

ST. JAMES NEWS

St. James Lutheran Church 1315 SW Park Ave, Portland Or 97201

February, 2012

Jazz Vespers Feb. 12 at 5pm

The house jazz band at St. James has grown! In addition to our regular pianist Graham Covington, bass player Dennis Caiazza, and jazz vocalist Ara Gehl, and cantor Valarie Brown we welcome Dennis Elmer who will be playing drums on a regular basis for our 2nd Sunday of the month jazz services.



This sung evening worship service always includes the Gospel lesson from the Sunday morning service read in the refreshing modern translation "The Message" by Eugene Peterson with a short meaningful reflection by Pastor Dennis. If you have not yet attended this afternoon 45 minute service, come to experience it yourself.

We love hearing feedback from newcomers to this service! Jazz standards open and conclude the service. Children are welcome to sit up close to hear the professional musicians in St. James' sacred space.

Bach Cantata Vespers Feb. 26 at 5pm



The next Bach Vesper on Sunday afternoon Feb. 26 at 5 pm will feature J. S. Bach's first sacred cantata composed when he was just 22 years old! He was commissioned to write the penitential Cantata 131 in response to a major fire that had destroyed a quarter of town of Muhlhausen where he was taking up a new post as church musician. The stunningly expressive choral cantata is based on Psalm 130 (Out of the Depths I Call to You, O Lord) and is written for choir, soloists, strings, bassoon, and oboe. A new motet by Christopher Wicks has also been commissioned for this Evening Prayer worship service. The hour long service begins with pre-service music at 4:50 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and families to hear live music in a sacred setting.

Ash Wednesday Services Feb. 22 at 12pm and 7pm

Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Please join us for one, or both of our Ash Wednesday Services on February 22nd, 2012. This year we will be having a Midday service at 12:00 pm and an Evening service at 7:00 pm.



In this issue:

St. James Annual Meeting	1
From The Pastors Desk	2
Prayer Requests	3

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, 9:30 am,
Worship w/Holy Communion
2nd Sunday each Month, 5:00 pm
Jazz Vespers

Mid-Week Eucharist
12:00 pm Wednesdays

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From the Pastor's Desk

I bought my house in late May last year. Shrubs were in full leaf; day lilies were lush in the front and back yards; a hedge of Shasta daisies was along the back fence. A paid lawn service had tended the lawn during the seven-month period the house was empty and up for sale in a sluggish market.

Shrubs have been moved around since I arrived, some things added late in the spring, but things have been dark and damp since October.

Now I'm beginning to find things I didn't know were there. Crocus, lilies of the valley, other stuff just under the surface has begun to edge up. Someone else put them there. I'll find out in a few weeks what they are. The prospects are good.

In this year of Sunday Gospel readings from Mark, I am drawn to the story in the fourth chapter: "A sower went out to sow..." You can look up the rest.

Experience tells us that a seed has to germinate and break out of its shell or it hasn't done its job. Everything that sprouts and grows on this earth is nothing short of miraculous. But we take such things for granted. We see them each day, we pass by them on the sidewalks. In the previous three months we've scarcely glanced at the cold, wet dirt, not paying much attention to the unfolding of life and the sprouts that gradually pushed themselves through in these last few warmish days. I'm drawn to these clumps when I'm out walking the dog (so is she!). They are unbelievable.

In the same way it is almost unbelievable for us that God causes a realm to grow up around us, sometimes without our having to lift a finger. There are things we can do to make the garden richer, of course. We active become active participants in the life of the garden – weeding, hoeing, fertilizing, patrolling for pests, pruning, looking for compatible plant companions – seeing to it that what we plant bears as much as possible. As things develop, we have chances to both take responsibility and claim the glory in the summer and harvest seasons.

But we're obviously not just talking about gardening here, so back to that snippet from Mark... God has sown that word in us, and Jesus reminds us to be patient as we continue to re-sow what has been sown. It is our task and our privilege! The story of the sower becomes a real description for our chances in this season as we witness to the small things that can achieve strength and beauty. Some things will happen without our doing very much. Some things will happen in spite of our inattention or indifference. The chances for an even richer harvest, though, come when we take up the tools at hand and offer up a little sweat and a bit of smarts.

We have the great chance to do that together, particularly in this upcoming Lenten season – as we first give thanks and gather in wonder around Word and Sacrament, those first gifts of the Great Sower. We may even begin to notice things we didn't know were there.

Pastor Dennis

Write Your Spiritual Memoirs

This writing group begins its second year at St. James. Please join us. Spiritual memoir writing allows the writer to uncover, probe and honor what is sacred in his or her life. Because spiritual memoir writing is intensely private, it is very important that those who participate in the class keep what is said and written confidential. If you have questions, contact Susan Hammond at: 503-651-3289 or jshammond@canby.com.

Next Class Feb. 15, 2012 at 6:30 pm
Bring pen/pencil and paper
October 2011 through May 2012
St. James Pioneer Chapel



For the mission of the Church...

Beloved God and Loving Companion, we pray for your guidance and loving spirit as we work together to creatively carry out your will for the mission of St. James, both within the congregation and in the world. May all who enter here experience this congregation as an instrument of your grace, knowing that your grace is greater than our fears, learning that we are more alike than different and that we are all walking together with you on a path we do not yet know----a journey of faith.

For healing, care, and comfort...

Barbara Steege; Leonard Nelson, Sr, the father-in-law of Carol Maier; Chris Colasurdo; Anne Bramley; Jan Kjerne; Janet Amundson; Eugenia Jahns; Edna Keyes.

For healing from cancer...

Anne Maier Wright; Gerry Koch; Bruce and Jan Roberts; Loie Davis; Karen Fissel; Zizi Raymond; Suzan Sorrenson.

For God's care...

for people suffering from unemployment, loss or decline of income and poverty; the victims of hatred, neglect, abuse, isolation or economic hardship. For all those in prisons. For people who mourn or are in stressed, broken or abusive relationships. For your Church Universal to support Christ's ministry.

For those who grieve

The family of Ruth Tretheway; The family of Michael Bloom; The family of Bernard Bramley.

For guidance, strength, and wisdom...

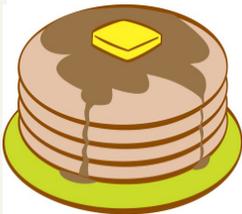
for the people and ministries of St. James.

For those serving their country...

Donald Schaefer, son of Dorothy Cottingham; Brandon Stillwell; Air Force Pilot, Captain Katie Veseth, sister of Paula Veseth; for President Barack Obama and all national and state governments.

For peace in the world and God's care for people in war and civil unrest

... especially those struggling for justice in Libya, the Middle East, Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan.



Pancake Supper at St James: Tuesday February 21st from 6 – 7:30 pm in the Pioneer Chapel. We'll be serving pancakes, sausage and fair-trade coffee for the St. James community. It will be the last fling before Ash Wednesday and the journey of Lent. Free Will Offering..

February Birthday and Anniversaries

Gary and Gretchen Rodgers	February 4	Jonathan Isensee	February 14
Kathleen McDonald	February 6	Jim and Margaret Eickmann	February 16
George Zoesch	February 6	Jennifer Tormohlen	February 17
Shana Nebel	February 9	Sonja Werner	February 23

February Important Dates

WELCA Coffee Sale	February 5		
Jazz Vespers	February 12		
Finance Committee Meeting	February 14		
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	January 15		
Spiritual Writing Class	February 15		
Presidents Day	February 20		
WELCA Meeting	February 21		
		Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	February 21
		Church Council Meeting	February 21
		Ash Wednesday Services	February 22
		Goose Hollow Shelter	February 22
		Bach Cantata Vespers	February 26





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Sharon Kurtz, Bookkeeper
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JoAnn Rauch, Director, Child Dev. Center
Nancy Cutler RN, Foot Care Clinic
George Zoesch, Sunday Hospitality

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pastor Dennis Andersen, Pastor
Carl Cottingham, President
Charlie Tohlen, Vice President
Linda Rickert, Secretary
Bill Hamann, Treasurer
Kathleen McDonald, Exec. Comm Member at Large

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