

St. James Episcopal Church Connections



Volume VII, Issues I & II

January/February 2013

2012 Budget Results

Income: \$121,817.63

(budgeted receipts)

Outgo: \$130,277.02

(budgeted expenses)

Deficit: \$8,460.00

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Have You Been Attending Regularly?

Sun., Dec 2	40
Sun., Dec 9	43
Sun., Dec 16	38
Sun., Dec 23	46
Christmas Eve(2 services)	106
Sun., Dec 30	25



Once Again, from Epiphany into Lent...

Epiphany...the journey through what used to be designated by the Latin names for each Sunday, and what now falls into the catchall of “ordinary time” after the Sundays which are designated specially. The seasonal color is again green. But the season is anything but “ordinary.” It is a season of learning how to follow faithfully. The Magi are simply leading us on constantly, not just to follow the Star to Bethlehem, but also to follow Our Lord into a better understanding of What and Who He is. Then, and only then, will we be ready to undertake the harder journey of Lent. (*shamelessly snatched from an earlier February newsletter*)

With this new calendar year, we are discussing all the sorts of things which come to the attention of any organizations at the beginning of a year. St. Margaret’s Guild has several projects underway, in addition to its ongoing ministries. The Vestry has been working on—and will continue on—a number of projects, ranging from maintenance and upgrade of the physical plant of the church to conducting an Every Member Canvas to better serve each other in all aspects of our communal parish life.

St. Margaret’s Guild has been conducting a Clothes Closet in conjunction with the Food Pantry on the second Thursday of each month since Autumn of 2012, and has found it to be not only extremely popular with the persons coming to the Food Pantry, but equally popular with the parish as an outlet for unused or surplus clothing and shoes. The Guild has also, from monies raised in the last year’s yard sale and bake sale, funded a new multipurpose printer for the parish office, and will be buying a kayak for Camp Weed. This year’s Yard Sale will be held on March 9th, so everyone is requested to set aside anything they wish to contribute.

Several parishioners who have been, or are involved in communications within the parish have been discussing various ways to improve and upgrade the means by which we keep in touch with each other. This will be discussed at the Annual Meeting, and input will be appreciated. We are looking at the various ways we can get information out to the parish in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Please note the information about the Parish Meeting on the last page. We would really like to have as many members as possible attend this meeting on February 10th.



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Sad News:

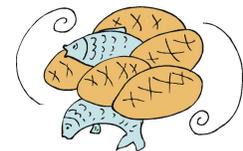
Tim Keely died after a long battle with cancer on December 5, 2012. May Light Perpetual shine upon him and may he rise in Glory.



St James Food Pantry In Calendar Year 2012 - A Report

It was a good year for the food Pantry again this year thanks to the generous people of St. James Episcopal Church and the grants from the our diocese. Christmas and Thanksgiving were once more occasions for special offerings to the hungry of Taylor County. We again gave small hams and all the fixings such as stuffing, creamed corn, baked beans, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, collard greens, and many other items. The Christmas bag also included Christmas candies for the young and the young at heart. The following are the 2011-2012 statistics compared to each other.

	FAMILIES	PERSONS FED	FED PER FAMILY
Christmas 2011	73	222	3.04
Christmas 2012	95	296	3.12
Change	22	74	0.07
Thanksgiving	105	335	3.19
Thanksgiving	93	296	3.18
Change		(39)	0.01
2011	722	2,320	3.21
2012	801	2,575	3.21
Change	79	255	0.00



Overall for the year we fed 79 more families and 255 more people than the previous year. The numbers at Thanksgiving were down slightly from the previous year, and the numbers at Christmas up substantially. This year again we offered the health clinic thanks to the dedication of Joanie Cruce, a member of our congregation. Thanks to the St. Margaret's Guild, we added a Clothes Closet this year. It has become very popular, and asked about. Food Pantry day has become very popular with the poor and hungry of Taylor County. It was a good year!

Morris



THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!

