

The Sentinel



Priest's Ponderings

With December we commence a journey into a new church year that will begin with the First Sunday of Advent on December 1st. Advent is a time of waiting and preparation.

As children, we prepared for Christmas in Advent by being “good little boys and girls” so that we would be worthy of wondrous rewards from Santa Claus. As Christians, we prepare ourselves in prayer and worship for the coming of Christ. Such is not a reward that we earn for our diligent piety, but a gift from the grace and love of God.

Waiting is not a favorable task, especially in an age that seeks immediate gratification. Just ask anyone who works in a service industry waiting on customers in a queue.....or someone else who is stuck in traffic on the interstate! Time is precious and valuable, and information is instantaneous with our access to the world wide web of data, whether it is reliable or not. We expect immediate answers and quick fixes, while God sees value in wait time. Much to our surprise, too, we sometimes realize that the anticipation of an event is sometimes as meaningful as the event, itself! So in Advent, we hurry up and wait. And to our shock and amazement we find that a blessing.

So get ready for a new year, but be patient in your expectations. As a restaurant I visit says on its menu: “Good food takes time to prepare.” So it is with life, too. The best things take time, and God’s timing is always best.

Happy New Year!

RSC+

Stewardship Results!

At press time we had collected approximately \$106,660 from 39 pledges with 5 pledging units remaining in discernment. Our treasurer, Jim Cate, feels confident we can meet our 2014 budget based on income trends in 2013. We walk by faith, not by pledge cards ☺

Saturday Service Winds Down

The Saturday services will end for the season on December 21st. The services run from Labor Day to Christmas Day to accommodate Tennessee Titans’ fans so they can attend the Sunday football games (and tailgate parties.)

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Calendar

Tuesday, December 3rd
Vestry meeting at 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 14th
Youth Group at 6:30 pm

Friday, December 20th
Deadline for articles for December Sentinel

Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve services

Birthdays

Mike DeWeese	3 rd
Don Denning	11 th
Cathy Caster	11 th
Harry Spain	17 th
Leon McAulay	14 th
Karen Cate	23 rd
Judy Stewart	24 th
George Mickle	26 th
Mary Jane McFarland	28 th
Jim Cate	31 st

If we have failed to include your birthday this month, please let us know. Our list is continually evolving ☺

Member of the Month: Jimmie Scott

Jimmie made his first visit to St. James the Less on Palm Sunday of this year and quickly became a staple of the 8:00 am service. He has become known for his warm smile, infectious laugh, and entertaining storytelling.

Jimmie was born in Campbellsville, KY. He is the older of two children. He is son to a minister (father) and retired supervisor (mother).

He currently works for the Veterans Administration, and has a 23 year career in healthcare -holding various positions. Along the way he developed a passion for caring for the sick and looks forward to seeing how this will manifest itself at St. James the Less.

Jimmie enjoys indoor and outdoor gardening, restoring old furniture, and quilting. Since childhood he has had a love of all God's creatures. Jimmie lives in the house directly behind the church with his partner Ken, their four Chihuahuas, chickens, and assorted Koi.



You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time, want us to wait. For the right time in which to discover who we are, where we are to go, who will be with us, and what we must do. So thank you ... for the waiting time." John Bell -quoted in The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers

Laity Rota

1st - Eucharistic: J. Emery/D. Gaines
 Lector: Harry Spain
 Crucifer: Joel Sinha
 Ushers: G. Brummett/P. Mace
 Altar Guild: K. Cate/J. Wells
 Coffee Hour: OPEN

8th - Eucharistic: G. Mickle/C. Reese
 Lector: George Mickle
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy
 Ushers: L. Emery/J. Reese
 Altar Guild: M. Womack/B. Odom
 Coffee Hour: Joan Wells

