

The Seasons of St. James Episcopal Church

Fall 2023:
Ordinary Time



The Newsletter Depends on Everyone

The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

If everything goes according to plan, then you should have this newsletter in your hands around Labor Day Weekend. There are a lot of stars that have to align just right for that to happen. Starting in advance, Krystal asks you for articles to include in the coming issue. For each article you see in this newsletter, there was at least one person who responded to her request. Each submission represents the ministry of a group of people who have been at work since their last report. Together they came together to do ministry, to move on toward goals, to serve others, and to engage God in the midst of what they do.

Message from the Rector continued on Page 2...

The Seasons of St. James Church

●●● Message from the Rector continued...

Not only do you turn in information on behalf of many others, but you reflect on what you are doing, consider who could be invited to join you, and meet deadlines. While Krystal works to put everything together in this wonderful publication, volunteers answer phones, attend the front doors, and keep things moving. When the newsletter is printed, there enter another band of helpers who fold, seal, label, and organize the quarterly mailing you receive.

I've been thinking a lot about the diligent, dedicated, determined people who deliver the mail in the oppression of record-breaking heat. Their operation continues even while "prime day" deliveries increase their load, seasonal mailings come and go, and post office regulations are observed. After this combination of efforts, the Seasons newsletter arrives in your mailbox – your snail mail box. Herein you will find news of what various members have been doing and what is coming next in the life of our parish.

This issue, arriving as our program year begins, announces many things. Sunday, September 10 will be Start-Up Sunday and we hope you will join us for breakfast between the services (including the 2023 ministry fair). The choir will be back at the 10:45 a.m. service, where we will join in singing service music we haven't sung all summer. You will be invited to be part of teams, groups, ministries, and classes.

Each year as part of our stewardship program, we ask you to pray over your financial participation in the life of our parish and to make a pledge, equipping us for ministry in 2024. In addition to asking for your pledging cooperation, we also remind ourselves that giving to the parish is not

just a financial transaction. The time, treasure, and talent you give to St. James is a spiritual investment. The more you decide to give, the more invested you will be.

The Ministry Fair at breakfast on Start-Up Sunday seeks to offer you a variety of ways to feed your soul, lift the spirits of others, and offer a real, inclusive welcome to members of our community who are looking for a place to engage their faith, to worship God, and to have a part in a community of love, growth, sustenance, and joy. Where will you decide to give of your time and your talent?

The title of the stewardship theme this year is "Rooted in Abundance." This is such an apt description of St. James. We overflow with welcome and care for one another and the world. Living with the awareness of God as the ground of our being, we are deeply rooted in Christian faith and life.

The active part of the stewardship season begins in October, but don't let these six weeks of conversation fool you into thinking that we need your time, talent, and treasure annually. Our air-conditioning, our facilities, our worship, and our many ministries depend on your diligent, dedicated, and determined year-round generosity. Each month, as we meet our expenses, it is you who make everything here possible – through your rooted abundance in sharing time, talent, and treasure with St. James Church. Thank you and God bless you. AMEN.

Adult Formation Opportunities

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Each year, we are blessed to have numerous classes and small groups available for us to connect, grow, and be in community with one another, whether in-person or on Zoom. If you haven't taken the opportunity or are a regular, please join us as we re-start the program year with some amazing spiritual growth opportunities. Classes and small groups are still being added so be on the lookout for more announcements to come. Below is a list of classes that are happening now or will start in 2023

Adult Forum

Meets at 9:45 am in the Guild Hall every Sunday (except 2nd Sunday).

Contemplative Prayer Group

Meets at 5:30 pm in-person. Contact Dave McDonald for more information

Basic A 2023

Meets every Tuesday, 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm beginning August 22 through September 26.

The Gospel of Mark

Will meet from 6:00 - 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, from October 11- November 15.

Love God, Love God's World

Coming in January. Film-Based class that focuses on creation care and environmental ministry

Sacred Ground

Meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Lounge at St. James.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Meets at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays. The class has currently started but if interested contact Deb Bagby for information on joining the next cohort in Fall 2023.

Graduate EfM

Meets at 7:00 pm on Mondays. This group is for those who have completed the EfM course, and are interested in continuing their studies.

The Book Club of St. James & St. Stephens

Meets at 12:00 pm on Thursdays. Contact Mary Sloan for information on the current book being read.

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The Seasons of St. James Church

● ● ● Adult Formation

Adult Forum: Going off the Lectionary Grid

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Just like the previous year, we will be diving deeper into the lectionary readings. Each week a new speaker will pick a reading from the lectionary and talk about the various aspects surrounding the reading. We could explore languages, cultures, context, short films, etc. Join us as we explore how Scripture relates to our everyday life and find God in all things. Open mind and open ideas are always welcome as we learn together as a community of believers.

Day & Time: Every Sunday (except 2nd Sunday) from 9:45 - 10:30 am starting September 17.

Location: Guild Hall

Basic A

(A is for Anglicanism)

Basic A has started, but it's not too late to join! Basic A, our course introducing the Episcopal Church, began on August 22. Adults at any point on a faith journey are welcome in this group. Everyone is invited to take part on **Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm, Aug. 22 - Sept. 26.** Each session is about 90 minutes long. This course can lead to confirmation in the Episcopal Church. Confirmation is Sunday morning, October 1.



**BASIC A IS MEETING EVERY
TUESDAY FROM 6:00- 7:30
PM TO PREPARE THOSE
INTERESTED IN BEING
CONFIRMED OR RECEIVED BY
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Visit from Bishop Bascom
and**

Service of Confirmation

OCTOBER 1ST

2023

**Join us as we celebrate with Bishop Cathleen
Bascom, confirm new members, and remember
and reaffirm our own confirmations.**

The Gospel of Mark

The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

Beginning on October 11, we will study a close reading of the Gospel of Mark. The class will be in-person every Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:00 pm, October 11- November 15.

Contemplative Prayer

Dave McDonald, facilitator

We meet once a week, on Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30 pm. We practice a form of prayer called Contemplative or Centering Prayer. It is a silent, meditative form of prayer.

