



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](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

December 20, 2019

This upcoming week the office schedule is as follows:
Monday (23rd) & Tuesday (24th)-open
Wednesday (25th) and Thursday (26th)-closed

Please get all articles for the newsletter to Wendy by Monday at noon. Thank you!



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

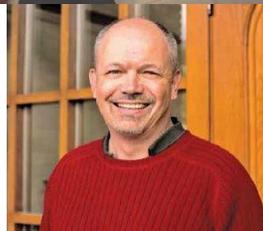
It has been a tradition at St James that we ring bells at the end of each Christmas Eve service.

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.

[Click here to read about your 2020 vestry candidates.](#)



Important Information for Annual Meeting

It's hard to believe it, but our annual meeting is only a month away! On **January 19th**, we will have a single worship service at 9:00 a.m., followed by our annual meeting. In addition to the usual business (ministry reports, elections for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates, etc.,) we will be asking parishioners to approve proposed amendments to our bylaws and Our Common Values, both of which are included below. Please note that explanations for substantive changes to the bylaws are in *(bold blue italicized print)*. Please review these documents in advance of the annual meeting so that we may proceed without undue delay at the meeting. Thank you!

[Click here for a link to our St. James bylaws and Common Values proposed amendment.](#)



Vestry Corner



By Petey McKnight

Mac and I made cookies this last Sunday while watching the KC Chiefs game. We made all the family favorites. Not mentioning anything about the cookies, I gave a heads up to our daughters that they should expect packages soon. It was so much fun when one of our daughters texted back, "If you're sending Christmas cookies, I will die in delight. But if it's something else, I'll love that too I'm sure."

One of our other family traditions was lighting the Advent wreath every night we had dinner at home. The girls would take turns and say simple versus as they lit them:

Advent Candle #1, God sends us His Son

Advent Candle #2, Jesus shows us what to do.

Advent Candle #3, Help me to live faithfully.

Advent Candle #4. Teach us how to love You more.

Our family won't be together this Christmas, but I still take great pleasure in the traditions and memories. I pray for you, your family, and that at St. James we celebrate the coming of God's son and through 2020 that Jesus teaches us how to love Him more and live more faithfully.

Rector's Thoughts

This Saturday, 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.

Saturday 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 Advent days of anticipation.

Peace,

Father Christopher

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.



Friendly Reminder:

Please don't put bags of ice in the kitchen fridge. We had a small flood in the kitchen because of melted ice.

Poor Ann Charat got soaked shoes as it gushed out, Monday morning.

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 to the newsletter!



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.

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

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
		5 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
		10 pm	Late Christmas Service-Carols at 10, Service at 10:30pm
Wednesday	Dec 25	Office Closed	<i>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</i>
		9 am	NO Women's Coffee
		7 pm	NO Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	Dec 26	Office Closed	<i>Holiday</i>
Sunday	Dec 29	8 & 10 am	Worship
		9 & 11:15 am	Coffee Hours
Tuesday	Dec 31	8 am	Men's Coffee "Grumpies"-Common Room
Wednesday	January 1	Office Closed	<i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</i>
		9 am	NO Women's Coffee
		7 pm	NO Choir Rehearsal

To date, we have distributed more than
200,000 pounds of food! WOW!



Year to date:

655 Volunteers have unloaded, stocked shelves, and distributed food.

2,287 clients have gotten food for **8,955 people**.

206,795 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

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.



A quick note about our paper recycling dumpster:

In the news you may have heard that a lot of local towns and cities are modifying what they will accept in their recycling programs. We double checked with our

Green Fiber rep and she said the perimeters of our dumpster are still the same.

They accept all paper, cardboard, magazines, newspapers, etc... The only

Recycle THIS



Cardboard

Simply flatten and toss it in.

NOT That



Pizza Boxes

Any dirty takeout food container belongs in the trash.

thing you cannot put in the green dumpster is paper waste that has a waxy coating or a food stain, like pizza boxes.



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.](#)

[Click here for Bishop Hayashi's Advent Message](#)



Bishop Hayashi Shares 2019 Advent Message

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.

[Click here to go to nomination form.](#)

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**