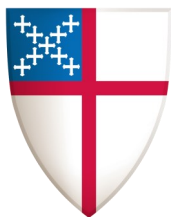




The Epistle

October / November
Issue 2017



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is my fervent prayer that everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer! As the days shorten and the temperatures begin to head south we are all faced with the business that fall brings to our society. School has started. The Church has begun its program year. The demands of Children activities and demands for fall festivals and such can make us frazzled! At this time it is so important to take some time and slow down and spend some time with God. Take time to see the beauty of the fall foliage. Take in the colors of cornstalks and pumpkin patches! Take time to see the wonder of creation around you and give thanks! I believe one of the best respites from all the business is worship. Yes, I know that the fall brings business to the Church also. The Choir has begun; people are making plans for our Blessing of the Animals, All Hallows Eve service and All Saints Day! In the midst of all that please know that I appreciate each and every one of you! I firmly believe that God does not want us to be exhausted! Let the beauty of our Liturgy revive you. Let the wonder of the sacrament of Holy Communion feed your soul! Let the fellowship of our brothers and sisters give your strength. May God be with you and yours as we celebrate Halloween and Thanksgiving with family and friends. There is no other community on earth that I would rather be a part of than the wonderful people that make up the congregations of St. James' Episcopal Church here in Collegeville, PA.

Mike+

In Love,
Fr. Mike+

Rector

- ♦ The Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards, D. Min.
215-251-8856

Vestry

- ♦ Barbara Bateman, Rector's Warden
610-489-9712
- ♦ Jon Yenney, Vestry Secretary
610-454-0179
- ♦ Joanne Tatem, People's Warden
610-631-2488

Buildings & Grounds

- ♦ Rick Toth 610-495-6913
- ♦ Joanne Tatem 610-631-2488

Communications

- ♦ Drew Beck 484-752-8244
- ♦ Chris Kristofco 215-272-1910

Education

- ♦ Mike Sowards 215-251-8856

Finance

- ♦ Dale Pennapacker, Treasurer
610-933-5177
- ♦ Josh Ilgen 610-454-1230

Outreach Ministries

- ♦ Jackie Dahlen 610-792-0935
- ♦ Gene Goff 610-489-0765

Parish Life

- Kathy Lochocki 610-585-5586
- ♦ Melanie Jackson 610-831-1987

Member Ministries

- ♦ Barbara Bateman 610-489-9712

Parish Administrator

- ♦ Lisa Reinhardt 610-489-7564

St. James' Announcement Policy

Announcements made during our worship services are important. At most services I read the announcements or point out certain announcements that I feel are important for the congregations' benefit. The preferred way to have an announcement is to fill out a communications form and submit it to the office for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. If you want to make an unscheduled announcement at a particular service that you are attending then please clear your announcement with me before the service. *I reserve the right to refuse a person the opportunity to make an announcement if the policy is not followed.* Announcements are part of our corporate worship. It is important to respect each other and our time together.

[The Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards, D. Min.](#)

Rector

St. James' Episcopal Church



Observe Our Speed Limit

Please remember when you are entering St. James' parking lot to slow down! There is a lot of hustle and bustle around the church and it is important to take it slow and steady.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

New Software for Membership and Pledging Needs Your Input

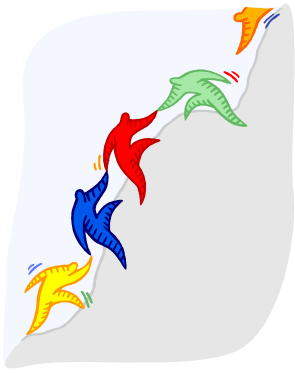
St. James' has a new membership/pledging software and we need your help before it goes live!

Please visit <https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/sjec> and verify ALL of your information for you and your family using your main email address. Please try to be complete with dates, contact information, and current photos if possible. Our plan is to use this data base for pledges and contribution statements starting in January and we would like to make sure all information is as current as possible. If you try to access your file, and you are unable to, your email address may be incorrect. Please note that even if you receive happenings every week, the information that was imported into the new software is not the most current information, and could contain errors.

Please contact the office if you encounter this problem so we can rectify as quickly as possible.

Thank you!





St. James' Outreach House Shares a Client Story

"Does my one little box of pasta really help?"

Karen is one of our Clients at the St. James' Outreach House. She came to us little more than a year ago with very little in her pockets after she left her abusive husband. Karen is now a Certified Nurses Assistant and caring for someone in their home. Her paycheck is just barely enough for the essentials for Karen and her two teenage daughters.

