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**ZOOM Vestry Meeting**

**Thursday, November 5th**

10:30 am

## Looking for the Good

What good can come out of a pandemic? You may be surprised. We have not been able to worship in the sanctuary. But, being St. James, we have not missed a beat! What you as a church have done is literally the talk of the diocese. Enough about St. James, we need to talk about what good has come out of this pandemic for us. I can say that in my uneventful life, I have had more time to pursue my young hobby of photography. I have also recently revived my herb garden with the help of the cooler temperatures. No tomatoes, though. I don't like them! We have also reconnected with our neighbors. Back before the pandemic, it seemed like we did not have time to visit. But it seems like we are closer with our neighbors than ever before. I also feel like I am being reminded to enjoy music more, even though it has always been a major part of my life. If you appreciate jazz, give Joey Alexander a try. This 17 year old will blow your mind! Paul McCartney, who many people associate with the Beatles, is notably accomplished in the classical world with his Working Classical album. Listening to this has been referred to the gateway to traditional classical music. If jazz or classical music are not your thing, introduce yourself (or reintroduce yourself) to John Prine. If you listen to the lyrics of John Prine's "Hello in There", it makes you understand why we need to take care of each other. There is so much great music out there, take the time you have right now and enjoy it.



Back to St. James and how we are the talk of the diocese. We need to brag about ourselves! Our digital ministry team applied for a United Thank Offering (UTO) grant on behalf of the diocese through The Episcopal Church. The digital ministry team literally was thinking of our neighbor when seeking this grant. We were awarded this grant because of our desire to not only seek to improve our ministry, but also because we wanted to bring funding to 12 other churches within the diocese. There is some good that can come out of this pandemic. Keep an eye on your Monday and Thursday St. James emails. This ability to upgrade our digital reach will also allow us to transition back into the sanctuary.

Peace,  
Bob Klassen

**Treasurer's Update**

As has been the case all year, we had more operating income than operating expenses in October. But we'd need \$67,000 MORE than we've received through October if we were paying a competitive salary and benefits package for a full-time priest.

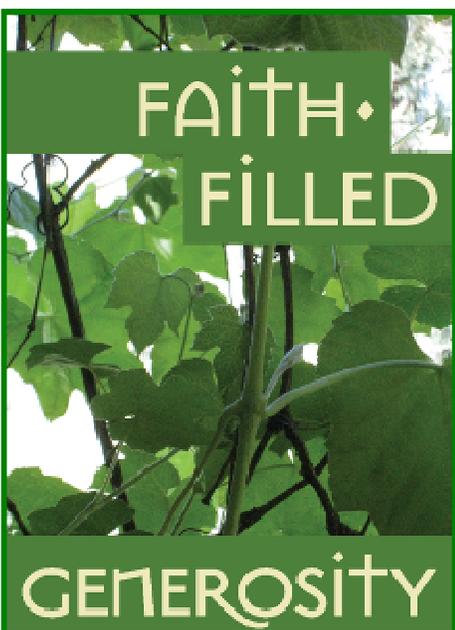
Gerry Carlston  
 Treasurer  
 ([pgcarlston@cox.net](mailto:pgcarlston@cox.net))

While we are only meeting virtually, please remember to keep up with our pledges and offerings. The Rector Search Committee has committed a compensation package in the search process and as a new parish. You can contribute to St. James at:

St. James  
 975 E Warner Rd or <https://my.simplegive.com/App/Giving/st975169>  
 Tempe, AZ 85284

January 1 through October 29, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Shortfall
YTD Operating Income	\$ 181,108	\$ 248,545	\$ 67,437
YTD Operating Expense	\$ 150,908	\$ 227,247	
YTD Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 30,200	\$ 21,298	



**CARES and SECURE Act Impact on Church Giving**

Many of you may be making your pledge or planning to pay last year's pledge from the required minimum distribution (RMD) from your retirement account. For many of us, this has been a reliable strategy for many years to make gifts. However, like so many things in 2020, RMDs from retirement accounts are different this year.

