

The Epistle



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Easter / Pentecost Issue
2015

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you receive this Epistle we are in the midst of celebrating the greatest of all Christian mysteries; the celebration of the Resurrection in Eastertide. New Life is all around us! Things that once appeared dead now are springing to life. The trees are beginning to leaf and we see the purple and white crocuses breaking through the ground. This “change” is part of life. The harshness of winter gives way to the beauty of spring and our hearts, sanctified through the penitence of Lent, blooms anew with the promise of new life through Christ resurrection. We have been anticipating this new life. We welcome the change! Our spiritual lives are one of constant change as God moves and removes things in order for us to embrace more fully his command to love one another. We here at St. James’ embrace the change. We know that God is moving in the midst of change. The popular Christian writer Max Lucado once quipped that God loves you just the way you are but, God does not intend to keep you that way. As we, the body of Christ at St. James’, attempt to be faithful to our baptismal covenant, we understand that change is part of the plan. The vestry of St. James’ has initiated a bold initiative to strategically discern and plan for the blessings of new growth that God has given us. We will be having an assessment of all of our church properties, we will be prioritizing maintenance issues, and we will be preparing for the future. We will be engaging all the members of the St. James’ community in this effort. We will need everyone’s input. We will all be involved! We will all be changed in the process. I believe we are ready! My passionate prayer is that God will continue to bless us here at St. James.’ May the change that you experience enlarge your heart so as to be a servant of Christ and serve others in his name. God bless each and every one of you and may this Easter season bring you all the blessings that God has in store for you!

Faithfully,

Fr. Mike †

Mike Sowards, Rector

Rector

◆ Mike Sowards 215-251-8856

Vestry

- ◆ Barbara Bateman, Rector's Warden 610-489-9712
- ◆ Drew Beck, People's Warden 610-287-0642
- ◆ Janet Newman, Vestry Secretary 610-495-5395

Buildings & Grounds

- ◆ Jean Beers 215-256-6064
- ◆ Rick Toth 610-495-6913
- ◆ Gene Goff 610-489-0765

Communications

- ◆ Drew Beck 610-287-0642
- ◆ Joanne Tatem 610-631-2488

Education

- ◆ Barbara Bateman 610-489-9712

Finance

- ◆ Jon Yenney 610-454-0179
- ◆ Dale Pennapacker, Treasurer 610-933-5177

Outreach & Companion

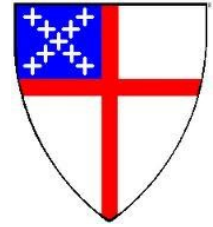
- ◆ Kathy Lochocki 610-585-5586
- ◆ Cheryl Skeates 610-270-8964

Parish Life & Member Ministries

- ◆ Sarah Reid 610-539-7953
- ◆ Melanie Jackson 610-831-1987



Preparing for the Future



A Message from the Vestry

It is the belief of your Vestry that St. James' future lies in living out our mission to know and serve God by serving others. As a congregation we celebrate our more than 300 years of history through a shared call to make St. James' what God wants us to be for the 21st century and beyond.

As most of you realize churches with historic buildings like ours have the particular challenges of current and deferred maintenance issues, of space configurations and constraints for today's programs and of visions for a future that will include increased membership and expansion of physical resources to meet the needs of a new generation. Last fall as a first step in addressing these challenges your Vestry appointed four persons from the congregation to serve on an investigative committee tasked with identifying firms with expertise in the area of structural sufficiency. In March the committee presented a recommendation to the Vestry which resulted in a Vestry decision to contract with GKO Architects of Ambler to undertake the assessment of all St. James' properties. This includes not only a full inspection of the properties; but also, consideration of zoning issues, impervious surface considerations and building code review with preparation of basic drawings of the property and buildings. GKO will make recommendations, with cost estimates, to help us prioritize repairs and maintenance to our facilities to help ensure a safe and functional environment both now and for years to come. The schedule as proposed is for the property inspection, in cooperation with Buildings & Grounds liaisons, to occur in mid-April, a progress meeting in mid-May and a presentation of findings mid-late June.

