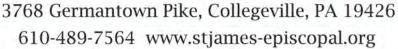


## St. James' Episcopal Church

knowing and serving God by serving others





## Education Epistle: 2018 — 2019

Inside this issu	ie:	A Message from Fr. Mike
		Dear Friends in Christ,
What's New?	2	I hope many of you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. My summer has been filled with the
Church School Information	3	joy of baptizing a new granddaughter as well as trips to Jacksonville Beach, Florida and Cooperstown, NY. With this Education Epistle, we turn our attention to the upcoming program year. It's time to put away all our summer toys! It's time to get back to work!
Curriculum	4–5	to Christ and to each other. Let us recommit to read scripture and fulfill our baptismal promise to
Adult Education	6–7	"continue in the apostle's teaching." (BCP 304) We here at St. James' are pleased to have our full-time Christian Education Director, Lauren Exley, on staff with us this year. It will be obvious reading
Programs and Confirmation Class		this Epistle the work and commitment Lauren brings to this position.
Opportunities to Serve	8–9	Once again I reiterate that Christian Education is not just for kids! I again call on all of us at St. James' to find some way to participate in Christian Education this year either by teaching or attending classes. It is also a time to get back to worship! Take time to come to Church with an attitude of
Youth Groups and	10	gratitude. There is much here at St. James' in which to be thankful. Our plans to repair the church
Church Family Nights	11	and to build our new outreach house continue to move forward. God is continuing to bless us with new families here at St. James' and to bless our outreach initiatives to our community. May the
Education and Fellowship Calendar	11	Holy Spirit of God bless all our efforts in this upcoming program year and may you find the spiritual blessing you need from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
·		In Love,
Registering for Classes Volunteer to Teach!	12	Fr. Mike+

## **About St. James' Education Program**

The Education program at St. James' Episcopal Church includes programs for children, youth, and adults. Formal instruction is imperative to the spiritual growth of all! Children participate in a structured curriculum, designed to expose the child to all areas of the Christian faith. Young adults participate in classes to prepare for their future adult Christian life. Adults are encouraged to attend a variety of classes to continue the study of their faith.

Youth through Adults are offered many opportunities to serve before, during, and following worship. Participating in worship from a young age creates an involved Episcopalian in the years to come. Youth are also encouraged to attend monthly fellowship groups. Geared for their age, these groups provide a fun, safe environment for youth to learn about God and each other.

This Epistle will give you information about available classes for youth and adults, as well as service opportunities and fellowship groups. Check out "What's New?" to discover more about this exciting program! General information about special events throughout the year is also available.

## What's New?

### Read all about the exciting 2018–2019 school year!

- ⇒ NEW Youth Groups! Youth fellowship groups meet monthly (see schedule on page 11) and provide a safe, fun environment for youth to learn about God and each other. There are two youth groups: Fuel (K—5th Grade) and Ignite (6th—12th Grade)
- ⇒ Church Family Nights will take place an average of 1x per month and will be a time that the whole church family can come together for fellowship and fun. Upcoming themes will include bingo night, movie night, and game night!
- ⇒ Junior Choir will now meet weekly and present an average of one anthem per month. On special days, the Junior Choir will process and lead worship during the 10am service!
- ⇒ St. James' now has a Drama Program! Our Drama Program will present two productions a year: a Christmas Pageant and a Spring Musical. Roles are available for all in Pre-K—12th grade. Everyone who chooses to participate is guaranteed a role.
- ⇒ The Chancel Choir is available for all 6th Grade—Adult. The choir rehearses on select Sunday mornings at 9:15am. The choir focuses on music that is accessible to all, seeking to provide a worship experience in both rehearsal and performance.

## **Meet Lauren Exley!**

### The Director of Education and Music



Lauren Exley is the full-time Director of Education and Director of Music. She graduated from Westminster Choir College with a Bachelors of Music in Education. She spent 6 years as the Music Director for the Wyndcroft School and has experience in numerous theater programs and professional choirs.

