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ZOOM Vestry Meeting

Thursday, August 5th

10:30 am

The Wisdom in the Spirituality of Retreats



The month of August brings a variety of Christian feasts and traditions. Some parts of the world observe the feasts that are most relevant to their identity or history. The feast of the Transfiguration is one of those feasts. For centuries church communities have been celebrating the redeeming presence of Jesus Christ among us. The feast reaffirms that Jesus is the Savior of the World. Songs and liturgies were created to express his sacrificial act of salvation. However, a few years ago, I had the opportunity to reflect on another dimension of that narrative. The story of the Transfiguration is also a story to teach us how to live a Christian life amid the daily work we have. It speaks about the importance of resting and centering after a long time of working, serving, ministering or even partying. All that requires planning, caring, time and energy. It can be stressful sometimes. The story of the Transfiguration is a metaphor to us because after ministering in different villages and towns, Jesus invites his close friends to go to a remote place for rest and prayer. During that time of

seclusion, God's wonders were revealed to the three disciples. They were amazed. They felt so good that they are in the presence of the Living God with Moses and Elijah. Their immediate desire was to stay in that comfort zone. In the sacred place. The Gospel for the feast of the Transfiguration often ends after Moses and Elijah disappear and we end forgetting what Jesus does next. He makes clear to the disciples that they can't stay in retreat forever. There is work to be done and Good News to proclaim. It was time to walk down the mountain.

My hope as your new rector is to provide time for retreats and times to minister to our neighbors. There will be time for learning and nurturing of our faith, but there will be opportunities to be active in our community.

*To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose, under
heaven...*

Father Sam⁺

TREASURER'S UPDATE

January 1 through July 28, 2021

AS I'VE MENTIONED EVERY MONTH SINCE FEBRUARY, THE INCOME AND SURPLUS FIGURES INCLUDE \$22,925 FROM THE FEDERAL STIMULUS PROGRAM. SO, REALISTICALLY, IT'S BETTER TO THINK OF OPERATING INCOME AS \$144,149 THROUGH THE JULY 28TH (\$167,074 - \$22,925). ALSO, DO REMEMBER THAT THE "SURPLUS" AMOUNT ALSO INCLUDES \$25,000 FROM REDUCED PERSONNEL COSTS BEFORE FATHER SAM ARRIVED. SO SUBTRACTING THAT AMOUNT (AND THE STIMULUS \$\$\$) GIVES A 'REAL' SURPLUS OF ONLY \$638.

	Actual	Budget
YTD Operating Income	\$ 167,074	\$ 142,614
YTD Operating Expense	\$ 118,511	\$ 145,276
YTD Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 48,563	\$ 2,662

GERRY CARLSTON
TREASURER
(PGCARLSTON@COX.NET)

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE ONLINE TO ST. JAMES AT:

ST. JAMES
975 E WARNER RD OR [HTTPS://TITHE.LY/GIVE_NEW/WWW/#/TITHELY/GIVE-ONE-TIME/2407353](https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2407353)
TEMPE, AZ 85284



Bob Klassen (Senior Warden)
Steve Vanden Heuvel (Junior Warden)
Gerry Carlston (Treasurer)
Ann Marie Bellamy-Bartholomew
Joan Besonen

Denise Boyd
Mary Hovden
Larry Kenyon
Tara Papaccio

The month of July has been fun. We will not talk about the scorpions though. My feeling is that if we do not talk about them, they do not exist. Kind of like wondering if a tree falls in a forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound. So, no scorpion talk allowed. *smile*

This past week summed up the excitement of this past month. We had the Feast of May Magdalene, the movie "Mary Magdalene", and the Feast of St. James. Going into this, I was thinking that we just came back after being totally online, so let's just take this slowly. Wow, am I ever glad we did not! Not only did I learn more during this one week, but the overt excitement oozing out of all of us has been contagious. Finishing the month with the Feast. The Feast of St. James. The beauty of the liturgy, the beauty of the textiles on the altar, the beauty of the music, and the beauty of the smiles in the congregation, can only be summed up by one of our visitors. "St. James is blessed, and I want to come back. I'll just appear."



Peace,
Bob Klassen

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene



Morning Prayer



Movie Night

Feast of Saint James



Well it is that time of year again where families start to settle in to a school routine and all the activities that come along with the new school year. Most of you will be going back to the classroom for the first time in over a year and I hope you are looking forward to making new memories.



Our Back to School Backpack Blessing will be on **Sunday, August 8th**. Students, teachers, and administrators are welcome for the blessing. Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks. Teachers and administrators are encouraged to bring something you use daily at your school for teaching or in your job. The blessing will be during the announcements and we will ask you to come forward for the blessing at that time.

