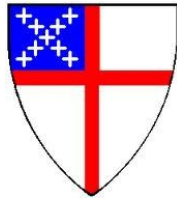




The Epistle



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

April / May Issue
2016

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you receive this Epistle we are preparing for the celebration of Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In the next couple of weeks we should be experiencing the trees gaining their leaf as well as the onset of those spring harbingers of tulips, lilies and crocuses coming to bud. New Life will spring forth all around us as the earth is “re-born” again. We have also been preparing for new growth. We, through the discipline of Lent, have been preparing our hearts, mind and bodies for the in-breaking of God’s spirit into our lives and for the new life in Christ that is so promised in Christ resurrection. May you experience God in a powerful way this Eastertide. May you know his love for you and have that love confirmed for you in a very tangible way! God is blessing us here at St. James’ and God is blessing our Diocese as we prepare for the Episcopate of Bishop-elect Daniel G.P. Gutierrez. My fervent prayer is that we will stay connected to the one who gives us such blessings and grace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us strive to share the love of Christ with all whom we encounter and let us continue to “*know and serve Christ by serving others.*” God bless each and every one of you this Easter season!

Faithfully,

Mike Sowards †

Fr. 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

◆ Jon Yenney, Vestry Secretary
610-454-0179

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

Third in a series of submissions on: What it means to be Episcopalian from a historical, canonical and theological perspective.

- faithfully submitted by *Fr. Mike+*

Episcopal 101

Here is Part 1 of a two-part lesson that looks at the core beliefs that all Episcopalians hold in common. Part 2 will be presented in the next Epistle.

What are the Episcopal Church's Core Beliefs?

† Baptismal Covenant

"Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 292).

A mini catechism used at baptisms and on Easter and other special occasions, the Baptismal Covenant opens with a question-and-answer version of the statement of faith that is the Apostles' Creed and adds five questions regarding how we, as Christians, are called to live out our faith.

† The Bible

"Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 236).

It is our foundation, understood through tradition and reason, containing all things necessary for salvation. Our worship is filled with Scripture from beginning to end. Approximately 70% of the Book of Common Prayer comes directly from the Bible, and Episcopalians read more Holy Scripture in Sunday worship than almost any other denomination in Christianity. (See Revised Common Lectionary of readings.)

† Book of Common Prayer

"It is a most invaluable part of that blessed 'liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,' that in his worship different forms and usages may without offence be allowed, provided the substance of the Faith be kept entire" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 9).

The Book of Common Prayer is a treasure chest full of devotional and teaching resources for individuals and congregations, but it is also the primary symbol of our unity. We, who are many and diverse, come together in Christ through our worship, our common prayer.

† The Catechism

"It is a commentary on the creeds, but is not meant to be a complete statement of belief and practices; rather, it is a point of departure for the teacher" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 844).

Offered in a question-and-answer format, the Catechism found in the back of the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 845-862) helps teach the foundational truths of the Christian faith.

† Christ-Focused

"In him you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 368).

As Episcopalians, we are followers of Jesus Christ, and both our worship and our mission are in Christ's name. In Jesus, we find that the nature of God is love, and through baptism, we share in his victory over sin and death.

† The Creeds

"The Creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 851).

We will always have questions, but in the two foundational statements of faith – the Apostles' Creed used at baptism, and the Nicene Creed used at communion – we join Christians throughout the ages in affirming our faith in the one God who created us, redeemed us, and sanctifies us.

April Dates to Remember

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
2 April	12 Noon	Youth/Senior Luncheon
6 April	6 PM	Book Club Meeting
9 April	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
10 April	9 AM	Sunday Service
	10 AM	Annual Meeting
12 Apr	6:45 PM	Communications & Fundraising Meeting
18 Apr	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
19 Apr	7 PM	ECW Quarterly Meeting
17 Apr	8 -11 AM	Youth Group Car Wash

Upcoming Calendar Highlights

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
10 May	6:45 PM	Communications & Fundraising Meeting
7 May	<i>tbd</i>	Marsh Creek Youth Trip
	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
15 May	10:00 AM	Last Day of Church School Classes
16 May	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
22 May	10 AM	Bishop Visit & Confirmation
1 June	6 PM	Book Club Meeting
4 June	5-7:30 PM	Chicken BBQ
10 June		Rite 13 Urban Adventure – Night Watch, New York

A Heartfelt invitation to the Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 10th

Worship Service 9 AM

Meeting Platts' Hall 10 AM

The Clergy, Vestry and staff of St. James' Episcopal Church invite you to participate in our Annual meeting held on April 10th at 10 AM in Platt's Hall at the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. We will be electing new Vestry members as well as delegates to diocesan convention and representatives to the Valley Forge Deanery. We will also be discussing the spiritual and financial vitality of our church as well as where we are at in our strategic planning process. We have an important story to tell and want everybody to be a part of the narrative of God's blessing and grace that is St. James' Episcopal Church! Remember that there is only one service that Sunday, April 10th. We will gather in the church for Holy Eucharist at 9 AM and then go into our annual meeting in Platt's Hall following the service. Remember that child care will be provided.

