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ZOOM Vestry Meeting
Thursday, March 3rd
10:30 am

Celebrating the diversity of the Body of Christ Black History Month

St. James has kicked off the month of February with the beautiful celebration of Candlemas and the devotion of Our Lady of Candelaria, the Black Madonna. The liturgy which was done in collaboration with St. Augustine Episcopal Church set the tone for this month of February.

For the first weeks of February, Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart is with us, enriching our conversation on diversity and discipleship. She is the author of the books "Black and Episcopalian" and the "Preaching Black Lives Matter".

Throughout this month, we will have the opportunity to honor the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history.

On Sunday, February 13th, churches across the country will celebrate the feast of Absalom Jones. But who is Rev. Absalom Jones?



Absalom Jones was the Episcopal Church's first black priest. Born into slavery in Delaware at a time when slavery was being debated as immoral and undemocratic, he taught himself to read, using the New Testament as one of his resources. At the age of 16, Jones' mother, sister, and five brothers were sold, but he was taken to Philadelphia by his master, where he attended a night school for African-Americans operated by the Quakers. Upon his manumission in 1784, he served as lay minister for the black membership at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church with his friend, Richard Allen, and together they established the Free African Society to aid in the emancipation of slaves and to offer sustenance and spiritual support to widows, orphans, and the poor.

Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones is an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument

The collect for the Feast of Absalom Jones

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Fr. Sam Dessórdi Leite⁺

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Thank you for your pledges and your January contributions! Several members gave their yearly or bi-annual pledged amounts in January so we had a small surplus for the month.

** The draft 2022 budget will be presented for your approval at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 20th.

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
Tempe, AZ 85284

January 1 through January 31, 2022

	Actual	Budget
YTD Operating Income	\$ 23,202	\$ 16,746
YTD Operating Expense	\$ 19,170	\$ 22,596
YTD Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 4,032	\$ 5,850

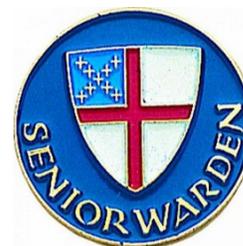
YOUR VESTRY:

Bob Klassen (Senior Warden)	Denise Boyd
Steve Vanden Heuvel (Junior Warden)	Mary Hovden
Gerry Carlston (Treasurer)	Larry Kenyon
Ann Marie Bellamy-Bartholomew	Tara Papaccio
Joan Besonen	

As I begin to put together my thoughts for the newsletter, my mind is swirling at everything we have gone through. January came upon us in a way we did not expect. It was a hard decision to go back to online services this month, but it was necessary for everyone's health. For the first time, I have not only had people I know and love become infected with the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus, but have also been exposed to the tragic consequences of this virus. So, this is my thank you for being so flexible and understanding. There is nothing more important in life than "loving your neighbor"! I must say though, nobody does online services like we do. This is huge kudos to our Digital Ministry members.

Keep an eye open for information on our Annual Meeting, being held on February 20th. More information will be given during our services and in your St. James emails.

Peace,
Bob Klassen



ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

STAY AFTER THE 9:30 SERVICE! WE'LL ELECT NEW MEMBERS TO THE VESTRY, REVIEW THE 2022 CHURCH BUDGET AND CELEBRATE ALL THE GREAT MINISTRIES IN GOD'S SERVICE HERE AT ST. JAMES. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

EYC

March 19th

(After Church service)

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

We will have lunch - pizza, salad and drinks starting at 11:30 am in the kitchen. After lunch we will meet in the library to play some board games. I look forward to seeing you. Please RSVP to Eileen Flock: text (480) 586-1124 or email eflock@cox.net by February 11th.

