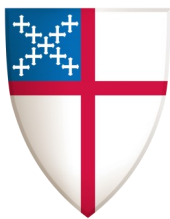




# The Epistle

December / January  
2017-18 Issue



# St. James' Episcopal Church

*knowing and serving God by serving others*

Collegeville, Pennsylvania  
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the weather begins its yearly chill and we leave the colors of autumn, we Christians look toward Advent and the beginning of a new Church Year. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking an event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on Christ Return, the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and congregations, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's in-breaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself."

The spirit of Advent is expressed well in the parable of the bridesmaids who are anxiously awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom (Matt 25:1-13). There is profound joy at the Bridegroom's expected coming. And yet a warning of the need for preparation echoes through the parable. But even then, the prayer of Advent is still:

Come, O Come, Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel!

May you have a blessed Advent and a Holy Christmas! *Fr. Mike+*

## Rector

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

## Vestry

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

## Buildings & Grounds

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

## 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

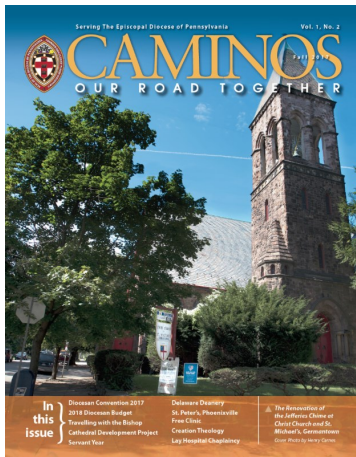
## St. James Website Coming Soon

Still some tweaking to be done but your web crew is almost ready to flip the switch on our new St. James' website. Please check out the new site at [www.stjames-episcopal.org](http://www.stjames-episcopal.org) sometime after December 8.



We are always happy to have pictures you may have taken of your St. James' family at worship, at work or at play. Please send photos to [photos@stjames-episcopal.org](mailto:photos@stjames-episcopal.org).

As many eyes make for good proofing, please contact Barbara Bateman [bebateman@verizon.net](mailto:bebateman@verizon.net) or Phil Tatem [philip.tatem@gmail.com](mailto:philip.tatem@gmail.com). should you see anything appearing to be incorrect. Phil and Barbara welcome your questions or comments!



## New Diocesan Publication

The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania has just announced the Fall issue of Caminos, a diocesan publication featuring news about the diocese and items of interest throughout its various parishes. A sample copy of the publication is available on the small table near the office entrance door.

If you are interested in receiving this publication electronically or via surface mail, please contact [jdlafrance@diopa.org](mailto:jdlafrance@diopa.org).



## A Music Note

### Sundays in December

Sunday, December 3, marks the beginning of a season which has been the source of uncounted musical gifts: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany. To celebrate this yearly event the Chancel Choir will sing an introit and offertory anthem each Sunday in December. We hope our musical offerings will enrich your experience of Advent/Christmas, 2017.

-Ron Davis and the choir



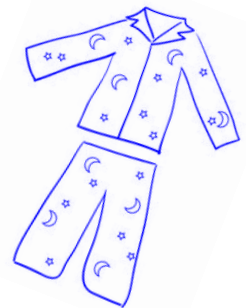
## *Celebrating Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*

Christmas is not the time period surrounding December 25th, but rather one of three distinct events that celebrate God becoming one of us in Jesus, the Incarnation. During Advent, we focus on the excitement, wonder, and expectation of what is to come. During the Christmas season, we celebrate the Incarnation and try to live fully as God wills by pouring out our lives for others. Christmas is NOT over on December 26th; instead, it is a season of 12 days culminating at the Epiphany and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, where Christ becomes manifest (present) to all peoples. On Epiphany, we focus on the three Wise Men, symbolizing the many races for whom Christ was born. The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his public ministry. In order to truly celebrate God's "Christmas gift" to us (the Incarnation), the entire season from Advent through Epiphany should be upheld in our actions and in our hearts.

