



# Koinonia

"Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with fellow Christians."

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

December 21, 2018

## *In this issue:*

Vestry Corner

Celebration of a New Ministry

St James Food Bank--Important Updates

Children's Christian Education

Winter is Here...Let's Camp! (in the Spring)

Rector's Thoughts  
St. James' Calendar  
Around the Diocese



**Hear Ye, Hear Ye...you are invited to bring bells to  
Christmas worship, at both the 5:00 & 10:30 pm  
services.**

It has been a tradition at St James that we ring bells at the end of each Christmas Eve service.

Please bring a small bell to ring as we sing the last hymn.  
The Ven. Robert Shoop, Archdeacon, would love to hear them ring!

***Please note that incense will only be used at the 10:30 p.m.  
liturgy.***

---

## **Vestry Corner**

Our church tradition includes stability and transition. Vestry members serve three-year terms on a rotating basis so we have seven people with commitment and historical memory and three new people with fresh energy and ideas working together.

We will have three Vestry members rotating off at the Annual Meeting in January: *Junior Warden Tim Burkett, Stacie Kulp, & Jinx Strout*, opening **three three-year terms**.

*Steve Hutchinson*, who completes one year of service, has been advised to resign to avoid a conflict of interest as Chancellor of the Diocese. The Vestry & rector reluctantly accepted his resignation at the December Vestry meeting, opening a remaining **two-year term**.



In addition, our *Senior Warden Debbie Matticks* is resigning at the January meeting, having successfully led St. James through an important transition period. St. James by-laws allow the rector to **choose the Senior Warden** and Father Christopher is doing this in consultation with Debbie.

Vestry members attend one Tuesday evening meeting each month, collaborate on projects between meetings, take turns making the Sunday announcements and writing the Vestry Corner, and serving as liaisons to parish committees. They have responsibility, along with the rector, for the spiritual, business, and financial oversight of the parish. Vestry members are required to be adults (age 16 and older, according to the Canons of the Church) and pledging members.

It's unusual to have five transitions at once, so we appreciate your consideration for running for the **four open positions (three 3-year and one 2-year)**. Ideally we will have eight people running so we have alternates available in the event of an unexpected mid-year resignation.

Please speak with the Nominating Committee (the five outgoing Vestry members), the rest of the Vestry, and Father Christopher if you are interested in running or have questions.

Spiritual commitment and humor are common traits of Vestry members!  
Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration.

---



**Please join St. James for  
A Celebration of a New Ministry  
Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 6 pm**

Join us to welcome and celebrate our new Rector, Christopher Szarke. Bishop Hayashi will preach and there will be a reception in the Parish Hall afterward. There will be sign ups in the narthex for the next two Sundays, so if you'd like to help, look there or contact Dave Lingo, Norma Oliver, or Kari Butler for more information.

*Traditionally, the collection at this liturgy is contributed to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, which will support pastoral and emergency needs in 2019. Father Christopher also invites people to bring contributions of cereal and canned goods for the St. James Food Bank.*

## **THANKS TO ST. JAMES GENEROSITY**

The caring generosity of our parishioners has kept the shelves of our Food Bank stocked with healthy food. St James has expressed to so many the giving spirit of Christmas. We are still not receiving a full delivery of food from the Utah Food Bank and continue to experience shortages in canned goods - especially canned pinto and black beans, tuna, and hearty soups. There is a food cart in the Narthex where you may place your donations to the Food Bank. Cash donations will be used to purchase bulk rice, beans, and oatmeal and divided into family size packages.

Thank you!

St James Food Bank



**St. James Food Bank**  
*An official partner agency of the Utah Food Bank*



### **Important Announcements!**

#### **Children Volunteer Policies**

- ALL children are welcome to assist on Restocking Days (usually the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 12-2 p.m.), provided that they are carefully supervised by a parent or guardian if under age 14.
- On Food Distribution Days, children 14 and over can assist in the 'store,' storage area, or children's art tables. Children UNDER 14 may assist at the children's art tables with supervision from a parent, guardian, or designated adult, who must stay with them for safety reasons.

- ONLY adults 18 years and older may help clients take food products to their cars. Again, this is an important safety rule.

### **Distribution Day Start Times**

The Food Bank registrar can begin passing out random numbers and letting clients into the waiting area at 12:45 p.m. ( In the event of a church meeting or luncheon, that entry time may be slightly postponed. In the event of inclement weather, clients may enter early only with the permission of the Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Clergy, or designated daily leader.) Shopping will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. and end at @3:00 p.m. Clients commence shopping when directed to do so by the Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Clergy or their designated daily leader.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Provided that church members have concluded coffee hour or meeting/sitting at tables, we welcome volunteers at 12:15 to help set up chairs, tables, art supplies, and registration materials. Many hands make for light work! We also welcome volunteers to help as much and as long as they are able. (EX: If you can only help from 12:45 - 2, that's okay. Of course, we'd love to have you assist the entire time, but we're sincerely grateful for any time you can spare. Our Food Bank serves over 100 families on each Distribution Day!)



### **Children's Christian Education**

Angela Steinbach and other parishioners have led Children's Christian Education using the Godly Play curriculum in recent years. Angela will continue in this leadership role through the end of this school year, but we are in need of more people interested in substituting or leading this ministry. Many of you have stepped

up to volunteer, Thank you! We just have a few more spots to fill.

If you are interested in offering yourself to this ministry, please contact Angela or our Vestry liaison, Stacie Kulp. They will give you information for participating in this during this year, receiving training to be a leader during the next school year after Angela completes her term, or have additional ideas about how to support this ministry. Thank you!

---

## **Winter is Here... So Let's Think About Spring!**

The spring camping outing has been scheduled.

Here are the details:



We are headed to Capitol Reef, staying at Wonderland RV Park the weekend of **June 1 & 2.**

The website is <https://capitolreefrvpark.com/> . There is no way to reserve particular sites online so a telephone call is required (435-425-3665). The park is wide open right now for those dates. Many of us will book Thursday May 30 through Sunday night June 2. The park has pull through sites (\$48/night) and back-in sites (\$40/night) It also has tent sites and cabins.

So, everyone is responsible for making their own reservations. If we reserve in the middle of the park, we should all be fairly close to each other. Pull through site #'s 5-9, back-in 22-26. The tent sites and cabins are in the middle as well.

The park will fill up, so reserve as soon as you can.

---

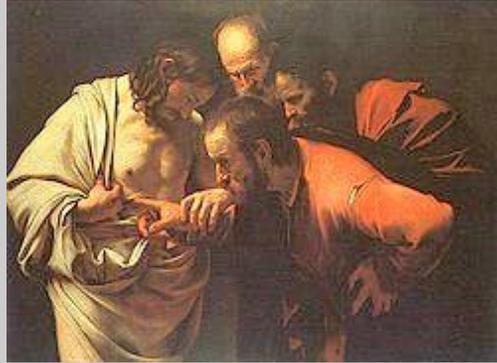
**Keep your eyes out for a few beautiful new tables, made for St. James by a parishioner's son, for the sanctuary. This lovely parishioner wishes to remain anonymous but we wish to sing their praises because they do so much behind the scenes at our building.**

**Thank you, kind person! We love you!**



## Rector's Thoughts

This Friday, December 21st, is the Feast of St. Thomas and also the Winter Solstice. Bishop Robert Wright, the first African-American Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, ordained me to the priesthood on this date in 2013.



Priesthood has been the greatest joy of my life, encountering God in prayer and Scripture, people, creatures, creativity, action, contemplation, and nature. People share their greatest experiences in life. I am humbled to be with people during the times of life when they are most vulnerable. Presiding at a funeral holds a myriad of experiences of human grief and rejoicing in the belief that our beloved friend, family member, and parishioner shares in Eternal Life.

Some of the biggest joys, in my experience, are presiding at Holy Eucharist, parish births and baptisms, marriage preparation and the wedding, engagement with parishioners who are discerning their call to confirmation, reception into the Episcopal Church, and entering the process for Holy Orders.

I'm in awe at the moments of God's grace I receive and share with others. This becomes apparent when there are disagreements in parish life. We pray together, share openly and honestly, listen deeply, and God's presence becomes stronger in the parish.

Others were ordained with me at St. Philip's Cathedral. We mused about the symbolism of being ordained on the Feast of St. Thomas, whose life can be minimized as "the Doubter." I'm particularly fond of St. Thomas, just as I'm particularly fond of the questioners and doubters in parish and community life. I think questioning and doubting shows a respect for our faith, caring enough to wrestle and make a commitment after being tested by doubts and a bit of fire. St. Thomas' faith was stronger after experiencing doubt. He exclaimed, "My Lord and my God," upon recognizing Jesus. Tradition holds that St. Thomas proclaimed the Gospel in India and was martyred.

Each Sunday we recite the Nicene Creed. People tell me at times about being unable to recite particular lines because they don't believe them anymore, or they never did believe them, or they're no longer sure. While they remain silent on those lines, other parishioners recite the lines aloud.

The Nicene Creed was first adopted in 325 C.E. and amended in 381 C.E. A creed provides a doctrinal statement of belief or orthodoxy. This creed was

composed out of communities that struggled, argued, and disagreed about faith. Apparently this is not new to the Church!

I find it comforting that we still gather to recite the Creed, or remain silent on particular lines, and know that a portion of the Christian Church holds us up in our doubts, questioning, and disbelief, and has been doing so since 325 C.E.

Some of you may remember a sermon I shared about the Rev. Betty Bone Schiess, one of the Philadelphia Eleven - the first eleven women ordained in the Episcopal Church in 1974. I met her in 2014, in her Cicero, New York, living room when she was 91 years old. I asked her, "How did you handle the worst days of 1974?" referring to the hate mail she and the other women received. She sighed. "I didn't. I fell apart. And others held me up. Then other people fell apart and I held them up. That is what we do in the Church."

I've thought about her words many times since then. The faith is perfect because it comes from God. The Church contains a lot of imperfection because of our human nature. We attempt to do the right thing. Sometimes we do the right thing and other times we don't. The point isn't perfection but rather the attempt to listen to God and be faithful in action. This is much like St. Thomas doubting out of his desire to seek Jesus. Let's hold each other up when we fall apart, and forgive, and love, and remember to maintain a sense of humor and a dose of humility.

Friday is also the Winter Solstice, when we will experience the least amount of daylight of the year before the days are blessed with more light. Our calendar, in the Western Christian Church, has a few more days of anticipating the birth of the Christ Child.

The birth of Christ continues to reverberate through the centuries to the present day. Christ is reborn in our lives when people reach out with support to one another's grief, fear, or brokenness. Christ is reborn when the newcomer is welcomed into the parish. Christ is reborn when parishioners share in the larger community, feeding the hungry, mentoring youth, visiting the elders, and housing the homeless. Christ is reborn every single time we gather for Eucharist.

The Christmas rush seems inevitable during these last few days. Still, I encourage you to find moments of mindful silence, for prayer, for the reading of Scripture, and rest in the knowledge that God loves us completely and is loving us for seeking God rather than judging us for doubts and imperfections.

Many blessings to all of you during these final days of Advent anticipation.

Peace,

*Father Christopher*

## The week ahead at St. James

Dec 22	Saturday	Noon	<b>Food Bank Delivery &amp; Restock</b>
Dec 23	Sunday	8 & 10 am	<b>Worship-Advent 4</b>
		9 am	Church School & Teen Forum
		9 am	Coffee Hour in the Narthex
		11:15 am	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		12:45 pm	<b>Food Bank Distribution</b>
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>5 &amp; 10:30* pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Services</b> (*with incense)
<b>Dec-24-27</b>	<b>Mon-Thur</b>		<b><i>Office Closed for Holiday</i></b>
Dec 25	Tuesday	8 am	<b>NO</b> Men's Coffee
Dec 26	Wednesday	9 am	Women's Coffee-Ft. Union Target
Dec 27	Thursday		<b>NO</b> Choir Practice

## The Following Week

Dec 30	Sunday	8 & 10 am	Worship
		9 am	Church School & Teen's Forum
		9 am	Coffee Hour in the Narthex
		11:15 am	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
<b>Dec 31-Jan 1</b>	<b>Mon-Tue</b>		<b><i>Office Closed for Holiday</i></b>
		8 am	<b>NO</b> Men's Coffee
Jan 2	Wednesday	9 am	Women's Coffee-Ft. Union Target
Jan 3	Thursday		Choir Practice-Sanctuary

Fr. Christopher will visit family between December 26th to January 4th.  
The Rev. John Dillon has graciously agreed to be available for  
Anointing of the Sick and our Deacon, Robert Shoop,  
has graciously agreed to be available for other pastoral needs.

Fr. Christopher will return for the Celebration of a New Ministry on Jan 5th.  
Our St. James office will be closed Dec 24-27, Dec 31-Jan 1.  
In case of emergency you can contact Wendy via text @801.520.4686.

---

## Around the Diocese



**Services will be held for The Rev. Peter Van Hook at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark this Saturday, December 22, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. A Committal service will follow at 2:00 p.m. at St Mary's, Provo**



**(50 West 200 North). St. Mary's is hosting a reception, immediately after**

**the service.**

[Click here for a link to the obituary.](#)

**Christmas Food Giveaway  
Saturday, December 22nd  
10 am-2 pm**

If you know someone who may need food, let them know about this opportunity at Rowland Hall School, 970 E. 800 S., Salt Lake City.

They must bring ID for ALL family members, no exceptions. More information can be found on the window by the entrance of our St. James Food Bank.

## **Custodial Job Available at ECCU**

Interested applicants can email a cover letter/email, resume, and the names of three references to [ruber@episcopal-ut.org](mailto:ruber@episcopal-ut.org). The hours are generally 7 am to 3:30 pm Monday to Friday, but there will be some weekends shifts. After 2-3 months of a probationary period, the successful candidate will be a diocesan employee. This person would join our events team.

Please feel free to share this with anyone you think would be good at the job and could join the events team at the ECCU.

[Click here for a link to a job description.](#)



Click the links below:

**St. James Website**  
**National Episcopal Church Website**  
**Utah Episcopal Diocese Website**  
**Utah Diocese Newsletter**  
**Liturgical Calendar**

---

Koinonia is published weekly. Please submit your articles ideas and photos to [wendy@stjamesutah.com](mailto:wendy@stjamesutah.com) by Wednesday noon.

We appreciate your input on the newsletter!

Wendy Ormsby, editor / Carol Gentner, editor's editor