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October 2007

# The Messenger

of St James' Church, Texarkana, Texas

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## From the Rector

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St James',

Football season has begun again. That means football widows, beer ads, players in too-tight trousers, people anxious to leave Mass, favorite television programs being pre-empted, wide shots of adoring fans, filling football stadiums and, inevitably, people in the crowd holding up signs with Bible verses written on them. Verses such as *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son*, etc. Or *God is love*.

I supposed the criterion for choosing these verses is that they should encapsulate or sum up the whole of the Gospel message in a single verse. John 3:16 certainly does that. If I had to choose a verse to sum up the Gospel it would be *This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners* (1 Tim 1:15).

The whole of the Gospel in a single verse. *Christ Jesus came into the world*: Here is the doctrine of the **Incarnation**, of God coming among us in Jesus Christ to teach us saving Truth, to heal our infirmities, to rescue lost souls. And why did Jesus come into the world? *To save sinners*. Here is the doctrine of the **Atonement**, of the God-man Jesus Christ being betrayed into the hands of sinful men, of his anguished suffering, of his shameful death on our behalf, in order that we might be made right with God, and be raised with Jesus to new life in the Holy Spirit. Yes, here we have the whole of the Gospel in a single verse.

But the first part of this verse tells us what we are to do with this Gospel: St. Paul writes *that this proclamation is worthy of all men to be received*, or in other words, the Gospel must be spread far and wide, which I suppose is why people hold those

signs up for the television camera in the first place. I wonder how many people have been brought to the faith by a sign in Texas Stadium. A few probably, because nothing is impossible with God, but not many I suspect. When our Lord rose from the dead, he did not send the disciples out to sit in the amphitheatre with signs.

No, our Lord founded a Church, a Body of believers with himself as the Head. The members of this Body, the Church, were to be witnesses of Jesus unto the ends of the earth, drawing in more and more disciples, and extending the Kingdom of God and preaching the Good News: *This Gospel is true, and worthy of the whole world to be accepted*. It is the great task of the Church, and of her members, to pass on the Good News.

The fact is that the Church is not doing a very good job at her task. One recent survey reveals that four in five Americans call themselves Christians, but only two in five regularly practice their religion. In other words, we live in a society where Christianity is superficial and, in all practical terms, meaningless. Even many of those who hold forth about "family values" seem to see Christianity merely as a means to a certain political end. The question for us is, "Where do we, the Church, find the spiritual strength to be effective witnesses of the Gospel, converting people to authentic and vibrant Christianity which transforms the world?" I would suggest five "Cs" where we can find that spiritual strength.

The first is to recognize your call. Be aware that you have a special vocation to be call others to the Christian faith. The very fact that you are sitting here means that you have already responded to Christ's call to *follow me*... and are therefore called to

ongoing mission because Christ's words continue ... *and I will make you fishers of men.* From the moment of Baptism then, we are all part of Jesus' ongoing ministry of reaching and calling others to become members of his Body, the Church. Do you recognize that you are called by none other than Jesus Christ? How have you responded to his call?

This leads to the second "C", **commitment**. The Fathers of the Church teach that in the Christian life there are only two possible directions. Progress forwards or sliding backwards. There is no standing still. In short, if you are not progressing, you are regressing. Christians are committed to spiritual growth, to nurturing their souls through worship, personal prayer, study, and continued openness to transformation by the Holy Spirit. What commitments have you made to help grow as a Christian? Do you attend mass more often? Do you pray with more focus? Are you enrolled in some program of Christian education? Are you open to God doing new things in your life? Make the commitment to grow, because only committed Christians can make new Christians.

The third "C" of effective evangelism is **community**. The power of living, praying, worshipping and caring for other Christians in a common-unity is an effective way of spreading the Gospel. People are not saved as isolated, independent individuals, who then become part of a club called Church, but are instead brought into the Church precisely so that they can be saved.

There are plenty of Christians who have "I walked in the garden alone" faith. The truth is that hymn embodies very un-scriptural theology. You are *not* meant to stumble about in the garden alone. You are meant to be part of a Body, an outgoing, strengthening fellowship, ready to open its doors to all, to sinners and saints.

As far as evangelism is concerned, people will only want to know the Lord, only want to become members of his Body, if they can see for themselves in the lives of Christians something that is missing in their own lives and which they cannot find anywhere else. The accepting, loving and caring community in which God is discovered and rediscovered, in which Christ is the center, and where the Holy Spirit is at work in the worship and

lives of the people who make it up, will be attractive, attracting, and evangelizing. How do you contribute to our community life in this place?