It is the intent of the Vestry to use this information to accountably plan and budget for the present and to strategically and creatively look at a long range plan that facilitates good stewardship of parish resources for the future. We feel this planning process coincides with a period of great promise in the life of our congregation and invite you to be open to the possibilities and feel the excitement of growth and change in our vibrant faith community.



If you have questions, please feel free to address them with a member of the Vestry, the Wardens or Fr. Mike. If we do not have an immediate answer we will seek one for you. It is our intent to utilize input from members of the congregation where ever possible in this planning process and to keep you informed as actions are taken.

St. James' Vestry

Why Do Christians Sing?

We sing because our Lord commanded us to do so.

Research shows there are over 400 references to singing and 50 direct commands to sing within the text of the Bible. Hymn singing is an act of Thanksgiving to God. "I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify Him with thanksgiving. *Psalm 69:30.*

Scholars tell us music is a language of emotion in every culture of every age. "It is capable of affecting us in profound and subtle ways. Hymn singing is representative of how our hearts feel. A hymn is a song praising and glorifying God. Singing serves the Word of God. It helps us to remember words, it helps us enjoy words emotionally and it helps us use words to demonstrate and express our unity."

Google any combination of the words singing, music, worship or church and you will find a bonanza of information submitted by authors from every denomination and walk of life; from music scholars and theologians to just plain Christian folks writing their own blogs. Humorist and radio personality, Garrison Keiller, asserts "nobody sings like Episcopalians."

Software developer, Casimir Saternos, a deacon at Lehigh Valley Presbyterian Church in Allentown PA writes: "singing is an outward manifestation of ones faith and joy." He quotes Dietrich Bonhoeffer, author of *Christian Community: Life Together*, who asks, "Why do Christians sing when they are together? The reason is quite simple, because in singing together it is possible to speak and pray the same words at the same time, in other words, because here they can unite in the Word. Bonhoeffer contends, "it is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together. It is not you that sings, it is the Church that is singing and you as a member of the Church may share in its song. "

"Singing together tends to bind us together. It enables us to spend extended periods of times expressing the same thoughts and passions. Scripture doesn't only speak about congregational singing--God can be honored when we sing alone or when soloists sing in the church--but it is clear that the dominant theme of Scripture is believers singing together. We are not called to listen to others sing or to sing by ourselves. We are called to sing together." *Bob Kauflin, DesiringGod.org.*

While we suspect but cannot verify that music has played a part in worship at St. James' from the beginning we do know from Vestry minutes dated May 9, 1859 it was resolved: "That we highly recommend to the congregation of St. James' Church the importance of cultivating a taste for sacred music and the importance and advantages of congregational singing." Following the resolution use of the School House (now St. James' Community History Center) was granted one evening each week for the purpose of practicing the chants, hymns and psalms to be sung on the succeeding Sunday."

Today St. James' is blessed with the musical gifts of organist, Ron Davis, dedicated members of the chancel choir, individual musicians from the congregation and Lauren Exley and the newly formed junior choir. Let us feel the presence of God through our music and as the psalmist exhorts,

**"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,
all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises."**
Psalm 98:4



St. John's Creative Arts Series

Invites you to

**Sights and Sounds
From the Chesapeake**

A Program of Music, Poetry and Art

Sunday, May 17, 2015

Concert at 3:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

1224 Melrose Avenue

Melrose Park, PA 19027

Music & Poetry by Ron Davis

Singer - Seana Benz

Pianist - Charles Griffin

Art exhibit and reception follow the concert

For more information 215-635-3465 or
www.stjohnsmelrose.org



Sing Out

Loud And Clear

For All To Hear



The post-Easter season seems to be a more relaxed time in the church year, something of a pre-summer mind set. However, for the Organist/Choir Director it is the time to make final plans for the next season. *Yes, practice for Christmas music begins in September.*

For those of you who might be thinking about singing with the choirs of St. James (junior or senior), now is the time to indicate your interest to Lauren Exley (lauren_exley@yahoo.com) or myself. New voices are welcome for the 2015-2016 season which begins in September.

