

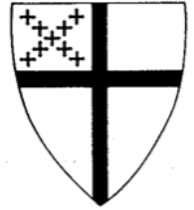


Give me my scallop-shell of quiet
My staff of faith to walk upon,....
and thus I'll take my pilgrimage.
— Sir Walter Raleigh

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)



April 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*

“ A day will come when the civilized world will deny its God, when the Church will doubt as Peter doubted. She will be tempted to believe that man has become God. In our churches, Christians will search in vain for the red lamp where God awaits them. Like Mary Magdalene, weeping before the empty tomb, they will ask, ‘Where have they taken Him?’ ”

—Pope Pius XII

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From the Rector's Desk

Dear St. James' Family—

I'd like to say Spring has sprung, but it seems we've gone straight from Winter to Summer this year! Regardless, it's time for Spring cleaning. We've had a rousing start on cleanup to welcome Holy Week, with a cleanup day on the church grounds. The church's office is getting a much-needed overhaul this week as we clean out cobwebs and musty carpet, repaint and re-floor. Amy and I are doing similar at home: we're vacuuming out the dust bunnies under the bed and mowing weeds (weeds already!) in our side lot. We're toying with the idea of seeding grass in our front yard.



That's what Easter represents: an opportunity for rebirth and renewal. Things are beginning to come alive again in our community and in our church after a year of dormancy. We had marvelous, emergent opportunities for outreach and evangelism in the past month, and I look forward to planning for more in the future. As we safely emerge from COVID, we have the opportunity to not only renew ties to the outreach we've done in the past, but also an opening to develop new community endeavors.

Now that the hustle and bustle of the Easter holiday season has died down, let's take some time and dust the cobwebs from our hearts and start gearing up to running speed. As always, there is lots to do in the world and our corner of it. May God give us the strength to do the work He has set before us.

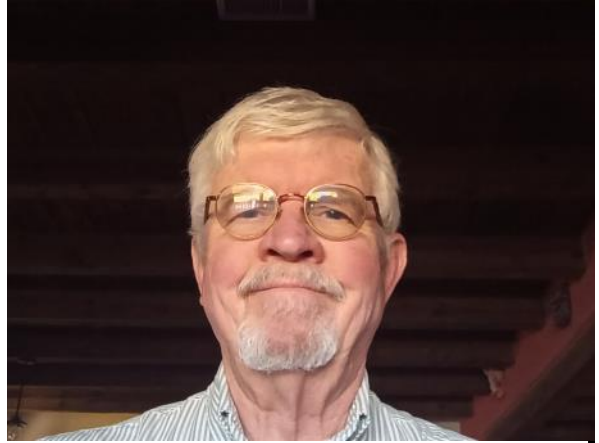
O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. ~BCP, 280

With many blessings,

john+

Senior Warden's Report—Sig Johansen

On March 30, we were given a wonderful opportunity for mission and outreach. St. Luke's in La Union directed a load of 1300 USDA food boxes (containing protein, carbs, vegetables and dairy) for distribution to the needy. Thanks to Phala White's organizational help and contacts, we were able to distribute the food to other churches, charities and individuals within two hours of starting. Members of Harvest Rain and Living Waters Assembly of God churches were very helpful with labor and equipment, and Phil Benson and John Kirkland came out to help as well. Hopefully we'll get more opportunities of this sort.



We're continuing to livestream one service per Sunday (alternating rites) for the time being. We hope to upgrade our AV equipment to improve this experience. We also plan to upgrade WiFi/internet service in the parish hall, Sunday school and library, and change the church security system (the new provider will save us about \$30/month in monitoring fee, and allow better control of access).

I want to thank all of you for your continued support, and for and for your generous contributions in March. Thanks to you, we're in the black on our budget as of the end of March! This helps us support our shared mission and vision for St. James.

In God's Peace,
Sig Johansen
Senior Warden

MUSIC NOTES:



Haven't you missed live music? I know I have. For those of you who have followed my "notes" here, you will know that music speaks to my heart and soul. I believe it does that for many of us. Pre-recorded music has its place, it soothes in a whisper. Live music however, envelopes us in a way that pre-recorded music cannot. This "good vibration" effect has been the subject of many medical studies, showing that the sound waves are actually healing to us, and yes, even to plants. Remember the '60s when people sang to their plants to help them grow?



Live music is making a comeback, slowly but surely. I recently had an outdoor recital for one of my voice students. It was salve to my soul. A local professional string quartet, "Camerata del Sol" has offered a series of free concerts to local churches. St James is hosting them on Mother's Day. I hope you will take the opportunity to hear their beautiful music in either our "outdoor sanctuary" or in the beauty of our church - depending on the CoVid regulations in May. I expect it will be outdoors, but either way, it will be wonderful to this "music-starved" soul. I hope to see you there, Sunday, May 9th at 4pm. The concert will be free but contributions will be gratefully shared between St James and the musicians.

