



SAINT JAMES Episcopal Church

Tigard, Oregon

PARISH THE THOUGHT

JANUARY 2012

WORSHIP & EDUCATION

Saturday Eucharist-5pm
 Sunday Eucharist-8 & 10am
 Adult Education-9:05am
 Sunday School-10am
 Wednesday Eucharist-Noon
 Noon Prayer-Mon-Thurs. & Sat.

SAVE THE DATE

January 4 - celebration of Epiphany
 January 7 - Taizé
 January 8 - baptisms & adoptions
 January 15 & 22 INASMUCHAS
 January 29 - Annual Meeting

IN THIS ISSUE

10 Birthdays
 11 Calendar
 6-7 Christmas Outreach
 2 Pageant pictures
 9 Prayer Corner
 4 Upcoming events

11511 SW Bull Mountain Rd.
 Tigard, Oregon 97224
 503-639-3002
www.stjamestigard.org

New ideas for a new year



Happy New Year, everyone. And thank you to everyone who contributed to the life and ministry of Saint James while I was off working and learning in Berkeley.

Thank you especially to Deacon Mimi, Elsie, Louise, Susan Zwingli, Deacon Melinda, Father Bill, and Father Palmer who all worked to ensure that all my normal duties would be covered in my absence. It is clear that the whole parish pulled together during the fall.

Thank you also for making me feel so welcome on my return. Many people thought I was crazy to return a week before Christmas, thinking it would be a madhouse. But everything is so well organized and everyone so cooperative that I could just step in easily to the last week of Advent..

And truly nothing could have been a better welcome than the spectacular Children's Pageant! Thank you to everyone who had a part in that - especially the children and youth.

As most of you know, the focus of my work at the seminary and my continuing work on my Doctor of Ministry is ministry with the dying. You may have heard me say that I do not think I have ever worked harder, or read and written more! Among the fruits of my labors have been materials to use to celebrate the Eucharist at a time when someone is known to be dying, but still able to participate, as well as booklets of prayer to use as the person is actively dying. These have already been a resource in my ministry in these first few days back.

One idea that came to me as I was writing my longest paper was the idea of a new workshop similar to our popular 'plan

your funeral' workshop. This workshop would be an opportunity to look at the prayers and reflections available for use during the dying process, and to think about other particular aspects of our own spiritual lives that we would like those caring for us to bear in mind during our last days and hours. For example, some of us are used to praying with icons and therefore would like to have at least one with us at our death bed. Someone else might have particular spiritual music (Taizé or praise music or Mozart) that has always helped them pray. For another person having their favorite prayer beads would be important. .

Just as planning the lessons and music, etc. for your funeral is always a much appreciated gift to the members of your family who are left with the responsibility, having this information would be much appreciated by those who will be companionship your dying.

While none of us is fond of thinking about our approaching death, we all know that it is a reality that bounds all our experience of life. A workshop about things we believe will help us make our last journey home to God will not so much focus on the imminence of death, as on discovering the things which have been most beneficial to our spiritual lives thus far.

The fruits of the workshop will be not only another page to put in your future planning file in the church office (and at home), but also a reminder of things to do and use to increase our spiritual growth through however many days and years remain to us.

It is a delight to be back home with you all, and a privilege to share our life journeys together.

Mother Raggs+

Saint James Children's Advent Pageant



On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, a week before Christmas, the youngest members of the parish presented a delightful

play based on the wonderful carol of the Friendly Beasts, which reminded everyone, "There is always room for one more!"

Dollars & Sense

By Don Bachman
St. James Treasurer



Last month I indicated we had received 52 pledges on Consecration Sunday for a total of \$118,900. We have now received a total of 76 pledges totaling \$176,604 by December 20, the date of this writing. The 24 additional pledges came from those who could not attend Consecration Sunday and most were received about a week later. This was a 9% increase over last year's pledges and only took about a month to complete the process. Consequently I would say the program worked very well and cut a few weeks off the collection time of the pledges and facilitated a faster completion of the budget.

We are now in the final process of preparing the 2012 budget for St. James. A few expense items need to be approved by the Vestry during the December meeting to complete the budgeting process.

The eleven month total for pledge collections stand at 92% of the amount budgeted. We do expect some annual pledges collection to arrive in December. Total expenses are in line with the budgeted amount with the exception of utilities expense at 6% over budget. We have corrected the 2012 budget numbers to reflect increases and decreases in the utility category.

