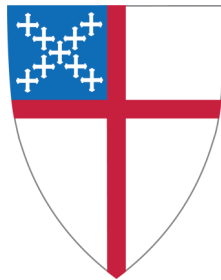




The Epistle

Summer
2018 Issue



St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others

Collegeville, Pennsylvania
610-489-7564

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

What a wet, chilly spring this season has turned out to be! Many, including myself, can't wait for the warm weather to appear and with it the lusciousness that always marks springtime here in Montgomery County. As we anticipate the warmth of summer and the welcome heat, I am also reminded that the Season of Pentecost is upon us. On that day, the Day of Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit upon his people and the Church was born. Scripture tells us that tongues of fire settled on the believers and that Peter, embolden by the gift of the Holy Spirit, stood up and preached to all that were in Jerusalem and many came to know Christ that day. You can say the Apostles were "on fire" for God and that they were called to action by the empowering of the Holy Spirit. One of the actions of the Holy Spirit was to create a community of believers centered on the love and teachings of Jesus Christ. Many of us got up early to watch the Royal wedding or have since listened to the anointed words of our Presiding Bishop as he gave a sermon to not only the Royal couple, Harry and Megan, but, also to the world. The bishop reminded us of the power of love. Bishop Curry said: *"The New Testament says it this way: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God, and those who love are born of God and know God. Those who do not love do not know God. Why? For God is love. There's power in love. There's power in love to help and heal when nothing else can. There's power in love to lift-up and liberate when nothing else will. There's power in love to show us the way to live."*

Epistle letter continued on next page

Rector

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

Vestry

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

Buildings & Grounds

- ♦ Steve Jackson 610-xxx-xxxx
- ♦ Rick Toth 610-495-6913

Communications

- ♦ Drew Beck 484-752-8244
- ♦ Peggy Spinozzi 610-489-1739

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

- ♦ Ned Travis 610-310-1827
- ♦ Joanne Tatem 610-631-2488

Member Ministries

- ♦ Barbara Bateman 610-489-9712

Parish Administrator

- ♦ Lisa Reinhardt 610-489-7564

Epistle letter continued

Bishop Curry went on to say that: *“When love is the way, then no child will go to bed hungry in this world ever again. When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook. When love is the way, poverty will become history. When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary. When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields, down by the riverside, to study war no more. When love is the way, there's plenty good room - plenty good room - for all of God's children. Because when love is the way, we actually treat each other, well... like we are actually family. When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all, and we are brothers and sisters, children of God.”* As we await the warming of our days, let us turn our Spiritual hearts to Christ and have God set us on fire for his kingdom. My prayer is that we would all be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit and that the love of God would warm all of our hearts and that we would share that love with a broken and hurting world.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mike

Visit our website www.stjames-episcopal.org to hear the sermon from the Royal Wedding given by The Right Reverend Bishop Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.





March - April 2018 Vestry Highlights



March 27th:

- Kathy Lochocki and Melanie Jackson gave an update from the Nomination Committee. Newly nominated Vestry members are Ned Travis, Steve Jackson, and Peggy Spinozzi.
- Drew Beck gave an updated on the Capital Campaign. Our commitments are now up to \$360,000, which is 72% of our internal goal!
- Gene Goff made a motion to make a Vestry Resolution to build the Outreach House, which will facilitate Diocese approval. Motion passed unanimously.
- A planning committee was formed to plan a celebration for Ron Davis' retirement celebration. Includes Joanne, Father Mike, and Kathy Lochocki.
- Barbara Bateman confirmed plans for a social hour meeting for the latest St. James' members, to be held on Sunday, May 6th, between services.

April 17th:

- Drew Beck gave an update on the Capital Campaign. The campaign now has about \$385,000 in commitments – continued good progress.
- A motion was passed to approve a \$1,700 fee to the township for the Zoning Application for the new Outreach House.
- A motion was approved to fund \$1,600 for battery backups for our two sump pumps.
- Father Mike is working with Mike O'Rourke and Miriam Robinson on an RFP for needed electrical work for our buildings. The cost, to be covered under the Capital Campaign, may run between \$30,000 and \$50,000.
- Joanne Tatem gave an update on plans for Blue Jean Sunday, coming up. Sign-ups are underway for a number of needed tasks, including work at our cemetery, painting a wall, work in the community garden.



Growing TO SERVE

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



**Help us Grow:
Give Electronically!**

Electronic gifts are fast and secure, and they reduce administrative costs, allowing more of every dollar to fund the important work we are called to do.

- Give anytime, anywhere to any of our ministries including:
 - ◇ Annual Pledge/Donations
 - ◇ Capital Campaign Pledge/Donations
 - ◇ Altar Flowers
 - ◇ Holiday Giving
 - ◇ And much more!
- Schedule and manage recurring donations
- Make one-time donations to special appeals

The link and app information to follow. If you are interested, please contact Dale Pennapacker at 215-896-7424 or dalepenna@gmail.com.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you, teachers, students, and parents, for a great year of Christian Education! We celebrated the work of our wonderful volunteer teachers at our “Education Celebration.” All of our teachers were recognized for the important role they play in our church community. We had a wonderful year learning about our faith and are ready for a well-deserved summer break. Thank you to everyone who made this year a success!

