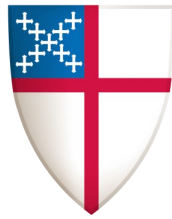




The Epistle



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

February / March
Issue 2017

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

This January 14th 2017 marks the completion of four years of ministry here at St. James. I am sitting in the Rector's office contemplating all that God has done in our ministry together. I am still humbled to have been called and chosen to be your Rector. As I stated my first day of work here at this beautiful and historical church, St. James is such an appropriate name for this parish. In the "catholic" epistle of St. James the author writes, "Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith." (James 2: 18). It is through our works of outreach and hospitality that we fulfill our Baptismal Covenant to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ ...to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as yourself (and to) strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." (BCP, p. 305) As this season of Epiphany gives way to the season of Lent, let us not forget those "ah-ha" moments where we glimpsed the immeasurable love of Christ in ourselves and in others. May we always strive to be the hands and feet of Christ in this broken world and may Christ bless our efforts to do the work God has given us to do!

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

- Barbara Bateman 610-489-9712

Education

- Mike Soward 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

Sixth 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

Feast, Fast and High Holy Days

The veneration of saints in the Episcopal Church is a continuation of an ancient tradition from the early Church which honors important and influential people of the Christian faith. The usage of the term "saint" is similar to Roman Catholic and Orthodox traditions. Those in high church or Anglo-Catholic traditions may explicitly invoke saints as intercessors in prayer, though saints are mainly recognized in the Episcopal Church as merely examples in history of good Christian people.

There is the calendar of saints found in the Book of Common Prayer, Lesser Feasts and Fasts and additions made at recent General Conventions; the relevant official resources of the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church publishes Lesser Feasts and Fasts, which contains feast days for the various men and women the Church wishes to honor. This book is updated every three years, when notable people can be added to the liturgical calendar by the General Convention. This list reflects changes made at the 2009 and 2015 General Conventions. It includes provisional changes made in the new official lists of feasts, Holy Women, Holy Men and A Great Cloud of Witnesses.

There is no single calendar for the various churches making up the Anglican Communion; each makes its own calendar suitable for its local situation. Calendars in different provinces will focus on figures more important to those different countries. Different provinces often borrow important figures from each other's calendars as the international importance of different figures become more prominent. In this way the calendar of the Episcopal Church has importance beyond just the immediate purpose of supporting the liturgy of the American church. It is one of the key sources of the calendar for the international daily office.

Ranking of observances

The Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer identifies four categories of feasts: Principal Feasts, other Feasts of our Lord (including Sundays), other Major Feasts, and minor feasts. Two major fast days are also listed (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday). In addition to these categories, further distinctions are made between feasts, to determine the precedence of feasts used when more than one feast falls on the same day. In addition, Lesser Feasts and Fasts give further rules for the relative ranking of feasts and fasts. These rules of precedence all establish a ranking, from most to least important, as follows:

Principal Feasts

- † The Feasts of the Holy Name, the Presentation, and Transfiguration
- † Sundays through the year
- † Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- † Feasts of our Lord
- † Other Major Feasts
- † Weekdays of Lent
- † Minor feasts
- † Days of fasting

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are appointed as fast days. Lesser fast days, called "days of special observance", are all the weekdays of Lent and every Friday in the year, with the exception that fasting is never observed during the Easter or Christmas seasons, or on Feasts of our Lord. The Episcopal Church does not prescribe the specific manner of observance of these days.

Baptismal feasts

The Great Vigil of Easter, Pentecost, All Saints' Day, and The Baptism of our Lord, are appointed as baptismal feasts. It is preferred that baptism be reserved for those occasions. People should avoid scheduling baptisms during Lent unless an emergency medical situation dictates that it be done immediately.

Community Lenten Services Presented by Collegetville/Trappe Ministerium

Wednesday Nights at 7:30 PM

Each service in this series focuses on scripture that connects to Lenten themes.

