

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

The Warden's Words

When I was growing up, the verbal cue that my mom was in no-nonsense, let's-get-going mode was "Alright, kids, let's rally the troops!" Those words meant that my siblings and I had better make sure our part in the task at hand—be it spring cleaning or a departure to our grandparents' house—was ready for action. It was the household battle cry meant to motivate and focus us for whatever came next.

This month we Jamesians get our own Rally Day. And I don't know about all of you, but I certainly would welcome some motivation and focus right now. It feels like a long time since we've had a rector to call our own. In spite of a diligent Search Committee, an active Vestry, a committed church community, and a contingent of inspiring guest presiders, these past eighteen months have stretched us. So having a day that rallies our community together, leads us to recommit ourselves and our gifts to God and His church, and celebrates all that God has done and will do here? As my students say, "Bring it!"

In its most direct sense, we're adopting the Rally Day tradition from our Lutheran brothers and sisters to mark the beginning of the new church school year. On Sunday, September 18th, we turn our focus and energy towards a fresh start for our youngsters as they begin a new Sunday school curriculum and format. Additionally, we will thank Kris Ochocki for her years of service as the Sunday School Coordinator and commission Liz Roepke to that role, as well as the other teachers and leaders in both our adult ed and youth programs. It will be a day to celebrate the continued Christian formation of Jamesians of all ages.

In this Issue

<i>Warden's Words</i>	1
<i>deaconspeak</i>	2
<i>From the Deacon's Bench</i>	3
<i>Christian Formation</i>	4
<i>Vestry Notes</i>	4
<i>Camp Webb</i>	5
<i>Common Ground Update</i>	6
<i>Favorite Hymn Sundays</i>	7
<i>Doors Open Milwaukee</i>	8

But whether or not your family participates in any of the educational programs of St. James', Rally Day is still important to our whole congregation. On Rally Day we'll also experience the final ingathering of the pledges of time and talent that we've been collecting over the last month; we'll join together to thank God for the various gifts He's provided us and offer them back to Him and our church. Together we'll rally . . . we'll reorganize, we'll draw together for a common effort, we'll revive our spirits and find renewed strength together. In other words, we'll do what we do best at St. James': with God as our center and strength, we'll commit to work and play and worship together through this next school year and beyond.

Alright, Jamesians, let's rally the troops!

Susan Wilson
Junior Warden

deaconspeak

Gearing Up to Go Forward

Recently Loraine got a new car. It is a nice little car with a diesel engine, and has a turbo. Plus it has a six-speed manual transmission. It is a fun car to drive and really gets moving quickly.

As we at St. James' see our Summer quickly winding down, it is also time to see how and where we can accelerate forward in our faith. We tend to cruise during the Summer, but now most of our vacations are done and we should take the opportunity to gear up our faith in our worship and study and service and fellowship. There are multiple ways that we can shift into the fast lane at St. James' now and as we move forward.

Have you prayed and thought, then filled in and offered up your Time and Talent Ministry worksheet? Have you considered attending the Adult Formation class? Have you wondered what attending services more regularly would mean in your life as well as to the lives of your fellow Jamesians? Have you suggested possible fellowship events, or attended them when they are offered? When is the next time you will serve at Red Door or Sundries sorting or distribution?

It is critical that we drive our faith forward. If we, as individuals and as a Community, sit idling our spiritual engines, we only succeed in wasting energy and running out of fuel. And as we accelerate together, I am looking forward to the turbo boost that we will need and get when we call our next rector. If we are already speeding along in fourth or fifth gear, it makes it all the easier for him/her to apply the turbo boost we need to get into the left lane as a faith Community.

So now, to start off the fall, let's fasten our spiritual seatbelts, re-start our engines and get into gear to share the love and glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ – with each other and with those we are called to serve.

your servant in Christ,
dcn terry



**St. James'
Day**

From the Deacon's Bench

We've been "in transition" for awhile now and with passage of time it becomes easy to pull back on our attendance on Sunday and our active service activities.

Jack, who has returned to us, collecting paper, as always, reminded me that he had not seen me the previous Sunday, when I shook his hand during the peace. Thinking about this later, I realized that each one of us is important in some way to someone, whether we realize it or not. Even Jack, with his limited resources, is aware of who is missing!

