

# MESSENGER

Volume 8, Number 2

February 2014

## A Word From Council President

As I sit down to write this, I realize how fast January has passed us by AND what a busy month it has been! It seems that I was just writing a letter for the January newsletter..! I hope that each of you had a GREAT start to 2014 and that you are still working on your resolutions!

We have just experienced a, somewhat major, winter weather event. It was predicted, but arrived late, a disruption for most of our schedules, a treat for the kids, a hardship for some, a day off for many, a thing of beauty, but a safety concern as well. It caused schools and businesses to close or change schedules; it delayed traffic in many areas, stranded some in other areas, caused wrecks and disabled vehicles, and for many caused much chaos. We have NO control of the weather, but it obviously can “control” us, affect our lives, and our reactions to it, in many ways.

The month of January was like that for St. James in many ways. We knew our Pastors were leaving, and that change would take place, and we would have to adapt. We planned for it and tried to get ready, but none of us really knew how January would go, issues that would arise, and challenges that we would face. We have been blessed with some great Supply Pastors, and their messages! We have had many folks step up, take charge, volunteer, and help out. We have tried to carry on as best we could. We had a successful Lutheridge Retreat (enjoyed by many). We had cold weather issues, pipes to burst, water to clean up, doors to repair, bulletins and newsletters to get out, choir practices, hand bell practices, a Synod Stewardship Workshop, men’s and women’s meetings, Youth and Confirmation meetings, Food Pantry work, Committee and Council meetings, and more meetings, etc. etc.. and many more activities that make us the Church. I thank all of you for the support, cooperation, and effort that it takes to do the work of the Church at St. James and for your continued support and prayers for our work together.

I am Thankful for our 2014 Council and the work done to find an Interim Pastor for St. James. We have signed a contract with Pastor Steve Plonk. His first Messenger article is included here. The Council meeting with the Bishop went very well on January 14<sup>th</sup>. He and his staff will be working with us as we work toward the Calling of our next long term Pastor. As part of our last Council Meeting, Gwen Freeman provided devotions using a Prayer of Thomas Merton:

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so...But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And, I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it...Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen...May this be so for all of us!*

Go Share God’s Peace! Make Christ Known!

Robert Sharpe, President

Greetings,

My name is Steve Plonk. Let me say first off, that I am pleased to enter into the life of St. James Lutheran Congregation as Interim Pastor. I look forward to seeing you in worship and meeting with you in other settings as the weeks pass. I offer this brief biography as introduction, knowing we will get to know each other better over the coming months. I'll get St. James' email and phone #'s soon enough. In the meantime, feel free to email me, [gplonk@bellsouth.net](mailto:gplonk@bellsouth.net) or call my cell phone, 843-509-0438.

Though I spent the last 18 months in Atlanta, GA as Interim at St. John's Lutheran, most of my ministry has been in the SC Synod. I have served three congregations full-time for a total of twenty-six years and have served three congregations as Interim Pastor for a total of four years. In addition to that I worked about five years as a Hospice Chaplain and Licensed Professional counselor with Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas.

I grew up on a family farm in Kings Mountain, NC, one of six children with siblings now living in North and South Carolina and Florida. My youngest brother still lives on the family farm and our 90 year-old mom lives in nearby Gastonia in an Assisted Living Community.

I attended Lenoir-Rhyne College and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in the 1970s; and added a Masters in Counseling at Clemson in the early 1990's. Of late I have spent my continuing education time learning about Jungian Dream Work and dreams as a way God communicates with us. I've also been trained as a Healthy Congregations Workshop Leader and have led workshops in SC on two occasions.

I am the proud Dad of three grown children, Stephanie, Sam and Will. 36 year-old Stephanie is single and teaches pre-school in NC. 33 year-old Sam is married to Elena Ortega and helps run the Student Athlete Tutorial Program at Clemson University. 25 year-old Will is married to Mallie Settle and works in ministry at Grace Community Church in Greenville, SC.

I am divorced from the mother of our three children. Karen and I made that decision in 2011 after four years of couple and individual counseling. About this chapter in my life I admit to occasions of sadness, which point to the brokenness that is part of human life. Karen and I continue to see each other at holiday and other family events. We continue to respect and care for each other even as we acknowledge our marriage together was no longer life giving or renewing. In addition to occasional sadness, there is relief and ongoing recovery from that loss, which is thankfully part of human life also.

Our first grandchild, Nathan, was born to Sam and Elena in July 2012. Anything you've ever heard about Grandparents being SMITTEN by the grandkids is tee-totally true about me. Those close to me say 'I light up' when I'm with Nathan, in a way that's 'just different'.

In the coming days I'll be spending time getting my office set up, learning how things operate here at St James and moving my earthly possessions from Atlanta. After I get settled in I'll post office hours, schedule visits with congregational leaders and start making visits to shut-ins.

On my days off I'll be travelling up I-26 or Highway 321 to see my three kids, my 90 year old mom and my siblings in Clemson, Greenville, and Rock Hill, SC; Kings Mountain and Gastonia, NC. I'll also be spending a fair amount of time with Susan Thisell, a 55 year old woman I am dating. She is a second career seminarian, currently serving her internship in Breath of Life Lutheran Church, Blythewood, SC. I look forward to sharing news with all my loved ones that I am starting a new chapter of life with you, here in Lexington, SC.

