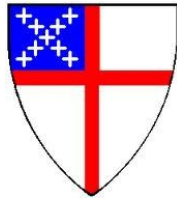




The Epistle



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

June / July Issue
2016

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

What a wet, chilly spring this season has turned out to be! Many, including myself, can't wait for the warm weather to appear and with it the lusciousness that always marks springtime here in Montgomery County.

As we anticipate the warmth of summer and the welcome heat, I am also reminded that the Season of Pentecost is upon us. On that day, the Day of Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit upon his people and the Church was born. Scripture tells us that tongues of fire settled on the believers and that Peter, embolden by the gift of the Holy Spirit, stood up and preached to all that were in Jerusalem and many came to know Christ that day. You can say the Apostles were "on fire" for God and that they were called to action by the empowering of the Holy Spirit. As we await the warming of our days, let us turn our Spiritual hearts to Christ and have God set us on fire for his kingdom. My prayer is that we would all be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit and that the love of God would warm all of our hearts and that we would share that love with a broken and hurting world.

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

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 2 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?

Part 2

Holy Baptism

"Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 298).

In the waters of baptism we are reminded that we belong to God and nothing can separate us from the love of God. We also find ourselves part of an extended family, one with Christians throughout the ages and across the world, what we call the "one, holy, catholic [meaning 'universal'], and apostolic Church."

The Rite of Holy Baptism can be found on pp. 297-308 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Holy Communion

"We thank you ... for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 366).

It goes by several names: Holy Communion, the Eucharist (which literally means "thanksgiving"), mass. But whatever it's called, this is the family meal for Christians and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. As such, all persons who have been baptized, and are therefore part of the extended family that is the Church, are welcome to receive the bread and wine, and be in communion with God and each other.

The Sacraments

"Sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 857).

Besides baptism and the Eucharist (Holy Communion), the church recognizes other spiritual markers in our journey of faith. These include:

- ✠ Confirmation (the adult affirmation of our baptismal vows), pp. 413-419, Book of Common Prayer
- ✠ Reconciliation of a Penitent (private confession), pp. 447-452, Book of Common Prayer
- ✠ Matrimony (Christian marriage), pp. 422-438, Book of Common Prayer
- ✠ Orders (ordination to deacon, priest, or bishop), pp. 510-555, Book of Common Prayer
- ✠ Unction (anointing with oil those who are sick or dying) pp. 453-467, Book of Common Prayer

These help us to be a sacramental people, seeing God always at work around us.

Spiritual Growth

"Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 833).

The promises we make in our Baptismal Covenant are reminders that we are not yet perfect, that we are called to move deeper in our faith and make a difference in our world. We do so together as the church, always professing that we will indeed live into our baptismal vows as followers of Christ, but always "with God's help."

Summer Worship

Saturday 5 PM, Sunday 8 & 10 AM

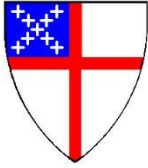
Office Hours

As summer approaches, continuing education, pilgrimage and vacations are scheduled. Please call the office at 610-489-7564 before heading over to ensure someone is here to assist you.

Thank you!

Upcoming Calendar Highlights

1 June 6 PM	Book Club Meeting
4 June 5-7:30 PM	Chicken BBQ
9 June	Last Choir Practice
10-11 June	Rite 13 Urban Adventure - Night Watch, New York
8-16 July	J2A Pilgrimage - London
15 July	Epistle Submissions Due
	August-September issue



St. James' Master Plan Presentation Highlights



Interested members of the congregation gathered on Saturday, May 14, 2016 to hear GKO Architects introduction of the St. James' Master Plan. Michael O'Rourke, of GKO, outlined the Master Plan process which began more than one year ago and included Vestry discussions, parish organization and leadership interviews, and the January parish visioning day. From the information gathered GKO developed various options for consideration. O'Rourke stressed the point that GKO options were arrived at taking into consideration common themes developed at the visioning day and the historical significance of the parish. The plan presented was adopted by unanimous Vestry decision.

The plan details a two phase approach as follows:

Phase 1 - Construct a new Outreach Center building oriented along Germantown Pike and needed repairs to the current worship space.

Phase 2 - Create a worship space addition constructed on the side of the existing church that will include a narthex and administrative office area.

The Outreach Center will replace the current Outreach House with a one floor facility which will be more practical and functional for volunteers and the public. Several suggestions were made regarding use of the Glebe House (current Outreach House) as office space, housing for assistant rector, or rental property.

Construction of the worship space addition will not only increase seating capacity but will also provide a centralized entrance, enhanced security through the office area, and improved acoustics and seating orientation for the choir. The addition will be in keeping with the historic character and esthetics of the existing sanctuary. A lower level parish hall with natural lighting courtyard is a possibility with this plan.

At the conclusion of the presentation Fr. Mike discussed the steps necessary to move forward including submission of the plan to Lower Providence Township and creation of a funding plan. He pointed out maintenance issues requiring attention on the existing building (i.e. roof repair/replacement and wall repair to correct water seepage into the lower level) that need to be addressed as part of Phase 1.

