



The Tower

St. James Episcopal Church
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www.stjamespullman.org

August 2009

Beloved friends,

As I write this, we are in the middle of July and the parish is preparing for its annual celebration in the park – an opportunity to worship outside and enjoy a picnic in honor of the parish’s patron saint – Saint James (whose feast day is July 25). So, I have been thinking a lot about the saints. The word “saint” can mean a number of things. Some people use the word to describe a person whose life was somehow perfect or otherworldly. Used in this way, “saint” describes a style of life which is unattainable for the average person. But, this is not really an accurate description of what it means to be a saint.

The Church calendar in the *Book of Common Prayer*, lists the names of many saints to be remembered throughout the year. If you read the biographies of these saints, you discover quickly that they were not perfect human beings. They made mistakes, and missed opportunities to do good. Yet, despite their failures, the Church honors them.

So, what do we mean by the term “saint”? The English word comes from the Latin, *sanctus*, or holy. The word used in the New Testament is *hagios* which also means holy in the sense of someone dedicated to God. Saints, therefore, are people dedicated to God, and this means all who are or have been part of the community of faith. They are, in one sense, our ancestors in the faith. But, we who are alive today are also regarded as part of the community of the saints. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews refers to all of the faithful brothers and sisters as “holy partners in a heavenly calling.” (*Hebrews 3:1*) As the wonderful English hymn puts it, “the saints of God are just folks like me.”

This summer, Sharon and I had the opportunity to spend some time in both London and Rome – “two holy cities” as Mary Beth put it to me before we left. In both cities we visited churches and saw memorials to various men and women who are regarded as holy by the Church. We had the opportunity to attend the daily Evensong service at Westminster Abbey. The liturgy was transcendently beautiful. What made it even more meaningful, was the knowledge that we were singing psalms and reciting prayers in a place where Christians have worshiped regularly for more than a thousand years. That place is holy (or perhaps we might say “saintly”) not because of where it is, nor because of the beauty of its architecture. It is holy because it has been hallowed by generations of faithful Christians.

The same thing is true of every community of believers – including Saint James’ in Pullman. We, too are a holy community, “holy partners in a heavenly calling.” The life of this parish is the result of all of us sharing together as we live out the Church’s baptismal covenant to “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.” Faithfully,

In Peace,

Ted Nitz

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
September issue
August 15th

Rector
 Mary Beth Rivetti 432-1807

Deacons
 Theodore 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
 *Chris Stone '11 332-4536
 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

Campus Ministry
 Phil Mixer 334-5384

Christian Education
 Julie McCoy 334-6046

Senior High
 Alison Mixer 334-5384
 Bridget Mathison 332-0803

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 Mixer 334-5384

Building & Grounds
 Fritz Hughes 332-4487

Outreach/Social Justice
 Nancy Collins-Warner
 334-4688

Pastoral Care
 Carol Porter 334-7458

Parish Assistant
 Carol Porter 332-1742
 stjamespullman@verizon.net

VESTRY DIGEST

There was no vestry meeting in July

Parish Office Hours

Carol: Tues-Fri 9am- 3 pm

Lunch from 1-2

Mary Beth: Tues- Thurs 9am - 3 p.m.

Lunch from 12 -1

August 8th will be clean-up around St. James starting at 9am and going until the work is done. There will be a lunch provided. For any questions contact Fritz Hughes: 332-4487 or fritzhughes@gmail.com



Kick-off Sunday to Adopt New Format

This year's Kick-off Sunday will be held September 20 and will feature a slightly different format.

As in the past, St. James' Kick-off Sunday event will be a potluck after the 10 a.m. service, but this year there will be no displays. Instead, each ministry team will have an opportunity to give a 2-minute sales pitch to each table of diners—speed dating, of sorts. All in attendance will have a form at their seat, which will allow them to sign up or request more information about the particular ministries that have paid a visit to their table. That form will then be turned in to a box before leaving. The information about who is interested in what will then be distributed to each ministry team leader, who will be encouraged to get in contact quickly with those who show an interest in a particular area.

We also want to spread the message that ministry teams should assume that if someone does not sign up for service in a particular area, then that person no longer wants to be involved in that area. We hope this will allow people to gracefully exit but also allow them to renew their commitment to those things they are already doing.

In sum, ministry team leaders should start practicing their two-minute talks ASAP!

Campus Ministry August 2009

Summer has been savored and as we move into August, many begin to plan for the upcoming academic school year at our universities. Our ministry to students at WSU is no different and planning continues as we shape our plans. A few preliminaries are taking shape, including the selection of Cati Bischoff Bennett as our Episcopal peer minister among students. We'll continue to focus on a Wednesday night program anchored jointly with the United Methodists known as INSPIRE! We'll begin at the Koinonia House (KHouse) with a 5 PM dinner and deliver program until 7 PM with a weekly worship component.

The big question is what part will you play? How will you support our outreach to young adults? How will you get to know a student who visits St. James? How will you be a part of their lives? If you're interested in an active role in our campus ministry, contact Phil Mixter (pmixter@gmail.com or 509-334-5384). We're looking for those interested in aiding our ministries in a number of ways.