The first half of our meeting is given over to group discussion of a reading selected by the group that is typically from well-known authors who practice and write about this form of worship.

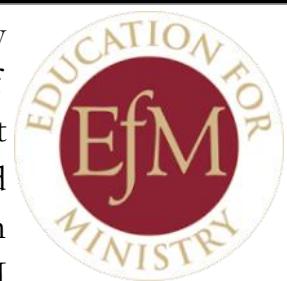
The second half of our meeting is when we practice contemplative prayer as a group. Some have called this form of silent prayer “resting in God.”

Interested? Contact Dave McDonald to learn more.
(dmcdonald979@gmail.com)

Education for Ministry

EfM is a four year program administered by the University of the South. It consists of Old Testament (Year 1), New Testament (Year 2), Church History (Year 3) and Theology (Year 4). Participants report on weekly reading assignments given in the EfM Reading and Reflection Guide and, in addition, develop skills in Theological Reflection (TR). By examining their own beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the tradition of our Christian faith, participants learn what it means to be effective ministers, not clergy, in the world.

We currently meet over a period of nine months on Wednesday evening from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm via Zoom. Please contact Paul Rillema or Deb Bagby for information about the EfM program if interested in learning more about becoming members of the group.



Already finished an EfM program, but still interested in learning more? Join our Graduate EfM group! We meets at 7:00 pm on Mondays. Contact the office for more information.

Love God, Love God's World

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Coming in January! Love God, Love God's World is a nine-session, film-based curriculum, ideal for Episcopalians anywhere on the journey with creation care and environmental ministry—from newcomers looking to take their first step to seasoned leaders seeking a transformative small-group experience.

Sessions have a similar structure to the popular Sacred Ground curriculum and include compelling films and readings, faith-based reflections, and discussion questions—each written by different contributors who draw from their own contexts and experiences. Participants will also discover ways to learn, pray, advocate, and conserve. Taken from the Episcopal Church website: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/love-god-love-gods-world-curriculum/>

Exciting Updates on Youth Ministry

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

Attention: We have a new date and time for youth group this year!

Recently the youth ministry team and youth expansion committee from vestry called youth parents and guardians to get input for our youth ministry. The idea was to connect with those involved in youth ministry and potential new ones to get an idea of how we could improve our youth program and empower our kids. One thing that came out of the conversation was the importance of community building. So we decided to adjust our programming to fit the needs of our families.

Youth group will meet on Sundays from 6:30-7:30 pm in the youth room as a whole group. On the 4th Sunday of the month, youth group will meet as part of a whole parish gathering for lunch after the 10:45 service, from around 12:00-1:00 (or

1:30) pm. Youth group will not meet in the evening on the 4th Sunday.

The first meeting will be on September 10th on Start-up Sunday. Deacon Jeff will lead the youth through confirmation classes until November. Topics include learning more about the Episcopal church, traditions, Scriptures, and sacraments.

We look forward to adding more field trips, our annual traditions of Illuminations at Botanica, and helping with Christmas baskets in December. This year, we are adding 'On the Road' with Steve Hartman to our programming.

We are still seeking adult help for the youth group on Sunday evening. If interested, please contact Chelsea Whipple at formation@stjameswichita.org or 683-5686.

CHORISTERS 2023 - 2024

Welcoming all **3rd-8th grade** students to enroll.

Rehearsals will be **Wednesdays** at 6:00-6:50 pm;
Rehearsals begin on September 13.

Performance in services every **second Sunday** at 10:45 am.

Choristers is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn and grow through music and faith. We aim to make learning fun and fulfilling.

For more information or to enroll,
contact Kennedy Compton.



ST. JAMES YOUTH GROUP

**GRADES 6-12
SUNDAY EVENINGS
6:30PM - 7:30PM**

ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY EACH MONTH, THERE IS NO EVENING YOUTH GROUP. INSTEAD, THE YOUTH WILL GATHER AFTER THE 10:45 SERVICE FOR THE PARISH POTLUCK



Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

We had a blast “camping out” with compassion! For four days, we explored how air, water, food, shelter, and community mean for every living thing!

Each day was spent exploring the Psalms, practicing yoga, playing games, eating dinner, creating crafts, and doing something for someone else. Over 55 kids joined us at College Hill UMC from our community to get in the action. Our first-ever Ecumenical VBS included Grace Presbyterian, Plymouth Congregational, College Hill UMC, and St. James.

Thank you to the volunteers: Adrienne Edwards, Deb Bagby, Barbara Orsak and Judy Goodpasture. Thank you to our kitchen crew on Monday: Peg Bowman, Claudette Johns, Kate Miller, Marilyn Milhon, Susie Stallings, and Marilyn Taylor; as well as those that made and donated yummy food! Thank you to the kids from St. James that were able to make it.



Save the Date for VBS in 2024: June 17-20



Godly Play Year 2

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

We took a leap of faith in the Kidz Zone last year and embraced the Godly Play curriculum after a 5-year hiatus. It was a learning experience as we transitioned from high energy to a more calm hands-on experience. It had a few bumps, but we will once again dive deeper into the mystery of our faith. If you are unfamiliar with the curriculum, here is a description from the Godly Play website:

The Godly Play® method is a curriculum of spiritual practice exploring the mystery of God's presence in our lives. The Godly Play curriculum engages what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting us into—and pursuing us in the midst of—Scripture and spiritual experience.

Godly Play practice teaches us to listen for God and to make authentic and creative responses to God's call in our lives.

Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance. Godly Play has a foundation of 40+ years of research and practice.

Godly Play values process, openness, discovery, community and relationships.

Godly Play models the worship life, stories, symbols and rituals of Christian congregations. Godly Play allows practitioners to make relevant and personal theological meaning.

Godly Play nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play.

