

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.  
James 1:27 (ESV)*

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*Enter to Worship  
Depart to Serve  
Together*

Dear Fellow Recipients of God's Grace,

There is an epidemic. I am not talking about the Ebola virus or some other sickness plaguing our world. I am talking about an epidemic of even more significant proportions! Hard to believe? Well, believe it! I was reminded afresh of it this week...

My wife worked a long day this past Wednesday. I have the privilege of taking our kids to school on her long days. This particular day began not unlike many others. The alarm went off, and I woke the kids up. After telling them to get ready for school and what time we needed to leave, I began to get myself ready. That's when the whole morning went awry. While I was shut away preparing to leave, I heard the start of the dissension. "I can't do this!" "You got the wrong clothes out!" "This won't work!" "I am too tired..." Like a good pastor, I quoted Scripture to the kids, and we all went calmly on our merry little way into our perfect pastoral family day. Or not.

Instead, I got irritated and yelled at the kids, telling them just to do what I told them to do "because I said so." The louder the complaints, the louder I "instructed" (see: screamed). In the car on the way to school, I explained the reasoning for their need to listen, obey, and do what needs to be done, as they are told by their parents. As I explained these things, the conviction of the Lord came heavily upon me. Not for telling the kids what needed to be done, or chastising them for arguing. For my lack of grace. For my lack of patience. For yelling back at them like a junior high kid. For my own sin in how I addressed theirs. For my own violation of God's good Law. You see, there is a wrong way to do the right thing. Under conviction of the Holy Spirit, I confessed my own wrong to the kids, still letting them know of their misdeeds, but with a much greater measure of grace as I felt the sting of my own depravity before our holy God.

We had prayer together (though I am sure none of us really felt like praying), and I dropped everyone off to school. I had been invited to a chapel service for a local organization, so I speedily headed that direction before going to the office. With my heart still very heavy with the knowledge once again that I am much worse than I would like to think, I was hoping for a message from God's Word that Christ Jesus and His grace are much better than I can even imagine. What I received, however, was not that kind of message. Man-centered "worship" songs. "I love you, God!" Touchy-feely "me, me, me" centered singing. Not much of anything about the holiness of God or the greatness of His mercy. Then a man stepped to the center of the stage with a Bible. "Maybe, just maybe," I thought, "he will remind me of God's gracious forgiveness for my sin." Not so much. Do more. Be better. Try harder. Then, maybe, just maybe, you will please God. I could feel the air go out of my tires. The breath from lungs. The sense of hope from my soul. I left that chapel "service" wondering who they were serving. Why did I go? I left feeling worse and more hopeless about my sin than when I got there. I was rightly reminded of my sin, but I was wrongly left without a solution for it.

There is an epidemic. Many churches, pastors, and Christians are so scared that people might hear the unadulterated grace of God and go buck wild, that they won't preach the whole, real Gospel. You and I are sinners, and we stink. Depraved. Self-centered. Baby-fied. Yelling at our kids. No good, dirty, rotten scoundrels. Preach that. Preach it heavy and hard. Hear that. Feel the pain of the enmity of your natural man with a holy and righteous God. BUT— do not leave people stuck in that awful pit! Do not try to convince me that I can be "Dad of the Year" if I just try a little harder, turn my frown upside-down, and work at my justification just a little more! The Apostle Paul had a word for such a concept. DUNG. He wrote to the Philippian church in chapter 3, verses 8-11, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Anything and everything that I do to please God on my own is as good as DUNG. Strong words. Even stronger TRUTH.

You and I need to be reminded that we cannot do anything on our own to turn it around. This is not a hopeless message, but the message with the greatest amount of hope. We do not have to beat our heads against the wall trying to do what we cannot do! Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God, has already done it! He laid His life down upon a cross because of my sin. Because I yelled at my kids when I should have been patient. Because my kids argued about getting ready for school. Because you messed up again. Because you fell off

the wagon after promising you wouldn't. Because of your brokenness over that son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter. Because of your divorce, abortion, terrible decision. When I place my faith and trust in Jesus, His righteousness becomes my righteousness. His goodness becomes mine. He places His favor upon me. Why? Because He darn well pleases. That is Good News. News worthy of a different kind of epidemic. An epidemic of grace. Of mercy. An epidemic that graciously brings about a different kind of obedience. An obedience not by the "letter of the Law, but by a new way of living in the Spirit." (Romans 7: 6; See the rest of Philippians 3!) An epidemic of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, as found in His Word. Anything else is counterfeit. Anything else is just a pile of dung. Don't settle for dung. Jesus made a way so you don't have to...

