

April & May, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 3

THE BEACON

INSIDE THIS ISSUE. . .

From the Rector's Study

A Time of Change

A message from your Wardens

The Deacon's Bench

Treasurer's Corner

Our Church Women

Notes from the Choir. . .

Prayer Blanket Ministry

Easter Baskets

Easter Schedule

Dominican Republic Mission

Upper Room Meal

Ferris Scholarship

Celebrations

Food for the Soul

April Calendar

May Calendar

From the Rector's Study

How blessed we are to be celebrating our Lenten season. This special time of the year allows us the opportunity to grow closer to the Lord. It is a time for reflection, a chance to really look at our journey with God. None of this starts however, unless we make time for it. There are so many of us who are busy with life, busy with work, busy with family, busy with unimportant details that we miss the joy and celebration that comes from that sacred and divine call to remembrance. "Do this in Remembrance of Me."

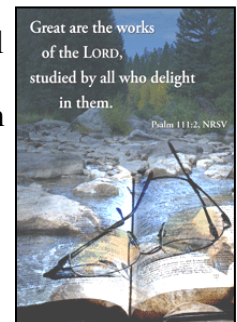
What is your Lenten discipline? Whatever it is, remember to, "just do it. During our Lenten program this year, we are sharing materials from Joyce Rupp's book called, "The Cup of our Life." This book is a wonderful gift from God. Joyce Rupp shares "how the ordinary cups that we use each day can become sacred vessels that connect us with life and draw us ever closer to God." Rupp explores how "the cup is a rich symbol of life, with its emptiness and fullness, its brokenness and flaws, and all of its blessings." Why not come and join us?

Lenten meditations are full of such wonderful truths that at times I read ahead, one per day is not always enough. Recently I read one in the 2011 Lenten meditations booklet from the Episcopal Relief & Development

written by Duncan Gray III dated April 2. It begins with a scripture verse from Romans 6: 12-23.

Duncan states that "Week after week, we make the offering of 'ourselves, our souls, our bodies' to God out of the gratefulness of our hearts. This offering that we make at the Eucharist is met by the offering God makes in Christ and there is union, even communion, with the divine. We, as well as the bread of the Eucharist, become the Body of Christ." "What we then carry into a despairing world is hope, rooted in our baptisms and nurtured in that union with Christ in the Eucharist. We offer ourselves to God as instruments of healing to a hurting world. How God might use us is God's decision. The decision to make ourselves available is always ours."

Are we making ourselves available to this hurting world, our hurting neighbors or our hurting families. How can we pay God back for all the good God has done for us. What God has done for us is a gift, but we can be faithful in our commitment to God. We can make ourselves, our souls and our bodies available every day of our lives, to



God. May our Lenten journey this year really make a difference not only in our lives but in the lives of everyone we come in contact with.

You will have various choices for worship such as Palm Sunday, Holy week morning prayer, Maundy Thursday followed by the Upper Room Experience, Friday Stations of the Cross and the Good Friday Liturgy. Join us and be blessed.

Our Easter celebration will be glorious as we worship the Risen Christ. We will begin with our yearly Sun Rise Service with our neighbors, the Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, weather permitting. If it rains we will proceed to their sanctuary to worship together. The service was well attended last year with eighty participants, forty from each congregation. The service lasts about forty minutes.

We will continue the celebration with our 8am service followed by our 10:30am service. I hear an Easter egg hunt will also be happening after both services. Please remember to pick out those beautiful flowers for decorating the wooden cross in our newly renovated sanctuary. There is so much to be thankful for, why not invite a neighbor, family member or friend to God's house. We will be singing Alleluias, all the way in and out of God's house on Easter morning. The proclamation will be, "Alleluia, Christ is Risen!" the response is, "The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!" Have a wonderful Easter and may God Bless you richly!

