



### **Pastor's Musings**

Anne & I enjoyed a great three-week road trip through the south. We spent time with family, including time with my cousin Rick, whom I had not seen in about 30 years, the wedding of Anne's granddaughter, and our grandchildren in Charlotte. We visited Gatlinburg, San Antonio, Houston, Galveston, New Orleans, Montgomery, Atlanta, and Charlotte. We were intentional about selecting these cities for a variety of reasons. However, it was our interest in civil rights that drew us to Montgomery and Atlanta.

Montgomery is the home of The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and The Legacy Museum. These are our nation's first memorial / museum dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, people terrorized by lynching, and African Americans humiliated by racial segregation. The memorial is constructed of over 800 hanging steel monuments, one for each county (Charlottesville & Nelson County included) in the U.S. where a racial terror lynching took place. Each monument bore the name and date of the victim. For those of you who have been to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., the emotions were very similar – both amazing and awful at the same time.

In Atlanta, we began at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Dr. King drew inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. His nonviolent movement in the 1950s and 1960s did much to achieve legal equality for African Americans. He led similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict. His principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family. Isn't this what Jesus teaches us? We also visited the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church just down the street. It has been restored to reflect the look of the church during the seven years when Dr. King was the co-pastor with his father.

The next day we went to The Carter Center, which was founded by Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter in 1982. Anne & I were both amazed by the numerous programs that they have been actively involved in to alleviate suffering through conflict resolution, advancing democracy and human rights, fighting diseases, improving mental health care, and building hope throughout the world.

The meaning and history behind these museums explain a lot about why I have the beliefs I do. History is extremely important and with a significant number of people in authority trying to limit what can be taught these days, our future can only be hurt.

Blessings,  
Pastor Gordon with help from Anne

Pastor Gordon and Anne will be on vacation from October 14<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have a pastoral need, please call me.

## Prayer Concerns

### Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Eliza Kelley and family (Sherie's great niece), Bob Dixey, Charlotte Shifflett (Danny's aunt), Jimmy Snyder (Danny's father) and Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt).

### Prayer Request for

Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), and Susan Zirges (friend of Sherie & Paul).

## Community Conversations

- October flowers are given by Ellen and Charles McDonald.
- Choir practice will be on Tuesdays 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
  - October—Joyce Dull



October

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bambi Straw
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sherie Whiting-Rohal
- 15<sup>th</sup> Ivan Diehl
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Flora Williams
- 29<sup>th</sup> Gene Giltner

## OCTOBER



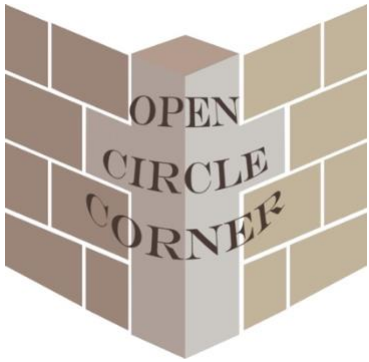
## BIRTHDAYS

1st	Theron White
3rd	Ryan Leach
3rd	Michael Diehl
19th	Lynda Diehl
25th	Desirae Diehl
27th	Lexi Dull

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

Oyster Supper  
November 17<sup>th</sup>  
6 PM  
And  
Cake Auction  
Following  
Money collected is used  
to help families in need  
through Social Ministry  
Reservations required





**Upcoming Events:**  
**October 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 1pm. Meeting at St. James. Joyce is our hostess.  
**October 8<sup>th</sup>** – 2pm. – 2:30 Registration. Our SVWO Fall Gathering: “Weave Us Together” will be held at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, 281 E. Market St., Harrisonburg.

Alicia Thomas, from the Virginia Quilt Museum is the guest speaker at our Fall Gathering. The museum was founded in 1995 and is the official quilt museum of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It houses heirloom, contemporary, and art quilts, featured simultaneously, representing a variety of styles, techniques, and themes.

