

The Epistle

Welcome Back Issue
2015



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome back to the beginning of our church programs. We have an exciting year in store! Inside this edition we have information about our programs including such parish favorites as foyer gatherings, community fun day, ham and oyster dinner, youth group events, Christian education classes and our reorganization efforts with ECW. Now is the time to make a commitment by participating in one of the several ministries we have here at St. James. As we await the coming of Fall and the turning of the leaves, this time reminds us of transition. It is a time of beauty! Please take the opportunity to avail yourselves of the new Christian Education programs that are being offered. The most dangerous thing is an uninformed Christian. All of us need time and opportunity to study God's word and "continue in the apostle's teaching." (BCP 304) I am very excited about the programs available for our youth this year. The Youth Group will be spending time together in Worship, Food, Fellowship and Fun. Please make every effort to afford our youth this great opportunity. This is also a J2A pilgrimage year. Please pray for our older youth who will have an opportunity to take a once in a lifetime pilgrimage and also to stand up as adults and reconfirm their faith through the sacrament of confirmation. St. James' is a place where lots of things are happening. I can't wait to see what God has planned for us this year. WELCOME BACK!

Faithfully,

Fr. Mike †

Mike Sowards, Rector

September Dates to Remember

Sunday, **September 13** Christian Education Classes Begin

- 9 AM J2A & Parents meet in large group room
- 9 AM Rite 13 meets downstairs
- 9:45 AM Church School classes meet upstairs

Saturday, **September 19** Community Fun Day 8 AM—2 PM

Sunday, **September 20** Picnic & Recognition Ceremony

Tuesday, **September 22** ECW 7 PM Kick-Off Social

Sunday, **September 27** Youth Group & Parents 6:30 PM Kick-Off Dinner

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

St James' Parish CALENDAR Highlights – Fall/Winter 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
8 Sept	6:45 PM	Communications Meeting
10 Sept	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal Begins (meets Thursdays weekly)
12 Sept	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
13 Sept		Christian Education Classes Begin
16 Sept	7 PM	Adult Bible Study & Compline Begins (meets Wednesdays weekly)
19 Sept	8 AM – 2 PM	Community Fun Day
20 Sept	10 AM	Recognition Day
	11:15 AM	Parish Picnic
21 Sept	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
22 Sept	7 PM	ECW Meeting
27 Sept	6:30 PM	Youth Group/Parent Meeting & Dinner
3 Oct	12 Noon	Youth Group Polo Match Outing
	6 PM	Newcomer Dinner
4 Oct	9AM – 11:15AM	Animal Sitting provided by J2A/Rite 13
	11:15	Animal Blessing
7 Oct	6:00 PM	Book Club Meeting
10 Oct	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
11 Oct	9:45 AM	Singing Sunday
	6:30-7:30 PM	Youth Group Meeting
13 Oct	6:45 PM	Communications Meeting
19 Oct	7:00 PM	Vestry
23-24 Oct	7 PM – 9 AM	Youth Lock-In/Decorating for All Hallows
25 Oct	11:15 AM	All Hallows Party for Children's Christian Ed sponsored by Youth
1 Nov	8 AM & 10 AM	All Saints -Baptisms
7 Nov	TBD	Ham & Oyster Dinner
8 Nov	9:45 AM	Singing Sunday
	6:30-7:30 PM	Youth Meeting
10 Nov	6:45 PM	Communication Meeting
14 Nov	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
16 Nov	7:00 PM	Vestry
21 Nov	12 Noon	Youth Group/Senior Luncheon
26-27 Nov		OFFICE CLOSED
6 Dec	10 AM	Advent Lessons & Carols
7 Dec	6:00 PM	Book Club
8 Dec	6:45 PM	Communications Meeting
12 Dec	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
13 Dec	9:45 AM	Singing Sunday
21 Dec	7:00 PM	Vestry
19 Dec	9 AM – Noon	Pageant rehearsal
20 Dec	10 AM	Nativity pageant & parish Advent party (No Christian Education Classes)
	6:30-7:30 PM	Youth Group Christmas Party
23 Dec-1 Jan		OFFICE CLOSED
24 Dec	5, 6 & 10:30	Christmas Eve services & dinner
3 Jan	10 AM	Christmas Carol Sing
	6:30-7:30	Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal
6 Jan	6:30 PM	Parish Pot-luck Epiphany Dinner
	7:30 PM	Epiphany Pageant
9 Jan	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
10 Jan	9:45 AM	Singing Sunday
12 Jan	6:45 PM	Communications Meeting
30 Jan	TBD	Rite 13 Rehearsal & Dinner
31 Jan	10 AM	Rite 13 Ceremony

