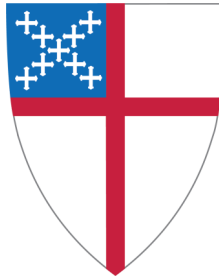


The Epistle

April/May
2018 Issue



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you receive this Epistle, we will be completing our Lenten disciplines and celebrating the resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ with our Easter celebrations. We have had a marvelous program year and will be celebrating that fact with our recognition of our Church School teachers and students on Pentecost Sunday May the 20th. As the program year comes to an end and we make plans for relaxing and refreshing this summer, I am reflecting on just how much growth and blessings we have received by God this last year. We continue to grow in numbers and in our financial commitments to St. James'. I am pleased and awed by the number of children that participate in our Church School programs. Lauren Exley, our Christian Education Director and Assistant Organist, has done a fantastic job in coordinating volunteers and in resurrecting the youth choir program. We have continued to implement new technology as witnessed in our new website and new membership software programs. We have updated our financial software and well as our hardware and network systems. We have bought a new phone system that better allows us to work more efficiently. Our capital campaign has gotten off to a tremendous start where we have already received commitments for 76% of our goal of \$500,000.00. There is a lot going on! Thanks be to God! I am eagerly awaiting the final approval of our plans from the Lower Providence Township and can't wait to look out the daycare doors and see our new Outreach House building being erected. God has been good! You all have been faithful! I know that God will continue to bless us as we continue to beacons of Christ light and to *know and serve God by serving others!* Please remember to make worship a part of your summer plans. If you are away, please bring me a bulletin from the church you are visiting so I can appropriate all of the good ideas I find! A heart felt thank you to all who have made this program year so successful. Your labor in the vineyard is greatly appreciated.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Romans 15:13 (BCP pg. 102)

The Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards, D.Min.

Rector

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



Growing TO SERVE

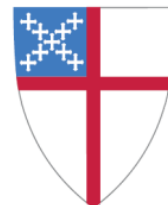
Learn more about our Capital Campaign at www.stjames-episcopal.org



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

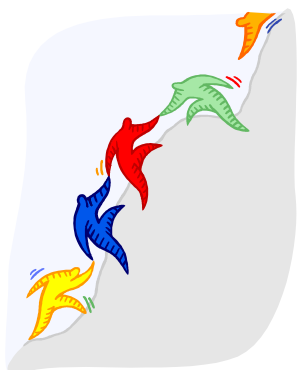


Growing to Serve – Our Lenten Journey

At the mid-point of our Lenten experience, it's an opportune time to consider how best to channel our giving spirit for the benefit of the parish's Growing to Serve Campaign. Seemingly small sacrifices can have a large impact:

- † Packing your lunch just twice each week, at a cost of \$12/meal, could save you nearly \$100/month, or almost \$3,600 over the duration of the campaign.
- † Consider ordering water each time you go to a restaurant, rather than soda, or coffee, or tea. Even if you only do so three times each week, at a cost of \$2/drink, you will save more than \$900 over three years, which would be an amazing addition to the parish's Growing to Serve Campaign.

For each of us, the Lenten journey is a very personal one, but with prayerful contemplation about our shared commitment to St. James', we can truly grow and serve together.



Spring Into Action

St. James' Outreach House

Spring has (*finally*) sprung and the Outreach House is blooming with possibilities! Possibilities to feed children on the weekends, opportunities to serve those in need, potentiality to make a difference in someone's life and the conceivability of helping more people.

This time of year can be very busy, but please don't forget to bring in food, toiletries and paper products as you are able. Everything helps us to help them. If you have any questions please contact the Director, Carole Exley at outreachhouse@stjames-episcopal.com or [610-489-3481](tel:610-489-3481). Thank you!

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



Buildings and Grounds

Meetings:

Sunday, April 8th

Sunday, May 6th

11:15 AM in the church basement.

All are welcome to attend.

Spring Clean-Up Sunday:

April 29th after the 10 AM service.

Come to church in your blue jeans and plan to stay afterwards to help spruce up the property! Let's plant flowers, prep the community garden, clean, and make our church home sparkle and shine. After we work, lunch will be provided for volunteers.