We wish you a happy and prosperous new year and sincerely want to thank all who have participated in the new stewardship program. You made it a financial success.

Senior Warden's Report

By Tracy Esguerra

Happy New Year! This is a time of renewal, of new beginnings, a time to look with hope towards a brand new year, and for many of us, a time for a new resolution. I've done it so many times myself—resolved that with the beginning of a new year I would eat less; exercise more; read more; stress less; spend more time with my family; spend less time watching television; organize the closet, the cupboard, my schedule. The list goes on. And my intentions were great, but the effort never lasted for long. Maybe I realized that what I was attempting to accomplish wasn't always that important in the scheme of things. Or maybe I had set an unrealistic goal. I don't know. What I did know was that always, after some time, the energy and determination seemed to fizzle away.

I was thinking that I was through making New Years resolutions. No longer would I expend my efforts on something that was likely impractical or unrealistic. But I have since changed my mind.

Recently, I discovered an article that highlighted a lecture given by The Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong, retired bishop from the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. In the article, located in the quarterly newsletter of The Episcopal Divinity School, he urges us to "...love beyond every boundary, to love wastefully, to give it away, to never stop and count the cost..."

If there ever was a New Years Resolution worth working at diligently, this is it. My prayer is that we can all learn to "love wastefully."



Epiphany Celebration

After the twelve days of Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, remembering the visit of the Magi to the Holy Child in Bethlehem, looking ahead to all of the ways that Christ's glory will shine in the world. This year we will celebrate Epiphany on the 11th Day of Christmas (Wednesday, January 4th) at our normal Wednesday noon Eucharist. It will, as usual, be a simple service without music, but there will be gold, frankincense (not burning), and myrrh – and it will be the last opportunity to enjoy the crèche before it retires to the attic for another year. So join us, if your schedule permits, to celebrate the Light of Christ shining forth for the whole world.

Dates to Remember

Saturday Eucharist Resumes December 31

Now that Mother Raggs has returned from Sabbatical we will once again have a celebration of the Eucharist at 5pm each Saturday, with the exception of the first Saturday of the month when we have our Taizé prayer service. The first Eucharist will be on New Year's Eve, December 31.

Lesson and Carols January 1st

We will greet the New Year with our traditional Christmas Lessons and Carols. At the 8am service the 9 lessons will alternate with spoken canticles from the Prayer Book. At the 10am service there will be carols. This is a favorite service for many. So get up early and begin 2012 with this joyful reminder of God's generous gift to us.

Adoptions and Baptisms January 8

Sunday January 9th is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (the first Sunday after the Epiphany), the day for expressing our community hospitality toward all. This is a perfect day for baptisms, so please contact Mother Raggs right away if someone in your family is ready to be baptized.

This is also our semi-annual opportunity for 'adoption'. At the 10am service, we welcome people who have decided to become active members of our community. This means regular participation in worship and support of the work of the parish. This is not a legal process, like the official forms transferring members from one parish to another. Everyone's way of membership is different. This is a way for individuals and families to publicly declare their intention to be part of our common life – and for the parish to promise support and prayers to them. Again, let Mother Raggs know as soon as possible if you wish to be publicly adopted.

INASMUCHAS January 15 & 22

Just a reminder to continue collecting loose change each day as you empty pockets and purses, then drop it in your INASMUCHAS jar. On Sunday, January 15, or Sunday, January 22, bring your jar to church and pour the coins in the big stainless steel pan at the altar and listen to the joyful noise we make to the Lord. In January the collection will go to local needs, specifically the Good Neighborhood Center meal program. September is the next opportunity for the collection and, at that time, money will go to international concerns.

The name INASMUCHAS reminds us of Jesus' words in Matthew, Chapter 25, "Inasmuch as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me." Just a few coins each day adds up, especially when combined with a few coins from each parishioner. If you don't have a special jar for your coins, there are some on the shelf across from the office and they are just waiting to be filled with coins.