The strength of our St. James' family is the love we constantly share for each other and for everyone who comes through our doors. Jack probably can't express that feeling he has for St. James,' but to be aware of someone being missing probably says it all.

As I have thought about this, I realized that there are things that happen on Sunday mornings that I look forward to subconsciously, like Martell coming back from communion with that look of mischief in his eyes as he tries to look serious, but really wants to run back to his seat. Or, like listening to Sullivan proudly saying the Lord's Prayer. Or, like looking around the church to see people I love but seeing an empty spot where I know they would be sitting (because we Episcopalians seems to adopt a regular pew) and being concerned by their absence.

During this time of change, we as a family need each other. We need to be together. We need to pray together. We need to hold each other up. We need to refresh ourselves as a community at the altar on Sunday morning. We need to "feel the love."

You know, it's not just that we are missed by members of our St. James' family. It is about what we are missing by not being present.

Deacon Terry has written and talked about feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit stronger and more vibrantly. The feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit seems stronger. We can feel that presence because we are relying on that power to guide us through our time of transition. When we feel the Spirit, we exude the love we feel from that presence to everyone around us.

Yes, the Holy Spirit is alive and well and present. You can feel it in the room. You can feel renewed and refreshed by its presence in your heart. You can feel refreshed and renewed at the table of the Lord. You can feel refreshed and renewed by the Spirit-filled fellowship and love of our St. James' family.

All that is what you are missing if you miss your commitments to the church.

My brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, it's time to be renewed and refreshed. It's time to "feel the love." It's time to be refreshed and renewed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. It's time to be strengthened at the table of the Lord. It's time to take that rejuvenated "you" out into the world to serve Jesus Christ.

Deacon Ned



Please join us for Outdoor Clean-Up Day!

Saturday, September 10, 2011, 9:00AM to 12:00Noon

Come and help clean up on the outside of St. James'.

All able bodies are welcome!

Christian Formation at St. James'

Christian Formation takes three forms at St. James': Sunday School for the youngest members, Adult Education for the rest of us, and diocesan-sponsored events for all Jamesians. Let's begin with Sunday School.

The 2011-2012 Sunday School year will begin on September 11, 2011, at 10:30AM, with a new curriculum: "All Things New." This is a program that will introduce our young members to the great persons and stories of the Bible. In the fall they will be meeting Moses, Jonah, Esther, David, and Samuel from the Hebrew Scriptures, among others. The two groups, Nursery and School-age children, will meet together at the beginning of the session for a prayer and song in a "sacred space," and then break up and have their separate lessons, with stories and crafts. About four or five children are in the Nursery, and from seven to eight in the School-age group. There are presently five teachers, with Liz Roepke as Coordinator. Liz succeeds Kris Ochocki who has served many dedicated years in the capacity. The teachers are excited about the upcoming year.

Adult Education begins on September 4, 2011, at 9:00AM. Over the past year and a half, in the absence of a Rector, Adult Ed. has been led by Deacon Terry, Gust Olson and Sheryl Slocum. (Beth Taylor was a leader for several months last year as well. And on Sundays when Terry, Sheryl and Gust are all preparing for Joyful Noise leading worship, Loraine Garner and Teresa Jackson lead the group.) The leaders in rotation, guide the group (from five to eight members of the congregation) through the day's Gospel passage, using background material called "Synthesis." Each in their own way, the leaders explore the context of the Gospel passage, its language, history, and implications, and then investigate how it relates to our lives in the present day. The "class" is very much an inter-active one, with the leaders eager to hear how the rest of the group hears and understands the Gospel – and the group, in their turn, are most willing to share. If there is time at the end of the session, the question is asked of the group: "How would you preach this?" All this makes for special listening during the sermon a half hour later!

The Diocese of Milwaukee also provides many opportunities for Jamesians to join other members of the larger diocesan family in Christian formation. From Camp Webb in the summer, to Happening, young persons are given opportunities to grow in their Christian lives. Happening is a Christian experience presented by teenagers for teenagers with the help of clergy and lay adult leadership, and will take place in Janesville, November 18-20. The Diocese provides regular sessions of "Safeguarding God's Children," a program to help prevent child sexual abuse. And in November and February, there will be Vestry Leadership Days to help strengthen vestry leadership. Much more information about these and other Formation events can be found at the diocesan website: www.diomil.org.