Sunday school and Children's Chapel will begin on October 1st. Sunday School and Children's Chapel takes place the 1st Sunday of every month (except September) starting at 9:30am. Children's Chapel begins at 10:45am and we take the kids to their families during the Peace. Kids aged 3 (potty trained) - 5th grade are welcome and must be registered. Please see the flyer for more details. You can contact Chelsea at formation@stjameswichita.org or call the office for more information.

Our teachers for this program year are: Mrs. Sandra and Mrs. Amber in the Fishers class; Mrs. Cara in the Seekers class; and Mrs. Chelsea in the Disciples class.

*We are in need of another teacher for our Seekers class. If interested please contact Chelsea.

Kidz ZONE

ST. JAMES CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

First Sunday of the month (except September)

Preschool—5th grade

Sunday School

Starting at 9:30am

Fishers

Preschool-
Kindergarten



Seekers

First-Third
grade



Disciples

Fourth-Fifth
grade



Children's Chapel

Starting at 10:45am



*Kids will rejoin families
in Church at the Peace*

Wednesday
Evening

Choristers

kids choir

Starting at 6:00pm

Grades 3-8

Contact Dakota Bennett
for more information.
music@stjameswichita.org

Nursery available for younger siblings

What do parents do on Sunday? You can attend Adult Forum in the Guild Hall, Fellowship in the Lounge, or quiet time in the Sanctuary. Service starts at 10:45am

We are looking for volunteers to help in the nursery during Sunday worship services. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, contact Chelsea.

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!

Be A Part of the Fun in 2023-24

10/1 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
10/29 5:30pm	Halloween Party
11/5 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
12/3 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
12/17 10:00am	Christmas Pageant (tentative)
12/17 5:30pm	Greening of the Church
1/7 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
2/4 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
3/3 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
3/31 10:00am	Easter Egg Hunt
4/7 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
5/5 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
6/2 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
6/17-6/20	VBS!!!
7/7 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel
8/4 9:30am	Sunday School & Children's Chapel

- Calendar subject to change
- Events added throughout the year, check the St. James Calendar to stay up-to-date

Save the date!
Our annual
Halloween Party is
currently scheduled
for Sunday,
October 29 at
5:30 pm. Watch
the eTower for
more details as we
get closer!



Kidz ZONE

ST. JAMES CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Kidz Zone is located upstairs above the Lounge. Kids are welcome upstairs at anytime with adult supervision.

They can create art at the Make & Take It table, grab a book in the library and hang out in our spaceship, or have some quiet time in the Children's Chapel.

What do kid's learn at Sunday School & Children's Chapel?

This year we will learn about:

- The Exodus
- Symbols of the Holy Eucharist
- The Ark & Tent
- Jonah, the Backwards Prophet
- The Mystery of Christmas
- The Holy Trinity
- Parable of the Great Pearl
- The Holy Family
- Parable of the Mustard Seed
- Parable of the Leaven
- The Good Shepherd & World Communion

We use the Godly Play Curriculum for Instruction.
Learn more godlyplayfoundation.org

St. James Episcopal Church ~ 3750 E. Douglas Ave. ~ Wichita, KS 67208 ~ (316) 683-5686
Questions? Contact Chelsea Whipple, Dir. of Programs ~ formation@stjameswichita.org

The Seasons of St. James Church

● ● ● Worship



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC STAND

Dakota Bennett, Music Director

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer. It is certainly my favorite season. From the warm weather to traveling and conventions, I find myself looking forward to the summer all year. Even growing up, where my homeschool experience didn't include getting the summer off, there was still time for travel and adventures. In the last several years, while functioning on a school year schedule, summer has also been a period of transition. Graduations, incoming classes, faculty changes and bittersweet goodbyes were accompanied by new introductions. These times of transition also provided a space to reflect on what has happened and what is to come.

I think back a year ago to my graduation from WSU, the move to Philadelphia and all that has changed in just one year. When I arrived in Philadelphia, we were still wearing masks! -- Especially when working with children. Now, we are headed into the first truly post-pandemic school year.

Dakota served as a Ministry Resident at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in center city Philadelphia. His liturgical duties included setting up for daily as well as seasonal and special masses, in what he describes as a transitional Anglo-Catholic church. Additional responsibilities included supervising the children's choir, teaching Sunday School to 8- to 10-year-olds and managing the food cupboard, which was open four days a week.



School isn't the only thing on a September – May schedule. Much of our programming and events here at St. James also fall within this cycle. As this new season begins, I invite you to reflect back on your own lives as well as think about what you'd like the future to hold. When my journey first brought me to this community, one of the things which had a significant impact was the statement repeated at the beginning of every service: "Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here." As this next season of time in our journey begins to unfold, I want to extend those same words to our entire community and especially all of you within the music program. Maybe you haven't been involved since Covid or even longer. Maybe you have never been in one of our choirs. Maybe you are involved in one facet and want to explore another. Whatever your circumstances, I hope that you will join us as we begin this new chapter of our collective journey together. I also want you to know that the music office/choir room door is always open (so to speak), so feel free to stop in if you catch me in the office or contact me to set up a time to meet. I look forward to seeing you all in church, the choir room or wherever else we meet!

When Dakota is not in his office, he just may be at Old Cowtown Living History Museum, where he has volunteered for many years. He performs with the "Entre' Nous Club Victorian Dancers" once or twice a month, April through



October. He has numerous jobs at the museum: he is responsible for Artifacts Philanthropy, is a candidate for the Board of Directors and just might be found cleaning a building.

Altar Guild Volunteer Opportunities

Adrienne Edwards, chair

Over the past 18 months my articles have focused on providing explanations about the things you see on or around the altar; including flowers, candles, and the colors of the various seasons of the church year. Prior to COVID, we could work in teams of two whose primary duty was to set-up for the 8:30 and 10:45 Sunday services. We are no longer able to work in teams because our number of volunteers has decreased significantly. The Altar Guild members perform other duties including support to our parishioners for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and preparation of kits for the Lay Eucharist Ministers. Training is provided one on one or in small groups. Once your training is completed, you will be assigned to work with an experienced member. A binder with written instructions, pictures and checklists are provided and available in the church Sacristy. We also have a small library of reference materials available that provide history and background information on the actions of Altar Guilds within the Episcopal Church. Listed below is a brief description of the functions performed by the Altar Guild and opportunities to serve. Members of the Altar Guild will be available to answer your questions during the Ministry Fair scheduled for September.

