



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*A joyful, inclusive community*

## St. James Community Journal February 2013

Dear St. James Members and Friends,

Here is the February edition of the St. James Community Journal. This is a test version, so please bear with us as we try out a new way to share our journal articles and essays with you. For upcoming events please view our [News and Events](#) page or visit our [calendar](#).

If you have comments about this month's Journal or items (especially pictures!) that you'd like to contribute for the next journal please contact [Rose Scarff](#). For more information about St. James please contact [Erazm Pochron](#) in the church office.

Thank you!  
Rose and Erazm

### **Continual Conversion: Entering into the Spirit of Lent**

**by The Rev. John Kirkley**



William James observed in his *The Varieties of Religious Experience* that there are once-born types and twice-born types. Once-born types seem naturally predisposed to happiness. They feel at home in the world, and never really doubt their place in it. Suffering and evil are unable to challenge their fundamentally positive outlook on life. These types have a hard time "getting into" the penitential tone of the season of Lent.

Twice-born types feel acutely the gap between the world as it is, and the world as it ought to be. The reality of suffering and evil can sometimes overshadow their ability to perceive what is right with the world. The tension between their perception of evil and their desire for good can occasion an existential crisis requiring a profound conversion experience for its resolution. For this type, every day is Ash Wednesday!

The once-born take God's grace for granted. The twice-born are surprised by grace. The former experience conversion as a process of embracing more fully the grace they always have known. For the latter, conversion is an event, a reorientation to graceful life from which one has strayed. Once-born folks can't point to any one particular experience of conversion. Twice-born folks can point to several or, perhaps, one major turning point.

One can certainly make too much of such typologies. People and congregations are often more complicated than such either/or distinctions allow. Yet, there is enough truth in William James' typology to suggest that the season

of Lent may need to be "framed" differently for once-born and twice-born types if they are to embrace the season fully.

In that spirit, I offer this reflection on the meaning of the season. The origin of its observance offers us a clue.

Recall that our Lenten observance – the forty days before Easter – developed to meet two different but related needs. It was set aside as a special time of preparation for those who were to be baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter. It was also during this time that public penance was available for those who had committed "notorious" sins, so that they could be restored to the communion of the Church at Easter.

The season was therefore an invitation for the whole church to embrace Christian life as a process of continual conversion. Whether that conversion marked a deepening commitment to an ongoing experience of grace, such as those preparing for baptism, or a radical reorientation to a grace from which one had turned away, as in the case of penitents, or both, Lent underscored that God isn't done with us yet.

For the once-born, Lent means that there is even more grace to experience – we have not yet plumbed the depths of God's love and the joyful response that it calls forth from us. For the twice-born, Lent means that this grace is still available – we have not exhausted God's love and the possibility for renewed life offered in the shape of forgiveness. Lent is the time to consciously renew our awareness that there is more, more, more:

*More Love, more Love!  
The heavens are blessing, the angels are calling,  
O children, more Love!*

*If we love not each other in daily communion,  
how can we love God, whom we have not seen?*

*If we love one another than hope dwells within us,  
and we are made strong to live life in joy.*

*More Love, more Love!  
The heavens are blessing, the angels are calling,  
O children, more Love! (Shaker hymn, adapted)*

This "more" may lighten your heart and confirm the deepest truth about yourself and the world that you've always known: we are held in Love. This "more" may bring you to your knees in contrition and repentance over the sin that has kept you from realizing the truth: we are held in Love. For all of us, Lent is a time to cultivate a deeper compassion for a world that needs more love: a Love which is always, already available. Lent is a time to become more transparent to that Love for the sake of the world.

Once-born types remind us that this Love is always available. Twice-born types remind us how desperately we need that Love. The two types need each other. And so we need Ash Wednesday to prepare us for Easter, and Easter to sustain us through Good Friday. All of us are called to continual conversion: to an ever-deeper acceptance of our grace-filled mortality and to an ever-deeper openness to more Love.