Mark your calendars: Annual Meeting – Sunday, April 19th at 9 AM - Bishop visits May 22nd, 10 AM

WEEKLY EVENTS: AA Meetings 8:30-11 PM Mondays * DAV Meetings 7:30-9:30 PM Wednesdays
 Christian Education 7 – 8 PM Wednesdays * Choral Choir 7:30 PM Thursdays * Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Thursdays



St. James' Episcopal Church
knowing and serving God by serving other

ECW

(Episcopal Church Women)

Cordially Invite You to the

St. James' ECW Meeting / Social

Tuesday, September 22

St. James' Platts Hall at 7 PM

Please RSVP by September 5

610-489-7564 or waving2@aol.com

*Onsite childcare will be available.



What is a Ham & Oyster Dinner?

- Firstly, it is ham or oyster although both can be had.
- Secondly, it is a major fund raiser held annually by the ECW (Episcopal Church Women).
- Thirdly, it has been going on at St. James since 1896.
- Last but not the least all member of St. James' are asked to help.

A bit of history – It all started as an Oyster Supper. The ladies of the St. James' Guild (forerunner of the ECW) needed a means to further their work for the parish. Ergo a fund raising supper was initiated. Why oysters? – perhaps because at the time Philadelphia was a major oyster market. Oysters were plentiful, lower in price than meat, and available for consumption at all economic levels.

We know baked ham was added to the menu sometime in the 1930's probably at one of those times when oyster prices soared. Today's menu has remained unchanged for as long as those of us who were girls in the 1940's can remember. In those days only the oysters and hams were purchased, most other ingredients were donated by parish members; right down to the butter for the rolls and milk for the salad dressing. The ladies of the church also canned green beans, apple sauce and pickled cabbage in the summer to be served at the event. The famous potato salad served today is from a parishioner's recipe.

Proceeds over the years have supported a wide variety of parish needs. In days gone by the ten Guild founded the Altar Guild, paid the organist's salary, made all the choir robes, paid for coal to heat the parish, bought the first heater for Platts Hall and carpeted the sanctuary among other things. Most recently, the ECW purchased the dishwasher, refrigerator and stove for the kitchen and assisted with the installation of air conditioning in the parish hall. ECW continues to provide supplies and equipment for the kitchen, host various parish functions, and assist with specific parish needs as they arise. The role of the ECW is to assist the Rector and the Vestry as needed.

Get Ready for Community Fun Day

Opportunities to Contribute

Spaces are still available for either Yard Sale tables or Craft/Artisan tables. Sign up today at http://www.stjames-episcopal.org/home/140007125/140007125/files/2015_SJCFDRegistration_distributed.pdf



Donations for the Raffle Items/Baskets and Silent Auction Items are due by **Saturday, August 29**. Please leave these donations in the parish hall (Platts Hall) on the window shelves along the Level Rd./Evansburg Rd. side of the hall.

Donations for the St. James' Yard Sale/ Flea Market table may be left in Platts Hall on Saturday, **September 5 to 18**. Please place donations on the window shelves along the church driveway side of the hall.

Sign up sheets for those available to help for the day will be in Platts Hall in early September. Please consider lending your time, it is a fun way to support parish fundraising, enjoy fellowship with members of your parish family.



Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to join us on Saturday, September 19th, 8-2PM

Valley Forge Family Day September 25

*During the Pope's Visit and
World Meeting of Families*



Valley Forge Family Day will be held at Valley Forge National Historical Park from 2 PM to 5 PM on Friday, September 25 and will feature free activities for visitors of all ages, including living history demonstrations, natural and historical presentations, ranger-led programs, interactive learning games and trolley tours. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for purchase.

The Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium which includes St. James' will participate in this exciting event. Look for more information to come in the Bulletin and save the date so that you can join the fun!

Choir Practice for this Season Begins September 10



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

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

September 10 at 7:30 PM Choir Room

The current choir members, Lauren and Ron look forward to seeing you!

All Are Welcome to Attend the Good Book Club

October 7, at 6 PM

Big Little Lies, by Liane Moriarty

December 2, at 6 PM

The Girl on the Train, by Paula Hawkins

The St. James' Good Book Club meets in the Parish Hall. Attendees discuss the latest book and are invited to bring along their dinner.



