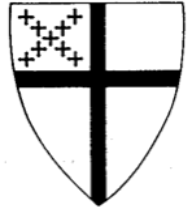




The Staff



Jesus said, “I say to you who hear: Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
and pray for those who spitefully use you.”

December 2019

Give me my scallop-shell of quiet
My staff of faith to walk upon,....
and thus I'll take my pilgrimage.
— Sir Walter Raleigh

Luke 6:27-28 (English Standard Version)

Anglican worship of Jesus Christ and Biblical preaching of the Good News.

DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Hunn, *Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Vono, Retired *Bishop*

The Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb (ret), *Assisting Bishop*

The Rev. John Tober, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Frank Williams, *Assisting Priest*

“G ood news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.”

—Martin
Luther



From the Rector's Desk

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP, 212)



Dear St. James Family—

As we begin the season of anticipation that is Advent, I'm struck by this collect, the collect for the third week of Advent. As Christians, after the fact of Jesus' death and resurrection, we anticipate not only "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory,"(Matt 24:30) but also the coming of the Christ child, whom Matthew recalls from scripture: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel", which means, 'God is with us.'" In this, Matthew is quoting the book of Isaiah in the 7th chapter. The striking thing for me is what Jesus represents in both of these times: the love of a compassionate judge who has lived the human condition and thus, is able to forgive us our weaknesses; as well as the hope represented by the birth of an innocent child and all the potential a newborn represents. Both of these images of great might coming among us are images of hope.

They are visions of hope because, due to our human condition, we're stuck somewhere between the innocence of a newborn and the perfect munificence of a heavenly judge. Our place in this formula is to recognize these characteristics of our Lord, coming among us with great might, and move toward both of them. I wonder, as I ponder this, just how far apart on a continuum these are? A newborn loves whomever s/he encounters for the first time. The newborn trusts whomever s/he encounters completely. That's the hope of human perfection.

To judge as God judges, we have to look at Jesus' words. In his 7th chapter, Matthew quotes Jesus' saying: "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get." Jesus tells us, I think, explicitly, that we will be judged with exactly the kindness with which we judge others in our hearts and in our actions.

That's the hope of this season of preparation and the joy of Christmas that we anticipate: the hope to regain the innocence of childhood and a refreshment of the universal kindness of childhood. In this way, let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. John Tober, Rector

Vestry Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2019

Call to order: Fr. John Tober called the meeting at 6:03 pm with prayer

Daughters of the King-Johanna Binneweg came to speak of Daughters of the King and funeral receptions. The number of members who are able to set up and prepare the food for the reception have diminished greatly. The members feel strongly that they need to give up setting up, preparing the food, as well as then taking down and cleaning up afterwards.

Johanna would like us to consider creating a Hospitality Committee, which would be in charge of hosting and putting on reception type events. It is just too much for the small number of women that are in DOK. Everett moved for DOK to no longer be tasked or responsible for the funeral/reception events. Terry seconded. The Vestry voted to approve.

Fr. John asked that the DOK be publicly thanked for their many years of effort and dedication.

Nyeta spoke about the possibility of the Hospitality Committee being responsible for greeting newcomers. Everett moved to discuss this new initiative with the congregation and hopes that others will want to help out. Lynn seconded and the motion carried. Fr. Tober asked when we should start this new committee, the consensus was that it become a new Committee chaired by a Vestry member (yet to be determined) beginning after the 2020 annual meeting. (Jennifer will place on the January Vestry Agenda for 2020)

Book Study: Susan Smith led the discussion on Chapter 4

Highlights

External acts and objects can anchor us to the sacramental life

Observing monastic hours

Worshipping God in a believing community. This aligns with the 1st Commandment to worship the living God above all



Usage of Anglican rosary beads (*Anglican prayer beads, also known as the Anglican rosary or Anglican chaplet, are a loop of strung beads used chiefly by Anglicans in the Anglican Communion, as well as by communicants in the Anglican Continuum. Anglican prayer beads were developed in the latter part of the 20th century within the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and this Anglican devotion has spread to other Christian denominations, including Methodists and the Reformed; as such they are also called Protestant prayer beads.*)

Mindfulness, live in the moment

Jennifer volunteered to insert some possible sources via Amazon in the minutes for informational usage by Vestry members and interested parishioners. Below are three sources all rated above 4.5/5.

