



Pastor's Musings

This Sunday we celebrate All Saint's Day, or as it is known in some traditions, All Hallows' Day, the Feast of All Saints, the Feast of All Hallows, the Solemnity of All Saints, Halloween, and the Day of the Dead. It is a tradition that goes back centuries. There are a lot of other traditions commemorating those who have died like, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the list can go on. It is important for us to remember those who have gone before us. Life is tentative and all too often it seems that we may forget how precious life is. Especially when we continually hear about the thousands killed in war, the many killed in mass shootings, those who have died by suicide, or car accident.



All Saints' Sunday

Some of those unknown people's death may affect us as a community and/or personally. This last week with the death of Matthew Perry we see how a society grieves by the number of news articles, TV shows, and responses all around. The country as a whole mourned when significant people such as John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, John Lennon, and the list can go on and on died tragically.

It is important to acknowledge that we are affected by death, either from near or afar. Death lifts up our own mortality, the frailty that we all live with. There is also another part of this grieving, it is "loss." The loss of someone close to us has many losses. When my dad died, I did not lose a relationship because I did not have one with him. What I did lose was the possibility of having a relationship, as unlikely as that was. I had a friend tell me that after his dad died, he would occasionally pick up his phone to call his dad, only to realize that his dad was gone.

It is not easy to prepare for someone's death or your own. If I make out a will, I may die the next day. If I acknowledge I am losing the ability to do something or that my health is declining then it will become a reality, even though the reality was already here. One of my roles as a chaplain was to help people get to the place that they could accept the reality of what was happening.

Anne's father died a month after the two of us began our relationship. A year and a half later we had moved to Charlottesville. I invited Anne to accompany me to a presentation put on by the chaplain of the hospice. Anne assumed she was a passive bystander. It turned out she had some grieving to do and the presentation allowed her to do that. We don't always know what we need to do to get through grief, sometimes it needs help from another event or a person to help us.

It is obvious that we at St. James are in that time. Is there something that we as a community need to do to support each other? I hope and pray we can and will do that.

Blessings,
Pastor Gordon



All Saints' Sunday

**THIS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH
WE WILL REMEMBER THOSE
FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS
WHO HAVE DIED THIS PAST YEAR.**

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| H. James "Pop" Snyder | Joe Lotts |
| Leo Whitecotten | Hank Harmon |
| Wanda Nuckoles | Dorothy Back |
| Austin Dull | Walter Robertson |
| Benedict Giltner | Roberta Giltner |
| Dennis Garber | James "Mike" Williams |
| Bob Dixey | Pat Jones |
| Bruce Shott | |



It's hard to believe that Advent and Christmas are just around the corner. This year Christmas is on Monday, which adds a few interesting things. There will only be three Wednesday night Advent services, December 6th at Zion, 13th at Grace, and the 20th at St. James.

Christmas Eve is on Sunday.

Our morning 11:00 am service will be a service of the word. The traditional Christmas Candlelight service with communion will be at 7:00 pm.

We will decorate the sanctuary after church on December 10th.

We will take everything down on December 31st.

Oyster Supper
November 17th
6 PM

And
Cake Auction
Following

Money collected is used
to help families in need
through Social Ministry.

Reservations required.
Sign up today.



November

- 5th Betty Bartley
- 12th Sherie Whiting-Rohal
- 19th Debbie Snyder
- 26th Sam Diehl

NOVEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

4 th	Grayson Jordan
9 th	Russell Bush
12 th	Claire Viette
15 th	Winston Whitecotton
27 th	Beth Grove Foster

Gillian Taylor has moved.
Her new address is:
Brightview Baldwin Park
21 Woodlee Road
Staunton, VA 24401

Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

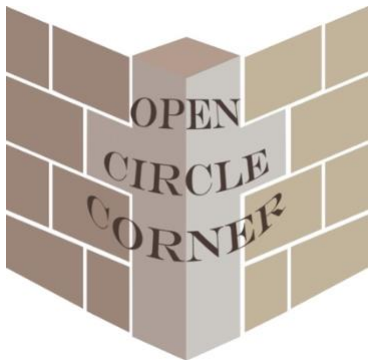
Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), and Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt).

