

# 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."



November 2019

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

Luke 6:27-28 (English Standard Version)

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

#### DIOCESE OF THE RIO GRANDE

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Hunn, *Bishop*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Vono, Retired *Bishop*The Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb (ret), *Assisting Bishop*The Rev. John Tober, *Rector*The Rev. Dr. Frank Williams, *Assisting Priest* 

" When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

-Maya Angelou



### From the Rector's Desk

"If you will only heed his every commandment that I am commanding you today—loving the Lord your God, and serving him with all your heart and with all your soul—then he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, and you will gather in your grain, your wine, and your oil; and he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you will eat your fill." Deuteronomy 11:13-15

Dear St. James Family—

Happy Autumn! It looks as though Fall has finally fallen. As we gear up for the busiest season of our year, I'm reminded of the bounty we enjoy that surrounds us. The fields of cotton on my commute home look ready to harvest, and



the pecan orchards we pass while walking Luna look ready to begin the fall drop.

Rain is life in the desert. With rain Creation blesses us with livelihood and comfort. As we come to the end of the rainy season, we need to consider how we can shepherd the rainfall we receive and the springs that give life to the desert.

While we take time to marvel at the change in Creation that surrounds us, let's recall that there is also much to be done. Harvest is on the horizon. Advent is down the road. It's a good time to take stock of our place in God's Kingdom and what we can give back from the first of our personal harvest.

As a reminder, our in-gathering for the year is right around the corner, at our combined service on November 10th. I know you've been inundated with a flood of messages about giving to the church, but I ask you to please pray and consider the value of the work St. James' does in our community and how you can support the church in its' outreach to Las Cruces. Again, at this time of year, we have the opportunity to nourish our community like a hidden oasis in the desert. Please consider how you can feed into that spring, as you are also fed by it.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. John Tober, Rector

Found: a silver necklace in the church parking lot. See Phala White to identify and claim.

### Senior Warden's View

What a busy time of year at St. James!

Two weeks ago, along with Bishop Hunn, we celebrated the installation of our new rector, Father John Tober. It was a wonderful occasion! We've also seen some additions to our Wednesday evenings - a Spanish/English service celebrated by Rev. Tom Lowe and Father John. Other special Wednesday worship services are also planned, including special Halloween and Día de los Muertos events. Be sure and check the calendar.

Also coming up is our quarterly combined service on November 10 at 9:30. This will be followed by a potluck in the Parish Hall. Join us in some fellowship, fun and food!

On the subject of food, an important date to include on your calendar is Tuesday, December 31. We will be serving our community at El Caldito Soup Kitchen on that date. Please consider joining us in this very worthwhile ministry of St. James.

As we are in the middle of our Stewardship Campaign, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to reflect on what St. James means to you and to ask yourself if your life and your giving reflects this. Stewardship is a reflection of our hearts. Where does our treasure lie? Does our giving reflect our hope for



St. James to thrive? or merely to survive? I would encourage you to prayerfully consider your answer. Senior Warden,

Phala White

#### **Vestry Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2019**

#### REPORTS

#### Rector's Report

Wednesday service update

Día de los Muertos update

Convention updates

Installation update

Dedication of library-Fr. Frank Williams library, Fr. John asked for us to think about this idea and he will have further discussion in the future.

Fr. Frank William's portrait has gone missing, Manny and Kay have spent hours looking for it. No one recalls or remembers where it might be. All information from any parishioner who may know its whereabouts would be most greatly appreciated.

Senior Warden's Report-Phala White, no report

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

Lockbox/keypad box-the combination may be obtained from either Manny or Fr. John. Manny hopes that this will open up more access to the library

Fire alarm situation at church-battery is currently out and the company must figure out how to replace the batteries in this alarm, as it is one of the highest one located in an apex in the church. However, other alarms in the church are active and working.

