



The Tower

St. James Episcopal Church
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www.stjamespullman.org

September 2009

Beloved friends,

In the last Sunday before graduation from seminary, my husband George and I took advantage of our last “free” Sunday to visit the Church of St. John Coltrane in San Francisco. Now, I had heard of the church for years—it was founded in 1969, long before I moved to the Bay Area for graduate school in the 1970s. It had sounded like something of a joke or a curiosity for jazz buffs. What we encountered was an intense spiritual experience that engulfed us with sound and spirit that day, and that never left our hearts in the years since.

The Church of St. John Coltrane was founded, as I said, in 1969, by a man who, having heard Coltrane play, was himself transformed through the spirituality and power of Coltrane’s music. He attributed his own cure of addiction to drugs and alcohol to the music, and initially opened the church as one that worshipped Coltrane as Lord. Years later, he was converted to a Christian perspective, recognizing Coltrane as a channel of the Holy Spirit, a saint in fact. Under a curious combination of the liturgies of an African-American gospel-tinged worship service and the more formal structure of ancient orthodox liturgy, The Rt. Rev. Bonzo King — really — begins the divine service with a long litany of prayer for the world, followed by a liturgy of word and teaching, and then culminates in a communion service. Immediately following the divine service, the congregation moves outside to provide a vegan stew to those in need. The words of our post-communion prayer are lived out in deed every week by this eclectic and funky congregation that includes night-club musicians who have been up all night on Saturday and have ended their vigil with heavenly sound.

The place itself was a small space, not much bigger than our Canterbury Room, and certainly not as comfortable. The walls were covered with icons of Coltrane channeling celestial fire through his saxophones; with uncials proclaiming his name: John Will.I.Am. Coltrane. (Take that, fans of the Black-Eyed Peas!)

We stayed there for three hours before finally wandering back out onto the street, having breathed in the music, the cosmic vibration that Coltrane tried to reach in his final years of seeking to touch the face of God through music. Not long after our visit, the dot.com boom forced the church out of its original setting in the Mission District. It wandered for awhile, and continues to live now the guest of other more established churches, providing a place for tourists to stop in and ponder great music, and perhaps for seekers to find mystic confirmation of God’s undying love.

As George prepares to breathe his last, we will be playing on his iPod the music of Coltrane to pipe his way into the heavenly chorus. With gratitude we thank you all for your ministry of presence and your unbelievable generosity. And we give thanks to God for bringing us signs of the celestial banquet even as saints and angels delight to sing their praise.

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
October issue
September 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 JusticeNancy Collins-Warner
334-4688**Pastoral Care**

Carol Porter 334-7458

Parish AssistantCarol Porter 332-1742
stjamespullman@verizon.net**VESTRY DIGEST**

August 2 2009

The Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church met on Sunday, August 2, following the 9am Eucharist (rescheduled to avoid conflict with the Episcobat season). At its meeting the Vestry

- reviewed and received the treasurer's report for the month ending June 30
- agreed to use memorial funds from the estate of Margaret Mousseau to purchase sufficient hymnals so that there are enough to go around
- heard reports from Junior Warden, Fritz Hughes, on the progress of exterior siding project, proposal for repair of cement steps in parking lot, and replacement of dishwasher in the kitchen
- discussed plans for the beginning of the program year including the beginning of the stewardship campaign for the fall

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 8, at 7pm in the Canterbury Room.

Minutes of each meeting are posted in the office and online once they have been approved by the vestry.

Labor Day Camp at Camp Cross August 2009

Do you wish you had a cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene where you could spent 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 Mixer

Kick-off Sunday Potluck September 20

This year's Kick-off Sunday will be held September 20. The main event will be a potluck in the parish hall after the 10 a.m. service. Ice cream will be provided, so please bring a main dish, salad or side to share.

In contrast to previous years, 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!

Newcomers' BBQ Scheduled for September 13

The Hospitality Team will be hosting a barbecue for newcomers to the parish on Sunday, September 13. Anyone who is new or relatively new to St. James—that is, you've been with us for a year or less—is invited to attend.

We will be meeting at the shelter house at Kruegel Park in Pullman at 4 p.m., and the Hospitality Team will provide food and drink. Feel free to bring your children, friends and neighbors along with you.

Need more information or a ride? Phone (332-5545) or email Carolyn (carolynfross@hotmail.com) or Travis (tnridout@hotmail.com).

Campus Ministry News

Students have returned to our campuses and activities are gearing up for the fall. St. James offers a Wednesday night program co-sponsored by the United Methodist Wesley Foundation. We meet at the Common Ministry's Koinonia House (KHouse, 720 Thatuna near the new transit loop) beginning at 5 PM with dinner. In the past, St. James members have helped prepare this meal for hungry students. You can still participate, but we ask you to support this meal by preparing food at the KHouse kitchen in compliance with food safety regulations for groups. You can shop and cook at the KHouse on Wednesdays or alternatively offer to sponsor these meals and pay for the food supplies. We welcome any and all St. James members to join students for dinner and conversations. After dinner, we have a varied program. This semester we're focused on tough questions as we move towards an authentic, full-time faith. Each week, we'll have various activities to explore these pressing issues in the lives of young adults. Each week includes a worship component then we wrap up around 7 PM.