The Anglican Rosary written by Dr. F. Haas

Praying through Psalms: A Guide for Contemplative Prayer using Anglican Prayer Beads by Cindy Hamilton

A Bead and a Prayer: A Beginner's Guide to Protestant Prayer Beads by Kristen E. Vincent

Lynn volunteered to lead discussion for Chapter 5 for the December meeting

Approval of minutes: October 2019 minutes-Jennifer Terrazas moved for acceptance of the October minutes, Everett seconded, minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Rector's Report (see report sent out via email)

Wednesday service update, Everett asked how we could advertise our bilingual services? Discussion ensued and Terry and Nyeta will continue to work on this initiative.

Día de los Muertos update from Fr. John. He hopes that this will grow in the years to come as we all become more comfortable and aware

Dedication of library-the donated photo of Fr. Frank Williams has disappeared. Fr. John will continue

discussion with both Charlotte and Fr. Frank about both the photo as well as the idea of the dedication. Everett kindly volunteered to write an article on the Greek classes which Fr. Frank has been teaching Advent session-Fr. John passed around literature and asked for input. Fr. John has been approached about St. James becoming a possible site for an AA and/or NA group. John is working with the DRG to figure out how to handle the insurance liability issue. Fr. John has loosely suggested times/days and will keep us informed. Donated picture discussion. Lynn moved to keep the picture in the meeting room where it will not damage the adobe walls of the Parish Hall, Sig seconded, and the motion passed to have the donated work of art hung in the meeting room for all to enjoy. Canon Lee Curtis will cover the Wednesday service on December 4, 2019. The Ted Howden ceremony will be held on December 11 at noon. Confirmations will be held on January 5, 2020 at a combined service with Bishop Hunn preaching, followed by potluck in the Parish Hall.

Senior Warden's Report-Phala White

Coats for Kids campaign-new or gently used jackets and shoes. Lucy Kirkland has graciously agreed to spearhead this project. Distribution/disposal of outdated books in library-Kay and Cheryl have completed the purging of the outdated titles in the library. Sig moved to donate the titles purged by Kay and Cheryl, Terry seconded, and the motion passed for Manny to handle the removal of the boxes of books. Acceptance of gift wall-hanging for library made by Jennifer, Susan moved to accept the wall hanging made by Jennifer, Everett seconded, the vote passed. Jennifer will prepare the wall hanging for hanging in the library and will get to Kay for hanging.

Junior Warden Report-Manny Terrazas (Building and Grounds committee report)

Design plan for youth room-pending input from Kay Schumacher
There are several cracks in the sacristy, however there exists an issue with the foundation of the church moving and shifting. Manny doesn't know what this will intel. Everett moved to hire a structural engineer. No second was made. Terry stated that Les Smith, former Jr. Warden, had hired and inquired about this issue before. Nyeta will consult with Manny and share this information with him.
Sunday school-pending input from Rick Marshall
Outside lighting issue resolved with the exception of the area light. Manny would like to see if we have the money available for the area light and would like to have this discussion with the Building and Grounds, as well as the Finance Committee before bringing it back to the Vestry.
Street light installation will be happening by CLC within the next couple of months.
Service for new HVAC unit in church is being paid by donation from a parishioner and is scheduled to occur.

Treasurer's Report-Nyeta Haines-monthly reports

Financial report summary
Consolidated balance sheet
Income and expense statement
Operating income comparison analysis
Changes in equity
Funds report
Monthly parochial report
Must file a form 9-90 and it will be completed by the middle of December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds-Manny Terrazas (see Jr. Warden Report)

Evangelism Outreach and Missions Committee Vestry Report-Terry Meyer

The Farmers' Market project displayed again on Nov. 2nd. Thank you to all participants: Rick Marshall, Charles Nike, Johanna Binneweg, Carol Nike, Terry Meyer, Dottie Storey, and Godfrey Crane. Fifty Esperanza bags were prepared October 23rd. Thanks to Phala White who purchased materials, and also to Margo and Patrick Lamb, Pat Meyer, Terry Meyer, and Phala White for preparing the bags. Bags are available in the Parish Hall for the congregation to distribute to the homeless. The Candy Drop on Oct. 27th was researched regarding possible participation by St. James but given

the fact it started on Sunday, late morning, it was decided that an adequate number of participants would be too difficult to recruit.

An increase in frequency of the KRWG St. James ad to twice a week is recommended pending Vestry approval. Terry moved for the radio ad to be increased to twice per week for the months of November and December. Sig seconded and the motion passed.

