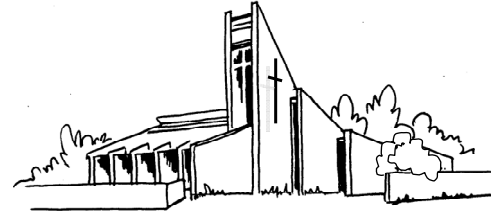


THE EPISTLE

September



ST. JAMES DAY AT THE BEACH & BBQ PICNIC!!
Everyone Welcome

**Sycamore Canyon Camp Ground
(2 miles north of Leo Carrillo SB)
900 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu**

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Bring a POTLUCK item to share plus your own meat for the BBQ and a CHAIR
Come early and enjoy the beach, take a walk, or relax in the campground.

Appetizers at 3:30, BBQ picnic at 4:00 p.m.
Day parking: Seniors \$11 Others \$12

Home by dark or stay for the campfire.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or RSVP to
Glenn Torres or Sandy Stratton



St. James Presbyterian Church
19414 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356
818-345-2057

Dr. Steven R. Smith, Pastor

From the Pastor

...that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace...
(Ephesians 2:15)

As we live in these days, it seems that peace within our divided humanity is in very short supply. What are the symptoms? Just this past week our city council raised some controversy with their decision to celebrate “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” on the occasion that had formerly been known as Columbus Day. Then roughly two weeks ago the management at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery made the decision to remove a monument to Confederate soldiers buried there, coinciding with the movement or removal of related statues in other parts of our country.

And it can fairly be said that both of these decisions reflect the momentum that has been established nationwide in the wake of the Charlottesville, VA rally on August 12 – where at least one of the leading figures (promoting white supremacy) was one describing himself as a “cultural Christian” (see YouTube interview of Richard Spencer by Roland Martin on 11/22/2016). But true “Christian culture” - in light of the Scripture passage cited at the top of this page – is one which makes no allowance for elevating one particular group over another. Instead, the goal is always the uniting of all into one new people of God.

Indications of this go back to the Torah, to the five books of the Law – and the lessons learned when Moses married a Cushite (or Etheopian) woman (Numbers 12:1). From Jeremiah 13:23 we learn that this implied that she was one with dark (even black) skin. If you read the account in Numbers, you will see that the Lord was not pleased with those who objected!

Next we can think of the promise in Isaiah 25:6 of God preparing a feast for all peoples in the city of Jerusalem. Then we might move to the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew, where all four of the women included there are non-Hebrew (ethnic non-conformists) – before finally considering what it means that the “glory of (all) the nations” is included in God’s perfect kingdom. And we realize, with Paul, that racial and ethnic boundaries are ultimately inconsequential for the people of God – who are bound together solely by allegiance to him.

So what does all of this have to do with us? For, it’s true, St. James is a more multi-hued fellowship than I have ever encountered before. At least on Sundays, we seem to be pretty good at including all. But how about during the week? Here I think of Paul’s counsel in Colossians 4:5-6, where he writes: “Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt...”

I am left to believe by all that is noted above, that in the lives we lead in this world we are to demonstrate that we share God’s heart by working to make peace among all through thought, action and speech. Seeking to be faithful to him, as you, I continue...

In His Service,

Steve

News About Members and Friends

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Members: Wayne Ayers, Jean Blodgett, Dorothy Evans, Donna Fakler, Bill & Carol Ann Gates, Margaret Hampton, Frank Heckadon, Ginny Hoover, Jean Jabbra, Bobbi Johnson-Tanner, Ellen Masse, Marilyn Mellon, Gladys Olsen, Nikki Smith, Doris Tanner.

Friends of the Church: Kathy Arft, Carol Bair, Beverly Borra, Jeffrey Buice, Covenant Players, Diane Cox, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Dave and Karen Helsdon, Helen Kearney, Gary Lamer, Donald Pugsley, Audrey Saunders, John Shurtz, Debbie Thompson, and Betty York.

Our sympathy is extended to Carol Martin and Ashley on the death of husband and father Paul Martin on August 3, 2017.

Our sympathy is extended to Terry Smolich on the death of her mother Marilyn Elzinga.

We have received word of the death of former member Frances Lynch on July 27, 2017 in Auburn, CA. Please keep her family in your prayers at this time.



St. James
Sunday Concerts
Fall Series 2017

Sunday September 17, 2017 4:00 p.m.

“My Voice, His Glory”

Singer/Songwriter/ Psalmist Carol Ross-Burnett and friends

Present original songs and contemporary gospel music chronicling her life as a singer

Sunday, November 12, 2017 4:00 p.m.

“Brahmisia: An Afternoon of Romantic Music”

Ken Aiso, violin and viola

and

Valeria Morgovskaya, piano

Will play music by Brahms, Massenet, Ysaye, Saint-Saens and Rochmaninov

Sunday, December 10, 2017 4:00 p.m.

“What Child is This?”

Holiday concert featuring St. James Chancel Choir, the Kirk Choir and
St. James Early Music Ensemble

Sunday, December 24, 2017

5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
with the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists

Every Thursday:



Men's Bible Study

Meets in the Office Conference Room each **Thursday at 9:30 a.m.** for coffee, rolls and Bible study.



Sunday Morning Adult Education 9:30 AM in the Cottage

What Is It?

It's not a lecture, and that's point number one. Believing that Jesus was on to something in John 16:13 when he declared that when the Holy Spirit comes "he will guide you (plural) into all truth," we seek to act on the promise of the Holy Spirit being among us now and work to learn from each other as we utilize a discussion format for growing in our faith.

