

The Spirit of St. James

The Newsletter from St. James Episcopal Church

2050 Bert Kouns
Shreveport, Louisiana, 71118
318-686-1261

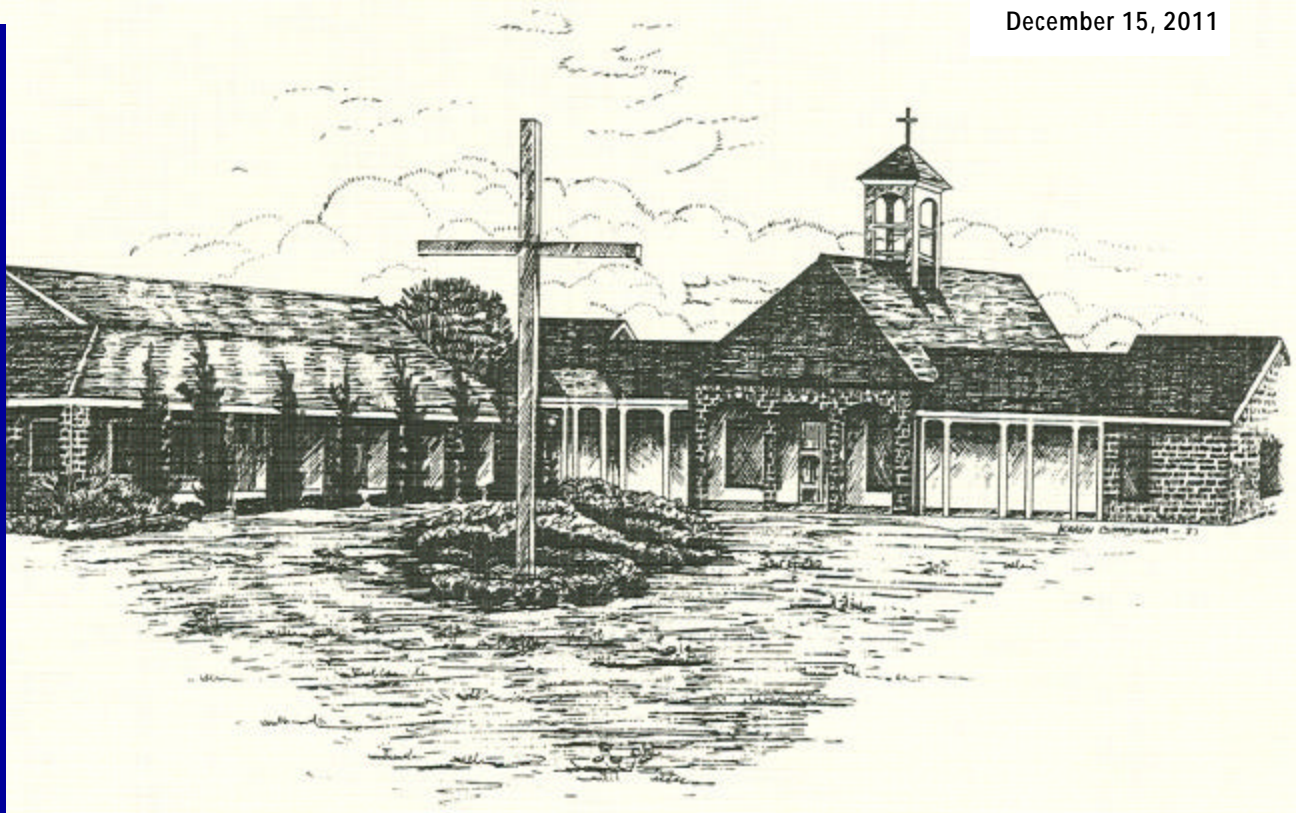
December 15, 2011

*Greening of Church
December 18
following 11am service*

*Christmas Eve
December 24
7:30pm family service
with children's
message
10:30pm Christmas
Eve Celebration*

*Christmas Day
December 25
10am Contemporary
Christmas Worship*

*January 22
Annual Meeting*



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Presiding Bishop,
The Episcopal Church:
The Rt. Rev'd Katharine
Jefferts Schori

Bishop, Diocese of Western
Louisiana:

The Rt. Rev'd D. Bruce
MacPherson

Priest-in-Charge under
Special Circumstances:

The Rev'd Morgan
MacIntire

Organist/Choir Director:

Kaye Crichlow

Nursery:

Rhonda Robertson

Parish Secretary:

Jnanne Zepeda

2010 Vestry:

Jerry Howard (14)

Sr. Warden

Paul Moore (13)

Jr. Warden

Members:

Suzy Adcock (13)

Dan Bennett (12)

Ron Maberry (13)

Larry Porter (14)

Brody Fitzpatrick (12)

Lynette van Heerden (14)

Kathy Watkins (12)

Michael Wainwright (12)

Ex Officio:

Thomas Mosley—Treasurer

Janie Parker—Clerk



Church phone: 318-686-1261

Church fax: 318-686-4527

Church E-mail address:

stjames_sport@bellsouth.net

Church website:

www.stjames-shreveport.org

A MESSAGE FROM MORGAN

Dear Family of St. James,

I was in conversation the other day with one of my clerical colleagues about the nature of this Advent/Christmas season (thanks for the fodder, Jake+!). I was telling him about my household and how Angus and I had compromised on when and where to put up Christmas decorations during Advent, my rant about what a "real" Advent calendar should look like and various other discussions that have taken place while trying to figure out how to please our children, but educate them at the same time. My friend in ministry said that he had come to a conclusion about this very topic not too long ago himself and it went a little like this: there is a secular Christmas and a religious Christmas. We celebrate both and there is nothing wrong with that, as long as we understand the difference.



It's ok to get wrapped up in the secular season - purchasing gifts, trimming our trees, decorating our houses and sending people seasons greetings. Wear your gaudy Christmas sweaters, make new memories with your families, fight the crowds on Youree Drive with a bit of angst and a large cherry cream slush from Sonic. Have fun and relish the time you spend with loved ones, for this truly is a season of joy.

But don't forget that we are really waiting and preparing for something even bigger than Christmas Day (read: the day we get to carelessly fling wrapping paper all over our living room floors). **What we are waiting and watching for is the coming of Christ.** Not just the "baby in a manger" Christ, but the cosmic, soon-returning in glory, drawing all nations to Himself, wiping away every last tear from our eyes Christ. The hope of Christmas is, in its very essence, the hope of the Christian faith: we are loved beyond measure by a gracious God who has walked among us once and promises to do so again.

So go to church and give thanks this season, put a twinkling angel or two on your front lawn, tell the people you meet a hearty "Merry Christmas" and watch and wait in wonder as God reminds us once again through the gift of his Son that we are His beloved.

Blessings,

Morgan +



Outreach News

On December 6, members of the committee spent the evening with I2D and members of Christ Fellowship Church in Haughton, to fill 75 Christmas bags to be passed out to the less fortunate at the monthly outreach in downtown Shreveport on December 18th. Outreach provided various items for the bags, including underwear (mens and ladies, in different sizes), nice thick fleece throws, warm hats, gloves, socks, and lots of candy.



Photos proved by Karen Waguespack.

We enjoyed a wonderful night of fellowship with I2D in filling the bags with all the goodies! I want to personally thank Dan Bennett, Kathy Watkins, Faye Wynn and Debbie Knight for their support that night – a great time was had and we hope to partner with them in the future. They were very appreciative for our donations to their cause and would like to support us where they can as well.

Outreach also assisted several families with support during this time due to unforeseen tragedies or circumstances in their lives and we were happy to be in a position to help out. Outreach will support the upcoming garden at St. James – it will be exciting to see a “garden of love” growing here at the church to reach out to our neighbors in Southern Hills. Discussions are still being held and decisions made to support the area with St. Luke’s Mobile Ministry as well as help to those in need – stay tuned for more details in the new year.



Thank you for your contributions to the Heart of Hope home – they were excited about the items we collected as well as the monetary contribution we made to them. They have three girls in house as of this newsletter and after the new year I will be setting up a tour of the facility – so stay tuned and come join us if you would like to tour the home.

Thank-you for all the support you have given to Outreach in 2011 – we look forward to an exciting Outreach in 2012!

—Karen Waguespack

CELEBRATE WITH US ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Eve services will be held at 5:30pm and 10:30pm. The earlier service will be family-oriented with a children’s message. Children are invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal (or other toy) to place on the crèche prior to the service (and take home with them afterward). The later service will be a traditional midnight mass. Both services will be enhanced by the music of our St. James Choir singing anthems and leading the parish in congregational carols and hymns.