## Highlights of the Annual Parish Meeting

### ***Excerpts from the Minutes***



St. James' Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, January 13, in the Parish Hall. A lunch of a variety of salads

and quiches and desserts was provided by the Vestry.

After Rev. John Kirkley called the meeting to order and Helen Lantz was appointed Clerk of the Meeting and John Harrison was appointed as Parliamentarian, the minutes from last year's meeting were certified and accepted by acclamation.

Jan Vennari gave her report as Senior Warden. Gains have been made in the three ministry priorities which were identified by the Vestry last January: outreach, attracting new members and stewardship of people and money. Gains were made in each, but there is still much work to do. The CLC integration in St. James is now complete and it is the umbrella of our various outreach programs. Jan acknowledged and thanked the outgoing members of the Vestry: Meg Bloomfield, Caroline Doyle, Hap Rhodehamel (also outgoing treasurer) and Rose Scarff.

Grant Paul gave his report as Junior Warden, pointing out that the apartment next door was rented out for half the year and since July has been the home of our Rector and his family. He offered many thanks to Anne Mackenzie for her hard work in arranging for the contents of the rental apartment to be sold and in getting the space ready for our Rector. Other projects in 2012 included: new lighting in the sanctuary and Parish Hall, various critical work projects around the Preschool and the Church, work on the exterior lighting and the side gate, as well as work on the water and sewer lines. Grant gave special recognition to Erazm Pochron for the many facets of his work that helped all these projects run smoothly.

In his Rector's Report, Rev. John Kirkley began with joys and successes. He is especially glad to be able to include the talents of various parishioners in augmenting our worship space, such as Pat Mayer's art work which was hung during Lent last year, and Elia Pochron's seasonal accents to the worship space. He mentioned the additional week day worship services which are now possible since he moved in next door, as well as the continuing offerings such as Lectio Divina. He commended our Youth Group and the leadership that various members have added to St. James as well as the skills of Katie Canton as Youth Leader. In addition, a confirmation class for middle-school kids started last fall and continues to meet monthly.

However, Rev. Kirkley then went on to list some of our challenges. He would like to put a greater focus music in the coming year, rebuilding the choir, including the children and youth and drawing on the musical talents of members of all ages. This will be a particular challenge since we will be losing our organist, Aki Ami, which puts the additional burden of playing the organ on our musical director, Fred Goff. Rebuilding our children's ministry is another big challenge and Eleanor Scott has volunteered to help with that. Our finances are another big challenge, also a result of declining attendance. He thanked the Marketing Committee for raising our visibility online and through social media.

Rev. Kirkley also expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to move into the Rectory and how wonderful it has been to deepen his connection to the Parish and the community.

Hap Rhodehamel then gave the Treasurer's report which emphasized that our 2012 shortfall is likely to be close to \$19,500 once all expenses are finalized. Final numbers will be presented at Pie Sunday. We have used up almost all our cash reserves. Currently only \$191,400 in 2013 pledges have been received towards the \$210,00 goal, which is a bare bones budget. This budget includes the elimination of the organist position and is assuming Diocesan Assessment relief of \$25,000. The Finance Commission was re-formed in 2011 and consists of Tom Mathews, Bill Newlin, Bill Newmeyer and Hap Rhodehamel.

Jan Vennari then presented the four candidates for election to the Vestry. They are Noreen Chin Huey, Rosalie Neal, Bill Newlin and Eleanor Scott. Since there were no nominations from the floor, they were elected unanimously.

She then presented the four delegates and two alternates to represent us at the Deanery. The delegates are Olivia Clopton-Foster, David Differding, Jette Swan and Warren Wong. The two alternates are Mary Balmana and Carole Jan Lee. Since there were no nominations from the floor, they were elected unanimously.

Rev. Kirkley then announced that Barbara Webb would be serving as Senior Warden for 2013 and Bill Newlin would serve as Treasurer. Barbara Webb made a special acknowledgement to Elizabeth Nelson who was retiring after

four years as editor of the St. James Journal. It was announced that Rose Scarff would be the new editor beginning in February.