As Education Director, her goal is to build a community of teachers, students, and parents that encourages a lifetime of Christian learning.

Through regular classes and fellowship opportunities, she seeks to encourage life-long participation as an active member of the Episcopal church and provides opportunities for inter-generational connection within the greater St. James' community.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Education or Music Programs, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren at education@stjames-episcopal.org



## **Church School Classes**

Classes meet Sundays from 10:00-10:30am.

Children begin in church with their families and leave with their teachers after the opening hymn. They will return in time for Communion.

Occasionally, to promote understanding of the worship service, Church School students attend the 10am Worship Service. Children sit together with their teachers and practice using the tools of worship. These special days will be called "Kids in Church" Sundays!

Nursery Care (Birth - 3 years)

and teachers will Platt's Hall.

Child-care is provided from 7:45am-11:15am. Parents can drop-off All parents, students, and pick-up throughout the 8am and 10am services. The Nursery is located in

gather together at Primary (Pre-Kindergarten – 1st grade)

the start of the Children engage with biblical stories and Episcopal traditions in a welcoming way. 10:00am service. Classes follow a predictable pattern (Gathering, Storytelling, Engaging, and Closing) and are designed to be interactive.

We will all sing the Elementary (2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

opening hymn, with Children engage with biblical stories, Episcopal traditions, and the worship a dismissal of the service. Building on the foundation set in their primary years, children continue church school at its hearing the great stories of the bible. Children also begin to interact with materials used in worship (Bible, Book of Common Prayer, and Hymnal) to prepare for their conclusion. eventual understanding of the Episcopal service.

Middle School (6th - 8th grade) \*

The Middle School years are about forming the basis for the adult Christian life. Youth begin connecting their faith to the world around them. Students learn Episcopal Church basics alongside their continuing study of Scripture.

High School (9th - 12th grade) \*

High School students participate in a variety of discussions and programs. The class is designed to transition students from a follower of the church to a leader in the church. Students have the opportunity to be confirmed (a separate course) and become more integrated in to the life of the parish. Students are encouraged to join a church ministry (Acolyte, Lector, Altar Guild, Music, etc.) in addition to coming to classes.

\*Altar acolytes will continue to serve as scheduled. Crucifers and torch bearers can participate in the processional, attend class, and participate in the recessional after returning to the service.

**Church School begins September 9th.** 

Please register by September 2nd! Visit stjames-episcopal.org/education to register!

## **Everything you wanted to know about Curriculum**

### What our kids will learn (and how it will help them later in life!)

The St. James' Education Program is now on Year 2 of our new curriculum! This curriculum is based on a free resource provided by Virginia Theological Seminary and has been modified for our use! What makes this curriculum special is that it was written by, and for, Episcopalians! The lessons themselves are constructed in a way that will introduce children and youth to the structure of the Episcopal worship service.

The year is divided into four separate units, which rotate on a 3-year cycle. Each year has a different focus, ensuring that students are exposed to a wide array of topics during their time in class. Unit topics for the 2018–2019 school year include:

#### Pre-Kindergarten—1st Grade

- ⇒ Promise
- ⇒ Jesus: Storyteller
- ⇒ Eucharist: Sacred Meal
  - ⇒ The Church Prays

#### 2nd—5th Grade

- ⇒ Judges and Kings
- ⇒ People in Parables
- ⇒ Eucharist: People in Communion
- ⇒ The Church in the Prayer Book

#### 6th-8th Grade

- ⇒ Called by Jesus
- ⇒ New Covenant Disciples
- ⇒ Christians Build Community
- ⇒ The Basic Series: Spiritual Life



Keep an eye out for updates in the "Education Corner" of the weekly service bulletin. Check-in regularly with up-todate lesson plan topics, schedules, and announcements.

The High School class uses a variety of resources and lessons are largely impacted by the contributions of the students. As such, their topics are not pre-defined.

Starting in Pre-Kindergarten, children will begin learning responses More about each class... common to the worship service (Thanks be to God!) and become familiar with hearing Scripture in an age appropriate way. Games, crafts, and songs help young students engage with the material.

