



THE SAINT JAMES EPISCOPALIAN

AUGUST 2010

The Episcopal Church of
Saint James the Apostle
Est. 1891

Church: 1335 Oak Street
Office: 514 14th Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446
Tel. 805.238.0819

www.stjamespasorobles.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday –Friday
9:00am to 1:00pm
Sat. & Sun. by appointment

St. James Mission Statement:

“To inspire our parishioners
and community to grow in
unity with Christ.”

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Summer Reading

The Rev. Mary K. Morrison, Rector

Do you have favorite books that you read again and again? I’m of an age where I can start re-reading mystery novels because I can’t remember how they end!

If you are in the market for a good book for summer reading, I invite you to consider:

How Can I Find God? The Famous and Not-So-Famous Consider the Quintessential Question, edited by James Martin.

James Martin, who is the editor of *America*, a national Roman Catholic magazine, writes in the book’s introduction,

It was a quintessentially modern question that was posed to me by a close friend: “How can I find God?”

The question was asked by a young woman who had lost touch with her church. Like many contemporary Americans, while she viewed herself as ‘non-religious,’ she admired friends who lived lives of faith, and desired that faith for herself. Still, she was essentially a skeptical woman—intelligent and well educated—living in a secular cul-

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ture.

It was a real conundrum for her: If you don't have real faith in God, how can you search for God honestly? On the other hand, doesn't the search itself imply faith? Can you somehow "get" faith? She wanted to know if I had any answers for her.

I did the best I could and then decided to ask other people of faith what they might tell my friend.

Martin's book is a collection of those answers. He includes answers from people of as many faith traditions as possible and some from people who are still searching for one. Some are names we might recognize: Avery Dulles, Huston Smith, Mary Higgins Clark, Kathleen Norris. Some are names we won't remember, even if we remember their stories: Socorro Duran, an outreach worker from San Leandro, the children of St. Thomas School in Crystal Lake, IL, Sarah Ellsworth, a midwife from the Navaho Reservation in New Mexico.

The book is a good read and, after you read it, a great pass-along book!

You might also consider *My Life with the Saints*.

Mary +

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the August issue of *The Episcopalian* is Tuesday, July 20th.

Finding Hope in Hard Times: A Financial Downturn Can Be a Spiritual Upturn

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

What does it mean to be rooted in Christ? Imagine a house plant with each leaf and flower receiving the nourishment it needs through the root system, up the stalk, and out to the very tips of the plant. So, too, every part of our lives can be nourished by Christ; bringing peace and calm in the midst of anxiety, wisdom to handle financial and other pressures, and comfort in times of burden, grief, and sorrow.

And then, with an almost throw-away line, Paul adds that we are to be "abounding in thanksgiving." We return to where we started these reflections – combating a culture that does not encourage thankfulness, indeed, which spends billions of dollars every year to encourage discontentment. Recessions are difficult times, and there is pain and hardship for many, but we can find nourishment and contentment by trusting God's faithfulness. With God's leading, we can come out stronger, as individuals and as a society.

Pause for Reflection: How might tough times bring you closer to God? Spend some time in prayer, turning your thoughts to God. In what areas of your life do you need God's nourishment?

Final Action: Look back over these seven practices. Make a note of what you have decided to do differently. Set aside time each day in prayer to be led to wise choices and right actions.

July and August Saturday Evening Eucharist



Want to spend Sunday at the lake? working in the yard? touring the wineries? During July and August, we will offer a Saturday evening Eucharist. This service will be a bit different from (and shorter than) Sunday morning, with a gospel reading, brief sermon with time for reflection by the congregation, and simple music. If you are going to be away on Sunday, why not give the Saturday evening service a try? We will begin at 5:30 pm each Saturday during July and August.

GO PLAY !

The long days and loose schedules of summer make it the perfect time to exercise as a family. Show your kids , grandkids, or neighbor kids that leading an active lifestyle can be fun and joyful. It's a lesson that will help them stay healthy for their entire lives. Just be sure that you avoid the dreaded word....*exercise*. Playtime shouldn't seem like a chore or work. Instead, schedule fun physical activities that the you and the kids can do together such as biking, hiking, swimming, or playing hide-and -seek, capture the flag or a lively game of kickball. Spending time with children gives them great memories as an added bonus. Being active together is not only good for your health, its also a terrific way to get closer to your favorite young person.

Have a wonderful August.

Your St. James Parish Health Ministry





What's Happening At St. James

OFFICE HOURS

Beginning the week of July 12th the office will be closed on every Monday from through the end of the year. Please let Mtr. Mary or the Vestry know if there are any problems with this change.

St. James is on Facebook!

Did you know you live in the age of Facebook? Facebook is the largest web site in the world with tens of millions of people who are members. Many people use Facebook to find long lost friends from junior high or high school days. Facebook is also replacing "old fashioned" e-mail among friends. Many organizations also have "pages". St. James' has a fan page. You'll find updates posted and photos of events. You may find us by typing in "St. James' Paso Robles" (no quote marks) in the search bar. If you prefer, you may type the whole address into a web browser: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Paso-Robles-CA/St-James-Paso-Robles/351767680734?ref=ts>. Click on the "like" square. To view all of the information, you'll need to have a free Facebook account. It's very easy to create a page. If you need assistance, let the office know and we'll send an "Episcotech" to help you join the wave of the future.



HOPE AND HARMONY FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, September 11th St. James and Hospice of San Luis Obispo will hold a fundraiser. The **Hope and Harmony Festival** begins at 5pm here at St. James. Included in the evening is a Silent Auction. Items are needed that are valued at \$50 and above. Please mark your calendar for this exciting event!

St. James Men's Ensemble

Our organists, Cactus Harris and James Holloway are starting a Men's singing group to sing Barbershop, Doo-wop and other fun men's music. The rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the church. All men who like to sing are invited! Call Cactus if you have questions—237-1860.



Before computers

by Barbara Brown Taylor

Over the past year I have been speaking with different groups about biblical narrative in the age of Twitter. As more and more people find Facebook updates, text messages and 140-character tweets adequate for their communication needs, who will retain the skills to read the lengthy, complex, ancient stories that have given rise to three major world religions?

When I ask questions like that, many in my audience assume that I am attacking new media, which is why I leave time for them to come to the microphone to tell me how churches use Facebook to reach the young or the bereaved, or that anyone who does not know how to use social networking will soon be irrelevant to the political process in this country.

I know, I say. I know all kinds of people who have found community through social networking. One young pastor has begun "twitnessing" the unchurched via her cell phone, with results she finds gratifying. Other friends who live far from population centers are able to work or go to school on their computers. I am not attacking the new media.

My concern is with those who have lost their freedom to decide when to use the media and when to turn it off. A woman I know says she learned to network in order to spread word of a new nonprofit, then found herself up all hours of the night on sites that had nothing to do with her ministry. Another says she shut down her Facebook page but is having trouble handling her anxiety since most of her family and friends are still heavy users. Those of us who limp along on e-mail know how many hours vanish in service of ever-growing mountains of mail.

Does anyone remember what people did with the hours we are now spending in front of screens?

When I recently asked a mixed-age group this question, I realized that only half of those in front of me had any frame of reference for answering it. Those who were 25 or older remembered a time before cell phones and laptops. Those who were younger had no such memories. They developed their motor skills on video games, not swing sets. They registered their stuffed animals online so their virtual pets could play with other children's virtual pets. They grew up with computers and could not imagine life without them.

Alarming as this was to me, I must admit that my own memory is fading. How did I keep up with my friends when all I had was a land line? How did I work away from home without a wireless connection and a laptop? What did I do with all the hours I now spend in front of computers? My answers are bound to be laced with nostalgia, but if I do not write them down now I may forget them altogether.

I remember listening to music while driving the car and looking forward to long airline flights as extended downtime. I worked less because the tools of my work were not always at hand. I read maps to get where I wanted to go, took wrong turns that required me to recalculate my position on my own, and discovered things while I was lost that I would never have found by staying on course.

When I needed to know something I went to the library, sitting for hours on the hard floor in the stacks pulling books off the shelves. Some of them were so old their covers were hanging by strings, with dedications written in the faded brown ink of a fountain pen. When I could not find what I

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wanted, I filled out a request for interlibrary loan or accepted the fact that there were things I could not presently know. I learned to work within such limits, which often led me to create things I might otherwise have copied from someone else.

I wrote letters with nice pens on thick paper, which I occasionally decorated with watercolors. I was in touch with fewer people, with whom I shared things of more substance. I put colorful stamps on envelopes and walked them to the mailbox. When I bought things, I bought them from people whose hands touched mine when they gave me my change. PayPal never showed up on my bank statement.

I made lunch dates with people I cared about, practicing the art of conversation. When they lived too far away for that, I longed for their physical presence—their smell, their touch, the sound of their voices—acknowledging no adequate substitute for that. I accepted a certain level of longing as belonging to the human condition. I brushed my dogs, went for long walks with my partner, did volunteer work in my community.

I could go on, but if you are old enough, perhaps you have begun making your own list. Who knows? Maybe it will be in a museum some day: Things People Did Before Computers. Or you could rescue the things on your list from obscurity right now by continuing to do them. This is your God-given freedom—even in the age of Twitter.

Barbara Brown Taylor teaches at Piedmont College and Columbia Theological Seminary.

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Paso Robles, CA

Editor—Mary K. Morrison

Assistant Editor—Barbara Miller

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Mary K. Morrison	Rector
Barbara Miller	Church Secretary
James Holloway	Organist

ASSIGNED DEACON

The Rev. Jackie Sebro

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Church Band	Laura Learned
Episcopal Church Women	Lucy Simola
Loaves and Fishes	The Rev. Jackie Sebro
Health Ministry	Sheila Vossler
United Thank Offering	Susan Hansen

This page contains the calendar in the printed version of the newsletter. To see the calendar on line please visit our web page at www.stjamespasorobles.org.

Remember Amazon

If you are going to purchase books, or just about anything else, through Amazon, remember to access Amazon through the link on our web page. By doing this, St. James receives a percentage of your purchase price with no cost to you. It is an easy way to support St. James!

www.stjamespasorobles.org

St. James Episcopal Church
514 14th Street
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In Our Prayers

Rest in Peace

O God, we praise your Holy Name for your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear.

Headley Barnes

Healing

Mercifully accept our prayers and grant your servants the help of your power that their sickness may be turned into health.

Bob Simola, Gene Durrett, Jean Sudden
Barbara Sebro

Thanksgivings

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.

If you have a Prayer Request

Contact one of the following members of the Prayer Chain:

Lucy Simola 238-1290
Mary Ann Tison 238-1206
Bev Tornquist 238-4685

Birthdays

Wishing you joy and God's love and peace!



Ginny Rookus	Aug. 4	James Holloway	Aug. 4
Joe Pourciau	Aug. 7	Melanie Rys	Aug. 10
Michael Seden-Hasen	Aug. 10	Susan Hansen	Aug. 11
Bob Simola	Aug. 11	Marilyn Gerber	Aug. 12
Dan Learned	Aug. 16	Robert Kelley	Aug. 23
Bev Tornquist	Aug. 24	Gillian Capelli	Aug. 24
Roger Thorson	Aug. 25	Gary Duke	Aug. 27

Anniversaries

Wishing you many more years of happiness and God's continued blessings!

Bob and Joan Burgess	August 3, 1963
Al and Sheila Vossler	August 7, 1982
Lee and Tony Adinolfi	August 10, 1963
Steve and Barbara Sefton	August 16, 2008
Tom and Darlene Westbrook	August 24, 1968
Mac and Laura Learned	August 25, 1973
Robert and Anne Ellis	August 27, 1954
Sue and Roger Thorson	August 29, 1981