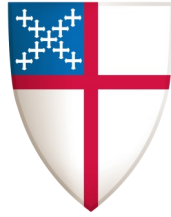




The Epistle

April / May
Issue 2017



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

Upon receiving this epistle our Lenten observance will be coming to an end and we will turn our attention and hearts to the activities of Holy Week and Easter. In Lent our focus is on Christ's sacrifice of himself and God's love for us in his death and burial and the Easter gift of Resurrection. The season of Lent gives way to the passion of Christ where we are asked to walk with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and to the Cross. On Maundy Thursday, we will remember Christ's actions at the Last Supper and his institution of Holy Communion and servant hood ministry. On Good Friday we will walk with Jesus through his arrest, trial and crucifixion. The remembrance of these acts, of these trials and tribulations, allow us to hear the good news of the resurrection in its proper theological setting. In other words, you can't have the grace of salvation without the sacrifice of the cross nor can you have the celebration of Resurrection without the agony of Christ's death. All of this culminates in the wonderful celebration of Eastertide where we put away our penitent practices and receive with joy the Good News of the Resurrection of Christ! The Alleluias will ring! The Church will be resplendent in white and all will be reminded of new birth, of reconciliation and of the promise joy of a world renewed in Christ. I am looking forward to this celebration and encourage you to invite your family and friends to attend these services with us. May God continue God's work of change inside all of us this Lenten season and prepare our hearts for the celebration of the Paschal Feast! Amen!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mike †

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

◆ Drew Beck 484-752-8244

Education

◆ Mike Sowards 215-251-8856

Finance

◆ Chris Kristofco 215-272-1910

◆ Dale Pennacker, Treasurer
610-933-5177

Outreach & Companion

◆ Kathy Lochocki 610-585-5586

◆ Jackie Dahlen 610-792-0935

Parish Life & Member Ministries

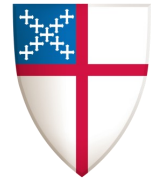
◆ Sarah Reid 610-539-7953

◆ Melanie Jackson 610-831-1987

◆ Joanne Tatem 610-631-2488



Vestry Highlights



February 21st:

- Parish Life: Joanne noted that we are planning our Chicken BBQ event for Saturday, June 3rd.
- Outreach: Kathy noted that we now have 115 clients at the Outreach House, and they are now being managed with our new software package to good effect.
- Communications: Barbara mentioned that the committee determined to take a hiatus from the Community Day event this year, so as to focus our energies on the St James Tomorrow Capital Campaign.
- Buildings and Grounds: Rick shared that the committee has developed a 2017 Project List to focus on the most essential repairs and maintenance to St James facilities.
- Finance Commission: Dale noted that Tom Keenan, a parish member, is a strong possibility to act as Real Estate Attorney for the St James Tomorrow Capital Campaign. Chris and Gene planned to meet with Tom to scope out efforts.
- Impact Report: Capital Campaign Committee gave an update on planned Parish Survey to provide feedback for our future plans. Surveys will be completed in April.

March 21st:

- Communications: Barbara discussed the expanded Parish Picnic **to be held Saturday, September 16** - Communications will spearhead, but with help expected from all Vestry.
- Buildings & Grounds: Father Mike noted that Integrity Roofing is working on a bid for the entire church roof, which is in need of repair/replacement. An RFP will be developed from the initial bid. Jean also noted that there is a planned church clean-up, for the Wednesday before Easter.
- Finance Commission: A motion was passed to hire Keenan & Associates to provide Real Estate Attorney services for the Capital Campaign.
- Church Audit: went well, with 9 recommendations made, which will be implemented by St James.
- Investment Committee: a motion was approved to invest \$100K in St James assets into two stock index funds over the next two months.
- Dale noted that he and Lisa will be evaluating new church management software for use administratively by St James.
- Vestry Nominating Committee: Joanne reviewed their report, and process to replace the two leaving Vestry members was reviewed. Report approved by the Vestry.
- Annual Meeting will be on April 30th at 9 a.m., and Father Mike discussed the format, which will include focus on the Vestry Commissions - progress and opportunities going forward.