Eileen Flock



Acolyte Ministry

An important contributor to our worship each week is the role filled by our Acolytes. Acolytes serve God through this special service in the Church. Acolyte means “one who serves”. The Acolytes help to make the worship run smoothly by assisting the Priest and Deacons and by leading by their example of dignity and reverence. We encourage you to discern a calling to this ministry. All ages are welcome, and training is provided. Please contact Deacon Robin at deacon@stjamestempe.org or (480) 242-

New! Monthly Meeting for Acolytes and Altar Guild

Please join us for the monthly meeting of Acolytes and Altar Guild. The next meeting will be in-person (with a possibility of online as well if needed) on **Saturday, February 12th from 10:30 am to noon**. The time will be spent on creating a sacred space to learn more about our roles in worship, training, and getting to know one another. Please consider if one of these two ministries are calling you and reach out to let us know.

Pastoral Care Team Ministry - 2022

The ministry of our St. James Lay Pastoral Care Team is an important way for us to provide care, connection, and support to those in need. Working with our clergy, there are a number of pastoral care roles we can explore. If you feel called to serve as a member of the Pastoral Care Team (Lay Eucharistic Visitors), please contact Deacon Robin. Introduction and training for this ministry will be conducted after the first of the year. Also, in order to participate, the Diocese requires that those in the ministry complete the Safeguarding God’s Children and God’s People training. This training is completed online through a number of modules and done at your own pace. Many of our St. James’ members have completed this already. Once you speak with Father Sam or Deacon Robin to confirm your interest in participating, we will share more information about this part of the training. Thank you in advance for helping with this important ministry.

Questions: Please contact Deacon Robin (480) 242-7178) or deacon@stjamestempe.org.

Broader in Ministry

THANK YOU



Plato said: "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." For providing the weekly gift of music for those of us at St. James, we want to thank *Lali Breen, Audrey Spence*, the *vocalists* and the *musicians* of St. James

Always behind the scenes and asking nothing in return, *Audrey Spence* gives of her talent. Audrey does the yearly tax forms for St. James without asking for praise or thanks. As Ksenia Sein said: "Remember that our true purpose in life is to take care of one another. Our occupations are therefore tools for taking care of others using our natural talents." Thank you for using your occupation and talent, Audrey, to take care of us at St. James.



"There's only one thing more precious than our time and that's who we spend it on," said Leo Christopher. We so appreciate the time all our *readers* give to prepare and present our weekly readings for our church services.

If you know of anyone who deserves to be thanked for what they do at or for St. James, please let Ellie Kenyon know by email at ejkenyon6315@verizon.net or by phone at (480) 248-7457 and she will include them in the monthly *Newsletter Thank You Column*.



MUSIC CORNER at St James

First of all, whatever I wrote last month probably did not come true as in-person church certainly came to an unexpected halt after a very busy December of wonderful services and music. However, there was work to do with reviewing past recordings for the online services and meetings with Father Sam to review music for February 2 and upcoming services.

I hope that everyone knows about the special joint Candlemas service on February 2nd, at 7 pm, at St Augustine's in Tempe. This will be an outdoor service, as St Augustine's has been doing outside services and are set-up for that. We will again have members of the St Augustine's and St Matthew's music teams joining us and some lovely music featuring a number of Taize pieces. We will also get a chance to meet the minister who will be speaking at our February 6th service, Gayle Fisher-Stewart, visiting from Washington D.C., who will be officiating for the Communion service on February 2nd at St Augustine's.

February is Black History month and also the last month of services before Lent, so we will be including a number of spirituals and appropriate music with Spirit. I look forward to the resumption of our services at church in February, and will be happy to be back with our musicians and church family. I hope all have stayed well and I look forward to an eventful 2022.

~ ~ ~ *Lali Breen*

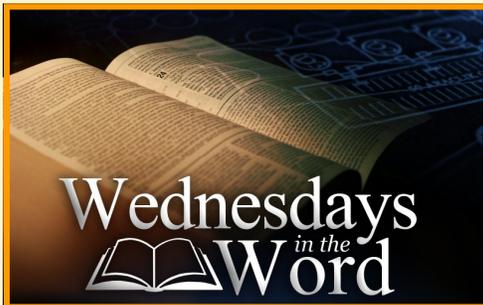


EfM Matters – Book of Acts

“The book of Acts has everything but dinosaurs. It’s got earthquakes, shipwrecks, avenging agents, harrowing escapes, riots, murder plots, political intrigue, courtroom drama, and so much more. The book of Acts tells the story of the early Christian church with all the flair of an exciting adventure novel. Things start out rather calm – constant prayer and some business to attend to – then the Holy Spirit comes roaring into the room igniting the pious with tongues of fire and causing them to behave in ways that lead onlookers to think they’re drunk. From that point on we know we are in for a bumpy ride.”