Joanne Tatem & Rick Toth
Buildings & Grounds Co-chairs



Holiday House 8th Annual Book Sale

Donating Your Gently Used Books Benefits Girls Friendly

April 8 through April 15



GFS/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 11-13 and May 18-20.

The book collection in support of this effort here at St. James' will take place Sunday, April 8 through Sunday, April 15. A marked basket 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. *Please bear in mind when selecting books to donate that text books, out dated computer manuals and religious reference books do not move well.* However, all categories of fiction, nonfiction (other than the fore mentioned reference material), inspirational works, cookbooks and themed books on sports, gardening, travel, hobbies, etc. are all in demand.

For more information, contact Barbara Bateman at 610-489-9712 or bebateman@verizon.net. Last year St. James' members packed up and donated over 30 boxes of books.

St. James' Annual Meeting Sunday, April 29th

The St. James' Annual Meeting date has been moved to Sunday, April 29th. Please be aware that we will have regular services on Saturday at 5 PM and Sunday at 8 AM. We will then have the Annual Meeting immediately following the 8 AM service (approximately 9 AM on Sunday) in Platts' Hall. Following the meeting, anyone who did not receive communion at the previous service will be invited to go into the church for Holy Communion and blessings. There will be no formal 10 AM service.

Altar Flower Schedule

April

1st	Easter Memorials
8th	David & Joanne Runyan
15th	The Ray Family The Linderman Family
22nd	Steve & Melanie Jackson Mrs. Marjorie Swymelar
29th	Art & Ginny Tinner

May

6th	Mrs. Diane Sartori
13th	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Fischer Mrs. Dede Montgomery
20th	Mrs. Janet Newman
27th	Howard & Cathy Maris

LAVENDER AND LACE

SPRING TEA

Saturday, May 5th at 1:00 PM

On Saturday, May 5, at 1:00 PM, St. James' ECW will host "Lavender and Lace," a springtime tea, in Platt's Hall.

Everyone enjoyed the tea last year and looked so lovely in beautiful hats and fascinators.

Again this year, Ned Travis and Deb DiSanto will be catering the tea, serving delicious tea sandwiches and delectable sweets.

ECW will be selling tickets for \$20 after each service on April 7/8, 14/15, and 21/22. Checks should be made payable to St. James' ECW.



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Glad You're Here!

New or Newish to St. James' ???

Get to Know the Parish - Help the Parish Know You

Saturday, May 5 & Sunday, May 6

New Member Breakfast – Sunday - 9:00 – 9:50 am

*Join the Vestry and parish leadership for a light breakfast
childcare available – children also welcome at breakfast*

Photo Op – Following Saturday 5:00 pm & Sunday 10:00 am worship

If your family photo is not in the Parish Directory, please take this opportunity to have a family photo taken. Parish Directory photos help us put faces to names of those we see each week. The Directory is an important way to help us know our St. James' parish family.

Please watch "Happenings" for more details



2018 Women's Retreat

***"EMBRACING MARY MOMENTS
IN A MARTHA WORLD"***

SATURDAY, MAY 19 - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Registration and lunch - \$12.00

FOR PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
AND TO REGISTOR GO TO:

WWW.STJAMES-EPISCOPAL.ORG/RETREAT

Foyer Gatherings

Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 PM

Host: Connie O'Brien

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, May 19 at 7:30 PM

Host: Sandra Drexler

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



The Casserole Brigade



Looking for a way to on occasion give a helping hand to members of St.James' parish family... consider signing on to the Casserole Brigade? This group of already busy cooks provides, on an as need basis, meals for fellow members of the parish who may have a short-term need for help due to illness or other family situation.

Casserole Brigade is an easy and limited time commitment means of caring for anyone in the congregation who may be in need of a bit of TLC. All you need do at this time is indicate your willingness to help and your email address. When a need arises a message is sent to everyone one who has volunteered requesting a meal, giving food requirements and contact information for the party in need. If you are able to assist at that particular time a simple reply to the email request indicating when and what you are able to provide is all that is required.

If you wish to be a part of this "in-reach" service to our members, please leave your name and email address with Barbara Bateman, bebateman@verizon.net or the church office, office@stjames-episcopal.org.

Please consider taking part in this important and much appreciated ministry to members of your parish family.

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 Jean Branco (610)635-0399 or jeanwb1@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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