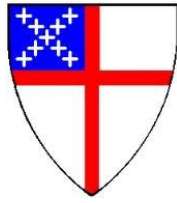




The Epistle

August / September
Issue



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray that all are soaking up the sun, spending time with our families and getting ready for a new school year this fall! With the celebration of Pentecost we transition from the white of Easter to the green of ordinary time. Summer here in Pennsylvania is anything but ordinary! We are experiencing record heat and humidity. Please take the appropriate precaution as you take your vacations this summer and please keep the ministries of St. James in your prayers. As I write this, I and the 10 other pilgrims are planning our excursion to London England. Please pray for us that this pilgrimage will be a time of deep reflection and spiritual growth for all that attend. Please look forward to the presentation sometime this fall from our pilgrims about their experience! I ask for your continued prayers and I pray that God would give me wisdom and discernment to be the best pastor to all of the people of St. James'. There is a lot going on! To all, have a wonderful summer. May your minds and bodies be renewed this summer and may we all come back this fall ready to do the work God has given us to do.

Faithfully,

Mike Sowards †

Fr. Mike Sowards

Rector

Rector

◆ Mike Sowards 215-251-8856

Vestry

◆ Barbara Bateman, Rector's Warden
610-489-9712

◆ 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

◆ Barbara Bateman 610-489-9712

Education

◆ Mike Sowards 215-251-8856

Finance

◆ Chris Kristofco 215-272-1910

◆ Dale Pennapacker, Treasurer
610-933-5177

Outreach & Companion

◆ Kathy Lochocki 610-585-5586

◆ Jackie Dahlen 610-792-0935

Parish Life & Member Ministries

◆ Sarah Reid 610-539-7953

◆ Melanie Jackson 610-831-1987

◆ Joanne Tatem 610-631-2488

Fourth 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

Salvation

When I was a seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary, I was lucky enough to spend a summer working with the Clergy and Staff of Trinity Episcopal Church in Manassas, Virginia. The Rector of Trinity, the Rev. Stuart Schadt was and is an amazing preacher, pastor and theologian. The following is an excerpt from one of his sermons on salvation. I believe Stuart does an amazing job pointing out the complications associated with this term we call salvation. This sermon is printed with his permission.

A Sermon by The Rev. Stuart Schadt

HAVE YOU BEEN SAVED?

Not the usual language you hear in the Episcopal Church is it? We don't talk about salvation much. However I don't think there is a theological issue or a religious practice that does more to define the different branches of Christianity than how we speak of Salvation.

A few years ago on Christmas Eve at our 5:30 worship we had our usual great crowd, the church and parish hall were packed to overflowing. It was a wonderful evening with lots of children and great music and 'I of course delivered one of my great sermons.' At least I thought so. Well after the service a young couple stopped me, they were here with their parents, they wanted to know why I had not preached Christ crucified? I understood they were basically asking why I had not preached a salvation altar call type of message. I said, no it was Christmas and I preached the incarnation, the birth of Christ. They went on to say I had this great crowd and I had passed on the opportunity to save these people. I said these people are saved they are here to celebrate that salvation and to strengthen their faith. The young couple went away sadly disappointed in me. We have very different understandings of Salvation.

You may not have heard of him but Rob Bell was an evangelical preacher of good standing, a pastor of a mega-church. I am not sure what the definition of a mega church is but I think it is a church with congregational worship of a 1000 or more. There are not many Episcopal mega churches. Rob Bell was in good standing with the evangelical community until a few months ago when his new book Love Wins was published. In that book he challenges the very basics of the evangelical salvation formula claiming that tying salvation to a 'specific moment in our lives when we have reached the age of reason and recited with sincere conviction the correct formula of commitment.' This is neither biblical nor true!

I think he might be ready to become an Episcopalian. In truth I think what he may have done is read scripture with new eyes, fresh eyes what will I find. We all read through set lenses set point of views. And when we for some reason set them aside and view the world with new eyes we see new things. In the same way I think we would do well to re-examine our vision of baptism. Many people act as though they believe the act of being baptized is sufficient unto itself. While it may be sufficient for salvation I believe we are meant to live into that baptism to learn and live as followers of Christ.

So let's go look at scripture and see what we might find out about our salvation. Well when we do that we find several amazing things about salvation.

