

The Seasons

of St. James Episcopal Church

Winter 2023: Advent,
Christmas, and
Epiphany



Grow Gradually

The Rev. Dawn Frankfurt, Rector

We are all familiar with The Parable of the Sower from the 13th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. It hasn't been long since we heard it proclaimed in church. From the parable we learn that we don't want to be like the seed sown on rocky ground which springs up quickly and immediately withers away. That's growing too fast. It's like trying to run a marathon in your first week of running. It's like getting on too many committees and being involved in too many activities. The more demanding the load, the shorter the road to burnout.

A situation unlike drying up and burning out is not developed by Jesus, but we know they exist. Haven't we seen seed scattered on soggy ground? This is a different road to ruin. Seed scattered on soil standing in water is subject to many killers. There is lack of sun and little air in mud. Other threats are stagnation, rot, and the demise of the seed. All of this could take place before any sign of germination in the seed.

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●●● Message from the Rector continued...

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We could understand this to be warning against failure to keep learning through life. The less exposed we are to new ideas, current events, and changing ways, the more accustomed we become to stasis, isolation, and detachment. In such a state, fears of difference and the possibility of our transformation seeps in as death and decay.

What we want is something between these two poles. We want good soil. How does seed nourished by good soil thrives because its growth is gradual. It develops over time. This is what happens as we mature in life. We start being fed with milk and cereal. It is probably decades before we discover that we need weight-watchers.

Growth in the spiritual life and its habits is incremental as well. I remember when I began living on my own and was responsible for myself alone. Managing to get up on Sunday morning and go to church by myself felt like an achievement. When the offering plate was passed in my pew my thoughts were only in the cycle of waiting for the next paycheck before paying bills or getting groceries. As I came to church more often, I started participating in the programs of the church, which I enjoyed. I found I was able to start putting small checks in the offering plate now and then. In time, I was willing to think about

completing a pledge form. After a gulp, I promised the annual equivalent of twenty dollars a month (\$240). Happily, I felt more connected to “my parish.”

Those first steps in giving to the church happened in the 1990s. In the 2020s I now pledge significantly (for me). There are other good causes I can help with regular monthly gifts, also. Please don’t hear this as bragging or sounding my own trumpet. This is not a hard thing for me. I like it. I hope I never start keeping track of expenses for which I don’t seek reimbursement. I like it – and honestly, it feels like too much trouble to fill out a form and ask for money for something I was happy to do.

I make a point of the length of time it took me to grow to this stage of giving. Honestly, I mean to shame no one. I know personally that it isn’t easy. But, do you know what? It has become easy over decades. Seed scattered on good soil grows gradually. For me, the church has been very good soil. By this time I have harvested seasons of seed and have resown them in soil I trust will remain nourishing, alive, and ready to receive more seeds. I am very thankful for the soil I have.

Advent to Epiphany

Dakota Bennett, Director of Music

This time of year always seems slow and fast at the same time. You start off having two months until Advent and then the next thing you know, it's two weeks away (and Thanksgiving is one of those weeks)! The whole choir season (Sept-May) is rather rushed this year with an early Easter (31 Mar), Ash Wednesday on Valentines day, and more immediately, only 3 Sundays for Advent (3, 10, 17 December). This is unfortunate if you're someone like me who loves Advent music.

To remedy this, we will be bringing back a pre-Covid tradition of this parish by having an Advent Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, 10 December at 5:30pm. As the name implies, this service consist of alternating scripture readings and musical elements (carols included). In addition to singing these Advent hymns, we will

also get to hear all three of our choirs and perhaps some instrumental offerings. Afterwards, we will have a soup dinner/potluck in which we are asking those of you who can to bring a side to go with soup or a dessert.

This time of year can be rather busy so I hope you all find time to rest, recharge (at church and at home) and most importantly, remember the reason for the season. Family time, fellowship, church services, and meals are wonderful in of themselves but when they are viewed through the love of this season, the love of God sending His only begotten Son to save the world, their meaning is all the more special. From the first day of Advent to Epiphany, I wish that you experience all the love and merriment this season has to offer.

Share your Voices with us!

Short Term Choir Commitment Opportunities

Do you love to sing, but don't feel like you have the time or ability to commit to the weekly church choir? We would love to have your help during the holiday season! There are two separate opportunities to share your voice with us this holiday season.