Come and be a part of what God is doing here!

-Fr. Mike+

Key Information Presented

The Communications & Fundraising Committee with support of the Vestry will inform the congregation of certain church statistics as a barometer of growth and general operations. Beginning with this issue of the Epistle, you will see "St. James' by the Numbers." Multiple volunteers and employees in the church collect these statistics weekly: our ushers report the attendance, the counters tabulate the plate collection and the church administrator tracks the blue cards and new members. The treasurer provides a monthly statement on collected versus pledged dollars. Father Mike keeps an official record of the number and type of services he officiates. In addition, the prior week's Attendance and Collections will be reported in the service bulletin beginning Easter I.

Any guesses on how many people will attend our Easter services?

Watch for the Easter I bulletin to find out!

St. James' By the Numbers

(Year to Date)



- 7 Visitors/Blue Card submissions
- 17 New Members
- 105 Total Pledges (pledging \$221,922)
 - Receipts:
 - Pledged YTD = \$42,677
 - Receipts YTD = \$42,093
 - Balance YTD = (\$584)
- 0 Baptisms
- 0 Funerals
- 0 Confirmations/Receptions
- 0 Weddings
- 8 Outside organizations' meetings/ events held at St. James'

All Are Welcome to Attend!



Good Book Club

April 6, at 6 PM

[The Sins of Scripture](#), by John Shelby Sprong

June 1, at 6 PM

[The Secret Chord](#), by Geraldine Brooks

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

Fellowship and Fun at Foyer Gatherings

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

👉 **April 9** - *The Tinner's*

👉 **May 14** - *Ned Travis*

Sign up sheets are in the foyer on the bulletin board.



St. James' Youth Group Hosts Senior Luncheon Saturday, April 2nd at Noon

Seniors please sign up on the Bulletin Board. This is a chance for the Youth of St. James' to serve you and enjoy your company. Please plan to attend this popular event sponsored by the St. James' Youth Group.



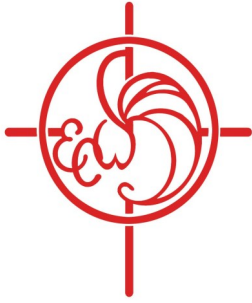
St. James' Youth Washing Cars Sunday, April 17th 8-11 AM (St. James' Parking Lot)

Back by popular demand, St. James' class of 2016 J2A and Rite 13 members will hold their spring car wash in the St. James' parking lot.

For your convenience your car can be washed while you are in worship service, resulting in a great day of accomplishment for all!

Proceeds will benefit the Rite 13 Urban Adventure and the J2A Pilgrimage.





ECW: What – Who? April 19th at 7 PM

Rumor has it that not everyone knows what the St. James' ECW is... As stated in the organization's recently revised by-laws: the purpose of the ECW is to relate the entire womanhood of the parish to the whole goal of the Church through a program of worship, study, service, gifts and fellowship to the end that each woman may find her place in the parish family and the mission of the Church. This includes cooperation with the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and The Episcopal Church. The ECW supports the rector in prayer and ministry.

The membership of St. James' ECW consists of all women of St. James' Episcopal Church. You do not choose to join, you simply choose to be active. There is an executive committee consisting of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer and heads of specific committees responsible for service, giving and fund raising programs. General members are welcome to participate in any and all programs.

On April 19 new officers will be elected to direct the vision of the organization for the coming two years. If you (or someone whose leadership you admire) have a vision of how the women of this parish might come together in love and support to further the work of Christ, please consider placing your/ their name in nomination for office. Nomination forms and submission box are in the parish hall.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, *"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."* Add to the dream of a reenergized future for the ECW by agreeing to share your gifts if nominated for office and by attending the spring meeting to take part in the election.

Come explore the things we might add to the program (i.e. retreats, service opportunities, your pet project); and celebrate the hard work and camaraderie that surrounds the things we do (parish hospitality events, Ham and Oyster Dinner, funeral luncheons). It is not necessary to do everything to be a part of something. We invite you to take this opportunity to discover what your part might be in St. James' ECW?