- † There are between ten and twelve authors of the books of the New Testament. However it is clear throughout the New Testament that there is certainty that Jesus' death on the cross established a new relationship between God and humanity and that relationship is called salvation.
- † There is less agreement on how that salvation is accomplished. The ways it is expressed can be gathered under four headings
- † The Cross as sacrifice – Representative. Participatory. Substitutionary.
- † The cross as victory – over sin, over death, over Satan, over evil
- † The cross as a forgiveness Jesus on the cross satisfies the demands of God and makes forgiveness possible.
- † The cross as a moral example – Christ's willingness to die on the cross for us is a testimony to God's love for us.

There are also words like ransom and adoption used to speak of the nature of the saving act and I am not sure where those words fall under the four headings above. I remember somewhere reading that the New Testament had 21 distinctly different ways of explaining how through the cross of Christ we are saved. And it is unclear when our salvation is accomplished. If we just look at only St. Paul' understanding of Salvation we find that:

We will be saved.

Romans 5.10:

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

We were saved

Romans 8.24:

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

We are being saved

1 Corinthians 1.18:

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 15.2:

through which also you are being saved,
if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

I believe very much that in the death of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ on the cross, we have been saved. I believe that when I was three months old and my parents took me to St. Michael's Episcopal Church in LaMarque Texas and had me baptized they made clear their intention to help me live into the experience of my salvation. And I believe every day since then as I have committed and recommitted myself to God by word and action I have participated in the process of being saved. Let's just look at our worship. In many ways we have two altar calls in our worship almost every Sunday; The Nicene Creed and the Eucharist. Together we affirm "We believe...." And then at communion we come forward to be united with one another and God in Christ through the bread and wine of communion.

Episcopal 101—*continued*

I hope you are familiar with the tensions of the debate between the New Testament writings of Paul and those of James. Paul speaks of salvation by grace alone; The unmerited love of God. James writes of the importance of works saying there is no evidence of faith without works. Some say they really agree some say they don't. I believe we are meant to live into our salvation by studying the teachings of Jesus and acting in the ways of Christ.

There is a metaphor that I have used before but that I really like. A man comes into the concert hall one day. There just happen to be a number of people standing around the concert grand that day. This man introduces himself as the greatest pianist of the day. He says he has studied every work ever written for the piano and can practically rewrite them all from memory. And he has composed numerous pieces himself. Not only that he has disassembled and reassembled numerous pianos and even built his own from scratch. Well the people marvel at this and invite him to sit down and play. He says I am sorry I can't I have never played a piano. It is not in knowing that we become it is in doing that we become. Now what about Salvation and Judgment? I don't expect to be able to get away with talking about salvation without also talking about judgment. The Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John mention fire 28 times. 7 of those are fires to cook or keep you warm. 5 of them are good fires like "the one who comes after me will baptize you with water and the holy spirit" So that leaves sixteen to be somewhat destructive fires. It is worth noting that 11 of those remaining 16 are all in the Gospel of Matthew. I note that because it tells us that there may be something in particular about Matthew's theology that leads him to mention fire so many times. But let me suggest we set aside our popular image of hell that is created by Dante's inferno in the middle ages and look differently at these fires. A few weeks ago at the Wednesday noon Eucharist we read from the prophet Zechariah

Zechariah 13.9:

And I will put this third into the fire,
refine them as one refines silver,
and test them as gold is tested.
They will call on my name,
and I will answer them.
I will say, 'They are my people';
and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'

I wonder if we understood fire not through the lens of Dante's inferno but thought first of the purifying fire of metallurgy. Or if we thought of the use of fire in agriculture where until very recent times an annual burning of the fields was a standard process of preparation. (This practice is largely discouraged now because it was a major source of pollution and because sometimes you accidentally burned your neighbor's field also.) Thinking of fire differently might help us understand being cast into the fire as a message of being recycled or further refined?

I think we are all judged and I think we are all lacking. I think we are being judged ion the now and we ought to be open to hearing our need to do better. And I think we will stand in the presence of God's

I believe we all will experience the judgment of God. If I understand that there will be a day when I stand before God then I know that standing there confronted by the perfection and the fullness of God's righteousness I will be self-convicted of my failures, short comings and brokenness. And only by the mercy of God do I have any hope.

Episcopal 101—*continued*

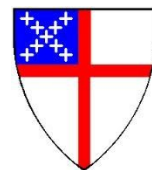
So if someone asks and they probably won't have you been saved tell them

I have been saved in Christ's death on the cross.

And by the mercy of God I will be saved.

But most importantly this day through the teaching of Jesus and my commitment to follow in his ways I am striving to live into my salvation in this life.

Amen!