The first chancel choir rehearsal takes place on the first Thursday after Labor Day.

September 10 at 7:30 PM Choir Room

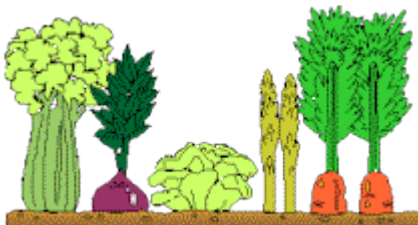
Check with Lauren for Junior Choir rehearsal times and place.

The current choir members, Lauren and I look forward to seeing you.

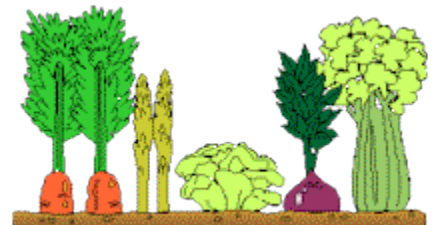
- Ron Davis, Organist / Director

Community Garden

St. James' will be sponsoring a Community Garden again this year. If you would like a plot please contact Francois Springuel (240-498-5869 or springuel@gmail.com) and reserve your plot today.



Participation is *free*, we only ask that if you have extra vegetables that you donate them to the Outreach House.



Parish Life Annual Chicken BBQ



Saturday, May 30, 2015 5-7:30PM

Please join us for our Annual Chicken BBQ. Dine in family style or take out—only \$13.00. Dine in menu includes: 1/2 Chicken, St. James' Famous Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Rolls, Cookies and Beverage.

We need many hands to make this event happen, please sign up to help make this another successful year! There are many different ways to volunteer your time and talent: cookie makers, table setters, grill helpers, clean up, potato salad makers, servers, bus people, etc.

Sign up sheets are located in the Parish Hall, please consider filling a need to help St. James'.

We look forward to working and eating with you!

Please direct your questions to the Chicken BBQ Committee—Trish Goonan, Jean Beers, Mel Jackson, Kathy & Mike Lochocki, and Sarah Reid. (waving2@aol.com)

Thank you!



Fellowship & Fun

Foyer Gatherings

Please join us as we extend our fellowship with an informal gathering. *Formats vary*, generally Foyer Gatherings include an appetizer or dessert and your drink of choice. Its a great way to get to know your St. James family in a more intimate and informal setting.

May 9 - Dale & Marilyn Pennapacker's home

Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board. Please see Sarah Reid with questions or if interested in hosting. (reidsrock@comcast.net)



Christian Education Celebration

May 17th – Last class for Church School

This will be our last class as we break for summer

May 31st – Christian Education Celebration & Church Birthday

We will have a party to honor all Christian Education students and Teachers for the their hard work!

And cut the cake to wish the Church a Happy Birthday!



Youth Group Last Meeting

Sunday, April 26, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

We would really like to have everyone attend so mark calendars today!

We will be getting a game plan for our only fundraiser, the carwash, which is scheduled to take place from 9AM to 1PM on **Saturday, May 2nd** at the Shell Station located on the corner of Ridge Pike and Park Avenue. We will need all hands on deck for this important event as all of the monies raised will go into our budget for 2015-16 and also into the 2016 Pilgrimage Fund and Urban Adventure Fund as well as fund our final outing. Depending on the level of money raised, we will be tentatively going to an amusement park on **Saturday, May 16th**. Both Hershey and Six Flags are possibilities, which we will discuss further during the April meeting.

It is very important for planning purposes that every member of youth group contacts one of the leaders (either Lisa or Reed) to let us know which of the three remaining dates you are able to attend (hopefully all of them).

Thanks for a fabulous 2014-15 year! -Lisa & Reed

Saturday, May 2, 2015

9AM to 1PM

Shell Gas Station

2800 W Ridge Pike, Trooper, PA
19403

All proceeds benefit the St.
James' Youth Group Programs.

