

The Messenger...July, 2017

*A publication of St. James on the Lake Episcopal Church
in Covenant with the Anglican Communion*

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FR. MELTON'S MUSINGS...

Linda asked me to send something for the July newsletter, which I'm happy to do. Normally I reflect deeply and write something very thoughtful for this space, but time is chaotic right now, and this is written kind of on the run.

Before I go any further, let me get one question out of the way that is always asked whenever a new priest arrives: "What do you want us to call you?" Quick answer: Either Fr. Melton or Fr. Randy, whichever you are more comfortable with. "Father" is a relational title, not a hierarchical one. It denotes my role in the parish family by God's call, a role of care, love, nurture, feeding and teaching.

We are leaving at 9 AM tomorrow (Monday, June 26) to head to Dallas where we will spend a day or so with Karen's dad, and then join y'all for Evening Prayer and "Meet 'n Greet" on Wednesday, June 28. My first Sunday will be July 2, when there will be another opportunity to do more of the same after we worship together. I'd like to gather informally after church, but may also gather for a bit of Q&A as well.

Thanks so much to Phil and Paul for coming all the way down to Gonzales to load up my books, shelves and file cabinets to take back to St. James, and thanks to all of you who helped unload and move all that stuff into the library and my office. We so enjoyed the wonderful dinner we shared afterwards at Hector's. We then joined y'all again (with about 10 more new faces) at the Mabank Cafe on Friday! Many thanks to Patsy Miller who has been such a wonderfully gracious hostess, offering us a beautiful place to stay until we get our housing situation settled.

Finally, just let me say how excited Karen and I are to be coming to St. James! It's been a bit chaotic on this end with the housing issue, but that hasn't dampened our enthusiasm. We have been so moved by the many stories of personal faith shared with us by so many of you, and the moving narratives of the lives that have been changed through the prison ministry in which so many of y'all participate. Lots of you have reached out to us, personally, demonstrating a true spirit of care that has meant a great deal to us in this time of transition.

Your hospitality reminds me of the gospel lesson for July 2nd where Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me." Your gift of welcoming is overwhelming! We are fed with the food of grace from the hands of your hearts! See you at Evening Prayer on Wednesday!

Fr. Randy+

LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY ...

- 2nd 4th of July Celebration @ the Church @ 6:00pm
4th Independence Day – Happy Birthday America!
9th Daughters of the King @ 4:30pm
Praise and Worship @ 6:00pm
Kiddos leave for Camp All Saints and Camp Crucis
26th Evening Prayer and Parish Dinner @ 6:00pm. (Meet and greet with Fr. Melton and Karen!)

Our kiddos are going to camp this summer. (‘Thanks to some generous donors. ♡)

Hannah goes to All Saints on July 9-15.

Here is the address to drop her a brief note or card to wish her well and let her know we’re thinking of her.

Hanna Gowan
Senior High, Session 4
Camp All Saints
418 Stanton Way,
Pottsboro, TX 75076

Maggie, Hannah and Briley go to Camp Crucis July 9-14

Here is the address to let the girls know we’re thinking of them and hoping they have a good time!

Maggie Williams and/or Hannah Gowan and/or Briley Dill (they’re all in the same cabin)
Confetti 1, K - 5th
Camp Crucis
2875 Camp Crucis Ct.
Granbury, TX 76048

Remember to send your letters a few days before they leave so the girls will get them.

ONGOING EVENTS...

- Men’s Reunion Group – Every Tuesday @ 7:00 am
- Women’s Reunion Groups – 1st and 3rd Tuesday/month @ 9:00 am and 5:00 pm
- Prayer Group – Every Tuesday @ 4:00 pm
- Men’s Bible Study – 2nd and 4th Monday/month @ 6:30 pm
- Men’s Bible Study – Thursday @ 6:00 pm **WILL BE ON HIATUS FOR THE SUMMER**
- Evening Prayer and Parish Dinner – last Wednesday/month @ 6:00 pm
- Daughters of the King – 2nd Sunday/month @ 4:30 pm
- Praise and Worship – 2nd Sunday/month @ 6:00 pm

LOOKING UP

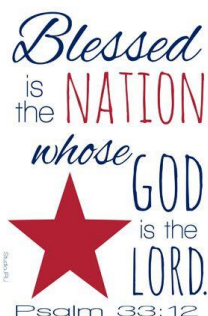
REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES JULY...

Remember, it will be up to you to get a replacement if you cannot fulfill your obligation.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Crucifer</i>	<i>Lesson Reader</i>	<i>Chalice</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>Fred</i>
2	Hortons	DeLois Claire	Gary	Bill	Kelly <i>Psalm 13; Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42</i>	Sharon Bill	SusanD Patsy RitaF	Young kids: Gail Older kids: Bob	Phil
9	Delois Rose Mary	LindaS Kelly	Tissy	Phil	Bari <i>Psalm 45:11-18; Genesis 24:34-38; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30, 42-49, 58-67</i>	Bill Gail	RitaD Bari Claire	Young kids: Kelley Older kids: In church	CarolM
16	Shehees	LindaS Kelly	CarolM	Paul	Annette <i>Psalm 119-105-112; Genesis 25:19-34; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</i>	Gail Paul	Nancy Marilyn Shirley	Young kids: Martha Older kids: Linda	Gary
23	Boughtons	RtaF CarolM	Phil	Terry	Deanna <i>Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23; Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</i>	Sharon Paul	Sharon Marian Judy	Young kids: Sharon Older kids: In church	Vicki
30	Dahlmans	RitaF CarolM	Kelly	DeLois	Bob <i>Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Genesis 29:15-28; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</i>	Bill Gail	Sunny Kitty Meridel	Young kids: LindaS Older kids: Bob	Paul



LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

JULY BIRTHDAYS...

4	Bruce Mayo	14	Lonnie Striplin
6	Ann Cavan	17	Richetta Gowan
7	Vicki Vieux		Shirley Green
9	Mary Lynn Loomis	20	Debbie DeRosa
	Harold Weems	25	Bari Hart
10	Bonnie Dill	26	Dot Irwin
13	Carroll Morriss	30	Ess Brimer

JULY ANNIVERSARIES...

7	Dewey & Erin Haley
30	Paul & Sunny Lasiter

JULY MEMORIALS...

1	Arthur J. Miller	17	Khedron Reeves
2	Art Langeloh		Jack Huffman
5	Dorise Benthall	18	Edgar Fyke
7	Babe Waldrep	25	Henry Richardson
	Dot Cavan	26	Bill Irion
8	Beverly Adams	28	H.J. Cavan

Persecution of
Christians is a global
problem: Franklin ... -
USA Today

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/.../christian-persecution.../101279550/>

May 7, 2017 - You'd be surprised where **Christians** have trouble practicing their faith.

Prisoner Alert -
Persecution
Worldwide

https://www.prisoneralert.com/vompw_persecution.htm

In more than 40 nations around the world **today** **Christians** are being **persecuted** for their faith. In some of these nations it is illegal to own a Bible, to share your ...

The Voice of the
Martyrs

<https://www.persecution.com/>

A non-profit, interdenominational organization with a vision for aiding **Christians** around the world who are being persecuted

A Google search made on June 27, 2017 shows over 3 million search results for "Christian Persecution Today". Thank you, Lord, that we live in a country where we don't suffer as these brothers and sisters do; a country that protects our freedom of belief.

