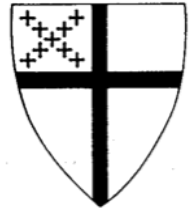




The Staff



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."

June 2021

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 Rev. John Tober, *Rector*

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

“*Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.*”

— *Voltaire*

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From the Rector's Desk

Dear St. James' Family—

When I was in the Air Force, we marked the beginning of Summer with Memorial Day and the end of Summer with Labor Day. In-between, there were the 101 days of Summer. Last year, I created my own project for the 101 days of Summer, the 101Days of Summer Diet. I was really successful, but then around Christmas time, I started backsliding. I find now that I've gained half the weight back. So, one goal I'm planning to work on is to recover my lost ground and hopefully meet the same goal as last year, with the 2021 101 Days of Summer Diet. I do hope it doesn't become an annual event!



Goals are a necessary part of the human condition. They're a necessity for business, for school, for relationships, for our own growth and development. For many of us for the past year, a goal may well have been just to get through this. But as we emerge from COVID, it's time to start thinking about goals again. Maybe we have goals that haven't been met that we need or desire to take up again. Maybe there are different goals we want to set, either as individuals, or as a community.

God, I suspect, had a goal for God's time on earth. I think God sees that we are succeeding in that goal. The disciples, we're now learning in our Sunday lectionary, developed goals. Similarly, the vestry and I are beginning to think about missional goals for ourselves and for St. James'.

I encourage you to think about setting a new goal or re-setting a lapsed goal to pursue this summer... maybe join me in pursuing some facet of better health for yourself. Think about the goals you have for our community and how we can achieve those goals together, and then communicate that goal to others. Like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon, we may need time to exercise our wings and allow them to dry and unfurl before taking flight. It may be that summer is that time of preparation—gathering materials or people; or brainstorming and planning.

The mission field is ripe for harvest, how can we move forward into the field and do God's work together?

With many blessings,

John+



St James Sewing Circle

The St James Sewing Circle has returned. Albeit smaller than usual, we can accommodate 14 at one time. We are using one round table per person and two rectangular tables with six foot distancing between all, masks in place, and all necessary CoVid protection. It is so good to be back together doing what we so enjoy! Thank you for continuing to allow us to use the parish hall.

St. James' Vestry Minutes

May 17, 2021

CALL TO ORDER - Fr. John opened meeting at 6:05 p.m.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM - Fr. John declared a quorum.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER – Fr. John began meeting with a prayer, the Joy and God's Creation.

BIBLE STUDY – Fr. John study covering *Gospel According to Mark* and *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark* by Marcus Borg, Chapter 4. All members participate in discussion.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - (action item) Susan moved to accept the Agenda, Dottie seconded, motion passed to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - (action item) April 2021 Minutes presented by Luci Kirkland. Phil moved to accept the Minutes Dottie seconded, motion passed for approval of the Minutes.

RECTOR'S REPORT -- Fr. John

A lot happened in April/May. As of today (5/13) the CDC has announced looser guidelines. However, the Diocese of the Rio Grande haven't changed requirements to keep the church open; my understanding is they're waiting for a statement from the State of New Mexico. In the meantime, we still have to maintain 6ft social distance, wear masks, and wash hands. My supposition is that the diocese will create a policy of informed individual responsibility and pass over the Phase 3 workbook requirements, but we'll have to wait to see.

The long and short for St. James' is, until the 6ft social distancing requirement is reduced, our capacity hasn't changed. We still have max space for 10 families. So, during services, that still means 1 pew for ushers, 1 for readers, 1 for guests, and 7 for parishioners. We have been hovering around/exceeding max capacity; my hope is the Wednesday eve service will ease that strain until requirements are relaxed... and I plan to keep the service regardless of the diocese's timeline, just as we had pre-COVID.

Phase 3: still working on it. It's a pastoral challenge, not a logistical one. The easy part is figuring out how to introduce people into the space; the hard part is planning people to do the work that they haven't done for the past year, and what we want church to be moving forward.

I think the time has come to resume practices such as our monthly liturgy planning meetings, and to begin planning and organizing for next Fall to begin outreach activities. As above, I/we need to work on the logistics and who does what for which service to make sure we have our bases covered.

We're working on plans to send 2 of our teenagers to Summer camp. Only going to be at Bishop's Ridge; not enough interest in the Sacramento Mountains camp, so it was canceled.

