
Lent 2008

The Messenger

of St James' Church, Texarkana, Texas

2008 PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

This questionnaire was distributed at the Annual Parish Meeting, and during both Masses on January 27th. For the COMMENTS, selected responses have been listed, due to limitations of space. Similar comments may have been offered by more than one respondent. Where possible, comments have been chosen to provide a balance of opinion – sometimes with a delicious irony!

- 96% I am a member of the parish
3% I am not a member, but consider St James' my church home.
1% No response

I have children in **Sunday School / EYC**

- 31% Yes
67% No
2% No response

I would rate the *children's Christian Education* as

- 48.4% Very good
38.7% Good
9.6% Fair
0% Poor
3.2% No idea

(Of those who actually had children in Sunday School or EYC)

Comments:

- *We love faithweavers!*
- *Expect better behavior during chapel.*
- *Have a summer session*

I would rate the *adult Christian Education* as

- 38% Very good
38% Good
6% Fair
1% Poor
11% No idea
6% No response

I wish an adult class would be offered in this area/subject:

- *More practical teaching about how to put our faith into practice in the world.*
- *More Bible study*
- *A course on Centering Prayer (Contemplation)*
- *Theologians of the high middle ages (Scholastics)*
- *Need more leaders*
- *Shorter sessions, say 4 weeks*
- *Code meanings of words in Bible*
- *Jewish foundations of Christianity*
- *Marriage/dating*
- *Ethics*

I would rate the *preaching* at St James' as

- 78% Very good
21% Good
1% Fair
0% Poor
2% No response

Something we never hear preached from the pulpit – and we should – is:

- *Why bad things happen to good people.*
- *Christian moral standards.*
- *Raising children in today's world.*
- *Prophecy.*
- *Political issues.*

I would rate the *music* at St James' as

- 42% Very good
42% Good
7% Fair
0% Poor
8% I only attend a Mass with no music
1% No response

If I could tell the Choirmaster one thing, I would say:

- *Need for more "old" music.*
- *Need for more renewal music.*
- *Need for a musical program for the girls.*
- *Love the Boy Choir.*
- *I am tone deaf; you don't want me in the choir.*
- *Organ is too loud.*
- *Organ is not loud enough, especially at back.*
- *[Plus, many "attaboy" comments.]*

The **best thing** about our worship at St James' is:

- *Holy Communion.*
- *Our traditional worship.*
- *A sense of reverence and beauty.*
- *We are formal without being stiff.*
- *Our worship is authentic.*
- *The new communion wine.*
- *If we have a Sung Mass, why don't we sing the Creed? The Prayers of the People?*

My **pet peeve** about the worship at St James' is:

- *People leaving Mass early (a.k.a. "The Judas Walk").*
- *Not enough Masses. How about Saturday night?*
- *Too much noise before worship.*
- *I miss the old communion wine.*
- *Can't the children be held back so they don't come into church during the prayers?*
- *The Peace.*
- *The Gospel should be read, not sung.*
- *Hard pews.*
- *Poor amplification.*

Generally speaking, the **Sunday Mass times** are

- 0% Too early
- 94% About right
- 0% Too late
- 6% No response

In the past year, my **attendance at Sunday Mass** has

- 14% Increased a great deal
- 2% Increased a little
- 70% Remained about the same
- 5% Decreased a little
- 0% Decreased a great deal
- 9% No response

If your Mass attendance has decreased, please tell us why:

- *Family attended another church for a while. Good to be back at St James'!*
- *Child out of town.*
- *Work and life changes.*
- *Illness.*

How often do you visit the St James' **website** www.stjamestxk.org?

- 24% Once a week or so
- 19% Once a month or so
- 37% Infrequently
- 9% What website? / no internet access
- 11% No response

The St James' **Newsletter** is published online and distributed in the Porch on Sunday.