Prayer list

Fighting Cancer:

Ellen
Jenni
Ronda
Jack

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
Janice
Dale
Demy
Mary
Mike
Vicki & Zhen Min
Eileen
Rodney F
Vicki
John B
Father Ed
Virginia
Lulu & baby Lourdes
Jerri
Tori
Robert & Children

Special prayers:

Henry & Claire– Life transition
Lib– Life transition
Liz

For those who have died

Edwin
Dian
Marion
John C.
Terry
John Shepard

From the Senior Warden

Welcome, all of you, to the new school year at St. James and a special welcome to those of you who are new worshipers with us. Lots of information about our parish is available in the newsletter and also on our website, www.stjamespullman.org. On the calendar this month Kick-off Sunday, Sept 20th, with potluck meal after the 10am service ...don't miss this official kick-off to our new year.

Vestry has been considering new signage on the street level at the church. We have discussed obtaining traditional blue and white Episcopal Church signs, adding signs along the driveway and upgrading or replacing the wooden sign on Stadium Way. I am looking for your input. What would you do to make these improvements? Do you have resources/contacts for making these changes? E-mail me with your ideas and suggestions saknitz@hotmail.com

A second project that I personally have been considering is landscaping the grassy area on the east side of the church between the east door and the rectory. I would like to see this space changed from the water-thirsty, nondescript "lawn" into a xeriscape garden perhaps including some more parking spaces. Does this idea appeal to you? If there is enough interest, expertise and energy, we could create a group to meet this winter to design the space and be ready to start working with the transformation next spring. It would take a lot of us doing the work but I think it would be well worth our efforts. Let me know if you are interested, okay?

Peace in Christ
Sharon
Senior Warden

Worship

Morning Prayer continues on Wednesdays at 8:30

**Coming soon:
Fall Pledge Campaign Kick-off on October 4**

Fall Pledge Ingathering (one service at 9am with brunch following) to celebrate in mid-November.

More details to come in next month's Tower.

Eucharistic Visitors—those who are already licensed, and those who are interested in being licensed to serve as Eucharistic Visitors to bring the consecrated elements from the Holy Table to the homes of shut-ins — are invited to an all-day training on **Saturday, September 26**. The day will include the opportunity to be trained in Safeguarding God's Children, open to any who wish or need the training. For more information contact the Rev. Susan Cleveley at s.clev@verizon.net or 208-310-1817.

Music — for several weeks this summer, individual members of the worship ministry team chose the hymns for a given Sunday service. If you'd be interested in taking on that task—learning something about how we make those choices, and what might be appropriate for given settings—let us know. Contact Elena Panchenko or the Rev. Mary Beth, and we'll be glad to share!

Christian Education

We had a great turnout for the workshops, Safeguarding God's Children and Preventing Sexual Misconduct. Thank you to our wonderful trainers, Rev. Mary Beth Rivetti and Rev. Susan Cleveley. Thank you also to all who attended!

Some upcoming events:

September 13 – Sunday school resumes for K-5 at 9:00 a.m.

September 20 – Kick-off Sunday

October 4- St. Francis Day: We will be blessing/honoring our pets with a special program. Mark your calendars now, details will be forthcoming.

October 16-18 Diocesan Convention (Lewiston, ID) We are organizing a children's program for Saturday October 17 to provide child care to convention attendees. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Julie.

We are still looking for an additional teacher for the K-2nd grade class for the fall quarter and a co-leader for the Mid-high group. Let Julie know if you are interested.

Finally, thank you to all who have welcomed me into this new position. I really appreciate your words of encouragement! I welcome any suggestions to enhance our Christian education program.

The People of St. James

As we begin the school year, it's also time to think about learning beyond the classroom. I am proposing a book study for those who are interested in joining the Episcopal Church — or for those who are already members and want to know more about what we're about. Two books come to mind—and we can read through them one at a time, or skip back and forth as you desire. The first is suggested by Sandra Ristow: *Jesus was an Episcopalian (and You can be one too!)*, by Chris Yaw. The second is perhaps more serious, though I wouldn't swear to it, *Your Faith, Your Life* by Jenifer Gambier and Bill Llewellys. Both are available through The Episcopal Bookstore, a bricks-and-mortar store in Seattle providing phone, email, and web-based ordering—www.episcopalbookstore.com.

