



St. James Episcopal Church
7486 Union Park Avenue
Midvale, UT 84047
801.566.1311

**Click here to visit our Website or go
to 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 13, 2019

This Sunday St. James will present Laura Ingham, representing the 4th Street Clinic, a check. The presentation will take place in the 8 am service before announcements. At 10 am, it will happen just before service starts since Ms. Ingham has another engagement.



Vestry Corner



By Doug Sward

'Tis the Season

The season of Giving. St James, you never cease to amaze me at your ability to give. This past Sunday a check was given to the Granite Foundation for over \$9,000. You contributed gifts for 70 children for Operation Chimney drop (approx. 70 X \$100 each = \$7,000). You did this on a 2 week notice. I was in a finance meeting this week where 2 more checks for several thousand dollars each were approved and signed for charities. You donated those funds. You are amazing.

This time of year is also when we pledge our support for St James. Over the past few weeks you have heard from a number of people as to what that support covers.

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge. Many of you were able to increase your pledge this year. Every pledge is appreciated. Thank you.

For those who have yet to pledge, we ask that you do so. We need to know what our pledge income is in order to create an accurate budget. If your pledge is on auto-pay, would you please still fill out a pledge card for us. We do not want to assume. If everyone who has yet to fill out a pledge card pledges the same amount as last year we will be very close to making our budget needs.

The vestry and finance committee take very seriously that you bestow upon us the responsibility that those funds are not spent frivolously. Even with so many increasing their pledge, there were some who had to reduce their pledging for 2020. Our hearts go out to those that are struggling.

The vestry and finance committee are working diligently to keep cost within our means and not affect our outreach efforts.

That being said, St James is still at a shortfall for the 2020 budget. The current 2020 draft budget has a \$15,000 (rounded) deficit. A portion of the deficit is due to a loan that St James was fortunate to negotiate a few years ago with the diocese. The remainder of the deficit for the 2020 budget is for our ministries and current staffing costs.

The loan was to cover large expenses that were outstanding for employee retirement payments and diocesan assessments. Our annual payment for the loan is \$9,050. The balance of the diocesan loan is \$24,882.82.

In order to balance our budget for 2019 St James requested and was granted by the diocese a deferment of our loan payment for a 2019. The vestry and finance committee do not want to continue to push this burden forward.

So, here I am (as a representative of the vestry and finance committee) asking you to once again dig deep and up your pledge again or consider making a one time donation to reduce the deficit.

Special Note: If you can make an additional pledge/one time donation toward the 2020 deficit we do have an anonymous match grant to help us get there! This is fantastic to be able to double your contribution.

If you are able to increase your pledge or make a contribution please let us know right away so that the Vestry/finance committee can plan the budget accordingly. You can let St James know what your commitment is now at Pledges@stjamesutah.com and pay later. If you write a check to St James for one time donation toward the 2020 budget, please write in the check memo line "2020 budget contribution".

Thank you again for all that you do to support St James.

God's Peace,

Doug Sward

Rector's Thoughts

The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

* * * *

The angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to be the mother of Jesus and she accepted this, in spite of the uncertainty and how it would impact her social standing. She went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who proclaimed that Mary was blessed, and Mary's response was the *Magnificat* that we read above.

We are often led in directions that contain uncertainty and it's important to remember that God is blessing us throughout life. Mary said "yes" to God in circumstances that did not make sense to her and we are called to do the same.

This coming week, in your prayers and meditations, I invite you to ponder the following questions:

- * How do I say "yes" to God in life?
- * Where am I blessed in the midst of uncertainty?
- * How does God call me to work for justice in the world?
- * What are God's promises that have impacted my family over generations?

May the days ahead be blessed. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Peace and blessings,

Father Christopher



Thank you to the St James community for your generous donations to Operation Chimney Drop! We helped 70 families have a really wonderful Christmas this year. It is amazing how thoughtful and generous everyone is when it comes to helping those in need. If you would like a donation receipt please contact Wendy Ormsby in the office.

Thank you so much for all you do and have a very Merry Christmas!
Wendy Hutchinson and Jinx Strout

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 through the Christmas Services, 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

DEADLINE for Submission is December 15
Send your bio and photo to wendy@stjamesutah.com
Thank you!

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

End of Year giving reminders – that help you and St James

As we come to the end of 2019, we want to thank you for your generous gifts throughout the year to support the ministries of St James! This was an active and fulfilling year for our church. We have seen growth and ministry development and shared Christ’s love and hope with our church community and our neighbors in the greater community. As our Vestry and Finance team pray and work on the 2020 budget, we are facing cost increases in a number of areas that include expanding ministry opportunities and also the cost of taking care of our office team.

