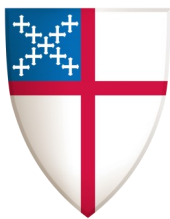




The Epistle

February / March
2018 Issue



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is the first Epistle letter that I wrote 5 years ago on my first day of work. The message is as cogent today as it was on that first day so I thought I would republish this to remind us of who we are and where we have been and in the spirit of nostalgia:

Today is January 14, 2013 and it is my first day of work here at St. James. I am sitting in the Rector's office contemplating all that God has in store for our ministry together. I am so delighted to have been chosen as your Rector and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. 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 "a-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 Sowards+

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



November-December Vestry Highlights



November 21st:

- Drew Beck updated the Vestry on Capital Campaign Committee progress. On track with training sessions and planning.
- Father Mike updated the Vestry on the new Outreach House project. He met with the project team on November 21st to plan strategy for plan presentation to Lower Providence Planning Committee on November 28th.
- The Vestry approved expenditure of up to \$1,000 on videotaping equipment to be used by the Communications Commission.
- The Vestry approved expenditure of \$7500 to improve the Cement Pad at the front of the Sanctuary.
- Dale Pennapacker distributed a preliminary 2018 St James Budget for review.

December 19th:

- An e-vote was held previous to the meeting, approving the new St James' Logo.
- Barbara Bateman distributed updated job descriptions for St James, which were approved by the Vestry.
- Dale Pennapacker distributed proposed 2018 staff salaries. Salaries were approved by the Vestry.
- Dale Pennapacker presented a proposed 2018 parish contribution to gifts for Mission to the Diocese. Approved by the Vestry.
- Rick Toth updated the Vestry that there is a separate charge of \$3400 for replacing the steps at the front of the church, along with the cement pad project. Approved by the Vestry.
- Rick noted that the Roofing project is basically complete, coming in at about \$77K, which is below expected cost.
- Jackie Dahlen noted that the Outreach House has been very busy helping those in need, and had served 35 clients the previous day, an Outreach House record.
- Kathy Lochocki noted that Father Mike's 5 year anniversary is coming up, and that a special coffee hour recognition would be held in January.



Annual Meeting - Vestry Elections



St. James' Annual Meeting *Sunday, April 15 at 9:00 AM*

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to report to the congregation on the status of the parish and to elect new members to the Vestry, representatives to the Valley Forge Deanery, and delegates to Diocesan Convention. Kathy Lochocki and Melanie Jackson, both of whom are cycling off of the Vestry, and Gene Goff have agreed to serve on the nominating committee for 2018.

Serving on the Vestry is one of the most significant ways in which a member of the congregation can fulfill his/her personal commitment to St. James'. Each member is elected for a three year term and may choose to stand for a second term upon completion of the first. Persons interested in serving in this capacity must be at least 18 years of age, been confirmed or received by a Bishop of the Episcopal Church, and shall have attended the parish for a minimum of one year. In addition, it is expected that persons serving on the Vestry shall faithfully attend worship and make an annual pledge to financially support the mission of the parish.

The Vestry functions as a "shared ministry" wherein the rector and vestry work as an interdependent team with responsibility for oversight of church property and finances. Members of the Vestry are legal representatives of the congregation. Additionally, the vestry, in concert with the rector, works to discern the vision of the parish and create strategies to fulfill our mission "to know and serve God by serving others".

Lay Delegates attend and represent the parish at the annual Diocesan Convention. Deanery Representatives are expected to attend meetings of the Deanery held in February, May and September. Interested candidates may choose to serve dually in these two positions. The term of service for each is one year.

If you are interested in serving the parish in any of these important positions or would like more detailed information on the responsibilities and expectations, please contact either Kathy at kathylochocki@gmail.com Melanie at mljackson821@gmail.com or Gene at gofflandscape@comcast.net

All would be happy to speak with you in person following a worship service.



Growing TO SERVE

Learn more about our Capital Campaign at www.stjames-episcopal.org

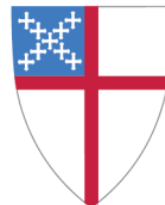


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610-489-7564 www.stjames-episcopal.org



Announcing



**New and Improved
St. James' Website**

www.stjames-episcopal.org

Give feedback to:

Phil Tatem - philip.tatem@gmail.com

Barbara Bateman - bebateman@verizon.net

Altar Flower Schedule

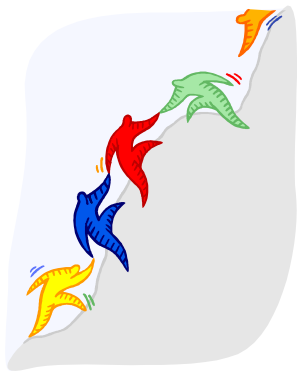
February

- | | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 4th | open |
| 11th | Ms. Helen Bregler |
| 18th | Mr. Al Fields |
| 25th | Marilyn & Dale Pennapacker |

March

- | | |
|------|---|
| 4th | Mrs. Patty Earhart
Mrs. Jean Branco |
| 11th | Barbara & Bob Bateman |
| 18th | Mrs. Jane Varian |
| 25th | Loretta & Mark Saylor
Mrs. Judy Taylor |





St. James' Outreach House

Past, Present and Future

The St. James' Outreach House has been helping people in our community since 1999. Originally there were small financial donations to individuals and other organizations and then eventually bags of groceries. Clothing and household items were also added to the items available to give those in need. The support from the parish made this possible.