Annual Meeting January 29

Please plan to come to worship at 9am on January 29th (a special combined service) and then stay for the Annual Parish Meeting. This is a wonderful occasion to celebrate our life together during 2011 and look ahead to the new year and whatever blessings it will bring. We will thank outgoing vestry members and vote in new ones. The budget will be presented. The more of us come to the meeting, the more fun we have! An extra treat this year is that this is our scheduled visitation from the Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev'd Neysa Ellgren, who assists the Bishop in his work around the diocese and so visits parishes in the years between the Bishop's biennial visitations. This will be an opportunity to get to know a lively and delightful member of our diocesan leadership team.

Looking ahead

Fun and Fund-raising

Save the Date of Saturday March 17th 2012 for the Silent Auction to benefit St. James' Outreach Projects. More information to follow

Hospitality Central

by Pat Taylor, Hospitality Coordinator

Business has been a bit slow for the newly formed Hospitality Committee while Mother Raggs has been on Sabbatical! Mary Clyburn, Mary Heileson and myself (my middle name is Mary, too!) have been ready to leap into action, red mugs in hand, but we have had few "customers".

We are confident that Mother Raggs' return and the beginning of a new year will bring more new people to St. James, but we need everyone's help in spreading the word about our wonderful caring community, and bringing someone to church who is seeking to worship in such a family.

Remember - the offer stands for the remainder of this Year of Hospitality - a red mug for the first timer and a red mug for you!

Let's keep the "3 Marys" busy in 2012!!



Thank you, everyone!

Thank you to all members of the Altar Guild and Flower Guild who made the Church so beautiful for our Christmas celebrations this year.

Thank you also to our Greeters and Readers and LEMs and Acolytes who helped our worship be orderly and welcoming for everyone.

Thank you to the office staff who made sure we had bulletins and everything else we needed.

Thank you to Michael Hohn and all who assisted him in the music ministry which added such joy and beauty to our celebrations.

Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with us.



Christmas Outreach



Christmas outreach starts with St. Nicholas Day.

On First Sunday the children and young people prepare bags of personal care items and hear the St. Nicholas story



Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental stability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Outreach continues with the Home Cleaning Product collection





Then the North Pole Party pulls it all together



Finally, the sleighs carry our presents and goodies to the Good Neighbor Center



Alternative Giving Fair

by Deacon Mimi Eick and Elizabeth Johnson

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2011 Alternative Giving Fair. As usual, we sold a good deal of fair traded coffee, chocolate, olive oil, tea, and soap – great stocking stuffers! In addition, the parish was generous in giving to the six charities selected for this year: Food for the Poor, Mercy Corps, Hero Rats, Project Pooch, William Temple House, and Clergy Discretionary Fund. At the Parish the Thought deadline, the total collected for the three weeks of the fair was \$2000.

Each year, we select a special project so that parishioners may work together to benefit individuals and families in developing countries. This year, after talking with Fr. Stephen Whitney Wise at the Alternative Giving Fair Preview, we decided combine our donations to equip a classroom in a school built in Haiti by Food for the Poor. Each desk for a classroom costs \$12.50 and the thirty desks needed for a classroom adds up to \$375. At the final tally, St. James parishioners bought eighty-three desks, almost enough for three classrooms! Another interesting statistic: parish donations to Hero Rats provided for a specially trained rat and trainers to clear 30 square meters of a mine field!

New book study begins

The Sunday morning Adult Forum finished the wonderful *Mary Called Magdalen* on the last Sunday in Advent. So the new year finds us ready for a new exploration of Biblical stories in historical fiction. On January 8, we will begin reading *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant. We have found that such fiction in the hands of a gifted and knowledgeable writer opens the biblical narrative in fascinating ways, allowing us to imagine ourselves in a very different world and to explore our own lives with God in that light.

The Christian Science Monitor says, "Diamant vividly conjures up th ancient world of caravans, shepherds, farmers, midwives, slaves, and artisans. ... Diamant's Dinah is a compelling narrator of a tale that has timeless resonance."

The book of Genesis gives us a few bare bones of the story of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah. Diamant uses her deep sense of Jewish tradition and history, as well as human living, to put flesh on these bones and to invite us to experience the life of Israel in the time of the patriarchs.

Let Mother Raggs know if you need a copy of the book (cost \$10.20). Also let her know if you would like to be included on the email list to receive notes from discussions and questions to think about while reading. Then join the group any Sundays you can for lively conversation.

Our Intern Graduates!