Singing Sundays

The 2nd Sunday of each month will be Singing Sunday. On this day during class time the Church School children will learn a simple song with Miss Lauren Exley. After class, the children will present their song to the congregation. We look forward to hearing the beautiful music!

Singing Sundays are:

October 11

November 8

December 13



Hosts Are Needed

Important Fellowship Time



Coffee Hour starts right after the Sunday 10 AM service in Platts Hall. It is a great time to meet and greet your fellow parishioners and guests are always welcome.

Please consider volunteering to host an upcoming

Coffee Hour. Sign up sheets are posted near the coffee maker.

If you have any questions please contact Mark Ellison, 724-992-0811 or ellison@stanfordalumni.org

Altar Flower Schedule

August

23rd Mrs. Marilyn Hastings

30th The Eschuk Family

September

6th The Linderman Family

13th Lee Ann Clamer & Family

20th Open

27th Jim & Patty Earhart

Ken Speaker

October

4th The Shawaluk Family

11th Jane Shinehouse

Evangeline Hendi

18th Mary & Bill Hummer

25th The Tatem Family





Don't Miss St. James' Community Fun Day September 19th

This is the largest parish fundraiser of the year. Proceeds are used through the Vestry to help support St. James' outreach activities. You are invited and encouraged to participate as a volunteer worker or by attending and enjoying the day with your parish family. Please pass along the flyer below to your friends and family.

Together we can make this a successful and fun event!



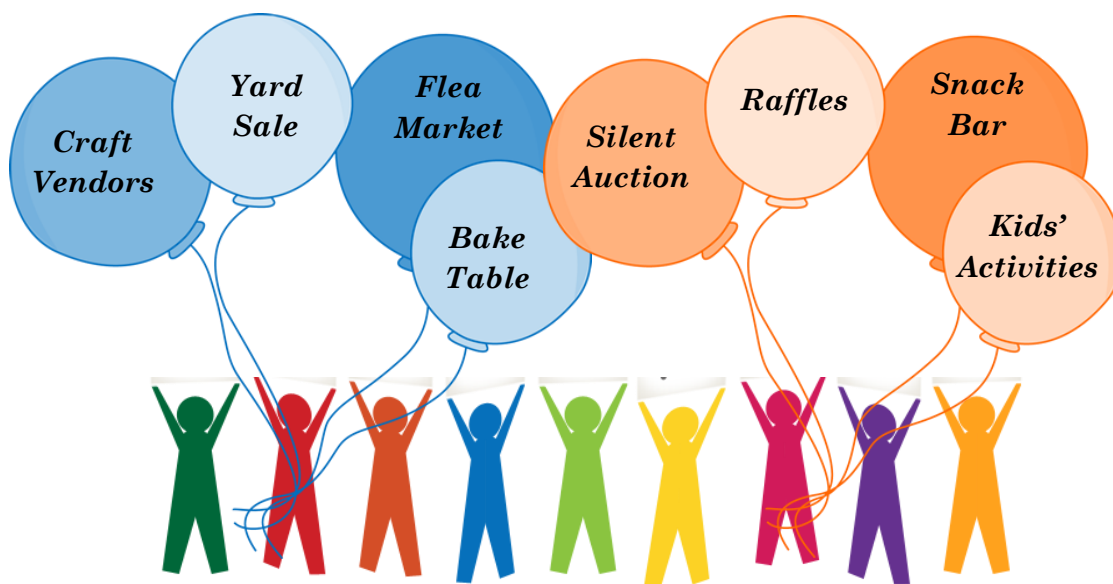
St. James' Episcopal Church

3768 Germantown Pike, Collegeville PA 19426

St. James' Community Fun Day

Saturday, September 19, 2015

8:00 AM—2:00 PM



All proceeds are used by the Vestry to help support St. James' outreach activities. The Silent Auction will begin Saturday, September 12 at www.stjames-episcopal.org/SALive and continue through 2:00 PM on September 19 at the end of Fun Day. Winning bidders not in attendance at the close of the day will be notified by telephone.

Here is a small sampling of available items:

Rocky Mountain High (a week in Telluride Colorado), Heavenly Relaxation (massage gift card), Wine Tasting (gift basket), Dinner and a Movie (restaurant gift card and movie tickets), also art work, multiple restaurant gift cards, theme baskets for home and away activities, and much more.