Elementary students will build on the concepts learned in their Primary years and will quickly become accustomed to locating and reading Scripture for themselves. Classes begin by reciting an opening statement or prayer, followed by an opportunity for student lectors to read Scripture aloud. A time of discussion and brief activity is always concluded with prayer.

Middle School classes place emphasis on students forming a solid foundation for their future adult Christian life. Each class follows the structure of the Episcopal service, beginning with the daily Collect, followed by Scripture reading, a time of engaging, and a concluding prayer read from the Book of Common Prayer.

High School classes provide a time for our older youth to discover and debate their faith in a supportive environment. Students will have the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics, from Scripture to the "real-world". The class structure is designed to transition students into their life as an Episcopal adult.

## **Lesson Topics**

### A complete listing of the lessons for the Primary, Elementary, and Middle School Classes

### **Primary Class**

#### Unit 1: Promise

- ⇒ Noah Built an Ark
- ⇒ Noah Sent a Dove
- ⇒ God Showed a Rainbow
- ⇒ Moses was Found in the Bulrushes
- ⇒ Moses Heard God in the Burning Bush
- Moses Led God's People Out of Egypt

#### Unit 2: Jesus: Storyteller

- ⇒ The Mustard Seed Grows into a Bush
- ⇒ The Lost Coin was Found
- ⇒ The Lost Sheep is Safe
- ⇒ Jesus is the Good Shepherd
- ⇒ Advent Begins a New Year
- ⇒ The Shepherds Hear the Good News

#### Unit 3: Eucharist: Sacred Meal

- ⇒ Jesus Ate with Friends
- ⇒ We Gather at the Altar
- $\Rightarrow$  Jesus Offered Bread and Wine
- ⇒ We Give Thanks to God
- ⇒ Jesus Sang with the Disciples
- $\Rightarrow$  Jesus Shared the Last Supper
- ⇒ Christ Has Died
- ⇒ The Lord is Risen

#### Unit 4: The Church Prays

- ⇒ We Pray Like Jesus
- ⇒ We Say the Lord's Prayer
- ⇒ We Pray in Different Ways
- ⇒ We Use The Book of Common Prayer
- ⇒ We Worship
- ⇒ Leaders of Our Prayers
- $\Rightarrow$  Prayers of the People
- ⇒ We Pray at Baptisms
- ⇒ We Celebrate Pentecost

## **Elementary Class**

#### Unit 1: Judges and Kings

- ⇒ Joshua
- ⇒ Deborah
- ⇒ Gideon
- ⇒ Samuel
- ⇒ Ruth
- ⇒ David

#### Unit 2: People in Parables

- ⇒ Being a Resourceful Servant
- ⇒ Being Forgiven
- ⇒ Being a Neighbor to Others
- ⇒ Welcoming All People
- ⇒ Jesus' Family Tree
- $\Rightarrow$  Emmanuel

## Unit 3: Eucharist: People in Communion

- ⇒ Jesus' Last Supper with the Disciples
- ⇒ Christians Remember the Last Supper
- ⇒ People Celebrate the Fucharist
- ⇒ We Use The Book of Common Prayer
- ⇒ Each Congregation Celebrates Holy Communion
- ⇒ Jesus' Disciples Prepare for the Passover
- ⇒ Jesus Was Arrested
- $\Rightarrow$  Jesus Died and Rose Again

## Unit 4: The Church in the Prayer Book

- ⇒ Episcopalians Use The Book of Common Prayer
- ⇒ The Church's People Pray All Through the Day
- ⇒ Praying for Others
- ⇒ Called to Holy Orders
- $\Rightarrow$  The Psalter
- ⇒ Prayers and Thanksgivings
- ⇒ Seasons of the Church Year
- ⇒ The Calendar of Saints
- The Church Celebrates Pentecost