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

St. James' Vestry Minutes February 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER – Fr. John opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. with a prayer, the Thanksgiving for Mission of the Church.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM – Fr. John declared a quorum.

BIBLE STUDY – Fr. John covering *Gospel According to Mark* 4, 5, and 6 and *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark* by Marcus Borg, Chapter 2. All members participated in discussion.

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

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

RECTOR'S REPORT -- Fr. John

I'm heartened by news from the CDC and the NMDOH sharing guidance for people who have been vaccinated to meet together, as well as that infectivity rates are dropping. However, I think it's critical to remember that we are still above the infectivity rates when social distancing and masking guidelines went into effect. We're making progress, but we're still in a dangerous place. Also, we're likely in a place where we yo-yo between services being allowed and then disallowed. We've already experienced that once. We just must be patient with the state and with the state of the disease. We also have to be patient with the realization that not everyone is getting vaccinated with the same immediacy, and people may still be uncomfortable meeting in person for a while regardless of their vaccination status. My hope is for in-person services for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter, and that's what we're planning for at the moment. Services will be on the west lawn of the church to maximize our available space. Upside is being outdoors and lots of room; downside will be ambient noise from Main St. and the interstate. We're planning right now for mid-morning services on Palm & Easter Sunday, and evening services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.

I'm talking with Mary G. and Luci K. about catechism training for our handful of teenagers. I'm very excited about the prospect of preparing our young people, and welcoming Bp. Hunn once we can open our doors again. We're talking with the other Episcopal churches in the area, as well as Peace Lutheran, right up the road from us about catechism as well as creating a joint youth group. I'm pleased about the opportunity for our kids to meet and fellowship with other young people in a church setting and the possibilities a larger group presents.

Last year I got permission to offer parishioners in leadership positions the opportunity to do some study and write a sermon. I can do this once a quarter. If there is anyone on the vestry who is interested, please let me know.

Finally, I'm planning to take a week off and get away. Amy and I are looking to go camping the week 11-18 April. We'll plan to leave directly after coffee hour and be away through the following Sunday. Fr. Tom Lowe has agreed to fill in recording the weekly service, and/or celebrating in person on Sunday, if we're able. He'll also be available for pastoral emergencies during the week.

Our limited in-person Sunday services Rite I and II went especially well. We still had a few seats open. Hopefully, next Sunday we will fill them all. Lynn did a great job ushering.

Nyeta provided us with information on how to write a sermon for those interested in doing so. Those eligible to write a sermon are defined as "a person in a leadership role within the church".

SR. WARDEN'S REPORT – Sig Johansen

On March 5, the Diocese held a warden's meeting with the Bishop and Canon via Zoom that Lynn and I attended, as did wardens from about 17 other churches. Most churches seem to be in about the same shape as us, although a few of the churches had better stewardship campaign results than we did. One or two churches felt they have identified potential new members through their live streaming and Zoom efforts. We also discussed reopening for live service and the latest requirements for outdoor service.

We're moving forward with preparations to live stream (instead of recording) and will be ready when we go to limited in-person services (which may have happened by the time we meet). We will use some recorded lectors and singers as part of the service.

Thank you all very much for your help and support for the Retreat!

JR. WARDEN'S REPORT – Lynn Marshall

The well pipe that was used to connect to the first sand filter we had, failed after the freeze. The pipe has been repaired and the connections are now underground.

The Building and Grounds Committee has been contacted, I am pleased to report that Godfrey Crane, Pat Lamb, John Kirkland, Susan Smith and Rick Marshall have all agreed to participate for another year. In addition, Godfrey Crane has agreed to serve as the Assistant Junior Warden for 2021.

If Dona Ana County returns to yellow, we are hoping to have both the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Services outside at St. James. I will be sending out an email to arrange for a workday before Palm Sunday. We will be doing some clean up and will be making arrangements for outdoor seating for the services. If we are not in the yellow we will be recording the services and posting them on the normal platforms.

Sig Johansen and I both attended the Wardens Meeting with Bishop Hunn on the 4th of March. It was encouraging to hear that we are all dealing with the same issues. Isolation being the biggest complaint. Some congregations are struggling with lack of participation with the basic running of the churches and some are struggling with severe money issues. We are blessed that we have people to help with the necessary parts to keep the doors "open" and we are blessed that we have financial reserves to help with the expenses. We need to be praying for our brothers and sisters in the Diocese. I hope to be in contact with some other Junior Wardens to see if we can offer at least emotional support and encouragement.

Fr. John will talk to Pat Lamb about digital sign.

Seating for outdoor services will be alter-in-the-round.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mary Ganier (provided separately – see under finance)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (committees are still being formed)

Finance – Sig

February monthly budget variance is large negative because we paid November 2020 and December 2020 fair share in February.

We received notification that PPP loan has been forgiven.

The Finance committee will conduct and report a budget review for the April meeting.

Mary handled City loan review and is also looking into other grants.

The Fair Share for the previous month is due on the 25th of the next month. December Fair Share was due January 25th. It was paid the first week in February and has cleared the bank. January Fair Share was due February 25th. It was paid out in late February. LATE Fair Share was paid in February – The November Fair Share that should have been paid in December did not get paid until February. FAIR SHARE PAYMENT IN THE FUTURE will be paid after the Finance Committee meeting each month.

Building and Grounds – see under Jr. Warden

Evangelism Outreach and Missions – no report, committee being formed. Vestry member will chair committee.

Stewardship – no report, committee being formed

AD HOC COMMITTEES – (no reports-committees being formed)

Audit – Fr. and Wardens working on forming committee

Nominating and Elections - inactive

Personnel Committee – still need 3 members

Pastoral Care – committee active and needs to be formed.

Policy - Nyeta sending copy of Bylaws to all vestry to have in hand. She will get with wardens to discuss other members.

Safety Committee – Safety issue arose recently at Parish Hall whereby nothing was damaged or stolen. Locks will be checked by Rector, Eric, and Mr. Grimes before leaving grounds to ensure all buildings are secured.

Hospitality Committee – Cheryl resigned from position; she needs a break. We thank her for tireless work.

Vision and Mission Committee – will report next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cemetery plots – Fr. John

Contact was made with the Parishioner who was interested in the plots. He was no longer interested because the

purchase of the plots come with addition expenses for headstones, among other things, that are exuberant and make the purchase extremely expensive. He was asked to make an offer on the plots but did not feel comfortable doing so. The vestry suggested we make him an offer that would cover the plots and costs. The offer would be \$1,800.00 for two plots. Jenn moved to approve the offer for the plots, Lynn seconded, and the motion was approved to offer \$1,800.00 for two plots.

Cleaning and purchase items for office – Fr. John

Tentative plan for some time after Easter to clean the office and purchase items needed. Tabled

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. (*Pending until COVID restrictions are lifted*)

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.

Safeguarding training – Luci believes we may have 100% of our vestry completed training modules required by DRG by the end of this month.

Employee evaluations and covenants for 2021 – to be done when personnel committee meets. Committee not completely formed.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional video cameras, office WiFi, and security upgrades - Sig (estimate sheet provided by separate email). Tabled

Church credit card for Fr. John and Sig. Citizen Bank had said no in the past to multiple signer card but may have changed. Mary and Nyeta have started working on this and will bring it to the Vestry. Tabled

KRWG re: our 2x weekly advertising time slots – Mary

They did not cancel our advertising as requested in January and are offering two options as compensation for our consideration.

Option 1: 30 free time slots and excuse last bill of \$64, or

Option 2: check reimbursement of 13 slots charged since Jan 22.

Sig moved to approve Option 1, Susan seconded, motion passed to approve Option 1.

El Paso Electric and Las Cruces Utilities auto billing – Mary. Finance committee voted to recommend that El Paso Electric and Las Cruces Utilities go to automatic billing. It was presented to the Vestry. All vestry were in favor and passed the automatic billing for El Paso Electric and Las Cruces Utilities.

Name Godfrey Crane as Asst. Jr. Warden. Lynn moved to accept Godfrey Crane, Sig seconded, motion passed to approve Godfrey Crane Asst. Jr. Warden.

Approval of signatories for the Missionary Trust investment account:

Sig Johansen, Senior Warden

Mary Ganier, Treasurer

Nyeta Haines, Asst. Treasurer

Patrick Lamb, Finance Committee Investment Director

Sig moved to approve signatories for the Missionary Trust investment account, Susan seconded, motion passed for approval of the signatories.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Luci Kirkland, Vestry Clerk

St James Episcopal Church Financial Summary

March 2021

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

ACCOUNTS	MAR 2021	FEB 2021	JAN 2021
Operating Account	\$ 69,933.99	\$ 54,917.53	\$ 65,842.96
Restricted Account	\$ 44,666.90	\$ 54,388.90	\$ 52,888.90
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ 3,250.17	\$ 3,328.55	\$ 3,403.55

Operating Income and Expense Summary for the month:

	Current Month	Current Mo. Budget	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget
Pledge/Plate Income	17,433.85	10,950.00	41,071.95	37,485.00	148,333.00
Other Income	13,562.00	15,363.00	13,604.26	15,363.00	20,163.00
Expense	- 15,779.38	-17,985.38	-52,331.85	-50,826.14	-202,689.42
Variance	15,216.47	8,327.62	2,344.36	2,021.86	-34,193.42

Restricted Account with Entries

ACCOUNT	Beginning Balance	Transfer of Funds	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
Mission and Outreach	5,811.34				5,811.34
Memorial Fund	17,572.76				17,572.76
Organ-Piano Fund	1,331.16				1,331.16
Organ Fund	4,126.65		1,000.00		5,126.65
Building Fund	6,908.07		1,500.00		8,908.07
BLDG – PH Windows	1,871.89				1,871.89
BLDG – PH Interior Refurb	8,803.76				8,803.76
BLDG – Sunday School Room	4,491.45		1,000.00		5,491.45
Flowers for Altar	1,960.23		340.00		2,300.23
Rector Discretionary Fund	3,333.18		225.00	-303.38	3,254.80
Vestry Designated Fund	29,999.28				29,999.28

Fair Share Information

FAIR SHARE	Current Month
Total Income (Operational + Restricted)	\$ 35,060.85
Total Exclusions	\$ 17,627.00
Net Disposal Income	\$ 17,433.85
Fair Share Paid for Reported Month	\$ 2,745.83



April 2021 Birthdays

3	Errol Gilliland	9	John Fountain
4	Karen Bonfantini	23	Chickie Lerdal
	Barbara Law	30	Mercedes Weaver

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!

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.

Saint of the Month

William Tyndale Translator and Martyr

They talk about “bishop and martyr,” “deacon and martyr”— what’s wrong with “translator and martyr”? Tyndale is responsible for our English Bible in two ways: he did the work and he died for it. Not that we still read exactly what he wrote; he lived 500 years ago and English has changed a bit since then. But he spoke modern English, and the various Bibles that we read in church are all based on his.

He broke a lot of ground. He was the first English translator to work from the Greek and Hebrew, the first to take advantage of the printing press, and the first to use the name, Jehovah, for God—though most scholars today would disapprove of that. More important, he was the first Englishman in several centuries to translate scripture at all: the English government was frightened of Lutheran ideas, and it was against the law to translate the bible at all without a license.

Tyndale had grown up in an area where Lollard ideas (see my article on John Wycliffe) were common. He was a subdeacon and an able linguist (he knew seven languages) and wanted badly to study scripture, but the English method of teaching it disgusted him. He said, You don’t get to look at the sacred text until you’ve had seven or eight years of pagan learning, and by that time your principles are all wrong.

After several years of independent study he applied to the bishop of London for license to translate, and received a flat No. (I suppose his reputation may have been a little dubious by then.) Anyway he left the country and enrolled in the University of Wittenberg, where Luther taught. Luther’s German translation was already available. I presume Tyndale’s stay at Wittenberg reinforced his ideas, if they needed reinforcing.



In 1528 he came out with a pamphlet in which he seemed to say that the King ought to be in charge of the church. This of course delighted Henry VIII , who was looking for a rationale to put himself in that position.

But two years later he published another one, which said that Henry’s marriage to Anne Boleyn was contrary to scripture. Henry asked the Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, to extradite him which, according to a treaty that existed between them, he should have done. Catherine of Aragon, however, the wife Henry had divorced, was Charles’ niece; he said Henry hadn’t produced any evidence.

Meanwhile, the translation was ready; how to get it into England? It had to be done secretly, but of course lots of shipowners would do it for a price. Th English authorities did their best to keep it out. In one case the bishop of London bought an entire shipment and publicly burned it. But this turned out to be a mistake. A good many good people were shocked at seeing the Bible burned, no matter in which language. Anyway, it circulated all over England.

They caught up with him of course. (Exactly who did I’m not sure, but it was done.) He was tried and convicted if being a heretic in Flanders–England had nothing to do with it. They sentenced to be burned at the stake; he was 32. They were “merciful” though–they strangled him to death first, and then burned his body. I guess that is mercy.

The irony is that, four years after Tyndale’s execution, Henry VIII authorized a translation of scripture for the realm. It wasn’t signed “Tyndale, “ but it was mostly his. And as I say, so are most of our modern versions,

–Fr. Frank



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“In spite of the fact that this Easter is the anniversary of the assassination and the martyrdom of Martin Luther King, Jr., hallelujah anyhow. In spite of the fact that these are hard times, hallelujah anyhow. ”
—Bishop Michael Curry



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