



The Tower

St. James Episcopal Church
1410 NE Stadium Way, Pullman, WA 99163
509-332-1742 stjamespullman@verizon.net
www.stjamespullman.org

April 2009

Beloved friends,

On March 22, the Episcopal Church invited us to celebrate World Water Day. Handouts in our bulletins gave us the grim statistics of how much of the world lives. But they also told us of hope that comes from working together through relief efforts to make a difference. The world holds many challenges; alone we are incapable of addressing them; as part of the Body of Christ, we have made a difference, and we continue to do so.

In October, the churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane will send their delegates, and all the clergy from the diocese will gather, to meet with the Bishop at the Red Lion in Lewiston for our annual convention. We along with the other the churches of the Clearwater Deanery (St. Mark's in Moscow, Good Samaritan in Colfax, Nativity in Lewiston, St. Peter's in Pomeroy and Holy Trinity in Grangeville) will serve as the hosts to the delegates, clergy, youth, and families who are gathered with us. We are all included in the task of making our visitors welcome, of making sure they know what will happen next, and where they need to go. We have an opportunity to provide quality child care for the children of convention participants. And we have an opportunity to make our presence in this quarter of the diocese a significant one.

Gathering at the confluence of the rivers in Lewiston, we will be focusing on issues of sustainability, and notably of access to clean drinking water. Starting on the Feast of Pentecost, we will each be invited to "Put a Can on the Can," and to "Drop a Dime" every time we flush the toilet, in thanksgiving for the ease with which we all have access to clean drinking water. We will gather our offerings at the convention, and use them as a sign of our connectedness to one another and the greater world as we send the Cans of Cash to assist with water projects.

As our Lenten season moves into Easter, with abundant rain so far promising a bountiful year for lawns, flowers, and harvest, let us celebrate our newness of life with joy and hope, and with unending praise to our Creator for the gifts we have been given.

At St. James, one of our tremendous gifts has been the ministry of Montine Vona-Pergola as our Christian Education Coordinator. As Tina, Joe, Luke and Sophia prepare to move back to Florida in the months to come, we are initiating a search for her successor. You'll find the details inside this issue of the Tower. But you'll also see the fruits of this wonderful year of Tina's leadership as the children of St. James greet us on Easter morning at the head of our procession. We are grateful to Tina, and grateful to the people of St. James who pledged their support to provide a stipend for this position.

In peace,

The people
of St. James are a
community of faith
rooted in God's
unconditional love,
seeking to express
that love to
one another,
our neighbors and
the world.

Deadline for
May issue
April 15th

Rector

Mary Beth Rivetti 432-1807

DeaconsTheodore Nitz 334-1755
Wilhelmina "Toni" Sarai-Clark
882-9255**Senior Warden**

Sharon Nitz 334-1755

Junior Warden

Fritz Hughes 332-4487

Vestry Members

*3-year terms

*Fritz Hughes '12 332-4487

*Elsa K Peters '11 595-3511

Dianne Lowe '11 592-0349

Eric Pratt '11 592-5167

Margaret Rehberg '10
872- 0104

*Stephan Flores '10 882-6508

Sharon Nitz '10 334-1755

Sara Schofield '10
315-382-1129

John Brewer '10 332-3788

Clerk:

Stephan Flores 882-6508

Treasurer

Dean Ritchie 334-3132

Nursery CoordinatorsJoe & Tina Vona-Pergola
883-0734**Campus Ministry**

Phil Mixter 334-5384

Christian Education

Tina Vona-Pergola 883-0734

Senior High

Rex Burns 332-4704

Altar Guild Director

Linda Adams 882-0989

ECW Co-Chairs

Sue Johnson 332-1375

Margaret Rehberg 872-0104

Men's Breakfast

Dean Ritchie 334-3132

Phil Mixter 334-5384

Building & Grounds

Fritz Hughes 332-4487

Outreach/Social Justice

Joe Pergola 883-0734

Todd Butler 332-5594

Pastoral Care

Carol Porter 334-7458

Parish Assistant

Carol Porter 332-1742

stjamespullman@verizon.net

VESTRY DIGEST

At its meeting on March 10, the vestry

- Heard from the Communications Team about its plans and projects including new pew cards, replacing the old St. James sign, developing and distributing brochures, and requesting upgrades to our web site program
- Received the Treasurer's report
- Approved the 2008 Parochial Report
- Received two gifts: one from the estate of Margaret Mousseau in the amount of \$2470.71, and another anonymous gift in the amount of \$20,000.. The vestry is charged with determining appropriate uses for these funds, and will be voting to make a determination at the upcoming vestry meeting
- Approved a timeline for recruiting a new Coordinator of Christian Education to succeed Montine Vona-Pergola, who will be moving to Florida at the end of the school year
- Agreed to invite the Christian Education Ministry Team to make a presentation at the next vestry meeting