Glad of God's Grace,

## Communication Reminder

There are mail slots located in the communication area for the Office, Pastor, and other church staff and officers. If you have items to give to them, please use these slots, and allow Sunday mornings to be reserved for worship. The slots are checked regularly, and will ensure that items are delivered to the proper place. Thank you!

**July Newsletter Deadline: Friday, June 19**

### June Birthdays

- 7 Dennis Kraha
- 9 Jerry Cottner, Kathy Gritton
- 12 Newell Graves
- 13 Diana Thrasher, Matt Michel  
Patricia Schneider
- 15 Tommy Powers
- 19 Rick Badger
- 20 Harriett Korfhage
- 25 Matthew Gunion, Ruth Seadler
- 29 Garret Braun, Tom Hartwein

### June Anniversaries

- 1 James & Anita Rickert
- 2 Jerry & Carol Cottner  
John & Goldeen Cottner
- 3 Lisa and Josh Myers
- 4 Traci Rice
- 7 Ryan and Natalie Johnson
- 15 Rose Gonterman
- 20 Scott and Lahoma Prather
- 25 Patricia and Robert Schneider
- 30 Richard and Deloris Prather

### Boy Scouts

Troop 2 would like to thank St. James allowing us to park cars for Oaks and Derby Star Scout Justin Garrett, and 2nd Class Roy Riviera will be attending National Youth Leadership Training June 7-12.

**Scout Meetings:** Tuesday night, Church basement

**Pack:** 7-8 PM; **Troop:** 7-8:30 PM

**Committee Chair:** Allen Garrett (502) 494-0946

### Confirmation Meeting

There will be a brief Confirmation meeting for participants and their parents after church on Sunday, June 7. Please plan to stay if you have a child who is entering eight grade or up. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jeff.

### Prayer and Praises

#### **CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS**

- Paul Wright
- Russell Thompson
- John Cottner
- Michael Ann Kappesser
- Katie & the Buchanan Family
- Beloved SJC Golden Members
- Our widows

#### **EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY**

- Amy Owens, Bob Buchanan's sister

#### **MISSION & COMMUNITY**

- Our Military: The Badger Family
- Bob, Norman, & the Pancake Ministry Workers
- Vincent & Lauren Kuo – Missionaries
- The persecuted church around the globe
- The LORD sends workers for His harvest
- Those apart from Christ, the poor, and hurting in our neighborhood
- Evangelical Association

#### **OUR LEADERS**

- Our Pastor, Church Staff and council members
- The President, National and Local Political Leaders

#### **PRAISES**

- Our new members
- The faithfulness of God
- The movement of the Holy Spirit
- The work of the Lord at St. James Church

### Van Ministry

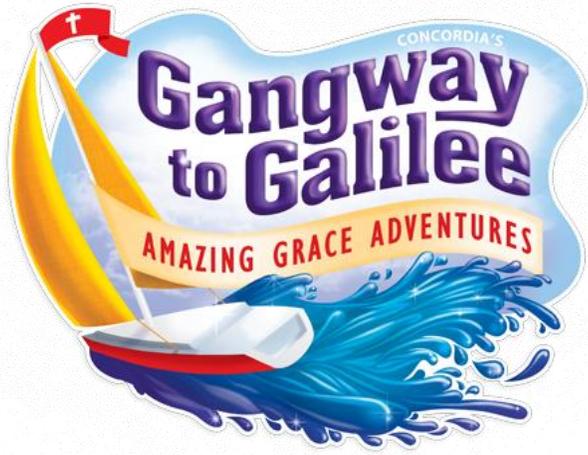
Need a ride to church on Sunday morning? Call 359-5510 and leave a message with your name and phone number, and we will call you back and work out the pick-up details. Please try to leave the message earlier in the week, any time prior to Sunday. This will allow us time to plan the route and pickup times.