If you would like to sing with us for the **Lessons & Carols** service at 5:30 pm on Sunday, December 10, please attend the Wednesday choir practices at 7:00 pm on November 29 and December 6.

If you would like to sing with us at the 7:00 pm **Christmas Eve** service, please attend the Wednesday choir practices at 7:00 pm on December 13 and December 20.

Christmas Pageant is BACK!

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

The Pageant will be on December 17 at 10:00 am. For the first time in 4 years, we are performing the Christmas Pageant. In order for that to happen, we need kids and adults!

Rehearsal will occur on Saturday, December 16th, at 10 am in the Guild Hall. We will hand out parts, get costumes, and rehearse the play. If your child is interested in participating, please attend. We will also need volunteers and adult roles for the pageant. Phil Speary will direct with the help of Dakota Bennett, Anne Clark, and Chelsea Whipple.

EfM - Education for Ministry

Paul Rillema & Deb Bagby, EfM Co-Mentors

EfM INVITES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TO DISCERN AND ACT IN FAITH THROUGH SMALL GROUP REFLECTION.

Education for Ministry (EfM) lives in the School of Theology at the University of the South at Sewanee. It is a unique four-year small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 120,000 participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service where they live, work, and play. EfM helps the faithful discover the Christian tradition, bringing it into conversation with their experiences of the world. EfM seminar groups meet in onsite and online, all in person, developing theologically informed, reflective, and articulate seekers of God.

Many people have been taught that one must be ordained to be a minister, but our vows at baptism say something different: that all baptized Christians are ministers. God calls us to be active participants in ministry. What is that ministry? As the Church, we are called to continue the ministry of Jesus. We are called to be the hands, heart, and incarnate body of Christ in our own place through worship, reflection, in service to others, and by the proclamation of God's Word to all people.

The EfM program is designed to help Christians prepare for their ministry. It is that vocation for which we pray at the end of the communion service: "And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

During the service of Confirmation, we ask God to "Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them." EfM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to a Christian life.

Contact Paul Rillema (paul.rillema@gmail.com; (316) 634-6945) or Deb Bagby (debagby@gmail.com; (316) 612-0628)

Nursery Updates

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

It is so much fun to see kids arriving each Sunday to play in the Nursery! We see around 1–2 kids each service, and sometimes we can have up to 7-8 at a time. It is truly a needed service for our parents. In order to keep the nursery open and operating, we need 10 volunteers to commit to a Sunday every 2 months. You get the opportunity to spend time with our kids, love them, and minister to their needs.

If you are interested, please contact Chelsea, formation@stjameswichita.org or call the office, 683-5686.

Learning with Intention: Happenings in the Kidz Zone

Chelsea Whipple, Director of Programs

This year has started small, with just a handful of kids participating. We also only have 2 teachers, Ms. Amber and myself. We would love to have your child attend our Sunday school! Switching to the Godly Play curriculum has opened our eyes to learning with intention. We get to explore what the story says and means and how the lesson unfolds in our everyday lives. The kids can retell the story and apply what they are hearing. Sometimes, those retelling get a little more imaginative than maybe the teachers would like; it also gives a chance for kids to dream big!

The next Sunday school and Children's Chapel is December 3rd. 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. You can contact Chelsea at formation@stjameswichita.org or call the office for more information.

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

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

Youth Group

Anne Clark, Youth Mentor

At the beginning of the program year, the youth group changed their day and time to Sunday from 6:30-7:30 pm on 1-3 and 5th Sundays and 12:30-1:30 pm on 4th Sundays. This change allowed more youth to participate and recruit more adult volunteers. Family and school life can be hectic on Wednesday evenings, so we are using this year to see if the new date and time are helpful. Thus far, results are about the same as Wednesday evening. We'd love to have more youth involved! Our 4th Sunday, we meet during and after the 4th Sunday luncheon. This is an excellent time if you are new to joining, as we use this as a social and fellowship time to get to know one another better.

This year has started off well. Deacon Jeff helped us review different parts of our church history and what we believe based on confirmation literature. We enjoyed making another Halloween maze for the kids at our Halloween party. We are excited to help with the Christmas baskets on December 10th and will also be participating in the Christmas Pageant on December 17th. We are planning on going to Illuminations on December 17th. Please note that we will be on break from December 24th and will return on January 7th.