Look for St. James' Advertisements



The Communications & Fundraising committee contracted with Clipper Magazine to advertise church services and church events in 4 issues of the magazine in 2016 as follows:

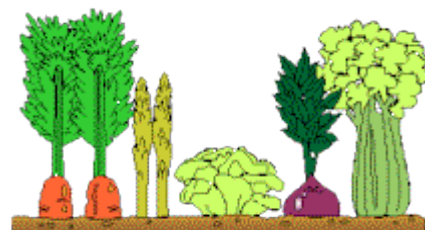
Feb 29	Full page - Lent/Easter services beginning with Palm Sunday
April 4	1/3 page - Regular service times, Chicken BBQ
Sept 5	½ page - Church school, Fun Day, Ham & Oyster
Dec 5	½ page - Christmas services/ activities

The coverage area is for Western Montgomery County with distribution of each issue to 40,000 households. The Communications Committee and Father Mike will have input on the ads for each issue. To track the effectiveness of these ads, the blue cards have been modified to allow visitors to check "Clipper Ad" as how they heard about St James.

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.





Used Books Needed by Girl Friendly Society

Book collection at St. James' Sunday, April 17 - Sunday, April 24.

Marked bins will be available on the back window shelf outside the kitchen for your donations. Used books (in good condition) for both children and adults will be accepted for resale. *Please when selecting books to donate' text books, out dated computer manuals and religious reference books do not move well.* However, all categories of fiction, nonfiction (other than the fore mentioned reference material), inspirational works, cookbooks and themed books on sports, gardening, travel, hobbies, etc. are all in demand.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

GFS/PA Sponsors is holding its 5th Annual used Book Sale to benefit the maintenance fund for GFS Holiday House. The sale will be held at Holiday House, 644 Hughes Street, Cape May NJ on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 6 thru 8.



As many of you know Holiday House is the last remaining retreat house of its kind in the United States. Operated by the Girl's Friendly Society of the Diocese of Pennsylvania the house offers girls from 9-14 years an opportunity to learn and grow in the company of other girls during a summer vacation week.

GFS/PA Sponsors supports girls of all ages through their local parish GFS branches. The organization also works diligently to maintain Holiday House to ensure its availability for future generations of girls. For more information about HH follow the link below to an article published in the Press of Atlantic City.

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/communities/lower_capemay/last-holiday-house-in-u-s-working-to-remain-in/article_d036c35c-cb7c-11df-9b3a-001cc4c002e0.html?mode=story

While the GFS branch here at St. James' is presently inactive many of us have fond memories of Holiday House and our time as members of GFS. We hope in the next several years to reactivate the branch here at St. James' and give another generation of young girls the opportunity to participate in an organization dedicated to helping girls build healthy supportive relationships within a spiritual community.

For more information contact Barbara Bateman at 610-489-9712 or bebateman@verizon.net.



**St. James' Youth Group
Marsh Creek Outing
Saturday, May 7**

Mark your calendars and plan on attending the Youth Group Marsh Creek Outing with your families, 675 Park Road, Downingtown. We will have a picnic celebration of our year together. There are lots of activities at the park, check it out: <http://www.marshcreeklake.com/>



More details will follow on this event, remember to look at your emails!

Bishop Visit

Sunday, May 22nd at 10 AM



The Bishop is coming on Sunday, May 22nd at 10 AM. The Bishop will perform the rites of confirmation, reception, and re-affirmation. The service will be followed by a coffee hour celebration to honor the Bishop.

St. James'



**Saturday, June 4
5-7:30 PM**

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. There are many different ways to volunteer : cookie makers, table setters, grill helpers, clean up, potato salad makers, servers, bus people, etc. Sign up sheets will be located in the Parish Hall.

We look forward to working and eating with you!

Please direct your questions to Trish Goonan, waving2@aol.com

Thank you!

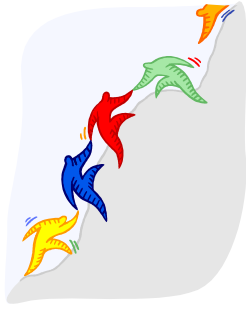
Job Club Network Meets

**Saturday, April 9th at 8:30 AM
Saturday, May 13th at 8:30 AM**

If you are not actively looking for a job, join us at a St. James' Network meeting. Sharing your experiences, can be valuable to others . It's all about networking and you may be surprised to find connections for yourself and be able to help others.

Please contact Jim Earhart: 215-815-6767, jhearhart@verizon.net and get involved!

A white sign with a blue border and a crown at the top. The text on the sign reads 'KEEP CALM AND GO TO JOB CLUB' in blue capital letters. The sign is tilted slightly to the right.



Gratitude and Change at Outreach House

Spring has sprung and warmer weather is upon us. Just as changes are happening in the air, there are new things happening at the Outreach House. Marialice Dancy has been the Director of the Outreach House for the past 4 years. She has run the Mission with passion, kindness and a great deal of professionalism. The clients enjoy talking to her and they consider her a friend. Marialice has decided to step down as Director effective the first of March. The volunteers of Outreach House thank her for her years of service and wish her well!