With any luck, our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. James E. Waggoner, who was sidelined this year by General Convention AND severe sciatica, will be making a visit here sometime in November, to receive, confirm, dedicate, and just be a presence of the whole church to us here in Pullman. We could use these readings as a preparation for those wishing to make a formal commitment to the church.

If you're interested, buy a book, and let me know you did, and we'll begin our course together. Looking forward to some enjoyable explorations.

Celebrate Halloween with St. James on Sunday October 26th!

Children are invited to wear their costumes to church and “trick-or-treat” through the congregation, collecting money for the Heifer Project. Everyone, bring your loose change!

Pumpkin-themed Baking contest! Got a great recipe with pumpkin as an ingredient? Bring it on--the congregation will taste them during coffee hour and vote on a winner. Yum!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest! All interested participants should bring a decorated pumpkin to church for a contest with lots of prizes. Want to decorate for Halloween without the mess? Buy one of these decorated pumpkins at our auction (those too attached to their pumpkins are welcome to keep them). Proceeds go to Christian Ed. Age groups are as follows:

- 0-Kindergarten
- Grade 1-Grade 6
- Grade 7-Grade 12
- Adult



Community Child Care Center News

Our tenants downstairs are hoping to hear good news on a grant proposal to enhance their program. The Community Child Care Center has been an advocate for local children and families since their beginnings in a corner of our basement in 1970. They are a non-profit agency providing services in Pullman and throughout Whitman County. Child care is full-time year round, serving 77 children ages 12 months to 12 years. They also have a Head Start and Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program housed in a recently built site up near Pullman High School. Nearly 80% of the more than 150 children they serve are recipients of state subsidies or are below the state poverty income guidelines. Our below-market rent to them makes it possible for them to spend money on better salaries for their staff, providing the opportunity to buy low-cost health insurance – an incentive to provide high quality care with low turnover.

The grant proposal would allow them to expand their programming to include infants and toddlers. The grant, which would fund programming and remodeling to support Early Head Start, would allow them to do some remodeling of current program space downstairs to be more suitable for the children in their care. If they are successful in obtaining the fund, we expect there will be some shifting around of office and program space downstairs – largely to our benefit. What would be involved would be swapping our current Sunday School storage room for another room on the far end of the same hall. This would allow all the program space on that hall to be enlarged into one big room – which can be subdivided to meet the needs of each class meeting there. Our Sunday School teachers would have a more flexible area in which to present their classes – and their supplies would be closer to the chapel where they begin each session.

We should know about the success of the grant proposal by next month – and if they do receive the funds, work would proceed over the summer 2010. For more information on the grant proposal and its impact on our space downstairs, you can obtain a copy of the presentation made to vestry at its June meeting. A member of the CCC board will also be available during our Kick-Off Sunday speed-dating session. Feel free to talk to members of the vestry with any questions you may have about what is being proposed.



Musicians and Friends in the Clearwater Deanery

All are invited to help and participate in the Sunday Eucharist at the 45th Annual Diocesan Convention on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 11 am in Lewiston, ID at the Red Lion Inn . We look forward to having a deanery choir to lead the sung worship at the Sunday closing service. Many of the pieces are familiar but we will have the opportunity to offer our own special anthem during Eucharist.

Music titles and copies will be sent as needed. We do wish to have four parts at time so all are welcome.

There will be a rehearsal the week before convention for those that can make it to Lewiston. The rehearsal will be on Saturday, October 11, at 10 am at the Church of the Nativity, 731 8th Street in Lewiston.

If you cannot join us then, please know you are still welcome and we will have a warm up and rehearsal on Sunday morning an hour before the Eucharist at the Red Lion.

Instrumentalists wishing to participate, please contact Judy Croskey at jgcroskey@roadrunner.com or by calling 509.332.1881.

The Rev. John Shepard

The Rev. John Shepard, 65, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Spokane, died Monday August 24th after suffering an apparent heart attack.

He was born in Sioux Falls, SD, in 1944. He earned both a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of South Dakota and received his Master of Divinity Degree at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA. Before coming to the Diocese of Spokane, he served in the Diocese of South Dakota.

In the Diocese of Spokane he was on the Commission on Ministry, was chair of the Diocesan Commission on Theological Education, and was a Director of the Diocesan Corporations. He also served as Dean of the Spokane-Colville Deanery.

A vigil/ prayer service was held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, at St. Stephen's, 5720 S. Perry St.

Please keep John's wife, Sheryll, their family and the people of St. Stephen's in your prayers. If you would like to send a note of condolence to Sheryll, her address is 5119 S. Sunward Drive, Spokane, WA 99203.

May John's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen

The funeral service for the Rev. John Shepard, rector of St. Stephen's, Spokane, is scheduled at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 3 at St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave., Spokane. Bishop Waggoner will preside. Clergy are invited to vest and process. (white stoles) A reception will follow. There is also a condolence link on the St. Stephen's website where messages may be written.