Blessings, children of God, in all the places where you live, work, and play.

Joy and Peace,

Pastor Steve

## All Committee Night

Our next All Committee Night will be on **Sunday, February 9** at **7PM**, beginning in the sanctuary.

## Council Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 16** at **7PM**.

## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will continue to meet in the Bible Max room on **Sundays, January 5 and 19**, at **9:15 AM**.

## WELCA

All Women are invited to attend our WELCA meeting on **Tuesday, February 18**, at **7PM**. All ladies of St. James are invited to come and make WELCA a part of 2014.

## Guardian Angels

This month, Guardian Angels will meet on **Sunday, February 23** at **5:00PM**. Don't forget the prayer box is located in the back of our sanctuary, if you would like to leave prayer requests for yourself or a loved one.

## OWLs Monthly Luncheon

Our next OWLs luncheon will be at **noon** on **Thursday, February 20**. We will meet at Lizard's Thicket on highway 1 at Kittiwake Drive in Lexington. All are welcome to join us for good food and fellowship.



## Lutheran Men in Mission

Lutheran Men in Mission will hold their monthly meeting on **Monday, February 17** at **6:30 PM**. All men are welcome to come!



## Confirmation

Confirmation will meet again as scheduled on **Sundays, February 2** and **16**, at **3:00PM**.

## Youth Group

The St. James Youth Group will continue to meet at 5PM on the same days as Confirmation is scheduled. Join us again on **February 2** and **16** and bring a friend!



## Volunteers Needed

Sign up today and use your gifts to help in various areas of the church. We have a need for Lay Readers, Communion Assistants and Nursery Attendants. We also have dates left for Altar Flowers, so take a moment and sign up for one Sunday. Or two!

## Council Notes

- The Council met on January 19 to organize for 2014, electing officers and selecting committee representatives.

President: Robert Sharpe

Vice President: Byron Roberts

Secretary: Lunette Roland Davis

Treasurer: Sharon Duke

Financial Secretary: Jeff Hibbs

### Committee Reps:

Cemetery: Byron Roberts

Christian Education: Jim Maurer and Gwen Freeman

Evangelism: Lunette Davis

Family Life: Byron Roberts

Finance: Kevin Turner

Personnel: Carin Seward

Property: Dwight Backman

Social Ministry: Carolyn Steele

Stewardship: Mike Crumpton

Worship and Music: Rebecca Koch and Gwen Freeman

Youth Ministry: Jim Poindexter

### Action Items:

- Confirmed date for "Congregational Event" with the Bishop and Staff for Sunday, April 27
- Confirmed attendees for Synod Workshop (1/25), Ventures in Growing Stewards: Cheryl Austin, Mike Crumpton, Larry Kyzer, and John Harmon
- Approved request by Financial Task Force to draft a proposal to establish a Mission Endowment Fund (to develop a plan, procedure, and governing board to promote and facilitate Endowments and their use) for St. James . Also approved establishing a Church History Committee for gathering, safe guarding our "history" and preparing for our 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2015
- Approved proposal by Worship and Music to have committee approve requests for use of Sanctuary
- Also, discussed upcoming Synod Assembly (May 29-31) and possible delegates; discussed selection of Interim Pastor for St. James; and THANKED Debbie Kyzer for her years of dedicated, faithful service as Treasurer of St. James.

## February Birthdays

**02/04**

Lynette Steele

**02/05**

Gene Joyner

**02/06**

Zoey Standridge

**02/08**

Gwen Freeman

John Spanko

**02/11**

Hembree Poindexter

Madison Poindexter

**02/13**

Retha Slice

**02/16**

Pauline Avent

**02/22**

Dee Franklin

**02/23**

Debbie Kyzer

**02/25**

Brenda Poplin

**02/26**

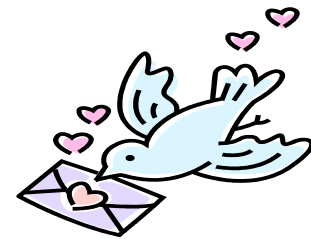
Cheryl Austin

Paul Pilkington

**02/28**

Joyce Zeigler

## Notes of Thanks and Hope



## Thank You

Dear Congregation of St. James,

As a recipient of the Rev. William Kyzer Scholarship, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude at the reception of your kind generosity. Funding this scholarship makes my seminary education possible and in its own way, equips me for a life in public ministry. I give thanks to God every day for your prayers and support. I fervently hope that the witness of your stewardship catches fire across the Church.