Just a reminder that the youth group now meets on Sundays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm (on 4th Sundays, from 12:30-1:30pm)! If you are interested in volunteering, please feel free to contact Chelsea Whipple or Mother Dawn. This year's youth group leaders are Anne Clark, Dakota Bennett, and Deacon Jeff Roper.



Thanks be to God for the generosity of our parish members who have returned their pledge forms for 2024. Pledging helps us when planning for the next year's budget. Please pick up a pledge form at the front desk, or use the one which was mailed to you at home, and return the completed form by mail or in the offering plate at a worship service. Every gift, no matter how small, makes a difference in our ministry at St. James Church.

YOUTH GROUP

Meets on Sundays at 6:30 pm, except on the fourth Sunday of each month when we meet at the Parish Potluck after the 10:45 worship service.

Youth Group is for grades 6-12. Join us!



Nominations to Serve in 2024

2024 Election at Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024

Senior Warden: Joan Moore

Junior Warden: Danny Blair

Vestry: Ethan Lindsay, Dana Stelter, and one candidate still needed

Youth Vestry Appointee:
Allie Mutzke

Endowment Funds Board:
Bert Clark and one candidate still needed

Delegates and Alternates:
Randy Harrison, Mary Sloan, Paul Leeker, Joan Moore

Nominating Committee:
Kate Miller, Judy Goodpasture, Richard Bowman, Mary Halley and Lisa Van-Arsdale Hansen

Join us for Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 17
at 5:30 pm



Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities during Advent and the Christmas season. **Please check the volunteer desk for sign-up sheets!**

We need volunteers to sign-up to light the candles on the **Advent wreath** for each service.

Please sign up to help serve over the **Christmas holiday**. On Christmas Eve, we will have a service at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 11:00 pm. We will also have a service on Christmas morning at 10:00 am. There are many people that enjoy serving during the Christmas Eve/Day services, so please be mindful that you leave room for others to sign up. Empty roles can always be filled in at a later date if needed. Sign ups will be made available online after a couple of weeks of allowing people to sign up in person.

Greens & Poinsettias

At St. James, we are blessed with an altar guild which does an exquisite job of preparing our church for weekly services as well as special celebrations. In Advent and at Christmas, the altar guild needs your help to purchase evergreens and poinsettias to adorn the church.

Please contribute to the faithful service of the altar guild. Each financial offering you make gives you the opportunity to include a memorial or a thanksgiving for a loved one in the Christmas Eve bulletins. The amount of your gift is up to you.

The dedication forms will be the bulletin and at the volunteer desk. Place donations for Christmas greens and poinsettias in the offering plate, mail or drop them by the church office, or give online.

●●● Worship

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Morning Prayer

The church calendar is a little different this year, as Christmas Eve falls on the fourth week of Advent. In anticipation for the Christmas Eve services on Sunday night, we will not hold our regular Saturday/Sunday Holy Eucharist services. Instead, you are invited to join us on Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 am for morning prayer as we finish the Advent season and await the arrival of the Christ child.



Celebrating Christmas

Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00 pm

7:00 pm

11:00 pm

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 25, 2023

10:00 am

Outreach Committee

Judy Goodpasture, Outreach 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.

Current Project Reports

- The St. James Refugee Family Project has welcomed a family of 6 (a mother and 5 children) from the emocratic Republic of the Congo. In conjunction with IRC (International Rescue Committee) we are setting up permanent housing for the family and providing rides to various training and orientation classes. We are most grateful for the hard work of our Co-chairs: Suzanne Laycock and Jessica Moore.
- As another fund raiser for the Refugee Project, the Outreach Committee will host a Valentine Party for adults in February.
- 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 this very generous congregation. Since 2015, this project has given \$23,000. to agencies serving children and families. Chair Vicki Evans and Gary Thudium (emeritus project founder)
- 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 working 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 Chair: Joan Bledsoe.
- Blanket Drive. This fall we have collected more than 70 blankets for our Refugee Project and for the Homeless Shelters managed by Humankind. Chair: Judy Goodpasture
- DART. An ecumenical effort involving more than 50 parishes in Wichita is working toward the development of a social justice project. St. James hosted four Listening Sessions this fall. Chairs: Shirley and Scott Orr
- As part of our 100 Year Celebration, our committee has refurbished 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 has refreshed and restocked these rooms. Chair: Judy Goodpasture
- Prayer Cards. 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
- Deacon Jeff Roper's Card Ministry for inmates at the Winfield Correction facility continues. Just drop off new cards in the hall basket. This fall we collected new Christmas cards for the inmates. These cards allow inmates to maintain vital relationships with family and friends.
- This winter we encourage volunteer opportunities through United Way's Read-to-Succeed program and the Pando Initiative's Reality U, a finance workshop for high school and middle school students.