For those who have been wondering what to do on Christmas morning—once the gifts have been opened, breakfast served, and kids calmed down a bit—we would like to invite you to join your St. James family for a Christmas celebration service at 10am. The Praise Team will provide the musical accompaniment to the Rite II service, lifting their voices in beloved hymns. Come together to help us give thanks for the ultimate gift of Christmas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS SUBMISSION DEADLINE

If you would like an announcement placed in the Sunday bulletin, please submit it by 10:00 am on the previous Wednesday. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am until 2:00 pm. Announcements that are in printed form may be mailed, sent through e-mail to stjames_sport@bellsouth.net, or dropped at the parish office.

Newsletter deadline: January 1st

SPREAD THE WORD

Would you like to brag on your family’s achievements, share family milestones with friends, or invite the parish to an upcoming event? You can do so easily by submitting articles to the parish office for publication in the Spirit. There is always room for news of a baptism, wedding, or school achievement. Photographs and stories can be sent via e-mail to stjames_sport@bellsouth.net or dropped off at the parish office. And if you are shy about doing the writing, just telephone the information to 686-1261 and the writing will take care of itself.



ADULT FORUM

Whether we are discussing how music enhances our worship or how we can learn new methods of evangelism from others, the adult forum has become the place to be on Sunday mornings. Not your traditional Sunday School class, the forum allows for an exchange of ideas among the members of the parish. If you haven't come by to participate, it's not too late. Join us between the services on Sunday mornings for edifying discussion, and a few donut holes.



Photos provided by Jerry Howard.

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

With about 120 people in attendance, the final performance of the Master Series of Entertainment for 2011 was a huge success, bringing in many people from outside the parish. Thanks to all who provided food for the reception, talent for the entertainment, and helping hands in setting up and cleaning up. Thanks to Jerry Howard for providing photos.



Adult Forum Schedule
December 2011-January 2012
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
in the Parish Hall

Don't be afraid to drink coffee and have yourself some refreshments while we meet!!!

Sunday, December 18th: "The Gift" - *Come celebrate with us the greatest gift of all time!*

Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day - NO CLASS

Sunday, January 1st: New Year's Day - NO CLASS

Sunday, January 8th: *From Jihad to Jesus* Part 2: Folk Islam in America

Sunday, January 15th: Episcopal Relief and Development Re-Deaux - *Gather to hear Bruce Beach, the ERD representative for our Diocese speak about the mission and purpose of this incredible, Episcopal organization!*

Sunday, January 22nd: Annual Meeting - NO CLASS

Sunday, January 29th: Guest Speaker - The Reverend John Moulton (Food for the Poor) - *Rev. Moulton will be our guest preacher and speaker this Sunday. He will teach us about another fabulous organization that does much to help the needy in our world, so I invite you to show him great hospitality and welcome by joining him for AF!*



BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR...

By Debbie Knight

Have you ever heard the saying, "be careful what you ask for?" Morgan Freeman (the actor) during an interview said that he had asked God for courage and what he learned is that God doesn't sit in Heaven and zap you with courage, but He will place you in situations where you can act courageously! Man, God's got a sense of humor!

This statement put my thoughts to flight. I am not the most patient person in the world. As a matter of fact, sometimes even as I approach my sixtieth year I am more like a child that just can't wait. I have prayed to God to give me patience Right Now! If Mr. Freeman is correct in his statement, I imagine God laughed for a good day and a half.

I decided to test the theory that God would put me in situations where I would have to react with patience! God did not disappoint! It seems on a daily basis I was put in situations where the car wouldn't start, lab people couldn't find a vein, grocery bags ripped, drivers were cutting me off, and if someone did not agree with me I took it as a personal rejection of me instead of my idea!

One day in the middle of all the chaos of everyday living I heard in my spirit's ear, "be still." Are you kidding! The last thing an impatient person can do is be still. I decided to be still and listen so that I might learn not to get so worked up over things that in a hundred years will not matter at all.

I am learning that God intends me to have an abundant life and He has left it up to me if I want it abundantly happy or abundantly miserable! (Thanks for that lesson)!

I am going to try to replace my impatience with kindness! When the grocery bag rips and the groceries fly all over the place I will be thankful that I had the groceries to rip the bags. Next time I go for lab work I will tell them to relax! My job will be to be still; their job will be to find the vein. (God created the world in six days, I can give them six attempts). As for the drivers, most people tend to drive in Braille, so I will give them the right-of-way! For those who don't agree with me, we can agree to disagree and still love and respect each other.