Listed below is a brief description of volunteer opportunities:

1. Saturday service 5:30 set up and clean-up – 20 minutes before the service and 25 minutes after the service
2. Sunday service 8:30 service set up before and clean up after in preparation for the 10:45 service
3. Sunday service 10:45 clean up after the service and which includes washing, drying and storing the Eucharist vessels
4. Prepare Lay Eucharistic Visitor Kits: approximately twice a month or as needed. Preparation of the kits takes about 15 minutes. Cleaning the chalice and patten, refilling the wine carafe and filling the wafer container with blessed items
5. Wash and iron Eucharist Linens: twice a month, depending on the number of regular and special services conducted.
6. Assist with set up for weddings with or without Eucharist: as needed when notified by the Priest
7. Assist with set up for funerals with or without Eucharist: as needed when notified by the Priest
8. Arrange or order altar flowers: weekly or high feast days
9. Assist with the preparation for special occasions to include set up for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day, Set up for and assistance with Ash Wednesday services, Palm Crosses preparation, assistance with Maundy Thursday services including the Foot Washing and stripping of the Altar, preparation for the Easter Vigil and Easter services.

Start- Up Sunday is on September 10, 2023

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of the program year with a potluck breakfast and ministry fair. There will be tables set-up in the Guild Hall, and groups will be available to chat about what is happening at St. James!

Breakfast Sundays

Randy Harrison

Start-Up Sunday on **September 10th** will be our first Breakfast Sunday of the new program year.

The new, "modified format" that was used for our last two breakfasts in the spring seemed to be very popular. So, we will continue with that theme for the coming year. One or more main items (scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy) will be provided along with juice, coffee, and water with the parish family filling in the rest of the menu with Potluck items.

I received a lot of positive comments in the spring that it was really nice to have the main items back on the menu and that the offerings from everyone else were fantastic. Therefore, we will keep going in that direction and we look forward to seeing everyone on Sept 10th for Startup Sunday! Blessings abound!

Fourth Sunday Lunch

Troy Wells, Youth Expansion Committee

My fellow parishioners, I am excited to announce the addition of a new fellowship gathering starting on the **fourth Sunday** of September.

We will be having lunch directly after the end of the 10:45 service in a potluck fashion. If you aren't attending the 10:45 service, plan for lunch to begin right around noon. With the fun we had this past summer with our parish picnic, members of the Youth Expansion Committee saw this as a family and multigenerational opportunity for fellowship and a way for us to better get to know our families.

This meal will comprise of a simple main dish provided for everyone, with by sides brought by the congregation, potluck style.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Come and join a choir!

The St. James Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm, starting on September 6th.

The St. James Bell Choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm, starting on September 12.

Questions? Contact Dakota Bennett
music@stjameswichita.org.

Experience is not required.
We would love to have you!

Thank you, St. James Family!

Maddy Bishop, Seminarian

The generosity and support from this parish continues to amaze me. I wanted to thank those of you who were able to make it out to the fundraiser dinner on August 13th. It was such a fun evening and I loved chatting with those who came through the drive thru and with those who were able to join in the Guild Hall. Thank you to those of you who were unable to attend but made a donation and thank you to those of you who have held me in your prayers over the past several years. I am so deeply grateful for the many different ways this parish supports me. I am looking forward to working another year at The Church of St. Luke and The Epiphany in Philadelphia, working at the coffee shop in Princeton, and taking some exciting classes. It is going to be an amazing final year of seminary and I am so thankful for your love and support.

Thank
you

THE SOUP IS READY!

St. James is prepared to provide an instant meal or extended Meal Train Assistance. Nine members of the Daughters of the King met in the kitchen last month. Their mission--accomplished in less than 90 minutes--was to prepare and freeze two dozen pouches of hearty vegetable soup. As soon as Mother Dawn or Krystal in the office notifies us that someone could use a quick meal, a DOK member will deliver a container of soup, along with fresh bread or rolls, to any parishioner who has been ill, suffered an injury, returned home after surgery, welcomed a new baby or who may be dealing with a crisis.

The **Meal Train** program has also been reinstated to assist people who need help with meals for a week or two. This service was coordinated for many years by Kelly Harper and Jeri Moss. Kelly will again assist with scheduling: when Meal Train is requested, she will contact the recipient to identify dietary needs, allergies, preferences and the best time for deliveries to be made. She then activates the program and all participants will receive a private e-mail sign-up schedule. Everyone who would like to participate by preparing and delivering a meal is invited to contact Mary Sloan, msloan04@yahoo.com or Mary Druding, mdruding@cox.net.



Joan Bledsoe adds the last soup pouch to the freezer and 24 instant meals are ready to be delivered.

The Seasons of St. James Church

●●● Parish Life

Olde English Tea 2024

Karla Fazio & Joan Bledsoe, Co-chairs

Even though it is still summer, planning for the 2024 Olde English Tea is already underway! Co-Chairs Joan Bledsoe and Karla Fazio were delighted by the great turnout at the August 20th committee meeting. The 93rd Olde English Tea will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2024 in the Guild Hall. The theme is “Cup of Kindness.” As in previous years, there will be two seatings: 10:00 am – Noon and 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$10 for children ages 5-12. Proceeds will equally benefit St. James’s Refugee Program, Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services, and St. James Church.



ALL members of St. James are invited to be involved in some way in this wonderful tradition! You can give of your time by serving on the committee, baking goods to sell, helping to decorate, making gift baskets for the raffle, being a sponsor, or by buying tickets and telling your friends. The next committee meeting will take place in January 2024. If you would like to get involved, please contact Joan Bledsoe at 316-932-5568 or Karla Fazio 316-260-5464. Thank you in advance for your support!