Thank you, St. James parishioners, for caring about outreach to our community!

The Family Arrives in Wichita

Jessica Moore & Suzanne Laycock, IRC Group Co-Chairs



After a discussion with core group members in late September, we all agreed that helping a family get settled before the holidays would be best for all involved. We didn't want to be in conflict with any of St. James' traditional outreach and giving initiatives during the holiday season. So, we informed the IRC and within 10 days, they told us that they had a family arriving from the Democratic Republic of Congo that would be a good fit...and who would be arriving on October 25th!

Guided by IRC lists and guidelines on the most crucial items needed by families, sign up notices were sent to our congregation by all communication means possible – Realm, the weekly eTower, and the tried-and-true weekly announcement time during Sunday services. Our St. James community answered with incredibly generosity and speed within 2 weeks by providing so many items requested on our list. What was not physically given was covered by substantial donations to a specific fund to assist the family with settlement.

Paula*, a single mother, and her 5 children (ages 18 months thru 17 years), arrived at 11pm from Chicago, clearly exhausted from the long trip. Transitional housing had been set up for them by members of the IRC Group, and a hot meal of traditional African dishes had been purchased from Bchic Bar & Grill in Wichita. But, what this family clearly needed most was a lot of rest. So, as quickly as possible, we helped bring their luggage into their room, showed them how the essentials in the room worked (key cards, hot & cold faucets in the kitchen, bath & shower, lights, & stovetop) and made our exit.

Over the next few weeks, we were able to see how strong and loving Paula's family is with one another. They laugh easily and often, teasing one another. Everyone takes care of the baby boy, who walks with assurance, has incredible fine motor skills for someone so young, and now seems to like using a vacuum cleaner. The younger two girls are curious, and always eager to learn and help visitors carry anything – a pattern that St. James visitors probably established because we were constantly arriving with donated items that had been set aside, but were now needed. The eldest daughter is lovely and soft-spoken, but notices everything, and can redirect her siblings like a professional sports referee when needed. The oldest son is a great help to his mother, and already seems familiar with technology, social media and pop music. And, all the kids take after Paula, who clearly has great style, love of music and is excited to start classes in English and job readiness at the IRC.

The Family Arrives continued on page 11...

●●● Outreach

The Family Arrives continued from page 10...

The children have already started school and can't wait to go back. We felt sad that we had to tell them about the 3-day holiday for Thanksgiving so soon after they started. Paula and all the kids received their bus orientation with an IRC intern who knows Wichita Metro routes much better than anyone in our St. James group. The IRC emphasizes that families need to learn independence, and to not encourage dependence on our sponsorship group. While driving them around may be easier and faster from our perspective, familiarity with the buses will be better for them in the long run.

One thing that might be interesting to know is that we have never had the luxury of communicating with Paula and the kids through an on-site interpreter. The closest we got was at a local African market near WSU, where the owner was able to speak Swahili to Paula and answer certain questions that none of us could answer. It's all been through Google Translate. Judging by the frequently confused facial expressions on both parties, one could conclude that the English to Swahili translation success rate is around 70%. At one point, Deb Bagby and I tried using some high school and college French, which they probably understood. But, it just resulted in a lot of laughter. Apparently, there is quite a bit lost in translation...but so much more gained for making an effort.

As we start the season of Advent, let us remember that families like the Holy Family, like Paula's family, have moved around this planet for over 5 millennia. The refugees who arrive in the United States are not weak, or broken. They are probably some of the strongest people you will ever meet, and have so much creativity, promise and ingenuity to contribute to our communities. We feel blessed that we have come to know Paula and her children, and only hope to be of assistance in helping them establish a life for themselves in this country.

May faith, hope and love abound in their home and yours this Advent season!

*Pseudonym for privacy.

Sandwich Saturdays



Sandwich Saturday takes place every Saturday. St. James, St. Johns, Ste. Stephens, and Good Shephard take turns providing lunches for the food insecure. We also distribute socks, hats, dog and cat food.