**Following the 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday service on April 13
until Good Friday, April 14 at 8 AM**

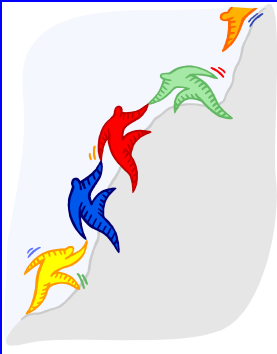
“Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **Matthew 26: 40-41**

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 8 AM.

A sign-up sheet 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.

You may bring pillows, sleeping bags (inflatable mattresses), blankets, appropriate sleepwear and board games are welcome. Please leave 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 you have any questions about the Maundy Thursday Vigil, call Chris Exley 610-948-2260 or cexley@outlook.com.



The Outreach House is reaching out to you!

Do you have some smaller pieces of furniture that you are no longer using? Our Clients are looking for some different items: couches, love seats, smaller kitchen tables. If you have something to donate, please let me know. Thanks! Carole Exley, outreachhouse@stjames-episcopal.org

Collect Box Tops for Education



We continue to collect Box Tops for Education for schools in Mississippi. To date we have sent over 400! That equates to \$40.00 that teachers can use for supplies for their classrooms that aren't covered by their school budget. Box Tops can be found on most Scott paper products, ziploc products and Progresso soups to name a few. Simply place your collected Box Tops for Education in the small plastic container on the shelf above the coat rack in the foyer.

Save Your Can Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House



Please continue to save pop Tops from soda, beer and soup cans. These tabs are turned over to the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia. They recycle them and use the money toward their operating budget like to pay the electric bill! They do a wonderful service there for families of severely ill children at Children's Hospital offering them a place to stay and meals. Our last trip there we turned in five 8 pound kitty litter containers full of tabs! Many thanks for your help with this outreach ministry.

April & May Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's

Cookie donations are welcome and 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

Foyer Gatherings

Saturday, April 8th at 7:30 PM

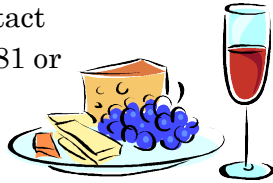
Hosts: Ned Travis & Deb DiSanto

Please bring an appetizer and a beverage of choice to share & an item for the Outreach House.

Saturday, May 20th at 7:00 PM

Hosts: George and Sandra Drexler

Foyer Gatherings are informal get-togethers at the host's home for fellowship. They are on the 2nd Saturday of the month. The sign up sheet for hosting is on the bulletin board in the back hallway. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Melanie Jackson at 610-952-8681 or mljackson821@gmail.com.



The Good Book Club

Wednesday, April 19

Platts' Hall at 6 PM

The Samuri's Garden, by Gail Tsukiyama

Bring along your dinner and a beverage to dine together at 6 PM, then book discussion starts at 6:30 PM. All are welcome!



Holiday House Book Sale 2017 Book Collection April 23 - 30

GirlsFriendlySociety/PA Sponsors is again this spring holding a used book sale to benefit the maintenance fund for GFS Holiday House. Holiday House in Cape May, New Jersey is the last remaining retreat house of its kind in the United States. Sponsored by the Girl's Friendly Society of Pennsylvania Holiday House receives primary financial support from

donations and fund raisers within the Diocese of Pennsylvania with assistance from the Diocese of New Jersey. This year the Book Sale, held at Holiday House 644 Hughes Street, Cape May NJ will run over two weekends, May 12-14 and May 19-21.