St. James Thanksgiving Feast

Randy Harrison & family

We are making plans already for our annual Thanksgiving Feast at St. James. As in past years, turkey will be provided so we will have a signup sheet at the front desk in late October just so we can get an idea of how many to prepare for. The day before Thanksgiving we will be baking the turkeys and getting the Guild Hall ready for a festive day. So, if you would like to help with the setup, that would be great, and we would love to have you.

Creation Care

Elizabeth Wenger

Thank you to everyone who has supported ESS and other ministries that help those who are not insulated from climate change by air conditioning, access to water, etc. As we continue to address the environmental challenges facing us, it is important to keep God's love at the center of our thought and actions.

We are extremely excited to have submitted our first application for a green building grant. We hope to be able to continue applying for funding that could aid both St. James and the surrounding neighborhoods. The application was a collaboration between Jr. Warden Danny Blair and Claudette Johns, who has also agreed to take a position as our co-chair!

We continue to watch and to encourage St. James members to advocacy as the state considers its water usage plan. Closer to home, we have been interested in a number of initiatives concerning Wichita's parks and tree canopy.

In the next year, we hope to be able to introduce a new study opportunity on environmentalism through the lens of Christianity.

The native plants on the Yale side of the church and in the Memorial garden are establishing themselves beautifully, thanks to the efforts of a dedicated watering team.

St. James Outreach Ministry

Judy Goodpasture, Chair

Our Outreach Ministry Committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. We are now meeting in the church lounge. At least six times a year, we have speakers from social service agencies. You are invited to join us for any meeting.

- Our **Pocket Change Ministry** continues to provide funds for children and families served by the **Wichita Children's Home, Breakthrough ESS, Kansas Children's Service League, and St. Francis Ministries**. We are grateful to this very generous congregation. Since 2015, this project has given \$22,500. to agencies serving children and families. **Project Chair Vicki Evans** and Gary Thudium (emeritus project founder)
- The **St. James Refugee Family Project** will hold its second volunteer training in August. Interested persons should enroll at the **International Rescue Committee** website. Co-chairs: **Suzanne Laycock** and **Jessica Moore**
- The **Outreach Committee** is conducting several fund-raising events to support our new Refugee Project. We gave them a \$500. Pocket Change donation and held a **Quilt Raffle** in the summer and a **Bingo Dinner** night in August. A **Valentine event** is planned for February.
- Because of a critical shortage of blood in our community hospitals, the **American Red Cross** has asked us to host four Blood Drives each year. Thanks to the work of **Chair Dottie Evans Clark** and her assistant, **Sarah Robinson**, we are able to meet this request.
- St. James has joined the **Wichita Minster's** effort to provide **Saturday Sack Lunches** for the homeless at St. John's Episcopal Church. To help, please contact **Project Chair Joan Bledsoe** with assistance from **Jessica and Chase Moore**.
- As part of our **100 Year Celebration**, our committee has refurnished five **Family Visitation Rooms** at St. **Francis Ministries** offices on East Harry. These rooms provide supervised meeting places for foster children and their families. Every four to six weeks, our committee refreshes and restocks these rooms. **Chair Judy Goodpasture**
- During the summer we have once again collected water bottles for the clients at **Breakthrough ESS**. **Project Chair: Mary Druding**
- We collected school supplies for **The Pando Initiative**. **Project Chair: Hew Goodpasture**
- Our committee continues to send **Prayer Cards** to ill and bereaved parishioners. Birthday cards are also sent to parishioners. **Co-chairs: Mary Druding, Joan Bledsoe, and Judy Goodpasture**
- Also, **Deacon Jeff Roper's Card Ministry** for inmates at the **Winfield Correction facility** continues. Just drop off new cards in the hall basket. Inmates are allowed just two cards per month. Since there are 550 inmates, our cards go fast.
- In late September, we will begin our **Blanket Drive** for the homeless served by Humankind in their shelters. **Chair: Judy Goodpasture**
- This fall we will be offering **volunteer opportunities** through **United Way's Read-to-Succeed** program and the **Pando Initiative's Reality U**, a finance workshop for high school students.

Thank you, St. James parishioners, for demonstrating that our church
cares deeply about community outreach!

Breakthrough/Pantry & Hygiene Needs

Rachel Newell, Development Director at Breakthrough

Hello! I'm reaching out today to let you know that Breakthrough has identified some items that are in demand and needed as we seek to serve those who have become accustomed to living on the streets. These items are utilized through the following programs:

ShowerUp Mobile Unit – the unit is on Breakthrough's campus on Wednesday mornings, and our team of volunteers assists folks with the opportunity to take showers. The items we find are needed include:

- Individual-sized shaving cream cans
- Disposable razors for shaving
- Individual-sized anti-perspirant
- Men's cotton spandex boxer briefs (not white)
- New or Used (but clean) t-shirts in L and M sizes

Breakfast Bags on the Go – these items are often added to breakfast bags that have a protein item and a carb item. Donations of these items extends our funds for feeding the homeless.

- Bulk quantities of individual servings of fruit
- Bulk quantities of pop tarts
- Bulk quantities of peanut butter crackers

Clubhouse meals – Donations of these items extends our ability to support our Clubhouse members with a nutritious meal and an opportunity to work in the kitchen preparing a meal.

- Fresh eggs (we go through 100 each week)
- Fresh produce when available
- Dried goods in bulk

Donations can be delivered M-F, between 9:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Please leave a name and where they came from at the front desk.

We love our volunteers and our donors who respond to a call when asked. Thank you so much!



A Fence or an Ambulance?

Shirley Orr

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
but over its terrible edge there had slipped
 a duke and full many a peasant.
So the people said something would have to be
 done,
 but their projects did not at all tally;
some said, 'Put a fence 'round the edge of the cliff,'
 some, 'An ambulance down in the valley.'

But the cry for the ambulance carried the day,
for it spread through the neighboring city;
 a fence may be useful or not, it is true,
 but each heart became full of pity
for those who slipped over the dangerous cliff;
 And the dwellers in highway and alley
gave pounds and gave pence, not to put up a fence,
 but an ambulance down in the valley.