Thank you, Bobby Buchanan

### Ushers for June

Scott Badger, Ron Badger, Jerry Cottner,  
Norman Hampton  
**Communion Sunday: John Cottner**

# Vacation Bible School



## **Training Meeting:**

Sunday, June 14, after worship

## **VBS Prep Day:**

Wednesday, June 24, 4PM—finish

## **Carnival & Registration Blitz:**

Friday, June 26, 6 PM

## **All-Day VBS:**

Saturday, June 27

## **Closing Ceremony:**

## Church Council News

From Mark Hampton, Church Council President

It is hard to believe that this year is almost half over. One thing that is not half over is the dedication to ministry that continues to be displayed in the lives of the people here at St. James. As we began this year we knew we would be facing several challenges. But through prayer for wisdom and seeking God's will we have seen and continue to see the Spirit of the living God move among us. All praise and glory to God for the blessings He continues to give us. Praise God for His Spirit calling our newest members and for working in the lives of people to respond to the Gospel.

As we move into the second half of the year here are some items that the congregation needs to be aware of.

- We will be having a mid-year congregational update meeting a couple of weeks later than we usually do. The tentative date is Sunday, July 12. The later date is to accommodate business items that the Council is working on and will require a vote by the congregation to proceed. The business items that will likely come before the congregation in July are:
  - \*The installation of locks and panic hardware on various stairwell doors to increase the ability to secure the build and limit access to various areas of the building when events are being held in the fellowship hall.
  - \*Electrical service updates in the kitchen.
- Our finances continue to be in order and our operating balance continues to remain healthy. The members of St. James continue to demonstrate that they are giving people who understand that bringing their tithes and offerings to God is an act of worship. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Should you have any questions regarding our finances please feel free to contact our treasurer, Kevin Prather.
- A rewarding second half of the year is planned for Christian Education. Please be sure to read your monthly calendar to ensure you are aware of upcoming events such as VBS (Vacation Bible School) and when Confirmation study is set to begin. And by way of introduction, you will begin to hear the name "Bible Groups" used in the place of ECL (Education for Christian Living) or Sunday School. The move to Bible Groups is intended to place the emphasis on the primary purpose for the group's gathering, studying the Bible. It is also a name that is easy to understand by those who may be new to the church. Language and name changes can take some getting used to but we believe that Bible Groups provides the proper emphasis and clarity for our visitors, friends and members. So let's help each other adopt this renewed focus on God's word.
- Recent "fruit" from the Pancake Breakfast ministry has led to the need to revive our Sunday morning van/transportation ministry. Bobby will be heading up this effort so anyone interested in how you can help please reach out to Bobby.
- And speaking of Pancakes...to each of you who have committed yourselves to this ministry words of thanks cannot express how fortunate we are at St. James to have people in our midst who know that the God of the Bible still is ready to move in a mighty way to reach people with the Gospel. To all who are serving in this ministry thank you for allowing yourself to be used by the Holy Spirit.
- As noted in other announcements the Music Minister search team is engaged in conversation with a candidate. We continue to seek God's wisdom in this process and that He will make His will known to the candidate and the search team.
- There will be some painting and window repairs taking place in the near future. Some of the sanctuary windows need painting (a few were painted last year) and most of the windows in the Music Ministry areas need attention. As part of the painting and repair an option to replace the existing storm windows on the Music Ministry portion of the building (the end nearest Hathaway and MBS).

As always, on behalf of the Council, thanks to each and every person who does his or her part to ensure our building, lawn, and ministries are not merely maintained but operate and present themselves as a service to the Lord. In Colossians 3: 23 & 24 Paul writes, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

To God be the Glory great things He has promised, great things He has done, and great things He will do!

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another”  
Proverbs 27:17

All gentleman of St. James Church, we are starting an “Iron Sharpens Iron” men’s group. We plan to meet one evening each month. Our first meeting will be Monday, July 13, at 7:00 pm in the church office conference room. Each of our men will receive a personal invitation and simple explanation about why we are forming this group.