On Friday, December 16, Susan Zwingli received a Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation from George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Portland Center. Susan spent her final three months in the Master's program as an Intern at St. James. She taught the Thursday Bible Study at King City, conducted Taize Services and Healing Services on Saturday evenings, assisted at the altar on Sunday mornings, and participated in all aspects of our pastoral care program. What a blessing for our congregation – thank you, Susan.



Daughters Casey and Samantha congratulate Susan after the ceremony.

Prayer Corner



The new year, like a new born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God's blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it remain with us and all that was harmful be left behind. Bless us, O Lord, and bless the time and seasons yet to come.

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
And fill this new year with your kindness,
that we may be glad and rejoice
all the days of our life. Amen.

-Father Victor Hoagland, C.P.

A God-sent Visit

by Deacon Melinda LeRoy

Recently I took communion to a person in a nursing care facility. I knew which room she was in, so I went on down to the room. The first lady was sitting up in bed looking very chipper and as if she really didn't belong there. Perhaps she is getting ready to go home, I thought. I told her the name of the lady I was looking for and she shrugged her shoulders. So I went to the other lady in the next bed. I proceeded to talk to her as if I knew her and I gave her communion. It gradually dawned on me that she wasn't the "right" lady. But she was very, very thankful that I had come. And she prayed for me. (Almost no one prays for someone bringing communion. Trust me. I've been doing this for a long time.) At the end she asked me to keep her in my prayers and called me, "Sister." Now I had my clerical collar on and I was sure she didn't know who I was. But Sister is close enough. It felt rather strange when I realized that she wasn't the lady I was supposed to visit, but I am sure I gave communion to the lady God wanted me to visit. God intervened that afternoon and sent me to the "right" person after all.

Lent is coming

Because of the complex way the date of Easter is determined, people often wonder when Lent will begin.

In 2012, Ash Wednesday will be February 22.

This means that our annual Pancake Supper will be on Tuesday the 21st.

Holy Week will be April 1-7.

Easter will be April 8.

Now you can put these important dates on your calendars.

2012 Children's Day

Two diocesan Children's Day events have been scheduled for 2012 including our first-ever Latino Children's Day. We're also hopeful of holding another Children's Day in the Valley. Events scheduled to date are:

- Saturday, February 25 - Children's Day at the Cathedral - Trinity Cathedral, Portland
- Saturday, April 21 - Latino Children's Day at the Coast - St. James, Lincoln City

The theme for Children's Day 2012 is Celebrate the Seasons. If you would like to help in the final planning for any of the events, please contact Barbara Ross, Missioner for Lifelong Christian Formation at 971-204-4111 or barbarar@diocese-oregon.org.

Youth Ministry

SEARCH - Cursillo for Youth

January 20-22, St. Barnabas, McMinnville. This weekend event is open to youth in grades 9-12. Cost is \$35. Scholarship assistance available. Contact Megan Rosevear, (503) 362-3661 for more information.

Camp & Retreat Ministries

January holds opportunities for youth, quilters, dreamers, and writers! Visit <http://gocamping.org/calendar> for descriptions and registration information.

JANUARY



- 01/01 Hugh Garrabrant
- 01/02 Cathy Bunch
- 01/03 Clay Conrad
- Don Bachman
- 01/04 Jean Bauman
- 01/05 Theresa Bogert
- 01/08 Heather Dixon-
- Perilloux
- 01/11 Caroline Harp
- 01/12 Alice Thornton
- Christopher Arellano
- Gabriella Monaghan
- 01/15 Kay Chervin
- 01/16 John Boone
- 01/18 Frank Tillia
- Austin Tipton
- 01/23 Eleanor Rogers
- 01/24 Tom Lowery
- 01/25 Laura Addy
- Sophia Vaught
- 01/26 Mary Heileson
- 01/27 Gaik Taylor

Saint James Episcopal Church
 11511 SW Bull Mountain Rd., Tigard OR 97224
 Phone: 503-639-3002 / Fax: 503-598-8840
 Website: stjamestigard.org