**Youth
Car
Wash**



Fellowship Through Fundraising

There are always opportunities to participate in fun activities and of course, eat at St. James. You are encouraged to invite your friends and neighbors to join in as well. Look for more events to come and as always all are welcome.

Here are some reflections on several events and special thanks to those that give their time and talent so tirelessly. Karen Toth successfully managed the Youth and ran the Hoagie Sale for this year. She reports a record \$985 received in sales—that's a lotta hoagies!

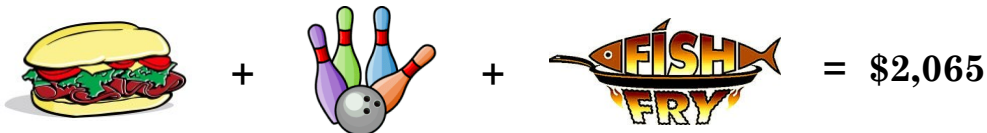


Karen went onto organize and reorganize the Bowling event after a snow storm forced a postponement.

52 bowlers came out to Limerick Bowl to create a successful \$425 event.

Most recently the Lenten Fish Fry took place where Karen was again working hard. Over 80 meals were made and served resulting in \$593 earned. This event required many hands on deck and very special thanks go to:

Nadine Folk, Adele Ray and Jean Beers for setting up the dining room and Sarah Reid & Jim Shields from the Parish Life committee for their help preparing and serving the food.



Monies raised support the Youth Pilgrimage Fund. Thanks Karen!

Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's

Help make soup or pasta to be served to the guests at St. Mary's who need nourishment. Or make cookies and leave them in the kitchen marked "St. Mary's". Your efforts are appreciated!

Soup Making is on a Thursday at 9:00 AM in Church kitchen (*all ingredients provided*):

- May 21
- June 25
- July 23
- August - closed

Soup Delivery in on the 4th Saturday, leaving from the Church parking lot at 9:15 AM:

- May 23 (cookie: Oatmeal Raisin)
- June 27 (cookie: Chocolate Chip)
- July 25 (cookie: Oatmeal Raisin)
- August - closed

Please contact: Altheda Anduze 610-342-2010 with any questions.

Join the Fun

All Are Welcome Beginner - Experienced
St. James' Golf Outing

- **Sunday, July 26 2 PM**
- Shannondell Golf Course
2750 Egypt Rd, Audubon, PA 19403
- Scramble Format
- Signup sheet will be in Parish Hall
- Contact Pat McCann for information or questions (reedmccann@verizon.net)



Casserole Brigade



When a parishioner at St. James' is in need the Casserole Brigade is at the ready. This is an important and beloved ministry, that welcomes you to participate. Participants are enlisted to make casseroles as needed and when *you are available*. If you would like to add your name to the list or have questions, please contact Joanne Tatem: joanne.tatem@verizon.net or 610-716-1816.

Alter Flower Schedule

May

- 3rd Mr. & Mrs. Art Tinner
- 10th Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Fischer
Mrs. Dede Montgomery
- 17th Mr. & Mrs. John Newman
- 24th Mrs. & Mrs. Howard Maris
- 31st The Reid Family

June

- 7th Mr. & Mrs. Dale Pennacker
- 14th Mrs. Jean Beers
- 21st Mr. Lawrence Plummer
- 28th Mr. & Mrs. David Runyan

July

- 5th Mr. & Mrs. Mark Saylor
- 12th Mrs. Dee Dee McGrane
- 19th Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mayconich



COMMUNITY FUN DAY (CFD)

Saturday, September 19



Spring has sprung and with the season comes the opportunity to clean out closets, basements, and garages! As you continue your annual spring cleaning efforts remember that Community Fun Day will be here before you know it!

This year Community Fun Day will be on Saturday, September 19th and as in the past, we will be accepting donations of gently used items for the St. James' Yard Sale table. Keep an eye out for more details to come regarding when and where to drop those items off as the day of the event nears.

Any questions or suggestions can be directed to Drew Beck 610-287-0642.