## Middle School Class

#### Unit 1: Called by Jesus

- ⇒ Jesus: God's Son
- ⇒ Peter: Recognizing Christ
- ⇒ Woman at the Well: Welcoming Outsiders
- ⇒ Nicodemus: Learning from Jesus
- ⇒ Mary, Martha, and Lazarus: Life Out of Death
- ⇒ Thomas: Searching for Jesus

#### Unit 2: New Covenant Disciples

- ⇒ Mary and Gabriel: Encounter with Mystery
- ⇒ Elizabeth and Mary: Someone to Talk To
- ⇒ Paul and Barnabas: Conflict in Relationships
- ⇒ Paul and Timothy: Learning from Each Other
- $\Rightarrow$  Many Parts: One Body
- ⇒ Circles in Christ: Being Disciples

## Unit 3: Christians Build Community

- ⇒ Peter and Paul: Building the Church
- ⇒ Ananias: Healing an Apostle
- ⇒ Cornelius: Calling a Gentile
- ⇒ Lydia and Phoebe: Women Following Christ
- ⇒ Romans: Establishing the Church
- ⇒ Corinthians: Growing in Love
- ⇒ Ephesians: Receiving the Gift of Faith
- ⇒ Philippians: Shining as Lights

#### Unit 4: Spiritual Life

- $\Rightarrow$  Prayer: Talking to God
- ⇒ Prayer: Praying Alone
- ⇒ Worship: Praising God
- ⇒ Rule of Life: Living for Christ
- ⇒ Faith and Belief: Knowing God
- ⇒ Mission and Service: Finding God
- Ethics and Morals: Living as a Christian
- ⇒ The Episcopal Way: Scripture, Tradition, Reason
- ⇒ The Episcopal Way: Finding the Middle

## **Adult Education Programs**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards** 

As we all know, the learning doesn't stop just because you are an adult! Join us for our Adult Education Programs. We host two separate programs, so you are sure to find one to fit your schedule. We look forward to seeing you!

### Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Nights from 7:00-8:00pm

Introducing a NEW Adult Bible Study series for Wednesday night!

DISCIPLE is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders.

The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. DISCIPLE draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

The first study in the program is DISCIPLE: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY, a thirty-four week overview of the entire Bible.

#### ⇒ Commitment and Time Involved

Three and one-half to four hours of independent study each week (40 minutes daily for leaders and 30 minutes daily for group members) in preparation for weekly group meetings.

Attendance at weekly 2.5 hour meetings.

#### ⇒ Study Manual

Each member of the group needs a study manual and a Bible. The Bible is the text for the study and the study manual will guide group members in their study and preparation for the weekly group session. The study manual also includes suggestions for individual and study-related activities. Space is provided for taking notes while reading Scripture, for recording thoughts and questions arising out of daily study, and for notes during the weekly group session. The cost for the study manual is \$20.00

The titles of the sessions along with theme words and theme verses, and major persons, events, and topics will set the sequence of the biblical story in the minds of the participants. The principal Scripture for each session follows the chronological movement of the biblical story.

We recommend the New Interpreters Study Bible NRSV edition.

#### ⇒ Time

We will begin our time together at 7:00 pm every Wednesday in the Church.









#### **Christ and Coffee**

Thursday Mornings from 11:00am -12:00pm

During this time of fellowship, the upcoming Old Testament, Psalm, and New Testament lessons are studied. As each study is self-contained, you are welcome to come and go as your schedule allows. The format is relatively informal and no preparation is needed to attend. The time is spent in fellowship and learning. You are guaranteed to leave with a smile on your face and the love of God in your heart!

## **Confirmation Class**

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mike Sowards

### A 6-Week course that meets on select Sundays from 9:15-9:45am in Platt's Hall

Confirmation is an important time in a young person's life. In the Episcopal tradition, parents and grandparents make promises for the young child that are affirmed by the young adult at Confirmation. Classes are formed prior to the Bishop's yearly visit.

A young adult participates in Confirmation in their High School years. Individuals (9th Grade - Adult) can choose when it is most appropriate for them to receive Confirmation. If your child is ready for confirmation, please indicate their intent to participate on the Education Program registration form!