Gust Olson

Vestry Notes

The meeting on August 17 began with a check-in question of, "On a scale of 1-10, where are you and why?" Like always, those in attendance gave spirited responses!

After reviewing and approving the minutes of the previous meeting, we spent time discussing a recent wedding held at St. James', recruitment efforts for various ministries within the parish, the new concealed carry weapons law and how it may affect us, as well as a number of upcoming events, to include Rally Day, In-Gathering of Time and Talents, and our mini-golf outing. After a short break, the vestry conducted a security walk through to ensure that when we leave the church on Sundays that everything is locked and secure.

A number of us provided updates on the current status of various ministries, to include Church School, Common Ground and Sundries, Indigent Burials, Liturgy/Music, and Red Door Clothes. Members of the Search Committee also gave us the latest update of the progress being made in that arena!

There was a discussion of the upcoming Epistle, and before you knew it, we joyfully concluded the evening with a closing prayer.

Leanne Mittelstadt

Growing in God's Love at Camp Webb



When I was young, growing up in the church community of St. Tim's, I longed to become a third grader. Not so that I could be in Mrs. Reineck's class at Benjamin Franklin Elementary, but so that I would be old enough to attend Camp Webb! When that summer finally arrived, my parents drove my older sister and me to a beautiful wooded camp, introduced us to our counselors, got us settled in, and then they drove away. They left us... with such an amazing youthful spiritual week mixed with outdoor activities, worship, new friends, good food, games and skits and songs and laughter. I never felt alone at Camp Webb because I was wrapped in love and Christian fellowship and friendship. Can I say enough? I love Camp Webb!

I attended camp every summer and when I became too old to be a camper anymore, a friend from camp suggested that we both get our first jobs working in the kitchen. I worked for Ruthie, the matronly cook, and sweated it out making meals for the campers and the staff. The next two summers I spent as a camp counselor; I was able to share my love for God with diverse groups of energetic kids every week. I have very strong memories of these long, idyllic summers. I came away knowing more about myself and how to live as a Christian, with a strong appreciation for nature and for other people.

Over the years, the venue of Camp Webb has changed but the Spirit still moves in wondrous ways for the youth of our diocese. On the grounds near Elkhorn, they're able to participate in crafts, music, hikes, play volleyball, basketball, archery, and outdoor games, swim in the lake, enjoy the ropes course, and tell stories the large campfire pit. The program director, the counselors, the chaplain, the visiting clergy, the nurses and volunteers are all still focused on helping to guide the children in their Christian formation and have fun! Are you interested in going to Camp Webb or learning more about camp so that a family member can go next summer? Check out their website at www.campwebb.org or contact the Rev. Shannon Kelly, the Bishop's Assistant for Christian Formation, at Kelly@diomil.org or 414-272-3028. Or come and talk to me after church!

Robert Wilson

Update from Karen

I am very happy each month to receive The Epistle and read about St. James' and was surprised to see the Mary statue that you all gave me in April in August's Epistle.

The wonderful statue you gave me is in a part of the garden that I can see easily from my kitchen window. She is surrounded by yucca and feather grass and sweet woodruff and is visited often by the squirrels who live in the neighborhood. Each time I see her, I am reminded of one of the great truths of our faith: if God could use a young girl to bear the Savior of the world, God can use us, too.

Life at the chapel at St. John's on the Lake is different from parish life. Themes of death and infirmity are more pronounced. This is humbling. The people who attend the chapel are very regular, participate with vigor, and come EARLY to service. I now do about 75% MORE organ repertoire every Sunday that I did in the past.

St. James' is in my prayers every day as you live your call on Wisconsin Avenue. A friend of mine taught me a prayer that I will share with you, "May God meet our needs as we live in obedience to His will."

With gratitude to you all, Karen Beaumont

Banks come up with money

As many of you already know, four of the banks who hold the most foreclosures in Wisconsin, have agreed to the terms requested by Common Ground. This is a stunning turnaround from earlier this year when the banks began to stall again. Why the turnaround?