Finance-Nyeta Haines/Phala White

Eric has requested ADOBE PRO for his usage. Vestry had already approved a previous software expenditure, so no additional motion or vote was required.

Parish hall doors-Cheryl Wilson is investigating.

Stained glass window update (pending additional details)

Memorial Funds update

Donation Box update-Larry White has volunteered to build a wooden donation box. Site yet to be determined

Pastoral Care-Fr. John, no report

Stewardship- Sig gave Nyeta the pledge cards which have been turned in. Sixteen parishioners who normally pledge have not yet done so and will be contacted.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Audit-inactive

Fixer Upper Committee-Phala White, pending donor's return for painting of red doors and return to natural wood on sign by the church. The decision for the trim and doors decision is still out but will be coming in soon.

Nominating and Elections-Sig Johansen has presented 13 names to Fr. John

Policy-Nyeta Haines

Safety Committee-inactive

***Sig moved to extend the meeting for 15 minutes, Manny seconded, the meeting will be continued for another 15 minutes.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Building use request form for usage/calendar, will put form on website, automatic submission to Parish Administrator; develop Google calendar for bldg. use. Webmaster will be asked to do this.

Jazzercise-Wednesday evening class has been moved to accommodate church's needs on Wednesday

January 5 will be a combined service with confirmations conducted in conjunction with Bishop visit and potluck to follow

January 26 will be a combined service with annual meeting to follow

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of end of year bonuses for hourly employees; motion to be made and voted on in December (pending budgetary status). Fr. John has also asked that hourly employees be given a raise if the budget allows.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 with recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

TO DO:

Place all covenants for approval on the Vestry agenda for December, due to exigent circumstances covenants were unable to be completed prior to today's meeting.

Create Hospitality Committee which will be comprised of at least one Vestry member and parishioners. Jennifer will put on January 2020 agenda.

Terry and Nyeta will pursue how to advertise our bilingual Wednesday services.

Fr. John will discuss with Charlotte and Frank Williams the possibility of dedicating the library in Fr. Frank's name.

Everett kindly volunteered to write an article on the Greek classes which Fr. Frank has been teaching

Nyeta will share with Manny the existing results of structural studies done on the church when Les Smith was Jr. Warden.

Manny will ask for a recommendation from both the Finance Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee about the area light.
Terry will continue trying to get ahold of Lori Gormley about making more name tags. Sig asked Terry to let him know if he was successful, as Sig thought he might have a way to contact her.
Place radio advertisement discussion on the January Vestry agenda, Jennifer strongly suggested pursuing the bilingual advertisement and time slot appropriate to our local bilingual audience.
Place end of year bonus discussion on December agenda
Nyeta will purchase Adobe Pro for Eric's use.
Phala will get with the Fixer Upper Committee and donor to finalize recommendation of wooden trim work and color.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Terrazas, Vestry Clerk

Daughters of the King News



Well, whew! Another year gone by! Went fast, didn't it? Now it is Advent again, the beginning of a new year for the Church: December 1st. This means that Christmas is just a few blinks of the eye ahead. Whew!

I'm not ready for Christmas; I never am. It is difficult to handle the fact that Advent is a time of slowing down for many Christians; but also a time of speeding up for the world of commerce surrounding us, and for us as well. Making out our gift lists, shopping (for some of us, already done!) Christmas cards, holiday baking, planning for parties and Christmas dinner; decorating the whole house inside and out, and whew! the tree!

But the Lord bids us "slow down." Spend some "quality time" with Me. Remember that this is also a quiet time, a time for reflection – not only on the year that is passing, but on the Birth of our Savior, in reality 2019 years ago, and in our hearts, now, and every day. The weeks before Christmas bristle with the Good News: "Prepare ye the Way of the Lord," the prophet shouts, and the Gentile Magi follow the Star to Bethlehem.

Advent is a time to pray. I like this little prayer, which came inside a birthday card years ago:

Lord,

I have too much to do, but it's all important.

Help me to set priorities so that I don't
feel lost in the pace and the pressure.

Give me the wisdom and energy to
accomplish what's necessary without
wasting time or effort.

And help me to make the best use of my day,
Remembering that time is a precious gift from You.