Fr. Cesar+

¹Rupp, Joyce. The Cup of Our Life - A Guide for Spiritual Growth. Ave Maria Press. Notre Dame Indiana 1997

²Gray, Duncan III 2011 Lenten Meditations - Episcopal Relief & Development New York, 2011 p.29

A Time of Change

With the recent budget deficit, the Vestry has looked at ways of reducing costs for the church. On March 27, 2011, they voted to start publishing the Beacon on a quarterly basis. However, to keep you informed, they have asked that more information be put in the weekly bulletin. We know this affects those of you who are shut-in and we hope that those who visit you monthly with communion, can bring you a bulletin that will have some information for you.

The Beacon will be published as follows:

March 1	September 1
June 1	December 1

We will publish calendars for three (3) months beginning in June and we sometimes do not know events that are that far ahead, so please understand there may be items missing. We will try hard to publish those changes in the bulletin weekly.

It will take some time getting used to this change and to make the Beacon as informative as possible, so we ask that you please be patient and understanding as we move throughout the year to make the information available to you.

Another change that we are considering is the summer schedule. There are some of you who have asked if we could continue the 9:30 combined service through September. The attendance is still not at full capacity in September and we are wanting to consider making that change to save on expenses. Please check yes or no below, tear off and either return to the office or put in the alms on Sunday morning. We appreciate your input.

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CONTINUE 9:30AM SERVICE THRU SEPTEMBER

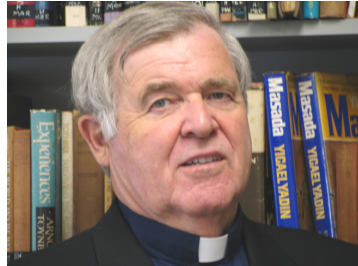
YES _____

NO _____

THE DEACON'S BENCH

The Rev. Ben Creelman

As we go through our Lenten journeys with our individual and group commitments, let us be ever mindful of the sacrifices that were made for us. Those things which we “give up” or extra devotional activities we “take on” during Lent are small sacrifices compared to Christ’s sacrifices for us.



We should take some time this Lenten season to consider how fortunate we are to be able to worship in a manner of our own choice and then return to safe and secure homes when many in our world are homeless, hungry and without basic needs. Think about how lucky we are to be able to cook a meal, read a book, participate in a Bible Study, sing in a choir or join an organization.

Remember as we continue our journey toward Easter to pray, act and think as a model of Christ you would like others to follow.

Yours in
Christ,
Deacon Ben



TREASURER'S CORNER

Frances Harris



Thanks so much to all who responded to the one time mailing regarding the budget deficit by sending in a contribution. A few people contacted me about not being able to send in \$100.00 or more. That amount was a “suggestion”. If you read the entire letter, the second post script at the bottom of the letter does say, “Regardless of

how much you can help, your participation is an important demonstration of your caring.” That means all contributions are appreciated and your participation is important to the church. We have not reached our goal, but contributions are still coming in.

As many of you know, this is the first time in years we have specifically asked you to help with a budget shortfall. In the past few years we have been fortunate to have sort of a cushion to make up any shortfall. This year, it is necessary to face facts and deal with the reality of the situation. The church family should always know what is going on financially within the church, and that is why we have included you by sending the letter.

It is my experience that your family is there for you in the good times, the not so good times and especially in the bad times. Families pull together and work toward a common goal, to make things better, or at least, the best they can be.

The financial health of Saint James Episcopal Church is our common cause. We are all brothers and sisters in trying to make things the best they can be for our church.

A Message From Your Sr. Warden

Ann Scotten

On Sunday, March 13, the Bishop sanctified our church's renovations. Although we have been enjoying the church's "new look" for a while, to me it did not seem finished until the blessing and incense were bestowed on it. The Bishop said our congregation had built on the work of those who have gone before us, and we are supporting and developing St James for those who will come after us. His words touched me deeply, perhaps because of our recent financial challenges. The Bishop reminded me that we must be united in supporting St. James, not just for our own benefit, but in thanks for the work of those who came before us. We are the caretakers of the church for those who will worship here now and in the future. Thank you to everyone who has helped in this current need. If you haven't been able to contribute to the fund, please do so as soon as you are able. With God's help and your support St. James will meet the challenge.