Holy Eucharist: Sunday: 8, 10am, Saturday: 5pm, Wednesday: Noon

* The Rev. Raggs Ragan The Rev. Mimi Eick * Dr. Michael Hohn Tracy Esguerra	Rector Deacon Minister of Music Senior Warden, Altar Guild Director	rector@stjamestigard.org meick3@comcast.net mchohn@comcast.net tracye20061@frontier.com
Mary Holstein Keith Conway * Louise Boatright Don Bachman * Elsie Edge June Tillia Colleen Kelly-Ginter	Junior Warden Third Warden Parish Admin. Treasurer Finance Assistant Office Volunteer Coord. Email Prayer Chain	mkth49@comcast.net ckeith17@msn.com admin@stjamestigard.org don.bachman@frontier.com finance@stjamestigard.org fwnj@pcez.com prayer@stjamestigard.org

* Denotes paid staff

Church Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9am–1pm

Roberta Miller Newsletter Editor roseofharmony@comcast.net
 (Please submit news by the 15th of the month)

eScrip helps St. James when you shop or dine

But we need to be signed up for this to work! Please visit www.escrip.com to make sure your current debit, credit, and store cards are registered under St. James Episcopal Church, Tigard Oregon. Our contributions have decreased during the past months, and I suspect it's because we forget to register new cards on our site. If you need help with this please contact me at (503) 293-1048 or cynthia@reynoldsclan.com and I can walk you through it. Or please send me your Safeway Card number (the number on the card, not your telephone number), and I will register it for you. Safeway Cards are great – they provide discounts to you, and benefits to our church! Safeway Card applications are available at all Safeway stores. Thank you!

Photos in this issue by Deacon Mimi Eick



St. James Activities

January 1 – February 4, 2012



<i>Sun.</i>	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
1 January LESSONS & CAROLS 8a HE I 10a HE II 1–5p OJC	2 Noon-Prayers Noon-Quilters 6p AA, Alanon, Alateen	3 11a OJC Noon-Prayers 6&7p AA 7p Evangelism Subcommittee	4 Noon-HE w/ healing Celebration of the Epiphany 6-10p OJC 6:30p NA	5 10:15a Bible Study (King City) Noon-Prayers	6 EPIPHANY <i>Office Closed</i> 7p AA	7 6:30a OJC 9a AA Noon-Prayers 5p Taizé
8 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8a HE I 9:05a Adult Ed 10a HE II & SS <i>baptisms and adoptions</i> 1–5p OJC	9 Noon-Prayers 6p AA, Alanon, Alateen	10 11a OJC Noon-Prayers 6&7p AA 7p Mission Subcommittee	11 Noon-HE w/ healing 6-10p OJC 6:30p NA	12 10:15a Bible Study (King City) Noon-Prayers	13 <i>Office Closed</i> 7p AA	14 6:30a OJC 9a AA Noon-Prayers 5p HE
15 INASMUCHAS 8a HE I 9:05a Adult Ed 10a HEII & SS 1–5p OJC <div style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">PTT Deadline</div>	16 Noon-Prayers Noon-Quilters 6p AA, Alanon, Alateen	17 11a OJC Noon-Prayers 6&7p AA 7p Discipleship Subcommittee	18 Noon-HE w/ healing 6-10p OJC 6:30p NA	19 10:15a Bible Study (King City) Noon-Prayers	20 <i>Office Closed</i> 7p AA	21 6:30a OJC 9a AA Noon-Prayers 5p HE
22 INASMUCHAS 8a HEI 9:05a Adult Ed 10a HEII & SS 1–5p OJC	23 Noon-Prayers 6p AA, Alanon, Alateen	24 11a OJC Noon-Prayers 6&7p AA 7p Vestry	25 Noon-HE w/ healing 6p OJC 6:30p NA	26 10:15a Bible Study (King City) Noon-Prayers	27 <i>Office Closed</i> 7p AA	28 6:30a OJC 9a AA Noon Prayers 5p HE
29 ANNUAL MEETING 9:a HEII followed by meeting 1–5p OJC	30 Noon-Prayers 6p AA, Alanon, Alateen	31 11a OJC Noon-Prayers 6&7p AA	February 1 Noon-HE w/ healing 6p OJC 6:30p NA	2 10:15a Bible Study (King City) Noon-Prayers	3 <i>Office Closed</i> 7p AA	4 6:30a OJC 9a AA Noon-Prayers 5p Taizé

Key: HEI Holy Eucharist Rite I
 HEII Holy Eucharist Rite II
 OJC Oregon Jusrang Church
 SS Sunday School