About 3:30 on the morning of the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th) this year I awakened with the ideas for this article, and composed it in my head—pretty much, anyway. Many of you know that I always wear a couple of small gold crosses next to my skin to remind me of who and what I am. One of those crosses is what is known as a “Phos-Zoe” cross—the Greek words crossing on the “o”. They stand for “Light of the World-Life of the World”—“phos” being the Greek word for light, and “zoe” being the Greek word for life.

Light: that which illuminates. That brings me to what Fr. Rob Voyle has written recently (as referred to me by Fr. Hanson)—that he really needed to hear a sermon this Christmas based on the phrase from the opening passage of the Gospel According to John— “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” This phrase is part of what is called the “Last Gospel,” which is often used to end Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. This Gospel passage is what sends the congregation back out into the world in the joy and certainty of the Incarnation—the Light of the World—“God With Us”—Jesus the Christ. The Light came into the world in His birth, and what is equally important to remember is the darkness does **not overcome it!** Darkness did not overcome it then, and has never overcome it, even though we may feel that we are drowning in darkness. As Fr. Voyle says, in the struggle to survive, we often feel that we are in darkness. **“When children are afraid of the dark, we don't turn off the dark, we turn on the light. Much of what discourages me is that I and most in our country are focused on trying to turn off the dark.”**

Light: that which overcomes the dark. At Christmas, we celebrate the entrance of the Light into this world . And as we move into Epiphany, we continue to celebrate the work of the Light in the world. We sort of forget that the Light doesn't actually leave us during Lent; we are simply preparing to receive It again. At the Great Vigil of Easter, a deacon or cantor carries the paschal candle into the church which is in darkness and stops three times on the way to the front of the congregation, chanting “The Light of Christ.” The congregation responds...“thanks be to God” and light their candles from the paschal candle until the church is filled with light.

What Fr. Voyle says is that we have to ensure that darkness is given no chance to overcome *our* light. Jesus is our light, but we have to work together spread the Light of Christ. He says that we need:

- *To renounce using fear to motivate myself or anyone for that is the path of and to terrorism.*
- *To see the world through the eyes of love, for those are the eyes of God.*
- *To stay in community with others who walk the path of love.*
- *And whenever and wherever to seek and find the light in others and discover how we can make that light burn brighter.*

And in the words of Steve Bhaerman to become a “nomad.” That's where I no mad at you and you no mad at me. A little peace here, a little peace there, and pretty soon there be a big peace everywhere. The Light of Christ; Thanks be to God!

Minge



This photograph was taken on the First Sunday in Advent of the new St. James processional banner. The banner was designed by Minge Bishop and executed by Karen Hester, Sharon Hester's mother. The staff and crossbar were crafted from wood donated by Billy Simpson by Bill Pyle (who also created a unique stand for it). Minge donated the banner in memory of her mother (Belle Y. Bishop) and her sister-in-law (Phyllis C. Bishop). Banner and staff were blessed on December 2nd. It will be carried in the procession in the opening Eucharist of the 2013 Diocesan Convention.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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January/February
2013

Come and worship with us.

Visit us on the Web

<http://stjamesperry.org>

Annual Parish Meeting

February 10th, after services. We will be electing new Vestry members* and next year's diocesan convention delegates, as well as receiving reports on the state of the parish in 2012 and what is expected for 2013. We will also have a signup sheet for opportunities to participate in parish ministries.

We need All of Us to attend!

(Pot-Luck Luncheon)

**Nominations wanted!*

Coming Special Events Schedule

Diocese of Florida annual convention—Jan. 25/26
Annual meeting of St. James —Feb. 10
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—Feb. 12
Ash Wednesday—Feb. 13
Stations of the Cross begin every Friday—Feb. 15
St. Margaret's Guild Yard Sale—Mar. 9

Utreya

The Apalachee Utreya will meet at 6:30pm on February 8th at St. James. More information will be forthcoming in Sunday bulletins.



Daughters of the King are now leading a weekly time of prayer each Wednesday at 11:00am in the church. All are invited to join in.

