

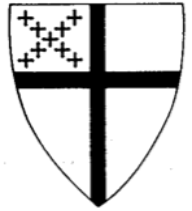


Give me my scallop-shell of quiet  
My staff of faith to walk upon,...  
and thus I'll take my pilgrimage.  
— Sir Walter Raleigh

# 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.”

Luke 6:27-28 (English Standard Version)



January 2021

**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 Rev. John Tober, *Rector*

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

“ “For it is good to be children  
sometimes, and never better than  
at Christmas, when its mighty  
Founder was a child himself.” “

—Charles Dickens

<i>Annual Meeting</i>	2
<i>Vestry Minutes</i>	3
<i>Music Notes</i>	4
<i>Birthdays</i>	6
<i>Finance</i>	7

# ANNUAL MEETING

The Executive committee and the Vestry have spent quite a bit of time preparing for the inevitable virtual annual meeting. We want to make sure that all parish members who want to participate in the annual meeting will be allowed and encouraged to do so. In order to do this, we had to add a paragraph to our bylaws to allow for an online virtual type of annual meeting to occur (which we did at the November meeting.). We want to ensure that all who want to run for the open vestry and delegate positions know about them and may submit their names for inclusion in the election. Confidential voting must be considered and folks uncomfortable with technology still be able to participate in the election. Therefore a timeline has been established and is being followed to make sure that we cover all contingencies. .

## TIMELINE

- January 4-all reports for annual meeting due from all wardens and chairpersons of all committees
- January 4-email a letter of intent to attend annual meeting with request from all parishioner to determine the need for paper ballot or Zoom invitation to vote electronically. All will be asked to email Eric <saintjameslc105@gmail.com> back so that he will be able to keep a list of Zoom invitees and who will need a paper ballot Eric will maintain the list so that he will be able to show who will need to receive a paper ballot and who will need to be invited to the Zoom meeting and electronic election.
- January 4 – Finance Committee meeting
- January 5-Special Vestry meeting concerning Finance
- January 11-deadline for parishioners to request their voting choice back to the Parish Administrator . If unable to use email, please call Eric by January 11
- January 13-annual meeting packets mail out to all parishioners
- January 13-ballots will be mailed to those who have requested a ballot with a self-addressed envelope addressed back to the church (must be separate from the annual meeting reports)
- January 19-last meeting for the existing vestry members
- January 27-all paper ballots must be returned to the church by 5:00 PM. We encourage all to mail to lessen CoVid exposure. Parishioners will be asked not to take by the church
- January 28-30-date to be determined by Nomination committee, committee and the Clerk will meet to verify the votes cast by paper ballot
- January 31-annual meeting online via Zoom with electronic elections. Nominations committee will verify the electronic votes and will combine those with the pre-counted ballot votes
- January 31-vestry meeting via Zoom immediately after the Zoom general meeting. At that time, the new Vestry members will be officially added to the 2021 Vestry. The Clerk and the Treasurer will be elected at this meeting.
- February 7-installation of new Vestry members

## CHANGE TO BYLAWS

In the event that a physical annual meeting is unable to be held, the Vestry will determine how the annual meeting and elections will proceed. The Vestry will use appropriate technology to allow nominations and elections. In the event that an election may not be held in person, votes may be cast by paper ballot with a specified date for returning to be included in the official count. The other way to vote will be by electronic voting with a link provided to all who request it. Each parishioner will be allowed to cast his/her vote electronically or by mailing in a paper ballot. The ballot must be received at the church within three working days (the Wednesday prior) to the Annual Meeting. Any ballot received after that deadline will not be counted.

More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the actual event. We encourage everyone to make sure that you are receiving the email from our Parish Administrator. Thank you.

Stay safe and healthy!

Manny Terrazas  
Senior Warden

## St. James' Vestry Minutes December 15, 2020

### RECTOR REPORT-FR. JOHN TOBER

No news on the COVID front. Diocesan clergy met last week and that was largely the message then, as well. Aside from San Miguel county, NM is in the red. Dona Ana county sits at 20.30% positivity rate right now (12/15/2020) with >8/100K cases daily. We have trended largely downward as a state since 11/22/2020, though. Again, the diocese's requirement for considering opening the doors is a positivity rate of <10%.

COVID has touched our parish family directly, with several parishioners being infected, recently. As much as I hate to do it, we need to stay closed as a safeguarding measure.