- Week 1 March 8, 2017 - Trinity Reformed, [What is Prayer?](#)
- Week 2 March 15, 2017 - Evansburg UMC, [Lectio Divina Method of Prayer](#)
- Week 3 March 22, 2017 - St. James', [Ignatian Methon of Prayer](#)
- Week 4 March 29, 2017 - St. Luke's UCC, [Contemplative & Meditative Prayer Practices](#)
- Week 5 April 5, 2017 - Trinity Reformed UCC, [Praying with Icons, Figurines & Pictures](#)

St. James' Parish CALENDAR:

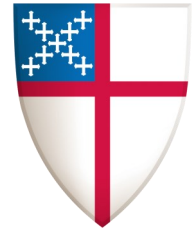
Highlights for Winter/Spring 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
1 Feb	6PM	Book Club Meeting
5 Feb	10 AM	SuperBowl Sunday - Pick Up for Hoagie Sale
11 Feb	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
13 Feb	7 PM	Communications Meeting
21 Feb	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
28 Feb	5-7 PM	Shrove Pancake Supper
1 Mar	7 AM, 12 Noon & 7:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Services
8 Mar	7:30 PM	Ministerium Lenten Service – Trinity Reformed
11 Mar	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
14 Mar	6:45 PM	Communications & Fundraising Meeting
15 Mar	7:30 PM	Ministerium Lenten Service – Evansburg UMC
19 Mar	TBD	Youth Group Bowling
21 Mar	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
22 Mar	7:30 PM	Ministerium Lenten Service – St. James'
29 Mar	7:30 PM	Ministerium Lenten Service – St. Luke's UCC
5 Apr	7:30PM 6PM	Ministerium Lenten Service- Trinity Reformed UCC Book Club Meeting
8 April	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
8 & 9 Apr	All Services	Palms & Procession
13 Apr	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
14 Apr	12 Noon 2 PM 4 PM 7 PM	Adult Stations Children's Stations & Egg Dyeing and Craft Party Stations (open to all) Good Friday Liturgy (No Stations)
15 Apr	7 PM	Easter Vigil
16 Apr	8 AM 9AM 10 AM	Easter Service & Baptisms Egg Hunt Easter Service & Baptisms
11 Apr	6:45 PM	Communications & Fundraising Meeting
18 Apr	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
30 Apr	9 AM TBD	Annual Meeting & Eucharist Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
9 May	7 PM	Communications & Fundraising Meeting
20 May	7:30 PM	Foyer Gathering
21 May	11:15AM TBD	Last day of Christian Education Classes and Celebration following 10AM Service Youth Group Year-end Event
16 May	7:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
7 June	6PM	Book Club Meeting

Please Note: Vestry meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month



Vestry Meeting Highlights



December 19, 2016

- This meeting was focused on the 2017 St. James' Budget draft, as presented by Dale Pennapacker, Treasurer
- Salaries for St. James' employees for 2017 were discussed and approved per Dale's recommendations.
- Dale asked Rick Toth to review and update the Buildings & Grounds Capital Improvements budget before the January meeting, a critical area for St. James' in 2017.
- Dale noted that we are looking to expand our outreach and communications via The St. James' website and other social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter. The budget has been increased to \$7,000, from \$3,500 in 2016 to help progress this initiative from the Communications Committee.

January 16, 2017

- Buildings & Grounds: Rick Toth noted that we have the new, secure door in place in the Parish Hall. Window frames are being painted. Rick will get bids on bannisters to improve safety of some steps in our church.
- Outreach: Perk Valley and Methacton students have been helping at the Outreach house. Fr. Mike asked that signs for the Outreach House be made up for the House and also at the Church, to provide direction and safety. Outreach House is utilizing a \$7,000 technology grant to automate the process of serving the client community.
- Communications: There was discussion of our social media use, and working to establish metrics to measure the effectiveness of the various tools we are using.
- Rector's Report: Fr. Mike discussed the diverse Capital Campaign committee he has assembled. They meet on January 25th with our consultants to work up a survey to be used in the process.
- Finance: Dale Pennapacker presented final Budget, which was approved. Expecting to end up with \$220,000 in Pledges for 2017. Our balance sheet for 2016 ended up at \$1,085,000 - a good position. Vestry approved an investment of \$50,000 recommended by the Investment Committee, in a large stock fund.
- New Business: We agreed to change Vestry meetings to the third Tuesday of the month going forward, for less Parish Hall conflicts. Joanne Tatem and Barbara Bateman will put something together for use by the Vestry Nominating Committee to educate potential new members on what the Vestry is all about.