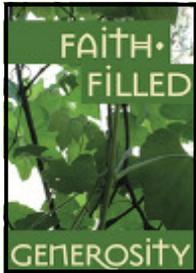
If you are 72 or older, IRS rules require you to take RMDs each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts. The CARES act temporarily waives RMDs for all types of retirement plans (including IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, 457(b)s, and inherited IRA plans) for calendar year 2020. This includes the first RMD, which individuals may have delayed from 2019 until April 1, 2020.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable directly to a qualified charity, as described in the QCD provision in the Internal Revenue Code. Amounts distributed as a QCD can be counted toward satisfying the RMD for the year, up to \$100,000. The QCD is excluded from your taxable income. This is not the case with a regular withdrawal from an IRA, even if you use the money to make a charitable contribution later on. If you take a withdrawal, the funds would be counted as taxable income even if you later offset that income with the charitable contribution deduction.

Why is this distinction important? If you take the RMD as income, instead of as a QCD, the RMD will count as taxable income. This additional taxable income may push you into a higher tax bracket and may also reduce eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions. To eliminate or reduce the impact of RMD income, you may want to consider making a QCD.

Whatever ways you choose to structure your pledge and gifts this year, we hope that this tax-wise advice can help make the best gifts possible. For more information, please visit this [Episcopal Church Foundation article](#) on RMDs and the CARES and SECURE Acts.

THANK YOU



THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM WISHES TO THANK **EVERYONE** WHO HAS SENT IN THEIR PLEDGE CARDS. THEY ARE SO IMPORTANT FOR THE TREASURER AS HE SETS THE BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, YOU CAN STILL SEND YOUR PLEDGE CARD INTO **DIANA BOWIE** AT THE CHURCH OFFICE **975 E. WARNER ROAD, TEMPE, AZ. 85284**. THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM ALSO HOPES YOU HAVE ENJOYED THE TESTIMONIALS FROM **RUTH FLINN, ADAM PETERSON, ALY AND ZAC HOULE, LYNN JOHNSON, AND ROBIN TELLE** (FROM UMOM) OVER THE PAST MONTH. THANK YOU, RUTH, ADAM, ALY, ZAC, LYNN, AND ROBIN, FOR YOUR HEARTFELT STORIES ABOUT WHY ST. JAMES HAS BEEN IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIVES.

WHILE THE REST OF US HAVE BEEN STAYING CLOSE TO HOME, TWO DEDICATED PARISHIONERS HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK. **NICK SPENCE** NOT ONLY REPLACED THE STEPS TO THE SOUND BOOTH, AS WE MENTIONED LAST MONTH, HE HAS DILIGENTLY UPDATED ALL THINGS ELECTRICAL IN THE SANCTUARY AND OFFICE RELATED TO THE DIGITAL MINISTRY. **EILEEN FLOCK** WHILE ON FURLOUGH FROM HER ALASKA AIRLINES JOB HAS BEEN CLEANING UP AND CLEANING OUT THE ATTIC AND OTHER PLACES AT CHURCH WHERE **STUFF** HAS BEEN STASHED. THANKS TO BOTH OF YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL FROM ALL OF US AT ST. JAMES.



PLEASE LET **ELLIE KENYON** KNOW IF YOU ARE AWARE OF ANYONE WHO IS DOING "GOOD THINGS FOR ST. JAMES" WHO WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE IN OUR MONTHLY THANK YOU COLUMN. JUST SEND THE NAME AND WHAT THAT PERSON/ PERSONS HAVE DONE TO SUPPORT ST. JAMES TO ELLIE AT [EJKENYON6315@VERIZON.NET](mailto:EJKENYON6315@VERIZON.NET) OR CALL ELLIE AT (480) 248-7457 AND SHE WILL BE GLAD TO INCLUDE THEM IN THE MONTHLY COLUMN.



Blankets For Navajoland

We are collecting blankets to take up to Navajoland again this year. Please bring new, wrapped (not white) blankets to church office by **Thursday, November 19th**. Please bring standard bed sizes only. Jim McCullough & Larry Kenyon will take them up north before the first week of December.