One of the best additions to the Christian Education program was the implementation of “Kids in Church” Sundays. The name says it all...they are special Sundays that the kids and youth join the congregation for the worship service. These Sundays were a great opportunity for kids and youth to practice the skills they learned in the classroom.

Now that we have entered the summer season, try to think of every Sunday as “Kids in Church” Sunday! The summer is a wonderful time to worship as a family. Even though classes are not in session, the summer is the perfect time to help your child learn about the Episcopal worship service and experience the greater church community. As Episcopalians, we promise to take part in the fellowship and breaking of the bread. By coming to church as often as you can during the summer, you can help your child live out this promise.

If you are interested in volunteering as a teacher for the 2018-2019 school year, please email the Education Director, Lauren Exley, at stjames.education@stjames-episcopal.org Teachers are needed for every grade level and you do not need to have teaching experience to volunteer. Please note: All volunteers are required to obtain clearances.

Be sure to look for the “Education Epistle” (coming in August!) for information about registration and program options for next year.

Thanks again for a great year and we’ll see you in church!

Lauren Exley
Director of Education

Vestry Retreat

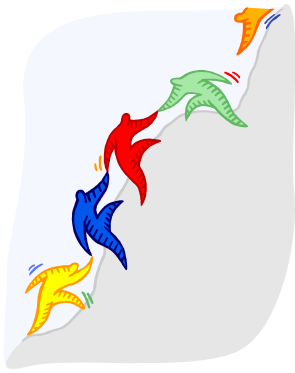
Fr. Mike and St. James' Vestry gathered for an abbreviated weekend of personal sharing and reflection the weekend of May 11/12. Vestry retreat held annually has a two-fold purpose: first to incorporate newly elected members and second to provide a time for all to reflect on the work of the Vestry and the individual member's part in that work.

This year's retreat theme was "Living in Community: what does it mean and how do we do it?" Discussion covered not only how we work on the practical matters of the parish but also how within the context of the group we develop spiritually to represent the entire faith community of St. James' and the world. We discussed the impossibility of being a Christian alone. In Christian community we are spurred by our relationships to others to love and through love to service. It is through working within the community of St. James' that we are able to fulfill our mission to **know and serve God by serving others**.

The Bible passage from 1 Peter shown below was a jumping off point to begin Saturday's session. The Vestry has decided to read it together as a call to go forward in love and service as we leave each monthly Vestry meeting. We share it with you the members of our St. James' community.

⁸ Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹ Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)



St. James' Outreach House

Needs Paper Bags

The Outreach House continues to serve our community and share the blessings we have been given. Every month our Clients are given eggs, frozen bread products and cupcakes as part of their groceries. We find that the best way to distribute them is by paper grocery bags that help to keep these items colder longer. Our current supply is dwindling and we need stock up before the hot summer months. Next time you go the store, instead of taking reusable bags, please ask for paper. Bags can be put into the blue bins under the coat rack. 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!

June & July 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".



June cookie: **Oatmeal Raisin**

July cookie: **Chocolate Chip**

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

The Good Book Club

Wednesday, June 6

Platts' Hall at 6 PM

What Made Maddy Run,
by *Kate Fagan*

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!



Next Epistle Submission

August 15

Committee leaders please send in your communication forms to the office office@stjames-episcopal.org for review and inclusion in the next Epistle by August 15th.



St. James' Chicken BBQ Dinner



Saturday, June 2nd

5-7:30PM

(while chickens last)

\$13.00

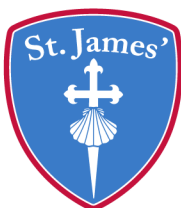
Eat in or take out!

Menu includes:

1/2 BBQ Chicken (with a side of St. James' Guinness BBQ Sauce),

Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Apple Sauce, Roll and butter

and dessert

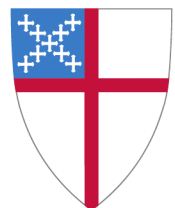


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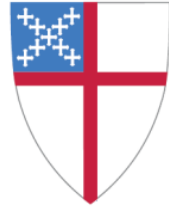


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Successful May 6th New Member Breakfast

Members of the Vestry and other parish leaders joined with new members to enjoy a light breakfast of bagels and fruit on Sunday morning May 6. Leadership representatives briefly highlighted parish events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. New folks were given an opportunity, if they wished, to introduce themselves and speak about their interests and tell how they came to be at St. James'. An enjoyable time was had by all. When you have the opportunity, please welcome:

**Meave Vogan,
Paul Keroack
Pat & Manny Soares
the Deacle family**

If you are new or even newish, please try to attend the next breakfast, probably in the fall, to help us get to better know each other. If you are not new but would like this opportunity to meet folks with whom you have not had opportunity to interact you are most welcome to attend as well. Watch the Sunday Bulletin and Happenings for an announcement of date and time.





Women's Retreat Enjoyed by Many

Pictured are ladies who attended St. James' *first in many years* Women's Retreat on Saturday, May 19. Our presenter, Rev. Dr. Kris Peterson, provided participants with a day of quiet reflection and self-learning. The general consensus was that this should be an annual spring event!



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