Each week we begin our discussion with a brief video vignette: sometimes by a pastor, sometimes by a scholar, sometimes by some other Christian leader – and then spend the bulk of our time seeking to analyze and reflect on what we have just heard. It's: "what do we think about that?" And in this format there can be no wrong answers!

Is it Bible study? Well, we do try to use the Bible – what we already know of it. And we do take time to explore aspects of it that we may not have known so well before. But more than anything this is an opportunity to explore issues of the faith, questions of the faith, in a casual, relaxed format. Steve Smith may be the convener, but we do trust the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

So why not grab a cup of coffee and some goodies from the kitchen and come on down to join us?

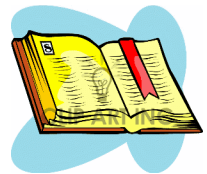


Women in Christ Saturday Morning Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets each Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Office Conference Room and is led by Kerstin Congleton.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Will not meet during the summer months. Hope to be back in September.



Men's Study Group

1st, 2nd and 4th Saturdays:

Men's Study Group meets at 7:30 a.m. in the Office Conference Room for an hour of Bible study, Christian discussion and fellowship. Coffee and doughnuts provided. All men are invited to participate. Contact Roger Hayes 818-346-2580 for more information.



Connect With a Caring Friend

Are you lonely, depressed, in poor health, bereaved, or just in need of a caring Christian friend?

St. James has a significant number of trained Stephen Ministers who would be happy to be a confidential Christian friend. They have been trained as loving caregivers, supporters, and encouragers.

To learn more about this please phone the church office: 818-345-2057.

Children & Family Ministries

School is back in session for most of our students! Please keep our college students who are studying away from home in your prayers. Our **fall calendar** has been mailed and is posted on our Youth bulletin board! Join us for **Rally Day on September 10th** during our worship time at 10:30 a.m. We are excited to begin our Youth groups and Mommy & Me programs.

Sunday School:

Preschool – 8th grade meet during the worship hour directly after the Children's moment. We have excellent teachers and love welcoming new students.

Nursery: 9:30 a.m. – Noon.

TNL: Begins September 19th! Games, Crafts & Worship. **Kindergarten - 5th grade** 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.; **Jr./Sr. High** 5:00p. - 6:30 p.m. **College Bible Study** 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Mommy & Me: Begins September 21st! Is a faith based program for children 18 months – 3 years. We meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Spots still available. Please sign up in the church office.

In His Service,

Shari Bates
Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

I hope everyone in the music department had a wonderful vacation. I want to thank everyone who contributed to the summer music program so much! I don't know what I would do without all of you.

We have a request to have the music department(s) host a luncheon soon, so let's get together and plan a method to keep our wonderful fellowship at lunch time programs moving forward.

Chancel Choir will sing on Sunday September 10 and meet every Thursday starting on September 14 at 7:30 PM. It is a great time to come join the choir. We will work on music for every Sunday worship service. We will also begin to learn the music for our Christmas concert December 10, and the Sermon in Song December 17 very soon.

Bell Choir begins on Sunday, October 1 at 12:15 after the service. We will play one Sunday in November and the Sermon in Song on December 17. We always need substitutes who can read music a little--come and join us! It's lots of fun.

claire



Group Events at St. James

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: MEN'S BREAKFAST

Regularly, the men of St. James cook it, eat it, clean it up and have great fellowship. It all happens at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Just show up!



Mari-Timer Meeting

All Church Campout
and
day at the beach

See the front page for details

Second Wind

The Second Wind group will meet in the Cottage on Friday, September 1st at 9:30 a.m. to view the movie "Moneyball" with Brad Pitt. A good baseball story. We will meet again on Friday, September 15th in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. for a card game. Join us for coffee and a treat and stay for the sack lunch which you can bring. Good Friday fellowship times.

Evelyn Maynard, Facilitator



Health Ministry

Coming in October to St. James

GriefShare is a network of thousands of grief recovery support groups that meet worldwide. In October a group will begin at St. James.

Many churches do a great job of caring for grieving people in the days surrounding a death and memorial service. But the griever needs much more. After the funeral, friends and relatives get back to their routines and jobs while the grieving person is struggling with the deep, prolonged impact caused by the death of spouse, a child, or a close friend.

GriefShare gives ongoing support and encouragement. GriefShare consists of 13 weekly sessions. Each session stands alone so if a person misses a session, they can still come to the following one. Group members are welcome to attend the 13 week series more than once to be of help to new people coming into the meetings.

GriefShare has 3 components. First there is a video seminar portion which offers expert teaching on topics which are important to people who are grieving. Secondly, there is a small group discussion and thirdly there is a workbook which provides a daily Bible study.

Who should attend GriefShare? Have you recently lost a loved one? Are you still grieving a loss that took place months, even years ago? Do you know of someone who is struggling with grief and needs help? If you are interested in looking into this support group, please call Marlene Naumann, our Parish Nurse, at **818-346-5815**. Leave your name, phone number and what day or days of the week you are available. Also state what time is best for you - 10:00 AM, 2:00 or 3:00 PM, or 6:00 or 6:30 PM. Once we have this information, we will select the day and time most people can attend.

**Send information, articles, etc. to
St. James by E-Mail**

You may reach:

Steve:

Steve@stjamespres.org

Jan:

Jan@stjamespres.org

St. James Youth:

On Facebook Stjames Youthgroup

Find out what's happening through St. James' Web site: www.stjamespres.org

FAX # - 818-345-6717.



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