'For the cliff is all right, if you're careful,' they said,
 'aznd if folks even slip and are dropping,
 it isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
as the shock down below when they're stopping.'
So day after day, as these mishaps occurred,
 quick forth would those rescuers sally
to pick up the victims who fell off the cliff,
 with their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old sage remarked: 'It's a marvel to me
 that people give far more attention
to repairing results than to stopping the cause,
 when they'd much better aim at prevention.
Let us stop at its source all this mischief,' cried he,
 'come, neighbors and friends, let us rally;
if the cliff we will fence, we might almost dispense
 with the ambulance down in the valley.'

This poem, "An Ambulance Down in the Valley" was written by British temperance activist Joseph Malins in 1895. A century later, South African Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu said, "There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."

In the coming months, St. James will join forces with dozens of local congregations in launching a new justice ministry tackling the challenges that Tutu and Malins described. This new ministry is being organized through the Direct Action and Research Training Center (DART), with the support of the Kansas Episcopal Diocese. DART has supported the creation of justice ministries in cities across the nation, including Topeka, Lawrence, and Kansas City, where Episcopal congregations have been key partners.

The St. James Justice Ministry Team is currently forming and will help to lead community-wide listening sessions and action to address justice issues facing our community. There many ways to become involved in this effort; your input is needed and valued. For more information about how you can help, please contact Scott Orr (scottrorr@gmail.com; 214.912.8410) or Shirley Orr (shirleyaorr@gmail.com; 316.250.6940).

To learn more about justice ministry, visit
www.thedartcenter.org

DART is actively recruiting for a salaried position as Associate Community Organizer serving the Wichita area. The individual selected for this position will work with the lead organizer, justice ministry teams, and community members to launch the justice ministry in Wichita. For more information and to apply, go to: thedartcenter.applytojob.com/apply/mVhpIPjCh/ Associate-Community-Organizer

Sandwich Saturdays

Joan Bledsoe

Sandwich Saturday is taking a break for September and St. Andrews from Derby will deliver lunches for September. We will resume our Sandwich Saturday in December. **Sandwich Saturday will return on December 9th.**

Upcoming Blood Drive Dates

September 24, 2023

December 3, 2023

Consider giving the gift of life

Questions? Contact Dottie Evans

St. James Refugee Project

St. James is preparing to sponsor a refugee family through the International Refugee Committee. We have had two trainings so prepare ourselves. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jessica Moore or Suzanne Laycock for more information.

The first training can be found here: <https://rescue.box.com/s/xtsdtsfbwu3orvzkwhe0ovyxx2hq7y8s>

The Volunteer application can be found here: <https://irc-global.my.salesforce-sites.com/volunteer>

Wichita Alternative Gift Market

Suzi Miner

Shopping in-person on Market day offers “bonuses” including free ornaments and greeting cards, plus the chance to meet many other caring people in our community.

29th Annual Wichita Alternative Gift Market

Saturday, November 11th, 2023

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hillside Christian Church

8330 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita, KS 67206-2345

(Near Douglas & Rock, across from The Independent School)

You can also support local nonprofits at this event. This year we welcome Books for Prisoners, ICT SOS, Bread of Life, and Hope 4 da Hood. Vendors will offer tangible gifts like fair-trade home décor, jewelry, and locally made pottery - all for a good cause.

The beautiful new 2023-2024 Alternative Gifts International (AGI) catalog, “Gifts Inspiring Change,” offers so many empowering ways to gift, for any occasion, so keep this link handy for gift giving through June 2024: <https://alternativegifts.org/giving/gifting/causes>

Junior Warden's Report

Danny Blair, Junior Warden

The most recent building improvement to control and reduce energy consumption and cost has been completed. The last two older boilers which provide our heat have been replaced with a high efficiency condensing boiler which matches the lead boiler. These two boilers operate in a cascade fashion and with this change out our Natural Gas consumption will reduce and help to control cost and reliability. Overall our energy consumption is down after several years of improvements and refinements to the HVAC system. I would sing the praises of our professional service partners and the Vestry for the support and knowledgeable effort that they have provided. To hold our own and to indeed reduce cost in the face of rising utility rates is forward movement in the conservation area.

Along those lines we have applied for a grant through Interfaith Power and Light which will be funded through a Department of Energy grant program. This is being provided for Not for Profit institutions to implement energy conservation measures which may not be within the financial reach of those entities. Houses of worship fall within those parameters. It will be

several months down the road before we hear of any progress. Thank you to Claudette Johns for her hard work on behalf of the Creation Care Committee for this application work.

Calling all gardeners! All of our lives and responsibilities change as time takes us forward. Our Gardens are needing help. Master gardening skills are not required. This amounts to mostly weeding and occasionally spreading mulch. Some trimming is needed but guidance and direction is always available. Let me know by text or e-mail and I will get your name on the list of helpers. This usually happens on a Saturday morning before the temperature gets too high.

About a year ago St James came to the rescue of a Scout Troop and Pack. Their Chartering Organization was not able to continue their sponsorship and we became the Chartering Organization. The Pack and Troop will be moving physically to St James this fall so expect to see some Scouts around and being involved in some of our activities. Both Units have plans to be with St James at Open Streets ICT this year. An Eagle Scout Court of Honor is in the planning with another to come in the relatively near future.

Lawn & Gardens

Krystal Poindexter

St. James is blessed with a spacious property, especially considering the location of the church. With the blessing of land, comes the necessity to care for it. Many members work hard, *even in the heat of summer*, to keep the exterior spaces of the church maintained. It's not only about making sure they look nice, but also allows the yards to continue to be used for outdoor services, games with children and youth, city events like Open Streets ICT, and gardens to rest and reflect or connect with our loved ones who have passed away.

The dedication of volunteers that care for this space is truly appreciated, and we are thankful for the many ways that volunteers give their time and efforts to St. James Church.