The new Director of Outreach House is Carole Exley. She has been volunteering at the OH for the past couple of years and enjoys serving the clients. Carole hopes to keep the OH running smoothly and looks forward to the challenges ahead.

If you have any questions about the OH or are interested in volunteering, please contact Carole at 610-416-9870, caroleexley@comcast.net

April & May Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's

Cookie donations are appreciated! Simply place the cookies in the church kitchen the night before Saturday delivery and mark them "For St. Mary's".

April cookie: **Oatmeal Raisin**

May cookie: **Chocolate Chip**

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



Hosts Needed for Coffee Hour

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.



If its your first time, no worries, help is available - its easy! Just contact Sarah Reid, reidsrock@comcast.net.

Sign up sheets are posted near the coffee maker.

Altar Flower Schedule

April

- 3 Mark & Loretta Saylor
- 10 David & Joanne Runyan
- 17 The Ray Family
- 24 Steve & Melanie Jackson
- Marjorie Swymelar

May

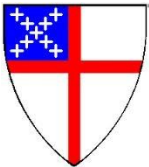
- 1 Mr. & Mrs. Art Tinner
- 8 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Fischer (altar)
- Mrs. Dede Montgomery (piano)
- 15 Mr. & Mrs. John Newman
- 22 Mr. & Mrs. Howard Maris
- 29 The Reid Family



Rite 13 Urban Adventure



The Rite 13 students conclude their two years of study with an Urban Adventure. They will participate with youth from other parishes in a religious program and a group planned trip. This year the students along with their teachers will travel to New York City on June 10th and spend the night at **The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine**. The next day they will navigate and experience the city together.



Journey to Adulthood (J2A) Pilgrimage to London



A pilgrimage is a journey one makes to a sacred place to become more closely connected with God. It is a journey of moral or spiritual significance that typically takes one to a location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith.

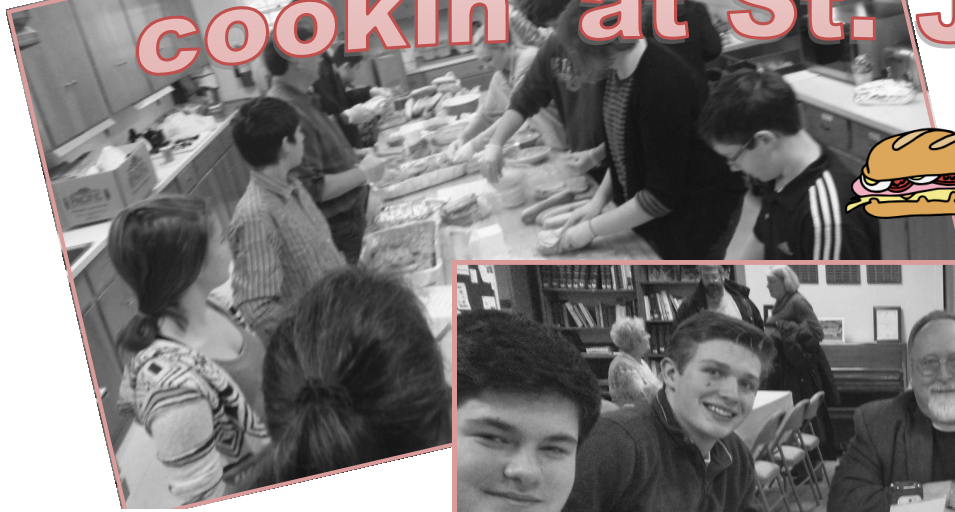
This spring and summer, the culminating events of the Journey to Adulthood Program are Confirmation and Pilgrimage. Our J2A confirmation will take place on May 22, and on July 9, we deepen and extend our faith as we make a pilgrimage to England. Our main concentration will be on spiritual growth done through prayer, exploration, and meditation and by following in the footsteps of those who came before us. We will be staying at the **Royal Foundation of St. Katherine in London, England**.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us to make this pilgrimage a reality. Through your generous donations and fundraising efforts, we will soon make this once-in-a-lifetime journey. We ask you to pray for us as we take this incredible pilgrimage together. We cannot wait to share with you what we discover as we deepen our faith and continue our life journey.



-Yours In Christ, The Leaders and Youth of the 2016 J2A Class

Something good is always cookin' at St. James'



St. James' Youth Making Hoagies for the Super Bowl



Shrove Pancake Supper

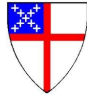


Lenten Fish Fry



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.

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. Sarah Reid, reidsrock@comcast.net.

Communications: Contact Joanne Tatem, 610-631-2488.

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: Contact Barbara Bateman, 610-489-9712 or bebateman@verizon.net.

Memorial Flowers: Contact Marilyn Hastings, 610-489-9728 or marilyn.hastings@verizon.net.

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.