Thanks to Sr. Warden Sig and John Kirkland for their work on the next phase of technology in the church. I do believe our online presence is key to the future viability of St. James'. Thanks also to Jr Warden Lynn for all her work on improvements to our physical plant. And finally, thanks to Godfrey Crane for taking on culling our on-site physical records and shipping what we can to the archives and planning for destruction of what we no longer need. Thanks also to Nyeta and Mary G for assuring our required financial records are conserved.

Discussion ensued about current restrictions, maximum space for 10 families in the church because of space limitation. Fr. John explained that we can only use 10 pews per the Diocese. It is how it has been defined by the Diocese and the Vestry has said they will uphold that. My hope is that in the next week or week and a half, the Diocese will loosen their restriction. If they would loosen the restrictions by 3 feet separation, we would more than double our footprint in the nave. The discussion continued regarding the CDC guidelines and support from the State. It was asked if we are waiting to see if the Diocese is going to go with the state and the CDC guidelines because the state has said the churches can let everyone in and things like that. Someone had heard that Albuquerque's Episcopal church, St. Mary's, had 87 people attend for Mother's Day and that church is not much bigger than ours. It was also voiced that when you hear that churches are opening to larger capacity and the CDC has changed its guidelines and the state is supporting it, you wonder what is taking the Diocese so long to decide. Fr. John explained that he didn't know why it takes them as long as it does. He presumes it's because they are talking to the Chancellors and Michael is talking to his brother and sister Bishops and taking council with them. It was stressed by the Vestry that Fr. should let Diocese know that the Vestry and parishioners are wanting to know something soon. The Vestry wants some acknowledgment of what the CDC and state has decided. It was also stated that they would like to know how the Diocese would feel if they were turned away from a church. One of our ushers had to turn away 3 people this past Sunday which was hard to do.

SR. WARDEN'S REPORT – Sig Johansen

We continue to move out of the pandemic and into normalcy. Ellen has resumed Jazzercise classes in the parish hall, and the quilting group continues to meet there. We are still restricted from more attendance at in-person services by the six-foot rule, and we have not received relief from either the state or the diocese. We continue to live stream one service per week, alternating rites. John Kirkland Jr. has very kindly volunteered to help with the streaming.

JR. WARDEN'S REPORT – Lynn Marshall

Work continues in the office, painting has been completed the floor has been installed, and furniture has been moved back in, the storage has closet has been cleaned out and organized. Work continues on sorting through all the materials that were in the bookcases, and going through the myriad files that were in the file cabinets and desks. My thanks to Nyeta Haines, Godfrey Crane and Jennifer Terrazas for volunteering for this mountain of sorting. The old computers and office equipment that hadn't been used in years have been dispatched. New visitor chairs were purchased and the blind for the West window has arrived. The Adventure continues.

The blinds have been purchased for the Sunday School Room and half are installed. On Saturday May 8, Pat Lamb, Godfrey Crane, John and Luci Kirkland, Fr. John and Rick and I moved the Sunday School stuff back in. We made a good dent in cleaning up the room that has been the unusable Youth Group Room.

The Thursday Quilt group started meeting again in the Parish Hall on the 15th of April and the ladies are very happy to be back.

Ellen Kamp has resumed Jazzercise with the current requirements for social distancing and reduced numbers. We are thrilled to have them back.

The dedication of the plaque presented to the St. James' Parish Hall was held after the second service on Mother's Day.

Our thanks to Jane Madrid for all her work to make this happen, stay tuned for pictures from the dedication. We've received the electronic equipment (additional cameras, wiring, safety system, and Wi-fi upgrade) but have not completed installation yet. Hopefully, we'll complete it on Wednesday 5/12.

Rick and I are leaving for Indiana on the 16th of May. Godfrey Crane and Pat Lamb will be taking care of monthly maintenance while we are away.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mary Ganier (provided separately)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mary

Have a quote on outdoor sign. Two-faced sign LED sign 4 ½ x 2 feet, quote \$2,017.00. Sign will require that a frame be made for it. Sig will send information to Vestry for discussion.

Setting up calendar for paying bills timely and looking to auto pay additional bills.

Financial Review will be in late May or June.