We wish you and your loved ones a peaceful Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

For His sake,

The Daughters of the King: Johanna Binneweg, Lucy Gray, Kathy Fisher, Chickie Lerdal, Jane Madrid,
Bink Nelson

Operating Income and Expense Summary for the month of October 2019:

	Current Month	Current Mo. Budget	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget
<u>Income</u>	18,012.32	17,433.33	172,984.84	178,833.30	218,000.00
Expense	17,886.96	19,732.58	170,030.77	178,245.07	214,221.88
Variance	125.36	-2,299.25	2,954.07	588.23	3,778.12

Deck the Halls!

It's that time of year, again, brothers and sisters! Christmas! As usual, we will be creating our Victorian Christmas Card in our beautiful sanctuary, as we await the celebration of the birth of our Savior. This project involves the "hanging of the greens" inside the church along the walls, with lots of joyful green wreaths, red bows, poinsettias, etc.--and many hands make light work!

The Altar Guild heads up the task, with the plan and the supplies. But we need the help of many others, especially at least two persons who do not mind climbing high ladders. We also need two tall (10-ft or taller) ladders to reach the high corners to hang the greens. If you have such a ladder, or can borrow one, please let Margo or Johanna know.

The Greening will take place on **Sunday, December 22**, right after church (and coffee hour, of course!). It is lots of fun! Bring the children and grandchildren! No one is too young (or too old!). And, in the immortal words of Tiny Tim: "God Bless us, one and all."

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, December 22nd—8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Greening of the Church after 10:30. Any persons who can help the altar guild would be gratefully welcomed

Tuesday, Christmas Eve, December 24th—4:30 Carol Singing in the church

5:00 Family service, Rite

11:00 Midnight Mass, Rite

Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25th 10:00 Christmas Day, Joint service

@St. Andrew's with coffee hour

Sunday, December 29th—8:00 a.m. and 10:30, Christmas I

Tuesday, December 31st—Office closed for New Year's Eve

Soup Kitchen

Wednesday, January 1st—Holy Name Day

Office Closed for New Year's Day

Saint of the Month

Greater Love Hath No Man:
Ted Howden, December 11

Ted Howden is a martyr from our diocese. He was a chaplain confined in a Japanese prison camp during World War II, and died because he gave most of his scanty rations to men he felt needed them more than he did. We've already written about him, but since the diocese will be remembering him on December 11, it seems a good idea to repeat what we've said.

He was born in Maryland in 1902, to the Rev. Augustus and Angelica Howden. Fr. Howden Sr. Must have had a distinguished career. I don't know about it, but in 1914 he was named bishop—hold your breath, now—of the Missionary District of New Mexico and Southwest Texas. Whew! I'm so glad I'm a priest of the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

The family of course moved to Albuquerque but Ted—and some of the other kids, I presume—was educated in the east, at Kent School in Connecticut and then at Yale. He discovered his vocation in college and went on to three years at the General Theological Seminary in New York. His father ordained him in 1929 and he was made rector of the church in Roswell.

Every diocese or area can point to a few pioneers who get the whole thing going. In our area it's Preacher Lewis—(and some others who don't get the credit they deserve, such as McDonnell who built the first church and the Duncan family who shared the work and probably made it possible.) In Lincoln County and the surrounding area it was Howden. He held services in Artesia, and also in Lovington and Hobbs where towns were starting to develop. In Ruidoso he celebrated in the Navajo Hall—the Church of the Holy Mount wasn't there yet. He felt that Lincoln County needed at least a chapel and raised the money to build one, St. Anne's. It was the first non-Roman church in the county, and is still there. And, closer to the point of our story, he was in the army, as Chaplain of the 200th Artillery, in the National Guard.

After Pearl Harbor the National Guard was federalized and the outfit was sent to the Philippines—some of us remember President Roosevelt saying we had “prepared for a short war” there. Howden's outfit was stationed on Bataan. He was a good chaplain and popular; he held outdoor services at various installations, and had plenty of cigarettes and candy to distribute. It helped that he was an actual soldier.

Then came the invasion, the surrender and the infamous Death March, on which 18,000 lost their lives. Howden survived, was sent to prison camp and transferred a couple of times; I don't know the details. He dispensed what support and comfort he could and, more



to the point, distributed a good deal of his scanty rations to men he felt needed it more than he did. (What makes this especially vivid is that chaplains only got hlf the gfood the other men did; the Japanese said the talked instead of working.) So he starved. His starvation brought on beri beri, and on December 11, 1941, he died. It was a year before his family was told about it. He was buried near the Davao prison camp, but after the war his body was brought home and reburied in Albuquerque.