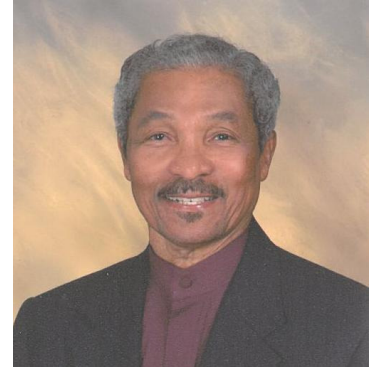


A Message from Your Jr. Warden

Clarence Stephenson

At this time, I wish to comment on concerns regarding security of the premises.

Recently, there have been reports of break-ins and vandalism in the neighborhood and We have experienced some amount of vandalism in the past.



Improvement of the existing Security Systems is under consideration, but in the interim, I would like to emphasize the need for vigilance on the part of users of the premises outside of normal /regular church activities. Instances of unlocked doors, occasionally, have been discovered. Although some doors are automatically operated; they do not always lock and thus need some amount of pressure to lock securely. In this regard, special attention should be given to the Stained Door by the Church Organ. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Continued Lenten Observance wishes,
Clarence.

Our Church Women



ECW

St. James Episcopal Church Women continue to build the women’s organization of our Church. We will host the **Coffee minute** on the **3rd**.

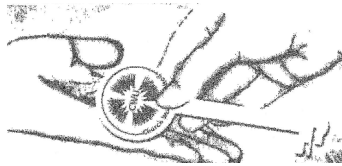
Our **Board Meeting** will be on the **7th** at 1:00 pm

We will have our **Annual Fish Fry** on the **15th** from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. It will include dinner, desert and a beverage for a donation of **\$12.00**. Please join us.



The **General Meeting** will be on the **21st.** at 1:00pm and we will have a Guest Speaker from the School System. Please join us and hear what she has to say about the feeding program.

Dates to remember:
On **Friday May 6,** Church Women United will celebrate “May Friendship Day”.



Our first **Women’s Day Program** will be on **June 26.** Please help us make it a success.

God Bless

Eulalee Dandy,
President

MILES OF PENNIES



Please do remember the “Miles of Pennies” jar. In May, you will be receiving envelopes from the Church Periodical Club and the monies received will help to assist students who are furthering their education. Thank you for supporting this program.

United Thank Offering

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



I offer my grateful thanks for your generous donation for our Spring Ingathering. Your donation of over \$300.00

will be a blessing to someone at home or abroad.

God bless you,
Enid Levy, Chair

Notes from the choir....

Barbara Wojtkiewicz, Director

In our last note, we were discussing the origin and development of the hymns that we use in our service.



One of the parallel developments of the Reformation was the invention of the printing press. Most of us will remember from school history that the Bible was the first book to be printed. But printing also had an important impact on the development of church music, even though at the time most people could neither read nor write. In Germany, Martin Luther had a significant influence on hymnody as he was an accomplished musician as well as a radical theologian. His knowledge of German folksong was an influence on the hymns that he wrote, some of which are still in our hymnal Such as *Before thy throne O God We Kneel* and *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, which we sang quite recently. This use of vernacular hymns opened the way for composers, such as Bach, to write music for settings of psalms and other music with Biblical themes.

In England, Psalms continued to be an important part of the Anglican liturgy and hymns were less used, especially after the revolution which banished the monarchy and put Cromwell in charge. He banned all music in public worship. However, Isaac Watts (1674-1748) began the reform of congregational singing. He wrote many hymns which are still in the hymnal, including *Joy to the World* and *O God Our Help in Ages Past*. His philosophy was the the texts should reflect the beliefs of the people rather than verses taken from the Bible. The Wesley brothers, Charles and John, also wrote a number of hymns while they were Anglicans which are in our hymnal as well as the Methodist hymnal as they were the founders of Methodism. They were contemporary with Watts and wrote in much the same style.