*Merry Christmas to All!*

### **December 1st — Annual Pajama Drive**

For the past four years we have collected NEW pajamas for children, teens and adults, both male and female in all sizes! Please help us to reach a goal of 125 pairs this year. We need to have these pajamas by **December 1st**. Please put them in the box provided by the coat rack.



### **December & January Soup Kitchen at St. Mary's**

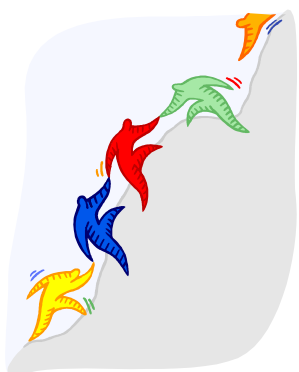
Cookie donations are welcome and appreciated! Simply place the cookies in the church kitchen the night before Saturday delivery and mark them "For St. Mary's".



December cookie: **Your Choice/Assorted**

January cookie: **Chocolate Chip**

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



## St. James' Outreach House Mitten Tree

"It's the most wonderful time of the year"..... That is what Andy Williams sings in the classic Christmas song. I enjoy everything about Christmas. Spending time with friends and family, eating lots of good food, singing favorite songs, attending church and of course, exchanging presents. This is an added expense to the regular budget, but it is something that we are able to do.

Now imagine that your regular budget is barely enough to cover your monthly expenses. The thought of buying presents for your children and providing a holiday feast are too much to consider. How are you going to cover your regular bills and give your child a few gifts under the tree?

This happens more than we care to imagine. Our neighbors in need are truly grateful for the help we are able to provide. So when you take a paper mitten from the Mitten Tree, remember to say a prayer for the child AND their parents/guardians. Your contributions and prayers will help to give a family a blessed Christmas.

If you have any questions about the Mitten Tree or any other part of service at the Outreach House please contact Carole Exley at [outreachhouse@stjames-episcopal.org](mailto:outreachhouse@stjames-episcopal.org) or [610-489-3841](tel:610-489-3841).



## From the Choir

We ask you to think back for a moment; did you sing in the high school, college, or community chorus or choir? Did you enjoy the experience, the sense of community, the satisfaction of making music? If your answer is yes — and we hope it is — the St. James' choir can use your talent! Singing with a group can be thrilling and uplifting. Also, the more you sing, the better your voice and skill will become. Join the choir and see for yourself. A choir robe awaits your.



- Ron Davis and all the choir members





## *Advent Wreaths and Advent Meditation Booklets*

**Available on Sunday December 3rd**

Sunday December the 3rd marks the first Sunday of Advent. We will be providing advent wreaths as well as family devotional booklets for use by families during the Advent season. Materials will be available in the Platts' Hall following the 5:00 PM Saturday December 2nd service and the 9:00 AM between the 8:00 and 10:00 AM services. Fr. Mike will also be providing a family forum talking about Advent and suggestions on how to celebrate the season.

**JOIN US..**

**ECW**

**Holiday Gathering**

Bring a wrapped gift (\$20 value) to exchange

*Refreshments will be served*

**Tuesday, Dec. 5th - 7pm**

**St. James' Parish Hall**

*please R.S.V.P. by November 26th to:*

Doreen: 610-731-6209 or [dkmayconich@comcast.net](mailto:dkmayconich@comcast.net)

## The Good Book Club

Wednesday, December 6

Platts' Hall at 6 PM

News of the World,  
by *Paulette Jiles*

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 February, April and June.

All are welcome



## Building and Grounds Meeting

Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 PM

Wednesday, January 3 at 7:30 PM

We meet in the church basement and welcome newcomers. The Committee will be prioritizing projects for 2018 - we hope you can **join us!!**

Joanne Tatem & Rick Toth  
Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs

## Foyer Gatherings

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 Melanie Jackson 610-831-1987 with any questions.