On Wednesday night, she came to shop at the Outreach House. Karen found some gently used items for her family and the groceries, toiletries and cleaning products she needs. When we were walking out to her car, Karen told me how hard it has been for her financially. This woman with a heart of gold has been using part of her paychecks to help the person for which she cares. That family is also in need and Karen has been using her money to buy necessities for them. I told her to come back inside and get whatever she needed for this family. She was in disbelief as we filled several bags with a variety of things. And then she wept. Karen was relieved to know that someone cares.

Yes. Your box of pasta helps. Along with all the other donations of food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, clothing, household items and furniture. Many, many hands make a difference as *we know and serve God by serving others.*

If you have any questions please feel free to call or email
Carole, 610-416-9870 caroleexley@comcast.net

Choir Has a Place for You

This year we need to strengthen all voice parts: soprano, alto, tenor, bass. If you fit one of those categories, please join us. We welcome your participations. Remember those who sing pray twice!

Still undecided? Consider the following:

- Choir members have guaranteed seats
- Choir members sit in the front of the church and can always see what is going on
- Choir members wear what they wish under their robes
- Choir members laugh during rehearsals
- Choir members sharpen their foreign language skills
- Choir members always have something red to wear at Pentecost

Hope to see you at the next rehearsal, Thursdays at 7:30 PM.

Musically yours,

Ron Davis, Choir Director



Christian Education Corner

Thank you teachers, parents, and students for a wonderful start to the 2017-2018 year! We currently have 45 registered students, 10 regular teachers, and 2 substitute teachers involved in the education programs here at St. James'. The "exodus" to classes at the start of the service is truly a sight to behold!

Parents, I hope your children have been sharing the many things they are learning, but if not, here is a reminder of past and future lesson topics:

Primary students have been studying the Creation Story, beginning with light and darkness through resting on the seventh day. Students have marveled at God's creation and will be reminded that they too are specially made.

Elementary students began the year by studying the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch), including the stories of Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Joseph, and Moses.

Middle School students have been exploring the tools of worship (Book of Common Prayer and Hymnal) and will begin their study of the Feast Days and the Sacrament of Baptism.

The High School class is off to a great start, with in depth discussion of a variety of topics. Their studies have included the Book of Common Prayer and Hymnal, as well as discussions of the theological implications for daily life.

Thank you for bringing your children to church and to class. Our church community is strengthened when children are present and engaged in worship! You can continue the lessons from Sunday School by helping your children follow the service upon their return to church. Students as young as 2nd grade can follow the prayer book and hymnal. Children as young as Pre-K can begin to learn the various prayers and responses that enrich the Episcopal service.

Of course, we have a lot of fun outside of class time. Remember to save the following dates:

† **October 29th – 11am – Junior Choir begins following the 10am service!**

† **October 29th – 7pm – All Hallows Eve Service and Church Costume Party!**

† **November 5th – 10am – Our First "Kids in Church" Sunday! Stay tuned for more details!**

If you have any questions or comments about the Education Program, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Exley, laurenexley@live.com or 610-306-3953



ECW Fall Gathering

Tuesday, October 3rd at 7 PM



Fall into the season with Episcopal Church Womens' (ECW) Fall Gathering. We will meet in Platts' Hall for fellowship and our quarterly meeting.

You are welcome to bring your favorite dessert to share. ECW will provide beverages. Please RSVP to Doreen Mayconich, 610-731-6209 or dkmayconich@comcast.net



Buildings & Grounds Meetings

Wednesday, October 4 at 7:30 PM

Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30 PM

Your Buildings and Grounds Committee has been busy! The following work is completed or starting soon: The Platts Hall windows and shades were professionally cleaned and reinstalled; new picnic tables will be built for the church yard; more sections of the cemetery wall and gate column will be repaired; the basement drainage and damaged foundation wall will be repaired; new globes for the sanctuary chandeliers are being hand made by a local glass artist: and, the sanctuary windows will be repaired and new storm sashes will be installed to help improve year-round comfort and energy efficiency. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 4 and again on Nov. 1 at 7:30 pm in the church basement. Come join us! And Please Mark Your Calendars for:

Blue Jeans Sunday, Sunday, Nov. 12

The Good Book Club

Wednesday, October 4

Platts' Hall at 6 PM

Our Souls at Night,
by *Kent Haruf*

Bring along your dinner and a beverage to dine together at 6 PM, then book discussion starts at 6:30 PM . Please prepare to recommend books for this coming year. All are welcome



Freezer Clean Out Saturday, October 7

ECW will be cleaning out the freezer downstairs to prepare for the St James' Ham & Oyster dinner. Any item not clearly labeled with a name will be thrown out.