## Senior Warden's Report

*by Barbara Webb, Senior Warden*



The annual Vestry Retreat was January 25-27, 2013 at St Dorothy's Rest. We met to set the priorities and an agenda for the upcoming year.

The focus this year will be on:

**Stewardship** – cultivating and nurturing the resources needed for the Church's mission

**Membership** – with the emphasis on moving people from visitor to contributing member

**Worship** – We will be looking at all aspects of worship – liturgy, music, healing, hospitality, ministry teams, etc.

If any of these areas pique your interest, contact Fr. John Kirkley or any vestry member. If you are asked to serve on a committee, please give us your help!

### **2013 Vestry:**

Barbara Webb – Sr. Warden

Tom Matthews – Jr. Warden and Finance Chair

Bill Newlin – Treasurer

Mary Balmana – Clerk

Giselle Bosc

John Harrison

Noreen Huey

Rosalie Neal

Grant Paul

Elia Pochron

Eleanor Scott

Jan Vennari

## FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN'S TOOLBOX

*by John Harrison for Tom Matthews*



Tom Matthews was elected Junior Warden for 2013 at the Vestry Retreat over the January 25 – 27 weekend.

St. James' next workday will be Saturday, March 23, 2013, starting at 9:00 a.m. through about 1:00 p.m. (If John Harrison drills into another water pipe again, somebody has to stay to meet the plumber).

One of the ways we keep St. James looking neat and inviting is the periodic parish workday. We usually assemble in the parish hall with coffee and donuts and parcel out assignments, while catching up with the latest developments at St. James. Although the nominal starting time is 9:00 a.m., it's never too late to join the work crew though, and whenever anyone shows up they will be matched up with a job that will benefit from his or her skillset and the time remaining.

No particular skill set is necessary to be a valued participant. Jobs range from those requiring light maintenance skills (hammering, drilling, rough carpentry and minor electrical work) to totally unskilled chores like dusting, moving furniture and supplies, washing windows, sorting, etc. For those interested in improving their individual skills set it is usually possible to match people up with our more experienced journeyman for a particular chore or two.

Some of the projects we are planning on tackling this workday include:

- Finishing mounting brass plaques in the Narthex (we found a couple more in the balcony at the back of the sanctuary);
- Marking placement spots for the movable pews and rows of liturgical chairs (for regular and overflow seating events)
- Photo inventory of St. James property
- Painting (or installing new privacy partitions) in restrooms (as interim pending major refurbishment)
- Attend to lights above sacristy door (to outside)
- Install new door mechanism

Workdays are not only something that helps St. James, they are a great way to make new friends and become closer to long time acquaintances.

Please come join the crew on March 23rd.

## Choices

**by Meg Bloomfield, Managing Director  
California Counseling Institute**



Many years ago, years before the Great Recession of '08, Mike floated an idea that at Christmas, we give each other only a single gift that cost no more than \$30, and the girls spend no more than \$15-\$20. It was posed as a challenge to pay close attention to what we were giving each other. Handmade gifts were encouraged, cleverness would be greatly appreciated, and, as our daughters were all teens and pretty broke at the time, the idea was enthusiastically embraced. That Christmas was a huge success, and we practice it (or try to) to this day.

This year I received a beautiful wooden box filled with 365 thick, brown, rustic-looking index-sized pieces of paper, each of which contain a quote typed in the typeset of an old Royal typewriter. My daughter suggested that I read a quote each day and, if so inspired, use it to start my journal entry for the morning. On New Year's morning I pulled this quote out:

"We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others,

giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." –Victor Frankl

I got stuck on that one; it is so completely, perfectly phrased.

As the Managing Director of CCI, I interact with a lot of therapists. I think that a good therapist, like the ones we have at CCI, acts as a kind of illuminator, helping us to uncover the best, and the not-yet-realized within ourselves, to walk the path to self-discovery, to make good choices, to forgive ourselves and keep moving on the path of self-discovery. A good therapist helps us to live our lives with true freedom.