A poster showing exterior views and initial interior floor plans is available in Platts Hall. The full presentation can be found on St. James' website at www.stjames-episcopal.org.

Annual Meeting Highlights & Vestry Organization

"St. James' is a healthy, flourishing parish" was the focus message at the 2015 Annual Meeting held on April 10 in the parish hall. Members of the congregation were shown a slide presentation outlining parish growth in numbers, stewardship and service.

Acknowledged and given gifts of thanks for their dedication and service were: Janet Newman retired after 26 ½ years as Vestry secretary and Drew Beck and Cheryl Skeates for 6 and 3 year terms as Vestry representatives. Drew and Cheryl spoke about the importance of service on the Vestry and encouraged others to make this commitment in the future.

Newly elected to the Vestry were Chris Kristofco and Jackie Dahlen while Dale Pennapacker and Barbara Bateman were elected for second three year terms. Phil Tatem, Rick Toth and Jon Yenney agreed to serve again as Deanery and Diocesan representatives.

Appointments of officers at a Vestry meeting following the Annual Meeting were as follows:

Barbara Bateman – Rector's Warden, Joanne Tatem – People's Warden, Dale Pennapacker – Treasurer, Jon Yenney – Vestry Secretary.

Also appointed were Vestry Commission heads in the following order: *Buildings and Grounds* – Jean Beers, Gene Goff, Rick Toth; *Communications* – Barbara Bateman; *Finance* – Chris Kristofco and Dale Pennapacker; *Outreach* – Jackie Dahlen, Kathy Lochocki; *Parish Life* – Melanie Jackson, Sarah Reid, Joanne Tatem. Fr. Mike assumed responsibility for Education.

The slide presentation is available on St. James' website at www.stjames-episcopal.org .

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!

All Are Welcome to Attend!



Good Book Club

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.

Altar Flower Schedule

June

- 5 Mr. & Mrs. Dale Pennapacker
- 12 Mrs. Jean Beers
- 19 Mr. Lawrence Plummer
- 26 Mr. & Mrs. David Runyan

July

- 3 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Saylor
- 10 Mrs. Dee Dee McGrane
- 17 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mayconich
- 24 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lochocki



June & July Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's

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

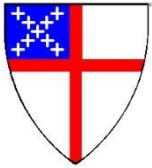


June cookie: **Oatmeal Raisin**

July cookie: **Oatmeal Raisin**

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





St. James' Keeps Calm and Shines On



The Confirmands, those Received and their families gathered to celebrate the day with the Bishop, Rt. Reverend Rodney R. Michel on Sunday May 22nd. There was a sudden change in plans as we learned that the Bishop would not be able to attend. While this news was disappointing St. James' was able to make the best of the situation. St. James' shone through the change in plans with grace and joy. Fr. Mike was excellent in leading us in worship and celebration. His gave a remarkable sermon on the Holy Trinity and took the Bishop's absence as an opportunity to recognize each Confirmand and those Received individually; there by introducing them to the whole congregation. It was wonderful to learn about each of their journeys and a warm welcome for all.

Another memorable part of the day was the beautiful welcome reception presented by the ECW in Platts' Hall. Complete with flowers, white linens, ECW signature tea sandwiches, lovely desserts and high tea with silver service, Platts' Hall never looked better!



The Bishop was able to attend the following Sunday May 29th. During a private ceremony he laid hands on all available Confirmands and those being Received, *including the surprise addition of Laura Wingerter*. The Bishop then stayed for the 10 AM service to celebrate and worship with all of St. James'. He will return to St. James' to confirm and receive those unable to attend on May 29th.

Confirmation:

*Samantha Abigayle Eselby
Sarah Christine Exley
Alec Matthew Jackson
Sean Daniel McCann
Maria Catherine Price
Lindsey Anne Reinhardt
Alyson Marie Samtmann*

Reception:

*Deborah Ruth DiSanto
Michael Nicholas D'Orazio
Carole L. Konert
Rosemary Miller
Kathleen Ann Mariano Morlang
Ned Patrick Travis
Susan Vogelmann
James Wingerter
Laura Wingerter*

St. James' Confirmands 2016



Bishop Visits May 29th



J2A Confirmands Pilgrimage in London, England on July 8-16



Congratulations to all of our young people who were confirmed. The culmination of the Rite13 and Journey to Adulthood program is a pilgrimage. This class is going to be pilgrimaging in London, England and will be staying at **The Royal Foundation of St. Katharine Conference and Retreat Centre.**

St. Katharine's is located in the heart of London by the Thames River and has easy access to the London Tube. The Confirmands, one of their teachers Phil Tatem, Fr. Mike and Sonya plan to visit and worship in Westminster Abbey, see the sights such as the Tower of London and the London Eye. In addition, they plan to visit Canterbury with the hope of meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury while there. There will also be plenty of time for prayer and reflection built into the itinerary.

The pilgrims on this trek have raised money to defer the cost of the trip. If you would like to contribute to the pilgrimage, just make a check out to St. James' and put pilgrimage fund in the memo line.