The Key to a Successful Event Is **COMMUNICATION**

Easy Steps to Follow

1. Establish a point person in your committee/group to handle communication. This can be a joint effort, but it helps to have one person as the communication leader for the event.
2. Complete a Communications Request Form (CRF), by going to stjames-episcopal.org/crf. A completed CRF is necessary to begin your event marketing through St. James'.
3. Call the office (610-489-7564) if have a specific date/room requirement. It is best to find out as soon as possible if the date/room are clear so conflicts can be avoided.
4. If the date is open, and you need a specific room, clearly mark your room request on the Communication Request form. This allows the office to secure your space by way of a building use form. Please note that for general meetings, locations are subject to change if necessary.
5. Review the CRF carefully and fill it out completely.
6. Send the completed form to the office at office@stjames-episcopal.org or in the office mailbox.
7. Upon approval by the Rector, your event information will be distributed for publication in our bulletin, weekly emails, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, the Epistle and website. You will receive a copy back with the approval.
8. Be creative with your event write-up and feel free to send along images / pictures / jpegs / etc. Electronically, to enhance your announcement.



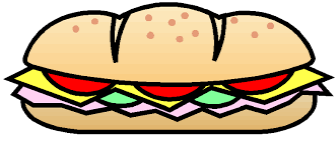
Be sure to “like” St James Episcopal Church (Collegeville) on Facebook (@StJamesEpisc), follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/StJamesEpisc), check out our website regularly (stjames-episcopal.org), and update your email information as needed. Ask friends to follow us as well and help the communication flow...*Instagram account coming soon!*

Share Your St. James' Photos

The Communications Commission needs your help in letting the community know about St. James'. Please make our neighbors aware of the exciting things happening here by sharing your pictures with our social media team. Photos can be sent to communications@stjames-episcopal.org. The more often the faces of St. James' appear on facebook, twitter, instagram and the parish website the more often others will see how a loving Christian family works, plays, and worships together.

Your photos can communicate: ***"we are here...you are welcome...please join us"***.

Pre-Order Hoagies for Super Bowl Sunday Now



Hoagie Pick Up on Super Bowl Sunday February 5 after 10 AM service

Italian with or without onions, turkey with American or provolone cheese, and sweet peppers on the side; all hoagies include lettuce and tomato. Hoagies are \$6, proceeds benefit the 2018 J2A Pilgrimage and Rite 13 Night-watch. Pre-order after services on Sunday or contact Karen Toth: khtoth@aol.com, 610-495-6913. Pre-payment is appreciated.

Final orders due Jan. 30.

The Good Book Club

Wednesday, February 1st
Platts' Hall at 6 PM

Loving Eleanor, by Susan Witting Albert

Attendees discuss the latest book and are invited to bring along their dinner & beverage. All are invited to attend.

Next meeting is April 5th. We will be discussing: The Samuari's Garden, by Gail Tsukiya



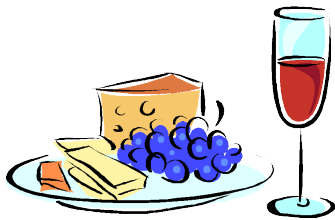
Foyer Gatherings

Saturday, February 2 at 7:30 PM

Hosts: Sarah & Mike Reid

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

Foyer Gatherings are informal get-togethers at the host's home for fellowship. They are on the 2nd Saturday of the month and begin at 7:30 PM. 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.



St. James' Will Host Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 28, 5 - 7 PM

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

All are welcome to enjoy this sweet meal, that gets the sugars out of the kitchen in preparation for Ash Wednesday and Lenten observances. Cost is \$5. No reservations required.

Ash Wednesday Worship



March 1

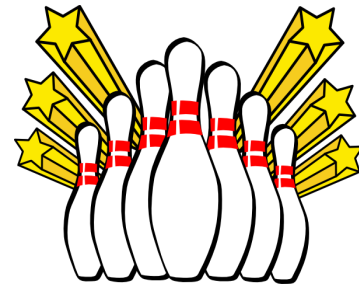
*Remember that you are dust and to dust
you will return*

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

Join the Fun Bowling!