The next meeting of the vestry will be at **7pm on Tuesday, April 14**. Agenda items should be proposed to the Executive Committee (rector, wardens, treasurer, or clerk) by their meeting, which is usually the Thursday prior to each vestry meeting, but has been moved to April 2 in consideration of Holy Week.)

Minutes of the vestry meeting are posted in the parish office and online once they have been reviewed and accepted by the vestry.

A Lenten Reflection on Loss

This Lent has brought thoughts about loss and grief, inherent aspects of our journey of remembrance through the days and events leading up to Jesus' death by crucifixion. Before we get to Easter there is the hard part. In bereavement work it's called "anticipatory grief" - the challenging and difficult feelings present when we know a loss or death is pending, on a somewhat predictable timeline.

Most of us at St. James have experienced this with a loved one: a diagnosis of terminal illness; making the difficult decision towards divorce; recognizing it is time to mercifully put a beloved pet down. As a congregation, we are regularly called onto this journey with one of our own, asked to offer our prayers, love and support.

Grief begins when we know loss is imminent - it doesn't wait until after the event happens. The Gospels tell us how some of Jesus' beloved friends reacted to the certainty of his death. They were not all serene and accepting; they were beautifully human. I have always loved Peter's crazy behavior - he was "in denial" - a classic grief symptom. Where there is great love, there is much to grieve.

And who ministered to them as they anticipated their loss? Jesus himself, the one about to die horrifically, brought them together for a last supper, even as he later needed to go into the garden and "sweat blood" at the terror of his own suffering and death. I have experienced this kind of blessing and generosity from the dying. Not everyone is able to be in that space, for many reasons, but when it happens, it is a profound grace, a way I have experienced Christ's heart of compassion in the present world.

How then can we best be with our grief, over the massive pain of the world; the losses we have experienced; for friends currently in their personal journey toward Holy Death; for ourselves, knowing we will have a turn as both companion to, and inevitably, the dying one? Again, Jesus' example offers us great guidance: be with those we love; enjoy the simple gifts of life (bread and wine work for me!); ask to be remembered; share what wisdom we might have; let the tears flow, knowing

Campus Ministry News

Campus Ministry News (April 2009 Tower)

Episcopal students continue to meet faithfully Wednesday nights for dinner followed by thoughtful discussion, music and program. In the early part of Lent, we have focused on useful prayer. We made Anglican Rosaries (with the help of Alison Mixter and Bridget Mathison) and continue to explore new ways to build our relationship with God on our way to Good Friday and Easter. Students enjoyed a break in late March and have returned to school with renewed vigor.

During the break, several students were part a group of 15 who traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The group worked on building projects and cooked for a homeless shelter. It was a renewing service activity, transforming for all. Unique friendships grew while serving God. Members of St. James generously supported this group by buying "stock" in the trip. We greatly thank you for your support. Copies of our post-trip "Annual Report" should be going out shortly. THANK YOU!

The annual fundraiser for The Common Ministry at WSU is Sunday April 19. See additional information elsewhere in this issue. You can support campus ministry and enjoy a delicious meal with good friends. Join us for a great evening supporting a great cause.

-submitted by Phil Mixter

2009 Common Ministry Fund Raiser and Auction

Is taking on a new look this year. The date is **Sunday, April 19th**. It will be at the Gladish Center View Room with a social at 4:30 and catered dinner at 5:00, followed by the auctions (both live and silent). The cost is being finalized but would be about \$20 for adults with children under 13 at \$10. (more on this later).

As it will be a catered dinner this year, the churches are asked to help by supplying appetizers for the social (to serve 8-12). Thus, St James needs to provide just 5-6 appetizers. Also, the auction will begin with special deserts being auctioned off (tables will bid for their desert). So, we need to provide 2-3 **very special** deserts that serve 8 (e.g. special pie, cake, etc). As I don't know who is interested in helping out, please contact Sue Durrant or Phil Mixter for more information.