The book collection in support of this effort here at St. James' will take place Sunday, April 23 through Sunday, April 30. Marked bins will be available on the window shelf/Evansburg Road side of Platts Hall for your donations. Used books (in good condition) for both children and adults will be accepted for resale. All categories of fiction, nonfiction (other than referenced below), inspirational works, cookbooks, themed books on sports, gardening, travel, and hobbies, etc. are in demand. *Text books, out dated computer manuals and religious reference books do not move well.*

For more information, please contact Barbara Bateman at 610-489-9712 or bebateman@verizon.net. **Your donations are greatly appreciated!**





Episcopal Church Women Invite You for Tea

May 6 at 1:30 PM

Platt's Hall

A tea honoring the women of St. James' will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 1:30 PM in Platt's Hall. Tickets sold in advance are \$15 and can be purchased in Platt's Hall after Sunday services on April 1 & 2, April 8 & 9, and April 22 & 23.

Guests are welcome, hats or fascinators are encouraged.

Hope to see you there!

Checks can be made payable to: St. James' ECW

Altar Flower Schedule

April

- 2nd Mr. & Mrs. Mark Saylor
- 9th Mr. & Mrs. David Runyan
Mrs. Judy Taylor
- 16th Easter Memorials
- 23rd Mr. & Mrs. Steve Jackson
Mrs. Majorie Swymelar
- 30th Mrs. Diane Sartori

May

- 7th Mr. & Mrs. Art Tinner
- 14th Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Fischer
Mrs. Dede Montgomery
- 21st Mr. & Mrs. John Newman



St. James' Saturday, June 3rd

4-7 PM



More details to follow.

Please mark you calendars for this fun,
not to be missed event!

POOL PARTY

Saturday, June 18th from 12-4 PM

Mark your calendars! Sally Templeton will be hosting a parish wide picnic/pool party at her home. This picnic is open to all St. James' Parishioners. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be provided. Sign-ups for planned attendance and picnic food to share will be posted closer to the event. *This will be a non-alcoholic event.*

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 Sally Templeton, 610-489-2486

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 Drew Beck, 484-752-8244.

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.

Calendar Highlights

- April 8** 5 PM Palm Sunday Service
- April 9** 8 AM and 10 AM Palm Sunday Service
7:30 PM Foyer Gathering at Ned Travis & Deb DiSanto's home
- April 11** 6:45 PM Communications & Fundraising meeting
- April 13** 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service
9 PM - 8 AM Watch Night Vigil
- April 14** 12 Noon Good Friday Stations of the Cross (adults)
2 PM Good Friday Stations of the Cross (children, egg dyeing & crafts after service)
4 PM Good Friday Stations of the Cross (open to all), *no liturgy*
7:30 PM Good Friday Liturgy, *no stations*
- April 15** 7 PM Easter Celebration, Light the Paschal Fire
- April 16** 8 AM Easter, Festal Holy Eucharist Rite II, renewal of Baptismal Covenant
9:30 AM Easter egg hunt between services
10 AM Easter, Festal Holy Eucharist Rite II, renewal of Baptismal Covenant
- April 18** 7:30 PM Vestry meets
- April 19** Committee reports due for Annual Meeting preparation
Christian Education resumes
6 PM The Good Book Club meets in Platt's Hall
- April 23 - 30** Holiday House book collection
- April 30** 8 AM Service
9 AM Annual Meeting
- May 6** 1:30 PM ECW Tea in Platt's Hall
- May 9** 7:00 PM Communications & Fundraising Meeting
- May 15** Epistle submissions due
- May 16** 7:30 PM Vestry Meeting
- May 20** 7 PM Foyer Gathering at George & Sandra Drexler's home
- May 21** 10:00 AM Last day of classes, special coffee hour after service
- June 3** 4:00-7:00 PM Chicken Barbecue
- June 18** Pool Party at Sally Templeton's home

Please check with the office before arriving: **Christ & Coffee** 11 AM Thursdays;
Choir practice 7:30 PM Thursdays; **Vestry Meetings** 7:30 PM 3rd Tuesday of the month