Please bring a picture of a favorite quilt you made or inherited. Plan to share a story about quilting in your family. We will share these pictures and stories during the Social Hour.

**October 24<sup>th</sup>** – 1pm. Organizational meeting to establish a quilt guild at St. James.

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** – 1pm. Meeting at the home of our hostess, Ellen.

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



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     |



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 6<sup>th</sup> at Zion, 13<sup>th</sup> at Grace, and the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

We will take everything down on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Season after Pentecost	Continues First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10/1/2023	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10/8/2023	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Psalm 19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10/15/2023	Exodus 32:1-14	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10/22/2023	Exodus 33:12-23	Psalm 99	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Reformation Sunday 10/29/2023	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36
All Saints Sunday 11/5/2023	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12



## St. James Church Business

St. James Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
September 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Council Members Absent:** Lynda Diehl

**Visitors Present:** None

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

Pastor Gordon opened the meeting with a devotion from the ELCA on Matthew 20:1-16. The campus pastor read this passage (the parable of the laborers in the vineyard) to his students before an exam, where many had been in study groups, up all-night cramming, and worrying about taking the exam. At the conclusion, the campus pastor closed the Bible and said, "This reading says that it's all a gift – it's all grace. So you've all made an A on your exam, and you're free to go." Many complained that it was unfair. That's the point, God continues to give us unmerited love. There is something inherently unfair in the whole idea of grace. It's just not fair and thank God it's not!

The **Minutes** for the August 8th Council Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Ivan and seconded by Joyce to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Gordon reported that he and Anne had a great vacation.

He reported that the Barren Ridge Vineyard worship service scheduled for 9/24 would be a cappella, as Hannah was unavailable and he was unable to find a substitute.

Pastor Gordon reported that 19 churches (including St. James) participated in the Rise Against Hunger event held at Kate Collins Middle School on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. He also told of an experience with the Children's Hunger Fund in San Antonio, resulting in some donations to our own BackPacks Program.

**Correspondence:** King of Kings Lutheran Church in Oceanside, CA requested that the membership of Paul Rohal and Sherie Whiting-Rohal be transferred to St. James.

### **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. The administration "schoolhouse" portion of the building roof needs to be replaced. Bids of \$6,800 and \$7,200 have been obtained and more bids are pending.
  - Paul reported that the fire extinguishers have been replaced throughout the building at a cost of \$559. An annual inspection is required.

- There are many other items that are in the works. Please consider volunteering your time (you don't have to be on the committee to help on some of the property issues). Contact John Grove or Paul Rohal and let them know how you can help.
- Stewardship & Finance: Anne reported on the Homecoming Finances. The cost of the event was \$1,614.04. Open Circle contributed \$527.53, Social Ministry contributed \$310.00, Donations received \$240.00, and In-Kind Donations of food equaled \$357.00. Net cost to St. James was \$179.51.
- Social Ministry & Evangelism: Joyce reported that we have 13 kids enrolled in the BackPacks Program.
  - She reported that \$250 was sent to Grace Church for the Rise Against Hunger Program.
  - Joyce has begun the planning for the annual Oyster Dinner. Paul suggested that we increase attendance for the fundraiser by inviting those who attended our recent Homecoming. The Council agreed. Anne volunteered to work on the invitations.
- Worship, Music, & Altar: Ivan, reported that choir practice will resume in October, meeting at Betty Bartley's home.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Secure the building and make sure the lights are turned off on Sundays after church.
  - September = Ivan
  - October = Joyce
- Discussion regarding picking up shut-ins for attendance at worship has been determined to not be a viable option at this time.
- Anne & Gene volunteered to review / update the Constitution and By-Laws.