The fourth "C" is **caring**. The great Anglo-catholic priests who worked in the slums of London recognized that caring for the sick, the friendless, and the needy of society was a very powerful tool of evangelism. Indeed, to call oneself a catholic Christian, and to not be engaged in some sort of caring ministry is not only a contradiction, it is blasphemy.

Where do the sick see Jesus? Where do the poor see Jesus? Where do the lonely see Jesus? Not on the television. Not in the welfare office. Not in the political realm. Not on Wall Street. Hear the words of Jesus: *Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.* The poor, the sick, the lonely see Jesus in your face; they feel his touch with your hands. What caring ministry are you engaged in?

Finally, no evangelism can be done without the fifth "C" - the **cross**. The cross was placed upon us at Baptism, and holds a central position in the Scriptures, teaching, liturgy and lifestyle. The center of the entire Gospel is Christ crucified. Making Jesus known, loved and adored to the ends of the earth means bearing the cross: *If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.*

Noble words to read, but not so easy to put into practice. The world says, put yourself first. The end of this is death. Jesus shows us that continual denial of self is the way of the cross. The end of this is eternal life. If the faith that I live out is shallow, easy, upbeat, convenient, and compatible with the ways of the world, what possible reason does anyone have to become a Christian? The Christian life is the difficult, and to the world foolish, task of taking up the cross and following Christ in obedience, in self-sacrifice, in discipline, in humility. How do you deny yourself? Where is the cross in your life?

We know the Gospel: *that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.* But know also that this Gospel is *worthy of every man, woman and child* to be received.

Remember the five "Cs" necessary to spread the gospel: call, commitment, community, and caring, all under the banner of the cross.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

**Fall / Winter 2007**

### *Worship Schedule*

#### **Sunday Schedule**

- 7:45am Quiet Eucharist (Rite I)
- 9:00am Christian Education for all ages
- 10:00am Sung Family Mass (Rite II)  
*Child care is available from 8:45-11:15am each Sunday in our staffed Nursery.*

#### **Weekday Schedule**

- Tuesday 10:00am Morning Prayer
- Wednesday 6:00pm Mass with hymns
- Thursday 10:00am Mass
- First Friday of the Month  
12:10pm Mass  
*Tuesday, Thursday & Friday services are in the Chapel.*

### ***Baptisms at St James'***

Parents, sponsors and Godparents of infant / child candidates should schedule a pre-baptismal orientation with the clergy. Adult candidates are required to complete appropriate instruction. Active participation in the life of the Church is expected of parents, sponsors and candidates.

Except in cases of emergency, Baptisms will be reserved for the following dates:

- Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Epiphany OLJC  
Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 Great Vigil of Easter

### *Special Services & Events*

#### **St Michael & All Angels (observed)**

- Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
4:00pm Choral Evensong  
*Sung by the Men & Boys*

#### **All Saints' Sunday**

- Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
7:45am Low Mass  
10:00am Sung Mass & Baptisms  
*Fajita lunch in the Great Hall following the 10am Mass.*

#### **Pentecost XXV**

- Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
*Preacher: The Rev'd Canon Paul Lambert*

#### **Thanksgiving Day**

- Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006  
10:00am Sung Mass in the Church

#### **Advent Lessons & Carols**

- 4:00pm Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
*Followed by a Reception in the Great Hall*

#### **Evening Masses of Christmas Eve**

- 4:30pm Children's Service  
10:00pm Christmas Carols  
10:30pm Procession & Sung Mass

## Christian Education Outreach Project for October...Collecting pet food and money for the Texarkana Animal Shelter in honor of St. Francis of Assisi

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### **Sunday**

#### **9:00 am**

#### **Keys to the Kingdom, Grades K/4 – 5, Out of Egypt**

- ❖ God's Garden of Tales – Shari Keller & Andi Sue Townsend
- ❖ Drawing Room – Penny Williams
- ❖ Jousting Room – Wendy Dowd & Nancy Malone
- ❖ Treasure Room – Sharon Maynard & Bobbie Trimble

Living the Good News – Grades 6 – 8

**Teachers: Carter Adams and Tracy Jones**

Living the Good News – Grades 9 – 12

**Teachers: James Elliott, Judie Firmin, Michelle Shores, Al Williams**

#### **10:00 am**

Children's Liturgy of the Word – K/4 and up

**Leader for October – Jenny Baxter-Bartlett, assisted by Andi Sue Townsend**

#### **6:00 pm**

**Jr. EYC – Grades 6 – 8**

**Leaders: Lisa McDermott, Chuck Firmin**

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#### **Wednesday at 7:00 pm**

