

The Sentinel



Priest's Ponderings

As we come to the end of 2015 at St. James the Less', we have much to show for this year. I will save the details for our Annual Meeting in January, but you can even look at our facility and see that things have changed.

I think it is safe to say that we continue on a journey. Some call this journey mortality, while others call it life, itself. Regardless, we are traveling. We go from year to year, place to place, and event to event. We are like the shepherds and Wise Men following a star - a vision of something beyond ourselves.

I suppose the most important aspect of our travels is that we do not do so by ourselves. We travel as a community. We rely on the gifts, experiences, and presence of others. We also rely on the assistance of God. The Wise Men and shepherds were not soloists or even navigators!

I hate to admit it, but there are some years on New Year's Eve that I go into the bathroom at 11:59 pm and flush the toilet as the clock strikes midnight. It is a sacramental event, I suppose. I watch the old water go out, and I watch new water fill the bowl. When years have been difficult, this exercise has been very therapeutic!

So will 2016 be a good year or bad year? We cannot answer that question until 11:59 p.m. on December 31st next year. We shall just have to wait and see.

Advent reminds us that we wait, things take time, and we don't get to our ultimate destination overnight. We will get there eventually, but in the meantime, we "keep on keeping on" with the benefit of the presence of others and with God's daily help. We see God's hand reaching out to us best in the coming of Christ, our true guide and divine companion.

The journey continues . . . eternally.

RSC+

Christmas Flowers?

If you would like to give flowers in thanksgiving, or as a memorial, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Cost is \$25.00

Christmas Observances

Thursday, December 24th
 Holy Eucharist and Carols - 5:00 pm
 Lessons & Carols - 10:30 pm
 Choral Eucharist & Carols - 11:00 pm

Help Wanted Christmas Eve

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

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Calendar

Saturday, December 5th
 Youth Group dinner at Fuji's

Tuesday, December 15th
 Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm
 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal at 5:30

Friday, December 25th
Sentinel Article Deadline

Thursday, December 24th
 Christmas Eve Services

Happy Birthday

A Mike DeWeese	12/3
Ann Lovejoy	12/5
Don Denning	12/11
Cathy Caster	12/11
Leon McAulay	12/14
Harry Spain	12/17
Mark Croxall	12/22
Steve Croxall	12/22
<i>(4 minutes after Mark)</i>	
Karen Cate	12/23
Judy Stewart	12/24
George Mickle	12/26
Mary Jane McFarland	12/28
Jim Cate	12/31

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

Member Spotlight: Membership Quiz

Who is the chairperson of our Altar Guild?

Judy Stewart

Whose e-mail address has "kick" as the name of the recipient?

Lisa Cate (aka kick@communitytkd.com)

Who teaches at Tom Joy School?

Beth Coppersmith

Who attended St. George's Church with Father Courtney when he was a lay person (and had hair)?

Allen McLeod

Who recently framed the Bishop?

Betty Odom

Saint of the Month: Richard Baxter 1615-1691 Pastor and Writer

Feast Day of December 8 - Richard Baxter was an English Puritan church leader, theologian and controversialist. He made his reputation at Kidderminster in the county of Worcestershire, England where he began a long and prolific career as a theological writer.

After the restoration of the exiled King Charles II in 1660, he refused preferment (i.e. an appointment within the Church of England) while maintaining a non-separatist

"I have noticed that the people who are late are often so much jollier than the people who have to wait for them." – Edward Verrall Lucas

December 6th:

Eucharistic: Jane Emery & David Gaines

Lector: Harry Spain

Crucifer: Jonathan Dupuy

Ushers: Larry Emery & Joe Reese

Altar Guild: Karen Cate & Joan Wells

Coffee Hour: Gail McNally

December 13th:

Eucharistic: George Mickle & Cindy Reese

Lector: George Mickle

Crucifer: Natasha Reed

Ushers: Rick Webb & George Womack

Altar Guild: Mary Elizabeth Womack & Betty

Odom

Coffee Hour: Joan Wells

December 20th:

Eucharistic: Tony McFarland & David Gaines

Lector: Tony McFarland

Crucifer: Michael Schoenenberger

Ushers: Don Denning & Mike Deweese

Altar Guild: Sandra Womack & Janet

Deweese

Coffee Hour: The McFarlands

December 27th:

Eucharistic: Rick & Cindy Webb

Lector: David Gaines

Crucifer: Erick Cate

Ushers: Larry Emery & Pete Mace

Altar Guild: Cindi Spain & Judy Stewart

Coffee Hour: Vestry Monthly Birthday Party

Presbyterian approach and became one of the most influential leaders of the nonconformists.

He settled in London and preached there till the Act of Uniformity 1662 took effect. (The Act of Uniformity stated that clergy were compelled to use the services in the Book of Common Prayer exclusively.) He looked for a way in which he and other moderate dissenters could remain in the Church of England. Church leaders refused to accommodate him.

