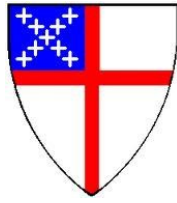




# The Epistle

Lent / Easter Issue  
2016



# St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania  
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you receive this Epistle we are preparing for the observance of Lent leading to the celebration of the Resurrection in Eastertide. Easter is early this year which means most of our time in Lent will be spent in the winter days of darkness and cold. We look forward to the lengthening of days when the sun will spend more time giving off its light causing the world to renew itself again. When light comes, the world is “re-born” and new life will begin springing up all around us. We are a lot like the flowers and plants of the earth. We need light in our lives to renew us and to help us grow. The Gospel writer of John stated this fact so eloquently in his Prologue. He wrote: *What has come into being in him (Jesus) was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:4-5, NRSV).* We need the light of Christ love in order to grow and mature into the people God would have us to be. We prepare for the in-breaking of Christ’s light and love by preparing of our hearts through are Lenten disciplines. Now is the time to remove from our lives those things that stunt our growth and prepare ourselves for the glory that is Easter through prayer and discipline. My fervent prayer is that you will find God in a powerful way this Lenten season. I also pray that God will continue to bless us here at St. James.’ May the light of Christ make you his servant so you can serve others in his name. God bless each and every one of you and may your spiritual journey bring you all the blessings that God has in store for you!

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

## **Second 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**

#### **How is the Episcopal Church financed?**

Unlike some hierarchical church structures, the Episcopal Church has a bottom-up rather than a top-down financial system. Monies collect through plate and pledge at each congregation is intended to be used in that congregation for the paying of salaries to the clergy and lay employees, the upkeep of the buildings and grounds, including the utilities to keep them open, and the ministry to the wider community. St. James' is a parish in the diocese of Pennsylvania which means we are self-supporting; we take no monies from the diocese. Other ministries in the diocese that rely on the diocese for financial assistance are known as missions and not parishes. Each diocese in the Episcopal Church has a different way of calculating what each parish sends to its diocese and then calling for that asking. Here in the diocese of Pennsylvania, we separate the operating budget from the program budget. The diocese asks us every year for a mandatory assessment and a voluntary program assessment. The mandatory assessment for 2016 was \$11,173.00 and we voluntarily gave \$1500.00 toward the program budget. The mandatory assessment was less than 5% of our total receipts for 2015. The assessment is always based on the previous year's numbers so that the 2016 asking was based on our parochial report for 2015. The rest of the monies collected here are use here in the ministry of St. James'. The vestry, elected by the members of the congregation, has the fiduciary responsibility for the church. I, as your Rector, have no access to any of the operating funds or investment funds of the church. The Rector is given a separate account called the Rector's Discretionary fund in which the vestry funds each month to allow me to help people in need. Each month, the bills are paid with one person having responsibility for generating the check or request for electronic funds transfer and another person, our Treasurer, approving the request and signing the checks. This ensures that there is a paper trail for each transaction and provides us a safeguard against fraud and/or misappropriation of funds. Each month the Treasurer prepares a report for the vestry which shows the actual dollars collected for the month as well as the expenditures. The Treasurer's report is part of each month's vestry minutes which is available to all congregants. One of the wonderful things about St. James' is the vestry's commitment to tithing 10% of our receipts to outreach ministries. Last year, 2015, we surpassed that goal and gave 10.84% of all revenue to outreach.

### **How is the national church funded?**

Each diocese is asked to contribute to the mission work of the church by using a formula that calculates, for the coming year, 21% of the previous year's income, less a flat \$100,000 optional exemption. The amount a congregation gives to its diocese is determined by each diocese, and those formulas vary. There is no "tax" on individuals, congregations, or dioceses from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society or the General Convention. It's a fair share, voluntary asking to support mission, the same way a parish asks a parishioner to pledge and contribute to God's work every Sunday. Funds received from dioceses go to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, which is the corporate body that receives funds from congregations and dioceses of the Episcopal Church. If you are a member of an Episcopal Church anywhere, you are a member of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, according to Canon I.3.2. Established in 1821, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society was, for many years, centered in New York City; today, however, staff of the Society are located across the country and around the world. The money needed to do the mission and program work of the Episcopal Church is set aside every three years by the General Convention. Bishops and deputies to General Convention write and vote on resolutions, set policy for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and the duly elected Executive Council makes governing decisions between sessions of the General Convention.