Building and Grounds – Lynn (see under Jr. Warden's Report)

Evangelism Missions and Outreach – Jen We are still information gathering for the EMO committee. Jen received a note from Terry Meyer advising that church advertising should not be EMO but with someone who has marketing skills. Fr. agreed and felt Pat Lamb might be good candidate.

Stewardship – inactive. Susan asked to step down but will work with it. Fr. will look at finding other members for this committee.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Audit

Committee members are Phil Benson, John Fountain, and Dottie Storey. The Audit Committee is Phillip Benson, John Fountain, and Dottie Storey. Mary Ganier and Nyeta Haines will be working jointly with the Audit Committee. Mary and Nyeta will be contacting the Audit Committee the week of May 24th to set up the committee's meeting time. The goal is to have the Audit Ready for the Vestry to receive/approve at the June 21 Vestry meeting. The Audit is due to the Diocese on June 30th.

Nominating and Elections – inactive

Personnel Committee – Sig

The committee met 5/7 and reviewed the existing covenants (Rector, Parish Admin, and Music Director were signed last year, Organist and Custodian are still in draft). Revisions to the covenants for 2021/2022 will be reviewed tonight and consist largely of editorial corrections or updates to reflect current practice and

expectations.

The committee recommends:

No increases in salary or wages for 2021 through June 2022, due to the church's financial situation.

Development of a covenant for Fr. Frank.

Discussion of the Music Director/Organist and Webmaster positions during the financial review in late May or early June.

Approval of final covenants at the June Vestry meeting.

Execution of covenants to cover July 2021 through June 2022 by the end of June.

No vote is required now.

Pastoral Care – Fr. John

No change with residential facilities.

Phone tree needs to continue to be called once a week and include reminder to make reservation to attend services.

Policy – Nyeta we will look at this in June.

Safety Committee – Sig unless something arises, we will look at this in June.

Hospitality Committee – inactive

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery plots – Fr. John

Parishioner found another vendor. We will try putting this on Craigslist and Facebook or go back to the Cemetery.

We had put them on Craigslist and Facebook in the past with no luck, but there may be more people looking now for things like that.

Cleaning and purchase items for office – Fr. John

Office refurbishes in progress. (See Jr. Warden Report.)

Dedication of Parish Hall stained-glass window, and library – Fr. John

We would like to have a dedication in the Parish Hall for our new beautiful stained- glass window. If you have not been by to see it, contact Fr. John to come by and see it. Also, we are planning to dedicate the library to Fr. Frank. *(We hope to have the dedication in August or September in anticipation that most everyone will be vaccinated, and restrictions will be lifted so all will be able to attend).*

The portrait of Fr. Frank has gone missing. If you have any information about this, please let Fr. John know. No new information on the missing portrait.

Fr. John will contact Rev. Jeanne Lutz to help track down Fr. Frank's portrait.

Safeguarding training –Luci all completed.

Church credit card for Fr. John and Sig. Mary and Nyeta have started working on this and will bring it to the Vestry.

Tabled

Phase III Workbook Amendment

NEW BUSINESS

Vestry financial brainstorming meeting - we will have a special vestry meeting by June 12 to discuss budget priorities and strategy.

ADJOURNMENT: Sig moved to adjourn, and Susan seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Fr. John at 7:35 p.m. with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Junior Warden's Report

Greetings from Your Junior Warden

Junior Warden April

It has been a long year, but there might be a light at the end of the tunnel. We were able to hold a clean up day on March 27th in preparation for Palm Sunday and Holy Week Services. Thirteen people showed up to spruce up the property, and prepare for the outdoor services from Palm Sunday through Easter. We cleaned up so much trash we filled the dumpster and several people hauled bags of trash home with them to put in their own cans.



We marked the grounds on the West side of the church to accommodate the separation rules, hauled chairs, podium and miscellaneous tables to the church to make set up easier. Overall, we had a great turn out for all of the services, my thanks to all the people who helped break down and store the furniture and accoutrements after every service. Easter saw 42 people in person at St. James' and while traffic was sometimes a challenge, we sure gave people something to talk about.

We also got some essential maintenance done this month. The evaporative coolers were serviced and turned on. The water heater in the Sunday School room was installed, and the water heater in the Parish Hall was purged so no more rotten egg smell. The renovation on the church office began. Furniture was removed and the green carpet pulled up. Painting began and Phala White and I had quite a chuckle because we thought the office was so small, we would be able to knock it out in a day, a week later we were still painting. The flooring has been purchased and we are currently working on an installation schedule.