Design plan for youth room-Kay will be sharing her ideas and a possible proposal

Crack in sacristy, the wall is uneven, White Sands Construction has been called.

Sunday school-once Rick returns, he will have an update.

Installation preparation, Manny will clean globes and Phala will clean windows all other items are ready, with the parish hall being set up for the event on Tuesday after the morning Jazzercise class finishes.

The lower right-hand side of the tile mosaic made by Laura Funk has fallen off. Manny tried to remove the wooden plaque on which it is adhered, however, it cannot be removed, as the sign was painted blue after the plague was screwed on. Manny is very fearful of using more force and possibly damaging the tile work further. He does not believe that the tile work can be adhered back on with any success while the plaque is in an upright position. Ideas on how to fix this are most welcome!

#### Treasurer's Report-Nyeta Haines-monthly reports

Reports presented were

Financial report summary

Consolidated balance sheet

Income and expense statement
Operating income comparison analysis

Changes in equity

Funds report

Parochial report

We are still in the black, even though monthly plate receipts have decreased.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**Evangelism Outreach and Missions Committee Vestry Report-**Terry Meyer

A number of church members staffed the Farmers Market Booth Saturday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks very much to all who participated: John Kirkland, Lucy Kirkland, Charles Nike, Diana Indorf, Johanna Binneweg, Mary Ganier, Father John Tober and Amy Tober, and Terry Meyer. Holy water blessings to any willing and able animal was provided by Father John in celebration of St. Francis Day. They also each received a St. Francis medal. The Esperaza Bag project has been placed on hold due to sickness of one of the key participants. The next Farmers Market Booth display will be in November, the date is to be determined but Terry Meyer will reserve the 1<sup>st</sup>. Saturday in November, if available. The possibility of placing a church picture on a banner for additional advertisement on the tent was explored but this proved impossible due to inadequate resolution of the available photos. Father John has been provided a "sandwich" advertisement board lent to us by Charles and Carol Nike. Thank you both. Respectfully submitted, Terry Meyer, Chairperson, Evangelism Outreach and Missions Committee

Fr. John asked Terry to contact the Las Cruces Recreation and Parks Dept to see if we can participate in the annual Candy Drop

Terry asked Manny if he would be willing to work on a photo of the church with the highest resolution possible to use for a banner in the future. Manny agreed that he would be willing to do this.

Finance-Nyeta Haines/Phala White

#### Finance Committee Report – October 7, 2019

Members Present: Carol Baker, Nyeta Haines, Larry White, Cheryl Wilson

Absent: Phala White (out of town)

- 1. Treasurer presented September reports. Discussion summary:
- Need to encourage automatic withdrawal. Perhaps in Bulletin, newsletter
- Would be interesting to compare annual attendance with annual donations might be helpful when doing budget

Budget meeting confirmed for December 7, 2019 -9:00am to 12:00pm. Carol offered to supply refreshments

2. Memorial Funds – Final accounting of memorial funds presented. – **VOTE NEEDED** 

There is \$6,819.28 donated before 2010. The Finance Committee recommends that it remain in the Memorial Fund until there is a specific plan to expand the Funds.

- 3. Rector Discretionary Debit Card **VOTE NEEDED**
- Although Citizens' Bank does not recommend Debit Card for a business account, it can be given with signatures on the terms.
- Finance Committee agrees that this would be alright for RD Fund, but strongly does not recommend for the Operational and Restricted Funds

An alert system can be installed so that whenever a charge occurs there is a text and/or email to the Treasurer and Rector.

4. Donation Box – (Old Business)

• A question concerning offering at any of the Wednesday services.

Finance Committee still recommends the purchase of a Charity/Donation Box where people can drop in donations at those services or recitals at the church. (At the Vestry meeting, <u>Phala stated that she would ask Larry if he would be willing to do this</u>, as he does woodworking.)