## From the Editor: Four Friends

*by Rose Scarff*



"Who are the four friends who brought you to Jesus?" This was the question posed by The Rev. Matt Marino during his sermon at a recent Equipping the Beloved Community worship service. His text was the story of the four friends who lowered the paralytic man through a hole in the roof into the crowd that surrounded Jesus. Rev. Marino spoke on what Jesus said when the paralytic man landed amidst the crowd in front of him, "You're sins are forgiven," and then, "take up your bed and walk," about what these words might have meant to those in the crowd that day and what they might mean to us today. He spoke of the love the four must have had for their paralyzed friend and about their determination to get their friend into Jesus' presence.

"Who are the four friends who brought you to Jesus?" he then asked. "Who has prayed and taken risks that our paralysis might be healed, personally, in our church and in the world?" I don't know about you, but when I started to think about it, I realized it has taken a lot more than four friends to bring me to Jesus and the healing is a long way from finished!

My first thoughts were of my parents and grandparents and neighbors who took me to church and Sunday School when I was small, of the neighbors who were my Sunday School teachers, of the remarkable pastors we had. All these folks were certainly bringing me to Jesus and I learned a lot about the Bible and the church and how to pray, but I was too young to really learn much else.

Then, like so many, in my twenties and thirties I only went to church sporadically. For several years I literally wandered in the wilderness and often got lost. I sang hymns as I walked, since those songs, along with the Beatles, were the only ones I knew by heart. In really rough times, I knew I could always find solace in the Psalms. And always I prayed. But it wasn't until I started coming to St. James that I was in the right place in my life to be able to hear Jesus say, "You're sins are forgiven," and "take up your bed and walk" and begin to have an inkling as to what that might mean in my life.

Everyone I've met at St. James over the years, clergy or parishioner, has shown me different ways of living into those words of Jesus and I am looking forward to that continuing to be the case. But I'm also wondering about Rev. Marino's questions: "Who are the four friends who brought you to Jesus? Who has prayed and taken risks that your paralysis might be healed, personally, in our church and in the world?" And after thinking about that for awhile, how about asking, "Who am I bringing to Jesus? Who am I praying and taking risks for that their paralysis might be healed?" And last but not least, what do you hear when Jesus says to you, "You're sins are forgiven. Take up your bed and walk."

## Holy Week and Easter at St. James

**Sunday, March 24th** - Palm Sunday - Procession, Reading of the Passion, and Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, March 25th** - Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 26th** - Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 27th** - Tenebrae Service, 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 28th** - Maundy Thursday – Agape Meal with foot washing, 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 29th** - Good Friday - Solemn Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 30th** Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word, 9:00 a.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter with baptisms, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 31st** - Easter Sunday - Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. (with Easter Egg hunt)

In addition, please note that the Rite of Reconciliation (private confession & absolution) is available throughout Lent and Holy Week by appointment with the Rector or referral to another priest.

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# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb. 3, Sunday	Mindfulness Meditation after 10:00 a.m. service
Feb. 7, Thursday	6:30 p.m. <i>Lectio Divina</i> group
Feb. 12, Tuesday	6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Feb. 13, Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Services, Noon and 7 p.m.
Feb. 10, Sunday	St. James serves at Martin de Porres House of Hospitality
Feb. 20, Wednesday	7 p.m. Embracing a Life of Meaning: Kathleen Norris on Discovering What Matters – Part I
Feb. 21, Thursday	6:30 p.m. <i>Lectio Divina</i> group
Feb. 23, Saturday	7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 3 p.m. Memorial Service for Lincoln & Judith Au
Feb. 27, Wednesday	7 p.m. Embracing a Life of Meaning: Kathleen Norris on Discovering What Matters – Part 2

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The St. James Community Journal is a monthly publication on behalf of:

**St. James Episcopal Church**

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We welcome your articles  
on or before the 15<sup>th</sup>  
of the month.

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