You will notice that as we progress through Lent, the music will reflect a more contemplative tone. This makes the Easter music even more glorious by comparison as we return to the *Alleluia* on Easter Sunday.

Anyone who would like to join the choir for Easter can begin attending rehearsals now at 3:30 on Saturday afternoons

Prayer Blanket Ministry

Betty Creelman, Director

The Lord works in “mysterious ways” my parents always said. It never ceases to amaze me when those words come true time after time. On a Thursday, we had a request for a set of prayer blankets for the team to take to the Dominican Republic this April. I said that we would try to make them if we could get material. That Sunday morning, I received offers of cloth from both Tom Miller and Marilyn Wolf! Much of that material has been cut and stitched by the talented and hard working hands of our prayer blanket group. THANKS to all who assisted us with this project. Just think, St. James’ blankets are going worldwide. WOW!

We are still looking for sewing machines in good working order, soft yarn, ribbon and new or gently used flat sheets for backing.

Betty Creelman,
Facilitator



EASTER BASKETS

It is hard to believe a year has passed and the Easter season is upon us. As we have done for years, we are



once again getting ready to prepare baskets for the children for Easter Sunday. We are asking those of you who can bring in candy, cellophane wrapping paper, and basket grass, to please do so before April 20. The ladies will prepare the baskets on Wednesday after the service for anyone who would like to help assemble them. We appreciate all that you have done for this wonderful ministry in the past. If you have any questions, please contact Nydia Lowe or Barbara DeSouza.



EASTER FLOWERS

Please give generously to the Easter flower fund. Envelopes will be distributed in the bulletin. If you are unable to be with us and would like to donate to the Easter flowers on Sunday morning, please send a check and mark it "Easter Flowers" and we will make sure that your name is mentioned in the bulletin.

EASTER SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross
Every Friday through Lent. Daily during Holy week at 5:30pm



Palm Sunday - April 17

Holy Week - April 18-23

Morning Prayer

Monday - Saturday

@ 7:30am

(followed by a continental breakfast in the parish hall)

Maundy Thursday - April 21

Service - 7:00pm *(Feet washing)*

Upper Room Meal - 7:00pm

Good Friday - April 22

Service - Noon until 3:00pm

Easter - April 24

Sunrise Service - TBA

Holy Eucharist - 8:00am & 10:30am

Easter Egg Hunt after both services

Dominican Republic Mission

Our team is continuing to plan our mission trip April 28-May 5, 2011. One thing that we will be doing this year is to hold morning and afternoon "Bible Schools" with the school children of Gautier. The students only go to school half days, so for those students that have school in the afternoon, we will invite them to come to our Bible School in the mornings, and vice versa for those students that go to school in the morning. We are in need of some supplies for these students and are asking for help from each congregation. Some of the supplies needed are **CRAYOLA** crayons. Other brands do not hold up to the heat of the DR, so we are asking for only that brand. Also we will need children's scissors and construction paper.



If you are able to bring any of these items, there will be a box in the Narthex where you can place your donations. We thank you in advance and are looking forward to a new mission with the children. We are lucky to have a couple of missionaries who are fluent in Spanish to help us with this project. There will be lots of pictures when we come back!!

God Bless you all.

The St. James DR Mission Team



Meal in the Upper Room

Please come and join us on Maundy Thursday, April 21, 2011 after the 6:00pm Service, in celebrating the "Meal in the Upper Room". This meal is a typical meal which our Lord might have eaten on the night of His betrayal.

It is a light meal of Roast Lamb, unleavened bread, hard boiled eggs, fruits, cheeses, nuts, endive, greens, wine and water. Hymns are sung and readings from God's word will be done during the meal.

If you are planning to attend, we need to have you sign the list in the Narthex so we know how much to prepare. Tickets for the "Meal", are \$10 per person and need to be paid for in advance. The "Meal" is held in silence so no tickets will be available that night.