- 5. Information:
- Covenants completed for Music Director and Organist. Question-was there a start and end date, which there was. Other employee Covenants will be presented before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Insurance Review given on September 12, 2019 by Nyeta Haines with Whitney from the Church Insurance Agency Corporation.

**Pastoral Care-**Fr. John-Parishioner who have been receiving care were: Jack Ancker, Charlotte Williams and several other. Jack's service will be October 26 at 11:00 AM, with more details to follow.

**Stewardship-**Sig Johansen, pledge cards were mailed this last weekend. Envelopes were purchased with pledge letters and cards being mailed out last weekend. November 10 will be the end of the pledges with blessings of the pledge cards at the combined service. Addresses need to be updated, as there are discrepancies between Power Church and actual addresses.

#### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Audit-inactive

#### Fixer Upper Committee-Phala White

Door pain color will be <u>Rapture Red</u>. The church sign will return to natural wood. Fr. John asked about what the plans for the other doors are. Phala stated that that would be a future discussion. Jennifer brought up a previous discussion which occurred between Cheryl Wilson and Jennifer regarding the Parish Hall doors. Nyeta will discuss at the next finance committee meeting.

Nominating and Elections-Sig Johansen spoke about the process of election. Sig plans on us doing the election the exact same way as last year. Sig hopes to have the name of possible nominees at the November Vestry meeting. Sig hopes to have their curricula vitae available as well. Sig asked Eric to pull the leadership list of active members for the last 5 years and Sig will approach folks who have not acted in a leadership role for the last 5 years.

ELECTION: One-third of the total number of elected Vestry members shall be elected at the annual Parish meeting by the membership of the Parish for terms of three years. Vestry members are elected by a majority of votes of those present eligible to vote. Upon certification of the election by the Nominating and Elections Committee, elected members will begin their term immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Parish at which they were elected.

Policy-Nyeta Haines-tabled for now

Safety Committee-inactive

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Personnel issue/new covenant tabled until November\*\*

Building use request form for usage/calendar for events for any building tabled until November \*\*
Nametags need to be made for new members, Terry would be willing to contact Lori to see if she would be

willing to do more for new members \*\*

St. James' will host the Ted Howden Memorial and Eucharist, December 11 during the day/night? Terry asked for clarification of where donations will go? Fr. John will clarify both points. Dean Laurie Benavidez had shared with Fr. John that no refreshments would be requested as plans existed for a visit to La Posta. \*\*

\*\* items to be included on November agenda

Manny stated that the meeting now had extended beyond the 7:30 deadline. Manny, Sig seconded, the meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Jazzercise proposal-from Ellen Kemp

Adding classes, Manny moved, Nyeta seconded, motion approved to add Jazzercises classes on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The Thursday Sewing Bee will be affected with the changing hours and Jennifer will notify all affected Sewing Circle participants.

Move Yoga class in small meeting room on Wednesdays to allow for our own use of the Parish Hall, with the proviso, that should the class grow that another night may be investigated.

Installation

Fr. John and will Manny will talk about logistics for Fr. John's installation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Recitation of The Lord's Prayer at 7:52 pm with the meeting adjourning immediately following

TO DO:

Come up with firm report and information about the PH stain glass windows.

Place all covenants for approval on the November Vestry agenda.

Discuss with finance committee the possible replacement of doors on the Parish Hall.

Phala stated that she would ask Larry if he would be willing to create the collection box, as he does woodworking.)

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Terrazas, Vestry Clerk

### **Daughters of the King News!**



The "Faith Works" book club of St. James' parish was launched on Tuesday morning, October 15, in Chickie Lerdal's home. Nine women were present, and we had a lively discussion of a chapter in Ruth Chou Simon's *Beholding and Becoming*. During our discussion, Margo Schultz offered the following prayer that she remembers because Robin Roberts often recites it on "Good Morning America":

The light of God Surround me;
The love of God enfolds me;
The power of God protects me;
The presence of God watches over me;
Wherever I am, God is.