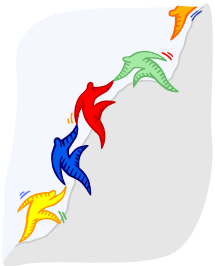
We ask the prayers of the parish on this endeavor, that these confirmands will meet God in a powerful way and strengthen the promises that they made in their confirmation.



Rite 13 Urban Adventure is June 10



The Rite 13 students will participate with youth from other parishes in a religious program and a group planned trip in New York City on June 10th. The students along with their teachers will spend the night at **The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine** and the next day navigate and experience the city together. We look forward to hearing about their Urban Adventure when they return!



Outreach House

**Who do you
think we are?**

Yes, we collect food for those that are hungry. Yes, we have household items and clothing for those in need. But did you know.....

- ◆ Many people volunteer their time to keep the Outreach House running smoothly.
- ◆ Volunteers come every Monday and Wednesday to re-stock and organize the shelves.
- ◆ We have volunteers from St James, as well as friends from other churches, helping.
- ◆ There are 20 volunteers that help out each and every week.
- ◆ Some volunteers are only able to help on Saturdays.
- ◆ New volunteers are always welcome

Without volunteers we would not be able to serve God as we serve others. Come and spend an hour or two with us this week. We would love to have your help!

For more information contact Carole Exley, Director of the Outreach House, 610-416-9870 or stjamesoutreachhouse@gmail.com

Why Not Volunteer ?

**Church School is a
Great Way to Serve**

Church School wrapped up on May 15th. Special thanks to all our wonderful teachers and students. Church School will resume in **September**, details will follow. In the meantime, please bring your children to the regular service.

*God and Father Mike love a church
filled with laughter!*

Teachers are needed for the coming year. If you are interested in teaching or subbing please let us know. Please email Laurie Shawaluk at Lshawaluk@comcast.net or contact Father Mike.





Saturday, September 17
Community Day - Save the Date

Doing some spring cleaning? Set aside what you want to donate and be ready to bring it to the parish hall after Labor Day.

Want to sell some items? Space reservations are \$15; Table w/chair space reservations are \$20.

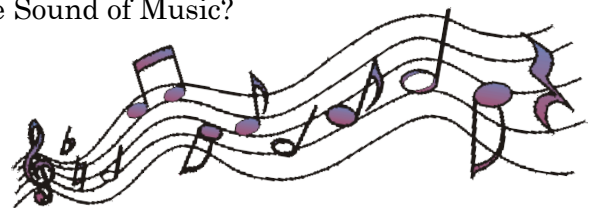
Volunteers are needed now for securing silent auction items, raffle items, vendors and artisans, and lots of volunteers will be needed for the Friday and Saturday set-up and tear down. Join the Communications and Fundraising Committee to share your ideas for bringing the public to our the church for this significant fund raiser to benefit the church and our Outreach House programs.

The next meeting is at **Monday, June 6 at 7 PM**. Your suggestions & questions are welcome, please contact Barbara Bateman, 610-489-9712 bebateman@verizon.net or Doreen Mayconich 610-948-5730 dkmayconich@comcast.net.

Episcopal Church Women Are Invited to Contribute

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?

THESE ARE A FEW OF MY
FAVORITE THINGS



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!





Silent Auction

Community Fun Day Silent Auction FAQs?

What is silent auction? A silent auction sells goods or services. A silent auction keeps all the bids on items secret. People who want to buy things write down the price they are willing to pay, and the person who has written down the largest amount of money wins the item. *Silent Auction is a major part of St. James' Community Day, our parish fall fundraiser.* St. James' Silent Auction also includes a raffle option where participants vie for items with tickets used in a drawing.

How long has this been going on? This will be the 6th annual Community Day.

What types of items are available? A wide range of theme baskets, vacation home offerings, sports tickets and/or equipment, restaurant gift cards, electronics, small appliances, etc.

How are items provided? Auction items are solicited from local businesses for goods or services, parish organizations create theme baskets, and individual members of the congregation make donations. Donors have provided interesting creative options in past years.

Where is the silent auction held? St. James' parish hall is turned into a display area for the Silent Auction for a period of one week. **The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 17. Items will be available for preview and early bidding on Saturday, September 10.**

How do I bid? Bidding may be done either in person by registering for a bid number with auction staff or online at www.stjames-episcopal.org/SA. All bidding begins on September 10 when online auction goes live.

How can I help? Ask businesses you frequent to support the event with a donation (a list of previous donors will be available in the parish hall in mid-June). * If you have a particular talent offer it as a service to be bid for * if you have season tickets for sports events, theatre or concert performances, etc. offer passes for a specific date * band with another parish family to provide a gift card for a restaurant, business or other item * create your own theme basket * if you own a vacation property considering offering a week or long weekend of R&R for bid ((bidding on property will be limited to parish members only unless owner chooses to make bidding open to the public.)

Who do I contact if I have questions, want to donate an item or help in any way?

The parish Communications Committee sponsors Community Day. Your suggestions & questions are welcome, please contact Barbara Bateman, 610-489-9712 bebateman@verizon.net or Doreen Mayconich 610-948-5730 dkmayconich@comcast.net.

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, marilynpenna@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.