From the Treasurer

Woody Swain, Treasurer

As you make contributions towards St. James' operating budget, there are many options available to you for doing this. Most of these options are geared towards helping you to better manage your money and a few are geared towards tax advantages.

Many of our members, like me, continue to contribute by regularly placing cash or checks in the offering plate during the service. But, an increasingly popular way to fulfill pledges is to arrange for recurring credit card or bank draft payments. This can be arranged directly with our bookkeeper, Susie Stallings, by filling out a simple one page form, or you can log into your online "Realm" account with St. James and set up recurring contributions by credit card or bank draft. Susie or the church office (Krystal Poindexter) would be glad to help you. If you don't have an active Realm account but you want to give online, there are a few options. You can click the "Give" link at the top-right of the church homepage, scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin, or use the texting option that is printed near the offertory each week.

For larger, one-time contributions, a few members will contribute stocks shares directly to St. James. If you let Susie know ahead of time that you are arranging to contribute equities into St. James' Schwab brokerage account, she can monitor our account so that this contribution is converted to cash in a timely manner and then transferred to our bank account.

Since I am of an age that requires me to take annual minimum distributions (RMD's) from my IRA, I use the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) strategy to save on income taxes as I fulfill my pledge. My IRA is with Schwab, and they have issued me a book of blank checks that I can use to make withdrawals of any size from my IRA. QCD amounts from an IRA are not subject to federal or state income tax, and since I take the Standard Deduction rather than itemizing, QCD's reduce the amount of my RMD that is subject to income tax, which is a nice savings to me. This strategy is well known among financial advisors, brokerages and banks, and I would be pleased to discuss my use of QCD's with you in more detail.

Endowment News

Tom Gossen, Endowment

Thank You, Dillons Community Rewards Members

All those small contributions add up to significant numbers! Since 2012 the total of gifts received by the Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Fund via donations from the Dillons Community Rewards program has been over \$10,000!

If you are someone who enjoys those fuel points and haven't yet linked your Dillons Plus Shopper's Card to St. James Church, please consider taking a few minutes the next time you sit down at your computer (or tablet) and visit <https://www.dillons.com/i/community/community-rewards> to link your card to St. James Church.

Join in giving a gift that costs you nothing.

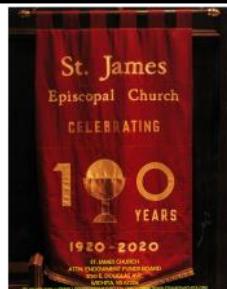
Your Endowment Funds Board members thank you for taking the time to do this.

Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Fund

Tom Gossen, PMEF Representative & Deb Baby, Chair



Please pick up your copy of the Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Funds 2022 Annual Report in the front entryway of the church. There are three containers with alpha dividers and you'll find yours there. Thanks.



Your PMEF board

PMEF ~ What's That?

Each edition of Seasons includes news about the Perpetual Memorial and Endowment Fund (PMEF) of St. James Church. Are you aware of the opportunities and benefits of the PMEF?

Give thanks to God for a significant event in your life, or for a loved one (or someone else) who has influenced your life by making a gift to the PMEF. There are two categories of tributes: (1) Living Tributes for those who are still living; and (2) Memorials in remembrance of the deceased.

Enrolled Gifts are reported in perpetuity in the Annual Report of the PMEF. New - and additions to previously enrolled gifts - are announced in each edition of SEASONS.

Create an Enrolled Gift by completing an enrollment form available on St. James website (or contact the parish office.) Initial gifts to the PMEF can be as small as \$100 (multiple smaller gifts can be combined.)

~ MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS ~

New Enrollments and Additions to the St. James Perpetual Memorial & Endowment Fund

Additions to Existing Living Endowments from May 1, 2023 thru August 18, 2023

Dillons Community Rewards Program \$ 534
Endowment Fund Support from enrollees in Dillons Community Rewards Program.

Additions to Existing Memorial Enrollments from May 1, 2023 thru August 18, 2023

Pamela McCausland (1952 – 2022) \$ 200
In loving memory and in thanksgiving for her life.

Colin Lee Carroll (2004-2021) \$ 100
In loving memory of Colin Lee Carroll, son of Matthew and Angee Carroll, brother of Dylan Carroll along with grandparents Barry and Nancy Carroll, Jeri Carroll and John Rhodes, and Susan Krier.

To honor a loved one by making a gift, visit the Endowment page at the St. James website:
<https://stjameswichita.org/give-to-st-james/endowment/> for the Enrollment Forms (Living Tribute and Memorial). OR, Contact the Church office 316-683-5686.

The Seasons of St. James Church

● ● ● The Guild Hall Players

The Guild Hall Players: 2023-2024 Season

Performances on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday begin at 8:00 pm.

Sunday performances begin at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$12 per person. Tickets for students and military are \$10.