My point of view is: the persistence, the continued presence of Common Ground members and the respectful manner in which Common Ground operates made it difficult for the banks to continue to ignore us. The one bank who hasn't come around is JP Morgan Chase. Bishop Miller has been actively involved in reaching out to Chase. His presence with Common Ground, keeps me motivated.

In addition, while we have been conducting the foreclosure campaign, it has come to light that the banks were totally irresponsible with foreclosure paperwork. It has been well documented, that hundreds of people were hired to forge signatures and titles on bank paperwork. Because of the overt behavior by the banks, the federal government has become involved. The banks needed to do something and they need some positive press coverage. We provided them a positive outlet.

On May 23, Common Ground held a Delegates Assembly to unveil Milwaukee Rising, which is the entity created to begin the cleanup of foreclosed homes. Either sell them responsibly, rehab the homes that need it and then sell them or tear down the homes that cannot be rehabbed. The monies from the banks will help pay for this process. In addition, the banks will provide monies for mortgages. Three organizations helping to oversee the monies and the construction work necessary are LISC, Mercy Housing and Zilber Construction.

Also on May 23, Wells Fargo made a public commitment to Milwaukee Rising, the first bank to do so. I am grateful that several Jamesians were in attendance to witness this turning point. A long-overdue thank you to Gust, Deacon Ned, Katie, Sheryl, Sam and Mark. Your presence represented St. James' continued commitment to work with Common Ground to help our beautiful city during these difficult times.

The first rehabbed home is in the process of being sold. Gust went to the open house. He was quite impressed with the craftsmanship of the work and the home in general. You might want to ask him about his experience.

As Milwaukee Rising continues on the foreclosure front, a new issue has surfaced. Education and the budget cuts are being researched. In the coming weeks, I will keep you posted on what the different research groups find. If you are interested in any aspect of the current educational crises, please let me know.

October 4 is the next Delegates Assembly. (Mount Mary College, 7:00PM – 8:30PM.) Please put this date on your calendar. Remember, the Delegates Assemblies are formal gatherings to apprise all members, media, and politicians of the activities of Common Ground. This would be an opportunity to stand and be counted. It is always important to show our strength through numbers at the public assemblies.

Linda Steiger

Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

Favorite Hymn Sundays are back (again)

Thanks to a number of you, the balloting for the Favorite Hymn Sundays has been outstanding. We have far more hymns voted in (33 different hymns) than we can use for the liturgies in August. So we will continue to have Favorite Hymn Sundays until we have used all of the hymns you have voted on. So continue to enjoy the surprises when you come to worship on Sundays.

