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Summer 2008

# The Messenger

of St James' Church, Texarkana, Texas

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## From the Rector

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St James,'

Like you, I look forward to the slower pace of summer. Sunday School is in recess, and it is a time to catch up on my reading, and begin the process of planning for the Fall. I also hope to have some time away. I did a brief calculation the other day and discovered that I've been away from Texarkana only four nights since last August – and two of those nights were at Diocesan Convention in Dallas! I think you would agree that some R & R is in order!

Because of the laid-back nature of the season, it is always tempting to be unfaithful in worship. To this temptation, "Just say No!" Summer vacation is not a vacation from God or from our obligation (number 4 of the big 10!) to be present at the Lord's Table week by week. And while it is possible to feel close to God in the Ouachitas or at the beach, I have never yet met a mountain or beach umbrella that distributes the Body and Blood of Christ! It should be our greatest delight to be in the House of God, thanking him for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life.

I hope that many of you will have an opportunity to worship with other Christians this summer. It is always a learning experience to see how other believers live out their faith. And worshipping in other places also allows us to appreciate the catholicity of the Church – that were ever the Gospel is preached, and the Sacraments faithfully ministered, we are part of the world-wide family of God. I will be pleased to help you find a parish near your vacation spot – and do be sure to bring the bulletin back home with you to St James.' Let's see who worshipped furthest afield this summer! I'll buy lunch for the winner in September.

In the Pentecost edition of the *Anglican Digest*, The Rev'd James L. Burns gives some good advice about ways we can keep our faith alive during the summer and at all times:

- *We can renew* our commitment to live within a community of faith – a community that prays and labors together to make God's love a reality in the world.
- *We can strive* to be honest with ourselves, and with one another, in the spirit of God's love
- *We can speak* the truth in love, acknowledging without fear our faults and limitations, asking God's and each other's forgiveness when we fail.
- *We can try* to become icons – windows – of God's presence in the world.
- *We can seek* to discover the presence of God in every person we encounter. We can honor God by honoring one another.
- *We can work* for a world that is free from want and poverty, cruelty and hatred, judgement and condemnation. We need not save the world – that has already been done – but each of us can do our part to build a new creation from the ashes, pain and grief that have befallen the world.

It is no accident that the vestments of the church are green in color over the summer. Green is the color of growth and new life, reminding us that the summer too can be a time to grow in the knowledge, love and service of God.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

## July Birthdays

Marie Freeman	2
Jeremy Cowdery	2
Susan Landreaux	4
Julie Tidwell	4
Lisa McDermott	4
Leslie Russo	5
Lindy Lawrence	7
Douglas Anderson+	7
Dean Hardy	8
Dave Williamson	8
Randy Williamson	8
Jackson Gray	9
Charles Firmin, Jr.	10
Jackie Gildon	10
Jocelyn Fullerton	11
Taylor Ardwin	12
Marti Newell	13
Carey Stanley	13
Jeff Young	14
Nicholas Liu	14
Russ McDermott	16
John Crowder	18
Michelle Harutunian	19
Joe Kososki	20
Virginia Caller	21
Carrie Gray	21
Bob Brown	23
Lova Wile	24
Ruby Firmin	24
Davis Miller	25
Melissa McCoy	27

Anne Fuzey	28
Kelly Hale	28
Charles Terry	29
Erin Nicholson	29
Robert Davis	30
Madison Maynard	31

## July Anniversaries

Barry & Audrey Russell	3
Thom & Gina Wakefield	3
Jack & Lauren Hehmeyer	9
Doug & Ann Drummond	18
Jim & Lisa Hendrickson	21
Brian & Michelle Purtle	25

## August Birthdays

James Storey	2
Al Williams	3
Jacob Hill	3
Fisher Plymale	4
David Waddle	4
Dolores Arnold	6
Alice Crowder	6
Carolyn Easley	7
J. C. Markham	8
Serena Markham	10
Susie Stanley	11
Virginia Trammell	12
Laura Jones	13
Carly Loving	13
Bette Stevens	18

Jeremy Fomby	19
Lila Walker	20
Lisa Hendrickson	20
Dee Miller	22
John Stanley	22
Jason Kyles	22
Mark Storey	23
Michael Lofton	24
Dixie Splawn	25
Savannah Smith	25
Jackie Brown	27
Ed Burke	27
Nelda Knight	27
Jessica Cowdery	27
Haley Lofton	27
Debbie Holder	29
Don Crisp	30

## August Anniversaries

Jack & Pat Thompson	6
Dennis & Candy Smith	7
Larry & Debbie Oxford	9
Cliff & Mary Nell Short	20
Bill & Martha Bean	26
Nick & Pam Williamson	27

**Sunday Night Mass.** On July 6, 13 & 20 we will experiment by adding a 5:30pm Sunday Mass to the schedule. This "Last Chance Mass" gives an opportunity for those who have been out of town on the weekend to fulfill their Sunday obligation.

**Organ Update.** The Wardens and Vestry have submitted an organ financing plan to the Diocese for it's approval, as is required for big-ticket purchases such as this. We are waiting to hear back from them. Thank you to all who contribute to the Organ Fund as we seek to accrue the funds necessary to undertake this project.

**Thank you also,** for keeping your Pledge current during the rather arid summer months.

**At the time of writing, the Rec Center is reserved** for private events on the following dates.

Sun. June 1 from 1pm to 4pm

Sat. July 12 all day

Sat. July 26 from 8am to Noon.

The Red Cross will also be teaching swimming lessons at various times during the summer. The Parish Office will be able to tell you when the pool is/is not in use. or check your Sunday Bulletin.

**We bid godspeed** this summer to Tim and Patsy Cornelius who are moving to Patsy has accepted a position as Professor of Nursing at Fort Smith and Tim has been promoted to the Dean of his faculty.