**Faithweavers – Grades K/4 –5**

**Teacher: Susie Stanley assisted by Megan Schroeder or Diane Akin**

**Sr. EYC – Grades 9 – 12**

**Leader: Jennifer Gould**

#### **PLEASE HELP OUR CHILDREN BY:**

- ❖ Teaching/assisting a 4 week workshop for Keys to the Kingdom Rotation
- ❖ Leading/assisting in children's Liturgy of the Word for a month
- ❖ Assisting in Faithweavers for a month
- ❖ Directing an Epiphany pageant for younger children
- ❖ Providing snacks/meals for Jr. or Sr. EYC once a month
- ❖ Assisting the leaders in Jr. or Sr. EYC for a month
- ❖ Assisting with Jr. or Sr. EYC on special events or trips
- ❖ Speaking to youth about volunteer opportunities

Contact Mary Nell Short, [maryns@stjamestxk.org](mailto:maryns@stjamestxk.org) or Jennifer Gould, [jenniferg@stjamestxk.org](mailto:jenniferg@stjamestxk.org) for details.

## On Sunday Mornings

*Meeting from 9:00am to 9:50am in the Great Hall*

The Sunday morning class will consider various short topics, and is ideal for those who are unable to commit to regular or extended classrooms or groups. There is no need to register, simply show up and take part. If you attend the early Mass stay a little longer, if you attend the late Mass, show up a little earlier! Coffee is served.

### **"WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE:" LESSONS FROM THE PAST FOR UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT**

*Beginning Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>*

This short course will examine the present state of the Anglican Communion in light of some past "crises." Believe it or not, but we've been here before. Topics to be explored include the

- The effects of the Reformation on parish life
- Puritan/Anglican conflict and the Elizabethan Settlement
- The execution of Charles I, abolition of the episcopate and suppression of Prayer Book worship
- The rise of the Anglo-catholic movement

By studying history, we gain valuable perspective on the troubles of our own day, and perhaps a way forward for the future.

### **SEX, MONEY & POWER**

*Beginning in November*

Taught by Scott Bruner and Lauren Heymeyer, this course is geared towards parents with young children, and recently married with no children. We will explore ways of living as a Christian in a society driven by money, power, consumerism, sex and continual change. Watch the Bulletin for more details.

## On Wednesday Evenings

6:00pm	Low Mass with hymns
6:30pm	Parish Supper in Great Hall
7 - 8 pm	Classes

*Nursery care will be provided beginning at 6:45pm.*

### **COMPARATIVE RELIGION**

*Beginning Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Come and learn more about the great religions of the world including Islam, Hinduism and modern religious movements such as Mormonism, Seventh Day Adventism and Jehovah's Witnesses. By exploring these other faiths, you will gain a greater appreciation for your own Christian beliefs!

We are starting to settle into a routine for the coming months. Our youth program has been anything but routine so far this year!

### **Junior EYC (Sundays 6 PM to 7:30 PM)**

We started off the new Jr. High EYC program with a BANG at the Medieval Dinner for sixth to eighth graders and their parents. Our Senior High EYC members served dinner and several women under the direction of Judie Firmin cooked the food! Everyone had a great time. We have had two Sunday night meetings since the Dinner and turnout has been strong! We are working on redecorating our new Jr. EYC room and getting to know each other and Christ better. Big thanks to Lisa McDermott and Chuck Firmin who have been leading the Jr. EYC! If you would like to be a part of the Jr. EYC program, we are looking for volunteers to provide a snack/light meal on Sunday nights. Contact Jennifer Gould if you would like to help out or sign up outside her office door.

### **Senior EYC (Wednesdays 7 PM to 8 PM)**

The Senior High program is also running well. We have a great group of young adults in our program and it is wonderful to see them again on Wednesday nights. We kicked off our year with a cookout at the Rec. Center. Unfortunately, it rained HARD! We still had some fun and had a chance to relax a little. We are focusing on the Games of Life for the first 4 weeks of the program and we will move into a series entitled "Taking out the Trash" starting in October.

### **Special Events**

For our special event of October, both Jr. High and Sr. High EYC members can travel to Fulton, Arkansas for the FIELD OF SCREAMS and the Corn Mazes. The group had a great time last year! A few adults will be needed as chaperones, so please contact Jennifer Gould to participate in the fun!