- 83% I read the newsletter
- 7% I don't read the newsletter
- 2% What newsletter?
- 8% No response

Overall, **my feeling about St James'** is

- 41% Very good
- 52% Good
- 3% Fair
- 0% Poor
- 0% Indifferent
- 4% No response

If I could tell the Rector one thing, I would say:

- *Rector is too flip.*
- *Rector needs to be more approachable.*
- *You are a good teacher.*
- *I appreciate his Orthodoxy.*
- *Get yourself a Curate. We want you to stay!*
- *There is a lot of talent in this parish that is underutilized.*
- *Bring in some foreign bishops to preach to us.*
- *Need to strengthen parish connections.*
- *We need to cut down on the amount of furniture polish used.*
- *[Plus, a number of "attaboy" comments.]*

Being a Christian today is

- 5% Extremely difficult
- 12% Very difficult
- 55% Difficult but worth it
- 17% Easy
- 5% Very easy
- 6% No response

I would say that St James' is

- 55% Widely known in the community
- 35% Somewhat known in the community
- 3% Not really on peoples' radar screen
- 7% No response

Please complete these sentences in a few words.

The **best thing** that happened at St James' in the past year was:

- *The Organ Project.*
- *The new choirmaster and Boy Choir.*
- *Completion of the Rec Center.*
- *Expansion of the EYC program.*
- *Great social events!*
- *Daughters of the King.*
- *Holy Week – WOW!*
- *The dedication of our members to "small things."*
- *The Epiphany Pageant.*
- *Youth trip to Washington.*

One thing we should be **doing better/more of** is:

- *Promoting ourselves in the community.*
- *Inviting our friends/family to St James.'*
- *Being more realistic about the organ.*
- *Taking care of our clergy and staff. At this rate, the chance of burnout is high.*
- *Evangelism.*
- *Interpersonal contact.*
- *Fellowship*
- *Welcoming and identifying visitors.*
- *Volunteer work / Outreach.*

Christian Formation

Mary Nell Short

For Children ...

Gifts of Warmth and Love to the Christ Child.

Randy Sams' Shelter was very appreciative of the many pairs of socks, mittens, and gloves, and caps and scarves that were donated Christmas Eve.

Heifer International Lenten Outreach. For the third year, we will be distributing small arks to families to be filled during Lent. Last year we gave over \$400 to the project. Hopefully we can raise more than that this year. Pick up your ark at the pancake supper or in the back of the church.

Keys to the Kingdom Sunday School, K/4 - grade 5

The Lord's Supper unit, Feb. 10 - Mar. 2

A huge thank you to the teachers of the first unit of the block, Teach Us How to Pray, Jan. 13 - Feb. 3: Chris Terry, Peggy Kososki, Sharon Seifert, Becky Stewart, Nancy Malone, Wendy Dowd, Leslie Russo, Jessica Miller, and Bobbie Trimble.

First Holy Communion Class. Seven children are attending a class in preparation for their first communion, taught by Leighsa Bean and Kim Fowler. The class consists of Joseph and Joshua

Asher, Will Cullipher, Davis Miller, Keaton Russo, Erica Stanley, and Dakota Williams. They will make their first communion at the Easter Vigil.

Junior and Senior High classes continue to study "Living the Good News," a lectionary based curriculum.

Children's Liturgy of the Word maintains attendance of better than 12 children each Sunday. A big thank you to Carter Adams for serving as leader during January.

Youth Confirmation. Mentors and young people will be preparing for confirmation during Lent and early spring. We have 10 young people who will be participating and who will be officially enrolled in the class at the 10:00 mass, Feb. 17.

A question to ponder this Lent. Where are we as the church and Christian formation on the family refrigerator list of priorities? Are we on it at all? Has the church and Christian formation become an asterisk in your family's life?

For Adults ...

THE SACRAMENTS – RITES OF CONVERSION *Ongoing at 9am in the Great Hall*

Each of the seven Sacraments celebrates, ritualizes the moments of our lives. Each is a rite of conversion in an ongoing relationship – not merely a once-for-all rite, but a high-point in a lifelong process, a celebration of change, a rite of conversion. The purpose of this course will be to help us understand the sacraments better, and revivify these symbols.

Thank You!

FROM SANDRA KENNEDY. Thanks to everyone who contributed to my SURPRISE gift on Sunday, January 20th. I was totally overwhelmed with your generosity. I love my church, church family and my job because of the wonderful people here. The last 20 years have been great and I'm looking forward to many more. Thanks again.

How to Become a Lapsed Episcopalian Quickly and Easily

1. **Stop going to Church on Sunday.** This is the quickest and most effective way to become a lapsed Episcopalian. Begin in your teenage years. Refuse to get up on Sunday morning Mass when your parents call. Or if you begin as an adult, come up with activities that will make it “impossible” to get to church. Roll over, pull the covers over your head.
2. **Have an ideological fight with the Church.** Pick out some issue and pick a fight. Study the issue thoroughly, or not. Talk to your priest, and *tell* him why you can no longer be part of the Church “as a matter of conscience.” Repeat what you’ve told your priest to friends at cocktail parties, to people on street corners, to your friends at the pub. Insist that THIS is the reason you really left the church – not because you aren’t too crazy about letting go of your favorite sins, or that you resent the obligation to support your church with your time, talent and money at more than a minimal level, or that you just can’t get out of bed (see #1, above).
3. **Join another religion.** (Be careful not to *really* join another religion – you’ll just have another set of obligations to observe, but *act* like you have). Tell everyone you meet that you have decided that Hinduism is older, and more in tune with the Cosmos.
4. **Become an agnostic.** This is the intellectual approach. Become incredibly confused about things you once firmly believed in. Stop attending church functions (except Bingo, of course!) until you “get the faith.” After all, who could possibly criticize you for being confused?
5. **Learn to dislike a priest.** Remember one you loved, then compare him to the new guy, who talks too loud/soft, who never/always comes/goes to my/someone else’s house for supper/dinner, who always/never chats with other people after Mass.

-- From the tongue-in-cheek writing of Fr Hall Stocker

The Vestry of St James' Church

The Rev'd Douglas Anderson, *Rector*

Lisa Hendrickson, *Senior Warden*

Mike Lowe, *Junior Warden*

Ann Coleman Charlie Cook Larry Oxford Trey Schroeder

Todd Shores Mark Storey David Waddle Al Williams

Nick Williamson Pat Works

John Power, *Treasurer* Lisa Patterson, *Clerk* William Miller, *Counsel*

The New Year is a time to look back at what we have accomplished and also to look ahead to a bright future! Both our EYC groups started 2007 well and we have had a revival in the beginning of 2008! We held a Lock-in for both Junior and Senior High students and had a record number of 25 youth attend! We had so many, I had to ask parents for an additional adult sponsor (Thanks Mark Storey) to make sure we had enough adult supervision! That is a good problem to have! At the Lock-in, the Junior High Students painted their new meeting room. We still have work to do in it, but the kids are excited about it. (By the way, if anyone has a sofa or 2 they would like to donate along with a round folding table, we would be happy to take them off your hands!)

The weekend after the lock-in, seven Senior High Students, driven by Chuck Firmin, attended the Bishop's Ball and another lock-in in Dallas. We met new people and had a great time, even though we were REALLY tired after it!

As for our classes, the Senior High has been working on a series about the "Awesome Powers" of our Faith starting with Hope, then Perseverance, next Living a life of Faith, and we will finish up on January 30th with a night about the power of worship! During Lent, we will talk about meditation and how we can use the Bible in our meditations. The Junior High has been busy cleaning up from their paint job at the last few meeting times, however, Chuck Firmin will start a new Lenten Series about the Sacraments on Sunday, Feb. 10th.

We are also thinking about our upcoming mission trips this summer! The Senior High will be going to Camp Coast Cares in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi during the week of June 16th to continue to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina and the Junior High will travel to Dallas during the week of July 6th to participate in the Diocesan "Summer in the City" program for underprivileged children.

To make these trips possible, we need to raise money toward these trips. Last year, we collected money for SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, where youth members stood at the back of Church and collected funds to be split between the youth program and a charity working to alleviate hunger in our community. We will collect

funds again this year on Sunday, Feb. 3rd in the back of the church! Last year we collected \$380.80 and we hope to break the \$400 barrier this year with your help and support! Next, we will hold our ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER on Tuesday, Feb. 5th from 5:30 to 7 PM! We hope to see everyone there!

In the Bible and history there are examples of one or few being sent out by many in the name of God. St. Paul is the most obvious, in that he had support from many in order to share the Gospel with others in many different communities through his words and actions. Our mission work is the same. Our youth members are sent by the parish into another community to share Jesus with others through our words and actions! Only through the support of the Church and the community will our trips be possible! Thank you to everyone who has shown such a strong commitment to our youth and their growth in Christ! May we all be blessed to see Christ in our young people!

Junior EYC (Regular meetings: Sundays 6 PM to 7:30 PM)

Sunday, Feb. 3	"SOUPER BOWL" Sunday Collection
Sunday, Feb. 3	<i>To Be Determined</i>
Tuesday, Feb. 5	PANCAKE SUPPER Fundraiser
Sunday, Feb. 10	Regular Meeting time - Lenten Series!
Sunday, Feb. 17	Regular Meeting time - Lenten Series!
Friday, Feb. 22-24	Jr. High Diocese Retreat at All Saints' Camp
Sunday, Feb. 24	No Jr. High EYC meeting due to retreat
Saturday, March 1	PAINTBALL for Penance

Senior EYC (Wednesdays 7 PM to 8 PM)

Sunday, Feb. 3	"SOUPER BOWL" Sunday Collection
Tuesday, Feb. 5	PANCAKE SUPPER Fundraiser
Wednesday, Feb. 6	No EYC - Ash Wednesday!
Sunday, Feb. 10	EYC Lunch Out after 10 AM
Service Project	<i>Location to be determined</i>
Wednesday, Feb. 13	Meditation Lesson
Wednesday, Feb. 20	Meditation Lesson
Wednesday, Feb. 27	Lenten Lesson
Saturday, March 1	PAINTBALL for Penance

Introducing:

St. James' Supper Club!

You're Invited.....Come join the fun.....Sign up Today!!!

This is a great way to get to know other church members in a non-threatening and casual environment....it just takes one day a month! Sign up in February...groups assigned in March.

NEW!

2 CHOICES:

Dinner with Friends:

You will be assigned to a group of 6-8.

The group meets once a month, rotating the host home.

Everyone brings part of the meal – host provides meat & drinks.

Sunday Brunch:

You will be assigned to a group of 6-8

The group will meet 2-3 times (once a month or so) at a restaurant after church.

Participants pay for their own meal.

**Ready to sign up? Contact Sharon Maynard
903-223-8758 or knsamaynard@valornet.com**

February Birthdays

Kevin Hagar	1
Casey Nichols	1
Emerson DeLoach	1
Claire Patterson	2
Elsa Burroughs	3
Nancy Malone	3
Sarah Douglas	4
Gary Knaupe	5
Kimberly Nichols	5
Pat Works	8
Meredith Power	10
Judie Firin	11
Joe Knight	11
Todd Shores	11
Melissa Cook	12
Andrew Burke	12
Charlie Trammell	14
Shelby Anderson	14
Martha Marshall	15
Penny Williams	15
Lara Jolley	16
Mason Miller	16
Andi Sue Townsend	17
Jenny Baxter-Bartlett	17
Charles Jean	17
Nick Williamson	18
Punkin Waddle	18
Caroline Purtle	18
Anne Cleveland	19
Stephanie Powell	19
Doris Davis	22
Gina Wakefield	22
Ryan Gould	22
Shearman Robert	23
Cecile VanZandt	23
Bob Torrans	23
Josh Gerber	23
Shari Keller	24

February Anniversaries

Billy & Suzanne Hackett	14
Chet & Lois Moore	17
John & Tommie Fondos	25
Russ & Lisa McDermott	25
Tim & Cindy Reed	25

Wednesday,
February 6th

ASH WEDNESDAY:

The First Day of Lent

Mass at 12:10pm

Mass at 7pm

Imposition of Ashes at both Masses