I have learned my lesson on being careful what to ask for. I think I will just thank God for the gifts given and make time in my day just to sit and be still and wait for God to show me the next gift of the spirit that He wants me to open.

BLESSING OF THE MUSIC AND THEATRE ROOM

Not only does St. James offer a blessing of the media room, but we also offer our sincere thanks to Brody Fitzpatrick for blessing us with his generous creativity and spirit. We are thankful that he chose to make a room in the education building of our parish the site for his Senior Project. We anticipate many children will be entertained and educated in the space, making use of the puppet theatre and musical instruments he has provided. We are truly blessed to have Brody as part of our parish family!



Photographs provided by Jerry Howard.



THE MISSION CONTINUES...



While we still have a few more mission clinics scheduled for 2011, to date, we have had 692 client visits this year. We have also been able to offer our services in several new rural locations.

An important focus of our ministry is providing preventative health screenings. So far this year, 41% of all clients that we screened for hypertension had abnormal readings. This includes clients with undiagnosed hypertension and ones with diagnosed but uncontrolled hypertension. When we find abnormal readings we have the opportunity to help the clients understand how important it is to get their blood pressure under control to prevent long-term complications. It also allows us a chance to refer them for follow-up care. They can then use the RV periodically as a resource to monitor their blood pressure and get questions answered.

At this time of the year when we reflect on how blessed we are we would like to truly thank everyone that has been a part of this ministry this year.

We are truly blessed to have the support of the Episcopal churches in Northwest Louisiana, to have so many like-minded community organizations in our area to work with, to have such a dedicated group of volunteers, and a board and medical advisory board that deeply cares about the mission of this ministry.

—Brenda Nims

January Anniversaries

Keith & Karen McDonald	Jan 5
Robert & Rita Haldeman	Jan 5
Kenneth & Bobbye Smith	Jan 12
Ron & Lois Maberry	Jan 28

January Birthdays

Russell Garner	January 2
Noah Matlock	January 3
Triniti Ann Parker	January 4
Debbie Fitzpatrick	January 4
Leroy David	January 7
Nita Magee	January 8
Jana Kendrick	January 9
Dave Caporossi	January 9
Joseph Thrash	January 9
Sylvia Brown	January 11
Hilary Elizabeth Holland	January 12
Sara Lewis	January 13
Elizabeth Ollendike	January 13
Peyton Hartley	January 13
Renee Strickland	January 14
Blaine Butler	January 16
Roger Wilkinson	January 16
Heather Bryant	January 19
Faye Wynn	January 20
Curtis Shelton	January 21
Kenneth Smith	January 23
Mason Sims	January 26
Bobbye Smith	January 29
Will Bryant	January 31

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please add the following new information to your directory:

Ronald Pradel has moved to
8911 Youree Drive, #1108
Shreveport, LA 71115

CHRISTIAN ED CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH HALL

Christmas cards created by the Christian Education Department are available for sale in the Parish Hall.

For \$8 a dozen, you can show your support of our youth while sending Yule wishes to friends and family. For each packet of cards you take, place \$8 in the offering plate with a notation that it is for the Christian Ed program, or if you prefer, you may deliver payment to the parish office during regular business hours.



The youth in our Sunday School prepared for Advent by making Advent banners and learning how Mary and Joseph learned of Jesus' upcoming birth. Thanks to Elizabeth Ollendike for providing the photograph.



WE GAVE THANKS TOGETHER

Thanksgiving day found approximately forty people enjoying fabulous food and fellowship in the Parish Hall at St. James. We brought family and friends for a reduced-stress holiday celebration. With minimal fuss (and only a few rodents on our heads) we laughed and visited and ate our fill.



Thanks to Dan Bennett for providing the photographs of this event.



**THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH WILL BE HELD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 8:30AM SERVICE**

- Vestry members will be elected to fill those terms that are ending
- We will be voting to elect a delegation to serve at the Diocesan Convention in 2012

Nominations for these positions will be taken in advance by submitting names (in writing) to any Vestry member. Nominations will also be taken at the meeting. Be prepared to explain why you believe the person you nominate would be a good representative of St. James.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VESTRY MEMBERS

Communicant in good standing
Member of St. James for at least six months
At least sixteen (16) years of age
Contributor of record during the preceding year

The ideal Vestry member is keenly interested in the well-being of St. James: the Church, the clergy and staff, the buildings and grounds. Vestry members regularly attend services and parish events, give financially to the work of the parish, and are spiritually attuned. They distinguish between *being* on the Vestry and *servng* on the Vestry. They have sufficient time to dedicate to the work of the Vestry and display a positive nature. They have the courage to speak their mind, even when their positions are in the minority. They are willing to listen to opposing opinions, are open to change, and accept the greater will. They have a sense of humor.