Currently we have 160 registered Clients. Each month our Clients come to the OH to shop for groceries. We use a "choice system" which allows the Clients to choose what they need (just like a grocery store) using their points according to the size of their household. Not every family needs help every month. Some Clients come over the holidays because they can make the budget work the rest of the year, but not in November and December. Some Clients only need some assistance every few months. Our average number of Clients helped each month is approximately 85. We open one week during the month for 8 total shopping hours. The Outreach House gets crowded very quickly so we use a take-a-number system to keep a nice even flow of shopping. Unfortunately, this means that the Clients are waiting outside on the porch. As we grow the wait time increases. In December we had a record number of Clients and some of them waited for an hour and a half! Our shelves have been arranged and rearranged to use all available space. All the clothing is packed into one room. The household items are squeezed into an old upstairs bedroom. Toys for kids are in another space upstairs and whatever space is left is used for storage! All of your support is what makes it possible to *know and serve God by serving others*.

The new St. James' Outreach House will allow us to have a reception area, a more efficient shopping area, a larger space for the clothing, household items and toys AND dedicated storage rooms all on the same floor! Any of our physically challenged Clients will now be able to shop for more than just groceries. Many are unable to go upstairs to find things that they need. A parking lot will be a major improvement for safety and traffic flow. A dedicated area for donations will keep them out of the elements until they are able to be brought inside. This is such an exciting time for the volunteers and Clients as we anticipate this major improvement. Thank you to Father Mike, the Vestry, members of Growing to Serve and all of the members of St. James'. Without all of your prayers and support we would not be able to have such a wonderful mission.

With thankfulness and all praise to God,
Carole Exley, Director St. James' Outreach House

February & March 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".



February cookie: **Oatmeal Raisin**

March cookie: **Chocolate Chip**

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



Building and Grounds Meeting

Sunday, February 4 at 11:30 AM

We meet in the church basement and welcome newcomers. Please consider offering your time and talents for the 2018 projects.

Joanne Tatem & Rick Toth
Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs

The Good Book Club

Wednesday, February 7

Platts' Hall at 6 PM

Women of the Silk,
by *Gail Tsukiyama*

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

April 4 - What Made Maddy Run, Kate Fagan
June 6 - Before We Were Yours, Lisa Wingate



Foyer Gathering February Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to host a Foyer Gathering Saturday, **February 10th**. Foyer Gatherings are informal get-togethers at the host's home. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the back hallway.

Saturday, March 10 at 7:30 PM

Hosts: Steve & Melanie Jackson

Contact Melanie Jackson 610-831-1987 or mljackson821@gmail.com with any questions.



Volunteers Needed for Coffee Hour



Coffee Fellowship

The church is in need of volunteers to host coffee hour. Please consider Sunday for this important time of fellowship after the 10 AM service. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. If you have never done this before and would like more information on what this entails, please contact Melanie Jackson, mljackson821@gmail.com or Kathy Lochocki, kathylochocki@gmail.com.



Buildings and Grounds Update

The Committee is pleased to report the completion of more projects for the care and security of our historic properties.

A new roof over the sanctuary and parish hall was installed during that great stretch of warm weather in early December. Many thanks to our Clerk of the Work, Bob Bateman, for taking the lead on this vital repair.

New storm windows were installed on the six windows of the sanctuary; glass repair, casement woodworking and shutter repairs were included in this project.

The two bathrooms at the nursery school entrance to Platts Hall were repainted; and, a new light fixture was installed in the family bathroom.

Additional repairs and maintenance were made to the cemetery wall. Plans for the gates to be refreshed and repainted are in the works for spring.



The Jan. 8 discovery of a leak from one of the water heaters necessitated the emergency installation of a new water heater and expansion tank, as well as some pipe repairs and removal of the faulty tank.



**We hope to see you at our next Meeting on
Sunday, February 4 at 11:30 AM.**



Spring 2018

Where: St. Luke's UCC

200 West Main Street, Trappe PA

When: *Saturday, May 19, 2018 - 10:00 - 2:00*

Childcare provided upon request

Thank You Kitchen Angel

Here at St. James' there are many tasks that get done without general awareness. But, rest assured, if they were not taken care of we would all eventually notice. One particular area where this is true is the parish kitchen. For many years one of our members has been cleaning out the refrigerator, washing towels and, in general, cleaning up what others of us leave behind. It is time to say "thank you" to this dedicated individual and to all those who *just do* without complaining or expecting praise.



In the case of the kitchen we can all show our appreciation by pitching in a bit. If you use kitchenware wash, dry and put away; if there is leftover food at the end of an event take it home or share it with those still in the building. None of us wants to be wasteful, but leaving food in the frig that has little or no chance of use before spoilage doesn't count as not wasteful. If you do leave food and intend it for a specific purpose, please date and mark accordingly. Anything unmarked should be thought of as general fare available for use by all.

The kitchen, as all of St. James' property, is in the care of all of us. Each unsung act large or small has an impact. We are all stewards of this place.

So, here's a big thank you to those who *just do* when the rest of us don't. Let's show our appreciation by lending a hand now and then. They may not know exactly what you did but they will see the difference.

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



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