Reflection

A phrase that's been used, at least in cheap Western stories, is Kingdom Come, probably referring to the King James version of the Lord's Prayer. This phrase comes to mind when I reflect on the incident on that gray Friday morning when our car hit a patch of ice, fishtailed a couple of times, and then plunged through and over the guardrail, down a steep embankment of a railroad overpass, and rolled several times.

We were both informed again and again that we had narrowly escaped sudden and violent death, which is how that phrase (Kingdom Come) got used. But the presumed background of the phrase is what captures my imagination lately. Jesus often proclaimed that the Kingdom of Heaven is very near to us, and my understanding of what he meant by that is very near indeed to the way we've been cared for by emergency medical personnel, followed by friends, neighbors and family as we've returned from the brink of death.

With gratitude and deep admiration, I observe and reflect that we at St. James are quite near to the Kingdom of Heaven as we care for one another in extreme crises.

Dean Ritchie

Lenten Reflection, Continued

they are the healing. And then go out into the night, where fear and pain can overwhelm us, and do as Jesus did: pray, pray, and really pray – in whatever way works for you. (In Luke, Jesus compassionately acknowledges his disciples are sleeping through his great suffering *because of their grief*, then tells them: "Get up and pray!") I like the simple, no-holds-barred, I-hope-you-are-listening-God, "Help me!" prayer. See if the dawn comes, see if there is something after loss or death, look for yet another resurrection.

Nancy Collins-Warner

Prayer list

Fighting Cancer:

Robert
Edwin
Ellen
Jenni
Anthony Dee
Mary
Marion

Fighting other Illnesses:

Christian– Perthes Disease
Bill B.
Lorri P.– MS
George– Corticobasal Degeneration
Janine– Mental illness
Jeri-MS
Nicholas– Mental Illness
Sean– Mental Illness
Daniel & Parents– Schizophrenia
Robbie– MS
Bradley– Healing
Bruce– Healing
Anne
Page & Taylor Family– Seizures
Joseph– Leg infection
Mark– Stroke
Ruth– Healing
Eileen-
Gail-
Ted– Healing
Ruth C.– Healing from heart attack
Suzi-
Pete Haggart

Special prayers:

Henry & Claire– Life transition
Garret– Life transition
Catherine & Dean– Healing
Eric– Healing
Mary H.– Healing
Colin & Family-Life transition

For those who have died

Tom
Ralph
Joseph
Maxine

From the Senior Warden

The study group that I participate in is currently reading *My Jesus Year* by Benyamin Cohen, a Jewish journalist and son of a rabbi. After obtaining permission from a rabbi, Cohen spent one year visiting Christian congregations in an attempt to re-charge his own faith, looking for spiritual inspiration to replace spiritual apathy in order to be closer to his Judaism.

Living in the southeast he has a diverse choice of denominations to visit. He attends a charismatic mega-church with blaring music, video cameras and an open mic approach; a main-line denomination with tree lighting ceremonies and symbols hung on the walls including, much to his horror, a menorah; a non-denominational evangelical congregation where everyone who walks through the door receives lots of hugs. As we read about his Sunday adventures in all these different churches I kept wondering if he would venture into an Episcopal church and what his reactions would be.

And he does attend an Episcopal church, St. Bartholomew's located across the street from his house. His reaction to attending St. Bart's (as he refers to it) surprised me a bit. He had been critical of several of the other churches and that is what I expected of his time at St. Bart's. Instead he tells us for "the first time since I started this trip I feel a connection to what Christians are doing during the service....For Jews, worship is a collective experience. We are only allowed to pray in the presence of a quorum of ten. [Thanks to St. Bart's] the set prayers we recite each day are starting to make more sense to me....My relationship to God, I am beginning to realize, is through an ancient tradition. I knew this all along, but spending Sunday morning at St. Bart's was like a breath of fresh air".

Reading this chapter, the one I had been hoping and waiting for (like a little kid...try mine, try mine), reminds me that we not only believe that we succeed from a long line of bishops, priests and apostles but that we continue with an ancient liturgy, one that is sacred to the Jewish community as well as our own, a traditional ritual of Psalms, of hymns, of readings. As we head into the highest of our holy days, let us celebrate the fact that we are continuing in the same tradition that Jesus used to worship as we read our lessons, recite the Psalms and pray the prayers that have been repeated over the centuries by the citizens of the household of God.