Upcoming events for your information and perhaps participation: A plaque has been installed in the Parish Hall Narthex that was presented to St. James by the El Camino Real Chapter of the National Society Colonial Dames. There will be a dedication after the 10:30 Service on Mother's Day, May 9th. It will be mostly outdoors so put it on your calendar.

There will also be Dedications of the Library and The Stained-glass memorial window that was installed in the Parish Hall. Dates are yet to be determined but keep reading your newsletters for more information.

Junior Warden May Newsletter

First, my apologies that you are reading two months of missives instead of the current month. I missed the deadline in April and so you get both reports in May.

Work continues in the office. The flooring has been installed, the desks have been returned. Guest chairs were purchased, blinds for the West window have arrived. Thanks to Phala White and Godfrey Crane for painting help. Thank you Nyeta for going through all of the notebooks that lined the bookcase. Thanks to John Kirkland and Sig Johansen for cleaning out the rat's nest under the counter top, behind Eric's desk. Every phone, internet or other wire ever installed at St. James' was present until we started this remodel. I am pleased to report that non-essential items have been removed. Special thanks to Rick for putting up with my obsessive-compulsive work in the office.

We had another gathering of workers on May 8th as we moved items back into the Sunday School Room. Thanks to Pat Lamb, Godfrey Crane, John and Luci Kirkland, Fr. John, and Rick for all the help.

While moving the SS stuff we also had an opportunity to clear quite a lot of the unnecessary items stored in the youth group room. We hauled a load to Savers and half-filled our dumpster. You can now tell the size of the room. Plans will begin in the next few months how we can best use the rooms available to us. This will absolutely depend upon your input. The donors who paid to have the trim painted on the office and Parish Hall have given us the leftover paint. Godfrey Crane has agreed to start painting the doors to the offices, classrooms and Parish Hall.

The Dedication or recognition of the plaque presented to St. James' Parish Hall was done today (Mother's Day) after the second service. Many thanks to Jane Madrid for all of her efforts. Thank you also to Betty Champion for the decorations she did in the entry of the Parish Hall, I sure have missed that. Stay tuned there were pictures taken.

Rick and I are leaving next week for Indiana. We will be stopping in Rio Rancho to see our granddaughter graduate from High School, then on to the Hoosier State. When we get back to Las Cruces it will be time to start planning what's next for the physical plant. We have several rooms left to freshen or remodel. Father John's office is on the list for the fall, but we need to decide what uses we have for the meeting room and the old Youth Group Room, how can we get the most utilization from those spaces. So put your thinking caps on and ponder, how would you like to see the rooms used. Are they going to multi-functional? Dedicated to a particular activity? Start thinking folks we need your input! If you want, as you come up with ideas or over the moon dreams e-mail me your vision it will give the Vestry and the Building and Grounds Committee a place to start. Thank you all for your help and support see you in 6-7 weeks.

Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery Plots

St James was bequeathed four 4 cemetery plots several years ago and they are still available for purchase. There are two together in the Good Shepard Section C Lot 71, spaces 1 and 2, as well as two more in spaces 5 and 6. They are valued at over \$4000.00 each, however, we are willing to sell these for \$1800.00 each. If interested, please contact Sig Johansen at 1 979 595-8209 or Nyeta Haines at 575 642-9640. We do have pictures and encourage any interested person to contact us. It is also possible to see them in person, if so desired.

This guy has something to teach us all...

For the last several weeks at our church, St. James' Episcopal, I've been noticing pennies in the collection plate and outside the front door of the church. Usually, the pennies are lined up along a metal railing leading to the front door.

I wondered where they were coming from and why somebody would bother leaving just a few pennies for the church. I figured they were probably left by some children and were more trouble for the church office to count and deposit than they were worth.

About two weeks ago, the mystery was solved. A homeless man who calls himself Clint has been leaving them at the church during the week, and almost always on Sunday during the 8 a.m. service. When I am an usher, I can hear him come into the narthex. He won't go inside the nave, so I go outside to greet him. I notice that he has put a few pennies on a table in the narthex. He's pretty scruffy looking, but very friendly. He says that he has done "work" for the Episcopal church in the past, but doesn't elaborate. I invite him in, but he says he needs to go. I tell him "God bless you." Then he gets on his rickety bike, pulling some kind of trailer with all his worldly belongings and pedals off.