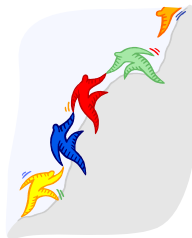
Sunday, March 19, from 2 to 4 PM



Meet your fellow parishioners at Limerick Bowl & Family Fun Center on Ridge Pike in Limerick for a fun time. More details to follow in the weekly Bulletin. Proceeds will benefit the 2018 J2A Pilgrimage and Rite 13 Nightwatch.

Outreach House Calls for Paper Grocery Bags

How would you like to help
the Outreach House for
FREE?!?!??



We are looking for brown paper bags to pack cold items for our Clients. Every month we give each family a brown paper grocery bag with eggs, frozen bread and frozen cupcakes. Occasionally we have other cold items to add to the bag.

So the next time you go to Giant, Redners, Acme, Shop Rite, Pathmark, Genuardis or the local market, please get your groceries bagged in paper. We would really appreciate it.

Thanks!

February & March Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's

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

February : **Oatmeal Raisin**

March : **Chocolate Chip**



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

Two Days Not to Worry

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry-two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is Yesterday, with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed. We cannot erase a single act we performed. We cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds – but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is as yet unborn.

This leaves only one day- Today. Any man can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens on those two awful eternities – Yesterday and Tomorrow – that we break down. It is not the experience of Today that drives men mad, it is the remorse of bitterness for something which has happened Yesterday or the dread of what Tomorrow may bring. Let us, therefore, live but one day at a time and leave the rest to God.

Submitted by

Bill Feist, parishioner and choir member

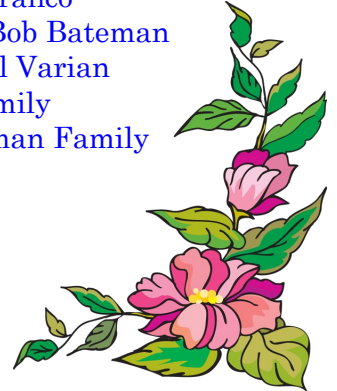
Altar Flower Schedule

February

5th Open
12th Ms. Helen Bregler
19th Mr. Al Fields
26th Marilyn & Dale Pennacker

March

5th Patty & Jim Earhart
Mrs. Jean Branco
12th Barbara & Bob Bateman
19th Jane & Basil Varian
26th The Ray Family
The Linderman Family



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

Roses Send a Message

The meaning of Roses:

Rose, the flower of love, is one of the most popular and oldest flowers known to man. The word rose come from the Latin word rosa meaning red, and the flower has been a symbol of love since ancient times. Read on to learn what your favorite roses mean in the very special language of flowers.



Red Roses: Red roses say “I love you” and also stand for respect and courage.

Pure White Roses: White roses are symbols of truth and innocence. They are also great for feelings of loneliness. If you miss someone, express it through the white rose. And if you want to compliment someone on her serene beauty, then this white rose also will say, “You’re heavenly”.

Coral Rose: Coral roses are known for their deep pink color signifying desire and passion.

Peach Rose: Peach roses speak of appreciation, gratitude, and also sympathy. You can send this Valentine rose to a close friend or family member.

Yellow Roses: Yellow roses mean friendship and freedom. You shouldn’t send this rose if you have romantic feelings for someone. Yellow roses are also a perfect choice for sending congratulations to newlyweds, graduates or new mothers.

Combined Roses:

Now we know what roses of different colors mean, but do we know what a combination of different colors would mean?

White and Yellow Roses: This combination is a symbol of harmony and peace. So, on Valentine’s Day, if this is the thought in your mind then prepare a small bunch of white and yellow roses.

Red and Yellow Roses: When you combine these two beautiful Valentine roses you get happiness and celebration. These roses are perfect for wedding anniversaries or for celebrating a long-time relationship with your sweetheart.

Red and White Roses: The combination of these two dynamic roses indicates bonding and harmony. On Valentine’s Day you can present these roses to your wife or hubby.

*Thank you to all who helped on
Blue Jean Sunday, December 4*



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, mari-lynpenna@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.