May you each have a blessed Easter
Sharon
Senior Warden

Worship

Morning Prayer Weekdays at 8:30 through Lent
Morning Prayer continues on Wednesdays at 8:30 after Easter

Holy Week begins on Sunday, April 5 with the Liturgy of the Palms and the reading of the Passion Gospel at both 8am and 10am services of Holy Eucharist.

The Three Days—The Triduum—The Holiest Season
Maundy Thursday—Gather in our Parish Hall at 5pm for a potluck meal (Mediterranean theme) that concludes with the Institution of the Lord's Supper and Washing of Feet. From the Parish Hall we process to the Sanctuary for the stripping of the altar and the quiet beginning of the overnight Vigil at the Altar of Repose.

Good Friday—Stations of the Cross at 6pm, using the banners that our high school youth have been creating to complete our set.

Good Friday liturgy at 7pm

Holy Saturday liturgy at 9am — as the Altar Guild gathers to prepare the Sanctuary for Easter

The Great Vigil of Easter—7:30pm on Saturday—we gather in the Narthex for the lighting of the new fire of Easter, and to tell the ancient stories that describe God's mighty acts of salvation that lead us in safety to the Resurrection

Easter Day—Greet the Festival Day at 8 and 10am with the Easter proclamation and celebration of Holy Eucharist. Bring your friends and family! Whole Parish Coffee Hour!

Christian Education

April 5 Easter (focus on spring time/renewal)
Tina

April 12 EASTER—NO STORY TIME

The Adult Education Class has resumed reading *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*.

There are also additional copies of the text we used in the Lenten study—*Discovering Your Gifts*. Though it works best with group study, the book can be used for self-examination as well. \$10 to St. James for your own copy.

As the Vona-Pergola family prepares to return to Florida, we will be searching for a new coordinator of Christian Education to succeed Montine. See the announcement elsewhere in the Tower, and spread the news if you know someone who should apply.

The People of St. James

All are invited to bring blooming potted plants for our tradition of decorating the Altar for Easter morning: orchids, lilies, tulips, etc are all lovely. You are welcome to join us for the brief 9 am Holy Saturday service on April 11, and drop your plant off. Altar Guild will then be preparing the sanctuary for the sunset Great Vigil that evening and traditional Easter services (see Worship schedule elsewhere in Tower). You can take your "loaner-plant" home after the 10 am service on Easter Sunday. The children of the church are planning a special decoration/celebration for Easter morning, so there will not be a "flowering of the cross" this year. Thus, your blooming plants are a chance to participate in helping bring Easter to St. James.

Thank you!

Nancy Collins-Warner, April Altar Guild Chair



**St. James Christian Education Coordinator
Request for Applications**

Are you interested in working with the growing youth of our parish? Would you like the creative experience of continuing and developing a program designed to tell the stories of our faith and assist in the spiritual growth and formation of the young people of St. James?

St. James seeks a Christian Education Coordinator. Stipend for this continuing position is \$5,000 annually for an average of 8 to 10 hours a week. Though the hours are flexible, Sundays at church will be part of the job. A break down of desired qualifications, duties, and expectations is listed below.

If you would like to apply for this position, please submit a "resume," list of three references, and a letter of application that explains why/how you feel called to this ministry; you also may include additional materials/information, but this is not required. Please submit your application to the Church office. We hope to find a Christian Education Coordinator among our parish members and encourage you to apply. **Applications will be accepted from now until April 25th.** The goal is to have someone for the vestry to approve at the May meeting. If you have any questions, please direct them to Stephan Flores or the Rev. Mary Beth Rivetti.

This marks a renewed commitment for our parish and we hope that you feel called to be involved in sustaining the success of this ministry.

On behalf of the members of St. James, thank you.

The Search Committee

**Christian Education Coordinator
Job Description**

The Christian Education Coordinator for the parish oversees all aspects of Christian education from ages pre-kindergarten through high school. The tentative start date for the job is June 1, 2009, giving the coordinator sufficient time to prepare for the resumption of Sunday school classes in the fall. The salary for the position, which should involve an average of 8-10 hours of work each week, is \$5000 per year, with salary adjusted for the expected start date.