Holiday week services to be posted online:

Advent 4, 12/20/2020 to be recorded Monday, 12/16/2020

Christmas eve with John, 12/24/2020 in the can (Monday)

Christmas day with Tom Lowe, 12/25/2020 in the can, shortly (Tuesday)

Christmas 1, 12/27/2020 to be recorded Monday, 12/21/2020

### SR. WARDEN REPORT-MANNY TERRAZAS

Lynn and I will be meeting with Fr. John next week to go over his evaluation results

Sig, John and I will be meeting to set up regular office hours via Zoom and to discuss how/when to set up ongoing weekly Zoom meetings.

### JR. WARDEN REPORT-LYNN MARSHALL

### TREASURER-NYETA HAINES

Finance reports for November

Small business continuity grant

Meeting happened on December 5 to set budget for next year

\$13500.00 estimate was granted to us and the check is ready to be picked up by Fr. John tomorrow. PPE paperwork is still pending on government side, we have turned in all required documentation. Nyeta is working on another grant

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS-LYNN MARSHALL (SEE JR. WARDEN REPORT ABOVE)**

**Alarm System** – Sig is still looking for a system that meets all of our needs

**Stained Glass Window for Parish Hall**-Terry Meyer checked with the company Monday, Dec.

7<sup>th</sup>. The latest progress report is the window is now in the production phase and will likely be shipped to Las Cruces January 6, 2021. It will likely arrive at St. James Episcopal Church on Wednesday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. The estimated date of arrival is plus or minus one to two weeks. However, this is the best estimate as of Monday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Terry Meyer will continue to monitor its progress and will make arrangement with La Ventura Glass regarding the installation.

## **EVANGELISM, MISSION AND OUTREACH-TERRY MEYER**

The November meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. The December meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2020.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-MANNY TERRAZAS** Present: Fr. John, Manny, Lynn, Nyeta, and Jennifer, held December 8, 2020

All vestry members will be asked to call each person in their section on the phone tree list with the points to be discussed as listed below. Three phone calls are to be made between now and January 9. Thank you!

## **PHONE TREE-TALKING POINTS**

Vestry members please cover the talking points #1-7 as seen below

Call the week of **December 8-15** to check in

Call the **week of 16-24th** to wish Merry Christmas and give them details of when Zooms will be available

Call the week of **January 1-9** to prompt about calling or emailing Eric about voting preference for Annual Meeting

Talking points:

1. Candidates : Vestry-Jennifer Huntsberger Dottie Storey, Mary Ganier, & Phil Benson Delegate -Johanna Binneweg.
2. **If you would like to run for Vestry or Delegate, it is not too late, please notify Eric.** 2
3. Annual meeting is set for the 31 as a zoom. Let Eric know via phone call or email if you need a paper ballot or will participate via Zoom with electronic voting
4. Advent video on Thursday night at 6:00 PM on Zoom
5. CoVid update-positivity rate as of 11/30 was 20.30%, cases per 100,000 is 90.8% Governor believes we are declining but this will depend on possible infections from Thanksgiving visits
6. Fr. John will ask Barbara to record Christmas hymns, date will be set for broadcasting
7. Christmas Eve service will be recorded, date will be set for broadcasting
8. Christmas Day service will be recorded, date will be set for broadcasting
9. Add the information about zoom for office hours and coffee hour to share with the people you call.

**Finance Committee-Nyeta Haines**

**Pastoral Care-Fr. John-inactive**

**Personnel-Nyeta Haines, inactive**

**Stewardship-Sig Johansen-Fr, John** blessed the ingathered pledges at the 12/6 service. We're expecting a few more pledges due to mail difficulties in early November. Mary and I will send out thank you notes this month.

