



Celebrating 60 Years at St. James in-the Hills

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 1 Cor. 12:12

Grace and peace to you all. On 15 October 1961, a small group of Episcopalians from St. John's Church founded a mission in Hollywood Hills. Although it would gain parish status later, we celebrate what is our 60th anniversary today, Friday, 15 October 2021.

While our church may have started from humble beginnings, over the years it has brought together a large faith community. On this anniversary of the church's founding, I'd like to congratulate all of you on your membership in the Body of Christ and for sharing your faith with so many people and using it to do so much good.

This past year has been a major test to our faith. Some lost lives, some lost livelihoods, and some lost lifestyles but through it all we kept faith. Whether online, or in the parking lot, or in the Sanctuary with restrictions, we kept faith and came together whether in body or spirit to give thanks to God.

As with so many churches in so many places that find themselves competing with so many worldly pursuits, we too are struggling to reach people who need to hear, know, and live out the Gospel. But we must keep faith.

We should neither deny, nor gloss over the challenges that we face, but we must hold to the belief that God is calling us to move forward in faith. Perhaps we are being called to begin a new chapter in the life of St. James. It is not an easy task and requires the contribution of so many to accomplish.

Our sanctuary is but bricks and stone for we, each one of us united in faith, are the church, the glue that holds our faith community together. We are the Body of Christ. As we face a new decade, we must not allow St. James to just grow older, but we must work together to ensure that we go stronger in our faith and more dedicated in our outreach to God's mission.

Due to COVID19 restrictions, we may have to do like the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and celebrate this milestone a year later in 2022. But celebrate we will. On this anniversary day of St. James's founding, let us rededicate ourselves to be that beacon of light and love to our members, regular visitors, and anyone who walks through these doors.

I believe if you walk by faith, keep hope alive, and live by love, God creates new possibilities and opens new doors. He never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the destination would be worthwhile.

Prayer for the Anniversary of St. James

Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the anniversary of our house of prayer: We give you thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshiped in our sanctuary, and we pray that all who seek you here may find you, and be filled with your joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

In Christ as ever,
Guy+



Father Edward Pennell, Jr., Robert S. Reidenbach S.W., and Bob Reidenbach, Jr. and congregation attending the ground-breaking for the new St. James in-the-Hills construction in 1963



Bill Hanes, the only remaining member of the Founders Committee, visiting recently in September 2021