Please note - Confirmation Class is not a substitute for the regularly scheduled High School class from 10:00-10:30. Students will attend both classes.

If you are interested in being confirmed or received this year, please contact Fr. Mike.

Note: Adults who have been confirmed in another denomination can elect to be "received" rather than "confirmed" by the Bishop and are strongly encouraged, but not obligated, to take this course.

## **Opportunities to Serve**

#### Available for all Pre-Kindergarten-Adult

Our community is strongest when everyone, including our youth, participate in worship with a servant's heart. The lessons learned early in life carry-on into the adult years. This is why we encourage our youth to be active participants in the worship service. Our hope is that each child and young adult finds an opportunity to serve.

Below, you will find several ways that youth and adults can become involved in the worship service. Youth will register on the Education Program Registration form. Interested adults can contact the coordinator directly.



### Junior Choir (Pre-Kindergarten—8th Grade)

Junior Choir is for all kids who are interested in singing! The choir rehearses weekly after the 10am service. The choir presents an anthem monthly and occasionally processes and leads worship at the 10am service. Additionally, the choir performs on Christmas Eve (5:00pm service) and Easter Sunday.

Contact: Lauren Exley (education@stjames-episcopal.org)

#### **Rector's Cross** (Pre-Kindergarten—5th Grade)

The child assigned to be the Rector's Cross has responsibilities during the Processional (opening hymn) and Recessional (closing hymn). At the appointed time, the child collects the smaller cross and carries it just ahead of Father Mike. This service can be completed before and after Sunday School.

Contact: Lauren Exley (education@stjames-episcopal.org)

### Bell Choir (2nd Grade—Adult)

The Bell Choir welcomes 'ringers' of all ages and rehearses on Wednesday nights from 6:30—8:30pm. The bell choir performs on select Sundays throughout the year, including Christmas Eve and Easter Day.

Contact: Lauren Exley (education@stjames-episcopal.org)

### Acolyte Program (6th Grade—Adult)

The Book of Common Prayer says, "At all celebrations of the Liturgy, it is fitting that the principal celebrant, whether Bishop or Priest, be assisted by other priests, and by deacons and lay persons. Being an acolyte is doing just that—actively assisting the Priest in the worship of God. The ministry of the acolyte is to be a servant to God and God's church—the word "acolyte" does mean "one who serves." Acolyte is a general term that refers to servants of the liturgy, including crucifers, torchbearers and thurifers.

At St. James', we use 3 acolytes each at both the 8am and 10am services on Sunday. The Crucifer carries the cross and leads the procession. They also assist at the altar in preparing the table for Eucharist. Following the Crucifer are two torch bearers, who carry the candles.

We welcome anyone, 6th grade through Adult, to join this important ministry. A training will be held in the Fall for all acolytes, including current members.

Contact: Gayle Eselby (484-614-5312 or werd13193@yahoo.com)

#### Altar Guild (6th Grade—Adult)

This dedicated group of individuals is responsible for the setting of the altar for worship. You will have a great opportunity to learn about the intricacies of the altar vestments and play an integral role in preparing for worship. This position requires attendance before and/or after worship on scheduled weekends. Youth 6th Grade and up are welcome to join as Junior Altar Guild members!

Contact: Sally Templeton (610-489-2486)

#### Chancel Choir (6th Grade—Adult)

The Chancel Choir is performs music that is accessible to all and focuses on providing a worship experience in both rehearsal and performance. The choir welcomes any interested singer 6th Grade—Adult. The choir rehearses on select Sunday mornings at 9:15am in a one rehearsal/performance format. That means you can come rehearse the piece that morning and perform the anthem during that day's 10am service!

Please note: Those in 6th—8th grade should also be a member of Junior Choir.

Contact: Lauren Exley (education@stjames-episcopal.org)



## Why Fellowship?

Our Baptismal Covenant states that, with God's help, we will continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship. Not only is it fun to be a part of church fellowship groups, it can be considered an important part of our lives as Christians.