Sack lunches include: One sandwich (PB&J, cheese, meat, meat & cheese), one fruit (banana, orange, applesauce with spoon), one bag chips, and a cookie or power bar.



If you volunteer to distribute, we are there from 10:45 am to 11:30 or noon. If you sign up to make lunches, plan to make 10-25 lunches. Contact Joan Bledsoe at pansy1918@icloud.com for more information or to sign up.

2024 Dates

Meet at St. James
or St. Johns,
10:25-10:45 am

March 9

June 8

September 14

December 14

International Rescue Committee: Worker Bees

Jessica Moore & Suzanne Laycock, IRC Group Co-Chairs

We would like to sincerely thank the following people who put their noses to the grindstone, flexed serious muscle, and helped Jessica and I settle the family from the airport into transitional housing upon arrival. Then, answered the call two weeks later to move them into the apartment where they will live for the next year. Much cleaning, packing, driving, unloading, organizing, repacking and reorganizing occurred (some of it in the rain and during a power outage). It was only accomplished through the amazing teamwork exhibited by these generous souls. Santa's elves could learn much from them!

Jose Alonso	Linda Guyot
Deb Bagby	Kate & Todd Miller
Clay Bastian	Suzi Miner
Helen Bousfeld	Chase Moore
Judy & Hew Goodpasture	Rachel Muscat (of Congregation Emanu-El Wichita)



The following individuals also spent time with Paula* and her family whenever their schedule allowed, driving them to required IRC and medical appointments, assisting with school registration, and facilitating the introduction to grocery stores, shopping at retail outlets, using laundry facilities, etc.

Deb Bagby	Rachel Muscat (of Congregation Emanu-El Wichita)
Suzi Miner	LoWaine Robison
Chase Moore	

Last, but not least, we need to thank **Mother Dawn** for her role in encouraging the formation of this group. This entire initiative started with her, and it has affected the lives of Paula, her children, and every person that has helped them from the moment they arrived in Wichita. Thank you, Mother Dawn, for believing this could be done.

*Pseudonym for privacy.

PARISH POTLUCKS

**LET'S GATHER TO SHARE
CONVERSATION AND A MEAL TOGETHER!**

**For every potluck, a main dish will be provided.
You are invited to bring a dish to share,
but most importantly, bring yourself!
There is always enough food to share.**

**On the second Sunday each month,
we will have breakfast at 9:30 am.**

**On the fourth Sunday each month,
we will have lunch at 12:00 pm**

THE GIVING TREE IS HERE!



**Due to scheduling, the turn-around time
is shorter, this year**

All gifts must be at St. James by

December 10

**Tags for adults and teenagers will
usually request a gift card**

**Tags for children may request a gift card
or they may list gift suggestions**

(Choose one or two items –not the whole list!)

FOR 25 YEARS our baskets and gifts have been making
Christmas special for 20 families(!) from Breakthrough/ESS
Kansas Children's Service League and St. Francis Ministries

Capital Campaign and Building Improvements

Danny Blair, Junior Warden

Taking a moment to review the progress on our 100th Anniversary projects funded by our successful Capital Campaign we are closing in on completion. To recap: our sound system was modernized and enhanced, The lighting in the Nave and Chancel has been upgraded with enhanced controls and more lighting added as well as being totally LED saving energy. Beautiful new Pew cushions have been installed, for the first time in 100 years we don't sit on hard wooden seats. The lounge carpet has been replaced along with a bit of updated furniture. The original entrance doors to the Nave have been rebuilt, panic hardware installed and weather stripped. The entire exterior has been cleaned, tuck pointed and sealed. All of the roofs not replaced under the original insurance claim have been replaced making every roof on our building new. This leaves the installation of two elevators, one going down to the original basement and one going up to the Education area, a remodel of the two upstairs restrooms and a re-organization of the choir seating area to complete. The engineering, planning and Architectural work finalizing the elevator design for the first elevator is ready and construction should begin in January if all goes as planned. The elevator to the second floor will follow directly behind the first with the engineering design, elevator selection and Architectural work in hand. The second floor restrooms will be remodeled into single use, unisex, ADA accessible with an updated look and an Architect has been brought in to provide this design. This leaves only the re-organization of the

Choir area which is being formulated with our new Music Director. As the pledges for these projects continue to come in and the total funding becomes available we will have made significant enhancements and performed maintenance to this wonderful building. Thank you all for your love and giving to make this happen.