We are also looking for anyone interested in participating by portraying one of the disciples at the Last Supper table. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex also.

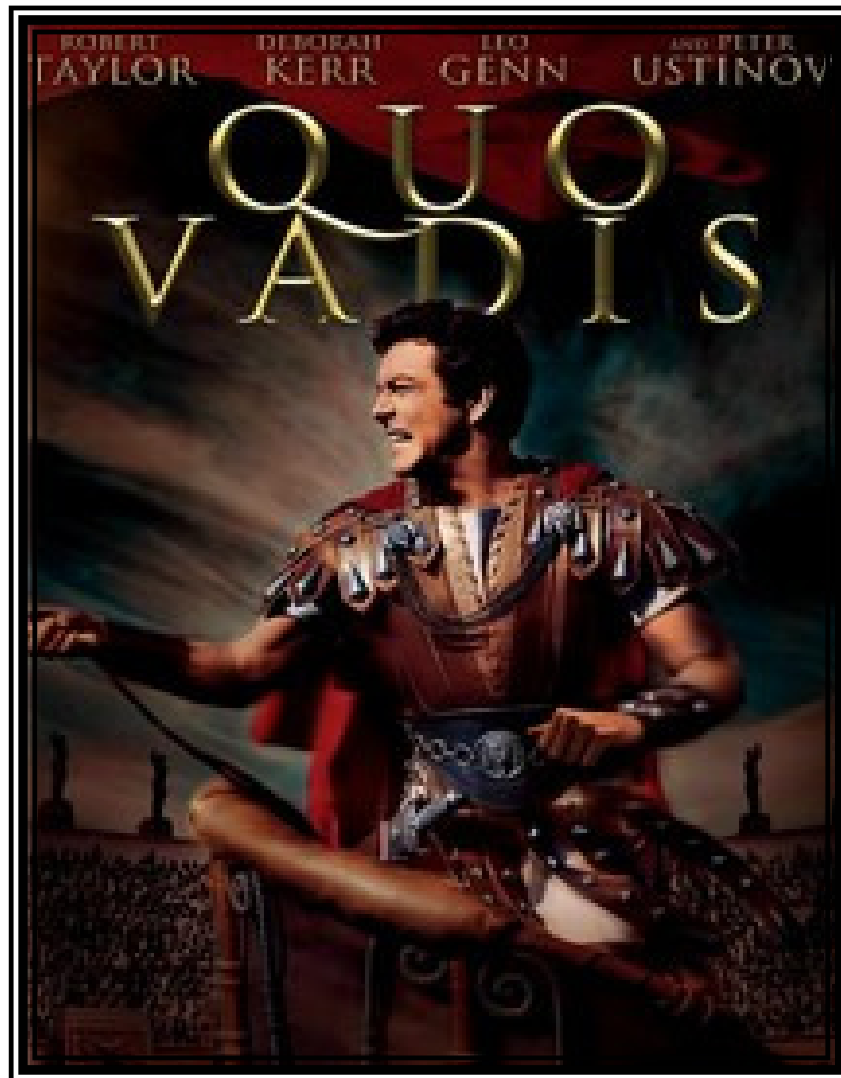
We hope that you will join us for a very moving look at what was a very special night in our Lord's life. Please come share that with us.

Upper Room Tickets

Thursday, April 21, 2011
\$10.00 each

The Ferris Scholarship Committee

Presents:



Come and learn about the life after Jesus' death.

April 9, 2011

1:00pm.