He wrote 168 separate works including the Christian Directory, and the Catholic Theology. His most famous contribution to Christian literature published in 1658 was Call to the Unconverted to Turn and Live. This slim volume was credited with the conversion of thousands and formed one of the core extra-biblical texts of evangelism until the middle of the nineteenth century.

Stewardship Results

At press time we have collected approximately \$133,830 from 43 pledges with 1-2 pledging units remaining in discernment. Our thanks to George Mickle for his faithful service as Stewardship Chairman and Jim Cate for keeping the tally.....and the books!

Christmas Benevolence 2015

Connor's Courage Toy Drive benefits Vanderbilt Children Hospital and is named in honor of Connor Hunley, who died of rhabdomyosarcoma on November 1, 2004, when he was 10 years old. Each year since his mother, Rhonda, has held a toy drive in his honor.

Connor's Courage collects new, unwrapped toys for children who are at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital on Christmas morning. Santa delivers the toys collected to each child. Ages range from babies to 18 year old. Suggested items for donation are listed in the weekly bulletin. Financial gifts are also accepted. Last day for collection is Advent 3, which is December 13th.

From The Loft

The choir has been busy practicing for our Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve. It will be at 10:30 p.m. and followed by the Eucharist with Carols. We shall have additional singers and accompaniment to add to the festive celebration.

We look forward to rejoicing with the angels the good news of our Savior's birth!

Our thanks to the choir and its director for their faithful service.

Vestry Notes

In November the Vestry heard:

- Removal of Mold in Closets - Completed
- Children's Chapel: Door in Window - Completed
- Outside Electrical Receptacles Repair - Completed
- Inside Electrical: Choir Room Outlets & Lights in Nave - Completed
- Organ Refit: In Process & Below Budget
- Mailbox: Hit by Parent from Taekwondo Class, but Fixed
- Blinds in Sunday School Room/Bean Bag Chair Purchase
- Chairs for Parish Hall Purchased by Donors
- Choir - Sound System is Adequate
- Holy Trinity Outreach Lunch is November 29th
Five Year Planning Committee:
Debbie Denning, Tony McFarland, Leigh Smith, Janice Whiteman, Jim & Karen Cate and Christy Lyons
- Tom Joy Outreach Report: Christmas Project in the Works
- Choir Robe Purchase - In Progress

Parish Financial Highlights

November's financial information was being prepared at the press time of this newsletter. Our treasurer, Jim Cate, reports a surplus for the year to date as of October to be around \$2,000.00. Let's remain faithful so we can end 2015 in the black.

Christmas Pageant News

The annual children's Christmas Pageant will be presented during the late service on Sunday, December 20. All children are invited to participate. There's always room at the manger for another Angel or Shepherd!

Pageant practices will be held after church on Sunday, December 6 and December 13. These will be short (20 minutes). On Tuesday, December 15 we will meet at the church at 5:30 for pizza, followed by pageant practice. We expect to conclude by 7:15. For more information, see Lisa Cate or Jane Emery.

Saturday 5 pm Worship Winds Down

The Saturday services will end for the season on December 20th. 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.)

Outreach News

The December donations for Room in the Inn are gloves and hats (adult sizes only: xl, xxl, xxxl). Drop off is beside the piano bench in the nave of the church. Kudos to all for their faithfulness and generosity this year!

Youth Ministry

We have two programs for our youth of the parish.

Teenagers and middle schoolers join Father Courtney and Lacey Lyons for dinner and discussion on the second Saturday of each month. In December, however, we change our plans and will go out to dinner to Fuji's Restaurant in Rivergate on December 5th at 6:30 pm.

Sunday School

The Sunday school students are excited to prepare for you this year's Christmas Pageant. Be sure and join us on December the 20th and congratulate their efforts!

Taekwondo

Monday and Thursday Nights

Our annual holiday party is Friday December 11th at the Rivergate Church of Christ starting at 7:00 p.m. We will be awarding many of the St. James' student rank promotions. If you would like to attend, email

kick@communitytkd.com with the number of guests attending.

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

Priest's Office Hours
2:30 pm - 5:00 PM
Holy Eucharist – 5:00 PM (ends 12/20)

Sunday

Holy Eucharist – 8:00 AM
Adult Sunday School – 9:30 AM
Choral Holy Eucharist – 10:30 AM
Sunday School (ages 5-12) – 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Choir Practice – 7:00 PM
(not on 12/30)

Monday & Thursday

Community Taekwondo – 5:00 PM

**St. James the Less
Episcopal Church**

411 West Due West Avenue
Madison, TN 37115

News from the Diocese of Tennessee

Employment Opportunity in the Diocese:

St. Ann’s Church in Nashville is searching for a person to be the Administrative Assistant to the Priest there. This is a permanent part-time position for 20 hours per week. Bookkeeping skills are preferred but not required. All interested candidates should contact [the Rev. Rick Britton](#) or call the church at 615.254.3534.