Labor Day Camp at Camp Cross August 2009

Do you wish you had a cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene where you could spend the Labor Day Weekend with friends, enjoying good food, cool dips in the lake, and hikes to beautiful vistas? You already own such an idyllic place! Camp Cross is all these things and more. Each year, Camp Cross hosts a Labor Day Camp for families and those of all ages. There are adult-focused programs, child-friendly programming and lots of free time where you can relax and enjoy all of God's creation in this beautiful location. Arrival and departure times are somewhat flexible throughout the weekend, so come for a while and leave when you wish. Join many members of the St. James parish family for this wonderful weekend.

Visit: <http://www.campcross.org/camp-sessions/family-camps/>
for more information and a link to online registration.

-Phil Mixter

Prayer list

Fighting Cancer:

Ellen
Jenni
Marion
Ronda
Rodney

Fighting other Illnesses:

Christian– Perthes Disease
Lorri P.– MS
George– Corticobasal Degeneration
Jeri-MS
Sean– Mental Illness
Daniel & Parents– Schizophrenia
Bradley– Healing
Bruce– Healing
Ted– Healing
Helen– Healing
Gail- MS
Robbie– MS
Craig P.– Healing for Surgery

Special prayers:

Henry & Claire– Life transition
Jan L.– Healing
Pete H.– Healing
Lib– Life transition
Demy

For those who have died

Bill B.
Vitaly
Ruth C.
Charlie H.
Don
Sarah
Baby Serenity
Dian

From the Senior Warden

By the time this reaches your attention we will have made it through the month of July. I want to thank each of you who put in extra effort while Mary Beth was on vacation. Also thank you to those of you helping attend to the needs at the rectory—being with George and Mary Beth, providing food, prayers, support. It is good to have such a caring community.

Another big thank you to the large number of people who helped with the 80th rummage sale. Once again you have gathered, sorted, and sold in order to recycle what we can and supply to those who can use it. Well done!!

Looking ahead as the summer transitions into the new school year, there are many opportunities to be involved at St. James. Kick-off Sunday will be much different this year. Travis Ridout has an article in this Tower explaining about the event that gives everyone a chance to become a Sunday school teacher, choir member, acolyte, reader, usher, greeter, altar guild member...and those are just the Sunday offerings. Maybe you are interested in serving on the vestry or at the diocesan level, leading a committee whose members are working to improve life on the Palouse, or joining a study group. Take time to consider how you want to be part of the activities at St. James this fall. We are blessed with many talented people, each one doing a job, generously offering his/her gifts to the community. However, with the diversity that we have among us we are each doing different jobs serving with the talents that are our strengths. It brings to mind the verses from Romans 12:

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” When it is all added together we make a very strong parish.

It will also take another collective effort for our deanery to organize and accomplish the Diocesan convention that will take place in Lewiston, ID, October 16-18, 2009. Begin now to consider prayerfully how you can put your gifts to work to welcome the diocese to the Clearwater Deanery.

Enjoy this summertime
Peace in Christ
Sharon
Senior Warden

Worship

Morning Prayer continues on Wednesdays at 8:30

8 AM & 10 AM HOLY EUCHARIST RESUME AUGUST 23RD



Christian Education

Thank you to all the children who assisted with our reenactment of the Feeding of the 5000 last Sunday. I hope everyone enjoyed their "loaves and fish"! As the new school year approaches, here are some dates to be aware of:

August 15- Training for teachers of Sunday school and youth, Safeguarding God's Children and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct. Those who have not previously had this training should contact Julie McCoy at mcregnier1@live.com or Carol Porter in the church office.

September 13- Sunday School Begins! We welcome back teachers from last year and extend an invitation to others who would like to participate in the spiritual education of our youth. There will be a sign up sheet during coffee hour for anyone interested in helping out in any way. You can also contact Julie by email or phone, 509-334-6046.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Julie R. McCoy

The People of St. James

Ladies, be sure and save Friday, October 16th, as this is the 'ladies lunch' at noon, in Lewiston, during our Diocesan Convention. There is NO COST for this lunch. We ought to sign up, so they will know how many to prepare for. Our ladies are asked to furnish fruit salad, and we will talk more about this as time gets closer. We can car pool. Save this day!! Margaret Rehberg, co-chair

Newcomers' BBQ Scheduled for September 13

The Hospitality Team will be hosting a barbecue for newcomers to the parish on Sunday, September 13, most likely at a local park. Look for more details in the September Tower.



Episcobat Fans

Episcobats first game Tuesday August 4th—calling all players and fans! Practice on Saturday August 1st.

Discernment:

The Gospel, or Good News of Jesus Christ can be very simply stated: The incredible power behind the creation of this marvelous universe actually knows and loves each and every one of us, in intimate detail and with an overwhelming love.