## Community Pancake Brunch

Every Saturday at 11:00 am

Our FREE pancake breakfast for the community continues each Saturday. They are being fed not only physically, but spiritually. Please join us as we have the opportunity to meet some of our neighbors!



## Member Care Committee

The current members of our Member Care Committee are Diana Thrasher, Katherine Potts, Marilyn Hill, and Sheila Badger. If you would like to serve on this committee, please let one of us know. We assist Pastor Jeff as requested in reaching out to our church family when there is an illness or other need. If one of our church family needs to be picked up and brought to church, taken to the doctor, or some other need, a phone call is all it takes and we will strive to make sure it happens.

Recently four chairs were purchased to replace a pew for our Golden Members. We want to make coming to St. James possible for our members who need added comfort. Diana and Katherine are wonderful at sending birthday and anniversary cards. We keep our church family in prayer. We have sent several cards to those who are sick that are signed by the congregation - two just this past Sunday, May 17. If anyone knows of someone we need to reach out to, please let one of us know.

One of our favorite ways to reach out to our church family is by presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to those who have given of themselves throughout their years. We do our best to make sure their family members are present at that service. You never know when it will be your time for us to honor you.

In His Service,  
Sheila

## Ladies Guild

The Evening Guild has voted to discontinue the Christmas Bazaar. We have some handmade items still available such as:

- **Burp Pads, \$5 each:** Mothers love these. They are wonderful to add to a monetary gift to make it more personal
- **Yellow hand-knitted baby set, \$30:** a shawl, booties, and hat

Ask one of us for items you may want that you remember from the Bazaar. We will be happy to check for you.

## Diana’s Corner

### **Battling Depression**

Anyone who has ever suffered, or has cared for a loved one during this spell, knows how painful it can be and how real the symptoms are. With the help of family and friends, and the grace of God there are ways and means that can work for you. The necessary support is the greatest, and absolutely essential to recovery from depression. First, find the right doctor with the right medication. Try a few different things—exercises, and eat the right healthy food and get your regular sleep. With the physical activity you try to keep doing will help to lower the risk of distress. Try laughing more. It too can help take away the pain and anxiety, take your feelings and thoughts to God. Faith can heal. Faith provide social support a key to happiness, the church and all connected to you in someway are our inspiration. They help by being friendly and showing their loving concern. Which helps build our strength and the desire to be healed. We have to take this all to heart. We must believe, have faith, and God in our hearts.

**James 5: 14-15**

*Is any sick among you? Let him call the elders of the church and let them pray over you anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise you up and if you have committed sins they shall be forgiven.*

Just know that God always walks with us, no matter how weak we are. We all have been there a lot in many ways, but we keep our faith and keep believing in God our Lord and Savior.

# JUNE 2015 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 am Evening Guild	2 7:00 pm Scouts	3	4 6:30 pm: Church Council Meeting Church Cleaning: Ben & Peggy Stephens	5	6 11:00 am Pancake Brunch
7 Communion Sunday 9:15am Education for Christian Living 10:00am Gathering Time 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Confirmation Meeting	8 10:00 am Evening Guild	9 7:00 pm Scouts	10 6-9 PM Wednesday Activities**	11 Church Cleaning: Mark Hampton	12	13 11:00 am Pancake Brunch
14 9:15am Education for Christian Living 10:00am Gathering Time 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm VBS Meeting	15 10:00 am Evening Guild	16 7:00pm Scouts	17 6-9 PM Wednesday Activities**	18 Church Cleaning: Bobby & Teresa Buchanan	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 11:00 am Pancake Brunch
21 Father's Day 9:15am Education for Christian Living 10:00 am Gathering Time 10:30 am Worship Service	22 10:00 am Evening Guild	23 7:00pm Scouts	24 5:00 pm VBS Prep	25 Cleaning Team: T.B.A	26 6:00 pm VBS Carnival	27 9:30 am VBS: Gangway to Galilee 11:00 am Pancake Brunch
28 9:15am VBS Closing 10:00 am Gathering Time 10:30 am Worship: VBS Closing	29 10:00 am Evening Guild	30 7:00 pm Scouts				

St. James Church  
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