**New Business:**

- None

**Next Council Meeting** – Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall.

With no further business, Gene moved to adjourn the meeting and we closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Putnam*

Anne Putnam, Secretary

St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report  
August 2023

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 8/1/2023:	\$ 3,509.24
--	-------------

Receipts Deposited:	August 2023	Year to Date
Record of Contributions	\$ 2,505.00	\$ 31,783.00
Loose Offering	820.00	1,030.30
*Property Improvement Fund	200.00	1,740.00
*Social Ministry	30.00	240.00
*Louis Dixey, Jr. Fund	-	1,000.00
*Transfer from Raymond James Acct	561.33	7,536.72
*Transfer from DCCU Savings Acct	-	2,000.00
Benevolence	-	2,500.00
Other Special Appeals	-	810.91
Dividend/Interest Income	0.53	4.77
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 4,116.86</b>	<b>\$ 48,645.70</b>

Disbursed:		
Rev. Putnam - Monthly Compensation	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 10,000.00
3 Services @ \$200	600.00	4,650.00
245 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	161.70	959.28
Rev. Trost	-	
2 Services @ \$200	200.00	2,700.00
48 Miles @ \$0.66/mile	31.68	225.81
Musician - 1 Services	250.00	1,125.00
Supply Pastor	-	200.00
Mileage	-	7.92
Worship Supplies	-	
- Art Supplies	11.99	95.92
- Annual Bulletin Service	-	398.00
- Church Year Calendars	-	-
- Communion Supplies	-	49.45
- Copy Paper	49.99	95.98
- Toner	-	29.53
- Directory	-	21.00
- Offering Envelopes	-	-
- Postage	52.80	236.61
- Web Page Renewal	-	-
- Flowers (Easter)	-	313.90
Hannah Pingel, Pianist - 3 Services	375.00	3,625.00
Betty Bartley, Pianist	-	250.00
Glenda Strickler - Sexton	200.00	1,450.00
Cleaning Supplies	-	19.00
Christmas Gifts	-	500.00
Bank Safe Deposit Box	-	40.00
Fuel Oil	-	3,146.26
Electricity	109.20	833.37
Benevolence	-	2,900.00
Repairs & Maintenance	8.08	1,238.90
Fire & Liability Insurance	412.40	3,245.90
HomeComing Expenses	200.00	640.64
*Transfer to Raymond James Account	811.33	4,782.73
*Transfer to DCCU Savings Account	-	-
*Transfer to Social Ministry	90.00	270.00
*Pavillion	-	6,164.62
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 4,814.17</b>	<b>\$ 50,214.82</b>

DCCU Checking Acct Bal as of 8/31/2023:	\$ 2,811.93
---	-------------

St. James Lutheran Church Financial Report  
August 2023

	8/1/2023 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	8/31/2023 <u>End Balance</u>
<u>Dividend/Interest Income</u>				
<b>DCCU Savings Acct Bal as of 8/31/2023:</b>	\$ 1,005.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,005.17

<b>Raymond James Investment Account</b>	8/1/2023 <u>Beg Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	8/31/2023 <u>End Balance</u>
<b>Detail of St. James Fund Designations:</b>				
Property Committee Fund	\$ 38,984.08	350.00	551.45	38,782.63
Youth Account	2,208.46			2,208.46
James Williams Memorial	470.38		205.50	264.88
Linda Diehl Memorial	2,670.55			2,670.55
Non-Designated Funds	10,257.45		175.00	9,306.19
Accrued Int. & Dividends & Change in Value		0.12	776.38	
<b>Balance as of 8/31/2023</b>	<b>\$ 54,590.92</b>	<b>\$ 350.12</b>	<b>\$ 1,708.33</b>	<b>53,232.71</b>

<b>Operating Budget Barometer</b>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>August Disbursements</u>	<u>Over (Under)</u>
	\$3,325.53	\$3,912.84	(\$587.31)
 *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.			
	<u>YTD Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Disbursements</u>	<u>Over (Under)</u>
	\$36,128.98	\$37,768.10	(\$1,639.12)