## Christmas Memorials

Anyone wishing to remember loved ones at Christmas and, at the same time, contribute to the "greening of the Church", Altar Guild accepts donations for Christmas Memorial Flowers & Greens until **Sunday, December 17.**

Please mail names of those to be remembered, along with donations to:

(make checks payable to "St. James' Altar Guild")

Marilyn Hastings  
790 Clahor Ave.  
Collegeville, PA 19426



## Stewardship Ingathering – Saturday/Sunday December 9/10

"Now Thanks We All Our God"

How we approach Stewardship indicates the extent to which we acknowledge God's generosity. Do we see stewardship as a means to announce God's ownership of all that is; as a call for God's people to give thanks to God for God's abundance? Do we consider that our time, talent and treasure are given to us in trust? Do we remind ourselves not to take personal credit for that which God has given to our care?

We live in a world that does not lend itself to gratitude and generosity. As faithful stewards it takes effort every day to appreciate God's gifts, to nurture those gifts, and to share them willingly and generously. As we give with a sense of thanksgiving we put that world aside and live into St. James' mission "to *know and serve God by serving others*".

St. James' Vestry offers a sincere "thank you" to each and every member who supports the St. James' community throughout the year with their attendance, service and regular financial contributions.



## The Nativity Pageant December 17 at 10:00 AM

In place of the regular sermon, the children of St. James' will perform the Nativity Pageant on Sunday, December 17th at the 10 AM service. Afterward all are invited to the Platts' Hall for an ALL PARISH POTLUCK. A variety of food items as well as help with set-up and clean-up will be needed. Please look for the sign-up sheets in Platts' Hall.

**We hope you join us for this festive event!**

Below are dates to note if you wish to participate in the Nativity Pageant:

- Sunday, December 4 & 10 during class - roles and scripts will be distributed.
- Saturday, December 16 from 11 AM - 1 PM required practice for the Pageant, lunch will be served.
- December 17 arrive at 9:15 AM to Platts' Hall to prepare for your role.

Please contact Rochelle Johnson [rrocchi@hotmail.com](mailto:rrocchi@hotmail.com) with offers to help or any questions.

## *Schedule of Worship & Events*

- ◆ Advent 1: Dec 2/3 —H.E., Rite II  
Sat, 5 PM; Sun, 8 AM & 10 AM  
Advent Wreath Making Sat 6 PM;  
Sun 9 AM in Platts Hall
- ◆ Advent 2: Dec 9/10 —H.E., Rite II  
Sat, 5 PM; Sun, 8 AM & 10 AM
- ◆ Advent 3: Dec 16/17—H.E., Rite II  
Sat, 5 PM; Sun, 8 AM  
Sun, 10 AM - Nativity Pageant  
& Eucharist  
Sun, 11 AM - Parish Advent Party  
(with a special visitor dressed in Red!)
- ◆ Advent 4: Dec 23/24 H.E., Rite II  
Sat, 5 PM; Sun, 8 AM & 10AM
- ◆ Christmas Eve - Dec 24  
5 PM - Family Crèche Service & Eucharist  
(The Christmas Story is read and families put  
together the crèche scene. This service with  
no sermon is particularly good for children.)  
  
10:30 PM - Carols & Festal Eucharist  
(Traditional Christmas “midnight”  
service, with carols, special music by the  
choir, sermon and Communion.)
- ◆ Christmas Morning - Dec 25  
9 AM - Spoken Morning Prayer  
Lou Steffenhagen, Deacon in Formation
- ◆ Sunday, Dec 31—10 AM Hymn Sing
- ◆ Saturday, Jan 6—Epiphany  
2 PM—Valley Forge Deanery Epiphany  
Service at Epiphany Royersford  
5 PM H.E., Rite II

