



Straight Talk

A newsletter of life and ministries at St. James Episcopal Church

September 28, 2018

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Rector's Thoughts

Hello, Everyone. It's been a great three weeks in Utah -- two weeks of getting settled and this first week at the parish.

Several people have done a lot to make this home quickly so I can focus on the parish now: the Search and Transition Committees, Vestry, staff, and additional parishioners. I am grateful beyond words. Thank you!



This week has been full and I've had the pleasure of meeting with the Men's Group / The Grumpies on Tuesday morning, the Women's Group on Wednesday morning, and I've been invited to join the Teen Forum at 9 a.m. on Sunday, which I am looking forward to attending. Several people have also taken the time to stop by the office, which I appreciate.

I will generally be at St. James, except for diocesan and community commitments or pastoral care needs, on Monday through Thursday. Thursday will be sermon preparation day (prayer, study, and preparation generally take 8-10 hours) so I will rarely schedule meetings then. And, as you know, we have plenty of evening meetings and gatherings. Friday will be my Sabbath time. You'll still see me at the monthly Games Night on Fridays whenever I am in town. Who are the Scrabble players in the parish?

Archdeacon Robert, Deacon Gill, and I have begun conversation about pastoral care so I'll share more about that soon. To be clear, I am available for pastoral emergencies anytime. The deacons, other pastoral care leaders, and I will figure out coverage for times that I am away. In the case of a pastoral emergency, please call my personal cell phone at (207) 505-5121. (I'd appreciate it if you would leave non-emergency calls on the office voicemail if it is late at night or very early in the morning. I keep the ringer on at night in order to respond to emergencies.)

I invite you to send me a friend request on my personal Facebook page. As a rule, I do not extend those invitations myself because sometimes people don't want that connection with their clergy. It's your decision. Speaking of Facebook, I also invite you to like the parish page: St. James Episcopal Church, Midvale, UT.

Years ago, I read a poem by Rumi, the Sufi mystic and poet, about two lovers who followed their own paths that ultimately led to one another. I haven't been able to find that poem this week, but I reflect on the history and discernment of St. James to call a rector and my discernment to find the parish that God is calling me to serve. I'm grateful that we found each other and I commit to living out my best ministry with you.

Thank you, all, for everything. I'm excited to see how God works through us in the years ahead.

Peace and blessings,

Father Christopher



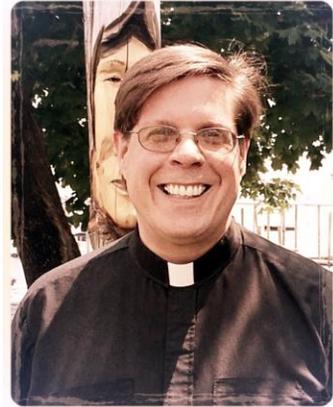
We are more than pleased to have Fr. Christopher finally with us! He has been busy at work this week getting to know people, meeting with the wardens, visiting Grumpies and the Women's Coffee Group, as well as just settling in. Please come Sunday to be here with him as he celebrates his first Eucharist as Rector of St. James Episcopal Church!

Thanks!
Debbie Matticks, Sr Warden

It's Happening This Sunday!!

This Sunday, September 30th

will not only be Fr. Christopher's first Sunday, but we will be celebrating several of the charities which we have supported this year. Checks from the Spring Fling will be given to LLS, Small Cell Ovarian Cancer Foundation, and Back Yard Broadcast. We will also be presenting a check from the Wanda Lingo Memorial Fund to Volunteers of America. Please join us to honor the works of these wonderful organizations and to celebrate what we have accomplished in supporting them.



Father Christopher's first Sunday will include a visit to the Teen Forum between services. So teens please make sure you join us to give him a big St James welcome ... get to know each other... and yes... there will be bagels.

Then, be sure to join us for a festive coffee hour hosted by the vestry after the 10:00 service as we welcome Fr. Christopher Szarke as our new rector. We will also honor our search committee during coffee hour. You won't want to miss out on this wonderful celebration!

Blessing of the Animals

The Annual Blessing of the Animals will be in St. James Parish Hall at **9 a.m. Sunday, October 7th**. Please bring your pet, companion, and working animals. You are welcome to bring photos of animals that are difficult to transport. You are also welcome to bring photos, collars, and other remembrances of deceased animals for a memorial blessing. Animals are welcome to attend the 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. liturgies. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors. All animals are welcome, regardless of the religious practice -- or no religious practice -- of their humans.



Sandy & Preston Motes--they are the ones without fur.

This date is the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who is known for his love of animals.



Games Night

October 12 at 6 pm

Hosts: Ric & Nancy Tanner and Sandy & Preston Motes

Come for FUN, Friendship, and Food!



Young Families Outing

Meet at Gardner Village with your little ones,

October 20 at 6:30 pm.

We will have fun looking at the cute witches all around the village.

(We will not be having a meal.)

[Click here for Gardner Village Fall Events](#)

The St. James Calendar

Sunday	Sep 30	8 & 10 am	Worship-Welcome Fr Christopher!
		11:15 am	Festive Coffee Hour
Tuesday	Oct 2	8 am	Men's Coffee - Common Rm

Wednesday	Oct 3	9 am	Women's Coffee - Target
Thursday	Oct 4	7 pm	Choir Practice-Sanctuary

The Following Week

Sunday	Oct 7	8 & 10 am	Worship
		9 am	Blessing of the Animals- Parish Hall
Tuesday	Oct 9	8 am	Men's Coffee - Common Rm
		5:30 pm	Finance Committee-Office
Wednesday	Oct 10	9 am	Women's Coffee-Target
Thursday	Oct 11	7 pm	Choir Practice-Sanctuary
Friday	Oct 12	6 pm	Games Night-Parish Hall
Saturday	Oct 13	Noon	Food Bank Delivery/Restock



Episcopal Diocese of Utah

Diocese Newsletter

Liturgical Calendar

Straight Talk is published each Friday.
If you'd like to place an announcement, photo, or story, send it to

wendy@stjamesutah.com by Wednesday NOON.

We appreciate your contributions to the newsletter!

Wendy Ormsby, editor / Ann Charat, Clutch editor's editor