15th - Eucharistic: T. McFarland, O.C.
 Hays/S. Mace
 Lector: Tony McFarland
 Crucifer: Joel Sinha
 Ushers: P. Mace/M. Deweese
 Altar Guild: S. Womack/J. Deweese
 Coffee Hour: Tony McFarland

22nd - Eucharistic: Rick/Cindy Webb
 Lector: David Gaines
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy
 Ushers: G. Brummett/P. Mace
 Altar Guild: C. Spain/J. Stewart
 Coffee Hour: The Cates

29th - Eucharistic: Rick/Cindy Webb
 Lector: David Gaines
 Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy
 Ushers: R. Webb/G. Womack
 Altar Guild: C. Spain/J. Stewart
 Coffee Hour: Father Courtney

Saint of the Month: Saint Stephen (Protomartyr and Deacon)

Feast Day, December 26th - Stephen is known as Protomartyr (the first martyr of the Christian Church), and one of the first Deacons.

The early Christian congregations had a program of assistance for needy widows. Some of the Greek-speaking Jews in the Jerusalem congregation complained that their widows were being neglected. The Apostles said in the Book of Acts, "We cannot preach and administer financial matters. Choose seven men from among yourselves, respected, spirit-filled, and of sound judgment, and let them be in charge of the accounts, and we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word".

The people chose seven men, including Stephen, and the apostles laid their hands upon them. They are traditionally considered to be the first Deacons, although the Scriptures did not use the word to describe them at that time. The word, deacon, comes from the Greek word, diakonia, which means "servant or server."

Stephen was an eloquent and fiery speaker. His blunt declarations that the Temple service was no longer the means by which penitent sinners should seek reconciliation with God caused him to be stoned to death. As he died he said "Lord do not hold this sin against them." One of those who saw and approved of the stoning was a man named Saul (later Paul) of Tarsus.

The timing of Stephen's saints' day just after Christmas reminds us of the costs of discipleship. Jesus' coming brings great joy, yet that joy has responsibilities – even the sacrifice of our own lives.

Help Wanted

We need ushers, readers, chalice bearers, and acolytes for our Christmas Eve services. Interested? See Father Courtney.

We seek 2 – 3 folks willing to serve a two year term on the Vestry commencing in February 2014. A joyous task in exciting times ☺ for more information, see Debbie Denning, Sr. Warden, or Father Courtney.

From The Loft

"Over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go" – Oops!! Thanksgiving is past. Hope yours was a good one!


On a more serious note," I like to feel that singing "Come Ye Thankful People, Come" for Thanksgiving and "All things Are Thine" for Stewardship Month are preludes to the wonderful season of Advent and Christmas. We will look forward to the joys and preparation for the celebration of Christ's Birth when we sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and then the announcement of His arrival in "Joy to the World".

The choir is working hard on the songs of the season ending with Lessons and Carols for the Christmas Eve service. Hopefully our music will help to keep the season bright. No getting bogged down in the usual Christmas stress.

We would like to sing your favorite carols. Let me know what they are. If you would like to sing with the choir, practice will be at 7 p.m. on December 4, 11, and 18. You may contact me at glish@bellsouth.net or call 615-868-9783 for information. Better still, see me at church!

In His Service,
Genevieve Lish, Organist/Choir Director

Facebook Follies

Facebook is a powerful communication tool and a timeless social network. With the rage of popular mobile devices many people have Facebook in their pockets! What better way to engage St. James the Less with the community, for FREE! When you "Like" the St. James Facebook page you will keep abreast of news, feedback and notifications in real time. Click the Facebook Icon  (here, or on the website) to "Like" St. James the Less on Facebook.