In Christ's Place,

Edwin Weber

Dear Friends,

The Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation receives and administers all gifts to the various ministries of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina. Please know how grateful we are for your gift, which will be directed as you have designated.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those we serve at the Heritage at Lowman. Your partnership is vital to achieving our mission of enhancing the well-being of the older adults we serve.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Robert G. Coon, President



## **We Pray for Our Members, Friends and Family:**

Gina Amick - Niece of Russell Taylor  
 Courtney Cagle - Granddaughter of D. Pounds  
 Darren Corley - Cousin of Randy Summers  
 Richard Culliver - Student of Mot Caulder  
 Clarence Davis - Father of Jason Davis  
 LB Davis, Jr. - Friend of G & L Steele  
 Woody Davis - Father of Tim Davis  
 Randy Dickerson - Friend of D & M Hines  
 Katie Dunn - Friend of Lunette Davis  
 Donna Florence - Mother of Megan Joyner  
 Ralph Frazier - Brother of Bobby Frazier  
 Jean Gould - Sister in Law of Hank Poplin  
 Mildred Gunter - Cousin of Anna Ree Roland  
 Virginia Hall - Church Member  
 Vera Havird - Aunt of Miranda West  
 Freida Hibbs - Mother of Jeff Hibbs  
 Lanell Hicks - Mother of Miranda West  
 Billy James - Relative of Virginia Hall  
 Rick Kyzer - Son of Richard Kyzer  
 Roger Lindler - Brother of Mendel Lindler  
 Mary Margaret Lytle—Sister of Rosemary Davis  
 Judy McGee - Sister of Miranda West  
 David McMichael - Cousin of A R Roland

Cindy Miller - Friend of Tina Poindexter  
 Dan Monts - Friend of Mot Caulder  
 Norma Moore - Church Member  
 Paul Pilkington - Church Member  
 Colby Poplin - Nephew of Hank Poplin  
 Dollie Pounds - Church Member  
 Frankie Pounds - Grandson of Dollie Pounds  
 Jerry Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds  
 Randy Pounds - Son of Dollie Pounds  
 Janice Satterfield - Wife of J Miller's Nephew  
 Maria Sampson - Daughter of H.O. & D Sharpe  
 Rachel Sandy - Friend of Kayte Backman  
 Fred Sharpe - Friend of Danny & Cheryl Austin  
 Sandra Shealy - Friend of George & Lynette Steele  
 Johnny Starnes - Brother of Anna Ree Roland  
 Jerry Steele - Brother of George Steele  
 Herbert Stockman - Father of S. Hollis & L. Long  
 Frank Taylor - Church Member  
 Mary Jane West - Mother of Eric West  
 Emily Whitten - Mother of Lynn Sloan  
 Tina Wilson - Granddaughter of Eunice Backman

### **Our Military Workers:**

Michael Anderson - Friend of St. James  
 Dwight Barrs - Grandson Eunice Backman  
 Ryan Caulder - Son of Mot Caulder  
 Brandon Harmon - Cousin of Mike Long

### **Our Shut-ins:**

Mollie Harrison  
 Jerry Hutto  
 Roberta Pound  
 Anna Ree Roland  
 Kathleen Smith

## Worship Assistants

**Acolytes 10:30AM**

February 2 - Emily Enlow

February 9 - Emerson Hibbs

February 16 - Callie Poplin

February 23 - Casey Roberts

### Altar Guild

February - Jan Sharpe

### Lay Readers

February 2 - Brenda Poplin

February 9 - Rebecca Koch

February 16 - Jim Maurer

February 23 - Jim Poindexter

### Ushers

Thom Backman

Gerry Jeffords

Ronnie Shealy

Joel Tyson

### Sound System

Jan Sharpe

### Tellers

Dwight Backman

Gwen Freeman

# FEBRUARY 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9AM - Sat. Sisters

2 8AM - Holy Communion

3

4

5

6

7

8

9:15 AM - Sunday School

9AM - Home School

7PM - Choir

9:15 AM - Womens Bible Study

6PM - Girl Scouts

10:30AM - Holy Communion

3PM - Confirmation

5PM - Youth

9 8AM - Holy Communion

10

11

12

13

14

15

9:15AM - Sunday School

9AM - Home School

7PM - Choir

10:30AM - Holy Communion

6PM - Girl Scouts

6:00 PM - Handbells

16 8AM - Holy Communion

17

18

19

20

21

22

9:15AM - Sunday School

6:30 PM - LMM

2PM - Harvest Hope

7PM - Choir

12:00PM - OWLS

9:15 AM - Women's Bible Study

6PM - Girl Scouts

Luncheon

10:30AM - Holy Communion

3PM - Confirmation

7PM - WELCA

5PM - Youth

6:00PM - Handbells

23 8AM - Holy Communion

24

25

26

27

28

9:15AM - Sunday School

9AM - Home School

7PM - Choir

10:30AM - Holy Communion

5PM - Guardian Angels

6PM - Girl Scouts

6:00 PM - Handbells

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

P-A-I-D

## St. James Lutheran Church

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Lexington, SC 29073

(803)359-2122

[office@stjameslex.com](mailto:office@stjameslex.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.stjameslex.com](http://www.stjameslex.com)

### Church Staff

Pastors: Rev. Andrea Rice  
Rev. Nathan Rice

Worship Service: 8:00 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Worship Service: 10:30 AM

### Office Hours

Monday–Thursday

9:00 AM—2:00 PM



**St. James**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**