None of us present knew the provenance of this prayer/poem, so I looked it up on line. It turns out to have a very interesting back story. It was written by James Dillet Freeman of *World Unity* during WWII in response to letters and phone calls from all over the U.S. and Europe from families of the young men involved in fighting the war. He had written each year a Christian poem for his magazine's Christmas issue, but he felt that this version should have an even wider appeal, so he substituted "God" for "Christ"! (However, Christians know that God is Christ and Christ is God, so we don't fuss over such details) The minute the poem was published, it travelled all around the world, quite a feat in the times before the computer and Internet! And it is still one of the most popular poems in the world.

To me, the poem resonates strongly with one of my favorite Hymns: St. Patrick's Breastplate (#370). But the original inspiration for the poem came from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm: "...Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Thou art with me..."

Thank you, Margo, for introducing us to this very powerful prayer!

As a Daughter of the King, I expect to really enjoy the enlightenment and encouragement that comes from exposure to the "God talk" from other women in our Parish as we venture further into this delightful book. If you would like to join us, please just come on a 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10:00 am, Chickie Lerdal's home. She has a large dining table; there is always room for one more. Her address is in our Parish Directory, or you may call Chickie (642-9151) or me (527-8575) for her address and directions. And if the time is not good for you, please let me know. I am completely flexible, and would love to arrange an evening meeting either at someone's home, or at the church. We provide the books; there is no homework! Just one hour!

For His sake, and in His love,

The Daughters of the King Johanna Binneweg, Nancy Cain, Kathy Fisher, Judith Forney, Lucy Gray, Chickie Lerdal, Jane Madrid, Charlene McKinney, Bink Nelson.

#### Operating Income and Expense Summary for the month of September 2019:

	Current	Current	Year to Date	Year to Date	Annual
	Month	Mo. Budget		Budget	Budget
Income	14,439.02	17,433.33	154,972.52	161,399.97	218,000.00
Expense	20,360.35	18,232.58	152,143.81	158,512.49	214,221.88
Variance	-5,921.33	-799.25	2,828.71	2887.48	3,778.12

The full Financial Report for September is posted in the Parish Hall hallway by the restrooms.

#### The Red Door

One of the strengths of our faith is that we employ the use of symbols within the church to teach us about our faith. One has only to look around in St. James and see all the different things which speak to us of the elements of our faith. Symbols can also be outside our building and can speak to the world about us as well. Our most powerful and best-known symbol is the cross. Traditionally, churches would have a cross on the highest point of the building. The cross spoke to the outside world to identify the building as a church. It also spoke of the faith as the cross conveyed to the world that we believe that God came into the world in human form as Jesus who



taught us how to live the faith and through his death on the cross and his resurrection took away the power of sin over us and opened to us the way to eternal life. The cross on the roof of the church speaks of what we believe to the world and who we are as those who live out that belief.

Symbols were of huge importance in conveying aspects of the faith in times when many people were not literate. For those who are literate, the value of a cross on a church is huge if one is in a land where one does not speak the language used on an identifying sign outside a church. Symbols like the cross are not confined within the barriers of a language, but actually transcend language. The cross speaks in a universal way as do many other symbols used in the faith.

A symbol for which I have deep appreciation, and that is used with most Episcopal churches, is the red main door to the church building. The use of red doors on churches is an old practice. It probably dates from the period of the Middle Ages in England. The red door was a sign of sanctuary. In this period if one were pursued by a person who wanted to harm one, the victim could enter the church and find safety as no one would have been likely to commit a violent act on holy ground which could risk eternal damnation. Also, the church was then not subject to civil law. A person who was pursued by the civil authorities could enter the church and make his case for claiming sanctuary to the priest and ask that the priest assure that justice was done.