### **What is General Convention?**

Each year, every Episcopal congregation elects representatives to their diocesan convention. That diocesan convention, in turn, elects up to eight deputies - four clergy and four lay people - and sends them and the diocese's bishops to General Convention. When this body gathers every three years (the "triennium"), it represents the fourth largest legislative body in the world. During the 8-day meeting, it considers hundreds of resolutions on a broad range of subjects, and adopts a budget for the next three years

## St. James' Parish CALENDAR: Some Highlights for Winter/Spring 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
3 Feb	6PM	Book Club Meeting
7 Feb	10 AM	Scout Sunday Pick Up for Hoagie Sale
9 Feb	5-7 PM	Shrove Pancake Supper
10 Feb	7 AM, 12 Noon & 7:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Services
13 Feb	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
15 Feb	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
17 Feb	7:30 PM	Ministerium Lenten Service – St. Luke's UCC
21 Feb	6:30-7:30 PM	Youth Group Meeting
24 Feb	7:30 PM	Ministerium Lenten Service – St. Eleanor Roman Catholic
2 Mar	7:30 PM	Ministerium Lenten Service – Trinity Reformed, UCC
6 Mar	TBD	Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
	6:30-7:30 PM	Youth Group Meeting
8 Mar	6:45 PM	Communications & Fundraising Meeting
9 Mar	7:30 PM	Ministerium Lenten Service – Evansburg United Methodist
12 Mar	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
15 Mar	7PM	ECW Meeting
16 Mar	7:30PM	Ministerium Lenten Service- St. James' Episcopal
19 & 20 Mar		All Services Palms & Procession
21 Mar	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
24 Mar	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
25 Mar	12 Noon	Adult Stations
	1 PM	Good Friday Liturgy
	2 PM	Children's Stations & Egg Dyeing and Craft Party
26 Mar	7 PM	Easter Vigil – High Mass
27 Mar	8 AM	Easter Service & Baptisms
	9AM	Egg Hunt
	10 AM	Easter Service & Baptisms
2 April	12 Noon	Youth/Senior Luncheon
6 April	6PM	Book Club Meeting
9 April	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
10 April	9 AM	Annual Meeting & Eucharist
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
10 May	6:45 PM	Communications & Fundraising Meeting
14 May	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
TBD		Rite 13 Urban Adventure – Night Watch, New York
July 9-16		Pilgrimage

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

## A NEW LENTEN DISCIPLINE!

We will attempt to be *bulletin-less* for the season of Lent. We will rely on the Hymn Boards and the introduction of the pages in the Book of Common Prayer to facilitate our Liturgy. All announcements will be sent out in a Happening email from the office and we will post a list of the announcements on the bulletin board outside the copy room. This discipline should remind us of the convenience of print media. It will also take us back to a time where worship was dictated by the rhythms of the liturgy found in the Book of Common Prayer. It will also save us time and money. We can all look forward to the beautiful color bulletin for Easter and have an appreciation for the creation and convenience of the bulletin.

Sincerely,

*Fr. Mike+*

## Community Lenten Services

Presented by the Collegeville/Trappe Ministerium

**“Restored in Christ”**

**Wednesday Nights at 7:30 PM**

Join us for *Restored in Christ*, a special series of services for the season of Lent. Each service in this series focuses on scripture that connects to Lenten themes.