Alongside the Capital Campaign we have continued to improve the overall energy efficiency and general health of our building. Through the building control system upgrades, regular periodic maintenance of the mechanical systems and the installation of a second high efficiency boiler replacing the last two aging boilers we have reduced energy usage and overall cost of operation over previous years in spite of rising energy costs. We reduced our water usage by selectively watering only those areas needing help this summer in keeping with water conservation practices and hopefully helping our fragile Earth. We continue to look for improvements and solutions which will contribute to the overall function and efficiency of our building to support our Mission. The body of our members and our joining in worship along with the Mission of reaching our Community is the true St James Church. Our historic building simply provides us a gathering place to accomplish these things. It has served us well for the past 100 years and will continue to for many years and members to come.

From the Treasurer

Woody Swain, Treasurer

As 2023 draws to a close, I am thankful for the excellent follow-through (over 98%!) by our members on the financial pledges that they made for this year. Our 2023 budget, presented at last January's Annual Meeting, forecast a shortfall of \$24,539. We have closely managed expenses, and I estimate they will be about \$23,000 less than budgeted for the year. However, non-pledged giving, which is difficult to predict, has not reached the levels that we've seen in recent years. As a result, I estimate that our actual deficit for 2023 will be roughly \$25,000. To solve this problem, we are asking our members to consider making an extra financial gift before the end of the year.

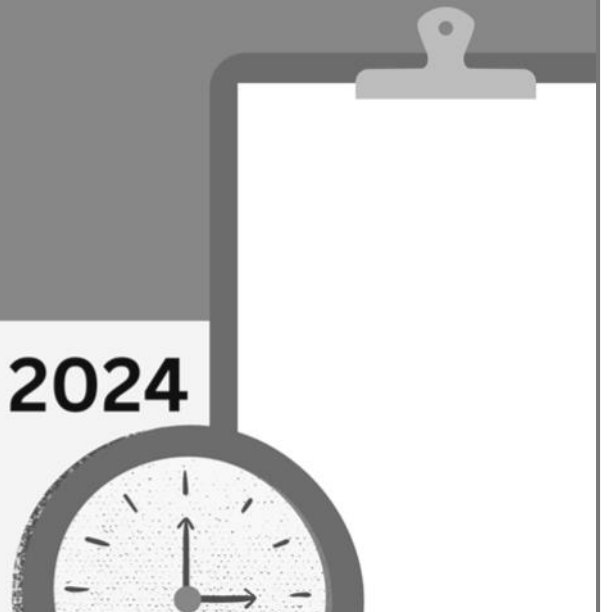
The good news is that this extra giving does not need to be large if most everyone participates. For 2023, there were 128 pledges, and \$25,000 spread over that number of donors is an average of just under \$200 per donor. So, please consider making an extra gift to St. James as we enter the Advent season and approach Christmas.

Looking ahead to 2024, our Stewardship Campaign is doing well. Our membership has responded well to the need to increase pledges in order to fully fund our current level of activities and ministries. The Vestry will review our 2024 financial plan at its December meeting, and I will present it to our congregation at our Annual Meeting in January.

SAVE THE DATE!

**20 | ANNUAL
24 | MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024
10:45 AM**



Why Not You?

Tom Gossen, EFB Representative

I frequently find myself reading vanity plates on vehicles when stopped in traffic. When I spot an interesting one, I ponder on the intent or meaning of the author. Such was the case when I spotted:

Y NOT U

The message on that vanity plate has continued to stimulate various story lines in my mind. The predominant theme that continues to recur relates to why folks may or may not be receptive to declare that they have included the church in the distribution of what they leave behind after they no longer need their earthly belongings.

The debate I have with myself ranges from “they must be scared to think about it,” to “they just must think they can take it with them.” Whatever the reason, it’s likely to be different for everyone. For me, I can attest to my own resistance to thinking about leaving a legacy gift until I accepted that all that I have and all that I have been blessed with is a gift from God.

Y NOT U

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 August 19, 2023 thru November 10, 2023

Dillons Community Rewards Program **\$ 276**
Endowment Fund Support from enrollees in Dillons Community Rewards Program.