Prayer Request for

Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Susan Zirges (friend of Sherie & Paul), the families of Jimmy Snyder, Pat Jones and Bob Dixey.

Community Conversations

- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley's home.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - November—Anne Putnam



On October 8th, Bambi, Cindy, Flora, Marie (a friend of Flora), Sherie, and Anne spent the afternoon at our annual SVWO Fall Gathering held at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg.

In keeping with our VSWO theme, "Weave Us Together", we enjoyed a presentation about the "Quilts in the Shenandoah Valley" by Alicia Thomas, Director of the Virginia Quilt Museum. It was informative and the quilts displayed were beautiful, perhaps even inspiring.

The 26 participants enjoyed refreshments and fellowship following the program.

Many stories were shared about the quilts in our lives.

Upcoming Events:

November 7th – 1pm. We will be meeting at the home of our hostess, Ellen.

November 14th & 28th – 1pm. Quilting at St. James. All are welcome.

All ladies of St. James belong to our Circle. Please consider joining us for meetings and events.



Altar Flowers

November—Anne Putnam
 December—Gene Giltner
 January—



It's a new school year and the Backpack program is starting up again. We now have 13 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mac and cheese | Kroger meals |
| Chef Boyardee meals | Ramen Noodles, any kind |
| Boxes of cereal | Poptarts |
| Oatmeal | Fruit cups |
| Boxed juices | Yahoo chocolate milk |
| Apple sauce | Raisins |
| "Hugs" Drink Barrels | All single servings |

Season after Pentecost	Continues First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
All Saints Sunday 11/5/2023	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 11/12/2023	Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 11/19/2023	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Christ the King Sunday 11/26/2023	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46

St. James Church Business

St. James Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
October 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Ivan Diehl, Gene Giltner, Anne Putnam, Pastor Putnam, and Paul Rohal

Council Members Absent: Lynda Diehl & Joyce Dull

Visitors Present: None

Call to Order: Gene Giltner, President, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Gordon opened the meeting with a devotion. He shared the story of a man who had a grace-filled experience to see himself as others saw him and the freedom to set his life in a different direction. This man, once known as the "Dynamite King" is today best remembered as the founder of the Nobel Peace Prize – Alfred Nobel. Grace leads to a change of heart – to repentance. Repentance forces us to look at ourselves honestly and acknowledge our failings. Repentance is also a grace-filled gift because it leads us back to the grace of God.

The **Minutes** for the September 19th Council Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Ivan to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The **Financial Report** for September was presented. A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Ivan to accept the report. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gordon reported that he recently participated in a Boundaries Training, a three-year cycle ELCA program related to the behavior of pastors.

He reported that he continues to visit our shut-ins.

Pastor Gordon reported that he has had discussion with several people regarding a substitute organist. Organists are few and far between. A passive search will continue, as we anticipate that Hannah will continue through her years at JMU.

Pastor Gordon reported that he and Anne will be on vacation 10/14 through 10/22.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

- Property Committee: Paul gave a thorough report of the numerous items being addressed based on priorities established by the committee.
 - The #1 item is the roof covering the administration "schoolhouse" portion of the building. Paul will give a Temple Talk on 10/15 to present the information to the congregation.
 - Paul made a motion to call a Congregational Meeting on 10/29 for the purpose of requesting approval of up to \$8,000 to replace the roof. Ivan seconded. The motion passed.
 - Paul reported that one bid for exterior painting is \$3,300. This is being placed on hold due to the weather. A bid of \$850 has been received to paint the trim and doors in the Fellowship Hall. Two more bids are needed.
 - There are two dead trees near the pavilion that need to be removed at a cost of \$750.

- John Wright has been working of repairs to the mortar on the front of the church.
- Stewardship & Finance: No report.
- Social Ministry & Evangelism: Anne reported that invitations for the oyster dinner are going out this week to those who attended Homecoming.
- Worship, Music, & Altar: Pastor Gordon reported on the upcoming Advent Season services and activities around Christmas. Christmas day is on a Monday which adds an added challenge to scheduling services.
- Constitution and By-Laws Committee: No report.