- † **Week 1 February 17, 2016** at [St. Luke's UCC](#),  
Fr. Mike Sowards will present “Broken Bread” from John 6: 48-58
- † **Week 2 February 27, 2016** at [St. Eleanor Roman Catholic](#),  
Pr. Martha Kriebel will present “Broken Justice” from 2 Corinthians 5: 20-21
- † **Week 3 March 2, 2016** at [Trinity Reformed, UCC](#)  
Pr. Eva Johnson will present “Broken Promises” from Matthew 26: 69-75
- † **Week 4 March 9, 2016** at [Evansburg Unite Methodist](#)  
Msgr. Michael McCulken will present “Broken Trust” from Matthew 26: 14-25
- † **Week 5 March 16, 2016** at [St. James' Episcopal](#)  
Pr. Kris Peterson will present “Broken Vessel” from Mark 14: 1-9

## St. James' Youth Will Host Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**February 9, 5 - 7 PM**

Come out for a tasty short stack & sausage dinner on Shrove Tuesday.



This sweet meal, that gets the sugars out of the kitchen in preparation for Ash Wednesday and Lenten observances, is being hosted by the Class of 2016 J2A and Rite 13 members to raise funds for the Pilgrimage and Urban Adventure. Cost is \$5. No reservations required.

## *Ash Wednesday Worship*



**February 10**

*Remember that you are dust and to dust  
you will return*

Start Lent with Holy Eucharist and ashes:

7 AM Short "commuter" service

12 NOON Full service with homily

7:30 PM Full service with homily

## February, March & April 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".

February cookie: **Oatmeal Raisin**

March cookie: **Chocolate Chip**

April cookie: : **Oatmeal Raisin**

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

## Order Hoagies for Super Bowl Sunday Now



**Hoagie Pick Up on Super Bowl Sunday  
February 7 after 10 AM service**

The Class of 2016 J2A and Rite 13 members are taking advance orders for hoagies. Choose Italian, Turkey or Cheese and *buy some extras*: \$5 each. Sales benefit the Pilgrimage and Urban Adventure. See any J2A or Rite 13 member after service or contact Karen Toth, email: kthoth@aol.com

Super Bowl Squares will also be available for purchase, this will also benefit the Pilgrimage and Urban Adventure.

## Lenten Fish Fry Friday

Friday March 18



Adult meal includes two fillets cooked-to-perfection, family style service of fries, coleslaw, beverages & dessert. Children's meal includes one fillet, all the sides, beverages & dessert. Take-out containers are available if necessary.

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to share in this fun event! *And* feel free to share the invite on Facebook & thru email.

St. James' Youth will serve to support their Urban Adventure and Pilgrimage.

## St. James' Youth Group Meetings Continue

Our next meetings are **February 21st & March 6th at 6:30 PM** in Platts' Hall. All students grades 6 thru 12 are invited to participate in Youth Group. Come out and meet some new friends. We will be planning for the upcoming Senior Luncheon!



*All Are Welcome to Attend!*



## Good Book Club

**February 3, at 6 PM**

Cold Mountain, by Charles Frazier

**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.

*Save the Date*

## Senior Luncheon

**Saturday, April 2nd at Noon**

Sign up will be posted on the Bulletin Board. Seniors of St. James' 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.

*Save the Date*

## Annual Meeting

**Sunday, April 10th at 10 AM**

Following worship all are invited to attend the Annual Meeting in Platts' Hall at 10 AM.



## *Maundy Thursday Vigil - The Garden Watch*

**Following the 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday service on March 24  
until Good Friday, March 25 at 8 AM**

*“Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

**Matthew 26: 40-41**

On the night before he dies, Christ’s disciples were asked to stay awake and keep watch with him while he prayed in the garden. They failed miserably. Since we are Christ’s disciples in the world today, we are going to do what they couldn’t. We are going to stay awake and watch with Christ. **The whole parish of St. James is asked to help keep the watch.** This will be done in half hour increments after the 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday service and concluding with Stations of the Cross, Good Friday at 8am.