EfM

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Education for Ministry (EFM) is a unique program in theological education based upon small group study and practice. It helps participants encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition, and brings it into conversation with our experiences of the world as we study, worship and engage in theological reflection together. In January 2021, we will begin our studies with the School of Theology Guide, "**Living into the Journey with God.**" Join Anna Krithis, Carol Justice, Gerry Carlston and Keith Porter from the St. James Family in January 2021 as we begin another year of study. For more information, contact Mary Jane Porter, Mentor, 480-625-4369, or email [mjp4@cornell.edu](mailto:mjp4@cornell.edu).

EYC November 15th 12 Noon to 2 pm

I am so excited to be able to get together for an in-person meeting. We will be meeting in the area near the front of the office. We are going to work on some blankets for the Navajo blanket drive as well as the Godly play Christmas story. I look forward to seeing everyone!

We will be using the following COVID practices:

- 1) If you are not feeling well please stay home.
- 2) Please bring a mask to wear.
- 3) We will be maintaining social distancing of 6 ft. apart. (We will be meeting outside in the shade so be prepared for outside weather)

Please email([eflock@cox.net](mailto:eflock@cox.net)) or text Eileen (480-586-1124) if you will be coming to EYC on November 15th.

## Angel Tree 2020



Because of COVID, we are doing things a little different this year. We are collecting donations instead of shopping ourselves. We hope to collect \$50 per child to purchase PJs, gifts & grocery gift cards for the families. All donations need to be into the church office by **November 29th**. That will give us 2 weeks to shop online & get the gifts ready for delivery December 13-19 so they will have their gifts for Christmas.

Here are a couple ways to donate to this wonderful program:

- ♥ Sending a check to the church office - please put Angel Tree in the Memo line.
- ♥ Simple Give: please designate your contribution to Children & Family Ministries.

Thank you for all your help & support with this wonderful outreach program!





## Online Auction on eBay

**Friday, November 27th through December 4th**

A great place to buy Christmas gifts without leaving the comfort of your home!

To shop & bid go to <https://www.ebay.com/str/niksgrandma>  
100% of the winning bids benefit St James through eBay giving

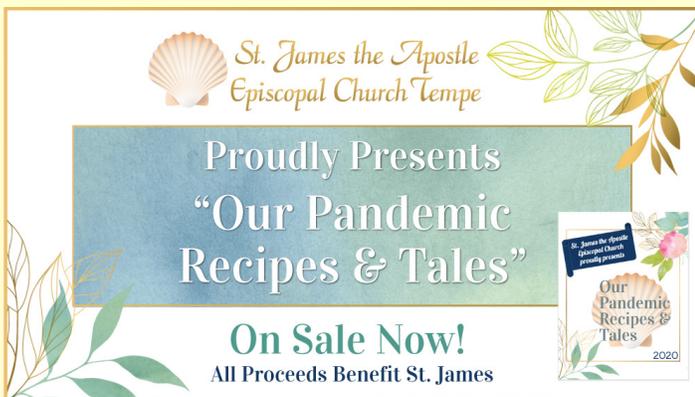
To make this a great auction we need lots of your treasures you no longer need but others might love. Items that you would be pleased to give as gifts yourself. We also have gift baskets being donated, so think of a gift package you can put together. Your original beautiful art & crafts will make great gift items.

Your items will need to be photographed, valued & described in advance of the auction so please contact me and let me know what you are donating. You will be taking the items to the St James office so I will be able to prepare them for auction. Please have everything there by Wednesday, November 18th.

Together we can make this another successful St James fundraiser.

Jill Leatherman, [nikman4444@gmail.com](mailto:nikman4444@gmail.com), (480) 284-4595 or (928) 200-7046

## St. James Cookbook On Sale Now



A digital collection of savory dishes & stories, tips & tales gathered with love by the parishioners of St. James, to share with our community. The cookbook is presented in PDF form and your \$9 donation benefits St. James. As you may know, the pandemic has impacted our funds and as such we greatly appreciate your support during this difficult time.

To order your cookbook, please visit [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and send \$9 to [office@stjamestempe.org](mailto:office@stjamestempe.org). You may also send a check to the office at 975 E. Warner, Tempe, AZ 85284.