Additions to Existing Memorial Enrollments from August 19, 2023 thru November 10, 2023

Betty Shaw **\$ 200**
In honor of her faithful service to St. Matthias and St. James Episcopal Churches in Wichita.

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 GUILD HALL PLAYERS

Check the church
calendar for
upcoming shows!

Showtimes follow the same
schedule for each show:

8:00 pm, Thursday-Saturday

7:00 pm on Sunday

Tickets are \$12 each.
\$10 discounted tickets
are available for
students and military.

www.facebook.com/guildhallplayers

Remaining 2023-2024 Shows

The Last Lifeboat: Nov 30 - Dec 3

I Never Sand for my Father: May 23 - 26

Blithe Spirit: Apr 4 - 7

Hello, Dolly!: Jul 18 - 21

Winter Breakfasts for those in Need

Rachel Newell, Development Director at Breakthrough

The City of Wichita and HumanKind have partnered to open a winter shelter at 2220 E. 21st in Wichita. They plan to open the facility for beds and meals on December 1st and continue through the middle of March, 2024. This has been a quickly evolving project for the downtown community and homeless groups and it's all hands on deck to get it underway.

Breakthrough has been asked to collaborate and provide breakfast bags for the shelter, beginning December 1. We WILL NOT be providing breakfast at Breakthrough (1010 N Main) through the winter, but encouraging individuals to take advantage of the meals at the shelter. **They plan to serve three meals a day.**

Since we will be collecting items for the breakfast bags and delivering them to the shelter, we can use your help in the following ways:

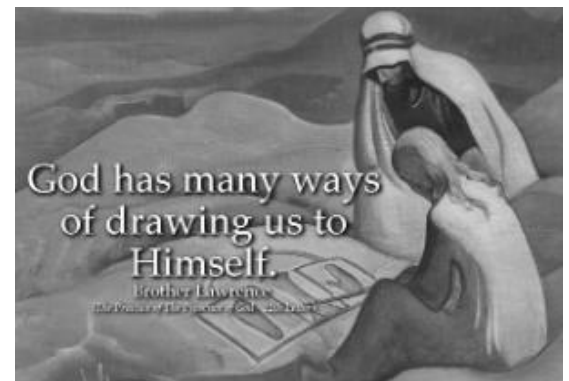
- Volunteer to transport the bags each week.
- Volunteer to fill the bags.
- Donate the following items for the bags:
 - Pop tarts, individual apple sauce cups, peanut butter crackers
- Coffee and granola bars for individuals at 1010 N Main needing nourishment on a given day.



Zoom Home Retreat with Brother Lawrence

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

This is a way to have a retreat in the warmth of your own home and with community around the diocese. The retreat begins Sunday, January 28, 7 pm, and continues through Monday at 2 pm. Supporting sacred time at home, Canon Lisa Senuta will guide you through times of spiritual learning, personal reflection, and listening groups. Using the teachings of Brother Lawrence, we will gather at specified times throughout the day. Plan a quiet day at home opening your spiritual heart. For more information or to register, check out the upcoming retreats section of the spiritual life page on the Diocesan website at www.episcopal-ks.org/spiritual-life/ or contact Krystal in the church office and she can send you the link.



The Longest Night

A MEMORIAL SERVICE
for Wichita's Homeless

Thursday, December 21,
2023

6:00 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church
402 N. Topeka

Donations of Hats, Gloves, or Hand Warmers
for Episcopal Social Services are welcome

This is a Shared Ministry of the Wichita Episcopal Minster

The Longest Night

St. James Episcopal Church

3750 E. Douglas Avenue
Wichita, KS 67208

(316) 683-5686

www.stjameswichita.org

office@stjameswichita.org

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UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

5:30 pm: Lessons & Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

10:00 am: Christmas Pageant

5:30 pm: Greening of the Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00 am: Morning Prayer

NO SERVICES

There will be no services at

5:30 pm on Saturday, December 23

8:30 am on Sunday, December 24

10:45 am on Sunday, December 24

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm

congregational singing, music, blessing of
the crèche, and festive Holy Eucharist.

(Childcare available in nursery)

7:00 pm

choral and congregational singing, music,
and festive Holy Eucharist.

(Childcare available in nursery)

11:00 pm

music and incense;

without congregational singing.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am: Service of Holy Eucharist