



A weekly email publication for the community of St. James Church in College Hill

Message of the Moment



The Blessing of the Animals – A Moveable Feast

Where did the tradition of blessing animals — specifically, our pets — come from? Nearly a thousand years have passed since St. Francis was alive and gained a reputation for loving animals and all of creation. It turns out that this contemporary tradition, “The Blessing of the Animals,” is rooted in historical fact. As we love to say:

“Ancient worship. Open minds.” We observe the Feast of St. Francis on October 4 (or a date close to it) in keeping with that spirit.

Since OpenStreets ICT is a regular event that takes place on our doorstep and draws crowds of people — many with their pets — we observe The Feast of Francis of Assisi on this day. We hope it is a comfortable way for people who may not be familiar with the Episcopal Church to connect with God, find community, and be introduced to St. James Church. Your presence, along with your pet’s, can be a welcome sight for newcomers and members alike, so please plan to join us.

This year, Open Streets ICT is from noon to 5 p.m., and it is held on Douglas Ave. **The service of The Blessing of Animals will take place at 2 p.m. this Sunday and is open to our parishioners, all visitors, and household pets who want to take part. Blessings will be conducted from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Forward Movement Publications tells us that “One of the boldest and most spirited figures in history, it is a shame that Francis is

sometimes dismissed as simply a quiet bird-watcher. Actually he was an outspoken and controversial social activist. He was one of the greatest preachers of all time. His concern with poverty and ecology give him a strikingly modern quality. Although he was a wealthy cloth merchant's son, he gave all he had to help the poor and was contented with only the barest necessities for himself. He vigorously opposed the abuse of political power, particularly when it was wielded by the Bishop of Rome. Francis was effective in initiating sweeping social and economic reforms. He was a popular singer, often called "God's Troubadour." His most famous hymn, "*Canticle to Brother Sun*" (#406 in *The Hymnal 1982*), has stood the test of time. Francis founded one of the strongest and most dynamic religious orders in Christendom. Today we find Franciscan Friars in both the Roman and Anglican communions."

To read more about Francis of Assisi, visit one or more of the following links:

<http://elvis.rowan.edu/~kilroy/JEK/query.cgi?10+4>

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/francis-of-assisil>

http://satucket.com/lectionary/Francis_Assisi.htm

<https://www.epicenter.org/the-feast-day-of-saint-francis-of-assisil>

To read about Francis, animals, and creation, click here:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/st-francis-assisil>

For information from the Episcopal Church, to read the collect and scripture lessons assigned for the observance of the feast day of St. Francis (and brief biographical information), click here:

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/LesserFF/Oct/Francis.html>

Examples of prayers for animals:

Hear our humble prayer, O God,
for our friends the animals, your creatures.
We pray especially for all that are suffering in any way:
for the overworked and underfed,
the hunted, lost, or hungry;
for all in captivity or ill-treated,
and for those that must be put to death.
For those who deal with them,
we ask a gentle heart of compassion,
gentle hands, and kindly words.
Make us all true friends to animals
and worthy followers of our merciful Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*From United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, **"Prayers and Blessings for Special Occasions: Saint Francis: Blessing of Animals"***

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies,
the earth and the sea.
They share in the fortunes of human existence
and have a part in human life.
God, who confers gifts on all living things,
has often used the service of animals
or made them reminders of salvation ...
We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals.
As we do so, let us praise the Creator
and thank God for setting us as stewards
over all the creatures of the earth.

Occasional Services: A Service for the Blessing of Animals, *The United Methodist Church Book of Worship (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1992), 608-609.*

**Yours in Christ,
Mother Dawn+**

First Things First

OpenStreets ICT will take place from noon to 5 p.m. this Sunday. St. James will have activities for children, the prayer tree to add prayers to, and our winning Wichita River Festival banners.

100th Anniversary apparel can be purchased using the order form found on the display table in the lobby near the red front doors. The order deadline is Oct. 15 with merchandise arriving approximately Nov. 1.

St. James Episcopal Church: the First 100 Years (our history book) can be purchased anytime in the bookkeeper office. Books will be available in the lobby on Sundays between services. Books are \$25 each.

The Parish Profile returns today. Keep reading for a story about Marlene Hallstrom, our music director and organist.

Readings This Week



Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

[Click here to go to the Lectionary Page](#)

[Click here for a free PDF download of the Book of Common Prayer](#)

Lessons appointed for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Proverbs 31:10-31](#)

[Psalm 1](#)

[James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a](#)

[Mark 9:30-37](#)

Calendar

**Click here to view our
current calendar of events**

Calendar

Community Outreach

The next American Red Cross (ARC) blood drive will be next Sunday, Sept. 26. Appointments will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. There are several ways to sign up for an appointment time:

- Login or create an account on the ARC website and pick your time.
- Call Dottie Evans at 785-341-4532.
- Email Dottie at dottieevans6@gmail.com.

Any questions or concerns about the event can be directed to Dottie.

We are off to a good start with our **Blanket Drive for the Homeless**. We have already collected 10 blankets toward our goal of 50. We will deliver the blankets to the **HumanKind shelters** in downtown Wichita, and the blankets will be greatly appreciated. Please continue to bring new, homemade, or serviceable blankets to church and leave them in the basket inside the red doors.

Pocket Change Ministry is now saving to send our next check for \$500 to **Episcopal Migration Ministries**. The organization is working hard to assist migrant families from Afghanistan.

Want to learn more about the **Homeless in Wichita**? Join our **Outreach Committee** Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.** Our guest speaker will be **LaTasha St. Arnault, CEO of HumanKind**. To receive a Zoom invitation, just send an email request to jgoodpasture@cox.net.