A sign-up sheet for the parish will be available. To ensure that there will be someone keeping the vigil in the church through the night, the youth of the parish, grades 2 – 12, are invited to spend the night at church. The youth will fill any half hour increment that is not taken. As part of the evening’s activities, we will have discussions about the events that led to Easter Sunday, and other fun things to do.

Please ensure appropriate sleepwear for mixed company (and church). You may bring pillows, sleeping bags (inflatable mattresses), blankets and personal hygiene products. Board games are also welcome. Please leave all other electronic devices (including mobile phones) at home! When it’s your turn to keep the vigil, we will go into the church in groups of 2 or 3. In the morning, before Stations of the Cross, we will have a light breakfast of bagels or muffins, juice and coffee.

If anyone has any questions about the Maundy Thursday Vigil (or, you are an adult volunteering to help by staying the night), please call Chris Exley at home at 610-948-2260 or [cexley@outlook.com](mailto:cexley@outlook.com).

## *Holy Week & Easter Services*

**Palm Sunday** Jesus' victorious entry into Jerusalem, with participatory reading of the Passion Story



March 19	5 PM	Palm Procession & Holy Eucharist 2
March 20	8 AM	Palm Procession & Holy Eucharist 2
	10 AM	Palm Procession & Holy Eucharist 2

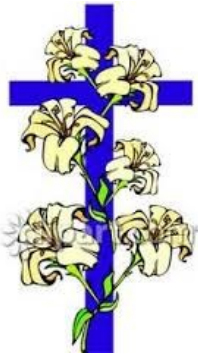
**Maundy Thursday**

March 24	7:30 PM	HE 2, Foot Washing, Altar Stripping and Overnight Vigil
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**Good Friday**

March 25	All day-church open for Vigil at the Cross (confessions available by appointment)	
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12 NOON	Stations of the Cross (Adults)
1 PM	Order for Good Friday
2 PM	Stations of the Cross for Children of all ages No worry about noise or short attention spans. (Lots of movement built into the service)
7:30 PM	Stations of the Cross (Adults) followed by Order for Good Friday

**Easter Vigil**

March 26	7 PM	Light the Paschal Fire 1st Easter Celebration (with hymns)
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**Easter Sunday**

April 5	8 AM	Festal Holy Eucharist Rite II (with hymns) & Baptisms
	9 AM	Easter egg hunt between services
	10 AM	Festal Holy Eucharist 2 & Baptisms

## 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.

👉 **February 20** - *The Tatem's*

👉 **March 12** - *The Branco's*

👉 **April 9** - *The Tinner's*

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



## Junior Choir Will Sing on Easter

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 Easter Day. Rehearsals will only be on the Sundays leading up to Easter Day. These rehearsals will be immediately following the 10 AM Sunday service.

Easter Day rehearsal dates:

**February 14, 21 & 28**

**March 6, 13 & 20**

## 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 Sarah Reid, reidsrock@comcast.net.

## Altar Flower Schedule

### February

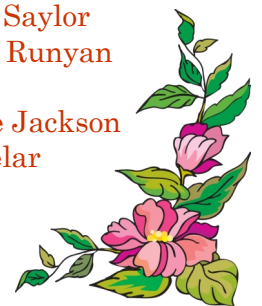
6-7 Karen & Rick Toth  
13-14 The Erickson Family  
20-21 Al Fields  
27-28 Dale & Marilyn Pennapacker

### March

5-6 Jim & Patty Earhart  
Jean Branco  
12-13 Bob & Barbara Bateman  
19-20 Basil & Jane Varian  
26-27 Easter Memorials

### April

2-3 Mark & Loretta Saylor  
9-10 David & Joanne Runyan  
16-17 The Ray Family  
23-24 Steve & Melanie Jackson  
Marjorie Swymelar



**Job Club Network**  
**Resumes Regular Meetings**  
**Saturday, February 13th at 8:30 AM**

Job Club Network meets the second Saturday of every month. Please consider joining us on February 13th, all are welcome.