Please remove any personal items before Oct 7th. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Sunday, October 8th

St. James' Animal Blessing

9-11:15 AM Animal Sitting provide

11:15 AM Animal Blessing



Foyer Gatherings

Saturday, October 14 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, November 11 at 7:30 PM

Hosts: Curt & Val Allen

Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 PM

Hosts: Mike & Sonya Sowards

Foyer Gatherings are informal get-togethers at the host's home. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back hallway. Please contact Kathy Lochocki at kathy-lochocki@gmail.com with any questions.



Historic Event

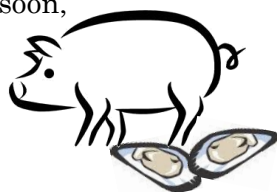
St. James' Ham and Oyster Dinner

Saturday, October 21st 4-7 PM

Tell your neighbors and friends to mark their calendars and come out to enjoy this historic - community fundraiser in Platts Hall. Dinners are \$15 each.

This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity to share your time and talent while having fun and getting to know your fellow parishioners.

More details to follow soon,
mark your calendars!



Altar Flower Schedule

October

- 1st The Shawaluk Family
- 8th Mrs. Jane Shinehouse
- 15th Mr. & Mrs. Bill Hummer
- 22nd Mrs. Faith Millen
- The Tatem Family
- 29th Janice Tabbut & Jon Yenney

November

- 5th Mr. Ron Davis
- 12th Mrs. Dolly Faber
- 19th Mr. James Thompson & Family
- The Eselby Family
- 26th Mrs. Connie O'Brien



October & November Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's

Cookie donations are appreciated! Simply place the cookies in the church kitchen the night before Saturday September 16th delivery; and mark them "For St. Mary's".

October cookie: **Chocolate Chip**

November cookie: **Oatmeal Raisin**



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



2nd Annual ECW Holiday Celebration in Early December

A themed event to kick off the season.

Please watch for invitations in the mail and more details to follow in the church bulletin.

Upcoming St. James' Events

3 Oct	7PM	ECW Meeting
4 Oct	7:30PM	Buildings & Grounds Meeting (downstairs)
8 Oct	9 AM – 11:15AM	Animal Sitting provided by Middle/High School
	11:15	Animal Blessing
10 Oct	7 PM	Communications Meeting
17 Oct	7:30 PM	Vestry
20 Oct	4-10PM	Ham and Oyster Prep
21 Oct		Ham & Oyster Dinner
29 Oct	7PM	All Hallows Eve Service and Church Costume Party
1 Nov	7:30PM	Buildings & Grounds Meeting (downstairs)
4 & 5 Nov	All Services	All Saints -Baptisms
14 Nov	7 PM	Communication Meeting
15 Nov	--	December/January Epistle Items Due
21 Nov	7:30 PM	Vestry
23-24 Nov		OFFICE CLOSED

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Monday:	AA Meetings 7PM-9:30PM <i>Platts Hall</i>	Cub Scouts (2 nd Grade) 6:30-8:30PM <i>Basement</i>
Tuesday:	Cub Scouts (4 th Grade) Bi-Weekly 6:30-8:30PM <i>Basement</i>	
Wednesday:	DAV Meetings 7-9:30PM <i>Platts Hall</i>	Adult Bible Study 7 – 8 PM <i>Church</i>
	Girl Scouts Bi-Monthly 6:30-8:30PM <i>Basement</i>	
Thursday:	Christ & Coffee 11AM-12 Noon <i>Platts Hall</i>	Choral Choir 7:30 PM <i>Choir Room</i>
	Boy Scouts 7:30PM <i>Platts Hall</i>	Cub Scouts (5 th Grade) 6:30-8:30PM <i>Basement</i>

St. James' Picnic in the Grove



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. Contact Ned Travis, 610-310-1827 nedptravis@gmail.com.

Communications: The Communications Committee works on internal and external communications to inform both our parishioners and our community of events, activities worship at St. James'. The committee typically meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7PM. For more information contact Drew Beck, 484-752-8244 Charles_beck@merck.com.

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 mljackson821@gmail.com.

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 Janice Tabbut, 610-454-0179 or janicetabbut@comcast.net



St. James' Episcopal Church
knowing and serving God by serving others
3768 Germantown Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426
610-489-7564 stjames-episcopal.org