The red doors also represented protection against spiritual evil. It was traditional for cathedrals and most churches to be built in the shape of a cross with the altar being on the eastern side. The doors on the north, west, and south of some cathedrals were painted red which symbolized one making the sign of the cross perpetually, meaning that the space was sanctified and in it dwelled the sanctifying Holy Spirit. Spiritual evil could not enter such a holy space and bring harm to those inside. Of course, all our churches are holy spaces, having been consecrated by a bishop.

The front doors of St. James' Episcopal Church are to be painted red. Those red doors will identify our church as an Episcopal Church and be more visible to those driving by. With the red doors we will be joining a tradition that dates from hundreds of years ago and sending a message that we are a holy and safe space where all are welcome.

Blessings,

Father Tom+.

## zaint of the Month

### The George Washington of England: Alfred The Great, October 26

I call him the George Washington of England for good reasons. One important one is that, for the first time as far as I know, there was an England in his day. His coins at the beginning of his reign call him "King of Wessex" (the west coast). But, at the end he's "King of the English."

And for that there was indeed a good reason. Most of his reign he spent fighting for his country, without any French to help him. The Danes were a scourge—though I suspect they helped unite the English People. There couldn't have been much percentage in having small English kingdoms competing with each other; it would have been too easy to lose the whole country. Moreover, the Danes came to settle, or some of them did. There isn't that much room in Denmark. Parts of England even today speak a dialect you and I would find hard to understand, and Danish has influenced the whole language some; not for nothing do we say "knife" instead of the Angle "messer."

Anyway, it was due to Alfred that England became England. He fought the Danes, and fought and fought them. He organized a standing army, in



fact; one year half the men stayed home to farm while the other half were in arms, and the next year it would be reversed. Alfred built forts; if a town (in England) ends in "bury," that's because it was a fort, a "burh." So, "Canterbury," "Kent for." And, to protect the coast, he founded the British Navy.

Sometimes he was on top, and sometimes he wasn't. We all know the story of "Alfred and the Cakes"; he was hiding in a shepherd's hut, his hostess told him to watch the cakes, having the Danes on his mind he let them burn instead, and got himself chewed out royally. This proves something or other...I forget what.

All this is political rather than religious, but the church was closely tied up with the nation. Anyway, it all ended with a line drawn across the nation for north to south, with the Danes holding the east and the English the west. That was quite an accomplishment. It wasn't the final solution of course, but it allowed England to develop.

Like Charlemagne, whom he very much admired, Alfred was a devout man. He learned to read as Charlemagne had; I don't know whether he also learned to write, Charlemagne couldn't manage that.

An easy date to remember is 800; the Pope crowned Charlemagne emperor of the Holy Roman Empire then, and Alfred became king about thirty years later. The story is that he was taken to Rome at the age of four and there crowned king of the English—frankly, that sounds like a story, but who knows?

Anyway, Alfred was certainly interested in making his country literate. He had the Psalms translated, I remember, and one bit of St. Augustine, I forget what. I think it was he who sent Alcuin to Germany. Alcuin was a learned abbot and Charlemagne needed the Missal revised, so he asked for Alcuin. He had a long and honorable career at Charlemagne's court.

Alfred is also known for just laws, for settling the courts, and putting in the jury system—though I suspect that was there anyway. Alfred is the only king the English call "Great." It was a long, long time ago, but each generation stands on the shoulders of the one before it, and our feet touch Alfred's shoulders somehow.

—Father Frank

## NINININININININININININININ



## November 2019 Birthdays

2 Alice Compton Carolee Gilliland

28 Lucy Lerdal 29

8 Tom Gormley Sarah Gormley Reverend Frank Williams

19 Isaac Armistead

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!

# Celebration of a New Ministry The Rev. John Tober-St. James Episcopal Church, Mesilla Park

Written by Jennifer Terrazas, Clerk of the Vestry, St. James' Las Cruces, NM



The Rev. John Tober was installed as rector at St. James' Las Cruces on October 15, 2019. Fr. Tober was called to serve at St James in Las Cruces after a yearlong search to replace The Rev. Jeanne Lutz, who had served as Priest in Charge from June 2018-June 2019.