**Safety-inactive**

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

**Fixer Upper-inactive**

**Hospitality-inactive**

**Nominating and Elections Committee inactive**

**Personnel-inactive**

**Policy-inactive**

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Fr. John's formal evaluation-Manny and Lynn will be meeting with him before Christmas; will be meeting early next week.
2. Action on Parishioners' Ideas:
  - Sig, John, and Manny will work on setting regular zoom meetings up. Manny, Sig and John met and have set up virtual zoom meetings for virtual office hours as well as coffee hour. Eric will be sending out an email.
  - The details on Zoom will be added to the phone tree conversation. Manny will email Rick.
  - Zooms will be set for Tuesday/Thursday afternoons for virtual office hours.
  - Fr. John wants to resurrect committee to discuss how to improve website.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Budget discussion for 2021-will be approved at January 2021 special Vestry meeting
- Nyeta presented the discussion which occurred at the Finance meeting on December 5 with the Finance Committee
- If we moved Vestry designated money into operational budget, we will have to pay Fair Share.
- Sig questioned property taxes.
- Sig shared that our current cash-operation checking 56000.00 and Charles Schwab account has 85000.00.
- Our shortfall of 2021 is approximately a third of our current checking account and a quarter of the Charles Schwab account.
- Sig spoke about running negative and seeking more money if the need arises.
- Terry spoke about the need to be positive this year; he feels that we need to be positive about what we do since 2020 was a terrible year.
- Nyeta asked how deep a negative budget is the Vestry willing to go? The vestry actually looked at each line item and how it would affect the budget if the item was left in at the full amount.
- Fr. John shared that he will not be traveling as much this next year and thus will not need money in this area. Additionally, he believes that the professional operational expenses relating to the Rector can be cut, because with CoVid there will be very limited on-site person to person meetings. Zoom meetings will continue to reduce all traveling expenses in regard to Diocese of the Rio Grande.

- Terry stated that we must advertise in order to keep our members. Nyeta asked if we know that the KRWG ads are bringing us members? Terry stated that he didn't know but that lots of businesses use KRWG for advertising.
- Manny encouraged all to speak. This needs to be a well-rounded discussion; it cannot just be two or three members speaking.
- Nyeta asked about fellowship expenses. Manny stated that fellowship will still occur but that no money will be budgeted towards these events, that the
- Technology budget-license for zoom and website
- Professional services-bookkeeper
- Jennifer urged all vestry members to speak and reminded them that they were all elected to represent the membership of St. James.
- Fellowship can be managed without budgeting for meals. Lynn shared that we have done fellowship meals via potlucks for years. God will provide.
- People may be attending other churches now (that are able to open), however, we hope they will all return when St. James is able to open again.
- CoVid expenses are gloves, hand sanitizer, face masks, dispensers, signage, etc. Terry asked what CoVid expenses were.
- Sig asked about convention and workshops. None was spent this year because of Zoom. The October convention is planned tentatively as an in-person event.
- Nyeta asked all members to email her with any ideas. Are we going to leave at a -\$18,000.00?
- Sig asked when the next Finance Committee meeting is happening.
- Glenn asked for thanks to be given to the Finance Committee and to Nyeta specifically.
- Nyeta asked for all ideas and set the deadline for ideas to be sent to her by December 28<sup>th</sup>.
- John thanked all the Vestry members for caring so deeply about the health of the parish and its future.



## *January 2021 Birthdays*

1 Laurie Gormley  
John Kirkland Sr.  
4 Tim Arend

7 Luci Kirkland

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!

**Citizens Bank Account Balances at the end of the month from Balance Sheet:**

<u>ACCOUNTS</u>	<b>OCT 2020</b>	<b>SEP 2020</b>	<b>AUG 2020</b>
Operating Account	\$ 53,718.70	\$ 58,617.06	\$ 54,690.19
Restricted Account	\$ 36,487.53	\$ 36,230.33	\$ 35,499.70
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,978.55	\$ 2,853.55	\$ 2,603.09
<u>SBA – PPP</u>	0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,153.59

**Operating Income and Expense Summary for the month:**

	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Current Mo. Budget</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Year to Date Budget</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
<u>Income</u>	<b>12,128.28</b>	18,450.00	<b>148,167.69</b>	177,516.00	213,716.00
PPP+FU+Misc	<b>0.00</b>	450.00	<b>23,378.25</b>	9,500	10,400.00
Expense	<b>17,026.64</b>	22,689.80	<b>172,938.20</b>	185,494.53	-223,965.01
Variance	<b>-4,896.36</b>	-4,239.80	<b>-1,392.26</b>	1,521.47	150.99

Please note, that in the column "Year to Date" it shows that we had more Expenses than Income. The row PPP+FU+Misc stands for Payroll Protection Program, Facility Use (Jazzercise) and Miscellaneous Income. The current month income is the lowest amount during 2020 and also in the month of October for the past 10 years.

**St. James' Weekly Bible Studies:**

Fr. Frank continues to hold bible study by phone. His class is working through the prophets in the bible. There are two sessions, one on Sundays at 9am and at noon on Wednesdays. To find out how to join, please contact the church office

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

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“Love is a commitment to seek the good and to work for the good and welfare of others. It doesn't stop at our front door or our neighborhood, our religion or race, or our state or your country's border. This is one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth. *Amen.*”

—Bishop Michael Curry



**St. James' Holy Eucharist**  
**Online Services**  
<https://stjameslascruces.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/St-James-Episcopal-Church-Las-Cruces-NM-111002510430878/>