While it is exciting to see the ministries thriving and growing it is challenging to meet the financial needs. These important ministry costs create a \$15,000 deficit for 2020. We are praying and working towards bridging that gap. The opportunities are all around us. This is a wonderful time to pray and stretch financially to empower ministry and see people change.

Every year people ask how they can help St James as the year comes to a close. One of the most important ways is to prayerfully consider a year-end financial gift. Our church body has a strong history of special giving that helps us to meet current needs and empowers us to step into new areas of ministry in the coming year. As you consider your charitable gifts between now and the end of the year, remember that gifts made now can generate income tax deductions that could help reduce tax liability.

We cannot express our deep heartfelt appreciation for your faithful prayers and financial support as we work together to share Christ in every setting in our lives and in our community. You are making the difference in so many lives!

HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

Gifts of Cash

The most popular way to make a gift is with cash, check, or credit card. To take a deduction for the gift on your 2019 tax return, *your gift must be postmarked or received by the church on or before December 31, 2019*. You can also donate by going to:
<https://stjamesutah.breezechms.com/give/online>

Corporate Match

Many large and local corporations offer employee charitable giving match programs. Check with your company to see if they offer corporate matching, thus doubling your donation to the church.

Non Cash Gifts

Stock: You can also donate stock to St James, which can be a tax benefit to the donor. Stock gifts to St James are sold through the Trust II account at the Diocese. Please contact the church offices for instructions.

Retirement Assets: A direct contribution of retirement account (IRA ,401K,403b) assets to charity can be very tax efficient for retired individuals.

Please Note: Donating the gift of stock takes longer to arrange, so notify St James and your investment advisor right away to make sure your gift can qualify as a 2019 transaction for tax purposes.

Disclosure: The purpose of this article is only to make you aware of the possibilities that may exist for you to make a donation to St James. This is not to be taken as advice for financial or tax purposes.

Blessing from your Finance Committee,
Tom Harrison, Mindy Mitchell, Angela Micklos, Doug Sward, Fr. Christopher Szarke, Nancy Tanner

We LOVE getting your submissions for the newsletter! We LOVE it when you send us photographs you've taken and articles/ideas that you want to share.

When you send us something make sure you put in the subject line "**newsletter**".

Don't put "Koinonia" (because there are many ways that gets misspelled and then I can't search it to make sure I find your submission.)

Koinonia is published weekly, sent to you on Thursdays.

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

If you aren't getting the newsletter in your email box right now, let the office know and they will add you to the database. Thank you!

We appreciate your contribution on the newsletter!



Maren Petersen will be selling pretty Teal Note Cards after the 10 am service this Sunday.

Box of 11 assorted cards - \$20.00

All proceeds to benefit Small Cell Ovarian Cancer research

These make a great gift!



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

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.

A Christmas Lift

About a week and a half ago, a mother called St. James asking about our Food Bank. This is a common call in the office but we see more families hurting during this time of year as they prepare for the holidays. I told her the schedule for our Food Bank and then explained to her that we have a blessing box that is accessible day or night. She was heartened at this news. She then drove here but came in the office looking for direction to the blessing box. As we chatted with her it was apparent that this woman, Norma, was sad. She is 5 months pregnant, new to Utah (first time seeing snow! "It's SO cold", she said), and this move had been a big shock to her system. Her family is back in her home town of Los Angeles and even though her husband's family is here in Utah, she was feeling pretty alone. She and her husband found jobs right away and were able to rent the other side of the duplex next to her brother and sister-in law. But they moved here with very little...just a hope for a lower cost of living and a good place to raise their 2 boys and baby on the way.



Norma asked for nothing but directions to the blessing box. Within minutes of her leaving, Terry Palmer had broadcast the plight of this little family. Beds were needed since the family of four had been sleeping on their floors with just blankets. Sofas, lamps, bookshelves, coats, food, etc...etc...etc... started showing up on their door step. Trucks delivered the furniture. New twin mattresses were delivered for the boys very quickly, thanks to a generous St. James' family. Norma told me the whole family slept on those two twin mattresses until the queen sized mattress arrived on Saturday. She said "Those twin mattresses felt like heaven!" Norma said "the Grumpy men were so kind as they brought things for us!" I knew who she meant.

Norma and I shared tearful hugs as she expressed shock and gratitude for all that was done for her family. She and her husband, Albert, told me over and over how thankful they are for the people of St. James who stepped up to help strangers.

These are the stories that make me proud to work for St. James. I see the generosity of spirit that moves this congregation. The outreach to strangers, to community, to the various charities you support warms hearts and lessens the invisible burdens others carry.

Thank you, St. James!!!
Love,
Wendy

(This story was shared with Norma's and Albert's permissions.)

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.