Community Day

St. James' Fall Fund Raiser

Saturday, September 17 – 8:00AM - 2:00PM

Silent Auction: online September 10-17 at: www.stjames-episcopal.org/SA
preview September 10-11 following worship
live from 8:00-2:00 September 17 during Community Day

You can help stock our tables by:

- soliciting local businesses for donations
- donating a theme basket or other item or service
(see poster in Platts Hall for ideas)
- giving date and web address to friends and neighbors

Crafters/vendors/flea market/yard sale tables

Space \$15.00 – with table and chair \$25.00
donations for parish yard sale table may be left in Platts Hall after Labor Day

Fun for the whole family

Moon bounce – face painting

Food

Vendor trucks and snack bar
Bake table – please donate your specialty item to the bake table
(leave in kitchen on 9/16)

Your help is needed for Friday (setup) and Saturday during the event

A sign-up sheet with specific jobs and time slots will be available in August.
Please watch for notification in the Sunday Bulletin and "Happenings" email.

St James' Parish CALENDAR Highlights – September 2016 – January 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>event</u>
5-17 Sept		Silent Auction in Platt's Hall (no meetings upstairs during this time)
8 Sept	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal Begins (meets Thursdays weekly in Choir Room)
11 Sept	9AM	J2A, Rite 13 and Adult Bible Study Begins
	9:45AM	Church School (Ages 3 through 5 th Grade) Begins
14 Sept	7:00 PM	Adult Bible Study & Compline Begins (meets Wednesdays weekly in Church)
15 Sept	--	October/November Epistle Items Due
17 Sept	8 AM – 2PM	Community Fun Day
18 Sept	10AM	Recognition Day
	11:15 AM	Parish Picnic
19 Sept	7:30PM	Vestry Meeting
20 Sept	7PM	ECW Meeting
2 Oct	9 AM – 11:15AM	Animal Sitting provided by J2A/Rite 13
	11:15	Animal Blessing
5 Oct	6 PM	Good Book Club
8 Oct	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
11 Oct	7 PM	Communications Meeting
	7 PM	ECW Meeting
17 Oct	7:30 PM	Vestry
5 & 6 Nov	All Services	All Saints -Baptisms
12 Nov	4-7PM	Ham & Oyster Dinner
8 Nov	7 PM	Communication Meeting
12 Nov	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
15 Nov	--	December/January Epistle Items Due
21 Nov	7:30 PM	Vestry
24-25 Nov		OFFICE CLOSED
7 Dec	6 PM	Good Book Club
10 Dec	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
12 Dec	12:30-2PM	Outreach Client Gift Pick up
13 Dec	7 PM	Communications Meeting
14 Dec	9:30-11AM	Outreach Client Gift Pick up
17 Dec	9:30-11:30AM	Outreach Client Gift Pick up
	1-3PM	Pageant rehearsal
18 Dec	10 AM	Nativity pageant & parish Advent party (No Christian Education Classes)
23 Dec-1 Jan		OFFICE CLOSED
24 Dec	5, 6 & 10:30	Christmas Eve services & dinner
6 Jan	7 PM	Epiphany Service
10 Jan	7 PM	Communications Meeting
14 Jan	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
15 Jan	---	February/March Epistle Items Due
16 Jan	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting

Episcopal Church Women Are Invited to Contribute to Raffle Basket

Every commission area is asked to contribute a basket of goodies for the St. James' Community Day raffle. The ECW decided to adopt the theme **"There are a few of our favorite things"**. Can't you hear Julie Andrews singing that famous song from The Sound of Music?

We are looking for every woman of the parish to add to the basket! We hope to collect enough items to create at least two BIG baskets for the raffle.

Need some ideas? A favorite paperback novel, cookbook, movie, bottle of wine, perfumed soap or lotion, gift card to a favorite shop or restaurant, etc. You've got time to think about and acquire your contribution.

In August, Joanne Tatem will begin collecting items. What a fun way for all women in the parish to participate in an ECW activity and help St. James' biggest fundraising event of the year!



THESE ARE A FEW OF MY
FAVORITE THINGS



St. James' Annual Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 18 after the 10 AM Service

September is **"Back to School"** AND **"Back to Church"** Month! The Parish Life Committee hosts the annual parish picnic for everyone to come together, enjoy a casual lunch, catch up on each other's summer adventures and generate enthusiasm for upcoming fall church events.

This year's picnic will be on Sunday, September 18th immediately following the 10 AM Service. Please plan to join us! Food is provided as well as some activities for the kids. In keeping with tradition, the raffle winners from the Community Fun Day will also be picked and announced at the picnic.