St. James' Annual Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 20 after 10 AM Service



Parish Life will host the St. James Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 20 immediately following the 10AM service. Please join us as we enjoy fellowship and show appreciation to those who have given their time and talent to St. James. There will be plenty of food and games for the kids (including the moon bounce), and the ever popular announcement of the raffle winners from Community Fun Day!



If you would like to help with this event, please contact Sarah Reid, reidsrock@comcast.net or Melanie Jackson, 610-831-1987. *Set up and clean up help is especially appreciated!*



Junior Choir

Will Continue to Delight

The Junior Choir will continue for those who would like to learn and perform more advanced music. The Junior Choir is for anyone who is in 2nd grade or higher.

The Junior Choir is directed by Lauren Exley and will perform on Christmas Eve and on Easter Day. One may choose to be in one or both performances. Rehearsals will only be on the Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve and Easter Day. These rehearsals will be immediately following the 10 AM Sunday service.

Christmas Eve rehearsal dates:

November 11, 22 & 29

December 6 & 13

Easter Day rehearsal dates:

February 14, 21 & 28

March 6, 13 & 20



Christian Education at St. James'

Something for Everyone

Classes Begin September 13th

A *Special Education* edition of The Epistle has been created. It details the curriculum for all classes. Adults, teens, tweens and grade school age children have an opportunity by attending classes to strengthen the knowledge of their faith. Pick up a copy of the *Special Education* Epistle in the lobby hall, www.stjames-episcopal.org or contact the appropriate volunteer teacher.

† Church School (ages 4-12)

Laurie Shawaluk, lshawaluk@comcast.net or Amanda Kristofco, akristofco@gmail.com

Sundays 9:45 AM. Children meet upstairs for class then rejoin their families at the Peace (approx. 10:30)

Eagles class (born 2004-05)

Doves class (born 2006-07)

Peacocks class (born 2008-09)

Robins class (born 2010-11)

† Nursery (infant - 3 years old)

Available from 7:45 to 11:30 AM. Nursery is available to guests who are visiting.

† Rite 13 (ages 12-14)

James Thompson, jamesthompson5241@verizon.net or Susan Maris, susanmaris@verizon.net

Sundays 9:00-9:45 AM. Students meet downstairs in Rite 13 classroom and are able to attend a Sunday service with their families.

† J2A Journey To Adulthood (teens)

Phil Tatem, ptatem77@verizon.net or Annmarie Thacker, rrad725@verizon.net

Sundays 9:00-9:45 AM. Students meet downstairs in the large group room and are able to attend a Sunday Service with their families.

† Adult Education

Fr. Mike Sowards, Rector, fr.mike6554@gmail.com

9:00 AM on Sundays adults are invited to meet down stairs in the middle conference room.

7:00 PM on Wednesdays adults are invited to meet in Platt's Hall for readings and discussion.

St. James' Youth Group



We are looking forward to a very exciting Youth Group year with lots of fellowship, service and worship built in! Please mark your calendars for our Kick-Off Youth & Parent Meeting and Dinner on **Sunday, September 27th at 6:30 PM** in Platts Hall!

We will have a light dinner and discuss some of our planned events for the upcoming 2015-16 Youth Group year.

The St. James' Youth Group (SJYG) is open to anyone grades 6-12 and meets twice monthly. This year SJYG will once again be hosting the All Hallows Party, the Senior/Youth Luncheon and the Epiphany Pageant. We will be crafting an updated prayer for our group, working on fellowship within the church and beyond, designing a service project for the beautification of the church and of course running our much-anticipated fundraiser: the Car Wash!!!! New this year, and just around the corner will be a trip to see a Polo Match up close. Please see below for details. We will also be attempting our snow tubing trip once again and assisting the Church School in stuffing Easter Eggs for St. James' Annual Egg Hunt. With so many wonderful events planned, it's a great time to join. We hope to see everyone on the 27th! Questions? Please contact Lisa Reinhardt at LReinhardt73@yahoo.com or 610-213-1425 or Reed McCann at reedmccann@verizon.net.



Love. Grow. Serve.

SJYG is heading to a Polo Match!

Saturday, October 3rd. We will depart from the St. James' parking lot at **Noon**. The trip takes about one hour & 15 minutes and we will need a head count at the Kick-off dinner on Sept 27th. Please check your calendars and plan to join us for this fun and new event. Parents, if we have a lot of takers we may need an additional driver or two, so please let us know if you are available.

From the Tincum Website: **Come and enjoy our games which begin at 2:00 every Saturday: gates open at 1:00. \$10 / car for field side access and door prize ticket.**



We will be packing a picnic lunch and "Polo" attire is recommended. You can find more information and photos at <http://www.tincumparkpoloclub.org/>



Why a Pilgrimage for J2A?