The Episcopal faith is experienced in community with others. We worship together, celebrate Eucharist together, baptize together, and fellowship together! When we take the time out of our lives to connect with our church family and share His love with others, we build the Kingdom of God in greater ways.

St. James' Episcopal Church promotes a variety of service and social programs to give you and your family opportunities to participate in fellowship. With the variety of programs offered, you are sure to find a program to suit your schedule and spiritual needs. You are always welcome!

## **Youth Groups**

### Available for K-5th Grade and 6th-12th Grade

Are you ready for fun games, wild activities, messy crafts, lots of laughs, and a great time you'll never forget? Then join us for our brand new youth groups starting this Fall!

**FUEL** is a youth group just for Kindergarten—5th Grade kids. We will meet on select Saturdays from 6:00—8:00pm. Each evening will consist of a game, craft, snack, bible story, and FUN! Friends are always welcome!

The first meeting of FUEL will be on Saturday 9/22 from 6:00—8:00pm.

**IGNITE** is a youth group just for 6th—12th Grade young adults who are ready to have fun, serve others, and have a great time. We will meet on select Saturdays from 6:00—8:30pm. Each evening will vary, from huge team games that take over the entire church to smaller conversations and activities to help you connect to your faith. Friends are always welcome!

The first meeting for IGNITE will be on Saturday 9/29 from 6:00—8:30pm.

Permission forms are required for ALL youth participants.

Please print and complete the Youth Event Permission Form and Covenant found at <a href="https://www.stjames-episcopal.org/forms-resources/">https://www.stjames-episcopal.org/forms-resources/</a>

## **Church Family Nights**

Church Family Nights are an opportunity for the entire St. James' community to come together for fellowship and fun. ALL are welcome...from our youngest to our eldest! Church Family Nights will be held on select Saturdays from 6:00—8:30pm. Each week will have an awesome theme. Some of our upcoming events are bingo night, game night, and movie night! There is no cost associated with attending and you do not need to RSVP ahead of time. Please invite your friends (adult friends and kid friends) to come along and join in the fun!

The first Church Family Night will be held on 10/6 from 6:00—8:30pm.

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October 7 - Blessing of the Animals (Regular Class, HS Class "pet-sits" while having class)

October 28 - Regular Class in AM/All Hollow's Eve Service + Church Costume Party (6:30 - 8:30pm)

December 22 - Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal (12:00 - 3:00pm)

December 23 - Christmas Pageant and Church Party

February 3 - Regular Class and Super Bowl Hoagie Sale - Hosted by MS/HS Classes (8:30 - 10:30am)

March 4 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Hosted by MS/HS Classes (Time: TBD)

April 19 - Good Friday Children's Stations + Activities and Crafts (2:00 - 5:00pm)

\*May 18 - Spring Musical Dress Rehearsal (12:00 - 3:00pm) + Church Family Night (6:30 - 8:30pm)

\*May 19 - Spring Musical Performance (10am service) + Kids in Church + Education Celebration

## **Register for Classes**

Register for Youth programs, you do not need to register for Adult programs!



## Two ways to register!

⇒ Register instantly using our online registration form. Choose your classes, service opportunities, and fellowship groups for each child.

Visit stjames-episcopal.org/education to register.

⇒ Pick-up a hard copy form from the Education Bulletin Board (located in the hallway leading from Platt's Hall into the Sanctuary.) Submit your form to Lauren Exley's mailbox.

## **Church School begins September 9th.**

Please register by September 2nd! Visit stjames-episcopal.org/education to register!

# Change lives...volunteer to be a teacher!

## Please sign-up by August 26th

- ⇒ Only a 1-year commitment
- ⇒ Choose your grade level Primary, Elementary, Middle School, or High School
- ⇒ All classes take place from 10:00 10:30am
- ⇒ All lessons and materials provided for you...limited prep time!
- ⇒ No teaching experience necessary...all you need is a willingness to serve and guide our youngest members!

Teachers and substitutes are still needed for the upcoming school year. Please email Lauren Exley at education@stjames-episcopal.org if you would like more information or are interested in volunteering.