Unfinished Business:

- Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off on Sundays after church.
 - October = Joyce
 - November = Anne

New Business:

- Debbie Snyder’s request to borrow tables was approved.
- Discussion regarding our Safe Deposit Box, i.e., who has access to it and what is currently housed there. Anne volunteered to look into this.
- Anne reported that she participated in a Synod ZOOM workshop regarding achieving documents.

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, November 14th in the Fellowship Hall.

With no further business, Gene moved to adjourn the meeting and we closed with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Putnam

Anne Putnam, Secretary

St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report
September 2023

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 9/1/2023:			\$ 2,811.93
Receipts Deposited:			
	September 2023	Year to Date	
Record of Contributions	\$ 2,920.00	\$ 34,703.00	
Loose Offering	8.00	1,038.30	
*Property Improvement Fund	40.00	1,780.00	
*Social Ministry	30.00	270.00	
*Louis Dixey, Jr. Fund	-	1,000.00	
*Transfer from Raymond James Acct	419.04	7,955.76	
*Transfer from DCCU Savings Acct	-	2,000.00	
Benevolence	-	2,500.00	
Other Special Appeals	200.00	1,010.91	
Dividend/Interest Income	0.54	5.31	
Total Receipts	\$ 3,617.58	\$ 52,263.28	
Disbursed:			
Rev. Putnam - Monthly Compensation	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 11,250.00	
1 Services @ \$200	200.00	4,850.00	
245 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	79.20	1,038.48	
Rev. Trost			
3 Services @ \$200	550.00	3,250.00	
48 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	47.52	273.33	
Musician - 1 Services	125.00	1,250.00	
Supply Pastor	-	200.00	
Mileage	-	7.92	
Worship Supplies	-		
- Art Supplies	11.99	107.91	
- Annual Bulletin Service	-	398.00	
- Church Year Calendars	-	-	
- Communion Supplies	-	49.45	
- Copy Paper	-	95.98	
- Toner	-	29.53	
- Directory	-	21.00	
- Offering Envelopes	-	-	
- Postage	-	236.61	
- Web Page Renewal	-	-	
- Flowers (Easter)	-	313.90	
Hannah Pingel, Pianist - 2 Services	250.00	3,875.00	
Betty Bartley, Pianist	-	250.00	
Glenda Strickler - Sexton	200.00	1,650.00	
Cleaning Supplies	-	19.00	
Christmas Gifts	-	500.00	
Bank Safe Deposit Box	-	40.00	
Fuel Oil	-	3,146.26	
Electricity	136.29	969.66	
Benevolence	-	2,900.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	-	1,238.90	
Fire & Liability Insurance	92.78	3,338.68	
HomeComing Expenses	-	640.64	
*Transfer to Raymond James Account	559.04	5,341.77	
*Transfer to DCCU Savings Account	-	-	
*Transfer to Social Ministry	30.00	300.00	
*Pavillion	-	6,164.62	
*Special Appeals	200.00	200.00	
Total Disbursements	\$ 3,731.82	\$ 53,946.64	
DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 9/30/2023:			\$ 2,697.69

	9/1/23			9/30/23
	Beg Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	End Balance
Dividend/Interest Income				
DCCU Savings Acct Bal as of 9/30/2023:	\$ 1,005.17	\$ 0.04	\$ -	\$ 1,005.21

Raymond James Investment Account	9/1/23			9/30/23
	Beg Balance	Income	Withdrawals	End Balance
Detail of St. James Fund Designations:				
Property Committee Fund	\$ 38,782.63	40.00	559.04	38,263.59
Youth Account	2,208.46			2,208.46
James Williams Memorial	264.88			264.88
Linda Diehl Memorial	2,670.55			2,670.55
Non-Designated Funds	9,306.19	100.00		7,538.85
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value		83.92	1,951.26	
Balance as of 9/30/2023	\$ 53,232.71	\$ 223.92	\$ 2,510.30	50,946.33

Operating Budget Barometer	Sept Receipts	Sept Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$3,128.54	\$2,942.78	\$185.76
*Does not include transfers into or out of the DCCU or RJ accounts or the Property Fund, which is a pass-through to the RJ account.	YTD Receipts	YTD Disbursements	Over (Under)
	\$39,257.52	\$40,710.88	(\$1,453.36)