So begins Chapter 10, in “Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey,” by Mark Allan Powell, which is the reading for year two participants in EfM across the country. It is an engaging and vivid account to entice readers to turn the page into a rewarding experience.

Mary Jane Porter, Mentor
mjp4@cornell.edu



New Bible Study beginning in February!

Wednesday's
5:00 pm

In the Library



Tuesday, February 8th
6:00 pm

Perfect Pear Bistro
9845 S. Priest Drive, Tempe, 85284

If you haven't come before please join us for a fun evening of food and fellowship. And bring a friend! For the safety and health of everyone it is asked that you be fully vaccinated to attend.



Join Us for Lunch!!
Thursday, February 24th
11:30 am

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



Sunday, February 13th

February's book is "A Spark of Light" by Jodi Picoult. We will gather in the library after the 9:30 service.



Lector/Reader Schedule (9:30 am)

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Prayers of the People	Offering Plates	Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Acolyte
Feb 2	Sharing duties with St. Augustine's - Opportunities TBD						
Feb 6	Carol P.	Audrey	Bob	Anna	Ann Marie/Susan	Sheryl/Carol	Sheryl & Zac
Feb 13	Kathleen	Jill	Careen	Erica N.	Ann Marie/Susan	Erica/Mary	Elliot
Feb 20	Denise	Mary	Carol P.	Sheryl	Ann Marie/Susan	Sheryl/Mary	Careen
Feb 27	Joan	Bob	Denise	Pat	Ann Marie/Susan	Mary/Pat	Dylan



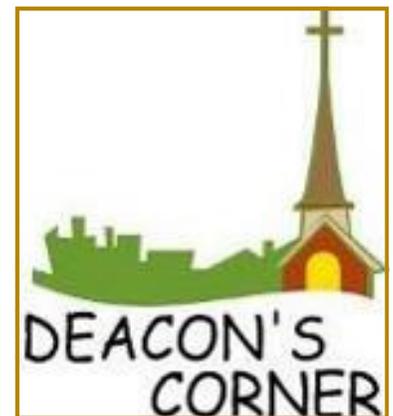
The Centering Prayer group will no longer meet online.

On Wednesdays in February, we will have:

4:00 pm Prayer and Meditation
4:45 pm Fellowship

“Ministering Love Today”

As the Episcopal Church we continue to build and affirm being a beloved community. While some see February as a month of ‘love’ [with Valentine’s Day being the reason], yet, loving our neighbors as ourselves is really 24/7 and not just relegated to certain times of the year, week, or day. Given the current legislative climate in Arizona, a number of the bills being brought forth do not reflect loving our neighbor and in fact are hurting our most vulnerable young people. As a deacon, I find that the litmus test of this is how I can best live out my Baptismal Covenant – in one manner **“persevering in resisting evil, and , whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord...and then by striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being.”** I see this as the call to stand up and advocate to protect our youth from adults who want to criminalize those living into their individuality and freedom of gender expression. As we find ourselves living in faith and following Jesus, we know it takes courage to be an Advocate. I pray that we all find the courage to share the Good News and stand to protect our youth’s education, gender expression, and ability to participate in their communities. Please prayerfully consider living into this by contacting our state representatives and asking them to stopping enacting laws that harm and are based in fear. As participants in Valley Interfaith Project, we will be conducting civic academies to help us better understand how we can understand the serious ramifications and long-term impacts especially on our youth if certain bills are passed. If we are truly living into the baptismal covenant and following Jesus, we must share the love and wisdom to make the courageous change.



Blessings,
Deacon Robin