If you would like to help with this event, please contact Joanne Tatem (joanne.tatem@verizon.net) or Sarah Reid (reidsrock@comcast.net). Help with set up and clean up is especially appreciated.



GOLF Outing

Join the Fun

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

Sunday, August 21 at 3 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)

St. James' Christian Education Classes Begin Sunday, September 11

Please fill out the following Registration Form so that enrollment coordination can commence. Simply return your registration to: office administrator mail box in the foyer or send to office@stjames-episcopal.org

Sunday September 11

- 9 AM** J2A, Rite 13 and Adult bible study begins. Please sign in at the office prior to class
- 9:45 AM** Church School (ages 3 thru 5th grade) begins. Meet in the Platts' Hall & your teacher will guide you to your classroom

Choir Practice Begins September 8



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 2016-2017 season which begins in September.

September 8 at 7:30 PM Choir Room

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

Altar Flower Schedule

August

- 7 Mrs. Jean Beers
14 Mr. Jeffrey Merz
21 tbd
28 Mrs. Marilyn Hastings

September

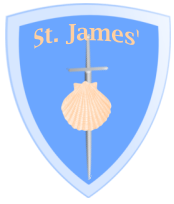
- 4 The Linderman Family
11 Ms. Lee Ann Clamer & Family
18 Mrs. Helen Scaran
25 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Earhart (Altar)
 Mr. Ken Speaker (Piano)



Submissions for the next October/November St. James' Epistle are requested by September 15.

Communications Request Forms can be found in the foyer by the mail boxes or on-line:

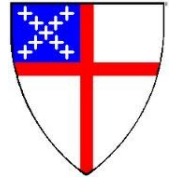
http://www.stjames-episcopal.org/site/cpage.asp?cpage_id=140035837&sec_id=140007125



St. James' Episcopal Church

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Christian Education Classes



(Please complete and return to the Parish Administrator mailbox located in the parish foyer or email to office@stjames-episcopal.org)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade Entering _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone Number _____ Mobile Number _____

Email Address _____

Please use a separate form for each student you are enrolling. Thank you!

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

- 2014-current The Owls (Nursery)
- 2012-2013 The Robins
- 2010-2011 The Peacocks
- 2008-2009 The Doves
- 2006-2007 The Eagles
- 2004-2005 Rite 13
- 2002-2003 Journey to Adulthood (J2A)

If you have any questions about Church School, Rite 13 or J2A please contact the office at 610-489-7564 or office@stjames-episcopal.org. Thank you!

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

I will be able to :

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

_____ Help with Christmas pageant _____ Other: _____

Upcoming October & November Events

Mark your calendars with these dates

More information will follow

Sunday, October 2nd

St. James' Animal Blessing

9-11:15 AM Animal Sitting provide

11:15 AM Animal Blessing



Wednesday, October 5th

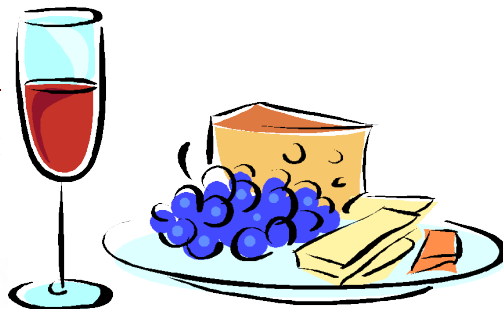
The Good Book Club

Platts' Hall at 6 PM

Ending Big Government, *Jackie Dahlen*

Saturday, October 8th

Foyer Gathering at 7:30 PM

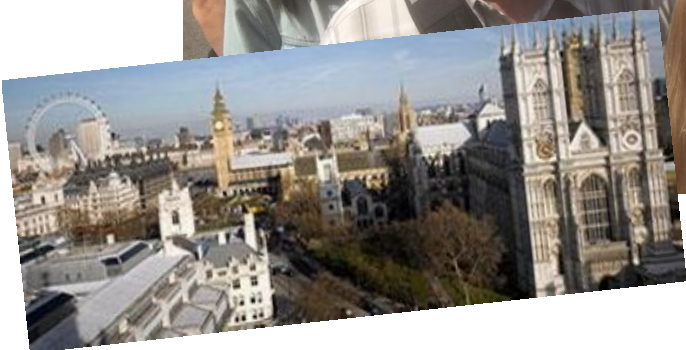


Saturday, November 12th

St. James' Ham & Oyster Dinner

Platts' Hall 4-7 PM

St. James' Youth Urban Adventure & Pilgrimage



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