If you need help ordering please call (480) 345-2686 or send email to [stjamestempefundraisers@gmail.com](mailto:stjamestempefundraisers@gmail.com). Thank you!

## Lector/Reader Schedule for Online Services

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Responses for Gospel Bidding	Prayers of the People	Dismissal Response	Recording Date
<b>November 1</b>	Carol Paulk	Lali Breen	Carol Justice		Mary Hovden		
<b>November 8</b>	Erica Niemoth	Nick & Audrey	Carol Paulk	Chris & Tara	Jeff & Jill	Jeff & Jill	Thurs. November 5
<b>November 15</b>	Mary Hovden	Chris & Tara	Greg Olsen	Anna & Parker	Lali & Greg	Lali & Greg	Thurs. November 12
<b>November 22</b>	Nick Spence	Jeff & Jill	Paul Hand	Chris & Tara	Nick & Audrey	Nick & Audrey	Thurs. November 19
<b>November 29</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	



*Annual  
St. James Ladies Tea  
Basket Raffle*



We've been busy putting together baskets!! We still plan on raffling them when we can meet again in person. *Now that's something to look forward to!!* The baskets will be on display and tickets will be available to be purchased when services resume. Money raised through the basket raffle will be used to replace the irrigation system. Many, many thanks to Susan Buckley and Eileen Flock for putting the baskets together!!

*We are planning 10 baskets in all!* We still need some items to complete them and we would be so grateful for all who volunteer to contribute to a basket. You can drop your donations off at the church office Monday - Thursday, 9am to 3 pm. Below are some items we need:

- |                        |                            |                         |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✓ Epsom Salts          | ✓ Salsa                    | ✓ First Aid Kit (small) |
| ✓ Foot Scrub           | ✓ Nacho Cheese             | ✓ Sewing Kit            |
| ✓ Foot Lotion          | ✓ Black Beans              | ✓ Face Mask             |
| ✓ Pedicure Set         | ✓ Potholders               | ✓ Moisturizers          |
| ✓ Foot Spa             | ✓ Wooden Spoons            | ✓ Scented Candle        |
| ✓ Soup Mixes (5 or 6)  | ✓ Dish Towels              | ✓ Throw Blanket         |
| ✓ Soup Ladle           | ✓ Cutting Board            | ✓ Reading light         |
| ✓ Soup Bowls           | ✓ Tongs/Serving Spoons     | ✓ Chocolate             |
| ✓ Margarita Mix        | ✓ Gift Cards               | ✓ Wine (1)              |
| ✓ Margarita Glasses    | ✓ Wallet                   | ✓ Wine glass (1)        |
| ✓ Spanish Table Runner | ✓ Small Compact            | ✓ Coffee Mugs           |
| ✓ Chips                | ✓ Fingernail File/Clippers | ✓ Hot Chocolate         |



What started as a casual conversation at a recent Sunday Virtual Coffee Hour has turned into an exciting project that Carol Paulk has agreed to lead!! With her great organization and archiving skills, Carol is leading an effort to gather and archive St. James' history: stories, photos, memorabilia, etc. Carol will send more details as the effort progresses, but in the meantime if you have St. James items to share, please contact Carol at [cspaulk@gmail.com](mailto:cspaulk@gmail.com).



Ladies Night Out and our Men's Lunch will be suspended until we are able to meet again in person for Sunday services.

Everyone please stay home and stay safe.