Merchant of Venice on September 21-24. Directed by Joe Parrish

The Last Lifeboat on Nov. 30 - Dec. 3. Directed by Jeremy Buoy

Blithe Spirit on April 4-7. Directed by Mary Newman

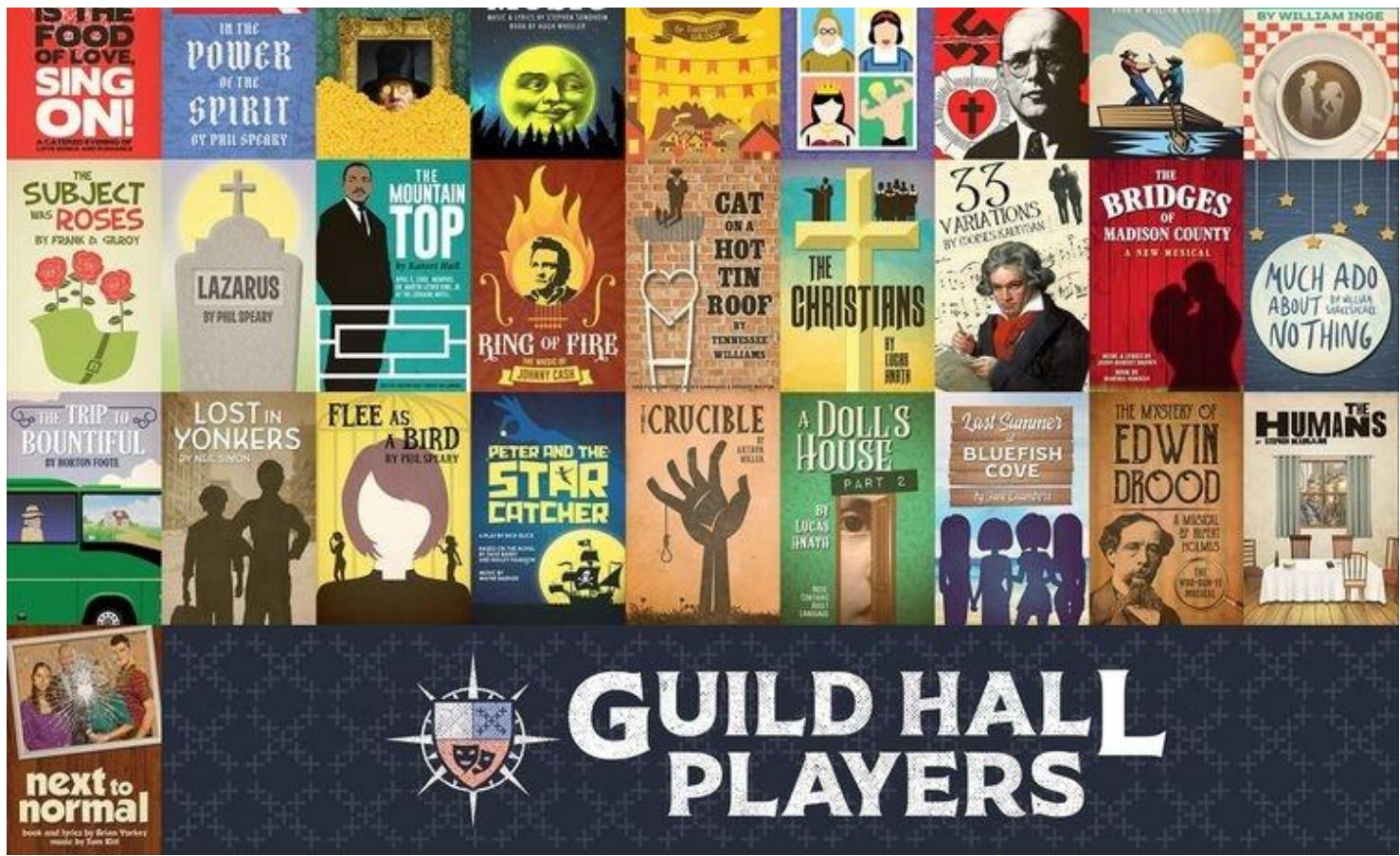
I Never Sang for My Father on May 23-26. Directed by Phil Speary

TBD Musical on July 18-21. Directed by Phil Speary

To reserve tickets by phone, you may call the St. James parish office at (316)683-5686. If it is after hours, please leave a message with your name, the date you would like a reservation for, and the number of tickets. You cannot reserve tickets through the parish office after 2pm on Friday, as no one will be available to check phone messages.

For the most current information, follow the GHP Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/guildhallplayers/



GUILD HALL PLAYERS

Diocesan Convention 2023



The 164th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas will take place October 20-21 at Grace Cathedral, Topeka.

What is a Diocesan Convention? A Diocesan Convention is made up of lay delegates elected by the congregations and active clergy. They meet annually to conduct the business of the diocese, such as hearing reports, voting on resolutions, electing leadership positions, etc.

The delegates attending for St. James are Randy Harrison, Rick Milhon, Joan Moore, Paul Rillema, and Racine Zackula. The alternates attending for St. James are Marilyn Milhon and Necia Rillema. The clergy attending for St. James are the Rev. Dawn Frankfurt and the Ven. Jeff Roper.

Bethany House & Garden

Krystal Poindexter, Parish Communicator

The Bethany House and Garden in Topeka, KS works to expand your spiritual life through creation. The gardens are split into differently functioning areas, with events throughout the year appropriate to the garden's missions of creation care, spiritual life, and social justice.

Even though I grew up in Kansas, I have spent very little time in Topeka. I went to our capital city a couple of months ago, when KIFA (Kansas Interfaith Action) was holding their birthday celebration. Grace Cathedral was the host for the event, so I was also able to take a tour and explore Bethany Garden while there. It is a beautiful space with a well thought out mission. They aren't only using gardens for the more-common meditative, contemplative spiritual experience.

The culinary gardens grow foods in spaces that are inclusive of all ages and levels of mobility. They are a wonderful space for learning about the many facets of gardening.

The Prairie garden focuses on native grasses and vegetation. They are creating space for pollinators (including Monarchs) and reminding us of the importance of having prairie vegetation in a prairie ecosystem. They are focuses on biodiversity and growing plants that can grow in the harsh Kansas weather without incredible amounts of water and fertilizer.

The Meditative gardens are quiet spaces developed for quiet reflection in nature. From quietly flowing water to the songs of birds and insects, they are a calm and peaceful setting to come and listen for the voice of something greater. They are a refreshing place to sit and 'just be,' especially for those of us that live in the noise and busyness of city life.

If you haven't been to visit, it's definitely worth making the time to go and see what they are doing.



St. James Episcopal Church
3750 E. Douglas Avenue
Wichita, KS 67208

(316) 683-5686
www.stjameswichita.org
office@stjameswichita.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Seasons of St. James Church

Loving, Liberating,
Life-Giving

Apply Address Sticker Here



WORSHIP OUTDOORS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT 10:00 AM

We will have one service on Sunday, October 8. It will be held outside in the churchyard, and will be followed by a parish picnic (potluck). Bring your lawn chairs or blankets if you like; there will be chairs available.

***The Saturday evening service will be inside, at 5:30 pm.*