Fr. Tober was installed by the Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn, Bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Bishop's Chaplain was the Rev. Canon Lee Curtis. Special friend from seminary, The Rev. Nadine McElroy, beautifully sermonized on the importance and responsibility of servitude. Additional installation members were: Litanist-James

Cox, Deacon-The Rev. Phillip Rundge, Crucifer-Mrs. Nyeta Haines, Lay Eucharistic Minister-Mr. John Kirkland Sr, Torch Bearers-Ms. Lucy Lerdal & Mr. John Kirkland, Jr. Other diocesan attendees included The Rev. Wally LaLonde and The Rev. J.P. Arrosa. St. James' representatives were: Wardens Phala White & Manny Terrazas, Music Director Carol Nike, Margo Lamb, Margo Schultz, Godfrey Crane, Sig Johansen, Pat Lamb, Johanna Binneweg and Susan Smith. Musical pieces were performed by St. James choir with special performance by retired Minister Fred Davis. A particularly touching moment occurred when Fr. Tober presented wife Amy with a dozen red roses at the conclusion of the Induction ceremony.

Fr. Tober and his wife Amy fell in love with Southern New Mexico when John was stationed at

Holloman AFB as an intelligence officer. While there, he entered the discernment process to be ordained a priest. He retired from the USAF and entered seminary at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, and was ordained a deacon at the Cathedral of St. John in Albuquerque after graduation. He served his first parish, Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA, as deacon and then priest. When the position of Rector at St. James opened, they knew it was time to try to return to the desert Southwest, and we are so glad they did.

Fr. Tober's transition in life and service was celebrated with a wonderful dinner enjoyed by family and friends hosted in the historic Parish Hall at St. James, where Preacher Lewis once conducted services. After serving his country in both the Army & Air Force he now serves in a new capacity, as a priest in God's church. May God bless Fr. Tober, his wife Amy, and his new service as our Rector.



#### **Kids Ministry**

St James' Kids Ministry had the honor of presenting the contributions generously donated by our parishioners all through Lent this year to two very worthy organizations: Children's Reading Alliance and Jardin de los Ninos. We had the pleasure of visiting with their representatives and learned so much about the wonderful work they are doing here in Las Cruces.

Rorie Measure from Children's Reading Alliance accepted a check for \$307.55 and happily explained how they engage families and the community to promote children's literacy. Their main focus is the First Teacher/Primer Maestro program for parent-to-parent training of children 3-5 yrs old for successful entry to kindergarten. Books and educational toys are chosen and facilitators model how to use according to ability. CRA's other two important programs are Reading Buddies, which supports volunteers working individually with struggling readers in third grade; and the Summer Book Buddies who have distributed 62,000 books since 2012. This also supports the First Teacher families and neighborhoods through volunteers.

We met the Director, Michelle at Jardin de los Ninos, and gave her a check for \$307.55. Michelle gave us a full run down on how they are creating new possibilities for the homeless and near homeless children and families. The organization is all encompassing: a 0-3 yrs therapeutic



program; focus on academic learning and physical development, enrichment activities, tutoring, transportation, meals, home visits, weekend hunger programs, and wellness checks. Each child receives an annual dental, vision, and health screening up to age 18, immunizations, and parenting classes. They are active in the Parent as Partners Program with parents donating their time at the center, home visits, and learn life and job skills, and money management. In addition they do screening with therapeutic resources and early intervention for PreK and early PreK. When you shop at LaTienda de Jardin Ladies' Boutique the proceeds go to this organization too.

Everyone we spoke with are so dedicated to supporting our children and their families toward a better future.

Mary Ganier



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However you do it, and any way you do it, give thanks by giving of yourself.

—Bishop Michael Curry



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 Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Outreach Service