## Altar Flower Schedule

### December

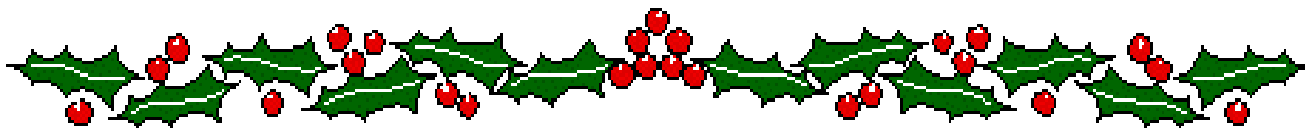
3rd Cathy & Howard Maris  
Bob Lang  
10th Dot Salter  
Doreen & Tom Mayconich  
17th Val & Curt Allen  
24th AM Open  
PM Christmas Memorials  
31st Carmen Branco

### January

7th Barbara & Bill Kott  
14th Tina & Jim Shields  
21st The Reid family







## *Christmas Eve Dinner*

**Saturday, December 24 at 6PM**

*Avoid the extra stress of cooking on Christmas Eve and bring your family and guests to join your parish family for this meal right after the 5 PM service.*

Turkey, bread, and beverages provided. You bring a dish to pass OR a monetary donation toward the cost of the rest of the meal.

So we have enough turkey and a good balance of dishes, please clip off the coupon below, sign up for the meal, and leave it in the marked envelope on the bulletin board.

Please contact Bob Gannon: 610-331-5400 or [rgannon@pathcominc.com](mailto:rgannon@pathcominc.com) with any questions.



### **Christmas Eve Dinner**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring (check one; please bring enough for 6–8):

Appetizer \_\_\_\_\_ Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_ Dessert \_\_\_\_\_

OR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (suggested donation \$3–5 per person, \$15 maximum per family)

Check here if you can help: Set up \_\_\_\_\_ Clean up \_\_\_\_\_



## Building & Grounds Updates and Acknowledgements

The Committee is happy to report the completion of some major projects in the past couple of months. Have you noticed the new chandelier globes and LED bulbs in the sanctuary? The basement water remediation system was installed. The sanctuary windows are in the process of getting new storm sashes. Additional sections of the cemetery wall and iron gates continue to be repaired/restored.

Special recognition to the following St. James' parishioners:

Thank you, Ned Travis, for the nice, new counter tops on the coffee station & adjacent cabinet in Platts Hall.

Thanks to Karen Toth for the seasonal mums and pumpkins at the church entrances.

Thank you, Sandra and George Drexler, for hosting our successful and fun picnic table building project on Nov 5th.

Thanks also go to the talented crew who constructed the heavy-duty tables: Bob Bateman, Drew Beck, Jonathan Campli, George Drexler, Steve Jackson, Bill Kott, Mike Lochocki. Kenny Parks, Rob Samtmann, Dean Thacker, Vic Uebele and Dan Young, as well as Kathy Lochocki, the event photographer.

Heartfelt gratitude also goes to our Blue Jeans Sunday volunteers: you cleaned outside window wells, organized the basement storage closet, dismantled the old BBall hoop, installed snow markers along the Outreach House drive, restocked the sheep bags, re-glued broken chairs and pruned a lot of shrubs and perennials.

We couldn't have done it without YOU!! We love our historic church and it shows!

**A NEW ROOF IS COMING SOON!** The Vestry approved moving forward before winter with the installation of a new roof for the sanctuary and Platts Hall. Bob Bateman oversaw the bidding process and the proposal from Dunleavy Roofing was recommended and approved. The work is to be completed late Nov/early December.

Upcoming meetings: **Dec. 6** and **Jan 3** at **7:30 p.m.** in the church basement.  
The Committee will be prioritizing projects for 2018 - **join us!!**

Joanne Tatem & Rick Toth  
Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs

# Building & Grounds - Many Hands





## 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](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:** 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. Contact Ned Travis, 610-310-1827 [nedptravis@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 [mljackson821@gmail.com](mailto:mljackson821@gmail.com).

**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 [marilyn.hastings@verizon.net](mailto: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](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 Janice Tabbut, 610-454-0179 or [janicetabbut@comcast.net](mailto:janicetabbut@comcast.net)



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610-489-7564 [stjames-episcopal.org](http://stjames-episcopal.org)