Our J2A class is preparing for Confirmation and Pilgrimage as a completion of their four year journey towards adulthood. J2A has been developed to culminate in a Pilgrimage, not a mission trip, to focus on the internal bond with God. Here is the description of a Pilgrimage from the J2A Manual:

*Happy are they whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrim's way. (Psalm 84:5)*

From the time of the very early Church until today, Christians have made pilgrimage to holy places as a part of their discipline and life of faith. Long before the notion of vacations, holidays, and mission trips, individuals within the Christian tradition set out to see the places where our Lord and his saints walked, slept, prayed and preached the Good News. Individuals confront the struggles of travel in unknown territory, and the demands of living as a pilgrim community for the time of the journey. In the midst of all these tasks entail, there is the possibility of tremendous joy and laughter and growth... and the chance to meet our Lord in new and deeply personal ways that are sometimes surprising.

Pilgrimage has become a central feature of the *Journey to Adulthood* program. At the end of the fourth year, the J2A class travels to a "distant land" in search of God and their own destinies. Preparing for this trip takes tremendous amounts of time and energy. Planning, fundraising, filling out applications for passports and medical releases, as well as learning about the travel destination, all takes time, but it is time well spent. The task of raising money is especially meaningful and important, because it allows young people the opportunity to see firsthand how very difficult it can be to earn enough money for something they deeply desire. Whatever else they may feel about the religious or emotional significance of such a journey, for most of them this will be the first time in their lives that they have traveled across the ocean or across the country without parents or schoolteachers. Something about all of these dynamics rolled together creates an atmosphere in which God can move in new and exciting ways.

Pilgrimage is not a vacation or a sightseeing tour or a [mission trip](#). Vacations create time for relaxation and refreshment. Sightseeing tours are a time for taking in the wonders of a distant land and culture. Mission trips are principally a chance to share in spreading the Gospel. Pilgrimage is all of that and more – it is time we set aside to journey in the footsteps of the faithful Christians who have gone before us. By mindfully walking in their footsteps, we put ourselves in touch with our tradition, our roots, our God.

Pilgrimage is a time for seeking and finding God in new ways. Once normal activities, relationships, and obligations which sustain our day-to-day lives are removed, individuals are free to look again at their understanding of God and their need for God's grace and presence in their lives. It is important to note here that every moment of pilgrimage does not have to be *meaningful*, nor should it be. There must be time for play, laughter, quiet, and rest. But somehow, even in the lighthearted activities which enhance our relationships, there is something afoot. God is moving in the hearts of these pilgrims in ways which are undeniable.

The blessings of pilgrimage can take time. It is not always while we are on pilgrimage that its true effects show. Certainly the very fact that we are away for two weeks (a good time frame for pilgrimage) helps. This is long enough for even a free spirit to begin to long for familiar food and the comfort of their own bed. But what happens on pilgrimage has to be processed in the life to which we all must return. Some pilgrims may say very little while traveling and even in the weeks and months that follow, but time will show that the long-term effects are profound. It is not only a trip that will never be forgotten: it is a journey which changes lives.

Keep an eye out for our youth's many fundraising events throughout the school year and please consider supporting this very worthy and spiritual trip. The youth are excited about this experience and we hope that St. James' will be excited for them as well!

St. James' Church School 2015-2016 Registration Form

(Please complete and return to the Church School mailbox located in the parish foyer)

Family Name _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone Number _____ Mobile Number _____

Email Address _____

Use your birth year to find out what class you will be in!

2012-current	The Owls Class (Nursery)	2006-2007	The Doves Class
2010-2011	The Robins Class	2004-2005	The Eagles Class
2008-2009	The Peacocks Class		

If you have any questions about Church School, please contact one of Church School Coordinators, Laurie Shawaluk (610-287-0147, lshawaluk@comcast.net) or Amanda Kristofco (215-421-6328, akristofco@gmail.com).

Volunteers make our program happen. Please check all that apply.

I will be able to :

_____ Teach a class _____ Be a class assistant/substitute _____ Help with special projects/events

_____ Help with Christmas pageant Other: _____

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 Laurie Shawaluk, 610-287-0147 lshawaluk@comcast.net or Amanda Kristofco, akristofco@gmail.com, 215-421-6328.
- ◆ **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.

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 Tricia Goonan, 610-831-1422 waving2@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 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.