Exclusive

St. James' Glasses Available for Purchase

Add elegance and conversation pieces to your next gathering. These custom glasses are available for purchase individually or in sets. Please see Lisa Reinhardt for more information: stop by the church office or office@stjames-episcopal.org.



Summer Office Hours

Please make a note of the summer schedule so that we can work together to have your needs met.

Office

- 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Monday & Wednesday
- 8:00 AM - 12 NOON Tuesday & Thursday
- August 24 - 27 (Administrator vacation)

Fr. Mike

- June 1 - 19 (away continuing education)
- August 3 - 15 (vacation time)

Would You Like to Get Involved?

Here is a list of opportunities to be involved in parish life at St. James. You are welcome to contact anyone listed to discuss getting involved, ask questions, or provide feedback.



Altar Guild: Members work in teams to prepare the worship area before and after services, care for altar linens and fixtures. Women *AND* men are welcome to do this! Contact Marilyn Pennapacker, 610-933-5177, marilypenna@verizon.net.

Acolytes: Assist during worship service at the altar, lead the worship procession with cross and torches; anyone from grade 6 through adult is eligible. Contact the Gayle Eselby, 484-614-5312 werd13193@yahoo.com.

Choir: St. James' choir provides music for the 10 a.m. service and special services throughout the year. Contact organist Mr. Ronald Davis, 610-489-3318, or the church office.

Christian Education:

- ◆ **Ages 3 to 5th grade**, contact Tricia Francoeur, 610-948-3690 Tricia.Francoeur@comcast.net, or Laurie Shawaluk, 610-287-0147 lshawaluk@comcast.net.
- ◆ **Rite 13**, contact Susan Maris, 610-489-3342 susanmaris@verizon.net ; James Thompson, 610-342-2010 jamesthompson5241@verizon.net
- ◆ **J2A** contact Phil Tatem, 610-631-2488 ptatem77@verizon.net or Annmarie Thacker, 610-409-1930 rrad725@verizon.net
- ◆ **Adults**, contact Fr. Mike, 215-251-8856 fr.mike6554@gmail.com, or Chris Exley, 610-948-2260 cexley@comcast.net.

Coffee Hour: Make coffee and provide light refreshments after the 10 a.m. service. Sign up on the bulletin board by the coffee pot for this important ministry of hospitality. Mark Ellison, 724-992-0611 mellison@ursinus.edu.

Communications: Contact Drew Beck, 610-287-0642 drewandjodibeck@comcast.net.

ECW: All women of the church are automatically members of Episcopal Church Women. We have two meetings per year and are involved in all sorts of things around the church. Contact Nadine Folk, 610-489-4206 nafolk@aol.com.

Foyer Gatherings: Parishioners meet at host homes for food and fellowship. Sign-up sheets and details are available on the bulletin board outside the church office. Contact Melanie Jackson, 610-831-1987 sfjackson@verizon.net or Sarah Reid, 610-539-7953 reidsrock@comcast.net.

History Center: Volunteers meet to sort archives on the second Wednesday of the month and other times as needed or requested. Contact Barbara Bateman, 610-489-9712 or bebateman@verizon.net.

Memorial Flowers: Contact Marilyn Hastings, 610-489-9728 or mhastings@ikon.com.

Ushers: Assist with seating, welcoming visitors, and collecting offerings during the 10 AM service. Contact Ginny Tinner, 215-256-4170 vtinner@comcast.net.

Vestry: The leadership of St. James' includes 12 parishioners elected to terms that rotate every January. Meetings, open to all St. James' parishioners, are usually the 3rd Monday of each month. Commissions meet regularly to coordinate programs and address specific concerns of the church. A list of members and contacts is on the front page of *The Epistle*.

Worship Leaders: Read scripture and prayers and/or administer the Chalice during worship. Contact Basil Varian, 610-584-9008 jbvarian@verizon.net.

Youth Group: Service-oriented social group for youth grades 6-12. Contact Lisa Reinhardt, 610-213-1425 reinhardt73@yahoo.com or Reed McCann, 610-635-2422 reedmccann@verizon.net.