I would like us to get back into the routine here at church lets start off with EYC and work our way from there. So for August EYC we will be meeting on **August 22nd**. I will have lunch ready in the kitchen after the 9:30am service. We will eat and have a planning meeting as to what we would like to do over the next few months. We will brain storm on Community Service projects here at the church as well as in the community.

I am looking forward to getting back in the routine of meeting and awakening our faith and our understanding of Jesus stories.

Eileen Flock



We all owe a debt of gratitude to **Anne Marie Bellamy-Bartholomew** and her band of *garden elves* for all the hard work she/they did to beautify our breezeway by weeding, adding new pots, and new plants to grace the entrance way to church. Thank you all, it looks lovely.



How do we count the ways to thank **Marcia Wright** and her *hospitality team* for the delightful treats that they have served us outside in the Arizona heat and now inside as restrictions have been lifted by the Diocese for social gatherings? We appreciate all you have done to feed our bodies as Father Sam feeds our spirits.

A Big Thank You to **Bob Klassen** for painting, rearranging the office and conference room, and generally providing Father Sam with a bright, fresh, relaxing area in which to work as he begins his new position at St. James. We are grateful for all you did, Bob.



If you know of anyone that you feels needs to be thanked for what they do here at St. James, please let Ellie Kenyon know at ejkenyon6315@verizon.net or by phone at 480-248-7457 and she will include your suggestion in the monthly Thank You Column.



MUSIC CORNER at St James

As we complete our 2nd month with Father Sam and with finishing off the month with 2 Feast Days (Mary Magdalene and St James), I think we can all be excited for the joyous nature of services to come. August should continue with good music and worship. With the addition of more 'world music' to our repertoire (thanks to Father Sam), we are certainly expanding and diversifying our possibilities.

As far as this month, Gerry will be leading the service on August 8th (Greg, Audrey, and I will be away) and he is bringing back some 2nd Service favorites not done here for a long time. (Thanks to Audrey for setting up this service). We certainly were happy to bring back the 2nd Service's Sanctus for our St James Feast and hope to continue with more singing of our service music.

I really want to thank our singers and musicians for working with me with very short notice to implement the vision for all the different music we did for the July 25th service. It was also really great to have Tracy Petersen come back to sing with us for that service and she and Allison Aguirre did a lovely job singing Panis Angelicus. We are still missing some our original choir and Praise Team members, but hope to see more of them in the future.

~ ~ ~ Lali Breen

Lector/Reader Schedule (9:30 am)

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Prayers of the People	Chalice Bearers	Acolyte
August 1	Denise	Erica	Joan	Carol Justice	Dense/Bob	Careen
August 8	Carol Paulk	Jill	Kathleen	Pat	Bob/Pat	Elliot
August 15	Kathleen	Damien or Audrey	Careen	Audrey	Damien/Bob	Pam
August 22	Joan	Audrey	Erica	Kathleen	Denise/Erica	Damien
August 29	Pat	Carol Justice	Carol Paulk	Jill	Pat/Carol Paulk	Dylan

St James Bookies

We haven't met in over a year but we're still reading! Please contact the church office, (480) 345-2686, if you are interested in getting together with coffee, good food and great books! CDC & Diocesan COVID protocols will be followed.



Join Us for Lunch!!

Thursday, August 26th
11:30 am

Biscuit's

4623 E. Elliot Road, Phoenix
(SW corner 48th & Elliot)

Ladies Night Out — We will be back!

See you On September 14th! We will take just a little longer break as many people are away in the summer and it gives a few more months to get back to "normal". We will continue to have our night out on the second Tuesday of each month. If you have ideas on where to eat out or if you don't get my email and want to receive it, please email me at joanbesonen@gmail.com. I am looking forward to seeing many of you and being able to visit. More info to come. Have a great summer.



"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

- Max Lucado

"Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who prays."

- Soren Kierkegaard

OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTERS, *"This Week at St. James,"* and *"Thursday's Thoughts"* are sent out every Monday and Thursday. Be sure to check your email! If you have not been receiving it, you can subscribe to receive them by going to our website, www.stjamestempe.org, and clicking on "Find/Contact Us" then clicking on "Subscribe to Our Newsletter" on the drop down list. After you subscribe you will receive an email from St. James. You must click on the "Yes, Subscribe me to this list" button in the email to complete the sign up. You can also find the link in the Weekly Updates section in the "Events/News" tab.

Join us for for a special Pentacost worship service on Sunday, May 23 at 9:30am

St. James Church
Where Strangers Become Family

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