Vestry members are able to leave behind “constituencies” and personal agendas in favor of doing what is best for St. James. They are able and willing to share their talents, abilities, and honest opinions—and then are able and willing to listen to others’ opinions with an open heart and mind. They are faithful to the concept of confidentiality. They have a sense of humor. Vestry members are willing to listen respectfully to all parishioners, seek to serve their needs, and try to find a common ground when there are disagreements. They have a sense of humor.

CORRECTION

Last month we reported that elections for delegates to the April Election Convention would take place at the annual meeting. However, we have received word from the Diocesan Office that canonically the people elected to serve at the Diocesan Convention in 2011 continue to be the delegates to represent the parish until the following Diocesan Convention. Therefore, delegates to the Election Convention are Debbie Barnwell, Debbie Knight, Wain Thompson, and Mike Endicott. Alternates are Debbie Thompson and Kaye Crichlow.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 9, 2012

In order for the parish office to produce the Annual Report in time for the Annual Meeting, committee heads should submit their reports to the office no later than January 9. Reports are needed regarding the following:

Senior Warden	Treasurer
Junior Warden	DOK
Outreach Committee	ECW
Youth Sunday School	Altar Guild
Adult Sunday School	Historian
Stewardship Committee	Choir
Legacy Committee	Men’s Group
Greeters Ministry	Nursery
Eucharistic Ministry	EYC
Eucharistic Visitors	Acolytes

Centenary College Canterbury House Fundraiser

A great cause
and some great food



Be sure to tell your server
that you are there to
support the Centenary
College Canterbury House
fundraiser.

All friends, family and supporters of the Centenary College Canterbury House
are invited to participate in their fundraising event on

Monday, December 19, 2011

Everyone is invited to gather at Buffalo Wild Wings in Shreveport (7441 Youree Dr.) for lunch, dinner, or a snack.

On this day, 20% of purchases will be donated to the

Centenary College Canterbury House.

O.A. 12-STEP PROGRAM

You can make a Start in Overeaters Anonymous. Others have been successful with A Guide for the Newcomer. Come join us in Overeaters Anonymous every Thursday evening at 6:30 PM in the library/conference room. You can find recovery from the ILLNESS OF FOOD OBSESSION (or any problem with food.)

MAKING A START

I have made a decision. I've taken Step One and said to myself: "Yes, I am one of those people who have found they are powerless over food. I find it very difficult to stop overeating and I want help." I have discovered as it says in the literature, that food is "cunning, baffling, and powerful." To stop overeating and stay stopped, there are a few simple principles that I can apply to my life. These principles are AA and OA's program of recovery. They work for me as effectively as they have worked for others. Following is a suggestion which can be of help on the path to recovery.

LIVING ONE DAY AT A TIME

Please accept our thanks and appreciation for the use of the St. James facilities. Overeaters Anonymous gives a small donation to express our appreciation to meet in our comfortable room, conducive to the meeting named "Come to Believe." Please know that anyone and everyone are invited to explore and experience O.A. The meeting time is 6:30 to 7:30 each Thursday evening. It doesn't matter the way you eat or your body weight. Everyone is welcome.

Overeaters Anonymous is a way of living "one day at a time." I can break life into small pieces that I can handle. I don't plan to stay abstinent forever, but just ONE DAY or ONE HOUR, or whatever length of time is necessary for me to stay abstinent TODAY. One Problem at a Time, I become willing to turn my life over to the care of a Power Greater Than myself. For me, this power is God, the creator of the universe and the Father of Jesus Christ.

Contact 318-426-0194 with questions.

Everyone is welcome. (There are no dues or fees, weigh-ins, dieting or calorie counting).

LET'S MAKE CHANGE FROM THE INSIDE (OF US)

We all have things about ourselves that we would like to change. As January 1 approaches we may even be more aware than usual of those things, planning to make a New Year's resolution to accomplish the task. And as easy as it sometimes is to pinpoint exactly what we don't like about ourselves, it is so much easier to identify what we don't like in others. It's easy to see that good friends or family members would be healthier if they would just stop smoking or exercise more or cut back on the cocktails. We may even be able to point out what we perceive as character flaws about others that we certainly would like to see changed.

