



St. James Episcopal Church
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[Click here to visit our Website or go to stjamesutah.com](http://stjamesutah.com)



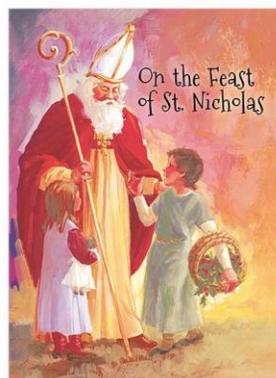
Koinonia

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

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

Photo: Ric Tanner "Thanksgiving 2019"

December 6, 2019



We are celebrating the Feast Day of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, this Sunday, December 8. (actual Feast Day is Dec. 6) We will have a special visit from Saint Nicholas himself! He will be our guest preacher today. Please show him your best St. James welcome at the coffee social after each service.

We have two children left for Operation Chimney Drop (Sub for Santa). If you would like one or both, please call or text Wendy at 801.520.4686. She can give you the details over the phone so you can shop before the deadline of Monday, Dec. 9.



Vestry Corner



By Michael Brown

At the end of this season of Advent we will celebrate the coming of the Christ-consciousness, that became incarnate in the person of Jesus of Nazareth almost 2000 years ago, and dwelt among us. His affect among those around him was so profound that they wrote down his teachings and spread his words to others and people have been copying and transcribing and translating them ever since.

He came into and was part of a creation composed of elements formed and fused together under the enormous gravity of an incredibly ancient gigantic star that exploded in an immense cataclysmic supernova that spread its elements into the universe. Some of these elements coalesced and cooled into a solar system, at the center of which is a tremendous ball of hydrogen that under its enormous gravity is fusing into helium and other light elements and emitting electromagnetic radiation that illumines and heats and interacts with the planets orbiting it. On one of these planets the elements fused together in that ancient supernova combined into compounds that came together in a way that gave rise to life that has been evolving and changing and reforming and mutating and growing and diversifying over eons.

At last this life developed a self-aware consciousness and intelligence in the form of bipedal hominids that gave rise to amazing art and literature and technology and engineering and civilization. We are amazing creatures on an incredible planet capable of astounding things but also broken and ill and quarrelsome and capable of horrendous things.

And 2000 years ago a consciousness came into the world to teach us a better way. That we are all connected to each other and to love one another and be kind and generous and nurturing and care for each other. To be righteous. To seek and serve Christ in all persons and love our neighbors as ourselves. To strive for justice and peace in the world, and respect the dignity of every human being. Imagine the existence we will experience and the even more amazing things we will do if we all strive to start living the way that this Christ-consciousness has taught us to do.

And at the end of this season we will celebrate the coming of this consciousness into the world, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, in an ancient ritual passed down through the centuries. And it is amazing that we should do this.



Rector's Thoughts

I watched the documentary "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles" on the flight from Minneapolis to Salt Lake on Monday evening. The trailer is here: <https://youtu.be/YsAXHDowVaU>



I've been a fan of "Fiddler on the Roof" for many years for its messages of family, tradition, faith, and how this shapes the larger culture and how culture influences us. The documentary shared insight about how contemporary culture impacted the origin of the musical and, later, the film version.

Our spiritual journey at St. James has parallels to Fiddler. Several parishioners embrace the values of the Gospel and take this out into the world to positively influence legislative actions that impact humans, non-human life, and the environment. The outreach that happens at St. James creates a ripple effect in the larger community of improving people's lives by our donations, volunteering, and by making our building and grounds available for groups. In turn, it was largely cultural shifts that moved the Episcopal Church to be faith leaders regarding issues of gender and sexuality.

Sometimes people ask me why it makes a difference if they show up for an hour service on Sunday. I believe it makes a difference that we are connected to a faith tradition that goes back over 2,000 years. I also believe that the Episcopal Church is better for people showing up. That doesn't mean only those who have certainty in their faith. We are also better off when our conversations include those who doubt. My intention is that our Christian community is broad enough to provide support to all of us.

We often say that all are welcome at the Episcopal Church. I take this to heart, wherever you are on your spiritual path. I'm available if you want to discuss thoughts or questions about spirituality or the mutual influence that faith communities and the culture have on one another.

Peace and blessings as we approach the second Sunday of Advent.

Father Christopher

P.S. I haven't posted this for a while and there are many new people at St. James. Feel free to send me a Facebook friends request if you would like to be connected that way. I do not initiate those connections myself since some people prefer to not have social media connection with their clergy. Please note that I don't keep up very well with Facebook messenger, though, so email is the best way to contact me.



Remembering the Angels in our Lives This Season

Kathy Cox, a member of our Altar Guild, suggested we remember our angels this Christmas with a tradition from her family. Altar Guild will have white Christmas ornaments available beginning this Sunday, the 8th, to Sunday the 22nd, to hang on our sanctuary Christmas tree. You may donate any amount to Altar Guild, write your angel or angels name on the ornament and it will be hung on the tree. The proceeds from this project will help Altar Guild purchase a new pottery chalice and paten for Lent. After Christmas, you may take the ornament home. If you have any questions, please talk to any Altar Guild members.



**FYI: Adult Education at 9 am in the Common Room.
Come to enrich your Sunday experience!**



December GAMES NIGHT!

December 13, 6 pm, in the Parish Hall.

Come enjoy a fun night of games and friendship with your fellow St. James parishioners. Our hosts this month are Clive and Norma Oliver. Contact them for a list of food items to bring.

Calling All Candidates

If you've ever considered running for Vestry, you're in luck. At our annual meeting on January 19th, we'll be electing four new Vestry members. If you've never previously served in this role, you're probably wondering what it entails. Thanks to the great work of Ric Tanner, the Vestry recently adopted a formal list of Vestry member responsibilities, which is listed below this announcement. Overarching this list is the fact that the Vestry is the lay body with fiduciary responsibility for the financial and overall well-being of the parish (think Board of Directors in the corporate world). Yes, it involves hard work and commitment, but it's arguably the most important and rewarding role in which you'll serve.

Vestry terms are typically three years, but there will be a two-year slot to complete Ric Tanner's term. Additionally, if at the annual meeting (or a special meeting) the parish adopts proposed changes to the bylaws, there will another term option for candidates ages 16-21. However, according to our current bylaws, all Vestry terms (unless filling an unexpired term) are three years.

If you're interested in throwing your name in the ring, please email a picture (think passport size) to Wendy, along with a short (200-250 words) biographical submission that includes the following information:

- How long you've been a member of St. James
- Information about your family
- Career information/skills
- St. James ministries you've been involved in or are interested in
- Reason(s) you're running for Vestry
- Any other information you feel is relevant

If you have specific questions about Vestry responsibilities, feel free to contact Fr. Christopher, Junior Warden Doug Sward, or me.

Please prayerfully contemplate if Vestry is a ministry God is calling you to fulfill.

Peace,
Angela

General Vestry Responsibilities

Vestry members should strive to the best of their abilities to:

- Have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to following the way of Christ and our Baptismal Covenant;
- Accept and strive to live into St. James Statement of Common Values;
- Be active in and knowledgeable about the congregation, its programs and governance, the Diocese of Utah, and The Episcopal Church;
- Be fair, interact well with people and strive to earn the respect of the members of the congregation;
- Invite, listen to, and respect the parishioners' questions, suggestions, complaints and compliments. When appropriate, share these with the Rector, Staff and Vestry.
- Maintain openness and integrity of the Congregation's business with all members, except when confidentiality is appropriate; then judiciously respect that confidentiality;
- Have enthusiasm and vitality for this ministry.

Vestry members should be able to make the following time commitments:

- Vestry meetings: usually the third Tuesday each month
- Two Vestry Retreats per year, typically on a Saturday
- Additional Vestry meetings as may be scheduled for special circumstances
- Support of at least one or more parish committees or initiatives and attend related meetings and activities
- Regularly attend worship services
- Regularly attend congregational events: coffee hours, meals, fundraisers, adult education programs, etc.
- Annual Parish Meeting
- Diocesan meetings, as called upon

All vestry members are responsible to:

- Offer “time, talent, and treasure” to support the congregation’s ministries;
- Pledge financial support early in the stewardship campaign;
- Maintain faithful stewardship of church finances, property, identity, and spending;
- Rotating responsibility for weekly announcements and newcomer greeting;
- Pray regularly for the rector, leaders, members, and life of the congregation;
- Be an active minister of the Gospel in daily life and work;
- Bring one’s whole self to the table; being present – mind, body, and spirit;
- Risk openness with one’s ideas, beliefs, and spiritual journey.
- Complete Diocesan Safe Church Training---Online. Requires approximately 5-8 hours to complete. Is valid for five years.

Stewardship Moment

Parishioner Needs

Please contact Fr. Christopher if you are able to help with the following needs or need more information to see if you can help:

*A parishioner would like rides periodically after recovering from knee surgery.



BAKE SALE!!!

Don't miss the Christmas bake sale on **December 22!** This year the money will go toward the youth's first environmental project: A new, energy efficient dishwasher that will help us reduce the amount of Styrofoam and paper plates we send to the landfill. (Our current dishwasher



is beyond repair.) The youth will happily accept baked goods to sell and extra donations to help them meet their fundraising goal of \$3000-\$5000. You can also put a donation in the offering plate with "Dishwasher" in the memo line.
Thank you!



More Cookies, please :)

All Parish Cookie Exchange
Saturday, December 21 at 2 pm.

Hosts: Women's Coffee

Please bring 2 dozen cookies to share and a dozen to donate to the Youth Bake Sale on the 22nd.

Champagne & sparkling cider provided.