Refreshments

Donation \$12.00

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Kim Rogowski
- 2nd Michele Laroc
- 5th Joyce Pragdat
- 7th Mildred Treadway
- 9th Lorra Dorr
- 17th Dolores Ifill
- 19th Shawn Nelson
Arnold St. Vincent
- 23rd Nydia Lowe
- 24th Mark MacMahon
- 27th Kathleen Roye
Lucia Shockley
- 30th Margaret Hewlett-Minott
George Wojtkiewicz
Courtney Moore



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Charles Patteson
- 3rd Herbert Vaughan
Donald Orisakwe
- 4th Olive Laroc
- 5th Ann Nelson
- 10th Donald Duncan
Gilbert Ricketts
Martha Clemente
- 11th Ivy Moore
- 12th Travers Schloss
- 14th George Hayden
- 15th Meghan Munroe
- 16th Evelyn Turner
- 18th Benjamin Saddler
- 21st Cynthia Lamont-Wint
Elizabeth Krakowski
- 22nd Sonia Williams
- 23rd William Setchel
- 27th Arnold Burke
adison Nero

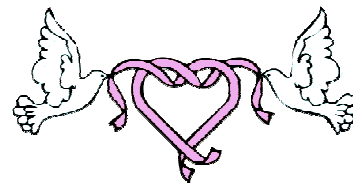
APRIL BAPTISMS

- 1st Michele Laroc
- 2nd Cislyn Burke
- 15th Emmanuel Baptiste
- 17th Richard Zaleski
- 19th Ryan Jones
- 29th Nero Taylor
Madison Taylor
- 30th Lynette Sprosta
Barbara Wojtkiewicz



MAY BAPTISMS

- 1st Jaydon Qualis
- 13th Keisha Harris
Jonathan Turner
- 16th Mildred Treadway
- 19th Pete Sisnett



APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2nd Roger & Marjie-Jean Jackson
- 5th Charles & Castalia Meyers
- 15th Jean & Rosaire Diegue
- 30th Edgar & Phyllis Wilson

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st Christopher & Susan Turner
- 7th Robert & Kim Rogowski
- 10th Michael & Martha Clemente
- 12th Courtney & Ivy Moore
- 13th Joseph & Frances Harris
- 22nd Rupert & Ruby Glen
- 23rd Godfrey & Nancy Baptiste
- 26th Edmund & Lena Matthews
The Very Rev. Cesar & Mireya Olivero

Caterpillars to Butterflies*By: The Rev. Karen R. Binding*

*Is that what you are up to?
 Instead of a coat of paint
 You're gutting the insides
 Changing around rooms
 Adding on wings (butterfly wings?)
 What will become?*

*It's a surprise!
 Serendipity
 An unexpected pleasant turn of events*

*You are everywhere
 In and through me
 I bear you
 In my very core
 You have already
 From the beginning of time
 Gutted the interior
 Renovated
 Rearranged
 Made new
 With new purpose
 New function*

*We ask for food
 Caterpillars need to eat
 Instead you turn us into
 Butterflies
 Serendipity*

*The earth isn't so bad
 To crawl upon
 The earth is warm
 It gives life
 Sure, it's rough in spots
 But it's sure . . .*

*Mind you,
 A butterfly can still walk on the earth
 By choice
 But it can also
 Fly far above it . . .
 I guess I'll take
 Butterfly*

Christian*By: Maya Angelou*

*When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
 I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'"*

*I'm whispering "I was lost,
 Now I'm found and forgiven."*

*When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
 I don't speak of this with pride,
 I'm confessing that I stumble
 And need Christ to be my guide.*

*When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
 I'm not trying to be strong,
 I'm professing that I'm weak
 And need His strength to carry on.*

*When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
 I'm not bragging of success.
 I'm admitting I have failed
 And need God to clean my mess.*

*When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
 I'm not claiming to be perfect,
 My flaws are far too visible
 But, God believes I am worth it.*

*When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
 I still feel the sting of pain.
 I have my share of heartaches
 So I call upon His name.*

*When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
 I'm not holier than thou,
 I'm just a simple sinner
 Who received God's good grace,
 Somehow!*