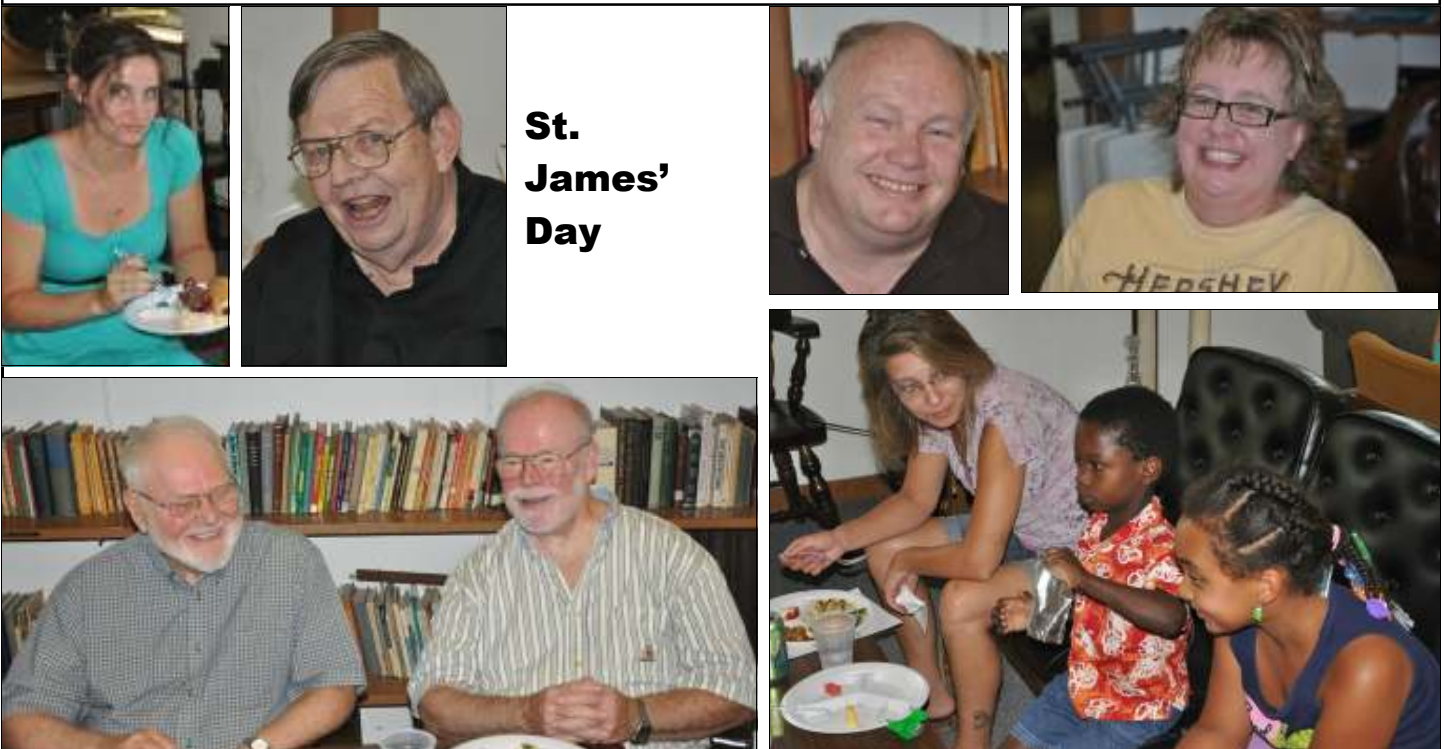
As an update for our music ministry, Erica Schuller has been outstanding in leading our music with her piano skills. And we have also been blessed by our volunteer hymn leaders: Paul Cooke, Vanda Healy, Robert Wilson, and the duet of Lucy Cooper and Sheryl Slocum. Additionally, when Erica has not been available, we have had the excellent guitar and vocal leadership of Gordon Kirchoff, a member of St. Francis' Episcopal Church in Menomonee Falls.

Going forward, Erica returns to her 'full time gig' as the soprano with the Florentine Opera Studio Artists in late September. We are hopeful that she will be able to find some time to worship and lead music at St. James' as her season continues. The hymn leaders have done a marvelous ministry as well, so we are hopeful that we will have their talents and ministries as often as possible. And, yes, Joyful Noise will be returning soon. They had a kickoff meeting recently, and will be returning to rehearse and lead music in the fall.

Finally, for those of us who may miss music from the organ, we will have opportunities to sing along with that mighty instrument as well. Ultimately, once we have a new rector, then s/he will determine how best to proceed with our music ministry. Until then, we will occasionally have supply musicians who will lead us from the organ bench as well.

*Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song. (Psalm 100, BCP)*

Deacon Terry



Doors Open Milwaukee

St. James' will have its doors open for more than our usual welcome and hospitality on Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25. We will participate with Historic Milwaukee Inc. as they present the First Annual Doors Open Milwaukee! The inaugural Doors Open Milwaukee is a chance to experience the city's built environment in a way like never before. People who attend and participate will have the opportunity to discover a myriad of great buildings that are integral to Milwaukee's history, economy, and culture, both past and present. For the first time ever, Doors Open Milwaukee presents an opportunity to see the inner workings of notable locations throughout the metro area. Free and open to the public, visitors can choose to go through the buildings on self-guided tours or take one of the many in-depth tours given by expert guides.

Nearly 100 sites in the downtown area are taking part. As a participating site, St. James' will be open on Saturday and Sunday to allow self-guided visits in the main church. We are looking for a few hospitable souls to welcome and supervise visitors. Please contact John Washbush or Gust Olson if you are interested.



St. James' Day



The Epistle is published by St. James' Episcopal Church

833 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233 Telephone 414.271.1340

stjamesmilwaukee@aol.com www.stjamesmilwaukee.org