The scary thing is, those same people are probably just as aware of how we can change to become better people. And we need to recognize that just as we find it difficult to change who we are, others experience the same problems.

We each want to live in a perfect world. We each want to raise our children to live a better life than what we have lived. We want to improve the economy for them, provide them with a fair and unbiased judicial system, give them the best-educated and most-talented teachers and role models.

And we can contribute to that better world in many ways. One of the toughest is to recognize things about ourselves that others may consider to be character flaws—and work on improving ourselves in that area. Often the things we don't like about others are the things that remind us of our own foibles. We should be the role models for our youth.

We want to be accepted, so we should accept others. We want to be welcomed, despite our flaws, so we should welcome others. We want others to overlook our shortcomings and see the person whom we want to be, so we should see beyond what we perceive as the imperfections of others to the person that God sees.

As Christmas season approaches, let's vow to give each other and ourselves the gift of open-armed welcome, because, based upon the role model God provided in Jesus, the Episcopal Church welcomes us all.

—Jnanne Zepeda

HAPPENING IS HAPPENING AGAIN

Happening #49 for grades 9-12 is set for January 20-22, 2012 at Camp Hardtner. Happening weekends seek to bring young people to a fuller personal knowledge of, and a personal relationship and deeper commitment to Jesus Christ. During the 3-day gathering participants will experience the love of our Lord Jesus Christ as shown through the sacraments and the ministry of fellow students, clergy, and lay adults. Teens are encouraged to take a new faith back to their worlds and to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ. To attend, students must submit an application signed by a parent and the student's rector. Applications are available on the diocesan website at [http://www.diocesewla.org/2011 11 Dio Youth Info Packet.pdf](http://www.diocesewla.org/2011%2011%20Dio%20Youth%20Info%20Packet.pdf). The website has complete instructions on the submission of the application. **For more information e-mail thrans@bellsouth.net.**



*Our Mission Statement: A **COMMUNITY CALLED BY GOD TO WORSHIP,
LOVE, AND SERVE.***

Our Schedule of Services:

- Sunday—Holy Eucharist, 8:30am
followed by Coffee Hour and donuts in the Parish Hall
Sunday School, 9:45am
Holy Eucharist, 11:00am
Wednesday—Holy Eucharist with Unction, 10am
Bible Study, 10:30am



Vestry Meeting Highlights—November 2011

- The new website should be up and available to all soon, with a target date of Christmas
- Outreach will donate up to \$1000 to the start-up costs for the community garden and up to \$1000 toward feeding the working poor in Southern Hills. They are also adopting a family (whose home recently burned) for Christmas.
- A new foundation for the sign is being considered to replace the crumbling brick one.
- Jerry Howard and Tommy Mosley have been authorized by the Vestry to sign leases for St. James regarding oil and mineral rights.
- \$25,000 has been withdrawn from checking and placed in the Wellington Fund.
- Remaining work in the Garrett-Hall Building will be presented to the budget committee, with a recommendation that the costs be included in the budget for 2012.
- **Next Vestry meeting: December 18, 2011**

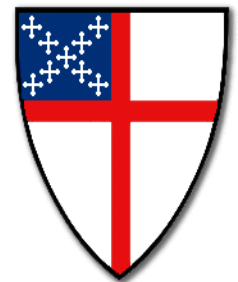
The Bishop's Ball #8 will be held for all high school and college-age youth in the Diocese of Western Louisiana at St. Timothy's, Alexandria on February 11, 2012. The Bishop's Ball is sponsored by the Commission on Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Watch the Sunday Bulletins for more information as the date approaches.

You are Invited

to a dinner reception honoring
The Reverend Dan Krutz
on the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Wednesday, December 21, 2011.
St. Francis Episcopal Church
726 Maple St.
Denham Springs, La.
6:30 - 8:00

RSVP
225-756-3138
email: jakrutz@yahoo.com



Read the December 14 issue of The Forum News, where our own Morgan MacIntire is quoted in a front-page story. If you can't get a paper copy, go to the following link to access the story:

<http://www.theforumnews.com/>

Vision Statement of St. James Episcopal Church: We see St. James as a spirit-led congregation that is a beacon of God's love shining in the community, welcoming all by reaching out through worship, service, mission, and programming to bring peace and healing to all of God's children. We strive to serve our members by nourishing our faith, giving support in times of need and becoming a congregation from which community-based outreach programs have their genesis.