At our last meeting parishioner Christopher Kristofco ([chris.kristofco@vfcasino.com](mailto:chris.kristofco@vfcasino.com)) of the Valley Forge Casino came to offer his assistance to anyone interested in a position at the casino. There are lots of opportunities at the Casino and they promote from within. In addition, Einstein Hospital contacted us and is offering to assist with placement there.

If you are not actively looking for a job, you can help by coming to a St. James' Network meeting once or twice; sharing your experiences, which can be a valuable resource to others who are looking. It's all about networking and you may even be surprised to find new connections for yourself and be able to help others.

Please give Jim Earhart a call: 215-815-6767 or email [jhearhart@verizon.net](mailto:jhearhart@verizon.net) and get involved!



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

Back by popular demand the 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 wash 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.



## Church School Update

After a nice winter holiday break, church school resumed on Sunday January 10th with a Singing Sunday. We started Singing Sundays in October with the help of Lauren Exley. The children learn a song during class and then sing it for the entire congregation in church. As a result our Children's Choir has grown.

We welcome all children to attend Church School even if you are just visiting.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer your time or talent, please contact Church School Coordinators Laurie Shawaluk or Amanda Kristofco.

Easter is early this spring and here are some important dates to mark on your calendar:

**February 14**-Singing Sunday

**March 13**-Singing Sunday

**March 20**-Palm Sunday (no class)

**March 25**-Good Friday-Stations of the Cross- followed by Egg Dyeing & crafts

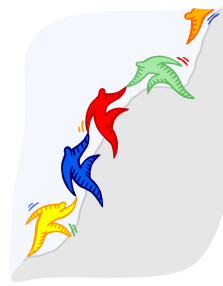
**March 27**-Easter Sunday no class (Easter Egg Hunt in between services 9:15AM)

**April 10**-Annual Meeting— after service children can watch movie in basement during meeting

**April 17**-Singing Sunday

**May 8**-Singing Sunday

**May 15**-Last day of class followed by a light luncheon



## St. James' Outreach Asks Us to Consider

**If all *your* meals were coming from a donation box, what would you want to see?**

Here are a few suggestions:

**Think Simple-** A cake mix that says just add water is the best. Instant coffee is better than ground coffee and Bisquick rocks!

**Check with your Grocery store-** Some grocery stores work directly with food pantries and have bags of food already assembled that you can buy and donate for five or ten dollars.

**Consider donating cash-** Our shoppers at the Outreach House are always looking for deals on food. We will happily buy what we really need and work to get a very good deal!

**Give NO COOK foods-**Many times our clients have a broken stove etc. so think about donating granola bars, tuna, spam, peanut butter or dry milk. Anything you might take on a hike!

**Give items that can't be purchased with food stamps-**toilet paper, paper towels, sanitary pads, diapers, pet food, shampoo, deodorant, soap, laundry detergent, and cleaning supplies.

**Surprise-** You may want to include one item that might produce a smile....like a treat your child might enjoy in his/her lunch.

## St. James' Members Express Gratitude

*Dear Members of the St. James Community,*

*As many of you know, Amanda, Charlotte, Maria and I suffered a family tragedy recently when we learned our third daughter, Stella, had passed at 20 gestational weeks. During a procedure, Amanda almost lost her life to a very rare condition called Amniotic Fluid Embolism.*

*During the weeks following these events, the people of St. James could not have been more caring, compassionate and kind to our family. Father Mike visited with us in the hospital, sat and had coffee with me and just listened. He was there for us when we needed the support most.*

*Beyond that, the entire parish reached out to us. We had food, gift cards, support and love that very few communities could provide. We don't even know the names of everyone that helped, but I can tell you it meant the world to us.*