I've called him a "martyr." In a way, this isn't strictly true; noone said, "Give up your Christian faith or lose your life." But "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." That's enough of a martyr for me, and I imagine for most of us. On December 11 we'll hold a service in his honor at St. James. If you can be there I hope you will.

—Father Frank



December 2019 Birthdays

1	Zack Libbin	23	Bailey Bonfantini
2	Richard Fleming		Linda Joyner
12	James Hanna	27	Carol Nike
	Lynn Marshall		Hobie Veitch
		30	Elisa Reagan

If your name is not listed and should be, please call the office (526-2389) and let us know.

We'd love to wish you a Happy Birthday!

Using IRA Funds to make a Deductible Charitable Contribution.

Making a charitable contribution from your IRA not only allows you to support a good cause, it also offers tax advantages. Funds from an IRA can be used for charitable donations if it is done correctly.

Normally, a distribution from a traditional IRA incurs taxes since the account holder didn't pay taxes on the money when they put it into the IRA. But account holders 70½ or older who contribute directly from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity (like St. James Episcopal Church) can donate up to \$100,000 without it being considered a taxable distribution. The deduction effectively lowers the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI).

To avoid paying taxes on the donation, the donor must follow the IRS rules for qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), aka charitable IRA rollovers. Most churches, nonprofit charities, educational organizations, nonprofit hospitals, and medical research organizations are qualified 501(c)3 organizations. (St James is a qualified 501 (c)3 organization.) The charity will also not pay taxes on the donation.

Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (aka tax reform) increased the base standard deduction, for 2019, to \$12,200 for individuals, \$18,350 for heads of household, and \$24,400 for married couples filing jointly, there will be fewer taxpayers that will itemize on Schedule A, typically where qualified charitable contributions were claimed. This method allows an upfront deduction without itemizing. (Please note this deduction and other donations to charity that don't use IRA funds can still be claimed as an itemized deduction if the taxpayer is able to itemize.)

The donation can also help meet all or part of the IRA's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. (Owners of traditional IRAs must start taking RMDs at age 70½ or face tax penalties; Roth IRAs do not require distributions while the account holder is alive.) The charity must receive the donation by Dec. 31 for the amount to be applied to that year's tax return.

QCDs are a good choice for individuals who otherwise could not deduct all or part of their charitable donations because of the IRS rule prohibiting a deduction for donation amounts that exceed 60% of a taxpayer's AGI. This rule might appear to affect only wealthy taxpayers who give generously, but it also affects anyone retired with little to no income who still wants to make a deductible donation.

Another way to donate IRA assets is through an estate after the donor's death by naming the charity as the designated beneficiary of the IRA. The charity will receive whatever percentage of the assets the account owner provides for on the beneficiary form. Distributions from SIMPLE IRAs are ineligible to be QCDs.

Using an IRA to make a charitable donation can help lower a tax bill and help a worthy cause. Distributions must be made directly to the charity, not to the owner or beneficiary. All distribution checks need to be made payable to the charity or they will be counted as taxable distributions. If used properly, this QCD rule will provide charitably minded IRA owners with a convenient tax deduction for years to come. Please check with the financial institution of your IRA for more information.

ATTENTION: Notice of Change in Publication of TOGETHER

Due to the required budgetary reductions in the diocesan budget, Together will no longer be mailed to our mailing list free of charge in 2020. Persons wishing to receive a printed copy of Together will be asked to subscribe.

Information on subscriptions and the rates for printed copies will be announced later this year and printed in the January-February issue which will be published in the 2019 calendar year and mailed free of charge.

To receive notification of the availability of the electronic version of Together for download, please send your name, congregation, and email address to InTheLoop@dioceserg.org



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Mesilla Park, NM 88047
Tel.: 575-526-2389, FAX: 575-526-4821

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Someone once said, in a Christmas poem, "Love came down at Christmas." That's what love is. To give, and not to count the cost. To give, not for what one can get, but for what the other can receive. That's what love is. God so loved the world, that he gave.

—Bishop Michael Curry



St. James' Holy Eucharist Service Schedule

102 St. James St. (corner University and South Main)

Sundays at 8:00 am Rite I

Adult Sunday School 9:30 am

Children's Sunday School & Nursery 10:15 am

Sundays at 10:30 am Rite II

Wednesdays at 10:00 am Rite I

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Outreach Service