He obviously doesn't have much in the way of material possessions. But he has a wealth beyond what many of us have in our bank accounts. I think we should all try to emulate Clint.

From Pat Lamb's "Aero Cordero" Blog, April 20, 2021



Saint of the Month

Thomas Cranmer

To Whom We Owe Our Book of Common Prayer

Common prayer means prayer we say together, mostly in church. The Prayer Book is our trademark, and many of us love it. You may not realize what a protection it is for you. Rightly or wrongly, we aren't strong on discipline. Every now and then a popular preacher will get into his pulpit and deliver strange (not to say "peculiar") doctrines. Well, there isn't really anyone to shut him up; but whatever he says in the pulpit he has to use the book in the pew, and that's orthodox.

Cranmer was the editor of the book, and most people think he was the author of most of it. He was Henry VIII's archbishop of Canterbury, but he didn't come out with the Prayer Book until Henry was dead—although he may have been working on it for a long time. There are drafts of his early ideas about revision. Interestingly, this was being done in Spain too.; an important leader, Cardinal Quinones, was at work on the revision of the monastic services.

Young Cranmer was a professor at Cambridge. He was a promising man, and was given a minor diplomatic job. Then Henry's attempt to have his first marriage annulled came along, and just possibly it was permissible; it depended on how you read your scripture. Cranmer said, "Oh, don't bother fighting this in Rome; ask the universities what they think" It didn't work; the universities simply went along with their government's opinion. But Henry had liked the idea, and it brought Cranmer to his notice. Eventually he wrote a letter ordering him to come home (he was on a diplomatic mission), to become archbishop of Canterbury.

Meanwhile, his ideas had been changing. He had always been in favor of the "new learning", as it was called, and even in England he had been in touch with reformers. Now in Europe he became friends with reformers of the Swiss type—rather more radical than Luther—



and, on top of that, he fell in love. Her name was Margarete, she was a reformer's niece, and she must have been a remarkable woman; I wish I knew more about her.

Cranmer married her, which clergy were not supposed to do, and there he was, the principal archbishop in England, with a wife! It had to be kept secret of course, though I'm sure many people knew about it. Henry certainly did; he came to call once. But Margarete must have had a horribly dull life.

Henry died in 1547, making it possible for Cranmer to do some of the things he wanted with the church. The first Prayer Book was published in 1549, which suggests that it had been worked on for a while. It was conservative enough to upset Cranmer's reforming friends, but Cranmer believed in making haste slowly. It was more remarkable for things it didn't say than for things it did. It didn't pray for the departed, and it carefully said nothing which implied that the Mass was a sacrifice,

We can't go into what he believed—most of it doesn't affect the Prayer Book—but one place where I sharply disagree with him is the meaning of Holy Communion. I believe our Lord is right there, and it's very important to me. He believed in something called "spiritual presence"; I'm not sure I understand this, but it seems to mean our Lord is present in the eucharist through the Spirit, which is the way he's present everywhere.

All this has been taken care of now—the Prayer Book has gone through numerous editions. It says some marvelous things, and is written in beautiful English prose. The trouble is that it was written 500 years ago, and some people feel they can't understand it. Hence the modern services—Rite 2—which are all right doctrinally, but (as far as I'm concerned) sound like English 101.

Cranmer not only wrote his book, he died for it. Henry's very Protestant son, Edward VI, died as a teenager, and was replaced by Mary, a fervent Roman Catholic who had had to lead a highly difficult life.

Cranmer was imprisoned, of course, and pressured into signing a recantation of the doctrine of the eucharist he had taught. But Mary decreed he was to be burned anyway, as an example. He was chained to a pillar in the University Church in Oxford (one can still see the place where the pillar was cut into for it) and prepared to preach a previously written sermon acknowledging his errors. He got about half way through it, stopped and said, "No, this is nonsense. I believe what I was condemned for; go ahead and burn me." Which they did. He held his right hand in the flame, so that it would be burned first.

What are we to make of Cranmer. Some call him a great man; some, an opportunist. I've recently read a writer who calls him "a very human, and under-appreciated religious reformer." Let's leave it at that.

—Fr. Frank



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about love,
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—Bishop Michael
Curry



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