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
Saturday	Dec 21	12 pm	Food Bank Delivery & Restocking
		2 pm	Parish Cookie Swap-Parish Hall
Sunday	Dec 22	8 & 10 am	Worship
		9 & 11:15 am	Coffee Hours—Youth BAKE SALE!
		12:30 pm	Food Bank Distribution
Tuesday	Dec 24	8 am	Men's Coffee "Grumpies"-Common Room (May be canceled — decision made after next week.)
		5 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
		10 pm	Late Christmas Service-Carols at 10, Service at 10:30pm
Wednesday	Dec 25	Office Closed	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
		9 am	CANCELED- NO Women's Coffee
		7 pm	NO Choir Rehearsal

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



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.](#)

Bishop Search Committee Job Description

Episcopal Search Process for the Twelfth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah.

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah is searching for a select group of Search Committee Members who feel called to contribute, and who are available to dedicate time and energy, to the discernment process for the next Episcopal bishop of Utah! The Standing Committee anticipates this process to be intensive, exciting, faithful, participatory, and inclusive.

If you are discerning participation on the Bishop Search Committee, read through the following job description and carefully consider in contemplation and prayer the responsibilities and opportunities of this role.

Roles and Responsibilities

All Search Committee members are required to attend the Search Committee Retreat, February 7-8, 2020, at the Episcopal Church Center in Salt Lake City. At the retreat, very specific roles and responsibilities will be presented to the Bishop Search Committee.

In all things, the Search Committee will create Holy Space for the Episcopal Church in Utah to discern our identity in Christ and to understand and articulate our hopes and dreams for the future.

The Search Committee will recruit and receive nominations for a slate of candidates, discern those who have a call to be the bishop of the Diocese of Utah, and select 3-5 nominees to be sent to the Standing Committee as candidates. The candidates will be individuals whom the Search Committee believes God is calling us to consider as the Twelfth Bishop of Utah.

The initial task of the Search Committee is to develop and publish a profile which communicates the desires, hopes, and dreams of all the people of the Diocese of Utah. This would include listening to the concerns and issues of the diocese.

The Search Committee will function as a collaborative team, with specific roles and responsibilities assigned to each member, according to their gifts.

Expectations

It is expected that each member of the Search Committee will:

- Give 10 hours per week on average (some weeks more, some weeks less) to the work of the Search Committee
- Be required to attend two (2) retreats (Organizing Retreat – February 7-8, 2020 at the Episcopal Church Center in Salt Lake City and the Candidate Discernment Retreat – date to be determined) for the entire time and arrive prepared and focused.
- Have experience and skill in serving on effective teams which include responsibility, honesty, collaborative decision-making, trust-building, and conflict management.
- Have access to the internet, and be able to work online (Zoom, Google Docs, Dropbox, etc.)
- Be responsive to e-mail and phone calls and prioritize communication with fellow team members as much of the work could be done online with an abundance of reading.

- Be prepared to be in attendance during the interview process
- Pray for the search and discernment process daily and maintain a regular spiritual practice and active membership in a Utah Episcopal faith community.
- Be able to stay with the process over the long haul, including times of challenge, frustration, and grunt work.
- Be ethical and show integrity within the committee, with all nominees and candidates, and with written and verbal communication and follow up.
- Show generous hospitality to all nominees and candidates

Gifts and skills necessary to minister on the Search Committee

While no one person possesses all gifts listed below, it is our hope that each member will embody, and will share generously, one or more of these gifts with the Search Committee.

- Gifts of a discerning heart through personal spirituality and prayer
- Gifts of optimism and encouragement
- Deep listening and Interviewing skills
- Strong communication skills, both written and spoken
- Technological skills and expertise
- Skills to lead prayerful and collaborative group engagement in the discernment process
- Skills to promote compromise and consensus around hard decisions
- Gifts of emotional maturity to avoid the creation of cliques or 'us vs. them' thinking
- Gifts of flexibility to evolving circumstances, new information, and new possibilities
- Analytical and organizational skills (administration, detail-oriented, tracking, recording, time-management, etc.)
- Pastoral gifts to help identify and focus on the pastoral needs and integrity of the candidates
- Ability to set aside personal biases and political/social agendas
- Ability to follow up in a proactive and timely manner
- Ability to keep the confidentiality, for life, of the candidates and the discernment conversations of the committee
- Willingness to commit to the extensive time needs
- Task oriented
- Commitment to work with the committee and its members. Ability to understand the goal of the search as a good and holy process.

If membership on the Search Committee best aligns with your gifts, time, and talents, please **consider submitting a nomination form by Tuesday, December 31, 2019**. The nomination form will be available within the next week and the link will be communicated to all congregations by email and through the Diocesan Newsletter.

All nomination forms received by the deadline will be made available to the Electors prior to the Convocation which will convene on Saturday, January 11, 2020, to elect the Search Committee members. At the Convocation, one (1) lay Elector from each congregation will elect six (6) lay members and All Clergy will elect four (4) clergy members.

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.

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