The natural human tendency is to respond to the recognition that we are loved, by our own expressions of loving regard. In the case of the Love of God, we acknowledge and celebrate the freedom this gives us, mostly in the form of weekly remembrance, along with individual attempts to make the most of this freedom and become as much as possible, the persons we feel we were created to be, or to do as nearly as possible what God may be calling us to do. The first step in this process would be to try to discern whether there is a calling, and if so, to what?

For most of us, this amounts to one form or another of "occasional" service, ranging from greeting people at the door, reading a lesson or singing in the choir to administrative tasks like chairing a committee or serving a term on Vestry. However, our particular form of Christian church requires a chosen few to make lifelong commitments to a more rigorous form of service, as ordained clergy.

In theory, these servants are called upon by the community as need arises. In that scenario, the community would describe a task or project it would like to undertake and seek among its members one qualified to take that project on as a lifelong commitment. The person most suited and willing to accept such an assignment would then be ordained into the position. In practice, however, as often as not people feel "called" to undertake some form of ministry as a lifelong project, and apply to the community for its sanction of both project and person. In either case, the necessary conditions for ordination include a genuine sense of calling, on the part of the aspirant, and the decision on the part of the community to actually issue the call to that person from among its membership.

All of this takes place within the context of a Diocese, as it is the business of a Bishop to actually perform the service of Ordination. Our Diocese, like most Episcopal Diocese, has a "Commission on Ministry" whose function is to oversee the process of discernment, and to shepherd aspirants and congregations through that process, and on into and through the training and qualification processes, until at last all qualifications are met and Ordination can take place.

Our Commission on Ministry has taken pains to draw up a detailed set of instructions, regarding the formation and action of a Discernment Committee, which it recommends for each congregation of the Diocese. This Discernment process would then be available for members of the congregation who might wish to review their faith journey and perhaps change their involvement in the life of the congregation by adding some commitments and maybe deleting others to enhance the richness of both their faith journey and the life of the congregation itself.

In our parish, we have formed a Discernment Committee in response to application by Dianne Lowe, who wishes to seek ordination as a deacon. This committee has worked its way through the bulk of the process prescribed by the Commission on Ministry, and is well on its way to the point of presenting Dianne to the entire parish, with the recommendation that we present her to the Diocese as an aspirant for ordination. On the way, we have generated the following report, which has been presented to the chair of the Commission. In case you don't recognize the committee members, we are Sue Johnson, Linda Adams, Nii Ankrah, Dianne Lowe, and Dean Ritchie (chair).

Discernment Committee; as we turn our attention to our postulant.

Our composition

A retired nurse who is known to be passionate about assisting the underprivileged, but doesn't say much about her sense of mission.

An empty-nest housewife who is widely known for her hospitality and about whom many recent members say they've come because of her attendance; insistent about continuing to limit her involvement to Altar Guild and Choir participation.

A young African father and husband who visibly exerts himself to extend his and his childrens' participation, especially in the area of Sunday worship. Speaks of struggling with a compulsion to be helpful to others, and the conflict of time and resources that puts on him

A retired risk manager, who has spoken openly about her sense of calling, and aspires to hang out near the gates to the kingdom and help newcomers to the faith to find their way.

I, a retired computer software specialist, whose primary sense of vocation has always been a secular one, and who speak glowingly of a most fulfilling career in pursuit of that profession. The nearest thing to a sacred calling happened when a long-ago Rector obviously needed a friend, and I was advised that I was probably the best candidate for that job.

Personal Observation

Our deliberation has been interrupted by the car accident Catherine and I suffered, and it appears to me that we've taken a slightly different course since that event; perhaps it's mostly true that I've begun to see the world differently.

When we first began, I had read a political/religious book about the Left Hand of God, and was pondering the opposite: the stern, Old Testament Right Hand of God. This thinking did help me to comprehend some of the right-wing, conservative ideals that had previously left me simply mystified.

More recently, study and discussion of Marcus Borg's concept of the Emerging Paradigm of Biblical Interpretation has suggested a more attainable notion of sanctification: If we aren't forced to consider the absolutely most impossible interpretation of the biblical stories, perhaps Christlike traits like Mysticism and sainthood can be attained by more ordinary and sane people.

Other observations from the committee

There has been a general sense of sharpening the elements of Christian Practice, articulated by Nii; a personal vocation of faith nourishment through daily Bible readings and prayer, helping to cope with guilt and fear through repentance and acceptance of God's protection and forgiveness.

Dianne expressed gratitude for help in discerning her own gifts and weaknesses, work on her spiritual biography; reiterated her attraction to the poem, "I Stand by the Door".

Linda remarked that we, as a committee, probably need to keep an eye on our obligation to keep involved in the larger community.

We discussed the general broadening of our understanding of the notion of Calling, partly as a result of reading and discussing "Listening Hearts". The frustrating tendency of that book to self-contradict, often within the same paragraph, illuminates the ambiguous nature of discernment.

Our practice has been to close by reading the prayer of Thomas Merton in Listening Hearts. At this juncture, it was requested that we adopt the practice of closing with more spontaneous prayers.