### **The Year of the Volunteer**

We will also launch our new yearlong service project and fundraiser. **THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER!**

This year, we will feature a volunteer from the church every month and have guest speakers from different organizations throughout the community at our EYC meetings. We will also volunteer at local sites for service projects. To use this as a fundraiser, every EYC member will have a sponsor form. The youth will seek out sponsors for volunteer hours. You can sponsor a youth member either per hour or per sight. The money raised will go toward the youth program activities and our summer mission trips. The Jr. High will attend "Summer in the City" and the Senior High will travel to Mississippi to continue rebuilding the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina. Our long-term goal is to save money for an international pilgrimage trip in 2009. These are lofty goals, but I think we can manage them with your support and God willing!

We have a busy and rewarding year ahead! Thank you for sharing your young adults with me so that I may learn and grow with them and because of them!

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**I WISH** I could promise that the Church is a perfect place, that we could all just get along, and that you will never find yourself in the middle of a church fight—whether it's in a parish, a diocese, the national church, or a worldwide Communion. But I can't promise you that, because the Church is a human, as well as a divine institution, and is certainly made up of very fallible human beings.

—The Rt Rev'd Christopher Epting

**DON'T BOTHER** looking for the "perfect church." The minute you join it, it will no longer be perfect.

—The Rev'd Billy Graham

## October Birthdays

Ann Gooch	1
Henry Horn	1
Marsha Elliott	1
Sarah Storey	1
Ches Walker	3
Jim Hendrickson	5
Lewis Patterson	5
Liza McCubbin	7
Matthew Gould	7
Mary Wommack	8
Barbara Davis	9
Hutch Tidwell	9
Suzanne Hackett	11
Lois Moore	12
Ed Finn	12
Thomas Storey	13
George Burton	14
Jonathan Wilkins	14
Desmond Orrell	16
Linda McGrane	17
Billy Hackett	17
Trey Fullerton	17
Matthew Hendrickson	18
Bobbie Holman	19
Larry Baudino	19
Taylor Douglas	19
Cyndee Cline	21
Jonathan Asher	21
Sara Burroughs	22
Bo Malone	23
Teresa Hubrel	23
Kelly Tidwell	23
Chris Terry	24
Will Harrell	24
Janet Hoag	26
Ken Liles	26
Robin Townsend	26
Bobbie Trimble	27
Susan Johnston	27
Kenneth Lewis	28
Greg Cook	29

## October Anniversaries

Ford & Stephanie Crane	3
Jim & Jenny Bartlett	4
Mike & Dena Hill	5
Tom & Ann Coleman	6
Todd & Michelle Shores	7
Preston & Christy Worsham	9
Jim & LaNita Burroughs	11
Joe & Nelda Knight	12
Jim & Penny Williams	15
Calvin & Terry Moore	16
Richard & Helen Humber	25
Paul & Lisa Patterson	29
James & Marsha Elliott	31

## From the Organist & Choirmaster

*Fredrick Krieger*

### A MUSICAL OFFERING

Each time we celebrate a Liturgy here at Saint James' Church, I hear wonderful singing. And I hear wonderful singing, whether or not a Choir is seated opposite me. From my advantageous position at the organ console, I can hear the largest choir of all: the Congregation! That statement, having been made, will lead me to my next point: we need YOUR participation in the Parish Adult Choir.

Seated out in the nave of the church, one might be lead to believe that all is well in choir-land. Certainly, when everyone currently signed-up for the Choir has rehearsed and is present at Mass, the results have been very good. HOWEVER, all is NOT well in choir-land. We need YOUR help! On any given Wednesday night, there will most likely be one or more singers missing due to family situations, illness, business obligations out-of-town, etc. When we have only two Altos to begin with, for example, and one is missing, the Section suffers, as does the whole Choir. And, our one, lone Tenor, despite his ability, does not a Section make. The whole idea of a Choir, much like that of a pipe organ, is to have MANY voices in each Section contributing their unique tonal color to the blended good of the whole Choir.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** By signing up to sing in the Choir, of course! A commitment to Wednesday night Rehearsals is essential, both for your own learning and confidence, and for the good of the final result: musical excellence at Mass. However, with the Boy Choir now able to sing at least 2 Sundays per month, the Parish Choir has slightly less Sunday time commitment. This allows for more flexibility in personal scheduling.

Please give the Choir your prayerful consideration. Please speak to the current Choir Members about their Choir experience, and about our needs. And finally, please call me, the Choirmaster, with any questions you may have, and to sign-up to be a part of this beautiful and essential Ministry! Call 903.794.9224.

### Why are the doors of Anglican Churches red?

In the earlier days of the church it was understood that a soldier could not pursue an enemy that had entered through the red doors of a church. The red doors were a symbol of refuge and sanctuary for all people who entered.

Over time, Christian people began to see the red doors of the church as symbolizing not only physical refuge and safety, but spiritual refuge as well. The blood of Jesus, and of the Church's martyrs, that the red doors of the church symbolized, would protect you from evil, both physical and spiritual. The red doors spoke to the world of holy ground that existed inside those doors, space that had been purged and made clean by Christ's precious Blood.

	<b>October 7</b>	<b>October 14</b>	<b>October 21</b>	<b>October 28</b>	<b>November 4</b>	<b>November 11</b>
<b>C.B. 7:45am</b>	Tom Collins Jenny Bartlett	Kaye Baxter David James	Al Williams Don McCoy	J.D. Philips Patsy Cornelius	Tom Collins Jenny Bartlett	Kaye Baxter David James
<b>Reader 7:45am</b>	Lova Wile	Bob Brown	Lauren Heymeyer	Leighsa Bean	Audrey Russell	Chris Terry
<b>Ushers 7:45am</b>	John Rogers J. D. Phillips Glen Wile Jim Wilson	Joe Kososki Bill Bean Charles Terry John	Alan Jolley Bill Caller Mike Lowe Jenny Bartlett	Glen Wile Jim Wilson John Rogers Bill Bean	John Fountoulakis Charles Terry J. D. Phillips Ken Liles	Alan Jolley Bill Caller Mike Lowe Jenny Bartlett
<b>C.B. 10:00am</b>	Judie Firmin Wade Fowler	Nick Williamson Chuck Firmin	Shari Keller Jim Burroughs	Keith Maynard Wade Fowler	Nick Williamson Chuck Firmin	Judie Firmin Shari Keller
<b>Acolytes 10:00am</b>	Taylor Douglas Jonathan Asher Steven Firmin Reann Mitchell Celeste Anderson	Zach Hubrel Hillary Fowler J-M Hubrel Marissa Johnston Wade Johnston Laurel Wakefield	Will Harrell Jessica Jones Claire Wade Eleanor Schnoeder Frances Schnoeder	Lewis Patterson Kendall Miller Blake Purtle Madison Maynard Mereditth Maynard	Matt Hendrickson Hadley Smith Clayton Shores Kelsey Townsend Mary Stewart Shores Charlie Trammell	Thomas Storey Sarah Storey Caroline Purtle Bailey Cline Blaine Cline
<b>Acolyte Mom</b>	Ruby Firmin	Kim Fowler	Tracy Jones	Sharon Maynard	Robin Townsend	Cyndee Cline
<b>Reader 10am</b>	Bobbie Trimble	Pam Williamson	Diane Akin	Jessica Cowdery	Katy Caver	Russ McDermott
<b>Prayers of the People 10am</b>	Susan Williams	Pat Works	Jane Bruner	Ann Coleman	Pam McCoy	Michelle Miller
<b>Ushers 10am</b>	Chuck Firmin Ches Walker Nick Williamson Dave Williamson	Tom Coleman Mike Jones Alan Trimble Matt Gould	Tim Reed Bo Malone Jim Williams Larry Oxford	J. C. Markham David Waddle Jeff Tanner Paul Patterson	Ches Walker Dave Williamson Tom Coleman Alan Trimble	Matt Gould James Thomas Chuck Firmin Jim Williams
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team I	Team II	Team III	Team IV	Team I	Team II
<b>Gift Shop</b>	Martha Bean	Kaye Baxter	Diana Lowe	Peggy Kososki Chris Terry	Martha Bean	Kaye Baxter
<b>Household Week</b>	Ken & Shelly Lewis	Ken Liles	Michael & Lorelei Lofton	Tim & Carly Loving	Mike & Diana Lowe	Pat Lower
<b>Vestry Lock Up</b>	Pat Works Mark Storey	Lisa Hendrickson Ann Coleman	Larry Oxford Glenn Crowder	Brian Purtle Mark Storey	Todd Shores Lisa Hendrickson	Ann Coleman Pat Works

*Please, if you cannot serve as scheduled, switch with someone, and notify the Parish Office of the change!*  
*Acolytes & Chalice Bearers, please ready 15 minutes before Mass. Please wear dark shoes (black or brown).*

**WEDNESDAY EVENING MASSES at 6pm**

	<b>October 3</b>	<b>October 10</b>	<b>October 17</b>	<b>October 24</b>
<b>C.B.</b>	Jenny Bartlett	Nick Williamson	Chuck Firmin	Shari Keller
<b>Reader</b>	John Stanley	Pam Williamson	Pat Works	Lova Wile