Please RSVP to Terry Palmer @ thpslc@comcast.net



Operation Chimney Drop (Sub for Santa Project)

Reminder:

Operation Chimney Drop presents will need to be delivered to St James by Monday, **December 9, 2019**. All gifts must be unwrapped, with the family number, and recipient on the presents. Please include gift receipts! And thank you so much for helping someone in need this Christmas!

Jinx Strout and Wendy Hutchinson



T'is The Season! --This Saturday--

The Sallybytheway Chorale's Christmas Concert to benefit The Road Home is
this Saturday December 7 at 7:30
at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 8600 South and 700 East.
Tickets available at the door or see David James.

Bishop Hayashi Visitation to St. James

Bishop Scott Hayashi will make his annual Visitation to St. James on **June 21, 2020**.

Parishioners will have the opportunity to be confirmed, be received into the Episcopal Church, or renew confirmation vows at the liturgy.

There will be separate classes for youth and adults, taught by Fr. Christopher. Peer Mentors will assist with teaching the Youth Confirmation classes. The schedule of 8-10 Sunday classes is being scheduled.

Please contact Fr. Christopher if you want to participate.



The Weeks Ahead at St. James

Sunday	Dec 8	8 & 10 am	Worship
		9 & 11:15 am	Coffee Hours
		12:30 pm	Food Bank Distribution
Monday	Dec 9	5:30 pm	GO Night at St. James-Sanctuary
Tuesday	Dec 10	8 am	Men's Coffee "Grumpies"-Common Room
		5:30 pm	Finance Meeting-Office
Wednesday	Dec 11	9 am	Women's Coffee-Ft. Union Target Cafe
		7 pm	Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary
Friday	Dec 13	6 pm	Games Night! Hosts: Norma & Clive Oliver
Sunday	Dec 15	8 & 10 am	Worship
		9 & 11:15 am	Coffee Hours
Tuesday	Dec 17	8 am	Men's Coffee "Grumpies"-Common Room
		6:30 pm	Vestry Meeting-Office
Wednesday	Dec 18	9 am	Women's Coffee-Ft. Union Target Cafe
		7 pm	Choir Rehearsal-Sanctuary

Prayers of the People

We all find ourselves in need of support and prayer sometimes. If you'd like to have a concern prayed for, there are several options.

- You may call the church office or email wendy@stjamesutah.com and be added to the bulletin.
- You may also be asked to be left off the bulletin but have a group in the church add you to their prayers.
- Or for healing, there is a prayer bench to the right of the altar where you can go after communion.

You can use the bulletin, throughout the week, to remember who needs prayer.

St. James has a consistent group of charities we raise money for and include in our prayers each Sunday, add those groups to your personal petitions. (Small Cell Ovarian Cancer, Backyard Broadcast, The Granite Education Foundation, The 4th Street Clinic, The Road Home, LLS-Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and The Utah Food Bank.)

Prayer is one of the ways we care for each other.



Year to date:

624 Volunteers have unloaded, stocked shelves, and distributed food.
2,194 clients have gotten food for **8,581 people**.
197,860 of food delivered to St. James for distribution!

Volunteers are always welcome!
It's a rewarding ministry to be a part of.

St. James is an approved Utah Food Bank Partner

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Einstein Bros Bagels in Midvale. They donate bagels to St. James every week for our Food Bank! Hundreds of yummy bagels are frozen and then shared with our Food Bank clients or in our St. James Blessing Box. And thank you to Carol Seitz who picks them up weekly!



Einstein Bros Bagels is at 7176 S. Union Park Ave.



2020 St. James Camping Trips

Save these dates.

Spring May 14th through the 18th, Kodachrome.

Fall August 27th through the 31st., Moon Lake, group site B.



Around the Utah Diocese

[Click here for a link to the latest Diocese newsletter.](#)



The next Go Monday (for youth in grades 6-12) will be at St. James, on **December 9th!** Please join for food, fun, music and good conversation! Doors open at 5:30 for social time and group games, program goes from 6:00-8:00. (Meet in the Sanctuary)

Welcome at St. James

At St. James, we consider persons 16 and older to be adults, and they are welcome at all Parish activities unless otherwise regulated by law.

Persons under 16 years may attend parish events if accompanied by an adult. If organized childcare and/or youth activities are not available, the accompanying adult agrees to provide them appropriate supervision and care.

Koinonia is published weekly. Please submit your articles, ideas, and photos to wendy@stjamesutah.com by **Wednesday noon**.

For instance, many parishioners take photographs while hiking or out and about in Utah and have shared shots they've snapped. We'd love it if you share a photo with us that we can use at the top of the newsletter!

Please put "**Newsletter**" in the subject line so we will never miss an item.

Thank you!

We appreciate your contribution on the newsletter!

**Wendy Ormsby, editor / Fr. Christopher Szarke, editor
Carol Gentner, editors' editor**