Vestry Notes from October

- Discussed updates to the church's web site and encouraged increased congregation usage.
- Heard about churches in the Madison area and the assessments of various clergy persons from other denominations about church life and growth prospects.
- Received positive feedback about the Newcomers' Reception hosted earlier in the month.
- Heard an update on the Stewardship Campaign that was in progress.
- Heard that John Whiteman, George Mickle, and Jane Emery are serving on the Columbarium Committee
- Brainstormed future Vestry members for terms commencing in February 2014
- Approved a \$99 expense for Father Courtney to attend a Clergy Retreat in Sewanee in February 2014

Financial Update

October 2013

Income	10,565
Expenses	10,829
Net	<u>(\$264)</u>

Christmas Eve Observances

Holy Eucharist & Carols - 5:00 pm

Lessons & Carols - 10:30 pm

Choral Eucharist & Carols - 11:00 pm

Outreach

Room in the Inn

The December donations are long underwear tops and bottoms (extra-large sizes only: xl, xxl, xxxl) and hoodies (xl, xxl, xxxl only). A euphemism for long underwear is "thermal underwear" or "hunting duds" if you are interrogated by a sales clerk! Drop off is outside of Father Courtney's office. Kudos to all for their faithfulness and generosity this year!

Youth Ministry

Teenagers and middle schoolers join Father Courtney for dinner and discussion on the second Saturday of each month at 6:30 pm. In December we shall meet at Jalisco Mexican Restaurant on Donelson Pike and discuss the ins and outs of Christmas.

Elementary Education

We will focus on the Bible story of Luke, 2:1-20. Our Leap of Faith: I celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Taekwondo's December Theme

Courtesy - Being courteous means to show respect for others and treat them, as you would wish to be treated. The practice of courtesy encourages a sense of justice and humanity. The practice of courtesy and proper etiquette allows us to distinguish instructor from student, senior from junior, and elder from younger. Students should practice courtesy to build their character and to allow us to conduct training in an orderly manner.

Community Grief Group

Grief Group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Flyers are available in the front hallway if you know of anyone who could benefit from learning more of the group process. **The group will not meet on Wednesday, December 25th or Wednesday, January 1st.**

Contact Us

St. James the Less Episcopal Church
411 West Due West Avenue
Madison TN 37075

Phone: 615.865.4496

Website: www.stjamesmadison.net

Priest-in-Charge: Father Robin Courtney

Church Schedule*Saturday*

Holy Eucharist – 5:00 PM (Ends 12/21)

Sunday

Holy Eucharist – 8:00 AM

Adult Sunday School – 9:30 AM

Choral Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM

Elementary Education – 10:30 AM

Wednesday

*Grief Group – 6:30 PM

*Choir Practice – 7:00 PM

Monday & Thursday

*Community Taekwondo – 5:00 PM

*not meeting on 25th & 26th, or the 1st

News from the Diocese of Tennessee

Episcopal Christians living in the area between the north and south borders of Tennessee, the Tennessee River (west) and approximately the Eastern Time line, belong to a mega church of about 16,000 members, the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee.

This is a missionary diocese dispersed in 50 missionary outposts (congregations) throughout the diocesan area, and led by the Bishop, The Rt. Reverend John C. Bauerschmidt, with the cathedral and diocesan offices in Nashville.

The first Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee was held in 1829 in the Masonic Hall in Nashville, TN. Three Clergy and nine laymen were present representing three churches; St. Paul's, Franklin, Christ Church, Nashville and St. Peter's, Columbia. Bishop Ravenscroft of North Carolina Presided. One month later, the 16th General Convention, meeting in Philadelphia, accepted the diocese, composed of the entire state of Tennessee, into union with the Protestant Episcopal Church in America. Under the leadership of the Rt. Reverend William Evan Sanders, 8th Bishop of Tennessee, the Diocese was divided into three parts. In 1982, the Diocese of West Tennessee was created. Three years later, the Diocese of East Tennessee came into being. The Central part of the state remained as the continuing Diocese of Tennessee. George Lazenby Reynolds was elected as the 9th Bishop of Tennessee on January 26, 1985. Bertram Nelson Herlong was elected 10th Bishop of Tennessee January 30, 1993.

St. James the Less Episcopal Church

411 West Due West Avenue

Madison, TN 37115