The coordinator's responsibilities include the following tasks:

- Develop, choose and purchase education curriculum in consultation with teachers and the Christian Education Committee
- Provide training for volunteer teachers at the beginning of each school year and other times as needed
- Recruit and coordinate volunteer teachers, ensuring every classroom is staffed each week
- Ensure that volunteer teachers have access to curriculum and materials needed each week
- Be responsible for record-keeping, including signing up youth for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School
- Manage the Christian Education budget, make supply and curriculum purchases, and make yearly budget requests to the vestry
- Promote and sign up youth for diocesan and other youth activities, coordinate transportation to these events and ensure that registration fees are paid
- Coordinate the parish Christmas pageant, ensuring that a director and other volunteers are in place
- Provide information about St. James' Christian Education program to new families in the parish and promote the education program more generally
- Keep parents updated about the lessons that the youth are learning in Sunday School through newsletter articles and other means
- Occasionally teach Sunday School classes so as to better know the curriculum and students

continued next page...

St. James Ladies Afternoon Tea

The ladies of St. James are having their second annual ladies afternoon tea. Come and let it evoke feelings of wonder and a reminder to celebrate life. The afternoon tea this year will be on April 25 2pm to 4pm that will honor the women in our lives and around the world. It will be an opportunity to sip fine tea, have a nibble of good food and listen to beautiful music. You might fill your day with new memories and perhaps new friends as well. Most of all, we expect it will be fun! Women, girls, mothers and daughters, sisters and friends—this event is for you. The ticket sales and silent auction will help support the Flip Flop Foundation that helps to improve the health, hygiene, education, comfort and well-being of disadvantaged Zambian children. You must purchase a ticket in advance. Ticket cost for this event is \$10 per person. Make sure you bring your ticket to the tea. The number on the ticket will be used for the silent auction. If you are hosting a table contact Claudia Wohlfeil for tickets or Carol in the church office.

I am sure you are asking yourself “How can I join in the fun” You can

Make food:

Assorted breads, cookies
Tea sandwiches (contact Carol Porter for recipes)
Purchase the sorbet, cheese and fruit
Scones (Contact Carol for recipe)

Any questions or concerns contact :

Carol Porter in the Parish office 332-1742 or stjamespullman@verizon.net
She can also be reached at home 334-7458 or bigdogmom71@hotmail.com

Christian Education Coordinator—Job Description Continued

- Lead and call meetings of Christian Education Committee
- - Regularly report to the Vestry and Rector on Christian Education activities
- - Other duties as agreed upon by Christian Education Coordinator and Rector

Desired Skills and Qualifications:

- - A desire to educate children and youth in the historical and contemporary traditions, values, and beliefs of the Episcopal Church
- - Ability to relate well to others, especially children and youth
- - Experience in leading and teaching within educational ministries in the Episcopal Church
- - Experience in recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers
- - Excellent communication skills
- - College degree preferred

Note on employment policy and conditions:

In accordance with diocesan policies, St. James Episcopal Church will request from each applicant permission to perform a criminal background check, and will perform reference checks and such other pre-employment investigation as appropriate. There is no paid vacation, benefits, or sick leave factored into this position—any requested leave is to be coordinated with the rector.



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St. James Episcopal Church
 1410 NE Stadium Way
 Pullman, WA 99163
 Return Service Requested

*“We are no longer strangers and sojourners but fellow citizens
 with the saints and members of the household of God.”*

April 1	Women of St. James Fellowship 10:30am Lunch 12pm
April 5-12	Holy week and Easter see inside for details
April 5	Outreach/Social Justice after 10am service
April 12	Buildings & Grounds after 10am service
April 14	Vestry 7pm
April 18	Mom’s Group 10am to 12pm
April 19	K-house auction 4pm
April 25	St. James Ladies Tea 2pm-4pm
May 3	Outreach/Social Justice after 10am service
May 5	Tapestry 7:30 pm
May 6	Women of St. James Fellowship 10:30am Lunch 12pm
May 10	Buildings & Grounds after 10am service
May 12	Vestry 7pm
May 16	Mom’s Group 10am to 12pm
May 21	Ascension 7pm
*Men’s Breakfast– Every Tuesday 6:30-8 at Tam’s Restaurant	
*Easter Day Pictures– Doug Adams will be on hand for family pictures for the Directory	