APRIL 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross	2 3:30pm – Choir Rehearsal
3 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School 5:30pm – Praise & Worship	4	5 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo	6 10:00 am – Healing & H.E. 3:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm – Lenten Program	7 1:00pm – ECW Board 6:30pm - Evangelism	8 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross	9 10:00am – Brotherhood 1:00pm – Ferris Reflections 5:00pm – Choir Rehearsal
10 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School	11	12 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo 7:00pm – F&B	13 10:00 am – Healing & H.E. 3:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm – Lenten Program	14 1:30pm – ECW General 6:30pm -Evangelism	15 1:00pm – ECW Fish Fry 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross	16 3:30pm – Choir Rehearsal
17 PALM SUNDAY 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School	18 HOLY WEEK 7:30am – Morning Prayer 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross	19 HOLY WEEK 7:30am – Morning Prayer 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross	20 HOLY WEEK 7:30am – Morning Prayer 10:00am – Healing & H.E. 3:00pm - Confirmation 5:30pm – Lenten Program 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross	21 HOLY WEEK MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30am – Morning Prayer 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross 6:00pm – H.E.with Feet washing 7:00pm – Upper Room Meal	22 HOLY WEEK GOOD FRIDAY 7:30am – Morning Prayer 12 NOON – Service 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross OFFICE CLOSED	23 HOLY WEEK 7:30am – Morning Prayer 1:00pm – Ferris Reflections Program 3:30pm – Choir 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross Rehearsal
24 EASTER Sunrise Service 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo 4:00pm – Healing Ministry	27 10:00am – Healing & H.E.	28 6:30pm - Evangelism	29	30 11:00am – Diocesan Confirmation Cathedral 3:30pm – Choir Rehearsal



MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School Multi-cultural Nurses 5:30pm – Praise & Worship	2	3 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo	4 10:00 am – Healing & H.E.	5 1:00pm – ECW Board 6:30pm - Evangelism	6	7 9:00am – Diocesan Vestry Retreat 3:30pm – Choir Rehearsal Set-up Mother's Day Dinner
8 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School 3:00pm – Mother's Day Dinner	9	10 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo 7:00pm – F&B	11 10:00 am – Healing & H.E. 3:00pm – Study of Luke	12 6:30pm - Evangelism	13	14 10:00am – Brotherhood 3:30pm – Choir Rehearsal
15 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School	16	17 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo	18 10:00 am – Healing & H.E. 3:00pm – Study of Luke	19 1:30pm – ECW General 6:30pm - Evangelism	20 1:00pm – ECW Fish Fry 5:30pm – Stations of the Cross	21 3:30pm – Choir Rehearsal
22 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School ECW LOVE OFFERING	23	24 10:00am – Vestry 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo 4:00pm – Healing Ministry	25 10:00am – Healing & H.E. 3:00pm – Study of Luke	26 6:30pm - Evangelism	27	28 3:30pm – Choir Rehearsal
29 8:00am - H.E. 10:30am - H.E. 11:00am – Sunday School	30 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	31 2:00 & 7:00pm – Cursillo				

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT

*St. James Episcopal/Anglican Church is a Eucharistic,
multi-cultural body of faith, telling God's story
and sharing God's Love.*

The Very Rev. Cesar Olivero, Rector
Pamela Schmidt, Administrative Assistant
William A. Setchel, Jr., Bookkeeper

ST. JAMES VESTRY MEMBERS and their term expiration dates:

Senior Warden: Ann Scotten (2012)

Treasurer: Frances Harris (2011)

Enid Farquharson (2013)

Elizabeth Krakowski (2012)

Benjamin Saddler (2013)

Barbara Wojtkiewicz (2014)

Junior Warden: Clarence Stephenson (2014)

Clerk: Pamela Schmidt (2011)

Kathleen Hudson (2013)

Charles Meyers (2012)

Leaford Sewell (2013)

The *Beacon* of Saint James Episcopal Church

St. James Episcopal Church
1365 Viscaya Drive
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Tel. (941) 627-4000 - Fax: (941) 625-4199
e-mail: stjames9@earthlink.net
website: www.stjamespcf.org
Rector: The Rev. Cesar Olivero

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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GOD'S BLESSINGS SENT TO: