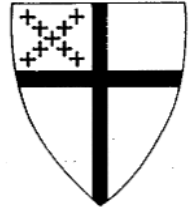




The Staff



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)

October 2018

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

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 Vono, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb (ret), *Assisting Bishop*
The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Lutz, *Priest-in-Charge*
The Rev. Dr. Frank Williams, *Assisting Priest*

“ **A**nd in this [God] showed me something small, no bigger than a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand . . . and it was round as a ball. I looked at it . . . and thought: What can this be? I was amazed that it could last, for I thought that because of its littleness it would suddenly have fallen into nothing. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and always will, because God loves it; and thus everything has being through the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, the third is that God preserves it. But what did I see in it? It is that God is the Creator and the protector and the lover. For until I am substantially united to him, I can never have perfect rest or true happiness . . . until there is no created thing between my God and me.” *Dame Julian of Norwich*

<i>From the Priest-in-Charge</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Junior Warden's Report</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Vestry Highlights</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Announcements</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Calendars</i>	<i>7-10</i>
<i>DOK</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Choir Notes</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Book Review</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Spiritual Reflections</i>	<i>15</i>

From the Priest-in-Charge,



Stewardship: A Response to Love

Some years ago, my family and I visited Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons. As part of our orientation, we watched a film at Old Faithful about the origin of our national parks. The video was narrated by Walter Cronkite. As I watched, I was struck by the number of times Cronkite used the word stewardship. Underlying his remarks, I sensed a real feeling of gratitude that America has been given such a beautiful land for our heritage. I also heard a profound sense of responsibility for the preservation and wise use of our resources.

By the time you read this, your St. James' stewardship committee will have met to begin planning our fall pledge drive. It is likely that those of you on the mailing list will be receiving a letter from me and from the committee. Should the committee choose this approach, the letter will contain a pledge card asking you to consider prayerfully what God might be calling you to commit to St. James' for 2019.

In his Forward Movement tract, *Stewardship: A Response to Love*, John C. Rettew observes that to many Christians, stewardship is a camouflage word, invented by bishops and clergy to add "an

ecclesiastical stamp" to the process of raising money to meet next year's budget. On the one hand, it is true that the term is not necessarily a religious one. Channing Bete publications defines a steward as: a person who manages the affairs of a household or an estate for an owner. But if we believe that "all things come of thee, O Lord," then a steward in the Christian sense is the manager of the affairs of God on earth. Everything we have—our time, our health and talents, our property, our relationships, the earth and its bounty—and above all, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ—all these are gifts from God.

A Christian steward serves God out of love and gratitude for these gifts, always remembering that it is not how much we have but what we do with what we have that is important. Viewed in this context, stewardship is not just another word for money; stewardship is nothing less than our way of life. For the Christian, two questions come to mind: What kind of steward am I? and Why is this an important question? To begin with the second, we try to be good and trustworthy stewards of God's creation for the reason given above, gratitude for God's gifts. Another important reason for examining our use of the resources we have is that God's nature is one of generosity and abundance—and we are called to imitate our Lord. God is generous; therefore, we try to be generous, as well.

As I ask myself what kind of steward I want to be, certain areas of my life come to mind. For example, being a good steward might involve taking better care of my health, keeping the thermostat up in the summer and down in the winter, recycling whatever I can, and praying about my expenditures. Do I really need what I am about to buy? Is there an area of my life where I can be more generous?

Your vestry has been discussing ways to be better stewards of our resources at St. James' by finding ways to save electricity in the parish hall and getting more than one bid when there is professional work to be done. We are also trying to spend wisely the money people give this church with such generosity. As individuals, I encourage each of you to ask yourselves what more you might do to use your gifts, both personal and financial, in support of your church, to help us proclaim the gospel and to serve our community. Many of you volunteer your time at El Caldito to prepare and serve food to those in need, or at the J. Paul Taylor Center to minister to troubled youth. Others work on the building and grounds at St. James' or in the parish hall so that the parish does not have to hire someone to do every task. Still others deliver altar flowers on Sundays to members or to places like Mesilla Valley Hospice. Many of you have volunteered in the Sunday school program or at the altar on Sundays or as readers for our worship.

Finally, as your vestry plans our budget for the coming year we are asking each household to make an actual commitment in writing so that we know approximately how much to expect. We will have more information about ways to make this commitment, along with more specific data about what is needed.

Many of you already give generously and regularly. For this, we thank you! As God leads, I encourage you to pray about increasing your giving, perhaps setting a goal of a certain percentage—2%, 5% or even 10%—or an increased proportion. If you give \$2 a week for every \$1,000 of yearly income, for example, consider increasing this to \$3.

There is a cliché that people should give until it hurts. Rettew suggests the opposite: that we should give until it feels good. There may be no such thing as sacrificial giving, he says, because it feels so good to give generously, as God gives generously to us. As stewards of God’s gifts, we live our whole lives in partnership with God. It is our response to the Lord for all his goodness to us. Stewardship is what we do after we say, “I believe.”

Padrecita Jeanne

RECEPTION FOR THE CONSECRATION—COOKIES REQUESTED!

In accord with Bishop-elect Hunn’s chosen theme, “Deep Roots, Broad Reach” for the 2018 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, the diocese has created a way for each parish to share the deep cultural roots of New Mexico and Far West Texas in the reception following the consecration of Bishop Hunn. The diocese has compiled a list of recipes for cookies, cakes and candies which represent the cultural influences and local products of Far West Texas and New Mexico. A specific recipe will be provided to each parish and 6 dozen cookies will be requested from the parish. Recipes include such items as:

Hopi Blue Corn sandwich cookies
Mexican Wedding Cookies
Italian Pignoli Cookies
Rosemary Hazelnut Biscotti
German Honey Ginger Cookies

Gingerbread Squares
Lemon Lavender Squares
Honey Blossom Cake Squares
German Honey Ginger Cookies
German Heidsand Shortbread

Miso Cookies
Ancho Chili Brownie Squares
Apple Cake Squares
Divinity
Mexican Fudge

If you would like to bake one of these recipes for Convention, please let Padrecita Jeanne know and she will forward you the email from the diocese with the complete list. Each parish will be asked to limit ourselves to one recipe. If each baker bakes 2 dozen, we only need three cooks! Padrecita or one of your wardens or delegates can deliver the cookies to the diocese on Wednesday, October 31st.



Junior Warden's Report

Jr. Warden Report for October 2018 respectfully submitted by Manny Terrazas

Greetings,

Another project will be getting underway soon. Cheryl Wilson and Kay Schumacher have drawn up a plan to renovate the Parish Hall Kitchen. The work will include a new refrigerator, new stove, new cabinets, fresh paint and other work. This work has all been underwritten by an anonymous donor! Many thanks to Cheryl and Kay and the donor!!!! The detailed work is posted on the new bulletin board located by the Parish Hall bathrooms. As part of the work the Building and Grounds Committee has made a recommendation to replace the water heater as well. There should be very limited impact to Sunday coffee hours and other activities due to Cheryl and Kay's planning. St. James Day Celebration went off without a hitch, due to Cheryl Wilson's great planning and organization. Jennifer and I would like to thank to who helped setup before the event and cleanup after the event.

Setup: THANKS TO: Cheryl W., Bob and Judy M.,

Cleanup: Elsie B., Phala and Larry W., Ruth W., Jane, Nyeta H., Judy and Bob M. , Dugan.



Thank you all for your support and words of encouragement,
Manny Terrazas, Jr. Warden

Vestry Highlights from September Meeting

- Parish Hall monitor, Cheryl Wilson, and Kay Schumacher presented a plan to the vestry for a total refurbishment of the kitchen. The plan will be implemented in three time periods. Stages include: Removal of vents, hood, and conduit, regluing loose tiles and painting walls and ceiling an off-white; replacing cabinets and counters; replacing refrigerator and stove. All this will be paid for by an anonymous donor who has already arranged for a local contractor to work with. Vestry gave unanimous approval and asked to convey thanks to the donor.
- Padrecita reports that Fr. Frank is now in Southwest Rehab, recovering from what appears to be a relapse of this summer's pneumonia. She also reports four regular Sunday school students and five teachers, with potential for a few more students. She has requested that Bishop-elect Hunn, who will preach and celebrate on October 21, meet with the congregation after both services and also hold a special meeting with the vestry.
- Junior Warden, Manny Terrazas, reports that during the refurbishing of the kitchen, the water heater under the sink will be replaced. Ample restricted funds are available. Manny received bids from two companies with little difference. Vestry voted to give Manny complete discretion as to which plumbers to use. Vestry also voted to amend our contract with Wasser and Wasser to require that all lawn maintenance must go through the Junior Warden to avoid being charged for a task that the Building and Grounds Committee has decided to do themselves.
- Treasurer, Nyeta Haines, reports that income is exceeding expectations and that the \$14,000 deficit has been reduced to \$4,000, a gain of \$10,000! Nyeta estimates that by October the parish will be in the black financially. As a stewardship measure, Manny will ask Ellen Kemp if the ceiling and oscillating fans can be turned off in the Parish Hall when Jazzercise is not there. Building and Grounds will

investigate putting in a wall switch instead of a remote to operate ceiling fans. Finance Committee recommends a simple written contract for the student singers. Vestry approved. Custodian's contract was located and signed. Nyeta also expressed gratitude to Mary Ganier for accepting position of Assistant Treasurer. She will be inputting pledges.

- Evangelism and Outreach Chair, Terry Meyer told the vestry that Andrew Terrazas will be the new webmaster. Vestry voted to pay him an hourly rate of minimum wage for an ongoing time period devoted to setting up, then maintaining the new website. The site is the same platform as the National Church. Nyeta showed highlights of the site and vestry expressed enthusiasm. Goal is to have it ready to show vestry, then congregation sometime in October.
- Terry reminded the vestry that Dr. Laurie Gormley will be making magnetic name tags in the parish hall at St. James' Day. Whiteboard has been purchased on which to put the nametags. It will be kept in the narthex for use every Sunday.
- Mary Ancker reports that the stewardship committee, with Padrecita Jeanne, will meet to begin planning for this fall's campaign. Padrecita is writing an article for the newsletter.
- Vestry voted to ask Mary Ancker to convey to the deanery board the vestry's support for a lowering of the Fair Share in the Diocese of the Rio Grande to no more than 14% for the 2020 diocesan budget.
- Nyeta reported her response to the diocesan Audit Committee. They questioned the use of a vestry member on the parish audit committee, but our bylaws allow a new member to serve who was not on the vestry during the year under review. Nyeta was able to find no provisions against this in the Manual of Business Methods for Church Affairs. Other concerns included omission of W-3 forms; the wrong Housing Allowance year reported for Fr. Nick; and an error in the parochial report regarding bank balance, all of which have been corrected.
- Manny and Padrecita Jeanne reported on the Safety Committee plan which will be presented to the congregation after each service on October 7th, then sent to the diocese. The Las Cruces police department are reviewing the plan. Manny has also arranged to have Allied Security set a date for testing the emergency pendants which the vestry has purchased and which priest, usher, and music director or organist wear during services. Vestry approved the plan. Padrecita J also went over the Telephone Tree which can be activated after an active shooting incident to check on parishioners and also to notify the congregation in case of a community disaster.
- Vestry voted approval of the by-laws as rewritten by the committee, with a few small corrections. One new provision is that members of the congregation who desire to form an Ad Hoc committee to accomplish a particular task may go to the vestry and set this up with vestry oversight till the end of the current year. Other changes include the appointment of a senior warden by the rector from among the current vestry members, to be announced first to the vestry, then at the Annual Meeting in January. The new vestry will be officially authorized following their election at Annual Meeting, with a vestry meeting immediately afterwards, rather than waiting till the vestry retreat in February. Certain committees, such as Evangelism and Outreach, are now established in the by-laws as Standing Committees. Vestry commended Terry Meyer for the outstanding job the Evangelism and Outreach Committee are doing.

AUGUST FINANCIALS	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference
Total Income	\$ 142,706.38	\$ 140,466.64	\$ 2,239.74
Total Expenses	\$ 147,387.95	\$ 148,030.33	-\$,642.38
Excess Income/Expenses	<u>-\$ 4,681.57</u>	<u>-\$ 7,563.69</u>	<u>\$ 2,882.12</u>

SAFETY PLAN PRESENTATION

Thank you to the St. James' Safety Committee, Manny Terrazas, Sue Bateman, and Lynn Marshall, for spending hours with Padrecita Jeanne formulating a safety plan for this congregation. I am told that we are among the first in the diocese to complete and present the plan. Please take time to stay after each service on Sunday, October 7th, to hear a presentation of the plan and to ask questions. Thanks to the committee's hard work, we now have fire extinguishers in each room of the right date and size, first aid kits, and 2 fire inspections, plus one police inspection. Bulbs have been purchased for the exit signs, the doors in the sacristy are both operational, and emergency notification pendants have been purchased and are worn at all services. We also have an Emergency Telephone Tree which can be implemented before or after an incident or community disaster.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring all household critters to St. James' to be blessed at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 6th in the parish quadrangle. We will have a brief service in honor of St. Francis and then bless the animals individually. Please invite friends and neighbors to attend with you.

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Thank you to all who give their time and attention to our young people during the Sunday school hour. We are grateful to Mary Ganier, Todd Parco, Sarah Gormley, Luci Kirkland, Charlene McKinney, and Lucy Lerdal. At the moment we have four students who attend regularly with the hope of gaining one or two more.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK THE PARISH SURVEYS.

They will be useful as we write the parish profile which will begin the search for a new rector. The goal is to have this written and posted by Lent.

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

There will be slips of paper available in the church on October 21st and October 28th on which people may write the names of departed loved ones which you would like read at All Saints Sunday, November 4th. Names from St. James' will be read, going back 2 years.

ST. ANDREW'S ARTS AND CRAFT CHRISTMAS FAIR

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 518 N. Alameda Blvd., will have their annual Christmas Arts and Craft Fair at the church on Friday, October 26th from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, October 27th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come get a head start on Christmas shopping and contribute through your purchases to St. Andrew's outreach ministries, which include Hospitality House (for families of hospital patients), Borderland Ministries, and Community of Hope.

Daughters of the King News

As infants, Ron and I were baptized by the same Lutheran pastor in the two small churches he served. We each were confirmed and then attended a Lutheran college---Augustana in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Although our parents lives had crossed many times, we had never met. It was during my first year of teaching that my childhood friend introduced me to Ron's sister, Harriet, and soon she brought us together. Our love story is short, marrying eleven months after we met. At our wedding my brother-in-law, Jim, in his homily used Jesus's words in Matthew 5:26 and following where he says not to be worried about food, drink or clothing as the Father in heaven knows of our needs. "But seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness and all these things will be yours as well."

This is more than an admonition, it is also a promise, "and all these things shall be yours as well."

These words have been the basis or map for our life together. When we would move to a new location we would check out the Lutheran churches in the area and choose the one that best suited us. The church became our center of worship, the place where we served---donating our time and treasure, our family and our social life. Following the example of our parents, our sons were baptized, confirmed and learned the love of Jesus.

We have been richly blessed in our lives. Not that we have not had our share of troubles, but we always remember the words Jim chose to use at our wedding---"Seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness and all these things will be yours as well."

For His Sake, and in His Love,
LuRae Lerdal



DIOCESAN CONVENTION AND CONSECRATION OF THE 11TH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE

Our wardens and delegates, along with Padrecita Jeanne, will leave for Albuquerque on October 31st to join many from around the diocese and the country for Diocesan Convention and the consecration of Bishop-elect Michael Hunn, who will be with us at St. James' on October 21st. Come on that Sunday to hear our new bishop preach and speak about his vision for our diocese and for this parish. Bishop-elect Hunn will be the featured speaker at Convention and has chosen the theme, "Deep Roots, Broad Reach." Each parish will be invited to march in the consecration procession which will take place on Saturday, November 3rd at 11:00 at First Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque.

BISHOP-ELECT HUNN'S VISITATION

Bishop-elect Michael Hunn will preach and celebrate at both services on Sunday, October 21st. He will be present at both coffee hours to talk to parishioners and to answer questions. He will also meet with the vestry after the 10:30 coffee hour.

CHOIR NOTES:



Most of the choir went on the choir retreat at the beginning of September to San Patricio retreat center near Ruidoso. We had a special time of meeting with our Lord and each other, rehearsing anthems to enhance our worship, and having fun.

The caretaker turned over the keys to the whole retreat center on our arrival and gave us a comprehensive tour, explaining the history and how it came to be owned and managed by the Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces. All rooms are attractively decorated, beautifully maintained and have en-suite facilities. There are extensive grounds, gardens, courtyards, dining hall, large kitchen where we prepared our meals, meeting rooms, gift shop and a chapel.

We had most of our rehearsals over the weekend in the beautiful chapel, working on music old and new. "Glory to God" by Pergolesi was composed for worship in the 1700s, we also worked on some modern arrangements by living composers.

On Saturday, some of us enjoyed an early morning walk along the river, combined with a "treasure" hunt while others caught up on rest. Padrecita Jeanne joined us for our lunch and led a time of worship and teaching. Saturday evening we played "Clue" and "Scrabble".

Sunday morning was particularly memorable as we put on our choir robes and traveled to Glencoe, only five miles away, to worship with St Anne's Episcopal Chapel. St Anne's is a beautiful gem of a stone church with stained glass windows set in a dell on a bend in the road. We were welcomed by the Priest, a handful of parishioners, and a father and daughter, both of whom had

worshiped at St James during their college days. The father was going to St James when Preacher Lewis was the Priest and NMSU was an agricultural college. To process into the church we marched a few steps single file up the center aisle (not wide enough for side-by-side), out the side door, and then filed back in through the front door to our pews. The choir filled half the church and between our guests and St Anne's regular worshippers the church was packed. We lifted our voices in praise with keyboard and trumpet, and partook of communion together. After the service, coffee hour included Priest and choir gathered for a photo. . As we awaited the arrival of Father Don Spafford for the photo, we learned that his uncle, Horatio Spafford, wrote the beloved hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul". We sang, in impromptu harmony, at least three verses from memory.

St Anne's chapel is always open, if you are on the road between Ruidoso and Roswell, stop in for a prayer. You will not be disappointed.

Carol Nike

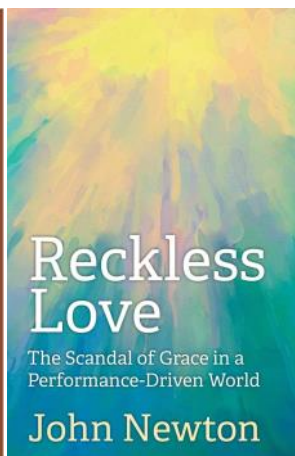
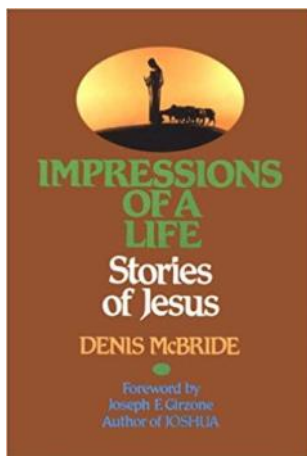


FR. FRANK'S 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

On October 14th, St. James' will honor Fr. Frank Williams, our esteemed assisting priest, on the 67th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Fr. Frank has served parishes in Wisconsin, Ohio, California, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico as rector, assisting clergy or supply priest, and has taught on the university level, as well as in the parish setting. Both his Sunday and his Wednesday Bible studies are attended by many enthusiastic parishioners and friends. Fr. Frank preaches at two midweek services a month and has been invited to preach at the joint Thanksgiving service at St. Andrew's, Las Cruces. As of this writing, we plan for him to preach at both services on October 14th and to be available at both coffee hours. Fr. Frank has blessed St. James' with his ministry of teaching for over 20 years.



ADVENT/LENTEN STUDY-



Due to the Congregational Life and Development Weekend, December 7-9th, there will only be two Advent evening study and fellowship times. These will take place on Thursday nights, December 13th and 20th. Padrecita Jeanne has ordered 8 books called, "Impressions of Jesus," by Denis McBride. Due to the response she received from the sermon which adapted a chapter of this book, Padrecita decided to offer two books to study. One will be "Impressions of Jesus" and the other will be "Reckless Love: The Scandal of Grace in a Performance-Driven World" by John Newton. In the McBride book, each chapter is written in the first person and "spoken" by either a biblical or a fictional character who observes and reflects on Jesus from his or her point of view. Those who study this book can choose which characters to read and talk about.

The Newton book has 20 short chapters with questions at the end and covers such topics as Forgiveness; Baptism; Discipleship; Freedom; Beggars; Waiting; Power; Hope, and Gift. Padrecita will put out a sign-up sheet toward the end of the month. We will begin these books in Advent and continue to study them during Lent.

COMING IN NOVEMBER

Diocesan Convention and Consecration of Bishop Hunn—November 1-3rd
All Saints Sunday, November 4th
Deanery Meeting, November 10th, 9:30 a.m., St. Christopher's, El Paso
Borderland Ministry Summit, El Paso, November 16-17
Thanksgiving Service, Joint service with St. Andrew's at St. Andrew's on November 22nd

COMING IN DECEMBER

Celestial Sounds Concert, December 2nd
Congregational Life and Development Envisioning Weekend, December 7-9
Advent Suppers and Study, December 13 and December 20
Christmas Eve Services—early and late (times to be announced)
Christmas Day Service with St. Andrew's at St. James' 10:00 a.m.

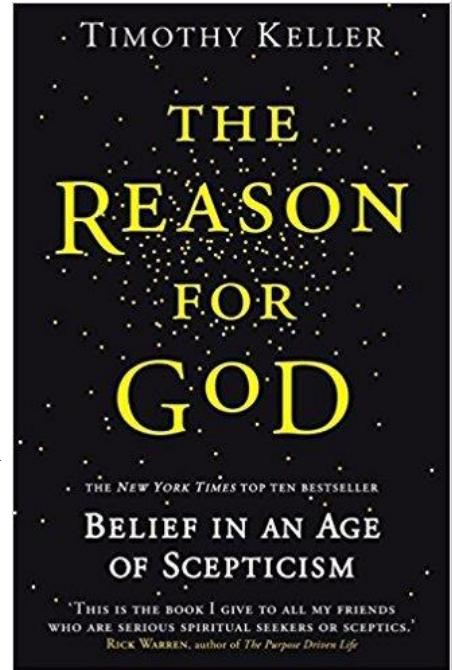
Book Review

This month we have a book review from vestry member, Dr. Terry Meyer, who shares with us his reflection on a book this congregation studied for your Lenten series and in the Thursday night class that has proved most helpful to Terry as he searches for ways to witness to the Gospel of Christ to those he encounters who "demand an accounting for the hope" Terry has within him. (1st Peter 3:15).

The Reason for God
Belief in an Age of Skepticism
By Timothy Keller
Penquin Random House LLC, 2008

Book Review
by Terry Meyer

As the chairperson of the Evangelism, Outreach, and Missions (EOM) Committee, I never imagined what curious paths I might tread with this assignment. One has been to seriously challenge myself as to how, as a professed Christian/Episcopalian, I might be able to cope with or respond to some serious criticisms, tough questions, and poignant statements made by sincere and committed skeptics. Timothy Keller's book: "The Reason for God, Belief in an Age of Skepticism", does just that, strongly supported by a rich and robust bibliography. His insightfulness, combined with a unique analytical mind, and an open heart with willingness to respect and respond to all viewpoints with dignity, has been particularly inspiring to me. His first eight chapters include addressing the skeptics' comments such as : "There Can't Be Just One True Religion, How Could a Good God Allow Suffering?, Christianity Is a Straitjacket, The Church Is Responsible for So Much Injustice, How Can a Loving God Send People to Hell?, Science Has Disproved Christianity, You Can't Take the Bible Literally". Responses are skillfully written, analytical, and respectful to the non-believer. The remaining seven chapters: "The Clues of God, The Knowledge of God, The Problem of Sin, Religion and the Gospel, The True Story of the Cross, The Reality of the Resurrection, The Dance of God" gently and kindly guide the reader, in a reasonable manner, to the unique truth of Christianity and the saving grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. What a terrific example of Christian evangelism. Wonderful read for believers and non-believers.



"Thou hast made us for thyself, and our heart is restless until it finds repose in Thee." St. Augustine

Spiritual Reflection

Not long ago, I was reading one of those Psalms about enemies, anger, traps, snares, spying, you know the ones. In them King David is singing laments about being surrounded by not very nice people, those who wish him dead so that they can take over the throne and all the riches and glory that go with being King. This of course is a constant theme in ancient literature, and even in not so ancient literature: the stories of, at first, clan leaders (King David; think also of Beowulf and his ilk) progressing through human history to more recent times: the British Empire; Napoleon, Hitler, and so it goes.

So, I have tended to just skip over all that panicky paranoid stuff—it really is a downer, and clutters up my joy in reading scripture. Sure, I feel compassion for those stuck in such traps and snares, but, come on, I really do not have any real enemies, I used to think, and neither do most of us. We're civilized, 21st century Christians: we love our fellows, and more importantly, as Episcopalians, we are polite to a fault.

However, recently, I have had an insight into those “downer” passages: I do indeed have enemies, and sometimes they rise up against me, much as King David's enemies did. My enemies, I have discovered, are anxiety, depression, complaining, rebellion, and desire for power (I hate to admit!). These enemies are just as pernicious as armed and masked spies. They hide, lying in wait for a vulnerable moment: when I am tired, hungry, overworked, when I have forgotten to take my antidepressant, they leap out at me, and I am helpless until, like King David, I cry out to God.

I have been under attack lately, and when I read Psalm 56 this morning, it hit as a bolt out of the blue. The first few verses describe my condition perfectly: “Have mercy on me, O God, for my enemies are hounding me;/ All day long they assault and oppress me./ ... All day long they damage my cause; their only thought is to do me evil” (vvs. 1 and 5). BUT, all is not lost, for the Psalmist continues: “Whenever I call upon thee, my enemies will be put to flight; This I know, for God is on my side.” Our wonderful God and Father looks after us at all times, and is faithful to rescue us—from any kind of enemy. Praise His holy name!

God bless, Johanna Binneweg



October 2018 Birthdays

6	Margo Schultz	16	Karen Amison
7	Marianna Fountain	20	Cynthia Bailey
8	Margaret Ritter	28	Paul Huntsberger
9	Breanna Bonfantini		
	Mary Ganier		
10	Harry Wiley		
11	Godfrey Crane		

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!

St. James' Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 2427
Mesilla Park, NM 88047
Tel.: 575-526-2389, FAX: 575-526-4821

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Las Cruces, NM
Permit No. 1050

The central
Christian belief is
that Christ's death
has somehow put
us right with God
and given us a
fresh start.

C. S. Lewis,



St. James' Holy Eucharist Service Schedule

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