Gloria: Advent is a contemplative season, and we sing Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy) instead of the Gloria after the opening collects (prayers). Singing “Lord have mercy” we both thank God for his mercy, and pray for his mercy.

Greens instead of flowers: Sources vary on the roots of the tradition of decorating the church with greens instead of flowers. Green branches, trees, and wreaths are often used to green a church. Adding this greenery reminds us of the new life coming into our midst. These greens, and the lack of flowers, also give us space for contemplation in Advent.

Liturgical color changes from green to blue: The altar frontal and clergy vestments will be blue in the season of Advent. People give a variety of reasons for this choice of liturgical color in Advent. Blue is a color associated with the Virgin Mary. Our sky is a deep blue as we wait for the coming of light each morning. This color is also a royal color, as we welcome the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords: Jesus.

Prayers of the People: We will be using the Advent Bidding Prayer for the Prayers of the People each week of Advent. This bidding prayer is found in the Book of Occasional Services, reminds us of our responsibility and joy during this season, and incorporates the required prayers: for the Universal Church, our country and all in authority, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our local community, for those who suffer and for the departed.

Lisa+

*“People,
look east.
The time is
near, of the
crowning
of the year.
Make your
house fair
as you are
able, trim
the hearth
and set the
table.
People,
look east
and sing
today:
Love, the
Guest is on
the way.”*



**The 25th Anniversary
Of Deacon Terry's Ordination**

“Thanks” is not adequate

My Dear Jamesians:

You probably know by now that I am hardly ever at a loss for words. While that may be true, there are those times when we find that words are not adequate to express what we have in our hearts. Some specific examples of this that I find in my life are when I am praying and talking with God, or when I attempt to express my feelings to Loraine.

And then there was the surprise you sprung on me on October 16 in acknowledging my anniversary of ordination. The gift you gave me was more than generous. However, that only pales in comparison to the gift you give to me week by week by week... your love and prayer! Saying “Thank you!” cannot and does not express that which I have in my heart. However, “Thank you!” is the best and fullest expression in our language that I can use.

Serving as the deacon to the St. James Community is joy and laughter and love and worship and service and fellowship, while we experience some hurt and tears and apathy and disinterest and self-centeredness in our world. You – the Community – reach out to touch hearts and souls, to share love with others without expectation of that love being returned. Truly this is a Christ-centered Community. I find that evident whenever and wherever we gather: for worship, study, fellowship, and service.

In conclusion, I give thanks to God in my daily prayers for you. And I offer thanks to you for you’re the celebration of my ordination anniversary as well as for all that you are as Christ’s body – from the bottom of my heart. I hope that this provides some expression of my gratitude for God’s benevolence in the people of St. James Episcopal Church!

your servant in Christ,
dcn terry

Goodie Bags for Christmas Sundries

We will be collecting hand-held foods again this year for our guest at the Gathering. Our goal is to make 200 goodie bags for our December 17 distributions at the Sundries program. On December 17, there will be many things happening at St. James: the Red Door distribution, the Gathering’s Big Luncheon and the Sundries distributions. This will be the last Saturday for the year at the Gathering and the gathering will be closed from December 23 to January 1, 2011.

At the Sundries program we would like to put together goodie bags they will use until the Gathering reopens from the Holidays. But we need a little help from our friends at St. James.

You ask what are hand-held foods? Foods you can carry in your pocket: trail mix, nuts, cheese and crackers, peanut butter and crackers, hard candy, individual snack size chocolate bars and snack size goodies. We will also be collecting Lip Balm for those cold days for our guests who live outside.

So if you are out shopping and would like to purchase an item or two, it would be greatly appreciated. We will collect from November 15 through December 16. There will be a box in the church where you can drop them off. If you are unable to shop and would like to make a cash donation, we will accept that also. If you have any questions please talk to Kris Ochocki. Thank you! Kris.



**The 25th Anniversary
Of Deacon Terry’s
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Education survey

Common Ground continues to do research in education. As you may recall, education became a focus of Common Ground as a result of current state budget cuts, poor performance of schools, standards for teachers and failure to provide students with skills for today's job market.

Common Ground does not just decide to tackle a problem, but they research to find winnable "issues". (This concept is explored thoroughly at the Common Ground University training).

A step in this process is for us to survey each of our organization's members to see where our students attend school and where our educators teach. Are our students attending public school, private school, online school or a charter school? All the responses will remain anonymous; only the large picture will be used for statistical/factual information regarding the members of Common Ground which includes Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha and Washington counties.

A process is being developed as to how and when we will gather the information at St. James.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask one of the Wardens or Linda Steiger.

Fall 2011 Common Ground University

Common Ground is sponsoring classes at Mount Mary College, on Tuesdays, November 1 (North Dining Room), November 8 (Stiemke Hall), and November 15 (North Dining Room). Registration and dinner is at 5:30PM, the program starts at 6:00PM, and the program ends at 9:00PM. Desired outcomes include strengthening leadership capacity and culture of participating organizations and teaching leaders the skills necessary for successful public action.

Common Ground University topics include:

Why organize? The history, traditions and values of our religious and secular organizations.

How to organize individual relational meetings, listening sessions, research, negotiations and action.

How to strengthen our institutions, intentionally engaging people in a relational, action-oriented and reflective culture.

How to differentiate between general problems and concrete, winnable issues.

How to negotiate for the common good.

Early registration is strongly recommended. There is a \$25 registration fee, which must accompany the registration form. Scholarships are available. Please make checks payable to Common Ground.

Please mail completed registration form below with registration fee to Common Ground, 1034 E. Ogden, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Common Ground University Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Member Organization _____ Dietary Restrictions _____

The Epistle is published by St. James Episcopal Church

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