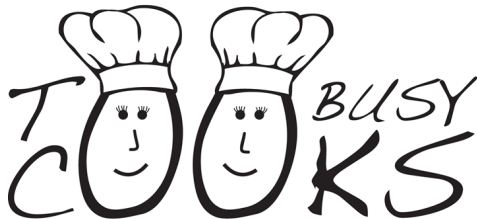
*We are still recovering as a family, but the community of St. James has been so important to us, we cannot begin to thank everyone enough. You have truly shown what it means to live Jesus' message on earth. Thank you all.*

*At the conclusion of services, Fr. Mike always says, "May you love graciously, forgive unconditionally and practice radical hospitality." I can tell you, from personal experience, that the people of St. James love graciously and practice radical hospitality every day. We are humbled to be the recipients of that love and hospitality. Thank you.*

*Chris, Amanda, Charlotte and Maria Kristofco*

## Area Business Volunteers Service

A special thank you for: Too Busy Cooks, Janice Wiley and Peggy Greenfield, who provided lunch for Parishioners on Saturday January 30 during the St. James' "Vision Day" Interactive Workshop.



**Janice Wiley and Peggy Greenfield**

**484-680-1013**

**toobusycooks@gmail.com**

**[www.toobusycooks.net](http://www.toobusycooks.net)**

**Too Busy Cooks** prepares fresh, home cooked meals every Monday from the kitchen of St. James' Episcopal Church. Visit the website for weekly dinner menus and to place an order. They also offer personal chef and catering services in Montgomery County and surrounding areas, The Seasoned Artisans website at **[www.theseasonedartisans.net](http://www.theseasonedartisans.net)**

# St. James' Seasonal Reflections



## VF Casino Contributes

The employees at Valley Forge Casino Resort together with the management team collected food items to provide 35 families with Thanksgiving dinner. Each family received a gift card for a turkey, a pie for dessert and all of the trimmings for a great holiday meal.

## Thanksgiving Needs Met

During Thanksgiving St. James' with the help of Children of America & St. Eleanor's Daycare were able to collect and distribute holiday meal boxes & baby supplies

## Can Food Drive

More than 5200 cans were collected and given to the St. James' Outreach House for distribution. Can collection was carried out by the Boy Scouts and Evansburg Church. The Ursinus Girls Soccer team helped to sort, move and stack the cans. Thank you all for participating!



### Christmas Mitten Tree

110 Christmas gifts were collected and distributed at St. James' to local needy children and families. Thank you to the Parishioners of St. James' (66 gifts), Phoenixville Federal (29 gifts) & our Veterans (15 gifts).

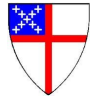


### Keeping Seafarers Warm

Jim and Patti Earhart championed the collection of winter coats and "ditty bag" items and candy for distribution by the Seaman's Church Institute of Philadelphia. Warming the hearts of sailors away from home at the holiday.

## 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 Pennacker, 610-933-5177, [marilypenna@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lshawaluk@comcast.net) or Amanda Kristofco, [akristofco@gmail.com](mailto:akristofco@gmail.com), 215-421-6328.
- ◆ **Rite 13**, contact Susan Maris, 610-489-3342 [susanmaris@verizon.net](mailto:susanmaris@verizon.net) ; James Thompson, 610-342-2010 [jamesthompson5241@verizon.net](mailto:jamesthompson5241@verizon.net)
- ◆ **J2A** contact Phil Tatem, 610-631-2488 [ptatem77@verizon.net](mailto:ptatem77@verizon.net) or Annmarie Thacker, 610-409-1930 [rrad725@verizon.net](mailto:rrad725@verizon.net)
- ◆ **Adults**, contact Fr. Mike, 215-251-8856 [fr.mike6554@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:reidsrock@comcast.net).

**History Center:** Contact Barbara Bateman, 610-489-9712 or [bebateman@verizon.net](mailto:bebateman@verizon.net).

**Memorial Flowers:** Contact Marilyn Hastings, 610-489-9728 or [mhastings@ikon.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jbvarian@verizon.net).

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