Parish News and Updates

Adult Forum kicks off this Sunday from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This year we are "Going off the Lectionary Grid." Chelsea Whipple will start off with Eshet Chayil, a Jewish Sabbath custom celebrating the Valiant Woman from Proverbs 31. All are welcome.

Sacred Ground Circles start on Oct. 14. Find out more at: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/> or read the most recent edition of Seasons! Please register early at <https://stjameswichita.org/sacred-ground-registration/>.

Parish Profile

Marlene Hallstrom has served as St. James' music director and organist for about nine years.

A South Dakota native, Marlene earned a master's degree in music education from the University of South Carolina and a master's in organ performance from the University of Nebraska.

She has taught music in public schools and operates her own piano studio from her home, teaching children and adults. If you've been to services at St. James, you've heard Marlene playing the organ.

Deb sat down with her to talk about what goes into running the music ministry at St. James, which includes



directing the adult, youth/children and bell choirs.

Her job includes selecting hymns, choral and organ music for upcoming services.

“I look at the lectionary for each Sunday to see what the themes and the readings are,” she explained. “I have resources that suggest hymns for the congregation that follow the themes either of the church year or the lectionary. I try to choose hymns that are familiar to the congregation most of the time so they enjoy singing them and so they have some meaning for them.”

Selecting music takes about two to three hours a week. Marlene practices regularly on the piano in the music room and on the organ in the church.

“During the week, I try to practice a few hours for the music for that Sunday. It depends on the music,” she said. “If it’s something I’ve played before, it doesn’t take as long to practice as something new.” She oversees maintenance of the pianos and organ, working to make sure both are tuned on schedule.

St. James does not require choir members to audition.

“It is a ministry. I want to allow people to participate if they’re able,” Marlene said.

Marlene worked at Reformation Lutheran Church in Wichita for about 10 years before coming to St. James. Before that, she was at Grace Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Neb.

She is married to Tom, a Lutheran minister, and they have two daughters and a son. Marlene is an associate in ministry in the Lutheran church, which is similar to being a deacon. Her certificate has an emphasis on church music.

Marlene has a small pipe organ at her home that had been in a church in Haysville. There’s a big difference between playing a piano and an organ, she said.

“The touch is different on the organ. If you push down the key, it just keeps sounding and sounding until you let go of it because you’re releasing air that goes to the pipe,” she said. “On the piano, the strings vibrate, but they eventually stop. The feel of the keyboard is different. The organ has a pedal board that your feet play. You can’t play all those notes on the piano that you can play with your feet on the organ.”

Pianos have 88 keys from lowest to highest, and an organ keyboard has 61 keys.

Classical is Marlene’s favorite genre of music. She said she enjoys playing the piano and organ about evenly.

Asked why music is important to worship, Marlene turned to the quote “Those who sing, pray twice,” often attributed to St. Augustine and Martin Luther.

“I just think music is a great form of art that can be inspirational. Sometimes it can really move people.”

Bonus Questions

Something that might surprise you about Marlene: I love cats, plants and murder mysteries.

When did you know that you wanted to make a career in music?: I majored in music in college and have enjoyed many ways of making music ever since, teaching in the classroom, in my piano studio, and working as a church musician. It is something I have

been able to do wherever we have lived.

Prayer

Parish Prayers for the Week of Sept. 19

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Episcopal Church.

In the World Council of Churches Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the people of Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.

In the Kansas Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Church of the Epiphany, Sedan.

Pray for those serving in the military: Alexis (Lexi) Reed, Will Corkins, J. David Anderson-Lusk and Maureen Tanner.

Pray for those who have died: Jackie Davis, Anne Allen (former St. James organist), Jan Siefkes (mother of Joan Moore and grandmother of Grace and Eve Moore), Nan King, and Justin Wittman Bayles, son of the Rev. Joseph Bayles.

Pray for those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity: Helen, Richard, Laura, Jean, Marge, Dal, Gary, Pam, Jayne, Betty, Gus, Bob, Joe, Jerry, Larry, Mary, Jean, George, Carly, Tom, Cindy, Cathy, Kam, all people with COVID-19, and all health care workers.

Our Parish Prayer List: All members of our parish community are asked to pray for each person on our prayer list. To share your prayers of thanksgiving (births, weddings, new jobs, anniversaries, etc.), to notify us that someone you love is serving in the military, to share that you or someone you love is suffering, or to tell us of a death, please call 316-683-5686 or email office@stjameswichita.org.

**If your prayers have been answered,
we would love to rejoice with you.
Please let us know so your name may be removed
from our list of people most urgently in need. Thank you.**

Let Us Pray

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly

in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 18:2-7

My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, *
my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge;
you are worthy of praise.
I will call upon the Lord, *
and so shall I be saved from my enemies.
The breakers of death rolled over me, *
and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.
The cords of hell entangled me, *
and the snares of death were set for me.
I called upon the Lord in my distress *
and cried out to my God for help.
He heard my voice from his heavenly dwelling; *
my cry of anguish came to his ears.

Psalm 91:9-13

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,
There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
For God shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent
under your feet.

Helpful Links

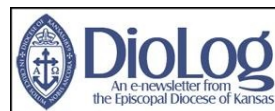
[View Last Week's Service](#)

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[Parish Leadership](#)



Community Rewards



**Whoever you are and
wherever you find yourself
on your journey of faith,
you are welcome here.**



St. James
Episcopal Church
CELEBRATING

YEARS
1920-2020
A COMMUNION
OF SAINTS

Get in Touch with St. James Episcopal Church



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