**Join us for Virtual Coffee Hour and Fellowship each Sunday  
at 10:30 am after the online service!**



**Virtual Coffee Hour:**

Topic: St. James Virtual Coffee Hour  
Time: Sunday @ 10:30 am

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/99773398325?pwd=RzU0RTUyOWNUbDlwT3JHdzNtN3pHZz09>

**Meeting ID: 997 7339 8325**

**Password: 410326**

**Christian Formation:**

Topic: SJC- Christian Formation  
Time: Sunday @ 1:30 PM Arizona

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/96775452149?pwd=UGFBSGRvaXF2elhWTjBJamdaTnY1QT09>

**Meeting ID: 967 7545 2149**

**Password: 053997**



Next Sunday, All Saints' Day, we will be back in our sanctuary for the first time since mid-March. We will have a blessing of all the pledge cards we've received up until that time. The service will be live-streamed with limited people present. It will be a Communion service. After the service we will be offering communion (bread only) as a drive by. Deacon Robin and I will be standing outdoors on the sidewalk near Rural Road. We'll be there for about 45 minutes beginning about **10:45 am**. If you would like to come and pick up communion on that day we ask that you enter at the Warner Road entrance and proceed around the building where you will receive communion and then exit on Rural (right turn only).

Many have been asking when we will be returning to our sanctuary for services. We are making a plan and hope by Advent 1 we will be able to have a congregation present but limited. I wanted to let you know we are working towards this and also prepare you for the possibility that we need to be very flexible and fluid at this time. Much depends on what is happening with the combination of COVID and flu season in our area.

Pastor Andrea

## RE-GATHERING FOR YEAR END 2020

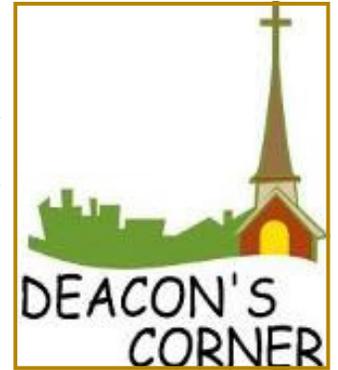
**As we prepare for re-gathering, the St. James' Leadership would like to receive feedback on your preferences for our year-end services. We appreciate your input. For any questions, please contact [office@stjamestempe.org](mailto:office@stjamestempe.org) Thank you!**

**The online survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJCYE2020>.**

**Please complete no later than Friday, October 30th.**

*Moving Forward Together*

As this month brings with it historic elections, remembrances, and thanksgiving there is much to be hopeful for. While we pray for peace, harmony, and love we are searching for comfort. We pray that divisiveness and hurt will be tempered with love and understanding. On Veterans' Day we also honor those whose lives were lost fighting for the freedoms to have differing perspectives while protecting our ability to share our voices. The conclusion of this month we celebrate Thanksgiving and yet we may have forgotten that there are those of native or indigenous heritage who find this holiday painful. To them this wasn't a sharing and welcoming but the beginning of oppression and dominion. Let us continue to move forward to better understand how we can reach out and support all our siblings in Christ and acknowledge that Thanksgiving can be a time of reconciliation, healing, and peace. November 29th brings with it the 1st Sunday in Advent and with it the hope of Christ in the world. Continue to reach out to our loved ones with phone calls, online visits, and prayers. While we may not be able to hold hands, we can hold those we love in our hearts.



Blessings,  
Deacon Robin



**Virtual Border Ministries Summit – Nov. 20-21, 2020**

Registration for the 2-day event is \$35. All are invited to attend and hear from those at the center of the immigrant community in San Diego. The focus will be on Christian Peacemaking in a World of Conflict. Learn from undocumented people, deportees, first generation immigrants and Christian leaders who live in Tijuana and San Diego. Hear from Episcopal / Anglican Bishops and other leaders on both sides of the border, as well as from the Border Patrol and legal experts. Not only learn about immigration but be equipped with tangible Christian Peacemaking practices to live out in your own contexts as Everyday Peacemakers. Learn more and register at <https://www.borderministries.com/>.



**MUSIC CORNER at St James**

In our October Newsletter, we were planning our Evening of Music which was happening (as usual) in October, except as a virtual performance fundraiser. Due to some unforeseen technical issues we had to postpone the show, but we will definitely still be doing it, at the beginning of 2021.

I am looking forward to our upcoming November and December hybrid services, with more people in the sanctuary. It is good to be evolving as much as we can into

the 'new normal' as we maneuver thru the year. We hope to be back to singing in the new year, but are, of course, very aware and concerned for safety first. We all appreciate our continued connection with our online community and will be happy when more of us are back together!

~~~ Lali Breen